

LEVELS OF SELF-CONTROL, PARTNER FUSION, AND MARITAL
EGALITARIANISM IN MEN AS PREDICTORS OF
MALE-TO-FEMALE PARTNER VIOLENCE

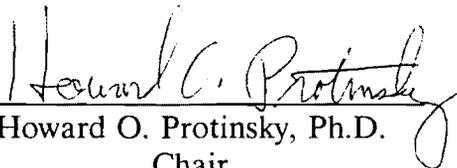
By Elizabeth Ellis Schubert

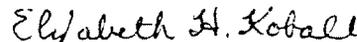
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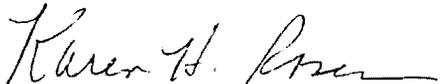
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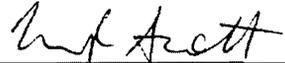
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By

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(ABSTRACT)

The current study examined male-to-female partner violence on individual, interpersonal, and contextual/cultural levels. Murray Bowen's theory of differentiation was used as the theoretical framework for understanding the individual variable of self control of emotional reactivity and the interpersonal variable of partner fusion. Feminist theory was used as the theoretical framework for understanding the contextual or cultural variable of marital egalitarianism or gender equality in the relationship. Participants in this study included 133 men from various men's groups (men's anger management groups, a college athletic team, a civic group, church groups, a court services group, and men from counseling centers). Self control of emotional reactivity was measured by the Self Control (Sc) subscale of the California Psychological Inventory (CPI). Partner fusion was measured by the Spousal Fusion (SPFUS) subscale of the Personal Authority in the Family System Questionnaire (PAFS-Q). Marital Egalitarianism was measured by the Marital Roles subscale of the Sex Role Egalitarianism Scale (SRES). Partner violence was measured by using four subscales (physical assault

scale, physical assault prevalence, physical injury scale, and physical assault prevalence) of the Revised Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS2). The data analysis consisted of descriptive analysis, correlational analysis, t-tests, and a series of multiple regressions.

The findings of the current study support the original hypothesis in which there was a significant relationship between self-control, partner fusion, marital egalitarianism and the use of violent conflict tactics. The study further revealed a significant predictive relationship between partner fusion and three of the four violence measures as well as a significant predictive relationship between self-control and one of four violence measures and marital egalitarianism and one of four violence measures. Since the anger management groups were chosen specifically because of their past violent behavior, analyses were conducted in which the anger management groups (Anger group) were compared to all other participants (Other group). T-tests revealed significantly higher partner fusion scores for the Anger group compared to the Other group. When the two groups were compared for interaction effects between the independent variables and group membership using a series of multiple regression analyses, marital egalitarianism emerged as a significant predictor of violence for the Anger group, but not for the Other group, when it was coupled with partner fusion. In addition, self control was found to be a significant predictor for the Other group, but not the Anger group with one of the violence measures. Self control did not, however, have a significant interaction effect.

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A special thanks to the participants, group leaders, and clinicians for their time and participation in the data collection process which made this study possible. Their contributions to this study have added insight into the dynamics of partner violence and will assist clinicians who work with this population towards the goal of non-violence.

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DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my four month old son, Frederick Theodore Schubert, III, who was with me throughout the dissertation process in spirit and in person. His presence was a guiding force in my ability to achieve this milestone in my life.

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Chapter One

Introduction

The co-mingling of love and violence in partner relationships is both troubling and complex. In a ten year study by Straus and Gelles (1986), it was found that the overall occurrence of wife beating decreased by 27% from 1975-1985. However, this still leaves over a million and a half wives who are beaten yearly in the United States by their partners (Straus & Gelles, 1986). Statistics of reported assaults by the US Justice Department indicate that 95% of all reported assaults on spouses are committed by men (Margolin & Burman, 1993).

Definition of Violence

Violence occurs on a continuum from mild to severe. According to Straus (1993), the two ends of the continuum of violence (mild/moderate to more severe) have different etiologies and require different types of interventions. Therefore, this study examined the continuum of violence to assess whether there are different dynamics at work based on the level of severity of violence which occurs. Straus and Gelles (1990) define violence as any "physical act" (p. 21) of harm and distinguish it from aggression which they define as "any malevolent act that is intended to hurt another person" (p. 21) which may include physical and/or emotional harm. Context may also affect the interpretation of an act as violent or

aggressive. Various acts of hostility may be viewed in different ways. For example, pushing, slapping, spanking, pinching, grabbing or throwing objects at someone may be considered milder forms of violence, while hitting and beating which cause bruises and broken bones or even murder are considered more severe forms of violence. What constitutes hostile or violent behavior may be subjective in many cases. Gelles and Straus (1988) have been criticized for using a broad definition of violence which includes all of the aforementioned behaviors. However, they refute criticism that such a broad definition diminishes their research because in their view, milder forms of violence tend to escalate to more severe violence. Thus, these milder forms need to be taken seriously to prevent more severe forms of violence from occurring. This author shared this opinion and also used a broad definition of violence. In this study, violence was defined as a physical act of harm by a man toward his female partner which may occur on a continuum from mild/moderate to severe.

Aside from a wide range of definitions which researchers use in defining what constitutes violence, abusers and especially victims may be reluctant to define behaviors as violent. In a study by O'Leary, Vivian, and Malone (1992), 132 couples were assessed at intake for the presence of physical aggression in three ways: a written self-report, verbal responses to direct questions, and the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS). O'Leary, Vivian, and Malone (1992) found that from the written self-report, only 6% of the wives indicated that physical

aggression was a major marital problem. Yet, when questioned verbally, 44% of this same sample of women indicated it was a major problem and 53% were classified by the CTS as being victims of physical aggression. Therefore, definitions of what constitutes violence or aggression are crucial in assessing the extent of hostility within a relationship or marriage.

Background for the Study

There is an abundance of research literature and theories which attempt to understand and explain partner violence from many perspectives. Stith and Straus (1995) provide an overview of many of these theories. Some of the intra-individual theories which examine internal processes that contribute to partner violence are: psychopathology, alcohol and drug addiction, self-esteem problems, coping styles, cognitive styles, and other individual characteristics (Stith & Straus, 1995). Some sociological theories examine interactional patterns as well as more macro-level social structures as they relate to partner violence such as: resource theory, social learning theory, culture of violence theory, family systems theory, and feminist theory (Stith & Straus, 1995).

Aside from differences in how family violence is characterized in the literature, there are also dissenting opinions about how researchers conceptualize family violence. Bartle and Rosen (1994) present two opposing perspectives

within the family violence research arena. First, there are those who approach the research from a "family violence" perspective. These researchers focus more on the microsystem variables of causality and psychological attributes as well as dynamics of violent relationships (Bartle & Rosen, 1994). Family violence researchers examine stresses and difficulties families encounter which contribute to violence (Kurz, 1989). In addition, these researchers examine the extent to which violence is an accepted means of resolving conflict in the family which is viewed as a reflection of norms of the society in which the family is situated (Kurz, 1989). In addition, the use of physical punishment of children is suggested by family violence researchers as contributing to the socialization of children into violence (Kurz, 1989). While researchers from the family violence perspective may examine sexist characteristics of the family and society as one of many different variables, feminists suggest that since this issue is not central to their analysis of study, the family violence perspective does not focus enough on the social context in which violence occurs (Fine, 1989; Walker, 1989).

A "feminist" perspective, on the other hand, takes a more macrosystem approach to partner violence by examining the context in which violence occurs by addressing cultural and institutional inequalities which exist between men and women. According to the feminist perspective, such inequalities should not be ignored in exploring the dynamics of partner violence because of the contextual nature of these inequalities (Kurz, 1993). While the family violence perspective

examines the more psychological and pathological processes, a feminist perspective examines the social and historical structures of family and gender (Kurz, 1989). It is argued that while negative interactional patterns may exist in violent relationships, it is male domination which is the core of the problem and deserves focus and intervention (Bograd, 1986; Kurz, 1989). A feminist perspective examines how some men maintain power and control over their partners due to male and female roles in marriage where the woman controls the household and childcare responsibilities and the man plays the role of provider which is attributed more status and greater decision-making power (Kurz, 1989).

Rather than being mutually exclusive perspectives of the same phenomenon, Johnson (1995) suggests that the feminist and family violence perspectives are referring to two distinct categories of violence: patriarchal terrorism and common couple violence, respectively. Johnson suggests that the methodology used by each of these perspectives taps different segments of the population, and, therefore, may be different types of violence. Johnson defines "patriarchal terrorism" as a cultural or macro-level variable which is the "product of patriarchal traditions of men's right to control 'their' women, [and] is a form of terroristic control of wives by their husbands that involves the systematic use of not only violence, but economic subordination, threats, isolation, and other control tactics" (p. 284). This type of violence tends to be more severe in nature and occurs with greater frequency and duration. It is this violence of patriarchal

terrorism to which Johnson suggests that feminists are referring. On the other hand, Johnson defines "common couple violence" as more of a micro-level phenomenon which is a product of individual and interpersonal variables of stressful day to day living and mismanaged conflict. Johnson suggests that this type of violence is:

less a product of patriarchy, and more a product of the less-gendered causal process [discussed by the family violence researchers] . . . in which conflict occasionally gets 'out of hand,' leading usually to 'minor' forms of violence, and more rarely escalating into serious, sometimes even life-threatening, forms of violence (p. 285).

Given the complexities of violence in relationships, it is likely that the family violence and feminist perspectives are not mutually exclusive and that individual, interpersonal, and cultural forces are all at work and contribute to this phenomenon. A few researchers have integrated the family violence and feminist perspectives by taking a "both/and" approach rather than an "either/or" perspective (Bartle & Rosen, 1994; Goldner et al., 1990). People do not live in vacuums. They are influenced by the culture in which they live. Similarly, cultures are composed of individuals who act and react in relationships. Thus, there may exist a reflexive relationship between micro-level and macro-level variables in violent relationships. Examining this phenomenon from multiple levels provides a more thorough and comprehensive examination of partner violence. Therefore, in

addition to focusing on male-to-female violence, this study took a "both/and" approach by combining the individual and interpersonal characteristics of men in violent relationships while at the same time taking into account gender inequalities from a cultural or contextual perspective.

Theoretical Frameworks

Family Violence Perspective: Bowen Theory. The "cycle of violence" is often referred to throughout the family violence literature. Walker (1979) describes the cycle as beginning with a tension building phase, which escalates into an acute battering phase characterized by an "uncontrollable discharge of the tensions" (Walker, 1979, p. 59) that is followed by a "honeymoon" phase which is characterized by kindness and contrite and loving behavior. Before long, phase one begins again, and the cycle renews itself, unless one of the partners takes action to end the cycle by leaving or seeking assistance to end the cycle. There are striking similarities between Lenore Walker's (1979) descriptions of the "cycle of violence" and Murray Bowen's (1971) notion that "relationships cycle through intense closeness, conflict that provides a period of emotional distance, the make-up, and another period of intense closeness" (p. 397). Bowen's (1966) distinction between functional and dysfunctional relationships may serve as a corollary to nonviolent and violent relationships, respectively, yet Bowen's theory of differentiation has rarely been directly applied to understanding partner violence.

According to Bowen's theory, there are two main principles of differentiation: one which is intrapsychic and one which is interpersonal. The intrapsychic or individual aspect of differentiation involves the ability to separate thoughts from emotions which requires individual responsibility and control of one's impulses or emotional reactivity (Bowen, 1966; Nichols & Schwartz, 1995; Papero, 1988). The interpersonal or relational concept involves differentiation of self from others which involves maintaining a balance between a sense of self as separate from and connected to others (Nichols & Schwartz, 1995). While few researchers have focused on differentiation to understand partner violence (Bartle & Rosen, 1994; Rosen, Bartle-Haring & Stith, 1996), Bowen's theory may provide a useful framework to view violence from both an individual and relational lens.

Individual Lens: Self-Control. Bowen's theory of differentiation proposes that undifferentiated people are unable to distinguish between thoughts and feelings (Bowen, 1966, 1976; Nichols & Schwartz, 1995; Papero, 1988). Bowen (1978) characterizes the degree of differentiation of an individual as the degree to which that individual has resolved emotional attachments with his/her family of origin. This process is not discrete, but occurs on a continuum. For those who are more undifferentiated, objective or rational thoughts are difficult because thoughts and feelings are so heavily intertwined. Ferraro (1988) suggests that a man who is undifferentiated from his partner may become so consumed with concerns regarding his partner's loyalty that "he loses all sense of rationality" (p.

133). Oftentimes, this lack of distinction between thought and feeling is expressed in anger or rage. Bowen's theory suggests that "because they are less able to think clearly, undifferentiated people react emotionally-- positively or negatively-- to the dictates of family members or other authority figures (Nichols & Schwartz, 1995, p. 371). According to Weitzman and Dreen (1982), battering relationships are characterized by "general emotional immaturity" (p. 261).

