presented at the 70th annual conference of the Canadian Psychological Association, Montreal, QC, Canada.

Publications


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**PROGRAMME**

The Final Oral Examination for the Degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
Department of Psychology

**Rotem Regev**

2010 University of Victoria MSc
2006 Ben-Gurion University BA

“Young Women’s Comfort with Closeness After Parental Divorce: Does A Close Relationship with Dad Make a Difference? What Promotes Resiliency?”

Wednesday, July 30, 2014
10:00AM
David Turpin Building, room A132

**Supervisory Committee:**
Dr. Marion Ehrenberg, Department of Psychology, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Stuart MacDonald, Department of Psychology, UVic (Member)
Dr. Marie Hoskins, Department of Child & Youth Care, UVic (Outside Member)

**External Examiner:**
Dr. Lynda M. Ashbourne, Department of Family Relations & Applied Nutrition, University of Guelph

**Chair of Oral Examination:**
Dr. Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw, School of Child and Youth Care UVic
Study 1 examined the role closeness to father plays in the developmental-like process associating family form (divorced/non-divorced) with later young adulthood attachment style in a sample of 525 men and women. Participants reported their closeness to father while growing up and current comfort with closeness. As expected, closeness to father fully mediated the association between family form and comfort with closeness for both men and women, but more strongly for women. The association between family form and comfort with closeness was only evident for women; women who experienced parental divorce reported feeling less comfortable with closeness in relationships. Contrary to expectation, the mediating role of closeness to father in the association between family and form and comfort with closeness was not moderated by gender. The key role fathers may play in fostering their male and female children’s later attachment style in divorced and nondivorced families, as well as the attenuated role of gender in explaining young adults’ attachment style, are discussed. Study 2 examined the role of dyadic and family environment factors which are implicated in young adults’ insecure attachment in predicting relational resilience. Relationally resilient women were defined as women who experienced parental divorce yet experience comfort with closeness. Ninety-three women reported on the level of overt and subtle conflict in their families-of-origin, the effectiveness of their parents’ coparenting, and their closeness to father. Hierarchical logistic regression analyses predicted membership in the relationally resilient group based on these dyadic and family environment predictors. As expected, results demonstrate that lower pre-divorce subtle and overt conflict; higher levels of coparenting before separation, during separation, and after separation; and closeness to father while growing up all predicted membership in the relationally resilient group. However, no one variable uniquely predicted membership in the relationally resilient group. Study 2’s results are translated to preventative implications at the family, parental, dyadic and individual levels. Final remarks integrating the results of both studies follow.

Awards, Scholarships, Fellowships

2012/14 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Joseph Armand Bombardier Scholarship – Doctoral ($40,000)
2012 President’s Research Scholarship, University of Victoria ($4000)
2010/11 University of Victoria Fellowship ($5,000)
2010 McCall Bros. Graduate Scholars Exceptional Merit Award, University of Victoria ($2000)
2009/10 University of Victoria Fellowship ($10,000)

Presentations

1. Regev, R., Ehrenberg, M.F., & Ryan-Morisette, D. (June 2013). Too close for comfort? Young women’s comfort with closeness in the face of parental divorce: does a close relationship with dad make a difference? Poster presented at the 74th conference of the Canadian Psychological Association, Quebec City, QC, Canada