



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

***ROLE OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS DIVORCE IN RELATIONSHIP  
BETWEEN FAMILY FACTORS AND ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP  
QUALITY AMONG UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE STUDENTS IN THE  
MALDIVES***

**AISHATH SANOORA**

**FEM 2021 10**



**ROLE OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS DIVORCE IN RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN  
FAMILY FACTORS AND ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP QUALITY AMONG  
UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE STUDENTS IN THE MALDIVES**

By

**AISHATH SANOORA**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in  
Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

**February 2021**

## **COPYRIGHT**

All material contained within the thesis, including without limitation text, logos, icons, photographs, and all other artwork, is copyright material of Universiti Putra Malaysia unless otherwise stated. Use may be made of any material contained within the thesis for non-commercial purposes from the copyright holder. Commercial use of material may only be made with the express, prior, written permission of Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Copyright © Universiti Putra Malaysia



## **DEDICATION**

*I dedicate this thesis to:*

*My darling daughters; Yana and Yasna, the most precious gifts from Allah*

*My strength, my motivation, my treasure, my happiness, my hope, and the reason for  
my living*

*With heaps of love and a bunch of memories, never stop smiling!*



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**ROLE OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS DIVORCE IN RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAMILY FACTORS AND ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP QUALITY AMONG UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE STUDENTS IN MALDIVES**

By

**AISHATH SANOORA**

**February 2021**

**Chairman : Associate Professor Hanina Halimatusaadiah, PhD**  
**Faculty : Human Ecology**

Family factors such as interparental conflict, parental divorce, and parent-child attachment have often been associated with young adults' romantic relationship quality. Research has also shown that these factors are interrelated; however, little attention has been given to look at all the elements together in a single study. In line with this, the current study has aimed to examine the impact of interparental conflict, parental divorce, and parent-child attachment on the relationship quality of young adults in Maldives' universities and colleges. The study also examined the mediation effect of attitudes towards divorce on the relationship between interparental conflict, parental divorce, parent-child attachment and romantic relationship quality.

A total of 463 Maldivian university/college students in a romantic relationship (i.e., either married or in a dating romantic relationship) between the ages of 18 to 25 participated in the study. Data were collected using self-administered questionnaires. Relationship quality was measured using relationship quality component inventory. Children's perception of interparental conflict scale was used to measure interparental conflict. The parent-child attachment was measured using an attachment to parent/caregiver inventory, and attitudes towards divorce were measured using the attitudes towards divorce scale.

The collected data was analyzed using SPSS v.26 and Smart-PLS 3 software. The descriptive analysis results showed a higher percentage of the participants had low relationship quality levels, perceived high levels of interparental conflict, and had experienced parental divorce. Furthermore, mother-child avoidant attachment was slightly higher than the father-child avoidant attachment. However, mother-child anxious attachment was higher among the participants than a father-child anxious

attachment. Additionally, most participants had unfavorable attitudes towards divorce, meaning they accepted divorce as an easy way to terminate complicated relationships.

PLS-SEM results showed a direct relationship between interparental conflict, parental divorce, parent-child attachment, attitude towards divorce, and romantic relationship quality. The results also showed that the attitude towards divorce mediated parental divorce and romantic relationship quality. However, there was no mediating effect of attitude towards divorce on the relationship between interparental conflict and romantic relationship quality.

Interparental conflict, parental divorce, parent-child attachment, and attitude towards divorce contributed (69.0 %) to the quality of the romantic relationship of the young adults. The main predictor of romantic relationship quality was found to be interparental conflict. It is important for relevant authorities to come up with relevant awareness and interventions programs for parents on how to manage their conflict. Furthermore, parental divorce, attitude towards divorce, and parent-child attachments also need attention as they are contributing factors to romantic relationship quality among young adults of Maldives. However, other factors contribute to the quality of the romantic relationship, that need to be studied in future research.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**PERANAN SIKAP TERHADAP PENCERAIAN BAGI HUBUNGAN ANTARA  
FAKTOR KELUARGA DAN KUALITI HUBUNGAN ROMANTIS DALAM  
KALANGAN PELAJAR UNIVERSITI DAN KOLEJ DI MALDIVES**

Oleh

**AISHATH SANOORA**

**Februari 2021**

**Pengerusi : Profesor Madya Hanina Halimatusaadiah, PhD**  
**Fakulti : Ekologi Manusia**

Faktor keluarga seperti konflik antara ibu bapa, penceraian ibu bapa, dan perapatan antara ibu bapa dengan anak sering dikaitkan dengan kualiti hubungan romantis awal dewasa. Penyelidikan juga membuktikan faktor ini saling berkaitan, tetapi kurangnya tumpuan yang diberikan kepada kesemua elemen ini untuk dikaji dalam satu kajian. Oleh hal yang demikian, kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji kesan konflik antara ibu bapa, penceraian ibu bapa dan perapatan antara ibu bapa dengan anak terhadap kualiti hubungan awal dewasa di universiti dan kolej di Maldives. Kajian ini juga menguji kesan mediator iaitu sikap terhadap penceraian terhadap hubungan antara konflik ibu bapa, penceraian ibu bapa, perapatan antara ibu bapa dengan anak dan kualiti hubungan romantis.

Seramai 463 orang pelajar Maldives, universiti atau kolej yang sedang berada dalam perhubungan romantis (sama ada yang telah berkahwin atau berada dalam tahap awal perhubungan) yang berumur antara 18 hingga 25 tahun terlibat dalam kajian ini. Data dikumpul menggunakan borang soal selidik melalui prosedur tadbir sendiri. Kualiti hubungan diukur menggunakan inventori komponen kualiti hubungan. Skala persepsi kanak-kanak mengenai konflik antara ibu bapa digunakan untuk mengukur konflik antara ibu bapa. Perapatan ibu bapa dengan anak diukur menggunakan inventori perapatan kepada ibu bapa atau pengasuh, manakala sikap terhadap penceraian diukur menggunakan skala sikap terhadap penceraian.

Data yang dikumpulkan dianalisis menggunakan perisian SPSS versi 26 dan Smart-PLS 3. Keputusan analisis deskriptif menunjukkan majoriti responden mempunyai tahap kualiti hubungan yang rendah, mempersepsikan tahap konflik antara ibu bapa yang tinggi, dan mempunyai pengalaman penceraian ibu bapa. Tambahan pula, pengelakan perapatan antara ibu dengan anak adalah sedikit tinggi berbanding pengelakan perapatan

antara ayah dengan anak. Walau bagaimanapun, kerisauan perapatan antara ibu dengan anak adalah lebih tinggi dalam kalangan responden berbanding dengan kerisauan perapatan antara ayah dengan anak. Selain itu, majoriti responden mempunyai sikap yang kurang senang terhadap penceraian, di mana mereka menerima penceraian sebagai satu langkah mudah untuk menamatkan hubungan yang kompleks.

Keputusan PLS-SEM menunjukkan terdapatnya hubungan secara langsung antara konflik ibu bapa, penceraian ibu bapa, perapatan ibu bapa dengan anak, sikap terhadap penceraian, dan kualiti hubungan romantis. Hasil kajian juga menunjukkan sikap terhadap penceraian menjadi mediator kepada penceraian ibu bapa dan kualiti hubungan romantis. Namun, tiada kesan mediator sikap terhadap penceraian ke atas perkaitan antara konflik ibu bapa dan kualiti hubungan romantis.

Konflik antara ibu bapa, penceraian ibu bapa, perapatan antara ibu bapa dengan anak, dan sikap terhadap penceraian menyumbang (69.0%) kepada kualiti hubungan romantis awal dewasa. Konflik antara ibu bapa merupakan peramal utama dalam kualiti hubungan romantis. Oleh itu, adalah penting bagi pihak yang berkaitan untuk merangka program kesedaran dan intervensi kepada ibu bapa untuk menguruskan konflik. Tambahan pula, penceraian ibu bapa, sikap terhadap penceraian, dan perapatan ibu bapa dengan anak memerlukan tumpuan khusus kerana faktor tersebut merupakan penyumbang kepada kualiti hubungan romantis dalam kalangan awal dewasa di Maldives. Walau bagaimanapun, faktor lain yang turut menyumbang kepada kualiti hubungan romantis juga perlu dikaji dalam penyelidikan akan datang.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### **Alhamdulillah!**

No great achievement is accomplished single-handedly. Allah blessed me with people who guided me and supported me throughout this journey. First and foremost Alhamdulillah! Alhamdulillah! Alhamdulillah!

I most profoundly appreciate the supervisory committee's chair, Associate Professor Hanina Halimatusaadiah Hamsan, who has steered my Ph.D. journey. She has been an excellent role model and an inspiration for me. I cannot have done this without her constant support, understanding, and guidance. Second, my co-supervisors, Associate Professor Haslinda binti Abdullah, and Dr. Azlina Mohd Khir, for their assistance and guidance in this journey. My deepest gratitude to you both for pushing me a bit further and for your guidance and wisdom. It has made me a better student.

I wouldn't have started this journey if not for my family. I am ever so grateful to my mother and father, Mariyam Shareefa, and Mohamed Thakurufan, for believing in me. The final step towards my academic journey began with many challenges, and if not for the support of my siblings, their spouses, nieces, nephews, and my loving children, this would have been impossible. I sincerely appreciate the sacrifices, unconditional love, and support you all have given me.

This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

**Hanina Halimatusaadiah binti Hamsan, PhD**

Associate Professor  
Faculty of Human Ecology  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Chairman)

**Haslinda binti Abdullah, PhD**

Professor  
Faculty of Human Ecology  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Member)

**Azlina binti Mohd Khir, PhD**

Senior Lecturer  
Faculty of Human Ecology  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Member)

---

**ZALILAH MOHD SHARIFF, PhD**

Professor and Dean  
School of Graduate Studies  
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date: 14 October 2021

## Declaration by graduate student

I hereby confirm that:

- this thesis is my original work;
- quotations, illustrations and citations have been duly referenced;
- this thesis has not been submitted previously or concurrently for any other degree at any institutions;
- intellectual property from the thesis and copyright of thesis are fully-owned by Universiti Putra Malaysia, as according to the Universiti Putra Malaysia (Research) Rules 2012;
- written permission must be obtained from supervisor and the office of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and innovation) before thesis is published (in the form of written, printed or in electronic form) including books, journals, modules, proceedings, popular writings, seminar papers, manuscripts, posters, reports, lecture notes, learning modules or any other materials as stated in the Universiti Putra Malaysia (Research) Rules 2012;
- there is no plagiarism or data falsification/fabrication in the thesis, and scholarly integrity is upheld as according to the Universiti Putra Malaysia (Graduate Studies) Rules 2003 (Revision 2012-2013) and the Universiti Putra Malaysia (Research) Rules 2012. The thesis has undergone plagiarism detection software

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Matric No: Aishath Sanoora, G49272

## Declaration by Members of Supervisory Committee

This is to confirm that:

- the research conducted and the writing of this thesis was under our supervision;
- supervision responsibilities as stated in the Universiti Putra Malaysia (Graduate Studies) Rules 2003 (Revision 2012-2013) were adhered to.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Chairman  
of Supervisory  
Committee:

Associate Professor Dr. Hanina Halimatusaadiah  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Member  
of Supervisory  
Committee:

Associate Professor Dr. Haslinda binti Abdullah  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Member  
of Supervisory  
Committee:

Dr. Azlina Mohd Khir  
\_\_\_\_\_

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	i
<b>ABSTRAK</b>	iii
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	v
<b>APPROVAL</b>	vi
<b>DECLARATION</b>	viii
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	xiv
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	xv
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	xvi
<b>CHAPTER</b>	
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Research background	1
1.2 Problem Statement	4
1.2.1 Knowledge Gap	7
1.2.2 Theoretical Gap	9
1.2.3 Practical Gap	10
1.3 The Main Research Question	10
1.3.1 Sub Question	10
1.4 Research Aim	11
1.4.1 Specific Research Objectives	11
1.5 Hypotheses of the Study	11
1.6 Significance of the study	12
1.7 Scope of the study	13
1.8 Limitations of the study	14
1.9 The theoretical framework of the study	14
1.9.1 Social Learning Theory	15
1.9.2 Attachment Theory	17
1.9.3 Integration of the Theories	20
1.10 Conceptual framework of the study	21
1.11 Conceptual and operational definitions	21
1.11.1 Perceived inter Parental conflict	22
1.11.2 Parent-child Attachment	22
1.11.3 Quality of Romantic Relationship	22
1.11.4 Attitude towards divorce	23
1.11.5 Young adults	23
1.12 Chapter Summary	24
<b>2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>25</b>
2.1 Introduction	25
2.2 Quality of romantic relationship	25
2.3 Inter-parental conflict	29
2.3.1 Dimensions of inter-parental conflict	31
2.4 Interparental conflict and relationship quality linked	32

2.5	Parent-child attachment	34
2.5.1	Attachment and romantic relationships linked	36
2.6	Divorce and its Prevalence	40
2.6.1	Divorce and its Prevalence in the Maldives	40
2.6.2	Effects of parental divorce on children and adolescents	42
2.6.3	Effects of parental divorce on adults	43
2.6.4	Parental divorce and romantic relationship linked	45
2.7	Attitude towards Divorce	46
2.8	Conclusions	49
2.9	Chapter Summary	51
<b>3</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>52</b>
3.1	Introduction	52
3.2	Research Design	52
3.3	Location of the Study	53
3.4	The population of the study	53
3.4.1	Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria	53
3.5	Sampling	54
3.5.1	Determination of sample size	54
3.5.2	Sampling technique	55
3.6	Research Instruments	58
3.6.1	The Perceived Relationship Quality Component (PRQC) inventory	58
3.6.2	Attachment to parent/caregiver inventory (ACPI)	59
3.6.3	Children's Perception of Inter-parental Conflict Scale (CPIC)	59
3.6.4	Attitude towards Divorce Scale	60
3.6.5	Validity and Reliability of the Research Instruments	60
3.6.6	Test for reliability	61
3.7	Pilot Study	61
3.8	Ethical Considerations	62
3.9	Data Collection Procedure	63
3.10	Data Analysis	64
3.10.1	Data Screening and Cleaning	64
3.10.2	Descriptive Analysis	64
3.10.3	Inferential Analysis	64
3.10.4	The sequence of inferential analysis	67
3.11	Chapter Summary	68
<b>4</b>	<b>RESULTS AND DISCUSSION</b>	<b>69</b>
4.1	Introduction	69
4.2	Respondent's profile	69
4.2.1	Age	70
4.2.2	Gender	70
4.2.3	Current University/College	70
4.2.4	The current level of Education being pursued	70

4.2.5	Relationship Status	71
4.2.6	Divorce history of respondents	71
4.2.7	Number of times respondents had married	71
4.2.8	Duration of marriage	71
4.2.9	Duration of relationship with the romantic partner	72
4.2.10	History of parental divorce	72
4.2.11	Current marital status of the parents	72
4.2.12	Age at the time of 1st divorce of parents	72
4.3	Objective 1: Levels of romantic relationship quality, levels of perceived interparental conflict, parent-child attachment, and attitude towards divorce	75
4.3.1	Level of perceived romantic relationship quality	75
4.3.2	Level of Perceived Inter-Parental Conflict	76
4.3.3	Level of Anxious attachment	76
4.3.4	Level of Avoidant attachment	77
4.3.5	Attitude towards divorce	77
4.4	Direct relationships	79
4.4.1	Measurement Model Assessment	79
4.4.2	Structural Model Assessment	87
4.4.3	Objective 2: The relationship between perceived inter-parental conflict, parent-child attachment (mother-child, father-child), parental divorce, attitude towards divorce, and the quality of the romantic relationship of young adults	89
4.5	Mediation effect	94
4.5.1	Objective 3: The mediation effect of attitudes toward divorce of young adults on the relationship between parental divorce and the quality of young adults' romantic relationships	95
4.5.2	Objective 4: The mediation effect of attitudes toward divorce of young adults on the relationship between perceived interparental conflict and the quality of young adults' romantic relationships	95
4.6	Effect size and predictive relevance of the exogenous variables on the endogenous variables	96
4.6.1	Objective 5: Determining the main predictor of relationship quality	97
4.7	Chapter Summary	99
<b>5</b>	<b>SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, IMPLICATION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>100</b>
5.1	Introduction	100
5.2	Summary of the study	100
5.3	Contribution of the Study to knowledge and field of study	103
5.4	Conclusion	104
5.4.1	Implications	104

5.4.2	Theoretical implication	105
5.4.3	Practical and Policy implication	106
5.4.4	Individual and Societal implication	107
5.4.5	Recommendations for future studies	108
5.5	Chapter Summary	109