According to Bowen (1974), people who are undifferentiated have anxiety about balancing closeness and distance with loved ones. Some cope with this anxiety through emotional distancing or "cut-off" through either internal mechanisms or physical distance. With physical distance, the person moves far away and effectively cuts him/herself off from family members or partners. Those who use internal mechanisms, stay in close physical proximity, but according to Bowen (1974) during periods of intense emotional tension, these people are more prone to "episodic irresponsibility in relation to others" (p. 84). Physical violence towards a partner seems a logical extension of this notion. Those lower in differentiation "develop a high percentage of human problems, including the full range of physical illness, emotional illness, and social dysfunctions (Bowen, 1976, p. 71). Bowen (1976) describes "social dysfunction" as impulsive and irresponsible behavior. Kerr and Bowen (1988) discuss how through the differentiation process, a person becomes more cognizant of his/her own part in problems and more willing to claim responsibility for his/her actions and to act on that basis.

Further, Kerr and Bowen discuss the need for a person to become aware of how one's behavior is influenced by feelings or emotion and to have control over automatic responses based on those feelings and emotion (Kerr & Bowen, 1988). It is suggested that an important and fundamental psychological skill is to resist impulses and maintain emotional self-control (Goleman, 1995).

Gaining control over one's emotional reactivity to others is one of Bowen's (1966, 1974) primary goals which relates to batterers having a sense of control over violent behaviors. The process of differentiation involves increasing one's level of intellectual control over automatic emotional responses (Bowen, 1975). Bowen (1974) suggests that when a person can become a better "observer" of his/her actions, s/he can have a more "objective" approach in evaluating his/her behavior which reduces emotional reactivity in emotionally charged situations. This is a point where there is a balance between thought and emotion. By being able to take such a step back, Bowen (1974) posits that a person will be better equipped to live life:

reacting with appropriate and natural emotional responses, but with the knowledge that at any time he [sic] can back out of the situation, slow down his [sic] reactivity, and do observations that help him [sic] control himself [sic] and the situation (Bowen, 1974, p. 90).

This clearly relates to violence.

Another aspect of Bowen's theory is the idea that one has a choice about the type of functioning which will regulate one's behavior and that one is responsible for one's behavior and the consequences of that behavior (Bowen, 1976). Thus, it is advocated that individuals have the choice to control or not to control their emotional reactivity or impulsivity. Therefore, differentiation not only involves detaching oneself from the conflict in one's family, but also objectively analyzing one's own participation in family conflict instead of blaming others for one's problems (Nichols & Schwartz, 1995). Over and over, Bowen (1966) stresses the importance of the individual's "total responsibility for self" (p.359). In one of few references to domestic violence, Bowen (1971) uses the following case illustration of male-to-female violence to explain his theory:

The physical violence usually occurred in a flooded emotional field, and there appeared to be no specific stimulus. Then, in a situation without words, he hit her in response to 'that look of hatred in her eyes'. That was the last time he hit her. He gained some control by looking away in periods of critical emotional tension, and she gained some control over the looks (p. 413).

Bowen (1976) observed that it is human beings' capacity for intellectual functioning which separates them from lower forms of life. Bowen (1976) posits that "the cerebral cortex involves the ability to think, reason, and reflect, and enables man [sic] to govern his [sic] life, in certain areas, according to logic,

intellect, and reason" (p. 60). Gender-related stereotypes exist regarding emotionality and rationality whereby women are characterized as emotional and men as rational. Harway and Hansen (1993) make an interesting observation regarding this stereotype:

women are seen as emotional (equated with irrationality) and men as nonexpressive (equated with rationality). At the same time, however, the expression of aggressiveness (which is more characteristic of males) is not typically labeled as an expression of emotion or as an irrational act (Frieze et al, 1978 cited in Harway & Hansen, 1993, p. 7).

However, when examined through a Bowen framework, this traditional view is discarded and a man's violence is reconceptualized as an irrational act and expression of emotion which is within his control.

Interpersonal Lens: Level of Differentiation. According to Bowen, "lack of differentiation between thinking and feeling occurs in concert with lack of differentiation between oneself and others" (Nichols & Schwartz, 1995, p. 371). This aspect of differentiation also occurs on a continuum with fusion or lack of differentiation from others on one end and differentiation from others on the other. Bowen (1966) suggests that when a person holds his/her partner "responsible for his [sic] self and happiness" (p.360), that person is undifferentiated or fused with his/her partner. In addition, Bowen (1966) refers to undifferentiated people as using "external" sources of authority to support their

personal convictions rather than internal sources. Karpel (1976) describes fusion in couples as a "transactional and experiential phenomenon that is created when two minimally individuated persons form a close, emotional relationship. The defining characteristic of the relationship is the high degree of identification that exists between partners" (p. 71). Fused relationships involve highly dependent individuals who have little sense of self independent from their partners. Ferraro (1988) suggests that because a man who batters may have a fragile notion of who he is, "he may view the slightest indication of disloyalty as a vicious attack on his sense of self" (p. 133). Violence may be a man's way of attempting to minimize what he perceives as a threat to his sense of self (Ferraro, 1988).

Marks (1986) distinguishes between "fusion" and a "bonding connection". Fusion requires connection with another to define or "constitute" (Marks, 1986, p. 116) the self. In this instance, there is no autonomous self because one's "self" is defined through the relationship with one's partner. In bonding connection, as with Bowen's notion of differentiation, there is intimacy, but still an autonomous self. Kerr and Bowen (1988) define one aspect of differentiation as the ability to "be in emotional contact with others yet still autonomous in one's emotional functioning" (p. 145). This process involves developing a sense of self which is separate from and at the same time connected to one's partner. Healthy or mature relationships are characterized as maintaining a delicate balance between self and other (Karpel, 1976; Marks, 1986).

According to Bowen, people tend to select partners with similar levels of differentiation to themselves (Papero, 1988) although preliminary research indicates that this may not necessarily be the case (Bartle, 1993). Bowen (1966, 1974, 1978) maintains that well differentiated individuals are able to maintain mature and healthy relationships which are characterized by people who can "communicate directly, with mature respect for each other, without complications between people who are less mature" (Bowen, 1974, p.88). Bowen (1974) suggested that more differentiated couples will be characterized by lower levels of anxiety and their lives will be more orderly.

On the other hand, the more undifferentiated a couple is the higher the levels of anxiety and chaos will be in that relationship (Bowen, 1974). When this anxiety is high, they may attempt to distance themselves from pressures of fusion or togetherness (Papero, 1988). Less differentiated people are in a "lifelong pursuit of the ideal close relationship. When closeness is achieved, it increases the emotional fusion to which they react with distance and alienation, which can stimulate another closeness cycle" (Bowen, 1976, p. 71). One explanation for this cycle is that for couples low on differentiation, both partners "long for closeness but both are 'allergic' to it" (Bowen, 1966, p. 360). Weitzman and Dreen (1982) propose that battering relationships are characterized by battles for control and identify six major themes often found in these relationships. One of the themes they identify in their theory is a struggle between distance and intimacy.

Similarly, in examining the relationship between shame and aggression, Lansky (1993) suggests that those who batter have an extreme need for emotional distance from those with whom they are intimate in order to protect themselves from becoming vulnerable or "disorganized" which invokes shame and may turn into angry outbursts of violence. Bowen (1966) suggested that the lower a person is in differentiation, the more likely that individual is to use dysfunctional behavior such as "violence . . . to control the emotion of 'too much closeness'" (p. 360). Bartle and Rosen (1994) use Bowen's theory of differentiation to conceptualize violent behavior and suggest that violence is perhaps a mechanism which mediates or regulates that balance between connection and autonomy. These authors refer to individuation or differentiation as a "developmental process in which one learns to balance a sense of self as separate and sense of self as connected" (p. 224).

Feminist/Contextual Perspective: Marital Egalitarianism. Many feminists suggest that patriarchal attitudes which permeate our culture endorse and contribute to the violence of men towards their female partners (Walker, 1979; 1996; Smith, 1990; Yllo, 1993). The historical roots of patriarchy run deep in the United States. As late as the late 1800s, laws existed in which men were granted the privilege to beat their wives (Kurz, 1989), and issues of domestic violence were considered private matters in which "it is better to draw the curtain, shut out the public gaze, and leave the parties to forget and forgive" (1874 North

Carolina court decision, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 1982, p. 2 as cited in Hart, 1993, p. 14). While such laws no longer exist, the legacy of patriarchy continues to influence contemporary norms and male-female relationships. One feminist observation of this legacy is that cultural factors which perpetuate male dominance continue to exist (Kurz, 1989). For example, institutions which are ineffectual in protecting women and children from harm and traditional norms which devalue women. Smith (1990) defines patriarchy as having two facets: 1) a structure in which "men have more power and privilege than women" and 2) an ideology that "legitimizes this arrangement" (p. 257). Inherent in the definition of patriarchy is the notion of gender inequalities where men dominate women. Yllo and Straus (1990) observe that at the core of the patriarchal society is the traditional marriage, which promotes male-dominance.

Smith (1990) distinguishes between "social" patriarchy and "familial" patriarchy. Social patriarchy refers to "male dominance in society as a whole" (p. 257) while familial patriarchy refers to "male dominance in the family" (p. 257-258). At a symposium for women's rights, Erik Erikson (1965) made the following remarks which seem to address this difference between family and social patriarchy:

It takes a much longer time to emancipate what goes on deep down inside us -- that is, whatever prejudices and inequalities have managed to become part of our impulse life and our identity formation -- than the time it takes

to redefine professed values and to change legalities (cited in Kolb & Straus, 1974, p. 765).

Thus, attitudes at the familial level are difficult to alter and are the basic building blocks which form societal attitudes. Similarly, Straus, Gelles, and Steinmetz (1980) suggest that "the family is the outstanding example of a social institution which assigns jobs and responsibilities based on a person's sex and age rather than interest, competence, or ability" (p.242). Furthermore, Bograd (1986) suggests that "family systems reflect and perpetuate the inequality between men and women that exists in our society as a whole" (p. 47). Therefore, since sex-role attitudes in society are a reflection of attitudes within the family, this study focused on familial patriarchy and used marital egalitarianism as a measure of this.

Inequalities between men and women may contribute to either their use or acceptance of violent means for resolving conflict. Such inequalities may be reflected in a person's sex role expectations and may correlate with his/her use of or acceptance of violent measures as a means of resolving conflict. While sex-role expectations may occur on a continuum, they may generally be characterized in one of two categories: egalitarian or traditional. Feminists often encourage a movement toward less traditional and more egalitarian relationships as a means of reducing the incidence of violent relationships (Pence & Paymar, 1993; Walker, 1996; Yllo & Straus, 1990). Egalitarian attitudes can be a measure of balance of

power in partner relationships and, thus, a measure of extent to which patriarchal attitudes exist in a relationship. Beere, King, Beere, and King (1984) define egalitarian sex role expectations as an attitude in which a person "believes that the sex of an individual should not influence the perception of an individual's abilities or the determination of an individual's rights, obligations, and opportunities" (p. 564). The opposite of egalitarian sex-role expectations are traditional sex-role expectations which are more patriarchal. With more traditional sex-role expectations, the sex of an individual does influence the perception of an individual's abilities, rights, obligations and opportunities. An egalitarian attitude is characterized by autonomy and independence of people which relates back to the notion of individuation and differentiation. Conversely, more traditional sex-role expectations may view a person as more dependent on others since their abilities, rights, obligations and opportunities may be limited due to his/her gender.

It is suggested that differential socialization of men and women establishes a relationship of inequality where men are taught to deny feelings in order to become strong, and women are taught to be nurturers and caretakers (Smith, 1984). When men have been socialized with traditional sex-role expectations, they may not be prepared to share power and decision-making in a relationship (Brown, 1980). Ferraro (1988) suggested that men's need to dominate arises from a combination of patriarchy and gender socialization. According to Ferraro, men

are traditionally socialized to dominate women and are threatened when they feel this domination is in jeopardy. Thus, some men may lash out in violence as a means of regaining or maintaining their dominance.

Researchers suggest that as the social structure changes from traditional to egalitarian, there will be a transition period where violence in relationships increases (Farrington, 1980; Hotaling & Straus, 1980; Kalmuss & Straus, 1990; Kolb & Straus, 1974; Straus, 1980b; Whitehurst, 1974; Yllo & Straus, 1990). This has been found to be true in situations where there is a discrepancy between partners' sex-role attitudes. In these situations, there is a greater risk of violence (Coleman & Straus, 1986; Hornung et al., 1981, as cited in Cook & Frantz-Cook, 1984; Singleman, et al., 1984). For example, relationships where a woman holds more egalitarian sex role attitudes and her partner holds more traditional sex role attitudes may be more likely to involve violence compared to relationships where both partners hold either egalitarian or traditional sex role attitudes (Coleman & Straus, 1986). Thus, if both partners hold traditional attitudes about marriage, they may both agree with the male-dominant paradigm and be less likely to engage in a power struggle for dominance in the relationship because they may both agree that the man is the "head of the household". If both partners hold egalitarian attitudes, then there is more of an agreement regarding a balance of power in the relationship, and power struggles over one partner being dominant are less likely to occur.

