

2015

Marriage Expectations

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Recommended Citation

Parrott, Kaylee and Fayard, Jennifer, "Marriage Expectations" (2015). *Scholars Day*. Paper 8.
http://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/scholars_day/8

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Marriage Expectations

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Background

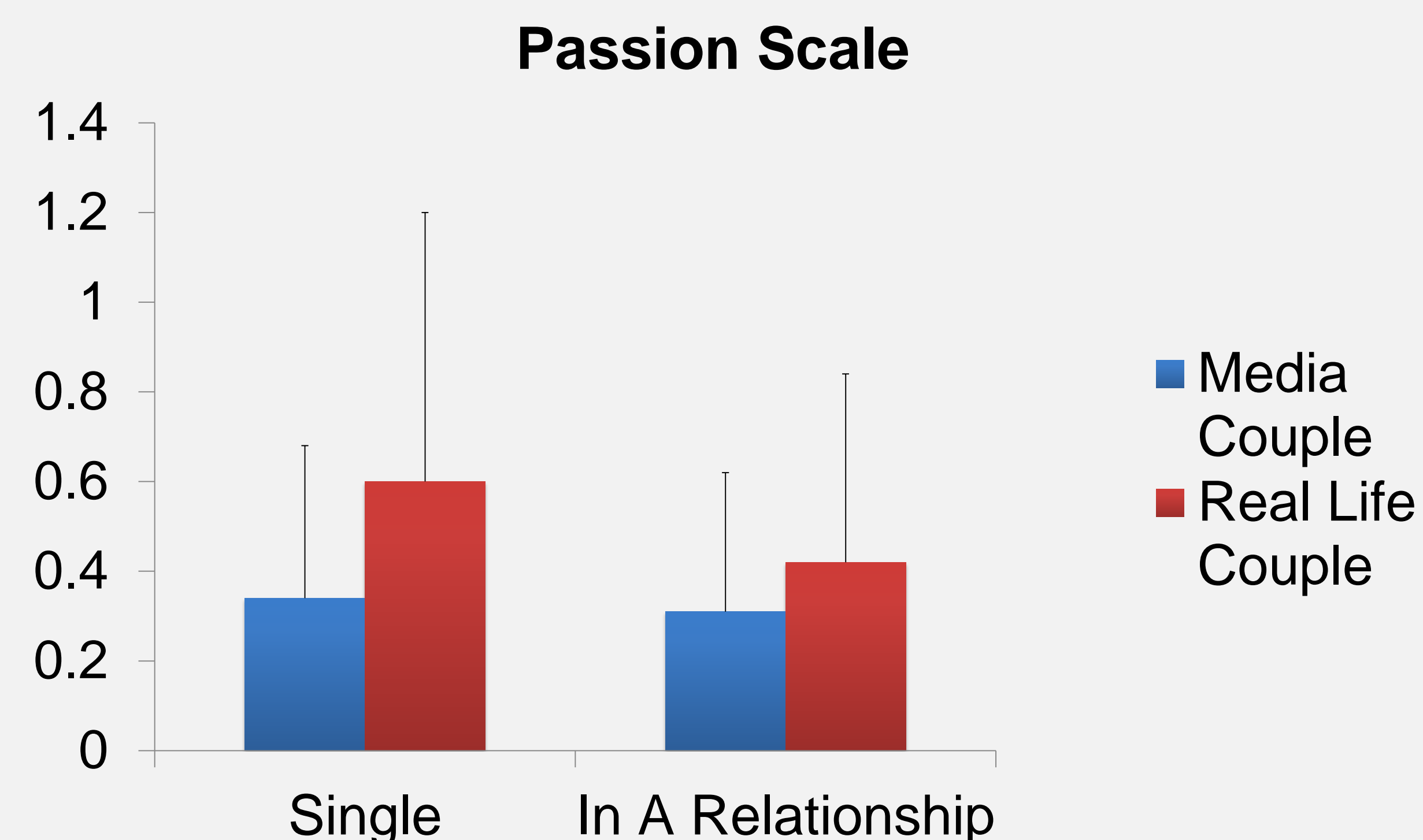
- Media or fictional marriages may have an effect on our high divorce rate because it sets people up for false expectations. (Segrin, 2002)
- Unmarried college students are known to have perfect fantasies built in their heads and for most of them marriage is likely to happen in the next 5 to 10 years if not sooner. (Larson, 1988)
- Hypothesis: It is expected that those not in a relationship will have higher expectations for marriage than those that are in a relationship. Also participants that receive a media couple to discuss will have higher expectations.

Method

- Participants age ranged from eighteen to twenty-two, with an average of 19.76 and standard deviation of 1.08.
- Participants were randomly assigned to one of two couples to write a paragraph about a real life couple or a media couple.
- Participants wrote about why the couple they chose from their category was an ideal couple.
- After the paragraph they filled out a 5 point Likert scale questionnaire.
- The scale had four different measurements: Passion love scale, marriage intentions scale, fantasy rumination scale and working on marriage scale.

- The passion scale measured the physical parts of the relationship. The intentions scale looked at peoples plans for their future relationship. The fantasy scale looked at how people think their wedding will be. The working scale looked at how people think they will have to work on problems in their marriage.

Results



- There was no significant effect shown between the assigned couple and the participants marriage expectations.
- In two of the measurement scales, passion and marriage intentions relationship status showed significant results.
- The passion scale showed significant for relationship status $F(1,30) = 11.62, p=.002$. For the type of couple there was no main effect and there was no significant interaction.
- There were no effects for couple type or relationship status for the fantasy rumination scale.

- The results for the Marriage Intentions scale had a significant effect for relationship status $F(1,30)=6.55, p=.02$. There was no main effect for type of couple and there was no significant interaction.
- There were no effects for couple type or relationship status for the working on marriage scale.

Conclusions

- Those in a relationship had higher emphasis on Eros, which is the physical part of the relationship than single people.
- Those in a relationship scored higher on their intentions about marriage as well.
- Future studies should look to recruit more males to participate in the study as the results might change with gender.
- It is also believed that people outside a Christian university may provide different results.

References

- Larson, J. (1988). The Marriage Quiz: College Students' Beliefs in Selected Myths about Marriage. *Family Relations*, 3-3.
- Segrin, C., & Nabi, R. (2002). Does Television Viewing Cultivate Unrealistic Expectations About Marriage? *Journal of Communication*, 247-263.