

# **Abstract**

## **Agentic versus communal orientation and the relationship quality in multicultural relationships**

The number of multicultural relationships is growing. This trend results from dynamic social changes, including i.a. migration, technological development, mobility and tourism, as well as new life models. Despite this, research still pays insufficient attention to them. The topic of relationship quality is widely studied, but primarily in the context of monocultural romantic relationships. Meanwhile, data shows that relationship satisfaction levels are influenced not only by relational factors, but also by individual, environmental and cultural factors. It is culture that sets the context and shapes the framework in which individuals form behavioral patterns, a value system, and self-image.

The available literature contains ambiguous research reports on the quality of multicultural relationships. The data indicate both higher or similar relationship satisfaction in multicultural relationships compared to monocultural ones, as well as its lower levels.

The aim of the research was to assess the quality of multicultural relationships. The project took into account the agentic and communal orientation of the relationship partners in the assessment of the respondents. The quality of a relationship was assessed in a multidimensional manner, considering it a variable dependent on mutual communication, intimacy, quarrel behaviors, and sexual satisfaction. The mediating role of loneliness and trust, between partners' orientation and the quality of their relationship was also examined.

The questionnaire research was conducted using the CAWI method. Data obtained from 853 respondents aged 18-79 were analyzed ( $M=31.84$ ;  $SD=11.82$ ). The respondents included 418 people in multicultural relationships and 435 people in monocultural relationships. Participants consisted of Polish women and men in long-term relationships with partners representing 74 different countries, including Poland.

The following methods were used the Scale of Agency and Communion, the Scale of Unmitigated Agency and Unmitigated Communion, the R-UCLA Revised Loneliness Scale, the Diadic Trust Scale, the Sexual Satisfaction Questionnaire and the Partnership Relations Questionnaire (PFB).

It turned out that people in multicultural and monocultural relationships do not differ significantly in terms of agentic and communal orientation, as well as the perceived coherence of the indicated orientations in the relationship. In terms of the dimensions of relationship quality, higher levels of mutual communication, intimacy and quarrel behaviors were observed, as well as lower levels of sexual satisfaction in multicultural relationships compared to monocultural ones.

The research results showed that loneliness and trust act as mediators of relationships between selected orientations (and their selected unmitigated forms) and mutual communication, intimacy, quarrel behaviors and sexual satisfaction. Moreover, they act as two serial mediators in the relationships discussed.

The conducted research contributes to the development of science and expands knowledge about the quality and durability of multicultural relationships. “The mixing of” societies promotes integration, but may also lead to alienation from one's own group and, consequently, to loneliness. The proposed new approach to the study of multicultural couples may become an inspiration for subsequent researchers. The conclusions resulting from the research may constitute the basis for both practical helping strategies and preventive solutions, as well as psychoeducational activities. The adapted Diadic Trust Scale can be a useful research tool.

**Keywords:** multicultural relationships, relationship quality, agentic orientation, communal orientation