<b>REFERENCES</b>	110
<b>APPENDICES</b>	134
<b>BIODATA OF STUDENT</b>	143
<b>LIST OF PUBLICATIONS</b>	144





## LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page	
3.1	Sample size calculations for universities and colleges	55
3.2	Instruments used for data collection	58
3.3	Cronbach alpha values of the pilot test and final study	61
4.1	Descriptive analysis of the demographic characteristics of the study sample (N= 463)	73
4.2	Summary of levels, the mean and standard deviation of perceived relationship quality, anxious attachment (father and mother), avoidant attachment (father and mother), perceived interparental conflict, and attitudes towards divorce	78
4.3	Internal consistency and convergent validity of the full measurement model one (mother)	83
4.4	Internal consistency and convergent validity of the full measurement model two (father)	84
4.5	Fornell-Larcker Criterion for model one (mother)	86
4.6	Fornell-Larcker Criterion for model two (father)	86
4.7	Heterotrait Monotrait Ratio (HTMT <sub>.90</sub> ) for model one (mother)	86
4.8	Heterotrait Monotrait Ratio (HTMT <sub>.90</sub> ) for model two (father)	87
4.9	Results of the inner VIF values for model one (mother)	87
4.10	Results of the inner VIF values for model two (father)	88
4.11	Path Coefficient Assessment	88
4.12	Results of mediation Analysis	94
4.13	Determination of coefficient ( $R^2$ ), effect size ( $f^2$ ), and predictive relevance ( $Q^2$ ) for model one (mother)	97
4.14	Determination of coefficient ( $R^2$ ), effect size ( $f^2$ ), and predictive relevance ( $Q^2$ ) for model two (father)	97

## LIST OF FIGURES

<b>Figure</b>		<b>Page</b>
1.1	Conceptual framework for the study	21
2.1	Rate of divorce in the Maldives from 2006 to 2016	41
3.1	Map of Maldives	56
3.2	Sampling breakdown	57
3.3	Flowchart of the data collection process	63
3.4	Path diagram of the model	66
4.1	Model 1; Mother-child attachment and other variables with outer loading values	80
4.2	Model 2; Father-child attachment and other variables with outer loading values	81

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ATTD	Attitude towards divorce
APCI	Attachment to parent/caregiver inventory
AVO	Avoidant Attachment
ANX	Anxious Attachment
AVE	Average Variance Explained
CPIC	Children's Perception of Interparental Conflict
CR	Composite Reliability
HTMT	Heterotrait-Monotrait Technique
IUM	Islamic University of Maldives
MNU	Maldives National University
PLS	Partial Least Squares
PLS-SEM	Partial Least Squares - Structural Equation Modeling
PRQS	Perceived Relationship Quality Scale
PIC	Perceived Interparental Conflict
PMS	Parental Marital Status/Parental Divorce
RQ	Romantic Relationship Quality
SPSS	Social Sciences
SD	Standard Deviation
VIF	Variance Inflation Factor

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Research background

The quality of romantic relationships among young adults is the groundwork for the future of the relationship. A person can enrich or diminish their overall well-being and the way they view themselves, depending on their romantic relationship see Hetherington (2003). If the relationship's quality is well maintained, the possibility that the relationship will last longer becomes more, and the person views themselves as valued, worthy, and complete. However, the quality of the relationship gets impacted by many factors, especially family factors.

Family relationships influence young adults' romantic relationships (Kochendorfer & Kerns, 2017). For example, Conger, Cui, Bryant, and Elder (2000), suggest the relevance of specific characteristics in the family of origin to predict the satisfaction and dissolution of young adults' romantic relationships. The interpersonal experiences of childhood within the family create a platform for later competence in romantic relationships affecting its quality (Rauer, Pettit, Lansford, Bates, & Dodge, 2013).

Past research has linked the parent-child relationship and their interaction with the offspring's later behaviours with romantic partners. Even though the parent-child relationship is involuntary, it contributes to later romantic relationships' behavioural, cognitive, and emotional patterns (Collins & vanDulmen., 2015). Researchers identify different familial factors that contribute to the offspring's romantic relationship quality. For example, factors such as interparental conflict (Braithwaite, Doxey, Dowdle, & Fincham, 2016; Gager, Yabiku, & Linver, 2016), parental divorce (Amato, 1996; Cui, Fincham, & Durtschi, 2011), parent-child attachment (Kochendorfer & Kerns, 2017; Mohd, Marshina, Mustafa, & Hashim, 2018) and attitude towards divorce (Cui, Fincham, & Pasley, 2008) have a relationship with young adult's romantic relationship quality

Most of the time, we portray families as loving and intact; however, many of these loving families experience conflict in reality, and many may even end in divorce (Sinnott, 2010). Of the families who do not end in divorce, conflict may still exist, but the intensity and extent may differ from family to family. When children experience conflict between their parents, they are affected differently and into their relationships in adulthood (Booth & Amato, 1994). A meta-analysis of 68 studies found that inter-parental conflict is related to internalized and externalized behaviour problems, difficult parent-child and sibling relationships, poor school performance, and children's interpersonal skills (Buehler et al., 1997). Parental conflict increases children's distress, as well as anger and aggression. It also enmeshes the children into the parents' problems, and the children feel

caught between parents (Cummings, Pellegrini, Notarius, & Cummings, 1989). Besides, it also creates a risk environment for the children, such as divorce, parental depression, and form negative attitudes towards their intimate relationships when they grow up (Amato & Keith, 1991; Cummings, 1994). These negative attitudes they bring into their romantic relationship affect the quality of the relationship and sometimes result in separation or divorce (Cui et al., 2011).

The consequences of children witnessing inter-parental conflict have been shown to affect other aspects of their lives such as self-concept, and attachment styles with intimate partners (Rodrigues & Kitzmann, 2007), romantic relationships, social abilities, and opinions about marriage (Chaudhry & Shabbir, 2018). Furthermore, when there is a conflict between parents, they are not emotionally available or committed to their children's needs. Additionally, the children may not find their parents to be dependable to take care of them. Hence, adolescents are frequently expected to be involved in erotic aggression, verbal, emotional, and aggressive behaviours (Kim, Jackson, Conrad, & Hunter, 2008). Intricate levels of inter-parental conflict are often linked with interpersonal skills among adolescents. They uniquely predict implications for specific features of young adult romantic relationship functioning.

A person's involvements and experiences in their direct family are often associated with their romantic relationship outcomes (Hardy, Soloski, Ratcliffe, Anderson, & Willoughby, 2015). Positive family engagement is allied with more significant emotional states of love in young adults' romantic relationships than negative family engagement, specifically inter-parental conflict (Xia, Fosco, Lippold, & Feinberg, 2018). Researchers have also found that parental marital conflict increases the negative impact on adult children's relationship issues in their marriages, even without resulting in parents' actual divorce (Amato & DeBoer, 2001). The extent to which young children observe parental conflict and ways of communication within and between their parents' relationship is associated with how young adults communicate as a way of confirming with their romantic partners (Young & Schrodt, 2016). Children respond to parental conflict in different ways, and the degree of its impact goes beyond their childhood and into adulthood. The effect of interparental conflict varies based on how children interpret inter-parental conflict and how distressing it is for them. Their perception of parental conflict disturbs their psychological well-being (Grych, Seid, & Fincham, 1992). Children observe their parents' behaviour during the interparental conflict and how their parents resolve the conflict and then practice parallel behaviours with their relatives and partners (Reese-Weber & Kahn, 2005). The more parental conflict children witness, the severe the impact is. The more likely it is for these children to carry the hostility and conflict behaviour into their interpersonal and social relationships into adulthood (Schulz, Waldinger, Hauser, & Allen, 2005). In other words, children learn such behaviours from their parents through observation, which they carry on to their adult relationships when they grow up.

Parental divorce is another factor that is associated with the offspring's romantic relationship quality. An ample amount of literature in the past has linked parental divorce with adverse outcomes for children. Young adults from divorced families are at greater

peril of facing complications in their romantic relationships and marriages compared to young adults from intact families (Amato, 1996; Amato, Loomis, & Booth, 1995; Gager et al., 2016). For example, parental involvement and parental divorce negatively link to young adults the ability for commitment, romantic trust, attachment with a partner, and effective conflict management (van Schaick & Stolberg, 2001). However, there is research that proposes that divorce by itself may not lead to lower long-term outcomes. Instead, divorce may be influenced by other factors such as interparental conflict and attitudes towards divorce (Amato, 1993; Hetherington & et al., 1989), suggesting an interaction between these factors.

Inter-parental conflict and parent-child attachment have more significant and lasting consequences on children's lives compared to divorce itself (Amato, 1986; El-Sheikh, Harger, & Whitson, 2001; Young & Ehrenberg, 2007). A study by Hetherington and Kelly (2003) found that parental divorce and interparental conflict are related to decreased parent-child attachment. These authors also found that, compared to interparental conflict, parental divorce was more substantial in the parent-child attachment (Hetherington & Kelly, 2003). Parent-child attachment is associated with the quality of a romantic relationship with their partners. Bowlby (1969) proposed that it is the relationship between parent and child that mainly influences attachment. The parent-child relationship serves as a 'working model' for children's future close relationships. Parent-child attachment is known to develop a prototype or a framework for future relationships such as relationships with peers and romantic relationships (Toro, 2012). These prototypes are generated based on the type of responses the child gets from the parents during their childhood (Griffith, 2004). Research has found that depending on the previous experiences from the family of origin, and the development of the working models, individual variances in the romantic relationship are found in areas such as duration of the relationship and trustworthiness (Hazan & Shaver, 1987). Secure parent-child attachments are associated with healthy romantic relationship patterns among young adults (Toro, 2012).

On the other hand, insecure attachment with parents harms the romantic partner attachment. Children who have an insecure attachment with their caregivers have low marital satisfaction and insecure attachment with their partners (Jarneck & South, 2013). A good number of the existing research shows that insecure attachment with their parents results in building insecure attachments with their romantic partners (Fraley & Shaver, 2000; Meyer, Jones, Rorer, & Maxwell, 2015). For example, young adults with avoidant attachment have difficulty and fear of getting close to their partners, and young adults with anxious attachment are jealous and have extreme fluctuations of emotions. Hence the quality of the relationship is compromised (Hazan & Shaver, 1987).

Another factor contributing to the romantic relationship quality of young adults is their attitudes towards divorce. Young adults develop favourable attitudes towards divorce, meaning that those who think that divorce is beneficial to have a low quality of romantic relationships.



In a country like the Maldives, where divorce is so frequent and relationships often end in divorce, it is crucial to explore the romantic relationship quality among young adults. It may be the worth of the relationship that determines the length of the relationship. If the relationship's quality is low for whatever reason, there is a high possibility that the relationship may not last forever and either end in separation or divorce. Even though there is no research done in the Maldives to show transgenerational divorce, the statistics have reflected the increasing number of divorces over the decades. Parental divorce has adverse outcomes for young adults. Sometimes parental divorce leads to the dissolution of young adults' romantic relationships (Braithwaite et al., 2016). As divorce often comes with inter-parental conflict before the divorce and even after the parents get divorced (Amato & Keith, 1991), it is equally important to explore the extent to which interparental conflict may influence their romantic relationships as adults.

Adding on, children's attitude towards divorce also acts as a mechanism to influence their adult romantic relationship quality. Despite the clear and robust associations between parental divorce, interparental conflict, attachment, attitude towards divorce, and young adults' relationship, research synthesizing these topics is limited (Braithwaite et al., 2016). Researching the existing literature has raised the need for a combined examination of interparental conflict, parental divorce, and parent-child attachment. There seems to be a possible interaction between these variables (Amato, 2010). Hence, this study aims to jointly explore the impact of inter-parental conflict, parental divorce, and parent-child attachment on adult children's quality of romantic relationships. It also explores the mediating role of attitude toward divorce in the relationship between interparental conflict and relationship quality and the mediating role of attitude toward divorce in the relationship between parental divorce and relationship quality.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

Young adulthood is a time when individuals go through significant life changes. According to Erikson (1971)'s psychosocial development theory, young adulthood (the 20s through the early 40s) is when individuals are concerned with intimacy versus isolation. By this stage, individuals have developed a sense of self-identity and are ready to share their life with others. If the individuals develop a strong sense of self during their adolescence, they are ready to create thriving romantic relationships. Furthermore, evidence suggests a development sequence concerning differences in quality and duration of romantic relationships over time due to different factors, including their parents' experiences. For example, Seiffge-Krenke and Burk (2013) found that friends and parent's support and self-concept contribute to the prediction of bonded love at age 21, which means that different factors contribute to the quality of a romantic relationship during young adulthood.

Several studies document the impact of family factors on developing successful romantic relationships among young adults (Cui et al., 2008; D. Li & Yang, 2019; Miga, Gdula, & Allen, 2012). However, most of these studies focus on married individuals and overlook the individuals who are in committed intimate relationships and how these factors may impact the quality of their romantic relationship. Cui et al. (2008) highlight

the importance of including the unmarried but dating group when exploring the romantic relationship quality of young adults. Over the years, there has been a shift in the lifestyle; many people prefer to be in romantic relationships without getting married. The age at which marriage happens has shifted from the '20s to the '30s (Giordano, Manning, Longmore, & Flanigan, 2011). This shift has extended the period of nonmarital romantic involvement in late adolescence and moves up to the phase referred “emerging adulthood” and beyond. These formative experiences influence the quality of marriage and romantic relationships (Sassler, Cunningham, & Lichter, 2009), making it essential to explore the quality of romantic relationships in non-married groups.

As highlighted in the introduction, the quality of a romantic relationship is an essential factor in experiencing a healthy relationship. The construct of romantic relationship quality is determined by many factors such as trust, commitment, intimacy, passion, love, and satisfaction (Fletcher & Simpson, 2000). Evidence suggests that many factors may compromise the quality of romantic relationships. These include, among many others, partner support, economic factors, self-verification, emotional intelligence, and family factors (Farooqi, 2014). Out of these factors, family factors such as the experience of parental divorce, interparental conflict, and parent-child attachment have been found to have a significant impact on the different domains of romantic relationship quality and overall romantic relationship quality of the individuals (Amato, 2014; Amato & Keith, 1991; Grych, Raynor, & Fosco, 2004). Furthermore, these family factors have been found to contribute to the attitudes they form regarding their romantic relationship which in turn affect the quality of these relationships (Amato & Rogers, 1999; Kapinus, 2005; Kwan, Mellor, Rizzuto, Kolar, & Mamat, 2013). These factors have not been explored in the Maldives, where there are high levels of relationship problems. Even though there is no published research indicating the number of breakups among dating partners, many individuals break up short-term and long-term relationships before committing to marriage. Similarly, many individuals who get married report multiple divorces by the time they reach 50 (*Statistical Pocketbook-2017*, 2017).

The Maldives is a 100% Muslim country, and divorce is discouraged in the religion; however, it has a very high divorce rate (*Statistical Pocketbook-2017*, 2017). The available data indicate that each year, an average of a little over one-third of the marriages dissolve, affecting thousands of offspring who live through their parents' divorce. In 2016, while there were 5488 marriages in the Maldives, 3417 divorces were recorded (*Statistical Pocketbook-2017*, 2017). Approximately 28.57% of marriages between 18-25 ended in divorce (*Statistical Pocketbook-2017*, 2017). Maldivian women have multiple marriages (Basu et al., 2014), and on average, Maldivian women have four weddings by the time they reach 50 years of age (MDG Report, 2007); this is an alarmingly huge number of divorces for a country with a population of fewer than 300,000 people.

The specific reasons for the vast number of divorces are unknown. However, these numbers may reflect the low quality of romantic relationships people have with each other. The increasing number of divorces over the decades may also reflect the



intergenerational transmission of divorce due to the experiences children have and their observations growing up in an unhealthy family environment. Unfortunately, there is no published research exploring this in the Maldives.

However, it is a fact that the increase in divorce has significant consequences for the circumstances in which children are raised and socialized (Cohen, Orna, Finzi-Dottan, & Ricky, 2005). Past research has shown that family issues such as parental divorce, interparental conflict, parent-child attachment, and attitude towards divorce impact the romantic relationship's quality. Romantic relationships last longer if the quality of the relationship is high. One of the factors that influence the quality of young adult's romantic relationships is parental divorce. According to literature in Western countries, parental divorce has a lasting adverse effect on the offspring and their adult romantic relationship (Kroenlein, 2007). Numerous studies confirm children who experienced parental divorce are more likely to experience marital dysfunction and low-quality romantic relationship and get divorced themselves (Wolfinger, 2005).

Additionally, many times during the divorce process and sometimes even after the divorce, parental conflicts are often involved (Amato, 1993, 2014). Parental conflicts also contribute negatively to adult children's romantic relationship quality (Cui & Fincham, 2010). Interparental conflict influences children across different areas, including the risk of dissolving their marriages (Braithwaite et al., 2016). The different levels of interparental conflict perceived by the child have a lasting effect on the quality of their relationship with their romantic partners (Hetherington & Kelly, 2003). Despite the family structure, whether the parents are married or divorced, witnessing parental conflict predicts higher acceptance of cohabitation and not getting married. Also, commitment in romantic relationships is low, and avoidance of divorce due to parental conflict is low (Cui & Fincham, 2010; Kozuch & Cooney, 1995).

