

Sibling personality domains, dyadic gender composition, and their association with sibling relationship quality

Close relationships are central for children's development, and sibling dyads, in particular, play a prominent role in family life (Howe & Recchia, 2014). Sibling relationships contribute to the formation of a social context for child development, which includes social cognition, emotional regulation, attachment, conflict management, and friendship (Kitzmann, Cohen, & Lockwood, 2002). Due to the significant role that sibling relationships play in child development (e.g. Dunn, Slomkowski, Beardsall, & Rende, 1994), it is crucial to examine the factors that contribute to sibling relationship quality.

The research presented in this poster is of great importance due to the fact that despite the significance of personality traits in dyadic interactions and the importance of sibling relationships, the implications of the individual siblings' personality traits and gender on sibling relationship quality have scarcely been examined (Kavcic & Zupancic, 2011; Furman & Lanthier, 1996; Gamble & Yu, 2014).

Kramer & Baron (1995) defined the dimensions that are particularly salient in sibling relationships, and identified them as agonism, warmth, and rivalry/competition. Relationship agonism, has been identified as mutual opposition between siblings (Furman & Buhrmester, 1985; Kramer & Baron, 1995; Kramer & Gottman, 1992). Relationship rivalry/competition has recognized siblings' conflict as stemming from competition or jealousy (Kramer & Baron, 1995). Lastly, relationship warmth has often been described in terms of siblings' mutual intimacy, companionship, perceived similarity, prosocial behaviour, and affection (Furman & Buhrmester, 1985; Kramer & Baron, 1995).

Among the different aspects that may account for sibling dissimilarity, personality differences have been particularly salient in the literature, as they have been found to have a specific effect on the quality of sibling interaction (Menesini, Camodeca, & Nocentini, 2010). It has been suggested that as children develop, personality influences and accounts for some of the unique variance in sibling relationships (Munn & Dunn, 1989; Brody, Stoneman, & Gauger, 1996). For instance, it's been reported that relative to those with less active temperaments, children with highly active temperaments encounter four times as much sibling conflict.

Other variables, which may affect the link between personality and relationship quality, include birth order and gender. It has been demonstrated that children's birth order plays a role in their personality, which therefore suggests that siblings' personality dimensions differ based on age and birth order. It's been suggested that first borns tend to be identified as more achieving and conscientious, while later borns are described as rebellious, liberal (openness), and possess higher agreeableness (Paulhus, Trapnell, & Chen, 1999).

Furthermore, research on sibling gender composition and sibling relationship quality has mostly suggested that same-sex sibling dyads (particularly sister dyads), have better relationship quality, than do mixed-sex sibling dyads (especially those made up of older brother and younger sister) (Aguilar et al., 2001; Buist, 2010). Noam Binnoon-Erez

In this study, the Big 5 personality traits were operationalized using the Inventory of Children's Individual Differences: Short Version (ICID-S) in order to determine children's personality traits (Neuroticism, Conscientiousness, Openness to Experience, Agreeableness, and Extraversion). Sibling relationship quality (i.e. warmth, agonism, and rivalry/competition) was evaluated using the Parental Expectations and Perceptions of Children's Sibling Relationships Questionnaire (PEPC-SRQ). The sample was split based on birth order, therefore comparing personality effects of younger vs. older siblings. In addition, gender dyad composition was included in order to determine whether gender had a significant effect on the association between personality and relationship quality.

The results of this study indicate that when younger siblings demonstrate negative attributes of different personality domains (e.g. low openness or high neuroticism), the relationship is characterized by more agonism, when the dyad consists of an older sister. Hence suggesting that a) younger siblings have a more significant effect on the sibling relationship than do older siblings, and b) older sisters are perhaps more sensitive to younger siblings' negativity.

This study is timely as it is novel in several aspects. First, compared to other familial relationships, sibling dyads are under-researched in the literature. Second, no previous studies have specifically examined the association between individual personality variables, dyad gender composition, and relationship quality. Third, while previous research collected parent-reported personality measures of children, this study has employed an innovative observational task battery and standardized coding system.

The results may allow us to better understand the interaction between child personality and dyadic gender composition, and their association with sibling relationship quality. This would further help support the development of recommendations for the advancement of better child outcomes. Noam Binnoon-Erez

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