Interpersonal & Close Relationships
Methodology, Research, Evidenced Based Practices & Critical Issues
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Methodological & Research Issues

- Lack of Research
  - African Americans in research samples
  - LGBT → little published
  - Friendship patterns

- Conceptualization & Measurement (relevance)
  - Contextual factors (community, employment)
  - Institutional policies (criminal injustice)
  - Personal preferences (physical attractiveness)
Research questions

- Communalism & quality of relationship & relationship satisfaction
- Assessing interpersonal orientation styles
- Cultural concepts
  - Ethnic identity
  - Loneliness (unfamiliar on the continent)
Evidenced Based Practices for Improving Relationships

- Sisters of Nia (Belgrave, et al., 2004) → cultural pride; reducing relationally aggressive acts (exclusion, gossiping, taunting). Reports positive outcomes.
- Brothers of Ujima (Belgrave, et al., 2012) → cuturally grounded methods; Nguzo Saba, proverbs, etc.
Critical Analysis

- Interracial dating – college samples on West Coast
- LGBT relationships & same-sex marriage
- Culture & relationships & LGBT
- Use of internet (online dating)
Lacuna (What’s Missing)

- Marriage and Family
- Divorce
- Domestic Violence
- What else?