

#ubcpsyc325
PSYC 325 with Dr. Rawn
Psychology of Self in Social Media

Form groups of 4, including at least one person who has read Fox (@Commfox) & Anderegg and one (different) person who has read Michikyan et al.

Syllabus: <http://blogs.ubc.ca/psychsocialmedia>

Meetings: Tuesday & Thursday 11-12:20, BUCH A201



Agenda

- 1.3 Relationships: Romantic Relationships
 - Exploring, discussing results of Fox & Anderegg (2014) (*until about 11:30*)
 - Integrating this Theme
- 2.1 Self-Concept and Self-Presentation
 - *Shift by about 11:50*

Romantic Relationship Development with Fox & Anderegg (2014)

1. Look at Table 1 to notice the pattern of Passive, Active, and Interactive *uncertainty reduction strategies* across relationship phases.

- What findings are similar or different with what you have done or seen others do?
- Do you think these strategies actually help to reduce uncertainty?

2. Generalizability

- Do these uncertainty reduction strategies transfer across platforms? Do you think these results would be replicate on Instagram?
- How might these behaviours differ with friendships rather than romantic involvements?

Prepare to present a brief summary of your discussion.

Romantic Relationship Development with Fox & Anderegg (2014)

3. What are the implications of these findings for understanding the Self?
 - Consider McAdams' and Cox's (2010) model: Autobiographical Author, Social Actor, Motivated Agent
 - Consider Baumeister's (1999) model: Reflexive Consciousness, Interpersonal Being, Executive Function

Integrate the results of your discussion in your own Self model

Theme 1: Relationships

Weeks 3-5

Thurs
Jan 21

- Spreading Emotion & News

- #TheNewsNow
- Experimental evidence of massive-scale emotional contagion through social networks. (Kramer et al., 2014)

Tues
Jan 26

- Friendship and Connection

- #WhyWeShare
- Having responsive Facebook friends affects the satisfaction of psychological needs more than having many Facebook friends. (Greitemeyer et al., 2014)

Tues
Feb 2

- Romantic Relationships

- Romantic relationship stages and social networking sites: Uncertainty reduction strategies and perceived relational norms on Facebook. (Fox & Andereg, 2014)

What have we learned about this theme?

Now or later today, report a summary of your thoughts on Piazza in the “Integrating Theme 1” thread.

- Spreading Emotion & News
 - #TheNewsNow
 - Experimental evidence of massive-scale emotional contagion through social networks. (Kramer et al., 2014)
- Friendship and Connection
 - #WhyWeShare
 - Having responsive Facebook friends affects the satisfaction of psychological needs more than having many Facebook friends. (Greitemeyer et al., 2014)
- Romantic Relationships
 - Romantic relationship stages and social networking sites: Uncertainty reduction strategies and perceived relational norms on Facebook. (Fox & Andereg, 2014)

1. Across these readings, what have we learned about relationships in social media?

*2. Recall your developing model of Self. Think about the Self as a “cause” and as an “effect” in social media. How is the Self **influenced by** relationships, as they play out in social media? How does the Self **influence** relationships?*

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Theme 2: Self-Concept and Self-Presentation

Weeks 5-6

- Self-Presentation

Tues
Feb 2

- Can you guess who I am? Real, ideal, and false self-presentation on Facebook among emerging adults. (Michikyan, Dennis, & Subrahmanyam, 2014)

- Self-Concept and Identity

Thurs
Feb 4

- Identity shift in computer-mediated environments. (Gonzales & Hancock, 2008)
- #OMG!!HaveToTellYou
- Extended self in a digital world. (Belk, 2013)

Tues
Feb 9

Exploring Self-Concept with Michikyan et al. (2014)

1. What are the different “Selves” that are being measured in this study?
2. Do you think the following result about which Self is presented most often would generalize beyond the online context? Beyond this age group?
 - *Real > false-exploration > ideal and false-deception and false compare/impress*

Exploring Self-Concept with Michikyan et al. (2014)

3. What does *coherent identity* mean? What other variables correlate with having a coherent identity?
 - Where does identity coherence fit in your model of Self?
4. “Our results also suggest that young people use SNSs to present aspects of who they want to be without the intent to impress others, and for them, the presentation of the ideal self is realistic” – p. 60
 - Does this statement resonate with your experience? Why or why not?