Furthermore, research has shown a significant association between parent-child attachment and young adults' relationship quality (Bosmans & Kerns, 2015; Feeney & Noller, 1990). Henceforth, parent-child attachment quality is an essential contributor to the adult romantic relationship quality. Insecure parent-child attachments have long-term adverse effects on young adults' romantic relationships (Tan, McIntosh, Kothe, Opie, & Olsson, 2018).

Moreover, past research has also shown that attitude towards divorce has a relationship with interparental conflict and the quality of romantic relationships. Attitude towards divorce mediates the relationship between parental divorce and the romantic relationship quality of young adults (Amato & Rogers, 1999; Riggio & Fite, 2006). With the limited literature exploring the mediation effect of attitudes towards divorce, it is seen that the experiences from their family of origin shape their attitudes. Experiencing a parental divorce and interparental conflict impact the attitudes they form towards the expectations of their future relationships. These attitudes may play a role in minimizing the quality of the relationships (Amato & Rogers, 1999; Whitton, Stanley, Markman, & Johnson, 2013). So it is equally important to find out if attitudes towards divorce make a variance

in the romantic relationship quality despite the experiences they gain from their family environment (Kwan et al., 2013).

Hence, it is crucial to understand the association between family factors and their influence on young adults' future romantic relationships. Understanding this process will help parents do what is essential and necessary to influence the offspring's future relationship quality. Simultaneously, it will also make the parents take a more proactive effort to improve their relationship quality; this, in turn, can contribute to their children's future romantic relationship quality.

According to past studies, interparental conflict, parent-child attachment, parental divorce, and attitude towards divorce are all essential factors that contribute to the romantic relationship quality of young adults. However, the researcher could not locate any published research conducted for the Maldivian population that has analyzed the association between these variables or anything related to the topic. The study's findings will contribute to the existing literature in understanding how these family factors affect Maldivian young adults' romantic relationship quality. Furthermore, past studies have explored all these factors in isolation. This study aims to fill this research gap by studying the impact of all these factors on the quality of romantic relationships of young adults to understand better which factors have the most substantial effect on young adults' romantic relationship quality.

### **1.2.1 Knowledge Gap**

Despite the disturbing relationship situations in the Maldives, very limited or no research has been done. Parental divorce, inter-parental conflict, parent-child attachment, attitude towards divorce, and its impact on the young adult's romantic relationship is a widely researched area in the Western countries (See Braithwaite et al., 2016; Cui et al., 2011; Rhoades, Stanley, Markman, & Ragan, 2012; Whitton et al., 2013). The evidence supports parental divorce's adverse outcomes, parental conflict, insecure parent-child attachment, and attitudes towards divorce on young adults' romantic relationships, mostly in isolated studies. The parental conflict has been often associated with less commitment, poor communication, unhealthy attachment patterns, and more positive attitudes towards divorce (Braithwaite et al., 2016). High parental conflict levels also predict lower relationship quality in adult children's romantic life even if it doesn't result in parental marital dissolution (Booth & Amato, 1994). Parental divorce is negatively allied with young adults' romantic relationship quality and satisfaction in many studies (Cui & Fincham, 2010; Kelly, 2000). Parent-child attachment also negatively impacts adult romantic relationship quality (Matsuoka et al., 2006; Rauer et al., 2013). Furthermore, attitudes towards divorce also impact the romantic relationship quality, where favourable attitudes towards divorce have been negatively associated with low commitment to the relationship affecting the relationship's overall quality (Amato & Rogers, 1999; Riggio & Fite, 2006).

Unfortunately, most of the existing literature has studied interparental conflict, parental divorce, attitudes towards divorce, and parent-child attachment with adult romantic relationship quality in isolation. Very few studies have combined two or more variables, such as interparental conflict and parental divorce, to understand its impact on romantic relationships (Braithwaite et al., 2016; Gager et al., 2016). Fewer researchers have combined parent-child attachment and either interparental conflict or parental divorce to understand their impact on the romantic relationship's quality. When evidence suggests that all these variables impact the quality of romantic relationships, acquiring a complete understanding of the size of impact each variable has on the quality of the relationship becomes vital to reduce the adverse effects.

Furthermore, most available literature in this area has concentrated on children's adverse outcomes or early and late adolescence. Minimal research has focused on young adulthood, which will be the focus of this study. It is vital to focus on this age group, as this is when individuals get into intimate relationships and make decisions about their romantic life (Jackson & Fife, 2018). According to Erikson (1963), it is the stage of young adulthood where people deal with the psychosocial crisis of intimacy vs. isolation; this is when people start exploring relationships that would lead to a long-term commitment with somebody who is not a family member. A significant accomplishment of this stage leads to happier, healthier romantic relationships; on the other hand, avoiding intimacy and fearing to commit to a relationship may lead to isolation and loneliness. Questions about how parental divorce, interparental conflict, parent-child attachment, and attitudes towards divorce could influence young adults' experiences and decisions during this stage have been sparsely explored in past research. Hence, this research fills this gap by examining the quality of young adults' romantic relationships concerning the variables mentioned above.

According to Fletcher and Simpson (2000), romantic relationship quality comprises of different domains. He suggests that romantic relationship quality cannot be determined by measuring just one variable. To understand the overall quality of a romantic relationship, we need to consider domains such as commitment, love, satisfaction, intimacy, passion, and trust. However, the existing literature investigating the quality of the romantic relationship mostly focuses on single domains such as commitment (Cui & Fincham, 2010) or, in some cases, a couple of domains such as satisfaction and trust (Sinnott, 2010). This study fills this gap by including all six domains proposed by Fletcher and Simpson (2000) to measure young adults' romantic relationships' overall quality.

In the Maldives, very little or no emphasis is on exploring young adults' quality of romantic relationships. The number of divorces increased from 2345 in 2007 to 3417 in 2016 (*Statistical Pocketbook-2017*, 2017). The Maldives prospects high numbers of families will continue to experience divorce (involving parental conflict) in the future. Hence, it is essential to understand the long-standing effect on the romantic relationship quality of young adults. Low romantic relationship quality may be one reason for the inter-generational trends of divorce in the Maldives. Young adults may have a dysfunctional relationship with their romantic partners if they experience parental

divorce or inter-parental conflict, build favourable attitudes towards divorce, and have insecure attachment patterns with their parents.

Furthermore, most of the research in this area is conducted on the Western population. This research would fill this gap by finding the association between interparental conflict, parental divorce, parent-child attachment, attitudes towards divorce, and young adults' romantic relationship quality of the Maldives, a different cohort of people. Besides, this study's findings will also contribute to the literature in understanding the mediating role of attitude toward divorce on the relationship between interparental conflict and romantic relationship quality. Additionally, it will also help understand the mediating role of attitude toward divorce on the relationship between parental divorce and romantic relationship quality of young adults. This research's findings will enhance the existing literature because the Maldives' geographic setting and the family setting are very different from the Western world.

### **1.2.2 Theoretical Gap**

The “social learning theory proposed” by Bandura (1977) provides an excellent basis for understanding the consequences of family factors on young adults' romantic relationship quality. Social learning theory states that offspring from high conflict environments are more likely to imitate their parents' inappropriate behaviours (Bandura, 1973). Many researchers studying the impact of conflict and divorce on offspring rely on learning theory aspects to explain intergenerational patterns (Amato & DeBoer, 2001; Simon & Furman, 2010). Social learning theory explains the reciprocal relationship between cognition, behaviour, and environmental influences. However, it does not explain how attachment bonds are made. Hazan and Shaver (1987) extended the infants' attachment categories initially proposed by Ainsworth et al. (1978) to adults' interpersonal attachment. Hazan and Shaver's model suggests “a set of mechanisms (i.e., working models) that contribute to individual stability while recognizing the powerful influence of social-environmental factors on attachment behaviour” (Fraley & Shaver, 2000). There is literature supporting the notion that attachment in childhood influences adult relationships, specifically romantic relationships (Gillath, Karantzas, & Fraley, 2016c; Towler & Stuhlmacher, 2013; Treboux, Crowell, & Waters, 2004). The working models that an individual develops based on early interactions with the primary caregiver continue into adult relationships with romantic partners.

Thus, the present study will integrate constructs from the above theories to comprehensively explore the association between the mentioned family factors and the romantic relationship quality of young adults. The concepts of relationship quality or attachment may not be universal when applying to other cultures (Mashek, 2004). Hence it is also essential to determine if this theoretical framework applies to the Maldivian community which has a culture of its own, to understand the quality of the romantic relationship is influenced by the different family factors. Hence, this study uses the mentioned theories as an exploratory model to explore the applicability of the theories to this new population.

### **1.2.3 Practical Gap**

Based on the available research, it is safe to assume that young adults' romantic relationship quality is impacted by inter-parental conflict, parental divorce, parent-child attachment, and attitudes toward divorce. It is hypothesized that these factors may be the reasons for the transgenerational divorce in the Maldives for decades. Hence, this research's findings would help identify the association between these and how big or small these factors affect young adults' romantic relationship quality. The results will also contribute to developing appropriate programs in minimizing the long-term impacts of interparental conflict, parental divorce, and insecure parent-child attachment on children and draw interventions for the parents to deal with their conflict in less harmful ways. This study's results would also benefit policymakers and practitioners in developing appropriate interventions and awareness programs for both parents and children.

### **1.3 The Main Research Question**

The following main question was formulated to achieve the objectives of the research,

Do family factors; inter-parental conflict, parental divorce, parent-child attachment, and attitude towards divorce affect the quality of young adults' romantic relationships in the Maldives?

#### **1.3.1 Sub Question**

1. What are the levels of romantic relationship quality, perceived interparental conflict, attachment styles, and attitude towards divorce?
2. Is there a significant relationship between perceived inter-parental conflict and the quality of romantic relationships of young adults?
3. Is there a significant relationship between parent-child attachment (mother-child, father-child) and the quality of young adults' romantic relationships?
4. Is there a significant relationship between parental divorce, attitude divorce, and the quality of romantic relationships?
5. Is the relationship between parental divorce and the quality of young adults' romantic relationships mediated by their attitude towards divorce?
6. Is the relationship between perceived interparental conflict and the quality of young adults' romantic relationships mediated by their attitudes towards divorce?



7. What is the strength of the effect size of perceived interparental conflict, parental divorce, parent-child attachment, and attitude towards divorce on the quality of young adults' romantic relationships?

#### **1.4 Research Aim**

This research aims to identify the association between perceived interparental conflict, parental divorce, parent-child attachment, and attitude towards divorce on young adults' romantic relationship quality in Maldivian universities and colleges.

##### **1.4.1 Specific Research Objectives**

1. To identify romantic relationship quality levels, levels of perceived interparental conflict, parent-child attachment styles, and the attitude towards divorce.
2. To identify the relationship between perceived inter-parental conflict, parent-child attachment (mother-child, father-child), parental divorce, attitude towards divorce, and the quality of young adults' romantic relationships.
3. To determine the mediation effect (attitudes toward divorce of young adults) on the relationship between parental divorce and the quality of young adults' romantic relationships.
4. To determine the mediation effect (attitudes toward divorce of young adults) on the relationship between perceived interparental conflict and the quality of young adults' romantic relationships.
5. To determine the main predictor of romantic relationship quality.

#### **1.5 Hypotheses of the Study**

##### **Hypothesis 1**

H<sub>1</sub> Young adults who perceived high inter-parental conflict during their childhood will have a low quality of romantic relationships as adults.

##### **Hypothesis 2**

H<sub>2a</sub> Young adults with avoidant attachment patterns with their mothers will have low relationship quality levels with their romantic partners.

H<sub>2b</sub> Young adults with avoidant attachment patterns with their fathers will have low relationship quality levels with their romantic partners.

H<sub>2c</sub> Young adults with anxious attachment patterns with their mothers will have low relationship quality levels with their romantic partners.

H<sub>2d</sub> Young adults with anxious attachment patterns with their fathers will have low relationship quality levels with their romantic partners.

### **Hypothesis 3**

H<sub>3</sub> young adults who have experienced parental divorce will have a low quality of romantic relationships with their partners.

### **Hypothesis 4**

H<sub>4</sub> Young adults who have a favorable (positive) attitude towards divorce will have a low quality of romantic relationships with their partners.

### **Hypothesis 5**

H<sub>5</sub> The relationship between parental divorce and romantic relationship quality of young adults will be mediated by the attitude towards divorce.

### **Hypothesis 6**

H<sub>6</sub> The relationship between perceived inter-parental conflict and romantic relationship quality of young adults will be mediated by the attitude towards divorce.

### **Hypothesis 7**

H<sub>7</sub> The interparental conflict, parental divorce, parent-child attachment, and attitude towards divorce contribute to romantic relationship quality.

## **1.6 Significance of the study**

This study examines the impact of family factors, parental divorce, interparental conflict, parent-child attachment, and attitude towards divorce on young adults' romantic relationship quality. It also aims to find out the mediating role of attitudes towards divorce on the relationship between parental divorce and the quality of young adults' romantic relationships and the mediating effect of attitudes towards divorce on the

relationship between interparental conflict and the quality of young adult's romantic relationship in the Maldives.

This research is vital for several reasons. Firstly, there is very limited or no research done in the Maldives to explore the association of inter-parental conflict, parent-child attachment, parental divorce, and attitude towards divorce on the quality of young adults' romantic relationships. Secondly, as this study is grounded on scientific research methods, the information obtained from this study would fit relevant organizations and agencies to develop appropriate interventions to improve the romantic relationship quality of young adults. Thirdly, exploring the relationship among these variables and understanding the relationships and mechanisms of these variables would help professionals to introduce and implement appropriate interventions at the right time.

Specifically, it would help the family therapists and social psychologists to understand the problems of young adults related to their romantic relationships and go to the root cause of the problem and treat it. This research would also benefit therapists who work with couples and children from challenging family backgrounds.

A huge number of the studies in this area have explored Western countries; targeting Western partners. As the target population for this study is young adults of the Maldives, the theories; social learning theory (Bandura, 1977) and attachment theory (Bowlby, 1969) have been applied to understand a new community contributing to the existing literature. In addition to this, as this study combined social learning theory and attachment theory, it helped us understand the relationship between the theories from a new lens.

Furthermore, existing literature has explored these family variables in isolation from different perspectives and mostly on Western populations. None of the studies have looked into the combined outcomes of interparental conflict, parent-child attachment, parental divorce, and attitude towards divorce on the quality of young adults' romantic relationships, making this study different from the existing studies filling the gap.

## **1.7 Scope of the study**

This study was conducted in the Maldives. The study's target population was young adults between the ages of 18 to 25 who were married or engaged in a romantic relationship for a minimum duration of three months and were enrolled in a university/college in the Maldives. The study limited its aim to explore the relationship between inter-parental conflict, parent-child attachment, parental divorce, and attitude towards divorce on the quality of romantic relationships among university/college students in the Maldives. The study further investigated the mediating effect of attitude towards divorce on the relationship between interparental conflict and relationship



quality, and the mediating effect of attitude towards divorce on the relationship between parental divorce and relationship quality.

## **1.8 Limitations of the study**

This study was limited to some of the Maldives universities and colleges, considering the limited time and funds. In the beginning, the researcher identified seven universities/colleges for data collection. However, the researcher got permission to collect data from only six institutes; Maldives National University (MNU), Maldives Islamic University (IUM), MI College, Cyryx College, Avid College, and Zikura Institute. The students in these institutes represent the Maldivian university/college student population. Secondly, in terms of response bias, the study's instrument was all self-reported measures, and the results depended much on the respondents' perceptions, accuracy, and truthfulness.

Additionally, interparental conflict was measured using a retrospective self-report method. Participants had to recall past events to answer, so participants can have difficulty accurately remembering the events when answering. Additionally, the instrument required some time to complete; this may have affected the participants' response in terms of attention and interest. Furthermore, as the study participants were only university/college students; hence, the findings are only true to university students and not the general population.

## **1.9 The theoretical framework of the study**

A theoretical framework “is the application of a theory or a set of concepts drawn from the same theory, to offer an explanation of an event, or shed some light on a particular phenomenon or research problem.” (Imenda, 2014). It helps the researcher understand the research's hypothesis and approaches and how it could be answered (Ocholla & Le Roux, 2011). A theoretical framework allows the researcher to guide the theory allied with the study and is the basis for justifications and descriptions.

Several psychological theories may be useful in understanding and explaining the variables of this study. However, this study utilized two theories (for reasons mentioned below) to explore and explain these variables' relationships. The overarching theory used to describe the primary variables is the social learning theory. In addition to this theory, attachment theory will be used as reinforcement theory.

### 1.9.1 Social Learning Theory

The origins of social learning theory root back to Julian Rotter (1954), who asserted that people's personalities result from their environmental experiences. Rotter also stressed that a person could not separate the environment from oneself as the environment continually interacts with the person's character, which changes as the environment changes (Rotter, Chance, & Phares, 1972). The theory was further developed by Bandura (1977), who states that one's thoughts, emotions, and behaviour are significantly affected by their observation, experiences, and how one interprets their experiences.