Rationale for Research Questions

The purpose of this study was to take a more comprehensive approach than previous studies on partner violence by combining both a "family violence" microsystem perspective and a "feminist" macrosystem perspective in examining partner violence where men are violent towards women. Violence against women by men was assessed on the individual, interpersonal, and cultural/contextual levels in order to contribute to a multi-level assessment of partner violence.

Relationship Between Individual, Interpersonal, and Contextual Variables

In several studies which provide clinical observations of men who batter their female partners, themes emerge of characteristics which combine individual, interpersonal, and contextual variables. However, there have been few qualitative or empirical studies which examine these variables, and they have not been empirically tested together. In clinical observations by Coleman (1980), 33 men who were conjugally violent were observed to have intense fusions with their partners and also hold sex-role stereotypes which reinforced the husband maintaining an "impenetrable position in relationship to his wife's feelings. Although he wants to be valuable to his wife, he sees his major role in the family as that of breadwinner and ultimate decision maker with little responsibility for the emotional climate of the family" (p. 211).

Similarly, Currie (1983), describes an intervention with one group of 6-8 men for weekly two hour sessions which lasted for nine weeks. At the beginning phase of this program it was noted that the men were "becoming aware of deeper feelings of insecurity related to the changes that are taking place in male and female roles" (p. 183). At this same point, "the men were also beginning to internalize responsibility for their own behavior and to experience themselves as separate individuals" (p. 183). Finally, Star (1983) identified and examined community based and family service programs throughout the country that offered alternatives to incarceration. One hundred and sixteen programs were surveyed. Themes and characteristics derived from observations of counselors regarding spouse abusers were: impulsivity as well as having little sense of themselves as separate from their partners and being threatened by intimacy. They were also described as holding "traditional and stereotypic views of male-female relationships and are concerned with maintaining a masculine image" (p. 34). From these clinical observations, impulsivity or self-control emerges as an individual characteristic, fusion emerges as an interpersonal characteristic, and sex-role expectations emerges as a contextual variable.

Therefore, the first research question which was tested in this study was:

1. Could a significant proportion of variance in men's scores on conflict tactics (CTS2) be explained by the variance in the correlated scores of self-control, partner fusion, and marital egalitarianism?

$$Y_i = B_0 + B_1x_1 + B_2x_2 + B_3x_3 + E_{ij}$$

where Y_i = violent conflict tactics $i=[1,4]$

x_1 = self-control score

x_2 = partner fusion score

x_3 = marital egalitarianism score

E_{ij} = error

Family Violence Research Questions

From a family violence approach, both individual and interpersonal characteristics were examined through the framework of Murray Bowen's theory of differentiation. It was the belief of this author based on Bowen's framework and clinical observations (Coleman, 1980; Cook & Frantz-Cook, 1984; Elbow, 1977; Lansky, 1993; Star 1983) that those individuals who had a greater sense of control over their emotional reactivity and impulses and who had a greater balance of self as separate and connected to others would be less likely to be involved in violent relationships. It was hypothesized that those with greater control over emotional reactivity and higher levels of differentiation would be able to have mature and healthy relationships with open communication (Benson et al., 1993) and would not use violence as a means of gaining control, and mediating closeness and distance.

Based on the intrapsychic and interpersonal aspects of Murray Bowen's theory of differentiation and research studies on partner violence (Barnett & Hamberger, 1992; Bartle & Rosen, 1994; Bowen, 1966, 1974, 1976; Kerr & Bowen, 1988; Coleman, 1980; Papero, 1988; Rosen, Bartle-Haring & Stith, 1996; Star, 1983; Weitzman & Dreen, 1982):

2. Could a significant proportion of the variance in men's scores on conflict tactics (CTS2) be explained by the variance in self-control scores while controlling for partner fusion and marital egalitarianism scores?
3. Could a significant proportion of variance in men's scores on conflict tactics (CTS2) be explained by the variance in partner fusion scores while controlling for self control and marital egalitarianism scores?

Feminist Perspective Research Questions

From a feminist perspective, the contextual concept of gender inequality was examined by evaluating the extent to which egalitarian sex-role expectations relate to relationship violence. It was the belief of the author based on feminist theory that those individuals in egalitarian relationships would have a greater sense of gender equality and would be less likely to be involved in violent relationships. The following research questions were investigated in this study based on feminist theory:

Based on feminist theories of sex role egalitarianism and research studies on partner violence (Allen & Straus, 1980; Coleman & Straus, 1986; Crossman, Stith & Bender, 1990; Straus, 1980a; Straus, Gelles & Steinmetz, 1980):

4. Could a significant proportion of variance in men's scores on conflict tactics (CTS2) be explained by the variance in marital egalitarianism scores while controlling for self control and partner fusion scores?

Chapter Two

Literature Review

Introduction

The following review explores the literature for individual, interpersonal, and contextual characteristics of partner violence. The first part of this chapter includes an overview of empirical and/or qualitative research which has explored the dynamics of partner violence as well as literature exploring characteristics of male batterers. The literature on partner violence related to issues of self-control and partner fusion is explored through both qualitative, empirical, and clinical observational studies. For the feminist variable of marital egalitarianism, qualitative and empirical studies are reviewed. Finally, the chapter is concluded with a rationale for the study.

Empirical Overview of Partner Violence

In a comparison of two national surveys in 1975 and 1985, Straus and Gelles (1986) found that in 1975 of a nationally representative sample of 2,143 couples, there was a rate of 121 assaults of men towards their female partners per 1,000 couples. The 1985 survey revealed that in a nationally representative sample of 3,520 couples, there were 113 assaults of men towards their female partners per 1,000 couples. This decrease of 6.6% of overall violence was not

statistically significant. Severe violence, however, decreased by 26.6% between 1975 and 1985. While this figure came close, it was not statistically significant. Yet, this statistic translates into 432,000 fewer women who were beaten by their male partners which the authors suggest is an extremely important reduction. Furthermore, in a 1992 update to this study, which included a nationally representative sample of 1,970 married or cohabitating adults, Straus (1995) reported that severe violence of men towards their female partners had decreased by 48% from 1975 to 1992 which was found to be statistically significant.

Straus and Gelles (1986) suggest that such decreases could reflect a change in reporting behavior or a change in violent behavior. It is suggested that several factors may underlie such changes. First, changes in the family structure may contribute to such a decrease. Straus and Gelles (1986) suggest that American marriages becoming more egalitarian and an increased number of women entering the paid workforce may underlie such changes. Second, lowered economic stress in 1985 may have contributed to the decline in severe violence. Third, as women become more financially independent through paid employment, the imbalance of power between spouses becomes rectified and enables women to terminate a violent relationship more easily. In addition, battered women's shelters were more prevalent in 1985 than in 1975. Fourth, treatment programs for male batterers increased between 1975 and 1985. Finally, greater deterrence for abuse of women exists due to public awareness and the greater criminalization of such

violent acts.

There have been numerous studies over the past two decades which have examined partner violence from many perspectives. Hotaling and Sugarman (1986) conducted a comprehensive review of current research using 52 case-comparison studies and identified risk markers of batterer's characteristics, battered women's characteristics and couple characteristics. A risk marker is defined as "an attribute or characteristic that is associated with an increased probability to either the use of husband to wife violence, or the risk of being victimized by husband to wife violence" (Hotaling & Sugarman, 1986, p. 102). It is a predictor not a causal factor. The study differentiated between consistent and inconsistent risk markers as well as consistent non-risk markers. Consistent risk markers for couples included: verbal argument frequency, religious incompatibility, marital satisfaction, marital status and social class. Inconsistent couple risk markers included: educational incompatibility, occupational incompatibility, and length of the relationships. There were also a few consistent non-risk markers for couples which included: decision-making power and number of children.

Empirical Overview of Studies on Male Batterers

Until the early 1980's, much of the literature and research on spousal abuse focused on the battered woman (Caesar, 1988). In the last decade,

however, the literature on partner violence has begun to examine characteristics of male batterers. In Hotaling and Sugarman's (1986) analysis of risk markers, consistent risk markers for male batterers were: sexually aggressive toward partner, violence toward their children, witnessing violence as a child or adolescent, occupational status, alcohol usage, income, assertiveness, and educational level. There was only one consistent non-risk marker which was traditional sex-role expectations. Inconsistent risk markers were: experiencing violence as a child or adolescent, unemployment, criminal arrest record, self-esteem, age, and need for power/dominance. Because these latter risk markers were inconsistent, further research needs to be conducted to clarify the role these variables play in partner violence. For example, the need for power/dominance was found to be a significant risk marker in some studies and non-significant in others. Because men's need for power/dominance is such a frequently cited source of male violence by theorists, further qualitative or empirical research needs to be conducted on this variable to establish the validity of this assertion. One possible explanation for such an inconsistency, as mentioned earlier in Chapter One by Johnson (1995), is that perhaps there is not just one type of male violence. Some men may be motivated to use violence towards their partner as a means of maintaining power and dominance, while other men may become violent as a reaction to individual or interpersonal stresses, rather than a need for power/dominance.

In a study by Hastings and Hamberger (1988) personality characteristics of spouse abusers were examined. Participants were divided into two groups of either battering or non-battering and matched according to age. Batterers were further divided into two groups: 35 subjects categorized as non-alcohol batterers (NAB) and 29 subjects categorized as alcohol batterers (AB). Results indicate that compared to non-batterers, in general, batterers were more dysphoric and showed evidence of marked personality disorder, mood disturbance, and cognitive and affective disturbances approaching psychotic proportions. The authors of this study had three hypotheses which were supported. The first hypothesis was that batterers compared to non-batterers would show greater evidence of psychopathology. This was evidenced by non-batterers in several ways, some of which were being less alienated, less in need of approval, and less sensitive to rejection. The second hypothesis involved significant differences of batterer and non-batterer scores on specific subscales of the Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory (MCMI). This hypothesis was also supported in that batterers had higher elevations on measures of borderline symptoms and negativistic, passive-aggressive symptoms. It was found that:

compared to non-batterers, batterers are more moody, sullen, sensitive, and overreactive to rejection, and experience greater conflict and confusion about identity issues and control over affective states. Furthermore, batterers tend to report higher levels of anxiety, somatic complaints, and

depression than do non-batterers (Hastings & Hamberger, 1988, p. 43).

Finally, the third hypothesis was that batterers with alcohol abuse problems would indicate more problems of psychopathology compared to non-batterers. This hypothesis was also supported in that the differences related to personality disorders and problems seemed to be intensified when alcohol abuse was a problem for the batterer as well.

Family of origin violence is also often associated with batterers. Caesar (1988) conducted a study comparing family of origin violence of 26 battering men and 18 maritally non-violent men. Semi-structured interviews which were coded both qualitatively and quantitatively were used to assess exposure to violence in their family of origin. The research from this study indicates that the men who battered were more likely than non-batterers to have been abused as children and to have witnessed their father beating their mother. It was also found that batterers were more likely than non-batterers to have been disciplined through corporal punishment as children.

Family Violence Perspective: Self-Control and Level of Differentiation

Researchers have examined both individual and interpersonal characteristics of male-to-female violence. In a review of the current research, 97 potential risk markers for violence were identified which included both individual and relationship characteristics of men and women (Hotaling & Sugarman, 1986).

Few studies, however, explore the possible explanatory power of examining both individual and interpersonal or relationship characteristics simultaneously (Margolin, 1988). Because all individuals live both with themselves and in relationship with others, it seems appropriate to examine both individual and relationship variables together. Through clinical observations, Coleman (1980) examined characteristics of 33 conjugally violent men and discovered both individual and relationship characteristics to be significant related to the men's violence. Between 1977 - 1980, the men in this study attended a marriage and family clinic in the south to receive psychiatric assistance with their conjugal violence. Ages ranged from 23 to 44 years of age. The average subject was white, 31 years old, with a 12th grade education, two children and an annual family income of \$11,717. Through interviews and therapy sessions, several themes emerged. On an individual level, the men expressed difficulty in managing normal day-to-day stress and sought to maintain control until faced "with a situation they can no longer control or deny [which] leaves the men susceptible to a flood of emotions when crisis occurs . . . the act of violence assures them that there is at least one place where they have control and power" (Coleman, 1980, p. 211). Moreover, on an interpersonal level, the men expressed a relational characteristic which involved feelings of ambivalence about being dependent on their wives. These men concurrently "desired and feared intense fusions" with their partners (Coleman, 1980, p. 211).

