

Iulia Francesca Pop & Alina Simona Rusu

Offspring-Parent Dyadic Analysis:
A methodological approach for understanding
psychological functioning in interpersonal contexts



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Foreword

The aim of this book is to introduce the readers, which are expected to be students and researchers with interests in understanding the applied values of human behavior and psychology, to the scientific approach of dyads, particularly of parent-offspring dyad. The book presents the dissertation thesis in the field of clinical psychology and psychotherapy of the first author, Iulia F. Pop, which was done under the scientific coordination of the second author, Alina S. Rusu.

Both authors of this book are having interdisciplinary backgrounds in terms of education, professional development and scientific interests. Iulia Francesca Pop has a degree in Biotechnology at the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine in Cluj-Napoca and one in Psychology at Babeş-Bolyai University. Her PhD is in the domain of Genetics and Plant Breeding at University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine in Cluj-Napoca. Alina S. Rusu has a degree in Biology and one in Psychology, and she had received her PhD title in Natural Sciences at the Animal Behavior Department, University of Zürich, Switzerland. She is currently a full professor at the Faculty of Animal Science and Biotechnologies, USAMV Cluj-Napoca and member of the Doctoral School “Education, Reflection, Development”, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania. Her research interests are interdisciplinary ones, combining ideas and models from animal life with knowledge about human emotions and behavior. The authors have a history of working together in several projects addressing not only psychological factors of human behaviors, but also aspects of human-animal interactions.

Motivated by their previous and current successful collaboration, the authors have decided to present the dyadic scientific approach as one of the method that will be included in the curricular content of the master students in the field of the study of human-animal interactions (referring here to the students enrolled in the master’s degree program “Ethology

& Human-Animal Interaction, disciplines “Introduction in Psychology” and “Psychology applied to Anthrozoology”), in terms of addressing the intergenerational transmission of attitudes and beliefs that are reflected in the positive and/or negative ways of our encounters with other beings, such as farm, companion and wild animals.

The scientific study included in this book investigates the relationship between intergenerational transmission of sexual dysfunctional beliefs, mother-daughter relationship and romantic dyadic satisfaction in terms of social learning theory. The relationship between sexual dysfunctional beliefs, mother-daughter relationship and romantic dyad satisfaction was evaluated for the first time in the Romanian context using a correlational study design. Eighty-seven mother-daughter dyads conveniently sampled answered questionnaires on demographic variables, sexual dysfunctional beliefs and dyadic adjustment. Only daughters also answered a questionnaire on mother-daughter relationship. The results show that the participating mothers have more sexual dysfunctional beliefs than their daughters, which are positively correlated with their daughters’. Also, sexual dysfunctional beliefs appear to be influenced by religiosity, educational level, and residence. The mother-daughter relationship was positively correlated with the transmission of sexual dysfunctional beliefs and the connection subscale was positively correlated in the case of daughters with romantic couple adjustment, but the mother-daughter relationship does not mediate the relationship between sexual dysfunctional beliefs and romantic couple adjustment.

These results support the theory of social learning and the importance of the mother-daughter relationship in the future interpersonal functioning of individuals. We conclude that the findings have tremendous applicative values in terms of addressing the importance of parent-offspring relationship in relation to the attitudes toward animals in the direction of fostering appropriate animal welfare oriented behaviors and prevention of cruelty toward animals and humans. As indicated by the authors, this study aims to contribute to knowledge

on how parent-offspring relationship and, in this case, sexual dysfunctional beliefs relate to each other and influence marital satisfaction among couples.

The study published here can serve as empirical evidence for parents, prospective parents and educators on how lack of information negatively or positively can impact children later in their life and also themselves. With such evidence, parents and educators, such as teachers, will be able to create the right environment that will promote correct and open sharing of information. Moreover, it might help parents and adult children to understand the role of their relationship in transmitting sexual attitudes (and other types of attitudes) and whether these are appropriate or otherwise and what would be necessary to modify, if considered the case.

It is important to mention that part of the results presented in this book have been disseminated in a publication presented at the international conference “Education, Reflection, Development” in 2016, i.e. Pop, I.F., Iclozan, D. A., Barlutiucostea, C., & Rusu, A.S. (2016). An Analysis of Sexual Dysfunctional Beliefs of Romanian Women (Mothers and Daughters): An intergenerational approach. *The European Proceedings of Social & Behavioral Sciences*, 18, 488-495.

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