According to Bandura (1977), individuals display behaviours they learn deliberately or unintentionally through others' influence. Children learn behaviour from observing their role models' modelling behaviours, such as their parents, to form ideas of new behaviours. On later occasions, these ideas or the coded information are used by them to guide their actions. Social learning theory explains the reciprocal relationship between cognition, behaviour, and environmental influences.

There are three main social learning theory concepts; observational learning, intrinsic motivation or mental state, and the modelling process (Bandura, 1965). Observational learning refers to the process of people learning through observation. The Bobo doll experiment conducted by Bandura to study behaviour patterns is an excellent example of observational learning. The Bobo doll experiment was a significant study that shifted the perspective of behaviourists, who claimed that all behaviours resulted from reinforcement. The children in the investigation did not receive any support to imitate the actions they had observed; they just imitated the actions of beating up the doll as they saw. This phenomenon was termed observational learning by Bandura (1965).

The individual also observes the different consequences that accompany their actions during the process of learning. They develop thoughts and hypotheses about the most likely behaviours to succeed and give them some satisfaction. This learning format is described as a form of internal rewards, where it is assumed that if the individuals know what they are supposed to do for the desired outcome, they profit better from the result (Bandura, 1977). Some examples of internal rewards are a sense of accomplishment, happiness, satisfaction, and pride. The third concept of social learning theory is the modelling process. According to Bandura (1977), most of the behaviours displayed by individuals are learned either directly or indirectly through influential people in their life. He discusses four necessary circumstances that are important in the modelling process. Successful completion of these conditions can make an individual learn the behaviours of a model. The four conditions are; attention, retention, reproduction, and motivation.

According to Bandura (1977), it is essential to be attentive to the model because a person will not learn much by observation if they do not give attention or recognize the crucial features of the model. Second, the person will not benefit from the observed behaviour if he does not have any memory of it. Hence, long-term retention of activities that have been modelled is essential for learning to take place.

Often, the individuals will use symbolic forms to form memories, which will guide them to reproduce the model's behaviour. Third, it is also essential to replicate the behaviour that has been learned, which is called reproduction. Reproduction is the process whereby individuals use the symbolic representations stored in their memory to guide overt actions. And finally, the fourth component, which is vital for modelling to occur, is motivation. Observational learning, which previously remains unexpressed, will be translated into action when positive incentives are provided. Reinforcement also influences the observational learning level due to controlling how actively they code and rehearse their observations (Bandura, 1965).

Many researchers studying the consequences of interparental conflict and parental divorce on young adult's relationship quality rely on these aspects of social learning theory to explain intergenerational patterns (Amato, 2001; Long, 2001; Conger et al. 2000; Furman & Simon, 1999). Social learning theory's theoretical perspectives suggest that people learn behaviours and attitudes through their observation, imitation, and experiences (Segrin, Taylor, & Altman, 2005). Social learning theory also proposes that it is these experiences of individuals that determine the behaviours they choose in any given situation, and these beliefs, observations, and imitations of behaviours are likely to influence their future relationships (Gray & Tallman, 1986)

Social learning theory is based on learned behaviour that occurs in a social context. It proposes that children's behaviour is shaped indirectly or directly by their real-life experiences and exposures. The process of shaping their behaviour using real-life experiences is considered learning, which can be diverse and includes imitation and reinforcement (O'Connor, Matias, Futh, Tantam, & Scott, 2013; Scaramella & Leve, 2004)

According to this theory, the strategies and management of children's emotions, dispute resolution, and interacting or engaging with others are learned from the experiences and exposures and carried forward into different settings and times (O'Connor et al., 2013). Family environment and family relationships are primary sources of such experiences, especially for young children.

While growing up, children are exposed to many humans, for example, teachers, relatives, peers, and neighbours. However, the parents' earliest interactions are the most prominent behaviour models (Herzog & Cooney, 2002). The parents' authority figure status portrays their behaviours as more appropriate and acceptable ways for children to copy and act than behaviours and actions that they may observe from other people. (Cummings & Davies, 1994). Children's exposure to poor models of their parents' dyadic behaviours may influence learning the "skills and attitudes that facilitate successful functioning within marital roles" (Amato, 1996). Young adults begin to develop their own opinions and perspectives about what marital relationships are and what entails them by observing the marital relationship of their parents. The observed quality of their parents' relationship shapes the children's perceptions, values, and beliefs about the marital relationship (Willoughby, Carroll, Vitas, & Hill, 2012). Based on

Social learning theory, researchers speculate that the likelihood of young adults' low marital interaction is increased by observing low marital interaction between parents due to learning (Greenberg & Nay, 1982).

As children notice how their parents perform and respond in their marital relationship, children develop their ideas and beliefs of romantic relationships. Hence, it is understandable that how children perceive their parent's relationship's stability may strongly associate with their attitude towards marriage and divorce, considering that the amplest experience to marriage relationship institution is through their parents. Therefore social learning theory can explain family factors that contribute to the romantic relationship quality of young adults; specifically, social learning theory proposes the best description of the learning course (Bandura, 1977). Hence, this theory is used as a guide to understanding why the quality of young adult's romantic relationships changes due to interparental conflict, parental divorce, and attitude towards divorce.

### **1.9.2 Attachment Theory**

Attachment theory proposed by John Bowlby (Bowlby, 1969) provides an excellent framework to understand infants' attachment to their mothers. Bowlby claimed that infant attachment would be much easier to measure during the child's second year because children were limited in mobility during the first year of life. Ainsworth studied child-mother interactions during this developmental period. In her observations, Ainsworth created lists of behaviours that may have been suggestive of mother-infant attachment. Some of these child behaviours included; becoming tearful when the mother left, following the mother, demonstrating interest in the mother's location, burying the face in the lap of the mother, going to the mother when startled, using the mother as a safe-haven, and greeting the mother through smiles, claps, and other gestures of excitement (Mooney, 2010). From these observations, Ainsworth argued two significant claims: First, children experiencing a healthy attachment with their mothers can leave them to explore their environments, aware that they may return if fearful or anxious. Second, Ainsworth noted that children who were securely attached to mothers offered the most care, while children who were insecurely attached had less available mothers (Ainsworth, 1973).

Ainsworth established a procedure called the "Strange Situation." During this procedure, observers make a note of infant behaviours while they undergo eight stages. First, infants are brought into a playroom with a parent. Second, parents and infants are left alone, and the infant may explore. Third, a stranger comes to the room and moves towards the infant while the parent casually goes out of the room. Fourth, the stranger attempts to play with the infant alone. Fifth, the parent reunites with the infant, providing comfort as needed. Sixth, both the parent and the stranger leave the infant unaccompanied to play in the room. Seventh, the stranger comes in again, alone. Finally, the parent enters, and the stranger casually exits (Ainsworth & Bell, 1970). Based on her findings from the Strange Situation, Ainsworth was able to establish three main attachment styles; securely attached, anxious-ambivalent, and anxious-avoidant.

First, securely attached children were noted to explore their environment enthusiastically, intermittently referring to their caregiver for reassurance purposes. While engaging in the Strange Situation, securely attached infants play with the stranger only if the mother is close, cry upon being separated from the mother, and demonstrate happiness when the mother returns. This infant demonstrates the ability to cope when under stress and adapt to new surroundings (Ainsworth & Bell, 1970).

Moreover, parents of these infants are responsive to their needs. Thus, these infants can utilize their parents as a secure base, willing to play independently, and return for comfort should it be necessary. Second, anxious-ambivalent, insecurely attached infants' express distress (e.g., crying, reaching for mothers) when in an unfamiliar setting, despite caregivers' presence. Strangely, these children demonstrate evident anxiety when parents leave yet are resistant to their caregiving upon reuniting with them. Ainsworth hypothesized that these infants naturally responded based on parental needs and schedules. These attachment patterns prove to be very tiring for both infants and their parents. Finally, the anxious-avoidant, insecurely attached children are perhaps the most difficult to understand and parent. Such infants demonstrate a minimal interest in caregivers and strangers, despite who is present in the playroom. Moreover, some anxious-avoidant insecurely attached infants appear to lack emotion and appear helpless, particularly when it comes to adults' ability to attend to them when they need them (Ainsworth & Bell, 1970; Mooney, 2010). Each of these attachment styles is crucial to the development of relationships across the lifespan.

The relationship between a child and a parent has been found to act as a foundation for many components of a child's development (Kochendorfer & Kerns, 2017). Attachment theory proposes that a lasting bond between the child and the caregiver is formed (Ainsworth, 1989; Bowlby, 1982), reinforced by the behavioural system (Bowlby, 1982). According to Kerns, Brumariu, and Seibert (2011), if a child believes that the attachment figure is dependable and can provide a safe haven and a secure base, they are securely attached to the caregiver. The behaviour that reflects secure attachment evolves as a child grows, and the attachment systems move from closeness to the attachment figure's accessibility. However, parents remain significant attachment figures during adolescence and even into early adulthood (Rosenthal & Kobak, 2010)

Researchers have suggested attachment theory as a reliable framework to make meaning of close relationships in adulthood (Gillath, Karantzas, & Fraley, 2016b; Hazan & Shaver, 1987). The idea of discrete adult attachment styles originated in the work of Hazan and Shaver (1987) and (Hazan & Shaver, 1994). The bond of emotions created between romantic partners is partly similar to the functions of the motivational systems of behavioural attachment systems that grow the emotional bonds between the caregiver and the children (Hazan & Shaver, 1987). For example, during childhood with caregivers, children feel safe when nearby and responsive (Bowlby, 1969). Similarly, in adulthood with romantic partners, when partners are nearby and receptive to their needs, people feel safer. In both relationships, people engage in close, intimate bodily contact to sense the feeling of security; when the partner or the caregiver is not available or inaccessible, they feel insecure. In both relationships, they share their discoveries and



insights with the attachment figure and display preoccupation and fascination with one another and partake in “baby talk.” (Gillath, Karantzas, & Fraley, 2016a).

Based on this, (Hazan & Shaver, 1987) proposed three types of attachments for adults; secure attachment, anxious/ambivalent, and avoidant attachment. The secure attachment style in adulthood is consistent with that of securely attached children. Specifically, securely attached individuals can establish emotionally close relationships; they do not become overly anxious when alone and may achieve healthy and co-dependent relationships with others (Hazan & Shaver, 1994).

The first of these is the secure attachment. This style of attachment is consistent with that of securely attached children. Specifically, these individuals can establish emotionally close relationships; they do not become overly anxious when alone and may achieve healthy and interdependent relationships with others. In romantic relationships, securely attached adults possess positive views of themselves and their partners. Comfortable in both domains, these individuals pursue a balance between independence and intimacy with romantic partners, ultimately experiencing excellent quality and satisfaction in their relationships (Mikulincer & Shaver, 2008; Sable, 2007).

The insecure adult attachment styles are divided into two groups: anxious/ambivalent and avoidant. The anxious/ambivalent or preoccupied attachment style is related to the anxious/ambivalent attachment style in children identified by Ainsworth and Bell (1970). Individuals who fall into this category desire to engage in intimate relationships with others but often lack the confidence to seek such closeness. These individuals also report anxiety concerning being valued by others and may seek the approval of others regularly. They may also become overly dependent on their romantic partners and report more negative views about themselves (Hazan & Shaver, 1987). Besides, these individuals may be characterized as impulsive and emotionally expressive when it comes to romantic relationships (Mikulincer & Shaver, 2008; Sable, 2007).

Individuals classified as having an avoidant attachment style often have unfortunate experiences (e.g., losses of caregivers, sexual abuse) in their developmental years. As a result, avoidant individuals report being uncomfortable having close relationships with others. They experience anxiety about the thought of emotionally getting harmed if such relationships were to develop. Moreover, these individuals may experience a perceived inability to depend on others. At times, those who experience avoidant attachments may have negative views of both themselves and their partners. Because of this, the individuals who develop avoidant attachment styles find it extremely difficult to form romantic relationships (Mikulincer & Shaver, 2008; Sable, 2008).

Thus, just as infants are classified into complex and unique attachment categories based on their behaviours and assumed emotional experiences, too can adults. Moreover, some adult attachment styles may relate closely to infant attachment styles (as is the case with the secure and anxious-preoccupied categories). In contrast, others may be less similar

(such as the dismissive-avoidant and fearful-avoidant styles). These patterns of relating to others will be vital as we assess their relevance to social and intimate relationships throughout one's life. Hence, attachment theory can be used as a guide to understanding parent-child attachment and romantic relationship quality of young adults.

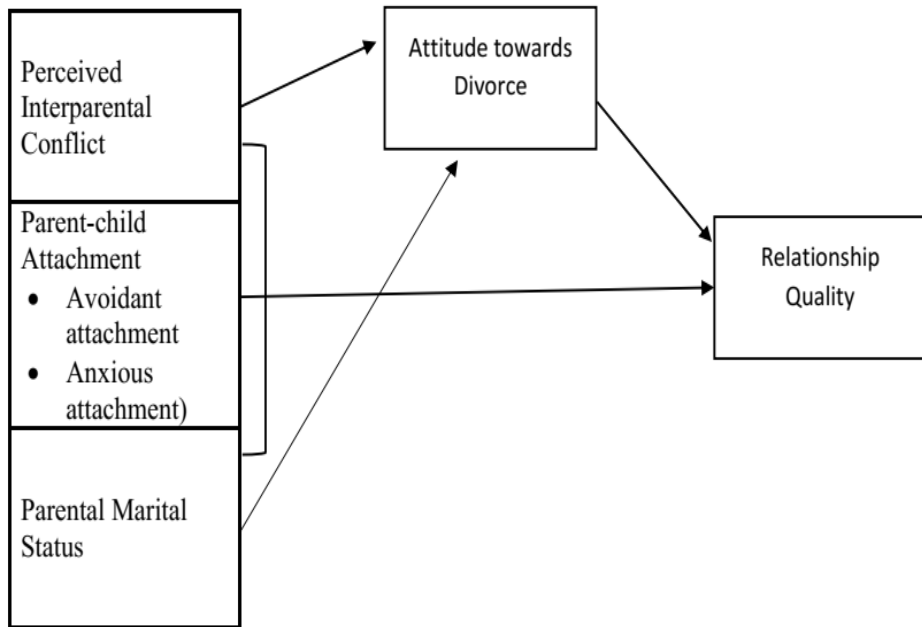
### **1.9.3 Integration of the Theories**

Human behaviour is complex, and a single theory cannot comprehensively explain the relationship between interparental conflict, parent-child attachment, parental divorce, attitude towards divorce, and the quality of romantic relationships among young adults. Researchers have suggested that rather than using one theory at a time, studying the dynamic interplay between different theories would be a better guide to understand human behaviour (Bowlby, 1982; Hazan & Shaver, 1987). Hence, the integration of the theories mentioned above will help describe the changes in the quality of young adults' romantic relationships due to the family factors such as parental divorce, interparental conflict, and parent-child attachment.

Social learning theory proposes that children learn through observations of others (Bandura, 1977). Similarly, Bowlby (1969) also emphasizes the importance of considering parent-child attachment to comprehend marital expectations and romantic relationships. According to Bowlby, children develop internal working models based on early caregiving experiences and use them to guide their relationships with others (Steinberg, Davila, & Fincham, 2006). From this standpoint, experiences of attachment with the parent will imply how children feel, think, and behave in different relationships they encounter, including later love relationships (Steinberg et al., 2006). According to Fletcher and Simpson (2000), decisions about relationship quality might be based on the homogeneity between the ideal standards already established and the perceptions of the partner or the relationship. They have learned the standards by observing the behaviours of their parents and the relationship they have with their parents.

Hence for this study, Bowlby's (1969) attachment theory was adopted to complement Social learning theory (Bandura, 1977) to describe the connection among parental conflict, parent-child attachment, parental divorce, attitude toward divorce, and quality of the romantic relationship.

### 1.10 Conceptual framework of the study



**Figure 1.1 : Conceptual framework for the study**

The conceptual framework was driven from existing literature, whereby researchers have associated the quality of romantic relationships with perceived interparental conflict (Cui & Fincham, 2010), parental divorce (Amato, 1996), and parent-child attachment (Kochendorfer & Kerns, 2017). Researchers have also argued that attitudes towards divorce act as mediators (Amato & Rogers, 1999; Whitton et al., 2013) on the relationship between certain independent variables (parental divorce and interparental conflict) and the dependent variable (romantic relationship quality). Figure 1.1 shows the relationship between independent, dependent, and mediating variables. Perceived interparental conflict, parent-child attachment, and parental divorce are the independent variables (IV), while the quality of the romantic relationship is the dependent variable (DV). Attitude towards divorce is the mediating variable (MV).

### 1.11 Conceptual and operational definitions

The study defines and expands the conceptual meanings of the following terms. It also describes the operational definitions, meaning how these terms have been applied in this study.



### 1.11.1 Perceived inter Parental conflict

**Conceptual Definition:** Inter-parental conflict characterizes an assortment of parental behaviours fluctuating from minor disagreements to physical violence. It denotes open resentment between married, separated, or divorced parents (Bradford & Barber, 2005). It is also considered as an expression of negative affect between parents (Cummings & Davies, 1994).