Two variables emerge as significant through further clinical observations in studies assessing men who are violent towards their female partners: 1) difficulty maintaining control over their emotions and reactions and 2) not having a clear sense of self as separate in their partner relationships (Coleman, 1980; Elbow, 1977; Lansky, 1993). For the purposes of this study, the former was labeled as *self-control* and the latter relational or interpersonal variable was labelled *level of differentiation or fusion*. Lack of control over emotional reactivity coupled with low levels of differentiation appear to contribute to high levels of anxiety in reaction to normal day-to-day stresses which can be contained for a period of time, but may eventually erupt into violent acts as a means of achieving power and control (Coleman, 1980). In addition to these two themes, similar findings by Cook and Frantz-Cook (1984) in reviewing the literature on family violence emerge as significant. Two themes emerged in this literature review: 1) men can learn to control their violent behavior and 2) maintenance of a violent cycle may be due to lack of differentiation which is characterized by a complementary pattern of the partners whereby violence is used as a mechanism to regulate closeness-distance (Cook & Frantz-Cook, 1984).

Level of Self-Control and Violence. In a study by Shoda, Mischel, and Peake (1990), the authors followed-up 10 years later on a study which explored the ability to delay gratification or immediate satisfaction for the sake of future consequences in 653 preschool children during a period of 6 years between 1968

and 1974 at the Bing School of Stanford University. The average age of a child was four years and four months. Delay of gratification was assessed by seating the child in an experimental room with two objects, one being more preferred than another. For example, two marshmallows (preferred object) and one marshmallow (less preferred object). The experimenter instructed the child that s/he had to leave the room. If the child waited until s/he returned, the child would receive the preferred object. If not, they were instructed to ring a bell and the experimenter would return and the child would, at that time, be given the less preferred object. Ten years later, Shoda, Mischel, and Peake (1990) assessed these same children, who were now adolescents. Those who had been able to delay gratification in preschool were described by their parents as significantly more competent than those children who had not delayed gratification. In addition, an Adolescent Coping Questionnaire was administered to the adolescent participants. Those who had delayed gratification in preschool were rated, among several variables, as "more likely to exhibit self-control in frustrating situations"(Shoda, Mischel, & Peake, 1990). Shoda, Mischel, and Peake (1990) suggest that "the qualities that underlie effective self-imposed delay in preschool may be crucial ingredients of an expanded construct of 'intelligent social behavior' that encompasses social as well as intellectual knowledge, coping, and problem-solving competencies" (Shoda, Mischel, & Peake, 1990). Thus, adults who engage in violent behaviors could be construed as engaging in "un-intelligent" social

behavior. As this follow-up study indicates, those who are more inclined to impulsivity or an inability to delay gratification at an early age, may be more likely to be less self-controlled in adulthood and less likely to participate in the 'intelligent social behavior' of nonviolence.

While some of the literature on partner violence has focused on interpersonal control in relationships (Dutton & Browning, 1988; Rouse, 1990; Stets, 1988; 1993), little attention has focused on individual or self control elements in relation to partner violence. The question emerges as to whether or not people who become violent have a sense of control over their own actions or impulses compared to those individuals who are nonviolent. Studies of men who have a history of violent behavior suggest that impulsivity is often a characteristic of men who batter (e.g., Barnett & Hamberger, 1992; Buikhuisen et al., 1984; Star, 1983; Stermac, 1987). In a study of criminal behaviors, Buikhuisen et al. (1988) studied 82 male and female undergraduate students between the ages of 20-21 in the Netherlands to determine what variables might predispose a person to criminal behavior. Subjects who were violent offenders were characterized as highly impulsive. Another study by Stermac (1987) evaluated the effectiveness of a short-term cognitive-behavioral anger control intervention. There were forty subjects in this study who were all inpatients at the Metropolitan Toronto Forensic Service (METFORS) and had a history of anger control problems or aggressive behaviors. Subjects were randomly assigned to either a cognitive-

behavioral anger control group or a psychoeducational group. Subjects were assessed pre- and post-interventions on several measures, one of which was impulsivity using an impulsivity subscale of the Porteus Mazes-Vineland Revision. All subjects had high scores of impulsivity pre-intervention and lower scores of impulsivity post-intervention.

A study by Star (1983) was conducted to identify and examine community-based programs nationwide which offered alternatives to incarceration for perpetrators of family violence. 116 programs were included in the study sponsored by 111 different agencies. Telephone interviews were conducted to gather information on client characteristics as well as other variables. Counselors from these agencies who worked with spouse abusers described these individuals as impulsive and insecure among other characteristics.

Another study by Clow, Hutchins, and Vogler (1992) assessed a treatment program for spouse abusers involving five clients in 2-hour sessions for 10 weeks. An observation by the authors is that "actions seem to be taken without the moderating influence of thoughts. Without restraining themselves from brutish action, abusive men behave impulsively" (Clow, Hutchins, & Vogler, 1992, p. 79). Furthermore, the authors observe that "most offenders do not distinguish the difference between thoughts and feelings, which are dangerously fused and twisted in pre-violent situations" (Clow, Hutchins, & Vogler, 1992, p. 81). The purpose of this program was to help abusers increase intellectual or rational functioning to

control their violent behavior. In addition to this observational study, previous empirical research (in an unpublished doctoral dissertation of the first author), established that the rational or intellectual functioning of abusers was increased as a result of the treatment program which helped abusers to control their violent behavior.

Finally, a study by Barnett and Hamberger (1992) found self-control to be significant among several variables in distinguishing between violent and nonviolent men. In this study, 177 men were divided into three groups: 1) maritally violent, 2) maritally nonviolent, but discordant, and 3) maritally nonviolent, maritally satisfied. On ten of 18 scales of the California Personality Inventory, the men in the maritally violent group scored significantly lower than the latter two groups on several measures including self-control. The 38-item subscale of self-control measures the relationship between the "expression of impulse and the management of aggression" (Gough, 1968, p. 12). Those who have low scores on this scale are described as having a "quick and even explosive response to frustration or annoyance, and a tendency to react aggressively to threat or interference" (Gough, 1968, p. 12). In addition, a person with a low score is characterized as having "strong feelings and emotions, and mak[ing] little attempt to hide them; speak[ing] out when angry or annoyed" (Gough, 1987, p. 6). Furthermore, among several characteristics, "low-scorers are said to have slammed the door on leaving a room, cursed at their parents, [and] acted tough in front of

their friends" (Gough, 1987, p. 52). An ideal self-control score on this measure is a mid-range score. Those who score high are considered to exhibit over-control and too much suppression of impulse. Thus, "it is clear that the management of impulse and the control of hostility are problems for both high and low scorers" (Gough, 1968, p. 12). Stets (1988) found that when men who had been violent towards their female partners were able to learn to control their own behaviors and impulsivity, they learned to become nonviolent.

Psychological reactance theory proposes that when people perceive a threat to their personal freedom or autonomy, they react in a manner to counteract that threat to restore a sense of freedom (Hockenberry & Billingham, 1993). In a study by Hockenberry and Billingham (1993), with a sample of 213 undergraduate students between the ages of 17 and 23 from a human sexuality course, it was found that individuals with greater psychological reactance had higher levels of violence present in their intimate relationships. Although Bowen did not focus extensively on linking violent behavior to people's reactive tendencies, Bartle and Rosen (1994) conclude that it may be a reasonable assumption that violence could be an "exaggerated reactive tendency" (p. 225). In a pilot study, Bartle (1990) found that some adults and adolescents react to "emotion-evoking situations with their parents by slamming doors, throwing things, and becoming enraged. Thus, striking out at a person would also seem to be a possible response" (cited in Bartle & Rosen, 1994, p. 225). Therefore, in heterosexual relationships where a

man with a low level of self-control of emotional reactions is in an emotionally charged situation with his partner, becoming violent towards his partner may be the result.

Level of Differentiation and Violence: Studies on Differentiation. Greene and Mabee (1992) investigated Bowen's assertion that partners in problematic marriages are lower in differentiation of self and marital adjustment than partners in non-problematic marriages. This study consisted of seventy-one married couples in two different categories: clinical and nonclinical. Twenty-seven couples were included in the clinical category because they were currently involved in marital therapy at human service agencies. Forty-four couples were included in the nonclinical group and were recruited from churches and friends of friends. The two groups were assessed with the Differentiation of Self Scale and Marital Adjustment Test. Greene and Mabee (1992) found that people who were significantly lower in levels of differentiation were more maladjusted in their marriage compared to those who were higher in levels of differentiation confirming Bowen's notion that level of differentiation is related to level of functioning.

Some suggest that men and women have different needs in terms of closeness and separateness based on differences in earlier socialization which leads to conflict within the couple relationship (Marks, 1986; Gilligan, 1982; Smith, 1984). A study by Pollack and Gilligan (1982) administered the Thematic

Apperception Test to 88 male and 50 female primarily undergraduate students in a Human Motivation course at a northeastern university in the spring semester of 1979. According to this study, men had high anxiety about intimacy and viewed intimate relationships as "dangerous" (Pollack & Gilligan, 1982, p. 165) while women feared isolation in relationships. Marks labels this phenomena as "dependency-distancing" and suggests that men have a tendency toward emotional-distancing while women have a tendency toward fusion.

Level of Differentiation and Violence: Studies on Differentiation and Violence. In relationships where men batter women, few empirical studies have evaluated the relationship between differentiation and violence. However, some empirical studies have focused on attachment theory to better understand how love and violence are intertwined in hostile or violent relationships (Bartholomew & Horowitz, 1991; Pistole & Tarrant, 1993). In accordance with this theory, there may develop a fusion between self and partner where a person relies on his/her partner to fulfill a sense of security (Pistole & Tarrant, 1993). Along with this "merging" of self and partner, there is a lack of distinction or differentiation between self and partner which may prevent a person from recognizing harm s/he inflicts on another person and any remorseful feelings about that infliction of harm (Pistole & Tarrant, 1993). Murray Bowen's theory of differentiation of self involves a healthy or mature balance of a self which is both independent from and connected to others (Bartle & Rosen, 1994; Bowen, 1966; Papero, 1988). Based

on inferences from attachment theory, one could speculate that low levels of differentiation may be a key element as to why some men become hostile or violent towards the women they profess to love.

Citing several authors, Bartle and Rosen (1994) concluded that "healthy intimate relationships involve the struggle for both partners to have a sense of an 'I' within a 'we'. Without a strong sense of 'I' there is fusion. Without a strong sense of 'we' there is isolation" (p. 224). Based on multiple qualitative case studies, Bartle and Rosen explore the stories of women who were previously in abusive relationships. Inherent in these narratives is a lost "I" within a "we". In the study previously mentioned by Star (1983), there were two themes which emerged as part of interviews with counselors who work with spouse abusers across the country. First, batterers had little sense of their partners as separate from themselves and "individuation or any type of separation is threatening" (Star, 1983, p. 34). One counselor noted, "they are so tied to the relationship that they have no sense of the wife as a separate entity" (Star, 1983, p. 34). The second theme which emerged was that batterers "never learned to deal with emotional closeness and nonsexual intimacy" (Star, 1983, p. 35). Furthermore, "some counselors believe the men's ambivalence toward dependency comes out in anger and that violence helps the men avoid intimacy" (Star, 1983, p. 35).

Similarly, Currie (1983) describes a group work program for violent men which was initiated in September, 1980 by The Family Service Association of

Metropolitan Toronto. For nine weeks, the group met weekly for two hour sessions. The group was limited to 6-8 members and two co-leaders. The purpose of the groups was to "help members take responsibility for their behavior, stop violent behavior, and learn non-violent ways of coping with relationships" (Currie, 1983, p. 179). Three phases of treatment are outlined: beginning phase, middle phase, and termination. It was during the beginning phase that the authors observed a lack of differentiation which began to change as the men were "beginning to internalize responsibility for their own behavior and to experience themselves as separate individuals" (Currie, 1983, p. 183). During the middle phase, the authors suggested that "the partner was experienced as an extension of one's self. Thus, attempts to control the partner's behavior may, in part, be an attempt to have control over one's own life" (Currie, 1983, p. 185). Currie (1983) notes that participants saw their partners as extensions of themselves at the beginning of treatment and as separate individuals by the end.

Rosen, Bartle-Haring & Stith (1996) conducted a study involving 322 undergraduate students (260 females and 62 males) from two different universities who were enrolled in introductory human development courses and were currently involved in dating relationships. Questionnaires were distributed to participants involving information about demographic information, emotional reactivity towards parents, couple differentiation, potentially stressful life events, psychological symptoms, and violence in the family of origin and current dating

relationship. This study found level of differentiation within a couple to be the strongest predictor of partner violence. Higher levels of differentiation were correlated with lower levels of current violence. Their findings suggest that the degree to which a couple manages the delicate balance between connection and autonomy is indicative of current levels of violence. For those who do not have a healthy balance of togetherness and autonomy, anxiety may arise in striving to balance the two (Papero, 1988). Excessive emotional distance creates anxiety about abandonment while excessive closeness creates anxiety about loss of autonomy.

