

# Intimacy, Passion, and Commitment as Predictors of Couples' Relationship Satisfaction

**Work in Progress**

Dissertation Research Project

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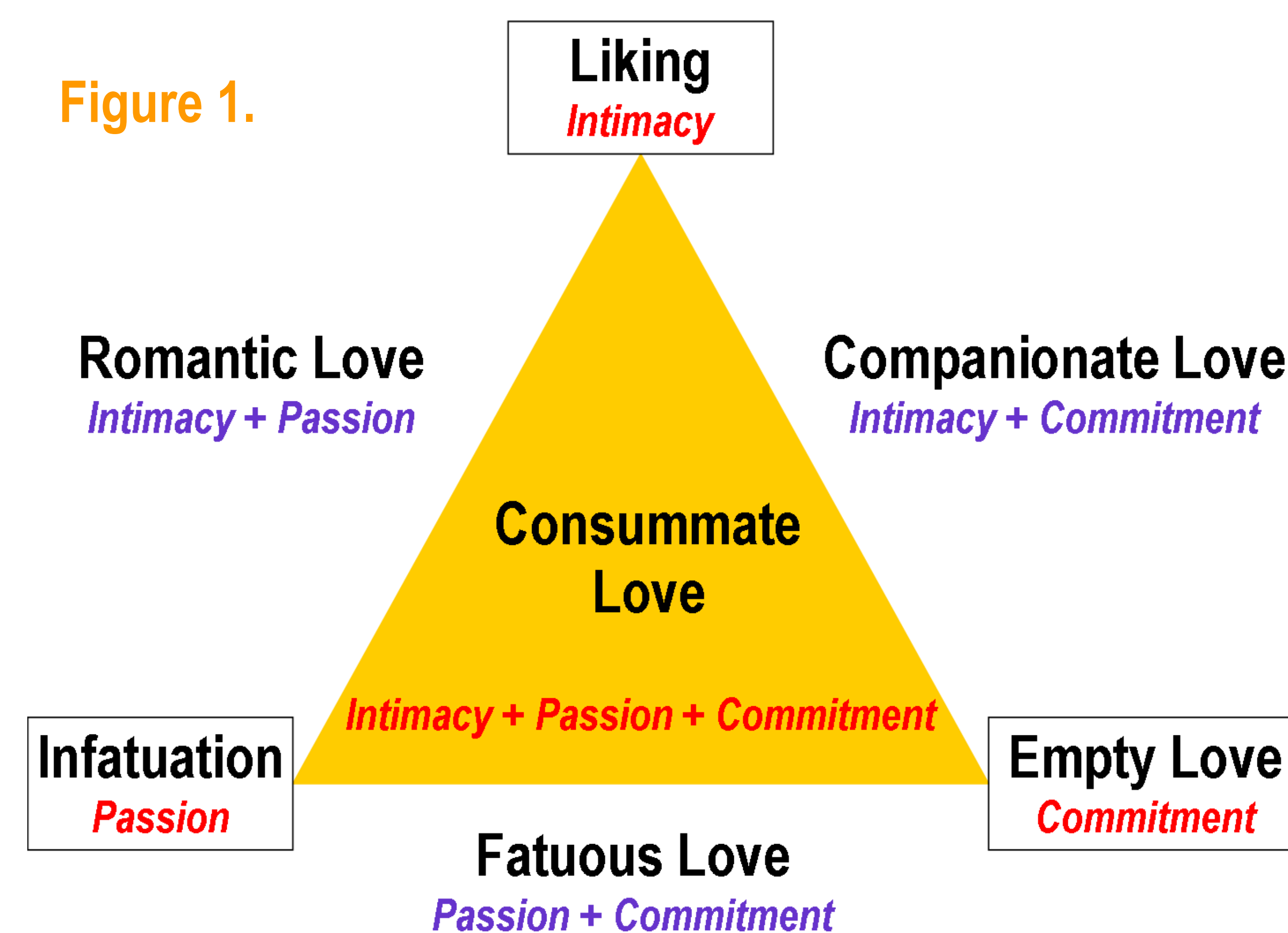
## Abstract

- ♥ Romantic love impacts the lives of individuals, couples, and families.
- ♥ There exists a high risk for romantic relationships to fail (Bumpass & Lu, 2000; Lichter, Qian & Mellott, 2006; Lichter & Zhenchao, 2008).
- ♥ The proposed research will explore factors that relate to romantic couples' **relationship satisfaction** to ultimately enhance odds for couples' successful, long-term union.
- ♥ The following factors will be the focus of this study:
  - ♥ Intimacy
  - ♥ Passion
  - ♥ Commitment

## General Purpose

- ♥ To aid greater understanding of perceptions of love relationships
- ♥ To contribute to the classic work Sternberg's (1988) triangular theory of love (**Figure 1**), and fill in gaps from the past 20+ years since his research, specifically in the context of American cultural changes taking place:
  - ♥ Divorce rates
  - ♥ Traditional family roles challenged
  - ♥ Mood based on economic pressures, war and security issues.
- ♥ To contribute findings which may benefit counseling psychologists.
- ♥ To contribute to couples' understanding.

## Sternberg's Love Triangle (1988)



## Research Questions

What are predictors of satisfaction in romantic relationships? What are the links between **Relationship Satisfaction** and:

1. Passion
2. Intimacy
3. Commitment
4. Passion + Intimacy only
5. Passion + Commitment only
6. Intimacy + Commitment
7. Intimacy + Commitment + Passion

Each variable will be explored in depth with regard to comparisons in gender, generational categories, ethnicity, geographic region, among other demographic and descriptive data.

## Contact information

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## Methods & Measurements

- ♥ **Sample population:** English speaking adults living in the United States without regard to age, sex, affiliation, ethnicity or marital status, who are currently in a paired heterosexual relationship
- ♥ **Recruitment Sources** – Internet advertising directing people to [www.the lovesurvey.org](http://www.the lovesurvey.org) to submit survey responses.
- ♥ **Demographic Data Survey** – Age (Generation), Gender, Length of Time in Relationship, Geographic location of residence.
- ♥ **Measure: Relationship Satisfaction**  
Likert scale using the Relationship Assessment Scale (RAS), a seven-item measure of romantic relationship satisfaction (Hendrick, Dicke & Hendrick, 1998).
- ♥ **Measures: Intimacy, Passion and Commitment**  
Likert Scale using Sternberg Triangular Love Scale (Sternberg, 1988).
- ♥ **Analysis Model: Factorial Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)**

## References

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