**Operational Definition:** In this research, inter-parental conflict is how the child perceives the different conflict dimensions between parents. Hence, interparental conflict is conceptualized as multi-dimensional and will be focusing on conflict properties such as frequency, the intensity of conflict, how it is resolved, self-blame of children, and coping as proposed by Grych et al. (1992).

### 1.11.2 Parent-child Attachment

**Conceptual Definition:** In the earlier years, attachment was defined as behaviours that are learned, and learning of attachment behaviours were based on the delivery of food, which means that an attachment bond will be formed between the infant and the person who feeds it (Dollard & Miller, 1950). In later years, Ainsworth (1973) and Bowlby (1969) defined attachment as an emotional bond that is deep and long-lasting, which connects one individual to the other across time and space.

**Operational Definition:** In this study, attachment is defined as the type and the type of attachment relationship the person has with their parent, meaning how close they are to them. Parent-child attachment will be measured and categorized into the three groups; secure, anxious/ambivalent, and avoidant attachment styles proposed by Hazan and Shaver (1987).

### 1.11.3 Quality of Romantic Relationship

**Conceptual Definition:** Collins, Welsh, and Furman (2009) describe romantic relationships as “mutually acknowledged ongoing voluntary interactions, commonly marked by expressions of affection and perhaps current or anticipated sexual behaviour.” In short, romantic relationships are the interaction between two people who shows affection and leads to sexual behaviour engagement. When measuring this relationship's quality, certain behaviours or domains must be considered to make a holistic judgment. Friendship plays an important role in the formation of romantic relationships, but they are different in nature (Furman, Low, & Ho, 2009). Romantic relationships are different from the friendship experience, as they are not very intimate (Furman, Simon, Shaffer, & Bouchey, 2002). According to Fletcher and Simpson (2000), individuals have ideals standards for their romantic relationships. The relationship's quality has been found better when these ideals are closely related to the ongoing relationship. Such

relationships are measured by considering different dimensions: trust, satisfaction, commitment, intimacy, passion, and love. Hence, the romantic relationship includes all these domains whereas friendships lack the domain of intimacy.

**Operational Definition:** For this study, the quality of the romantic relationship will be measured using the dimensions suggested by Fletcher and Simpson (2000), namely, levels of trust, commitment, intimacy, passion, love, and satisfaction. These dimensions will be measured by asking participants to reflect on their perceptions of the actual behaviours. In general, relationship quality here refers to how positively or negatively individuals perceive their relationships (Morry, Reich, & Kito, 2010)

#### 1.11.4 Attitude towards divorce

**Conceptual Definition:** Attitudes are a set of emotions, beliefs, and behaviour towards a particular person, object, or event. Often attitudes are formed as an outcome of the upbringing of an individual or what the individual experience. Attitudes can have a powerful influence over a person's behaviour; however, attitudes can also change depending on the experiences they have next. Amato & DeBoer (2001) defines attitude as the perception of acceptance of divorce to solve the problems a person faces in marriage. Whitton et al. (2013) define "attitudes towards divorce" as how much a person sees divorce as a suitable decision to marital dissonance. People with positive attitudes towards divorce view divorce as a proper action to solve marital problems. Conversely, people with undesirable attitudes towards divorce believe that people should continue to stay in their marital relationship despite how difficult it is and view marriage as a permanent institution.

**Operational Definition:** For this study, attitudes towards divorce will be observed utilizing the "attitude towards divorce scale" established by Kinnaird and Gerrard (1986) to measure favourable and unfavourable attitudes towards divorce, meaning positive and negative thoughts about divorce.

#### 1.11.5 Young adults

**Conceptual Definition:** Young adults are people between the age of 18- 38. According to the psychosocial development stages proposed by Erikson (1971), it is between the ages of 18-38 (young adulthood) where individuals begin to explore relationships with others that lead to long-term commitment other than family members. Erikson (1971) labels this stage as "intimacy versus isolation." Young adulthood is the age group where individuals start exploring close relationships with others outside family members. The success of this stage may account for the quality of future romantic relationships. Successful completion of this stage can develop loving and meaningful relationships (Plotnik & Kouyoumdjian, 2013).

**Operational Definition:** For this study, young adults are people between the ages of 18 to 25, which falls under Erickson’s developmental stage of “intimacy vs. isolation.”

## 1.12 Chapter Summary

The primary purpose of this chapter is to introduce the research. The chapter covers the background of the study. It conveys the research purpose and the problem with clear research objectives and research questions. Based on the research objectives and research questions, hypotheses for the study were created. Additionally, the chapter also includes the significance of the research and the scope of the study. The chapter is concluded by highlighting the theoretical and conceptual framework and clear definitions of the terms that will be used in the research.

## REFERENCES

- Ainsworth, M. D. S. (1973). The development of infant-mother attachment In B. Cardwell & H. Ricciuti (Eds.). *Review of child development research*, 3, 1-94 Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Ainsworth, M. D. S. (1989). Attachment Beyond Infancy. *Am. Psychol.*, 44(4), 709-716.
- Ainsworth, M. D. S., & Bell, S. M. (1970). Attachment, Exploration, and Separation: Illustrated by the Behaviour of One-Year-Olds in a Strange Situation. *Child Development*, 41(1), 49-67. doi:10.2307/1127388
- Ainsworth, M. D. S., Blehar, M. C., Waters, E., & Wall, S. N. (1978). *Patterns of Attachment: A Psychological Study of the Strange Situation*: Oxford, England: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc.
- Al-Yagon, M. (2012). Adolescents with Learning Disabilities: Socioemotional and Behavioural Functioning and Attachment Relationships with Fathers, Mothers, and Teachers. *A Multidisciplinary Research Publication*, 41(10), 1294-1311. doi:10.1007/s10964-012-9767-6
- Alexandrov, E. O., Cowan, P. A., & Cowan, C. P. (2005). Couple attachment and the quality of marital relationships: Method and concept in the validation of the new couple attachment interview and coding system. *Attachment & Human Development*, 7(2), 123-152. doi:10.1080/14616730500155170
- Amato, P. R. (1986). Marital Conflict, the Parent-Child Relationship and Child Self-Esteem. *Family Relations*, 35(3), 403-410. doi:10.2307/584368
- Amato, P. R. (1993). Children's Adjustment to Divorce: Theories, Hypotheses, and Empirical Support. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 55(1), 23-38. doi:10.2307/352954
- Amato, P. R. (1996). Explaining the Intergenerational Transmission of Divorce. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 58(3), 628. doi:10.2307/353723
- Amato, P. R. (2010). Research on Divorce: Continuing Trends and New Developments. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 72(3), 650-666. doi:doi:10.1111/j.1741-3737.2010.00723.x
- Amato, P. R. (2014). The consequences of divorce for adults and children: an update. *Drustvena istrazivanja: Journal for General Social Issues* 23(1), 5-24 doi:doi: 10.5559/di.5523.5551.5501].
- Amato, P. R., & DeBoer, D. D. (2001). The Transmission of Marital Instability across Generations: Relationship Skills or Commitment to Marriage? *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 63(4), 1038-1051. doi:10.1111/j.1741-3737.2001.01038.x

- Amato, P. R., & Kane, J. B. (2011). Parents' Marital Distress, Divorce, and Remarriage: Links with Daughters' Early Family Formation Transitions. *Journal of Family Issues*(8), 1073-1103. doi:10.1177/0192513X11404363
- Amato, P. R., & Keith, B. (1991). Parental Divorce and the Well-Being of Children: A Meta-Analysis. *Psychological Bulletin*, 110(1), 26-46. doi:10.1037/0033-2909.110.1.26
- Amato, P. R., Loomis, L. S., & Booth, A. (1995). Parental Divorce, Marital Conflict, and Offspring Well-Being during Early Adulthood. *Social Forces*, 73(3), 895-915. doi:10.2307/2580551
- Amato, P. R., & Rogers, S. J. (1999). Do Attitudes Toward Divorce Affect Marital Quality? *Journal of Family Issues*, 20(1), 69-86. doi:10.1177/019251399020001004
- Andreas, D., & Kurt, S. (2013). The Intergenerational Transmission of Divorce: A Fifteen-Country Study with the Fertility and Family Survey. *Comparative Sociology*, 12(2), 211-235. doi:https://doi.org/10.1163/15691330-12341261
- Andrejc, A. (2014). Negative effects of parental divorce on children and adolescents risk and protective factors. *Socialno delo*, 53(1), 25-42.
- Ary, D., Jacobs, L. C., Irvine, C. K. S., & Walker, D. (2013). *Introduction to Research in Education*: Cengage Learning.
- Aseltine, R., Doucet, J., & Schilling, E. (2010). Explaining the Association between Family Structure and Early Intercourse in Middle Class Adolescents. *Adolescent & Family Health*, 4(4), 155-169.
- Bacon-Shone, J. (2015). *Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods*.
- Bandura, A. (1965). Influence of models' reinforcement contingencies on the acquisition of imitative responses. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 1(6), 589-595. doi:10.1037/h0022070
- Bandura, A. (1973). *Aggression: A Social Learning Analysis*: Prentice Hall PTR.
- Bandura, A. (1977). *Social learning theory*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Englewood Cliffs, N.J. : Prentice Hall.
- Bartell, D. S. (2005). Influence of parental divorce on romantic relationships in young adulthood: A cognitive-developmental perspective. . In M. A. Fine & J. H. Harvey (Eds.), *Handbook of Divorce and Relationship Dissolution*. London, United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis Group.
- Bartholomew, K., & Horowitz, L. (1991). Attachment styles among young adults: a test of a four-category model. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 61(Aug 91), 226-244.

- Basu, P., Hassan, S., Fileeshia, F., Mohamed, S., Nahoodha, A., Shiuna, A., . . . Saleem, F. J. (2014). Knowledge, Attitude and Practices of Women in Maldives Related to the Risk Factors, Prevention and Early Detection of Cervical Cancer. *Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention*, 15.
- Beckmeyer, J. J., Coleman, M., & Proulx, C. M. (2018). Perceived Romantic Relationship Quality: Associations With Adolescents' Depressive Symptoms and Externalizing Behaviour. *Family Relations*, 67(4), 539-551. doi:10.1111/fare.12341
- Behrens, K. Y., Hesse, E., & Main, M. (2007). Mothers' Attachment Status as Determined by the Adult Attachment Interview Predicts Their 6-Year-Olds' Reunion Responses: A Study Conducted in Japan. *Developmental psychology*, 43(6), 1553-1567. doi:10.1037/0012-1649.43.6.1553
- Booth, A., & Amato, P. R. (1994). Parental Marital Quality, Parental Divorce, and Relations with Parents. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 56(1), 21-34. doi:10.2307/352698
- Bosmans, G., & Kerns, K. A. (2015). Attachment in Middle Childhood: Progress and Prospects. *New Directions for Child and Adolescent Development*, 2015(148), 1-14. doi:10.1002/cad.20100
- Bowlby, J. (1969). *Attachment and loss*. Harmondsworth, Mddx.: Harmondsworth, Mddx., Penguin.
- Bowlby, J. (1982). Attachment and loss: retrospect and prospect. *The American journal of orthopsychiatry*, 52(4), 664-678. doi:10.1111/j.1939-0025.1982.tb01456.x
- Bradford, K., & Barber, B. K. (2005). Interparental Conflict as Intrusive Family Process. *Journal of Emotional Abuse*, 5(2-3), 143-167. doi:10.1300/J135v05n02\_07
- Braithwaite, S. R., Doxey, R. A., Dowdle, K. K., & Fincham, F. D. (2016). The Unique Influences of Parental Divorce and Parental Conflict on Emerging Adults in Romantic Relationships. *Journal of Adult Development*, 23(4), 214-225. doi:10.1007/s10804-016-9237-6
- Brock, R. L., & Kochanska, G. (2016). Interparental conflict, children's security with parents, and long-term risk of internalizing problems: A longitudinal study from ages 2 to 10. 28(1), 45-54. doi:10.1017/S0954579415000279
- Buchanan, C. M., & Heiges, K. L. (2001). When Conflict Continues after the Marriage Ends: Effects of Postdivorce Conflict on Children. In F. D. Fincham & J. H. Grych (Eds.), *Interparental Conflict and Child Development: Theory, Research and Applications* (pp. 337-362). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.



- Buehler, C., Anthony, C., Krishnakumar, A., Stone, G., Gerard, J., & Pemberton, S. (1997). Interparental Conflict and Youth Problem Behaviours: A Meta-Analysis. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 6(2), 233-247. doi:10.1023/A:1025006909538
- Buehler, C., & Trotter, B. B. (1990). Nonresidential and residential parents' perceptions of the former spouse relationship and children's social competence following marital separation: theory and programmed intervention. (Noncustodial Parents). *Family Relations*, 39(4), 395. doi:10.2307/585219
- Buist, K. I., Dekovic, M., Meeus, W., & van Aken, M. (2002). Developmental patterns in adolescent attachment to mother, father and sibling. *J. Youth Adolesc.*, 31(3), 167-176.
- Byrne, B. M. (2016). *Structural Equation Modeling With AMOS: Basic concepts, applications, and programming*. New York,,: Routledge.
- Bzostek, S. H., & Beck, A. N. (2011). Familial instability and young children's physical health. *Social Science & Medicine*, 73(2), 282-292. doi:10.1016/j.socscimed.2011.04.014
- Caarls, K., & Valk, H. (2018). Regional Diffusion of Divorce in Turkey. *European Journal of Population*, 34(4), 609-636. doi:10.1007/s10680-017-9441-5
- Campbell, L., Simpson, J. A., Boldry, J. G., & Rubin, H. (2010). Trust, Variability in Relationship Evaluations, and Relationship Processes. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 99(1), 14-31. doi:10.1037/a0019714
- Campbell, L., & Stanton, S. C. (2019). Adult attachment and trust in romantic relationships. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 25, 148-151. doi:10.1016/j.copsyc.2018.08.004
- Cassidy, J. (2001). Truth, lies, and intimacy: An attachment perspective. *Attachment & Human Development*, 3(2), 121-155. doi:10.1080/14616730110058999
- Chaudhry, M. K., & Shabbir, F. (2018). Perceived inter-parental conflict and aggression among adolescents: moderating role of optimism and pessimism. *Journal of Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences*, 4(1016).
- Cherlin, A. J., Furstenberg, F. F., Jr., Chase-Lansdale, P. L., Kiernan, K. E., Robins, P. K., Morrison, D. R., & Teitler, J. O. (1991). Longitudinal studies on effects of divorce on children in Great Britain and the United States. *Science*, 252, 1386+.
- Chris Fraley, R., Hudson, N., Heffernan, M., & Segal, N. (2015). Are Adult Attachment Styles Categorical or Dimensional? A Taxometric Analysis of General and Relationship-Specific Attachment Orientations. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 109. doi:10.1037/pspp0000027



- Clarke-Stewart, A., & Brentano, C. (2007). *Divorce: Causes and Consequences*: Yale University Press.
- Clarke-Stewart, A., Vandell, D. L., McCartney, K., Owen, M. T., & Booth, C. (2000). Effects of Parental Separation and Divorce on Very Young Children. *Journal of Family Psychology, 14*(2), 304-326. doi:10.1037/0893-3200.14.2.304
- Clausen, T., Madsen, I. E., Christensen, K. B., Bjorner, J. B., Poulsen, O. M., Maltesen, T., . . . Rugulies, R. (2019). The Danish Psychosocial Work Environment Questionnaire (DPQ): Development, content, reliability and validity. *Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment & Health*(4), 356-369. doi:10.5271/sjweh.3793
- Cohen, L., Manion, L., & Morrison, K. (2017). *Research Methods in Education*: Taylor & Francis.
- Cohen, L., Orna, Finzi-Dottan, & Ricky. (2005). Parent-child relationships during the divorce process; from attachment theory and intergenerational perspective. *Contemporary Family Therapy, 27*(1), 81-99. doi:10.1007/s10591-004-1972-3
- Cohen, O., Geron, Y., & Farchi, A. (2010). A Typology of Marital Quality of Enduring Marriages in Israel. *Journal of Family Issues, 31*(6), 727-747. doi:10.1177/0192513X09358566
- Cohen, P., Kasen, S., Chen, H., Hartmark, C., & Gordon, K. (2003). Variations in Patterns of Developmental Transitions in the Emerging Adulthood Period. *Developmental psychology, 39*(4), 657-669. doi:10.1037/0012-1649.39.4.657
- Collett, J. L. (2010). Integrating Theory, Enhancing Understanding: The Potential Contributions of Recent Experimental Research in Social Exchange for Studying Intimate Relationships. *Journal of Family Theory & Review, 2*(4), 280-298. doi:10.1111/j.1756-2589.2010.00062.x
- Collins, W. A., & vanDulmen., M. (2015). "The Course of True Love(s). . ." In A. Booth, A. C. Crouter, & A. Snyder (Eds.), *Romance and sex in adolescence and emerging adulthood : risks and opportunities* (pp. 63-86): London, England : Routledge.
- Collins, W. A., Welsh, D. P., & Furman, W. (2009). Adolescent Romantic Relationships. *Annu. Rev. Psychol., 60*(1), 631-652. doi:10.1146/annurev.psych.60.110707.163459
- Conger, R. D., Cui, M., Bryant, C. M., & Elder, G. H. (2000). Competence in Early Adult Romantic Relationships: A Developmental Perspective on Family Influences. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 79*(2), 224-237. doi:10.1037/0022-3514.79.2.224