In clinical observations of treatment groups for men who batter women, Dutton and Browning (1988) found two themes which contributed to the occurrence of violence/aggression: 1) when the man felt he was losing power or control to the woman on an important issue and 2) when that important issue was "the degree of intimacy or socioemotional distance in the relationship" (p. 164). Dutton and Browning (1988) suggest that based on sex role socialization in which men are taught that it is not masculine to feel "vulnerable and powerless", anxiety may result in intimacy with women. This study found that changes in intimacy which were out of the control of the man were what provoked anxiety. Changes either toward more intimacy or toward independence were both threatening to these men if they were not the ones initiating these changes.

Feminist Perspective: Egalitarianism as a Measure of Gender Equality in Relationships

Socialization of men's and women's gender roles or sex roles occurs on a continuum from traditional or patriarchal to more modern or egalitarian. Research on traditional sex-role expectations in violent relationships has rendered contradictory and inconsistent findings (Hotaling & Sugarman, 1986). While some studies indicate that traditional sex role expectations contribute to partner violence (Bernard et al., 1985; Coleman et al. 1980; Hillier & Foddy, 1993; Sugarman and Hotaling, 1989; Telch and Lindquist, 1984; Thompson, 1991), other studies indicate no relationship between traditional sex-role expectations and relationship violence (Gellen et al., 1984; Rosenbaum & O'Leary, 1981; Sugarman & Hotaling, 1989). In a comprehensive review of the literature on partner violence, Hotaling and Sugarman (1986) suggest that a possible explanation of this inconsistency is that "sex role inequality may be so pervasive in American society that indicators of male power and female powerlessness are not capable of distinguishing violent from nonviolent men" (p. 119). Therefore, instead of using traditional sex-role expectations as a measure of gender inequality as it relates to partner violence, this study examined the other end of the continuum and measured egalitarian sex role expectations or attitudes as a measure of gender equality. While the literature on sex role egalitarianism and violence also contains some inconsistent findings, egalitarianism is not as "pervasive" as traditional sex

role attitudes, and therefore, was less problematic in interpreting results compared to more traditional attitudes.

Hotaling and Straus (1980) suggested that there is a distinction between egalitarian situations and egalitarian attitudes. In *situations* where egalitarian norms are emerging and women are adopting more egalitarian attitudes, men may feel threatened by a loss of power and a new unfamiliar power structure. However, in relationships where both men and women possess egalitarian *attitudes* and believe in sharing power and decision-making, there will be less threat of violence. This is not to say that egalitarian relationships are free of conflict, however, these relationships tend to be more resilient to handling conflict in a non-violent manner (Coleman & Straus, 1990). While conflict is a natural consequence of relationships, violence is not (Coleman & Straus, 1986). Pence and Paymar (1993) describe a 26-week intervention model for working with abusive men. In order to help these men become nonviolent, they are encouraged to move from power and control relationships where one partner is dominant over the other, to egalitarian relationships. One of the primary goals of this program is to have the men examine deeply rooted beliefs and create long-term change in those beliefs.

Egalitarian couples have been characterized as having the highest level of agreement in regard to power in their relationship and the lowest level of both conflict and violence (Coleman & Straus, 1986). A study by Coleman and Straus

(1986) examined the power structure of a nationally representative sample of 2,143 American couples who were interviewed in January and February of 1976. All couples were either married or cohabitating. Based on the couples' responses to questions derived from Blood and Wolfe's (1960) work regarding decision-making patterns of couples, the couples were categorized into one of the following four categories: equalitarian, male-dominant, female-dominant, divided power. The purpose of the study was to determine how those power structures and consensus about the power structure of the relationships related to the occurrence of conflict and/or mild/moderate violence in the relationship (this study did not assess severe forms of violence). Equalitarian and divided power types differ in that equalitarian relationships share power and decision-making, while divided power relationships divide responsibility for decisions and power such that the woman has power and final authority over some domains in the relationship while the man has power and final authority over other domains. This study found a strong relationship between power structure, consensus of power structure, level of conflict, and violence such that equalitarian relationships were characterized as having the highest levels of consensus about power structure and the lowest levels of conflict and mild/moderate violence while male-dominant relationships had the lowest levels of consensus about power structure and had the highest levels of conflict and mild/moderate violence. Similarly, in another study, a significant correlation was found between working-class men who were low on resources

(which was equated with power in the relationship) and higher levels of violence due to their need to maintain a superior position in their intimate relationships with women (Allen & Straus, 1980).

While power differentials create conflict which may lead to violence, studies indicate that in egalitarian relationships, where both partners possess egalitarian attitudes and power and decision-making is shared between partners, there is a lower incidence of violence (Rust & Phillips, 1984; 1985; Straus, 1980a; Straus, Gelles & Steinmetz, 1980). A study by Straus (1980a) consisted of a nationally representative sample of 2,143 adults between the ages of 18 and 70 years who were either married to or living with a partner and were interviewed between January and February, 1976. The purpose of the study was to examine the relationship between stress and violence in American families. It was found in this study that men who felt that men should have the final say in most family decisions had an assault rate of 288% higher than men who were not committed to a male-dominant power structure. In addition, those men under high stress who did have the final say in most decisions in the family had an assault rate of 16.1 per 100 compared to 5.2 per 100 who were also under high stress but shared decisions with their partners (Straus, 1980a). Using the same nationally representative sample as Straus (1980a), Straus, Gelles, and Steinmetz (1980) examined the relationship between decision-making power and violence. Decision-making was measured using Blood and Wolfe's (1960) Decision Power

Index. In this study, it was found that "wife-beating is much more common in homes where power is concentrated in the hands of the husband. The least amount of battering occurs in democratic households" (Straus, Gelles, & Steinmetz, 1980, p. 192-193). Democratic households are defined as households where decisions are shared. The lowest rate of abuse of either the husband or the wife was found to be in homes where most decisions were shared (Straus, Gelles, & Steinmetz, 1980).

Similarly, in a study by Rust and Phillips (1984) college students' perceptions of their parents' spouse abuse and conjugal power were assessed. The sample in this study consisted of 366 undergraduate students from psychology courses who volunteered for the study. Level of violence was measured through the Conflict Tactics Scale, conflict resolution techniques were assessed through a series of questions based on recollections, and conjugal power was measured by the Bahr, Bowerman, and Geca's (1974) questionnaire (Rust & Phillips, 1984). The homes where parents were characterized as nonabusive were statistically significantly (at the .014 level) more likely to also be characterized as sharing power equally. In addition, a study by Rust and Phillips (1985) examined perceptions of 454 undergraduate college students from divorced and intact homes of their perceptions of their parents' marriages in terms of division of power and abusiveness using similar measures to their 1984 study. Those students who reported nonabusive spousal relationships between their parents were significantly

more likely to report a more equal division of power within their parents' marriage. Contrary to these findings, however, a study by Allen and Straus (1980) found that with middle class men and working-class men high in resources, violence was not correlated with male power. For working class men low on resources, violence was correlated with a desire for male power due to a need to maintain a superior position to their female partners. In addition, Hauser (1982) examined the relationship between resources, familial power, and spouse abuse and found no support for their hypothesis that couples where women have higher resources and men have greater power in family decision-making will be more likely to be physically abusive.

Because power is shared, egalitarian relationships are characterized by a balance of power where there is no competition for dominance. In examining marital satisfaction, Blood and Wolfe (1960) discovered that as joint or shared decision-making increased, so did women's satisfaction with the marriage. One explanation of this correlation is that shared decisions generally reflect the needs of both partners (Blood & Wolfe, 1960). As mentioned earlier, egalitarian couples are not immune to conflict, but seem to know how to manage conflict and prevent it from escalating into violence. It is suggested that egalitarian relationships are characterized by more open communication and greater negotiation skills which may contribute to better conflict resolution tactics (Coleman & Straus, 1990). Brown (1990) suggests that egalitarian couples have

less violence because conflict is accepted as a natural consequence with two different individuals who may, at times, have different opinions. Since partners in these relationships have equitable rights, they each have legitimate views and have the right to have their opinions heard. For some, this conflict may lead to divorce, but this seems to be a more desirable outcome than physical violence (Brown, 1990).

In examining the relationship between violence and sex-role egalitarianism, Crossman, Stith, and Bender (1990) conducted a study involving 115 men in substance abuse treatment programs and anger control programs in the Northern Virginia area. Questionnaires were distributed to participants involving questions of approval of marital violence, conflict tactics, sex role egalitarianism, and social desirability. Participants were also given an alcoholism screening test. While these researchers did not find a significant relationship between egalitarian attitudes and "minor" acts of violence, they did find a significant negative relationship between egalitarian attitudes and "severe" forms of violence. Similarly, Stith and Farley (1993) conducted a study involving 115 men in substance abuse treatment programs and anger control programs in the Northern Virginia area. This study conducted a path analysis using one exogenous variable of observing marital violence during childhood and five endogenous variables of acceptability of marital violence, level of marital stress, level of sex-role egalitarianism, level of alcoholism and level of self-esteem. Among other findings,

egalitarian attitudes were found to have both direct and indirect effects on the use of "severe" forms of violence in relationships. Egalitarian attitudes were found to have a negative correlation with severe violence such that as attitudes became more egalitarian, severe violence decreased. In addition, there was an indirect negative relationship between egalitarian attitudes and violence which depended on approval of marital violence. Furthermore, observation of violence as a child had a direct negative effect on sex role egalitarianism.

While most studies measuring the relationship between egalitarianism and violence assess partners' perceptions, some have focused on children's perceptions or recollections of their parents' marriage as a measure of this relationship (Rust & Phillips, 1984; 1985; Tellis-Nayak, 1982). Rust and Phillips (1984) and (1985), which were described previously in more detail, assessed college students' recollections and perceptions of spouse abuse in their parents' marriages and their findings indicated that egalitarian marriages in which power and decision making was shared were nonabusive. Thus, children's perceptions confirm the earlier findings which indicate that equalitarian relationships are characterized by lower levels of violence.

Summary

Violence is a very complex issue which must be comprehensively examined at multiple levels. Few studies have examined male-to-female partner violence at

an individual, interpersonal, and contextual level. In addition, previous research of partner fusion and self-control of male batterers has primarily involved clinical observations which has been interesting and provided valuable information. Further research studies are needed using rigorous quantitative or qualitative research methods to build upon these findings and further contribute to the understanding of partner violence. Furthermore, while there is more research literature on sex-role egalitarianism and violence than the other variables, many findings are inconsistent. It was the purpose of this study to examine male-to-female partner violence on multiple levels and to provide empirical data on the variables included in this study.

Chapter Three

Method

Participants

The sample for this study consisted of men from the Richmond and Roanoke/Blacksburg, Virginia areas who were between the ages of 18 and 71. This nonrandom sample was drawn from nine men's anger management groups, three church men's groups (Baptist, Methodist, and Catholic), one civic group, two counseling centers, a collegiate men's soccer team, and a court services unit. All members of the selected groups were invited to voluntarily participate in the study and there was no penalty to group members for non-participation.

A total of 144 men participated in the study. Of the 144 participants, data were used from 133 participants. Data from 11 of the men were discarded due to failure to complete the instruments or invalid responses. In order to be included in the study, respondents had to respond to 70% of the questions in each scale.

Data Collection

Through professional and personal contacts, the author received referrals to leaders of men's anger management groups, church groups, a civic group, counseling centers, a court services unit, and a men's collegiate soccer team in the areas of Richmond and Roanoke/Blacksburg, Virginia. These leaders were

contacted by phone and informed about the study. Some of the leaders requested copies of the instruments which were either mailed, faxed, or hand-delivered. Any questions or concerns leaders had were answered by the author. The leaders then asked groups to participate in the study. There was no penalty to group members who did not wish to participate. The author attended most of the groups and administered the questionnaires personally and answered any questions participants had regarding the study. Because the counseling centers and court services units were not formal groups which met regularly, but individual clients who sought the services from these agencies, those questionnaires were administered by the individual clinicians of those agencies. Two of the church groups had questionnaires administered by the groups leaders. Data collection took place from the end of June through mid-September, 1997.

A cover letter (Appendix A) along with a three part packet was distributed to all participants as part of this study. Part I of the packet included a consent form (Appendix B) which identified the parameters of the study and assured the participants' confidentiality. A second copy of the consent form was included for the participants' records. Part II of the packet included a demographic questionnaire (Appendix C). Part III of the packet included a questionnaire consisting of items from the Spousal Fusion (SPFUS) Scale of the Personal Authority in the Family System Questionnaire (PAFS-Q) (Appendix D), the Marital Roles Scale of the Sex Role Egalitarianism Scale (SRES) (Appendix E),

The Self-Control (Sc) Scale of the California Psychological Inventory (CPI) (Appendix F), and the Revised Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS2) not including the Sexual Coercion Scale (See Appendix G).

