Factor Structure of the Interpersonal Goal Conflict Scale

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INTRODUCTION
- Motivation concepts have been increasingly studied within the context of romantic relationships (Fitzsimons & Finkel, 2010).
- Goal conflict represents the phenomenon in which an individual’s pursuit of one goal inhibits the pursuit of another goal.
- Research has yet to integrate the phenomenon of goal conflict into a romantic context, interpersonal goal conflict would consist of the goals of one romantic partner inhibiting pursuit of the goals of the other romantic partner.
- The purpose of this study was to develop a tool to assess an individual relationship member’s perception of interpersonal goal conflict with their partner.

METHODS & MEASURES
- Items were written to assess the extent to which the goals of one’s romantic partner conflict with one’s own goals.
- Eighteen items were written for the Interpersonal Goal Conflict Scale (IGCS) and administered in Study One over Amazon’s MTurk software (N=237).
- Principal Axis Factoring using oblique rotation was conducted to establish the structure.
- Sample items include “I have had to give up my personal goals for the relationship” and “What I get from the relationship conflicts with what I desire for the relationship and my partner’s goals.”
- Additional items for factors with fewer items were written and administered in Study Two, using Amazon MTurk (N=255).
- Exploratory structural equation modeling was used to confirm the factor structure of Study One, while allowing for cross-loadings (Asparoukhov & Muthén, 2009).
- An open-ended assessment of interpersonal goal conflict was used to assess convergent validity (Gere & Schimmack, 2013).
- Participants were asked to list up to ten personal goals and then asked the extent to which their relationship made the pursuit of that goal easier or more difficult.
- Goal conflict and facilitation ratings were each aggregated to obtain global ratings on interpersonal goal conflict and facilitation.

CONCLUSION (Study One)
- The IGCS point to a three factor solution, consisting of Inherent Goal Conflict, Goal Sacrifice, and Resource Conflict.
- The IGCS correlated strongly with the open-ended assessment of interpersonal goal conflict.
- Perceptions of interpersonal goal conflict and goal facilitation are significantly correlated, though the relationship is modest.

CONCLUSION (Study Two)
- The three factor solution of Inherent Goal Conflict, Goal Sacrifice, and Resource Conflict was replicated using exploratory structural equation modeling.
- The IGCS correlated strongly with the open-ended assessment of interpersonal goal conflict.
- Perceptions of interpersonal goal conflict and goal facilitation are significantly correlated, though the relationship is modest.

REFERENCES

RESULTS (Study Two)
- Exploratory Structural Equation Modeling with the IGCS.

RESULTS (Study One)
- Factors and Sample Items from the IGCS.
- Factor One: Inherent Goal Conflict.
- The way in which my partner and I spend our time rarely conflict. (R)
- My partner often pursues activities that conflict with what I want.
- Factor Two: Goal Sacrifice.
- When my partner pursues personally meaningful goals, I have to sacrifice my goals.
- My partner and I have to give up significant time and money for each other.
- Factor Three: Resource Conflict.
- Resources are often an issue when my partner and I try to pursue different activities.
- There is plenty of time and money for both my partner and I to pursue what we want. (R)

RESULTS (Study Two)
- Correlation Matrix of Open-ended Goal Ratings and IGCS.
- Open-ended Conflict
- Open-ended Facilitation
- IGCS
- .56*** (.47, .64) .31*** (.42, .19)
- Sac
- .60*** (.51, .67) .28*** (.39, .16)
- Res
- .35*** (.24, .45) .18** (.30, .06)
- Inh
- .57*** (.37, .56) .30*** (.41, .18)


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