- Connolly, J., Craig, W., Goldberg, A., & Pepler, D. (2004). Mixed-Gender Groups, Dating, and Romantic Relationships in Early Adolescence. *Journal of Research on Adolescence, 14*(2), 185-207. doi:10.1111/j.1532-7795.2004.01402003.x
- Connolly, J., & McIsaac, C. (2011). Romantic relationships in adolescence. In M. K. Underwood & L. H. Rosen (Eds.), *Social development : relationships in infancy, childhood, and adolescence* (pp. 180-203). New York: New York : Guilford Press.
- Crick, N. R., & Dodge, K. A. (1994). A Review and Reformulation of Social Information-Processing Mechanisms in Children's Social Adjustment. *Psychological Bulletin, 115*(1), 74-101. doi:10.1037/0033-2909.115.1.74
- Crowell, J. A., Treboux, D., & Brockmeyer, S. (2009). Parental divorce and adult children's attachment representations and marital status. *Attachment & Human Development, 11*(1), 87-101. doi:10.1080/14616730802500867
- Cui, M., & Fincham, F. D. (2010). The differential effects of parental divorce and marital conflict on young adult romantic relationships. *Personal Relationships, 17*(3), 331-343. doi:doi:10.1111/j.1475-6811.2010.01279.x
- Cui, M., Fincham, F. D., & Durtschi, J. A. (2011). The effect of parental divorce on young adults' romantic relationship dissolution: What makes a difference? *Personal Relationships, 18*(3), 410-426. doi:10.1111/j.1475-6811.2010.01306.x
- Cui, M., Fincham, F. D., & Pasley, B. K. (2008). Young Adult Romantic Relationships: The Role of Parents' Marital Problems and Relationship Efficacy. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 34*(9), 1226-1235. doi:10.1177/0146167208319693
- Cummings, E. M. (1998). Children exposed to marital conflict and violence: conceptual and theoretical directions In M. A. Laumakis, G. Margolin, & R. S. John (Eds.), *The emotional, cognitive and coping responses of preadolescent children to different dimensions of marital conflict* (pp. 57-93): American Psychological Association.
- Cummings, E. M., & Davies, P. T. (1994). Maternal Depression and Child Development. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, 35*(1), 73-122. doi:10.1111/j.1469-7610.1994.tb01133.x
- Cummings, E. M., Goeke-morey, M. C., & Papp, L. M. (2003). Children's Responses to Everyday Marital Conflict Tactics in the Home. *Child Development, 74*(6), 1918-1929. doi:10.1046/j.1467-8624.2003.00646.x
- Cummings, J. S., Pellegrini, D. S., Notarius, C. I., & Cummings, E. M. (1989). Children's responses to angry adult behaviour as a function of marital distress and history of interparent hostility. *Child Development, 60*(5), 1035-1043.

- Cunningham, M., & Thornton, A. (2006). The Influences of Parents' and Offsprings' Experience with Cohabitation, Marriage, and Divorce on Attitudes Toward Divorce in Young Adulthood. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 44(1-2), 119-144. doi:10.1300/J087v44n01\_07
- Davies, P. T., Harold, G. T., Goeke-Morey, M. C., Cummings, E. M., Shelton, K., Rasi, J. A., & Jenkins, J. M. (2002). Child Emotional Security and Interparental Conflict. *Monographs of the Society for Research in Child Development*, 67(3), i-127.
- Davies, P. T., & Sturge-Apple, M. L. (2007). Advances in the formulation of emotional security theory: An ethologically based perspective. In *Advances in child development and behaviour*, Vol. 35 (pp. 87-137). San Diego, CA, US: Elsevier Academic Press.
- Davis, S. F., & Smith, R. A. (2005). *An Introduction to Statistics and Research Methods: Becoming a Psychological Detective*: Pearson/Prentice Hall.
- De Valk, H. A. G., & Liefbroer, A. C. (2007). Parental Influence On Union Formation Preferences Among Turkish, Moroccan, and Dutch Adolescents in the Netherlands. *Journal of cross-cultural psychology*, 38(4), 487-505. doi:10.1177/0022022107302316
- Diamantopoulos, A., & Siguaw, J. A. (2006). Formative Versus Reflective Indicators in Organizational Measure Development: A Comparison and Empirical Illustration. *British Journal of Management*, 17(4), 263-282. doi:10.1111/j.1467-8551.2006.00500.x
- Diez, D., Barr, C., Çetinkaya-Rundel, M., & Dorazio, L. (2019). *Advanced High School Statistics*: OpenIntro, Incorporated.
- Dollard, J., & Miller, N. E. (1950). *Personality and Psychotherapy; an Analysis in Terms of Learning, Thinking, and Culture*, by John Dollard and Neal E. Miller: McGraw-Hill.
- Education Sector Analysis Maldives*. (2019). Retrieved from Maldives: <https://www.globalpartnership.org/sites/default/files/2019-05-maldives-education-sector-analysis.pdf>
- El-Sheikh, M., Cummings, E. M., Kouros, C. D., Elmore-Staton, L., & Buckhalt, J. (2008). Marital Psychological and Physical Aggression and Children's Mental and Physical Health: Direct, Mediated, and Moderated Effects. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 76(1), 138-148. doi:10.1037/0022-006X.76.1.138
- El-Sheikh, M., Harger, J., & Whitson, S. M. (2001). Exposure to Interparental Conflict and Children's Adjustment and Physical Health: The Moderating Role of Vagal Tone. *Child Development*, 72(6), 1617-1636. doi:10.1111/1467-8624.00369

- Emery, R. E. (1999). *Marriage, Divorce, and Children's Adjustment*: SAGE Publications.
- Erikson, E. H. (1963). *Childhood and society* (2nd Edition ed.). New York: WW Norton.
- Erikson, E. H. (1971). *Identity : youth and crisis*. London (3 Queen St., W.C.1): London 3 Queen St., W.C.1 : Faber and Faber Ltd.
- Essof, I. (2011). Divorce in Australia: From an Islamic Law perspective. *Alternative Law Journal*, 36(3), 182-186.
- Evans, M. D. R., Kelley, J., & Wanner, R. A. (2001). Educational attainment of the children of divorce: Australia, 1940–90. *Journal of Sociology*, 37(3), 275-297. doi:10.1177/144078301128756346
- Family Act*. (Act Number 4/2000). (2004).
- Farooqi, S. R. (2014). The Construct of Relationship Quality. *J. relat. res*, 5. doi:10.1017/jrr.2014.2
- Faul, F., Erdfelder, E., Lang, A.-G., & Buchner, A. (2007). G\*Power 3: A flexible statistical power analysis program for the social, behavioural, and biomedical sciences. *Behaviour Research Methods*, 39(2), 175-191. doi:10.3758/BF03193146
- Feeney, J., & Noller, P. (1990). Attachment style as a predictor of adult romantic relationships. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 58(2), 281-291.
- Fergusson, D. M., McLeod, G. F. H., & John Horwood, L. (2014). Parental separation/divorce in childhood and partnership outcomes at age 30. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 55(4), 352-360. doi:10.1111/jcpp.12107
- Fletcher, G. J. O., & Simpson, J. A. (2000). Ideal Standards in Close Relationships: Their Structure and Functions. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 9(3), 102-105. doi:10.1111/1467-8721.00070
- Fletcher, G. J. O., Simpson, J. A., & Thomas, G. (2000). The Measurement of Perceived Relationship Quality Components: A Confirmatory Factor Analytic Approach. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 26(3), 340-354. doi:10.1177/0146167200265007
- Florsheim, P., & Moore, D. R. (2008). Observing differences between healthy and unhealthy adolescent romantic relationships: Substance abuse and interpersonal process. *Journal of adolescence (London, England.)*, 31(6), 795-814. doi:10.1016/j.adolescence.2007.09.005
- Fornell, C., & Larcker, D. (1981). Evaluating Structural Equation Models with Unobservable Variables and Measurement Error. *Journal of Marketing Research*, 18(1), 39. doi:10.2307/3151312

- Fraley, R. C., Roisman, G. I., & Haltigan, J. D. (2013). The legacy of early experiences in development: formalizing alternative models of how early experiences are carried forward over time. *Developmental psychology*, 49(1), 109-126. doi:10.1037/a0027852
- Fraley, R. C., & Shaver, P. R. (2000). Adult Romantic Attachment: Theoretical Developments, Emerging Controversies, and Unanswered Questions. *Review of General Psychology*, 4(2), 132-154. doi:10.1037/1089-2680.4.2.132
- Franklin, K. M., Janoff-Bulman, R., & Roberts, J. E. (1990). Long-term impact of parental divorce on optimism and trust: changes in general assumptions or narrow beliefs? (Interpersonal Relations and Group Processes). *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 59(4), 743.
- Furman, W., & Buhrmester, D. (2009). Methods and Measures: The Network of Relationships Inventory: Behavioural Systems Version. *International journal of behavioural development*, 33(5), 470-478. doi:10.1177/0165025409342634
- Furman, W., Low, S., & Ho, M. J. (2009). Romantic Experience and Psychosocial Adjustment in Middle Adolescence. *Journal of clinical child and adolescent psychology*, 38(1), 75-90. doi:10.1080/15374410802575347
- Furman, W., Simon, V. A., Shaffer, L., & Bouchey, H. A. (2002). Adolescents Working Models and Styles for Relationships with Parents, Friends, and Romantic Partners. *Child Dev*, 73(1), 241-255. doi:10.1111/1467-8624.00403
- Furman, W., & Winkles, J. K. (2010). Predicting romantic involvement, relationship cognitions, and relationship qualities from physical appearance, perceived norms, and relational styles regarding friends and parents. *Journal of Adolescence*, 33(6), 827-836. doi:10.1016/j.adolescence.2010.07.004
- Gadalla, T. M. (2008). Impact of Marital Dissolution on Men's and Women's Incomes: A Longitudinal Study. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 50(1), 55-65. doi:10.1080/10502550802365714
- Gager, C. T., Yabiku, S. T., & Linver, M. R. (2016). Conflict or Divorce? Does Parental Conflict and/or Divorce Increase the Likelihood of Adult Children's Cohabiting and Marital Dissolution? *Marriage & Family Review*, 52(3), 243-261. doi:10.1080/01494929.2015.1095267
- Galliher, R. V., Welsh, D. P., Rostosky, S. S., & Kawaguchi, M. C. (2004). Interaction and Relationship Quality in Late Adolescent Romantic Couples. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 21(2), 203-216. doi:10.1177/0265407504041383
- Ganong, L., Coleman, M., & Brown, G. (1981). Effect of Family Structure on Marital Attitudes of Adolescents. *Adolescence*, 16(62), 281.
- Gillath, O., Karantzas, G. C., & Fraley, R. C. (2016a). Chapter 1 - What Is Attachment Theory? In *Adult Attachment* (pp. 1-30). San Diego: Academic Press.



- Gillath, O., Karantzas, G. C., & Fraley, R. C. (2016b). Chapter 2 - What Is an Attachment Relationship? In *Adult Attachment : A Concise Introduction to Theory and Research* (pp. 31-58). San Diego: Academic Press.
- Gillath, O., Karantzas, G. C., & Fraley, R. C. (2016c). Chapter 9 - What Are the Effects of Context on Attachment? In *Adult Attachment* (pp. 193-218). San Diego: Academic Press.
- Giordano, P. C., Manning, W. D., Longmore, M. A., & Flanigan, C. M. (2011). Developmental Shifts in the Character of Romantic and Sexual Relationships from Adolescence to Young Adulthood. In (pp. 133-164). New York, NY: New York, NY: Springer New York.
- Giordano, P. C., Manning, W. D., Longmore, M. A., & Flanigan, C. M. (2012). Developmental Shifts in the Character of Romantic and Sexual Relationships from Adolescence to Young Adulthood. In A. Booth, S. L. Brown, N. S. Landale, W. D. Manning, & S. M. McHale (Eds.), *Early Adulthood in a Family Context* (pp. 133-164). New York, NY: Springer New York.
- Gold, A. H., Malhotra, A., & Segars, A. H. (2001). Knowledge Management: An Organizational Capabilities Perspective. *Journal of Management Information Systems*, 18(1), 185-214. doi:10.1080/07421222.2001.11045669
- Gómez-López, M., Viejo, C., & Ortega-Ruiz, R. (2019). Well-Being and Romantic Relationships: A Systematic Review in Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 16(13), 2415. doi:10.3390/ijerph16132415
- Gottman, J. M. (1994). *What Predicts Divorce?: The Relationship Between Marital Processes and Marital Outcomes*. Hillsdale, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- Gray, L., & Tallman, I. (1986). Predicting Choices in Asymptotic Decisions: A Comparison of Two Models. *Social Psychology Quarterly*, 49(2), 201. doi:10.2307/2786730
- Greenberg, E., & Nay, W. (1982). The intergenerational transmission of marital instability reconsidered. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 44(2), 335. doi:10.2307/351543
- Gregory, I. (2003). *Ethics in Research*: Bloomsbury Academic.
- Griffith, B. A. (2004). The structure and development of internal working models: an integrated framework for understanding clients and promoting wellness. *Journal of Humanistic Counseling, Education and Development*, 43(2), 163. doi:10.1002/j.2164-490X.2004.tb00016.x

- Groh, A. M., Fearon, R. M. P., Ijzendoorn, M. H., Bakermans-Kranenburg, M. J., & Roisman, G. I. (2017). Attachment in the Early Life Course: Meta-Analytic Evidence for Its Role in Socioemotional Development. *Child Development Perspectives*, 11(1), 70-76. doi:10.1111/cdep.12213
- Grych, J. H. (2005). Interparental conflict as a risk factor for child maladjustment: Implications for the Development of Prevention Programs. *Family Court Review*, 43(1), 97-108. doi:10.1111/j.1744-1617.2005.00010.x
- Grych, J. H., & Fincham, F. D. (1993). Children's Appraisals of Marital Conflict: Initial Investigations of the Cognitive-Contextual Framework. *Child Development*, 64(1), 215-230. doi:10.2307/1131447
- Grych, J. H., Raynor, S. R., & Fosco, G. M. (2004). Family processes that shape the impact of interparental conflict on adolescents. *Dev Psychopathol*, 16(3), 649-665. doi:10.1017/S0954579404004717
- Grych, J. H., Seid, M., & Fincham, F. D. (1992). Assessing Marital Conflict from the Child's Perspective: The Children's Perception of Interparental Conflict Scale. *Child Development*, 63(3), 558-572. doi:10.2307/1131346
- Guttman, J., & Rosenberg, M. (2003). Emotional Intimacy and Children's Adjustment: A comparison between single-parent divorced and intact families. *Educational Psychology*, 23(4), 457-472. doi:10.1080/01443410303213
- Hair, J. (2010). *Multivariate data analysis : a global perspective* (7th ed. ed.). Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Upper Saddle River, N.J. : Pearson.
- Hair, J., Hult, G. T. M., Ringle, C., & Sarstedt, M. (2014). *A Primer on Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling*.
- Hair, J., Hult, G. T. M., Ringle, C. M., & Sarstedt, M. (2017). *A primer on partial least squares structural equation modeling (PLS-SEM)* (Second edition. ed.): Thousand Oaks, California : Sage.
- Hair, J., Ringle, C. M., & Sarstedt, M. (2011). PLS-SEM: Indeed a Silver Bullet. *Journal of Marketing Theory and Practice*, 19(2), 139-152. doi:10.2753/MTP1069-6679190202
- Hair, J., Risher, J. J., Sarstedt, M., & Ringle, C. M. (2019). When to use and how to report the results of PLS-SEM. *European Business Review*, 31(1), 2-24. doi:10.1108/EBR-11-2018-0203
- Hair, J., Sarstedt, M., Hopkins, L., & Kuppelwieser, V. (2014). Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM): An Emerging Tool for Business Research. *European Business Review*, 26, 106-121. doi:10.1108/EBR-10-2013-0128



- Hardy, M., & Bryman, A. (2004). *Handbook of Data Analysis*: SAGE Publications.
- Hardy, N. R., Soloski, K. L., Ratchliffe, G. C., Anderson, J. R., & Willoughby, B. J. (2015). Associations between family of origin climate, relationship self-regulation, and marital outcomes. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy, 41*(4), 508-521. doi:10.1111/jmft.12090
- Hatfield, E. (1978). *A new look at love*. Reading, Mass.: Reading, Mass. : Addison-Wesley.
- Hazan, C., & Shaver, P. (1987). Romantic Love Conceptualized as an Attachment Process. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 52*(3), 511-524. doi:10.1037/0022-3514.52.3.511
- Hazan, C., & Shaver, P. R. (1994). Attachment as an Organizational Framework for Research on Close Relationships. *Psychological Inquiry, 5*(1), 1-22. doi:10.1207/s15327965pli0501\_1
- Henseler, J., Ringle, C. M., & Sarstedt, M. (2015). A new criterion for assessing discriminant validity in variance-based structural equation modeling. *Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science, 43*(1), 115-135. doi:10.1007/s11747-014-0403-8
- Herzog, M. J., & Cooney, T. M. (2002). Parental Divorce and Perceptions of Past Interparental Conflict. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage, 36*(3-4), 89-109. doi:10.1300/J087v36n03\_06
- Hetherington, E. M. (2003). Intimate Pathways: Changing Patterns in Close Personal Relationships Across Time\*. *Family Relations, 52*(4), 318-331. doi:10.1111/j.1741-3729.2003.00318.x
- Hetherington, E. M., & et al. (1989). Marital Transitions: A Child's Perspective. *American Psychologist, 44*(2), 303-312. doi:10.1037/0003-066X.44.2.303
- Hetherington, E. M., & Kelly, J. (2003). *For Better Or for Worse: Divorce Reconsidered*: W.W. Norton.
- Hetherington, E. M., & Stanley-Hagan, M. (1999). The Adjustment of Children with Divorced Parents: A Risk and Resiliency Perspective. *The Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry and Allied Disciplines, 40*(1), 129-140. doi:undefined
- Highest divorce rate (2002). Retrieved from <https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/highest-divorce-rate#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20UN%2C%20the,the%20United%20States%20with%204.34>.
- Hu, C.-C. (2009). Construction and validation of attachment to parent/caregiver inventory (APCI). In C. Pistole, K. Kelly, H. Servaty-Seib, & S. Whiteman (Eds.): ProQuest Dissertations Publishing.