Upon completing the three parts of the packet, participants were asked to put the signed informed consent in one envelope and the rest of the packet in another envelope to ensure confidentiality. It was explained as part of the informed consent to participants, that all questionnaires and informed consents were numbered in the top right hand corner. The numbers were to ensure that with each questionnaire, there was an informed consent. It was further explained that the questionnaires and informed consent forms would not be rematched in any form or fashion to maintain confidentiality of participants.

Instrumentation

California Psychological Inventory (CPI). The CPI was originally assembled in 1951 and consisted of 548 items with 15 subscales. In 1956, it was revised and included 18 subscales with 480 items. The self-control scale (Sc) of the CPI was used in this study. It was one of three subscales added to the instrument in 1956. Originally, this scale had 50 items, but in 1987 the CPI was again revised and the Sc now contains 38 items (12 items were simply dropped from the original scale). The correlation between the 50-item old version of the scale and the 38 item new version of the scale is .98. The Sc subscale contains 38

true/false items and measures the relationship between the "expression of impulse and the management of aggression" (Gough, 1968, p. 12). Those who have low scores on this scale are described as having a "quick and even explosive response to frustration or annoyance, and a tendency to react aggressively to threat or interference" (Gough, 1968, p. 12). In addition, a person with a low score is characterized as having "strong feelings and emotions, and mak[ing] little attempt to hide them; speak[ing] out when angry or annoyed" (Gough, 1987, p. 6). Furthermore, among several characteristics, "low-scorers are said to have slammed the door on leaving a room, cursed at their parents, [and] acted tough in front of their friends" (Gough, 1987, p. 52). An ideal self-control score on this measure is a mid-range score. Those who score high are considered to exhibit over-control and too much suppression of impulse. Thus, "it is clear that the management of impulse and the control of hostility are problems for both high and low scorers" (Gough, 1968, p. 12).

For reliability scores, internal consistency (alpha) correlations were calculated for each of the subscales. The Sc subscale has an internal consistency of .81 for males and .78 for females with a total internal consistency alpha of .80. Test re-test correlations were calculated as .76 for males and .72 for females. Validity was established through factor analysis and correlations with similar scales. The Sc subscale had moderate but "not disturbingly high correlations with response-set measures such as those for social desirability and favorability of self-

description" (Gough, 1987, p. 48) except for the Good Impression (Gi) subscale which had a correlation of .83 with the Sc subscale. Gough (1987) suggests that high scorers on the Sc subscale are "strongly motivated to win the acceptance and approval of others, whereas low-scorers tend to view such approval with indifference" (Gough, 1987, p. 48). Numerous correlations were conducted with several other scales or instruments. Some of those calculations include the following correlations with high scores on the Sc: -.74 with impulse expression, -.64 with aggression, -.53 with impulsivity, -.48 with impulsive, -.56 with neuroticism, .53 with emotional stability and -.56 with tense.

Personal Authority in the Family System Questionnaire (PAFS-Q). The PAFS-Q is a measurement instrument which consists of seven scales: Spousal Fusion/Individuation, Intergenerational Fusion/Individuation, Spousal Intimacy, Intergenerational Intimacy, Nuclear Family Triangulation, Intergenerational Triangulation, and Intergenerational Intimidation. Because the focus of this study was to measure level of differentiation between partners, only scale one, the Spousal Fusion/Individuation (SPFUS) was used in this study. This scale contains twenty items with a 5-point Likert scale and measures the degree to which an individual operates in a fused or differentiated manner within his/her couple relationship. Scores on this scale range from 20-100 with a lower score indicating greater fusion and a higher score indicating greater differentiation.

Bray et al. (1984) assessed the reliability of the SPFUS scale by computing the internal consistency at Time 1 and Time 2. Cronbach's alpha was estimated to be .92 at Time 1 and .87 at Time 2. In addition, the test-retest reliability estimate was calculated to be .70. Construct validity was established through a factor analysis with the exception of an overlap between the SPFUS and the Spousal Intimacy Scale.

Sex-Role Egalitarianism Scale (SRES). The SRES was developed by Beere, King, Beere, and King (1984) measures sex-role attitudes of respondents through five, 19-item, five point Likert type scales which represent roles adults may assume in relationships: marital roles, parental roles, employee roles, social-interpersonal-heterosexual roles, and educational roles. Scores on each scale range from 19-95 with a higher score indicating greater levels of egalitarian sex-role attitudes. For this study, the items which measure marital roles were used to measure sex-role attitudes in partner relationships, and will be referred to from hereafter as marital egalitarianism. According to Beere, King, Beere, and King (1984), sex-role egalitarianism is defined as "an attitude that causes one to respond to another individual independently of the other individual's sex" (p. 564). Marital roles are defined as "beliefs about the equality or inequality of husbands and wives regarding various aspects of their relationships to each other and the maintenance of their home life; it does not include statements pertaining to their

roles as parents" (p. 564).

Reliability was assessed by comparing alternate forms of the SRES. A Spearman-Brown coefficient of internal consistency reliability was calculated for each subscale. For the marital domain, the coefficient was .932. To measure stability, the scales were administered twice with a 3-4 week interval. The coefficient of stability was .85 on each form for the marital domain. Finally, the coefficient of equivalence for the marital domain was .88. The correlation between the two alternate forms on the overall scale was .93. Beere, King, Beere, and King (1984) suggest that construct validity was established through the coefficients of reliability, stability, and equivalence. The authors further contend that content or "face" validity was established because each of the five domains measured the particular adult roles they intended to measure.

Revised Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS2). The CTS2 was developed by Straus et al. (1996) and is a revision of the original Conflict Tactics Scale (Straus, 1979). This instrument was used to measure "both the extent to which partners in a dating, cohabitating, or marital relationship engage in psychological and physical attacks on each other and also their use of reasoning or negotiation to deal with conflicts" (Straus et al., 1996, p. 283). The CTS2 has five subscales two of which were used in this study. Those scales include: Physical assault and physical injury. The *physical assault scale* is defined as "the use of physical force against another

person as a means of resolving the conflict"(Straus, 1979, p. 77) and consists of 12 items. The coercive acts in this scale range from verbal insistence to physical force (Straus et al., 1996). The *physical injury scale* is defined as a measure of "partner-inflicted physical injury, as indicated by bone or tissue damage, a need for medical attention, or pain continuing for a day or more" (Straus et al., 1996, p. 290) and consists of six items.

Responses range from zero to seven indicating frequency of an incident. A score of zero indicates that such an incident has never occurred, a score of one indicates that it has occurred once in the past year, a score of two indicates it has occurred twice in the past year, a score of three indicates that it has occurred three to five times in the past year, a score of four indicates it has occurred 6-10 times in the past year, a score of five indicates it has occurred 11-20 times in the past year and a score of six indicates it has occurred more than 20 times in the past year. A score of seven indicates that such an incident has not occurred in the past year, but that such an incident did occur before that.

The CTS2 scales proved to have good internal consistency with alpha reliability coefficients ranging from .79 - .95. The alpha reliability coefficients for the individual scales used in this study are as follows: Physical assault= .86 and physical injury= .95. Construct validity was established by high correlations between related constructs. For example, a high correlation was found between the related constructs of physical assault and injury. Research indicates that

women sustain greater physical injury from assaults by men than men sustain by assaults from women. There was a higher correlation between physical assault and injury for men ($r = .87$) than for women ($r = .29$). Finally, using the control theory of crime in which people who lack "integration into conventional society are more likely to engage in crime" (Straus et al., 1996, p. 301), those with low scores on a social integration scale were negatively correlated with higher levels of physical assault ($r = -.29$) which further contributes to construct validity.

Scoring of Instruments

Because there were some missing data throughout the responses to the questionnaires, mean scores of individual responses were calculated rather than total or sum scores for each scale. Thus, if a participant did not answer a particular question, the mean score for that scale was based on the number of questions to which he did respond. In order to be included in the study, respondents had to respond to at least 70% of the questions in each scale.

Self-Control Scale of the California Psychological Inventory. A mean score was computed for this 38-item true-false scale where a value of "0" was assigned to a "true" response and a value of "1" was assigned to a "false". Because not all of the items were stated in a negative or positive direction, five items of the scale needed to be reverse coded to assure a single direction scale. This was accomplished by subtracting the raw score from 1. Those with mean scores closer

to 1 were considered to be higher in self-control compared to those with scores closer to 0.

Spousal Fusion Scale of the Personal Authority in the Family System - Questionnaire. A mean score was computed for this 20-item scale with responses ranging from 1 (strongly agree) to 5 (strongly disagree). Because not all of the items were stated in a negative or positive direction, five items of the scale needed to be reverse coded to assure a single direction scale. This was accomplished by subtracting the raw score from six. Thus, mean scores ranged from 1-5. Those participants with mean scores closer to 1 were considered to be fused with their partners compared to those with scores closer to 5 who were considered to be better differentiated from their partners.

Sex Role Egalitarianism Scale. The marital roles subscale of the Sex Role Egalitarianism Scale was used in this study. A mean score was computed for this 19-item subscale with responses ranging from 1 (strongly agree) to 5 (strongly disagree). Because the items were stated in both positive and negative directions, 23 of the 57 total items required reverse coding to assure a single direction scale by subtracting the raw score from six. Scores, therefore, ranged from 1-5, where a score closer to 5 indicated more egalitarian attitudes and scores closer to 1 indicated less egalitarian attitudes.

Revised Conflict Tactics Scale. Mean scores of the physical assault and physical injury scales of Revised Conflict Tactics Scales were computed. Response

categories range from 0-7, with 0 indicating that the incident occurred 0 times in the past year, 1 indicating that it occurred once in the past year, 2 indicating that it occurred twice in the past year, 3 indicating that it occurred three to five times in the past year, 4 indicating that it occurred six to 10 times in the past year, 5 indicating that it occurred 11-20 times in the past year, and 6 indicating that it occurred more than 20 times in the past year. A score of 7 indicates that while the incident did not occur in the past year, it has happened in the past. These raw scores were then converted to midpoints for the response categories chosen by the participant. The midpoints are the same as the response category numbers for Categories 0, 1, and 2. For Category 3 (3-5 times) the midpoint is 4, for Category 4 (6-10 times) it is 8, for Category 5 (11-20 times) it is 15, and for Category 6 (more than 20 times in the past year) [the authors] recommend using 25 as the midpoint (Straus et al., 1996, p. 305). For category 7, a score of 0 is assigned since that act did not occur within the past year. The usefulness of this response category will be explained below. Thus, mean scores range from 0-25.

An additional variable of prevalence was computed for each scale. The *prevalence variable* is the "percentage of the sample who reported one or more instances of the acts in each scale" (Straus et al., 1996, p. 296). The purpose of this variable is to obtain a relationship prevalence measure of physical assault -- that is, did an assault ever occur in the relationship? It is with this variable that response Category 7 is useful. The prevalence variable is a 0-1 dichotomy,

respondents who answer 1-7 are scored as 1 (yes) and those who answer 0 are scored as 0 (no). (Straus et al., 1996, p. 305).

Data Analysis

The first step of the data analysis consisted of reliability analyses of each scale. Inter-item correlation matrices were examined and Cronbach's alpha reliability coefficients, measuring internal consistency, were calculated for each scale to determine the reliability of the measurement instruments for the sample in this study. The reliability estimates are as follows: Marital Roles Scale, $\alpha=.76$; Spousal Fusion Scale, $\alpha=.67$; Self-control Scale, $\alpha=.85$; Physical Injury Scale, $\alpha=.82$; and Physical Assault Scale, $\alpha=.78$.

Once reliability of each scale was established, descriptive analyses (frequencies, means, standard deviations, and ranges) were calculated to describe the data. As mentioned earlier, all scale scores were entered as mean item response scores and violence prevalence scores are dichotomous 0-1 variables which occur on a continuum with a score of 0 indicating no acts of violence occurred in the history of the relationship and 1 indicates that at least one of the violent acts in the scale occurred in the history of the relationship. A correlation matrix was examined and collinearity diagnostics were calculated to assess the relationship between variables and to check for multicollinearity (See p.80). It was determined from these analyses that multicollinearity was not a problem.

A series of multiple regression analyses (MRA) were employed to determine the relationship between the four sets of violence scores (physical injury mean scale scores, physical injury prevalence scores, physical assault mean scale scores, and physical assault prevalence scores) of each participant and the three predictor variables (self-control, marital egalitarianism, and spousal fusion). These variables were entered into four overall regression analyses (one for each of the four violence variables) using multiple linear regression (see p. 81). In order to keep the Type I error rate below .10, alpha was set at the .05 level of significance yielding an experiment-wise Type I error rate = .07. These analyses tested the hypotheses outlined for the study.

