

ABSTRACT

Author: Emily A. Velidow

Title: ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS IN THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY:
DOES SOCIAL SUPPORT AND INTERDEPENDENCE THEORY
PLAY A ROLE?

Thesis Advisor: Gayle R. Bessenoff

Department: Department of Psychology and Honors College

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The current study investigates the roles of social support and interdependence in relationship satisfaction among different affectual orientations. A link to an anonymous online survey was distributed to organizations and departments of the Southern Connecticut State University community, as well as on social media. Of the 77 respondents, 39 were heterosexual, 14 bisexual, 11 gay, 5 lesbian, 6 pansexual, and 2 asexual. The survey included the Relationship Assessment Scale (RAS), the Gay and Lesbian Relationship Satisfaction Scale (GLRSS) with a social support subscale, and the Situational Interdependence Scale (SIS). Results found that although social support was reported to be high for all groups, it was statistically significantly lower for non-traditional LGBT individuals (asexuals, bisexuals, demisexuals, and pansexuals as compared to both heterosexuals and homosexuals (gays and lesbians). Further, a correlation was found between social support and relationship satisfaction, such that as one has more social supports, one will be likely to report greater relationship satisfaction, regardless of affectual orientation.