- Hu, C.-C., & Pistole, M. C. (2006). *Development of the Attachment to Caregiver Inventory (ACI)* Paper presented at the Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, New Orleans.
- Huurre, T., Junkkari, H., & Aro, H. (2006). Long-term Psychosocial effects of parental divorce. *European Archives of Psychiatry and Clinical Neuroscience*, 256(4), 256-263. doi:10.1007/s00406-006-0641-y
- Imenda, S. (2014). Is There a Conceptual Difference between Theoretical and Conceptual Frameworks? *Journal of Social Sciences*, 38(2), 185-195. doi:10.1080/09718923.2014.11893249
- Jackson, L. J., & Fife, S. T. (2018). The Impact of Parental Divorce: The Relationship Between Social Support and Confidence Levels in Young Adults. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 59(2), 123-140. doi:10.1080/10502556.2017.1402652
- Jacquet, S. E., & Surra, C. A. (2001). Parental Divorce and Premarital Couples: Commitment and Other Relationship Characteristics. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 63(3), 627-638. doi:10.1111/j.1741-3737.2001.00627.x
- Jarnecke, A. M., & South, S. C. (2013). Attachment orientations as mediators in the intergenerational transmission of marital satisfaction. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 27(4), 550-559. doi:10.1037/a0033340
- Johanson, G. A., & Brooks, G. P. (2010). Initial Scale Development: Sample Size for Pilot Studies. *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, 70(3), 394-400. doi:10.1177/0013164409355692
- Johnson, D. W., & Johnson, R. T. (2005). New Developments in Social Interdependence Theory. *Genetic, social, and general psychology monographs*, 131(4), 285-358. doi:10.3200/MONO.131.4.285-358
- Joyner, K., & Udry, J. R. (2000). You Don't Bring Me Anything but Down: Adolescent Romance and Depression. *Journal of Health and Social Behaviour*, 41(4), 369-391. doi:10.2307/2676292
- Kapinus, C. A. (2005). The Effect of Parental Marital Quality on Young Adults' Attitudes toward Divorce. *Sociological Perspectives*, 48(3), 319-335. doi:10.1525/sop.2005.48.3.319
- Karimi, R., Bakhtiyari, M., & Masjedi Arani, A. (2019). Protective factors of marital stability in long-term marriage globally: a systematic review. *Epidemiology and Health*, 41. doi:10.4178/epih.e2019023
- Kelly, J. B. (2000). Children's Adjustment in Conflicted Marriage and Divorce: A Decade Review of Research. *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, 39(8), 963-973. doi:10.1097/00004583-200008000-00007

- Kelly, J. B., & Emery, R. E. (2003). Children's Adjustment Following Divorce: Risk and Resilience Perspectives. *Family Relations*, 52(4), 352-362. doi:doi:10.1111/j.1741-3729.2003.00352.x
- Kerig, P. K. (1996). Assessing the links between interparental conflict and child adjustment: the conflicts and problem-solving scales. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 10(4), 454. doi:10.1037/0893-3200.10.4.454
- Kerns, K. A., Brumariu, L. E., & Seibert, A. (2011). Multi-method assessment of mother-child attachment: Links to parenting and child depressive symptoms in middle childhood. *Attachment & Human Development*, 13(4), 315-333. doi:10.1080/14616734.2011.584398
- Kim, K., Jackson, Y., Conrad, S., & Hunter, H. (2008). Adolescent Report of Interparental Conflict: The Role of Threat and Self-blame Appraisal on Adaptive Outcome. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 17(5), 735-751. doi:10.1007/s10826-007-9187-5
- Kinnaird, K., & Gerrard, M. (1986). Premarital sexual behaviour and attitudes towards marriage and divorce among young women as a function of their mothers' marital status. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 48(4), 757. doi:10.2307/352568
- Kinsfogel, K. M., & Grych, J. H. (2004). Interparental Conflict and Adolescent Dating Relationships: Integrating Cognitive, Emotional, and Peer Influences. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 18(3), 505-515. doi:10.1037/0893-3200.18.3.505
- Kirk, A. (2002). The Effects of Divorce on Young Adults' Relationship Competence: The Influence of Intimate Friendships. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 38(1-2), 61-89. doi:10.1300/J087v38n01\_04
- Kirkpatrick, L. A., & Davis, K. E. (1994). Attachment style, gender, and relationship stability: a longitudinal analysis. (Interpersonal Relations and Group Processes). *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 66(3), 502.
- Kitzmann, K. M., Gaylord, N. K., Holt, A. R., & Kenny, E. D. (2003). Child Witnesses to Domestic Violence: A Meta-Analytic Review. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 71(2), 339-352. doi:10.1037/0022-006X.71.2.339
- Kline, R. B. (2016). *Principles and practice of structural equation modeling* (Fourth edition. ed.): New York : The Guilford Press.
- Kochendorfer, L., & Kerns, K. (2017). Perceptions of Parent-Child Attachment Relationships and Friendship Qualities: Predictors of Romantic Relationship Involvement and Quality in Adolescence. *A Multidisciplinary Research Publication*, 46(5), 1009-1021. doi:10.1007/s10964-017-0645-0
- Kotelchuck, M. (1976.). The infant's relationship to the father: Experimental evidence. In M. E. Lamb (Ed.), *The Role of the Father in Child Development*. New York: Wiley.

- Kozuch, P., & Cooney, T. M. (1995). Young adults' marital and family attitudes: The role of recent parental divorce, and family and parental conflict. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 23(3-4), 45-62. doi:10.1300/J087v23n03\_03
- Krejcie, R. V., & Morgan, D. W. (1970). Determining sample size for research activities. *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, 38, 607-610.
- Krishnakumar, A., & Buehler, C. (2000). Interparental Conflict and Parenting Behaviours: A Meta-Analytic Review. *Family Relations*, 49(1), 25-44. doi:10.1111/j.1741-3729.2000.00025.x
- Kroenlein, M. (2007). Children and divorce: A literature review. In K. Reimer (Ed.): ProQuest Dissertations Publishing.
- Kwan, L. L.-Y., Mellor, D., Rizzuto, L., Kolar, C., & Mamat, N. H. (2013). The Relationship Between Perceived Interparental Conflict and Malaysian Young Adults' Attitudes Toward Divorce. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 54(7), 596-607. doi:10.1080/10502556.2013.828989
- Lantagne, A., & Furman, W. (2017). Romantic Relationship Development: The Interplay Between Age and Relationship Length. *Developmental psychology*, 53(9), 1738-1749. doi:10.1037/dev0000363
- Lapsley, D. K., Rice, K. G., & Fitzgerald, D. P. (1990). Adolescent Attachment, Identity, and Adjustment to College: Implications for the Continuity of Adaptation Hypothesis. *Journal of Counseling & Development*, 68(5), 561-565. doi:10.1002/j.1556-6676.1990.tb01411.x
- Larson, J. H., Benson, M. J., Wilson, S. M., & Medora, N. (1998). Family of Origin Influences on Marital Attitudes and Readiness for Marriage in Late Adolescents. *Journal of Family Issues*, 19(6), 750-768. doi:10.1177/019251398019006005
- Li, D., & Yang, K. (2019). Interparental conflict and Chinese emerging adults' romantic relationship quality: Indirect pathways through attachment to parents and interpersonal security. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 37(2), <xocs:firstpage xmlns:xocs=""/>. doi:10.1177/0265407519865955
- Li, T., & Chan, D. K. S. (2012). How anxious and avoidant attachment affect romantic relationship quality differently: A meta-analytic review. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 42(4), 406-419. doi:10.1002/ejsp.1842
- Lieberman, M., Doyle, A. B., & Markiewicz, D. (1999). Developmental patterns in security of attachment to mother and father in late childhood and early adolescence: associations with peer relations. *Child Development*, 70(1), 202-213. doi:10.1111/1467-8624.00015
- Lu, Y., & Gatua, M. W. (2014). Methodological Considerations for Qualitative Research with Immigrant Populations: Lessons from Two Studies. *The Qualitative Report*, 19(30), 1-16.

*Marriage and Divorce Statistics 2018*. (2019). Retrieved from [www.health.pa.gov](http://www.health.pa.gov)

Martínez-Pampliega, A., Cormenzana, S., Corral, S., Iraurgi, I., & Sanz, M. (2019). Family structure, interparental conflict & adolescent symptomatology. *Journal of Family Studies*, 1-16. doi:10.1080/13229400.2018.1536609

Marvin, R. S., & Britner, P. A. (2008). Normative Development: The Ontogeny of Attachment. In J. Cassidy & P. R. Shaver (Eds.), *Handbook of attachment: Theory, research, and clinical applications* (pp. 269-290). New York, London: The Guilford Press.

Mashek, D. J. (2004). *Handbook of closeness and intimacy*. Mahwah, N.J.: Mahwah, N.J. : Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Matsunaga, M. (2008). Item Parceling in Structural Equation Modeling: A Primer. *Communication Methods and Measures*, 2, 260-293. doi:10.1080/19312450802458935

Matsuoka, N., Uji, M., Hiramura, H., Chen, Z., Shikai, N., Kishida, Y., & Kitamura, T. (2006). Adolescents' attachment style and early experiences: a gender difference. *Archives of Women's Mental Health*, 9(1), 23-29. doi:10.1007/s00737-005-0105-9

Mekonnen, Y., Kassa, K., & Ayalew, M. (2019). Prevalence, causes and consequences of divorce in Bahir Dar City, Ethiopia. *African Journal of Social Work*, 9(1), 73-78.

Memon, M., Hwa, C., Ramayah, T., Ting, H., & Chuah, F. (2018). Mediation Analysis: Issues and Recommendations. *Journal of Applied Structural Equation Modeling*, 2, i-ix.

Mertler, C. A., & Charles, C. M. (2011). *Introduction to Educational Research*: Pearson/Allyn & Bacon.

Meyer, D. D., Jones, M., Rorer, A., & Maxwell, K. (2015). Examining the Associations Among Attachment, Affective State, and Romantic Relationship Quality. *The Family Journal*, 23(1), 18-25. doi:10.1177/1066480714547698

Miga, E. M., Gdula, J. A., & Allen, J. P. (2012). Fighting Fair: Adaptive Marital Conflict Strategies as Predictors of Future Adolescent Peer and Romantic Relationship Quality. *Social Development*, 21(3), 443-460. doi:10.1111/j.1467-9507.2011.00636.x

Mikulincer, M., & Shaver, P. R. (2005). Attachment theory and emotions in close relationships: Exploring the attachment-related dynamics of emotional reactions to relational events. *Personal Relationships*, 12(2), 149-168. doi:10.1111/j.1350-4126.2005.00108.x



- Mikulincer, M., & Shaver, P. R. (2008). Adult attachment and affect regulation. In J. Cassidy & P. R. Shaver (Eds.), *Handbook of attachment: Theory, research, and clinical applications, 2nd ed.* (pp. 503-531). New York, NY, US: The Guilford Press.
- Miller, D. C., & Salkind, N. J. (2002). *Handbook of Research Design and Social Measurement*: SAGE Publications.
- Mohd, H., Marshina, J., Mustafa, H., & Hashim, N. H. (2018). From Middle Childhood to Adulthood Attachment: Measuring Attachment Stability in the Context of Married Individuals in Penang, Malaysia. *The Family Journal, 26*(4), 444-454. doi:10.1177/1066480718806522
- Moretti, M. M., Obsuth, I., Odgers, C. L., & Reebye, P. (2006). Exposure to maternal vs. paternal partner violence, PTSD, and aggression in adolescent girls and boys. *Aggressive Behaviour, 32*(4), 385-395. doi:10.1002/ab.20137
- Morrison, S. C., Fife, S. T., & Hertlein, K. M. (2017). Mechanisms behind Prolonged Effects of Parental Divorce: A Phenomenological Study. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage, 58*(1), 44-63. doi:10.1080/10502556.2016.1262652
- Morry, M. M., Reich, T., & Kito, M. (2010). How Do I See You Relative to Myself? Relationship Quality as a Predictor of Self- and Partner-Enhancement Within Cross-Sex Friendships, Dating Relationships, and Marriages. *J Soc Psychol, 150*(4), 369-392. doi:10.1080/00224540903365471
- Mullett, E., & Stolberg, A. L. (2002). Divorce and Its Impact on the Intimate Relationships of Young Adults. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage, 38*(1-2), 39-59. doi:10.1300/J087v38n01\_03
- Mustonen, U., Huurre, T., Kiviruusu, O., Haukkala, A., & Aro, H. (2011). Long-Term Impact of Parental Divorce on Intimate Relationship Quality in Adulthood and the Mediating Role of Psychosocial Resources. *Journal of Family Psychology, 25*(4), 615-619. doi:10.1037/a0023996
- Nair, H., & Murray, A. D. (2005). Predictors of Attachment Security in Preschool Children from Intact and Divorced Families. *Journal of Genetic Psychology, 166*(3), 245-263. doi:10.3200/GNTP.166.3.245-263
- Nosko, A., Tieu, T.-T., Lawford, H., & Pratt, M. (2011). Adolescence, Attachment Styles, and Romantic Narratives in Emerging Adulthood. *Developmental psychology, 47*(3), 645.
- Nye, F. I. (1978). Is Choice and Exchange Theory the Key? *Journal of Marriage and Family, 40*(2), 219-233. doi:10.2307/350754



- O'Connor, T. G., Matias, C., Futh, A., Tantam, G., & Scott, S. (2013). Social Learning Theory Parenting Intervention Promotes Attachment-Based Caregiving in Young Children: Randomized Clinical Trial. *Journal of Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology*, 42(3), 358-370. doi:10.1080/15374416.2012.723262
- Ocholla, D. N., & Le Roux, J. (2011). Conceptions and misconceptions of theoretical frameworks in Library and Information Science research : a case study of selected theses and dissertations from eastern and southern African universities. *Mousaion*, 29(2), 61-74.
- Pallant, J. (2016). *SPSS Survival Manual: A Step by Step Guide to Data Analysis Using IBM SPSS*: McGraw-Hill Education.
- Paterson, J. E., Field, J., & Pryor, J. (1994). Adolescents' perceptions of their attachment relationships with their mothers, fathers, and friends. *J Youth Adolesc*, 23(5), 579.
- Patino, C. M., & Ferreira, J. C. (2018). Inclusion and exclusion criteria in research studies: definitions and why they matter. *Jornal Brasileiro de Pneumologia*, 44(2), 84-84. doi:10.1590/s1806-37562018000000088
- Plotnik, R., & Kouyoumdjian, H. (2013). *Introduction to Psychology*: Cengage Learning.
- Porter, B., & O'Leary, K. (1980). Marital discord and childhood behaviour problems. *An official publication of the International Society for Research in Child and Adolescent Psychopathology*, 8(3), 287-295. doi:10.1007/BF00916376
- Preacher, K., & Hayes, A. (2004). SPSS and SAS procedures for estimating indirect effects in simple mediation models. *Behaviour Research Methods, Instruments, & Computers*, 36(4), 717-731. doi:10.3758/BF03206553
- Preacher, K., & Hayes, A. (2008). Asymptotic and resampling strategies for assessing and comparing indirect effects in multiple mediator models. *Behaviour Research Methods*, 40(3), 879-891. doi:10.3758/BRM.40.3.879
- Ramayah, T., Cheah, J., Chuah, F., Ting, H., & Memon, M. A. (2018). *Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) using SmartPLS 3.0: An Updated Guide and Practical Guide to Statistical Analysis* (2nd ed.). Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: Pearson.
- Rauer, A. J., Pettit, G. S., Lansford, J. E., Bates, J. E., & Dodge, K. A. (2013). Romantic relationship patterns in young adulthood and their developmental antecedents. *Developmental psychology*, 49(11), 2159-2171. doi:10.1037/a0031845
- Reese-Weber, M., & Kahn, J. H. (2005). Familial Predictors of Sibling and Romantic-Partner Conflict Resolution: Comparing Late Adolescents from Intact and Divorced Families. *Journal of Adolescence*, 28(4), 479-493. doi:10.1016/j.adolescence.2004.09.004