Since the anger management groups were chosen specifically because of their past violent behavior, it was decided to compare this group to all other groups. In order to expand our understanding of the processes involved in violence, the following analyses ensued: First, the scores of the anger management group were compared to the scores of all others on the three independent variables and the four dependent variables by using an overall Hotelling's T, and then examining the univariate results (see p. 85). Second, if there were significant differences between the two groups, it was decided that the regression analyses would be run again, this time including a group membership variable (DUMMY) which would be scored as "0" for the Other group and "1" for the Anger group (see p. 91). Additionally, interaction between the group variable

and each of the independent variables would also be included in the analysis.

Finally, if there were any significant interaction effects, then simple main effects would be tested by running regressions for the two groups separately, for the purpose of understanding the nature of the interactions (see p. 97).

Chapter Four

Research Findings

The purpose of this study was to take a more comprehensive approach than previous studies on partner violence by combining both a "family violence" microsystem perspective and a "feminist" macrosystem perspective in examining partner violence where men are violent towards women. Violence against women by men was assessed on the individual (self control), interpersonal (partner fusion), and cultural/contextual levels (marital egalitarianism) in order to contribute to a multi-level assessment of partner violence. The specific null hypothesis tested in this study assumed no relationship between men's use of violent conflict tactics and self-control, partner fusion, and marital egalitarianism. The alternative research hypothesis suggested that a regression model could predict men's violent conflict tactics from self-control, partner fusion, and marital egalitarianism scores.

The initial model tested was:

$$Y_i = B_0 + B_1x_1 + B_2x_2 + B_3x_3 + E_{ij}$$

where Y_i = violent conflict tactics $i=[1,4]$

x_1 = self-control score

x_2 = partner fusion score

x_3 = marital egalitarianism score

E_{ij} = error

Descriptive information regarding participants' responses on demographic variables will be presented first in this chapter. Next, the results of the overall regression analyses will be discussed. Due to the different types of groups involved in this sample, once this overall multiple regression was completed, t-tests were conducted to see if there were differences between groups on any of the variables. The results of those t-tests are then discussed. Finally, a model was built which best described the relationship between the predictor variables and the outcome variables in this study. The model building was approached through a series of multiple regression analyses. Findings from these analyses are then presented.

Description of the Sample

Due to constraints of time, money and access, a nonrandom voluntary sample was used in this study. Attempts were made to make the sample as representative of the population at large as possible by having men from a variety of places participate in the study. A demographic questionnaire (see Appendix - C) was administered to 133 men over the age of 18 in the Richmond and Roanoke/Blacksburg, Virginia areas. Men from anger management groups, church groups, clinical populations, a collegiate athletic team, a civic group, and a court services unit were included in this sample.

Age. Participants ranged in age from 18-71 (see Table 1) with a mean of 33 and a standard deviation of 11.54.

Length of Relationship. The length of participants' relationships ranged from 1 month to 50 years with a mean of 8.6 years and a standard deviation of 10.43. Three participants did not answer this question which is recorded as missing data (See Table 1).

Education Level. Participants' highest level of education completed was reported as: 8.3% less than high school, 54.9% as high school, 11.3% as associate's degree, 19.5% as college degree, and 5.3% as graduate degree. One participant did not answer this question and this is recorded as missing data (see Table 2).

Income Level. Approximate family income for 1996 was reported as: 20.3% had incomes of less than \$19,999 per year, 24.0% had incomes between \$20,000 and \$39,999 per year, 22.6% had incomes between \$40,000 and \$59,999 per year, 8.3% had incomes between \$60,000 and \$79,999 per year, 9.8% had incomes between \$80,000 and \$99,999 per year, and 9.0% had incomes of \$100,000 per year or above (See Table 3).

Group Affiliation. The data were collected from six types of groups. The percentage of participants affiliated with each type of group was as follows: 47.4% were in anger management groups, 8.3% were in a civic group, 7.5% were clients from counseling centers, 16.5% were in men's church groups, 17.3% were

on a men's collegiate athletic team, and 3.0% were from a court services unit (See Table 4).

Location. The percentage of participants from each of two main geographical locations was as follows: 40.6% from the Richmond area and 59.4% from the Roanoke/Blacksburg area (See Table 5).

Overall Multiple Linear Regression Analysis

An overall multiple linear regression analysis was employed to examine the relationship between use of violent conflict resolution tactics and self-control, partner fusion, and marital egalitarianism. Four separate multiple regression analyses were calculated using the four dependent measures of violence (physical assault mean scale score, physical assault prevalence variable, physical injury mean scale score, and physical injury prevalence variable) which were each regressed on the predictor variables (self-control, partner fusion, and marital egalitarianism) using least squares multiple linear regression.

Descriptive information regarding participants' responses on each of the predictor variables is presented in Table 6. For self-control, the absolute range of scores is 0-1, with a score of one indicating higher levels of self-control. The Self Control scale measures the relationship between the "expression of impulse and the management of aggression" (Gough, 1968, p. 12). Those who have low scores on this scale are described as having a "quick and even explosive response to

Table 1

Means and Standard Deviations for Age and Length of Relationship of Participants

<u>Variable</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>n</u>
Age	32.86	11.54	132
Length of Relationship	8.63	10.43	130

Table 2

Education Level Frequencies

Education Level	<i>f</i>	%
Less than high school	11	8.3
High school	73	54.9
Associate's degree	15	11.3
College degree	26	19.5
Graduate degree	7	5.3
No answer/missing data	1	.8
Total	133	100.0

Table 3

Income Level Frequencies

Income Level	<i>f</i>	%
Less than \$19,999/yr	27	20.3
\$20,000 - \$39,999/yr	32	24.1
\$40,000 - \$59,999/yr	30	22.6
\$60,000 - \$79,999/yr	11	8.3
\$80,000 - \$99,999/yr	13	9.8
Over \$100,000/yr	12	9.0
No answer/missing data	8	6.0
Total	133	100.0

Table 4

Group Affiliation Frequencies

Group Affiliation	<i>f</i>	%
Anger Management	63	47.4
Civic	11	8.3
Clinical	10	7.5
Church	22	16.5
Collegiate Athletic Team	23	17.3
Court Services Unit	4	3.0
Total	133	100.0

Table 5

Location Frequencies

Location	<i>f</i>	%
Richmond Area	54	40.6
Roanoke/Blacksburg Area	79	59.4
Total	133	100.0

Table 6

Means and Standard Deviations for Each Predictor Variable

Predictor Variable	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>n</u>
Self-Control	.53	.19	133
Partner Fusion	3.38	.46	133
Marital Egalitarianism	3.74	.44	133

frustration or annoyance, and a tendency to react aggressively to threat or interference" (Gough, 1968, p. 12). In addition, a person with a low score is characterized as having "strong feelings and emotions, and mak[ing] little attempt to hide them; speak[ing] out when angry or annoyed" (Gough, 1987, p. 6). Furthermore, among several characteristics, "low-scorers are said to have slammed the door on leaving a room, cursed at their parents, [and] acted tough in front of their friends" (Gough, 1987, p. 52). Some examples of questions from this scale are: "I am often said to be hotheaded"; "At times I feel like picking a fist fight with someone"; and "I often act on the spur of the moment without stopping to think".

For partner fusion, the range of item score values is 1-5 with a score closer to one indicating more partner fusion and a score closer to five indicating less partner fusion and more differentiation. Bowen (1966) suggests that when a person holds his/her partner "responsible for his [sic] self and happiness" (p.360), that person is undifferentiated or fused with his/her partner. Fused relationships involve highly dependent individuals who have little sense of self independent from their partners. Differentiation, on the other hand, involves developing a sense of self which is separate from and at the same time connected to one's partner. Some examples of questions in this scale are: "I have difficulty attending most social events without my mate"; "I worry that my mate cannot take care of himself/herself when I am not around"; and "My mate and I are **always** very close

to each other".

For marital egalitarianism, the range of item score values was 1-5 with higher scores indicating more egalitarian attitudes. Marital egalitarianism involves beliefs about the equality "of husbands and wives regarding various aspects of their relationships to each other and the maintenance of their home life; it does not include statements pertaining to their roles as parents" (Beere, King, Beere, and King, 1984, p. 564). Some examples of questions in this scale are: "Most wives are able to handle the family finances as well as their husbands"; "A wife's career should be of equal importance to her husband's"; and "A husband has to be more willing than a wife to adapt in a marriage".

Descriptive information regarding participants' responses on each of the criterion variables is presented in Table 7. For the mean scale scores, the range is 0-25 with higher scores indicating that more acts of violence occurred in the past year. The Physical Injury Scale includes questions regarding the participant's violent actions towards his partner in the last year which resulted in physical injury to his partner. Examples of questions from this scale are: "My partner had a sprain, bruise, or small cut because of a fight with me"; "My partner had a broken bone because of a fight with me"; and "My partner passed out from being hit on the head in a fight with me". The Physical Assault Scale includes questions regarding specific violent actions of the participant towards his partner in the last year. Examples of questions from this scale are: "I pushed or shoved my

Table 7

Means and Standard Deviations for Each Criterion Variable

Criterion Variable	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>n</u>
Physical Assault Mean Scale Scores	.89	2.40	133
Physical Assault Prevalence Scores	.52	.50	133
Physical Injury Mean Scale Scores	.60	1.98	133
Physical Injury Prevalence Scores	.38	.49	133

partner"; "I used a knife orgun on my partner"; and "I choked my partner". For the prevalence variables, the range is 0-1, with 0 indicating that 0 violent acts in that scale occurred in the history of the relationship and 1 indicating that at least one of the acts of violence in the scale occurred in the history of the relationship.

The bivariate relationships among all variables were computed using the Pearson product-moment correlation. This procedure was also used to assess the interrelationships among all of the variables. Since the predictor variables were not highly correlated with one another, multicollinearity was not a factor in the present study (see Table 8). As can be seen in the correlation matrix, partner fusion is the only variable which is significantly correlated with the physical assault mean. Since lower scores on the partner fusion scale indicate greater fusion, the significant negative relationship between physical assault mean and partner fusion ($r = -.25$; $p < .05$) indicates that there is an increase in physical assault mean scores as partner fusion scores decrease (indicating greater partner fusion). The self control and partner fusion predictor variables were significantly negatively correlated with physical assault prevalence scores. There was a significant negative relationship between physical assault prevalence and self control ($r = -.26$; $p < .05$) indicating that as self control scores decrease there is an increase in physical assault prevalence scores. Similarly, there was a significant negative relationship between physical assault prevalence and partner fusion ($r = -.34$; $p < .001$) indicating that as physical assault prevalence scores increase there is

Table 8

Pearson Product Moment Correlations of Scale Scores of Predictor and Criterion Variables

Scale	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Participants ($n = 133$)							
1. Self Control	1.00	.28***.20*	-.17*	-.26**	-.12	-.15	
2. Partner Fusion ^a		1.00	.24**	-.25**	-.34***	-.14	-.32***
3. Marital Egalitarianism			1.00	-.22**	-.06	-.22**	-.17
4. Physical Assault Mean				1.00	.36***.94***	.40***	
5. Physical Assault Prevalence					1.00	.26**	.64***
6. Physical Injury Mean						1.00	.38***
7. Physical Injury Prevalence							1.00

Note. ^a= Lower scores on this scale indicate higher partner fusion and higher scores indicate lower partner fusion.

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

decrease in partner fusion scores (indicating greater partner fusion).

Marital egalitarianism was the only variable significantly correlated with physical injury mean scale scores. A significant negative relationship was found between marital egalitarianism and physical injury mean scale scores ($r = -.22$; $p < .05$) indicating that as physical injury mean scale scores increase, there is a decrease in marital egalitarian scores. In addition, partner fusion was the only variable significantly correlated with physical injury prevalence scores. A significant negative relationship was found between partner fusion scores and physical injury prevalence scores ($r = -.32$; $p < .001$) indicating that as physical injury prevalence scores increase, there is a decrease in partner fusion scores (indicating greater partner fusion).