- Rehman, U. S., & Holtzworth-Munroe, A. (2007). A cross-cultural examination of the relation of marital communication behaviour to marital satisfaction. *Journal of Family Psychology, 21*(4), 759-763. doi:10.1037/0893-3200.21.4.759
- Rempel, J. K., Holmes, J. G., & Zanna, M. P. (1985). Trust in Close Relationships. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 49*(1), 95-112. doi:10.1037/0022-3514.49.1.95
- Rhoades, G. K., Stanley, S. M., Markman, H. J., & Ragan, E. P. (2012). Parents' Marital Status, Conflict, and Role Modeling: Links With Adult Romantic Relationship Quality. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage, 53*(5), 348-367. doi:10.1080/10502556.2012.675838
- Rholes, W., Simpson, J., Campbell, L., & Grich, J. (2001). Adult attachment and the transition to parenthood. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 81*(3), 421-435. doi:10.1037//0022-3514.81.3.421
- Riggio, H. R., & Fite, J. E. (2006). Attitudes toward divorce: embeddedness and outcomes in personal relationships. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology, 36*(12), 2935.
- Ringle, C. M., Wende, S., & Becker, J.-M. (2015). *SmartPLS 3*. Boenningstedt: SmartPLS GmbH, www.smartpls.com.
- Robinson, J. P., Shaver, P. R., & Wrightsman, L. S. (1991). *Measures of personality and social psychological attitudes*. San Diego, CA, US: Academic Press.
- Rodrigues, L. N., & Kitzmann, K. M. (2007). Coping as a mediator between interparental conflict and adolescents' romantic attachment. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, 24*(3), 423-439. doi:10.1177/0265407507077230
- Roper, S. W., Fife, S. T., & Seedall, R. B. (2020). The Intergenerational Effects of Parental Divorce on Young Adult Relationships. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage, 61*(4), 249-266. doi:10.1080/10502556.2019.1699372
- Rosegrant, J. (2020). Review of The clinical Erik Erikson. *Psychoanalytic Psychology, No Pagination Specified-No Pagination Specified*. doi:10.1037/pap0000327
- Rosenthal, N. L., & Kobak, R. (2010). Assessing Adolescents' Attachment Hierarchies: Differences Across Developmental Periods and Associations With Individual Adaptation. *Journal of Research on Adolescence, 20*(3), 678-706. doi:10.1111/j.1532-7795.2010.00655.x
- Rusbult, C. E., & Martz, J. M. (1995). Remaining in an Abusive Relationship: An Investment Model Analysis of Nonvoluntary Dependence. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 21*(6), 558-571. doi:10.1177/0146167295216002

- Rutter, M. (1971). Parent-child Separation: Psychological effects on the children *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 12(4), 233-260. doi:10.1111/j.1469-7610.1971.tb01086.x
- Sabatelli, R. M. (1988). Exploring Relationship Satisfaction: A Social Exchange Perspective on the Interdependence between Theory, Research, and Practice. *Family Relations*, 37(2), 217-222. doi:10.2307/584323
- Sable, P. (2008). What is Adult Attachment? *Clinical Social Work Journal*, 36(1), 21-30. doi:10.1007/s10615-007-0110-8
- Sanders, M., Halford, W., & Behrens, B. (1999). Parental divorce and premarital couple communication. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 13. doi:10.1037//0893-3200.13.1.60
- Sassler, S., Cunningham, A., & Lichter, D. T. (2009). Intergenerational Patterns of Union Formation and Relationship Quality. *Journal of Family Issues*, 30(6), 757-786. doi:10.1177/0192513X09331580
- Saunders, M., Lewis, P., & Thornhill, A. (2012). *Research Methods for Business Students*: Pearson Education Limited.
- Scaramella, L., & Leve, L. (2004). Clarifying Parent–Child Reciprocities During Early Childhood: The Early Childhood Coercion Model. *Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review*, 7(2), 89-107. doi:10.1023/B:CCFP.0000030287.13160.a3
- Schick, A. (2002). Behavioural and emotional differences between children of divorce and children from intact families: Clinical significance and mediating processes. *Swiss Journal of Psychology / Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Psychologie / Revue Suisse de Psychologie*, 61(1), 5-14. doi:10.1024//1421-0185.61.1.5
- Schulz, M. S., Waldinger, R. J., Hauser, S. T., & Allen, J. P. (2005). Adolescents' behaviour in the presence of interparental hostility: developmental and emotion regulatory influences. *Development and psychopathology*, 17(2), 489-507. doi:10.1017/S0954579405050236
- Segrin, C., Taylor, M. E., & Altman, J. (2005). Social cognitive mediators and relational outcomes associated with parental divorce. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 22(3), 361-377. doi:10.1177/0265407505052441
- Seiffge-Krenke, I., & Burk, W. J. (2013). Friends or lovers? Person and variable oriented perspectives on dyadic similarity in adolescent romantic relationships. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 30(6), 711-733. doi:10.1177/0265407512467562
- Sels, L., Ceulemans, E., Bulteel, K., & Kuppens, P. (2016). Emotional interdependence and well-being in close relationships. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 7, 1. doi:10.3389/fpsyg.2016.00283

- Shansky, J. (2002). Negative effects of divorce on child and adolescent psychosocial adjustment. *Journal of Pastoral Counseling*, 37, 73-87.
- Shelton, K. H., & Harold, G. T. (2008). Pathways Between Interparental Conflict and Adolescent Psychological Adjustment: Bridging Links Through Children's Cognitive Appraisals and Coping Strategies. *The Journal of Early Adolescence*, 28(4), 555-582. doi:10.1177/0272431608317610
- Shulman, S., & Connolly, J. (2013). The Challenge of Romantic Relationships in Emerging Adulthood: Reconceptualization of the Field. *Emerging adulthood (Thousand Oaks, CA)*, 1(1), 27-39. doi:10.1177/2167696812467330
- Shulman, S., Scharf, M., Lumer, D., & Maurer, O. (2001). Parental Divorce and Young Adult Children's Romantic Relationships: Resolution of the Divorce Experience. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 71(4), 473-478. doi:10.1037/0002-9432.71.4.473
- Simon, V. A., & Furman, W. (2010). Interparental Conflict and Adolescents' Romantic Relationship Conflict. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 20(1), 188-209. doi:10.1111/j.1532-7795.2009.00635.x
- Simpson, J. A. (2007). Psychological Foundations of Trust. *Current directions in psychological science : a journal of the American Psychological Society*, 16(5), 264-268. doi:10.1111/j.1467-8721.2007.00517.x
- Single Parent Allowance Program. (2020). Retrieved from <https://www.nspa.gov.mv/v2/index.php/single-parents-program/>
- Sinnott, C. (2010). An examination of the influence of interparental conflict on the adult child's romantic relationships. In: ProQuest Dissertations Publishing.
- Stanton, S. C. E., Campbell, L., & Pink, J. C. (2017). Benefits of Positive Relationship Experiences for Avoidantly Attached Individuals. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 113(4), 568-588. doi:10.1037/pspi0000098
- Starr, L. R., Davila, J., Stroud, C. B., Clara Li, P. C., Yoneda, A., Hershenberg, R., & Ramsay Miller, M. (2012). Love Hurts (in More Ways Than One): Specificity of Psychological Symptoms as Predictors and Consequences of Romantic Activity Among Early Adolescent Girls. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 68(4), 373-381. doi:10.1002/jclp.20862
- Statistical Pocketbook-2017. (2017). Retrieved from <http://statisticsmaldives.gov.mv/spb-2017/>
- Steinberg, S. J., Davila, J., & Fincham, F. (2006). Adolescent marital expectations and romantic experiences: Associations with perceptions about parental conflict and adolescent attachment security. *J Youth Adolesc*, 35(3), 314-329. doi:10.1007/s10964-006-9042-9

- Sun, Y. (2001). Family Environment and Adolescents' Well-Being Before and After Parents' Marital Disruption: A Longitudinal Analysis. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 63(3), 697-713. doi:10.1111/j.1741-3737.2001.00697.x
- Tan, E. S., McIntosh, J. E., Kothe, E. J., Opie, J. E., & Olsson, C. A. (2018). Couple relationship quality and offspring attachment security: a systematic review with meta-analysis. *Attachment & Human Development*, 20(4), 349-377. doi:10.1080/14616734.2017.1401651
- Tastan, N. (2013). Effect of father-child bonding on conflict resolution during emerging adulthood. *Social Behaviour and Personality: an international journal*, 41(8), 1339. doi:10.2224/sbp.2013.41.8.1339
- Theunissen, M. H. C., Klein Velderman, M., Cloostermans, A. P. G., & Reijneveld, S. A. (2017). Emotional and behavioural problems in young children with divorced parents. *The European Journal of Public Health*, 27(5), 840-845. doi:10.1093/eurpub/ckx056
- Toro, M. D. (2012). *The Influence of Parent-Child Attachment on Romantic Relationships*.
- Towler, A. J., & Stuhlmacher, A. F. (2013). Attachment Styles, Relationship Satisfaction, and Well-Being in Working Women. *The Journal of Social Psychology*, 153(3), 279-298. doi:10.1080/00224545.2012.735282
- Treboux, D., Crowell, J. A., & Waters, E. (2004). When "new" meets "old": configurations of adult attachment representations and their implications for marital functioning. *Journal of Developmental Psychology*, 40(2), 295-314.
- Trent, K., & South, S. (1992). Sociodemographic Status, Parental Background, Childhood Family Structure, and Attitudes Toward Family Formation. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 54(2), 427. doi:10.2307/353074
- Urbach, N., & Ahlemann, F. (2010). Structural Equation Modeling in Information Systems Research Using Partial Least Squares. *JITTA : Journal of Information Technology Theory and Application*, 11(2), 5-39.
- van Schaick, K., & Stolberg, A. (2001). The Impact of Parental Involvement and Parental Divorce on Young Adults' Intimate Relationships. *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage*, 36(1-2), 99-121.
- van Teijlingen, E., & Hundley, V. (2001). The Importance of Pilot Studies. *Social Research Update*(35).
- Verschuere, K., & Marcoen, A. (2005). Perceived security of attachment to mother and father: Developmental differences and relation to self-worth and peer relation at school. In K. A. Kerns & R. A. Richardson (Eds.), *Attachment in Middle Childhood*: Guilford Publications.



- Vinzi, V. E., Trinchera, L., & Amato, S. (2010). PLS Path Modeling: From Foundations to Recent Developments and Open Issues for Model Assessment and Improvement. In (pp. 47-82): Springer Berlin Heidelberg.
- Wallerstein, J. S. (1987). Children of Divorce: Report of a Ten-Year Follow-Up of Early Latency-Age Children. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 57(2), 199-211. doi:10.1111/j.1939-0025.1987.tb03530.x
- Wallerstein, J. S., & Blakeslee, S. (1989). *Second Chances: Men, Women and Children a Decade After Divorce*. New York: Ticknor and Fields.
- Wallerstein, J. S., & Lewis, J. (1998). The Long-Term Impact of Divorce on Children *Family Court Review*, 36(3), 368-383. doi:10.1111/j.174-1617.1998.tb00519.x
- Wallerstein, J. S., Lewis, J., & Packer Rosenthal, S. (2013). Mothers and Their Children After Divorce: Report From a 25-Year Longitudinal Study. *Psychoanalytic Psychology*, 30(2), 167-184. doi:10.1037/a0032511
- Wallerstein, J. S., & Lewis, J. M. (2004). The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce: Report of a 25-Year Study. *Psychoanalytic Psychology*, 21(3), 353-370. doi:10.1037/0736-9735.21.3.353
- Whitton, S. W., Stanley, S. M., Markman, H. J., & Johnson, C. A. (2013). Attitudes Toward Divorce, Commitment, and Divorce Proneness in First Marriages and Remarriages. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 75(2), 276-287. doi:10.1111/jomf.12008
- Willaby, H. W., Costa, D. S. J., Burns, B. D., MacCann, C., & Roberts, R. D. (2015). Testing complex models with small sample sizes: A historical overview and empirical demonstration of what Partial Least Squares (PLS) can offer differential psychology. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 84, 73.
- Willoughby, B. J., Carroll, J. S., Vitas, J. M., & Hill, L. M. (2012). "When Are You Getting Married?" The Intergenerational Transmission of Attitudes Regarding Marital Timing and Marital Importance. *Journal of Family Issues*, 33(2), 223-245. doi:10.1177/0192513X11408695
- Wolfinger, N. H. (2005). *Understanding the Divorce Cycle: The Children of Divorce in Their Own Marriages*: Cambridge University Press.
- Xia, M., Fosco, G. M., Lippold, M. A., & Feinberg, M. E. (2018). A Developmental Perspective on Young Adult Romantic Relationships: Examining Family and Individual Factors in Adolescence. *J Youth Adolesc*, 47(7), 1499-1516. doi:10.1007/s10964-018-0815-8
- Yarahmadi, F. (2020). *Multistage Sampling Technique and Estimating Sample Size for a Descriptive Study on Viewers' Perception of TV Commercials*. doi:10.4135/9781529713961



- Yoder, J. R., Brisson, D., & Lopez, A. (2016). Moving Beyond Fatherhood Involvement: The Association Between Father-Child Relationship Quality and Youth Delinquency Trajectories. *Family Relations*, 65(3), 462-476. doi:10.1111/fare.12197
- Young, E. S., Simpson, J. A., Griskevicius, V., Huelsnitz, C. O., & Fleck, C. (2019). Childhood attachment and adult personality: A life history perspective. *Self and Identity*, 18(1), 22-38. doi:10.1080/15298868.2017.1353540
- Young, J., & Schrodt, P. (2016). Family Communication Patterns, Parental Modeling, and Confirmation in Romantic Relationships. *Communication Quarterly*, 64, 1-22. doi:10.1080/01463373.2015.1103297
- Young, L., & Ehrenberg, M. F. (2007). Siblings, Parenting, Conflict, and Divorce. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 47(3-4), 67-85. doi:10.1300/J087v47n03\_04

## BIODATA OF STUDENT

Aishath Sanoora was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July 1973 in the Maldives. She completed her primary and secondary education in a public school (Aminiya School) in the Maldives. After completing her secondary education in 1990, she joined the teacher training program conducted by the Institute of Teacher Education in the Maldives and complete the Certificate for primary teaching. Upon graduation from the course in 1991, she started working as a primary teacher in Kalaafaanu School. She continued teaching for primary grades in this school for ten years (1991 to 2001), then changed her path to teacher training and joined the Maldives College of Higher Education (MCHE) as a Principal Instructure to train teachers.

After one year of working as a teacher trainer, she got the opportunity to pursue higher education at Open University Malaysia, where she completed a Professional Diploma in Teacher Education in 2003. Upon completing the diploma, she rejoined MCHE as a teacher trainer and continued teacher training until 2006. In 2007, she went to India, the University of Mysore, to pursue her bachelor's degree in Psychology. She graduated in 2010 and continued working at MCHE for one year as an assistant Lecturer. In 2011, she got an Australian aids scholarship to do her Masters of Counselling from the University of Queensland. Upon completing the Master's program, she joined Maldives National University (MNU) as a psychology Lecture and simultaneously completed a Postgraduate diploma as a part-time student from Villa College in the Maldives in 2014. In 2017, she got a scholarship from her employer (MNU) to do Ph.D. in Malaysia. Hence, she go to enrolled at the University Putra Malaysia.

## LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

### Article Published

Shanoora, A., Hamsan, H. H., Abdullah, H., & Khir, A. M. (2020). Which is Worse; Divorce or Conflict? Parental Divorce, Interparental Conflict, and its Impact on Romantic Relationship Quality of Young Dating Adults in the Maldives. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 10(15), 325–339.

### Article Accepted for Published

Shanoora, A., Hamsan, H. H., Abdullah, H., & Khir, A. M. (in press). Parental Divorce and Maldivian Young Adult's Romantic Relationship Quality: Indirect Pathways Through Attitude Towards Divorce. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*- ISSN: 2222-6990.

### Conference Presentations

Shanoora, A., Hamsan, H. H., Abdullah, H., & Khir, A. M. (in press). Parental Divorce and Adult Children's Romantic Relationship Satisfaction: Preliminary Findings. Presented at Theveli Conference at Maldives National University (2019)