The results of the overall regression analyses yielded statistically significant relationships between all four of the conflict tactics (CTS2) criterion variables [physical assault mean ($R^2 = .10$; $F = 4.62$; $p < .01$); physical assault prevalence ($R^2 = .15$; $F = 7.49$; $p < .0001$); physical injury mean ($R^2 = .06$; $F = 2.73$; $p < .05$); and physical injury prevalence ($R^2 = .11$; $F = 5.50$; $p < .001$)] and the linear combination of the predictor variables of self-control, partner fusion, and marital egalitarianism (See Tables 9 and 10). These results indicate that for men, in general as represented by this sample, the three independent variables of self-control, partner fusion, and marital egalitarianism in combination contributed significantly to the prediction of the use of violent conflict tactics. Altogether, the

Table 9

Summary of Least Squares Multiple Regression Analysis for Variables Predicting Use of Physical Assault Conflict Tactics (n= 133)

Dependent Variable: Physical Assault Mean Scale Score

Predictor Variable	B	SE B	Beta	t
Self Control	-1.05	1.09	-.08	-.96
Partner Fusion	-1.00	.46	-.19	2.16*
Marital Egalitarianism	-.86	.48	-.16	-1.80
(Constant)	8.05	2.05		3.92

$R^2 = .10$, $F = 4.62^{**}$

Adj. $R^2 = .08$

Dependent Variable: Physical Assault Prevalence Score

Predictor Variable	B	SE B	Beta	t
Self Control	-.47	.22	-.18	-2.13*
Partner Fusion	-.33	.09	-.30	-3.51***
Marital Egalitarianism	.05	.10	.04	.50
(Constant)	1.70	.42		4.10

$R^2 = .15$, $F = 7.49^{****}$

Adj. $R^2 = .13$

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$. **** $p < .0001$

Table 10

Summary of Least Squares Multiple Regression Analysis for Variables Predicting Use of Physically Injurious Conflict Tactics (n= 133)

Dependent Variable: Physical Injury Mean Scale Score				
Predictor Variable	<u>B</u>	<u>SE B</u>	<u>Beta</u>	<u>t</u>
Self Control	-.67	.91	-.07	-.73
Partner Fusion	-.31	.39	-.07	-.79
Marital Egalitarianism	-.86	.40	-.19	-2.14*
(Constant)	5.21	1.72		3.02

$R^2 = .06$, $F = 2.73^*$

Adj. $R^2 = .04$

Dependent Variable: Physical Injury Prevalence Score				
Predictor Variable	<u>B</u>	<u>SE B</u>	<u>Beta</u>	<u>t</u>
Self Control	-.14	.22	-.06	-.64
Partner Fusion	-.30	.09	-.28	-3.22**
Marital Egalitarianism	-.10	.10	-.09	-1.00
(Constant)	1.84	.41		4.45

$R^2 = .11$, $F = 5.50^{***}$

Adj. $R^2 = .09$

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

variability of the conflict tactics scores [10% (8% adjusted) of the physical assault mean scores; 15% (13% adjusted) of the physical assault prevalence scores; 6% (4% adjusted) of the physical injury mean scores; and 11% (9% adjusted) of the physical injury prevalence scores] were predicted by knowing the scores on all three of the independent variables of self control, partner fusion, and marital egalitarianism.

For three out of the four dependent variables (physical assault mean, physical assault prevalence, and physical injury prevalence), fusion was found to be a significant predictor, after controlling for self control and marital egalitarianism. Thus, for men, in general, this research supports the hypothesis that partner fusion is a predictor of the use of violent conflict tactics. In addition, when controlling for partner fusion and marital egalitarianism, self control was found to be a significant predictor of physical assault prevalence, but not for the other three dependent variables. This suggests that for men, from the theoretical population from which this sample is drawn, there is a significant relationship between self control and the prevalence of physical assault. In other words, this research supports the hypothesis that self control is a predictor of at least one physical assault of the female partner in the history of the relationship. Finally, when controlling for partner fusion and self control, marital egalitarianism was found to be a significant predictor of physical injury mean scores. This research supports the hypothesis that for men, in general, marital egalitarianism is a

predictor of the use of physically injurious acts towards female partners.

As mentioned earlier, because the anger management groups of this sample were specifically chosen because these men, in general, were known to have the presence of violence in their relationships and the other groups were more representative of a broader spectrum of society (men's church groups, a civic group, court services, a collegiate athletic group, and men from a clinical population), t-tests were employed to determine if there were significant differences between these groups on both the independent and dependent variables. First, descriptive information was gathered separately on the two groups (see Tables 11 - 16). When the dichotomous prevalence variables were examined comparing the two groups, 76% of the Other Group reported that no physical assaults had ever occurred in the history of the relationship and 89% reported that no physical injuries had ever occurred in the history of the relationship due to violent conflict tactics. For the Anger Group, however, 83% reported at least one physical assault and 68% reported that at least one physical injury occurred at some point in the history of the relationship due to violent conflict tactics.

On the independent variables, t-tests revealed a significant difference between the two groups on partner fusion ($p < .001$), but not on self control or marital egalitarianism. The Anger Group indicated higher levels of partner fusion than the Other Group. On the dependent variables, there were significant

Table 11

Means and Standard Deviations for Age and Length of Relationship of Other Group and Anger Group

Variable	Other Group			Anger Group		
	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>n</u>
Age	33	8	70	33	14	62
Length of Relationship	11	13	69	6	6	61

Table 12

Education Level Frequencies for Other Group and Anger Group

Education Level	Other Group		Anger Group	
	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
Less than high school	2	2.9	9	14.3
High school	35	50.0	38	60.3
Associate's degree	5	7.1	10	15.9
College degree	21	30.0	5	7.9
Graduate degree	6	8.6	1	1.6
No answer/missing data	1	1.4	--	--
Total	70	100.0	63	100.0

Table 13

Income Level Frequencies for Other Group and Anger Group

Income Level	Other Group		Anger Group	
	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%
Less than \$19,999/yr	7	10.0	20	31.7
\$20,000 - \$39,999/yr	14	20.0	18	28.6
\$40,000 - \$59,999/yr	20	28.6	10	15.9
\$60,000 - \$79,999/yr	8	11.4	3	4.8
\$80,000 - \$99,999/yr	12	17.1	1	1.6
Over \$100,000/yr	8	11.4	4	6.3
No answer/missing data	1	1.4	7	11.1
Total	70	100.0	63	100.0

Table 14

Location Frequencies for Other Group and Anger Group

Location	Other Group		Anger Group	
	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
Richmond Area	23	32.9	31	50.8
Roanoke/Blacksburg Area	47	67.1	32	49.2
Total	70	100.0	63	100.0

Table 15

Means and Standard Deviations for the Predictor Variable Mean Scale Scores for Other Group and Anger Group

Predictor Variable	Other Group ^a		Anger Group ^b	
	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>
Self-Control	.55	.19	.52	.20
Partner Fusion	3.51	.43	3.24	.45
Marital Egalitarianism	3.75	.43	3.73	.45

^an = 70

^bn = 63

Table 16

Means and Standard Deviations for the Criterion Variable Mean Scale Scores for Other Group and Anger Group

Criterion Variable	Other Group ^a		Anger Group ^b	
	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>
Physical Assault Mean Scale Scores	.06	.21	1.81	3.26
Physical Assault Prevalence Scores	.24	.43	.83	.38
Physical Injury Mean Scale Scores	.10	.40	1.15	2.75
Physical Injury Prevalence Scores	.11	.32	.68	.47

^an = 70

^bn = 63

differences between the two groups on all four violence measures with the Anger Group indicating higher levels of violence compared to the Other Group (physical assault mean, $p < .000$; physical assault prevalence, $p < .000$; physical injury mean, $p < .01$, and physical injury prevalence, $p < .000$). Equality of variance and significance was determined using Levene's test for equality of variances (See Table 17). These results confirm the results of the overall regression analysis indicating that when men who are known to be violent are compared to the general population, there is a significant relationship between partner fusion and use of violent conflict tactics.

Exploration: Building a Model

A model was built which best described the relationship between the predictor variables and the outcome variables in this study. The model building was approached through a series of multiple regression analyses. Tests examining the relationship between group membership and the variables in the study became necessary to determine if there were differential effects between the two groups on the variables. A group variable, (DUMMY), was created where those men in the "other" group were assigned a value of "0" and those in the "anger" group were assigned a value of "1". In addition, to determine if group membership interacted with the independent variables, interaction variables were created by combining the group variable with each independent variable. A model which included the

Table 17

Equality of Means t-tests Comparing Other Group^a and Anger Group^b on Predictor and Criterion Variables

Variable	<u>Variance</u>	<u>df</u>	<u>t-value</u>
Self-Control	Equal	131	.85
Partner Fusion	Equal	131	3.57***
Marital Egalitarianism	Equal	131	.25
Physical Assault Mean Scale Scores	Unequal	62.48	-4.26***
Physical Assault Prevalence Scores	Unequal	130.97	-8.25***
Physical Injury Mean Scale Scores	Unequal	64.35	-3.02**
Physical Injury Prevalence Scores	Unequal	107.89	-8.07***

^a $\underline{n} = 70$

^b $\underline{n} = 63$

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

independent variables, the group variable, and interaction variables was then tested. A correlation matrix examining the relationships between these seven variables and the four dependent measures of violence is presented in Table 18.

The four dependent measures of violence were then regressed on the original independent variables of self-control, partner fusion, and marital egalitarianism, the group variable, and the three interaction variables of self control * group, partner fusion *group, and marital egalitarianism *group (See Tables 19 and 20). Because the original overall multiple regression analysis examined main effects, the purpose of the current four regression models was not to examine main effects, but to detect interaction effects between the three predictor variables and group membership. From these regressions, each significant B for the interaction variables indicated a significant interaction between group membership and the predictor relative to the dependent variables.

Three of the four regressions (physical assault mean, physical injury mean, and physical injury prevalence) indicated a significant interaction between marital egalitarianism and group membership at the .05 significance level. While partner fusion was a significant predictor in the earlier multiple regression analyses, it is not the case in these expanded regression analyses as can be seen from the results in Tables 18 and 19. This can be explained by the fact that the t-tests revealed that the "Anger group" and the "Other group" were significantly different from one another on the partner fusion variable. When the dummy variable was

Table 18

Intercorrelations Between Mean Scale Scores of Predictor, Criterion Variables, Dummy Variable, and Interaction Variables for Model to be Built

Scale	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1. Self Control	1.00	.28***	.20*	-.07	.25**	-.04	-.06	-.17*	-.26**	-.12	-.15
2. Partner Fusion ^a		1.00	.24**	-.30***	-.19*	-.17*	-.27**	-.25**	-.34***	-.14	-.32***
3. Marital Egalitarianism			1.00	-.02	.02	.01	.09	-.22**	-.07	-.22**	-.17
4. Dummy				1.00	.89***	.98***	.99***	.37***	.58***	.27**	.58***
5. Self Control * Dummy					1.00	.90***	.89***	.24**	.45***	.18*	.48***
6. Partner Fusion * Dummy						1.00	.98***	.32***	.55***	.25**	.55***
7. Marital Egalitarianism * Dummy							1.00	.31***	.57***	.22**	.54***
8. Physical Assault Mean								1.00	.36***	.94***	.40***
9. Physical Assault Prevalence									1.00	.26**	.64***
10. Physical Injury Mean										1.00	.38***
11. Physical Injury Prevalence											1.00

Note. ^a= Lower scores on this scale indicate higher partner fusion and higher scores indicate lower partner fusion.
*p<.05. **p<.01. ***p<.001.

Table 19

Summary of Least Squares Multiple Regression Analysis of Original Independent Variables, Dummy Variable, and Interaction Variables for Physical Assault Criterion Variables (n= 133)

Dependent Variable: Physical Assault Mean Scale Score				
Predictor Variable	<u>B</u>	<u>SE B</u>	<u>Beta</u>	<u>t</u>
Self Control	-.35	1.41	-.03	-.25
Partner Fusion	.06	.63	.01	.10
Marital Egalitarianism	-.05	.64	-.01	-.07
Dummy	13.27	3.85	2.77	3.44***
Self Control * Dummy	-1.82	2.01	-.22	-.91
Partner Fusion * Dummy	-1.11	.90	-.76	-1.24
Marital Egalitarianism * Dummy	-1.87	.89	-1.48	-2.11*
(Constant)	.22	2.73		.08

$R^2 = .26$, $F = 6.17^{***}$

Adj. $R^2 = .22$

Dependent Variable: Physical Assault Prevalence Score				
Predictor Variable	<u>B</u>	<u>SE B</u>	<u>Beta</u>	<u>t</u>
Self Control	-.48	.26	-.19	-1.81
Partner Fusion	-.13	.12	-.12	-1.12
Marital Egalitarianism	.00	.12	.00	.01
Dummy	.53	.72	.53	.74
Self Control * Dummy	.01	.38	.01	.03
Partner Fusion * Dummy	-.04	.17	-.13	-.23
Marital Egalitarianism * Dummy	.03	.17	.12	.19
(Constant)	.96	.51		1.89

$R^2 = .40$, $F = 11.99^{***}$

Adj. $R^2 = .37$

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

Table 20

Summary of Least Squares Multiple Regression Analysis of Original Independent Variables, Dummy Variable, and Interaction Variables for Physical Injury Criterion Variables (n= 133)

Dependent Variable: Physical Injury Mean Scale Score				
Predictor Variable	<u>B</u>	<u>SE B</u>	<u>Beta</u>	<u>t</u>
Self Control	-.38	1.22	-.04	-.31
Partner Fusion	.11	.55	.02	.20
Marital Egalitarianism	-.04	.56	-.01	-.07
Dummy	8.67	3.35	2.20	2.59**
Self Control * Dummy	-.93	1.75	-.14	-.53
Partner Fusion * Dummy	-.17	.78	-.14	-.21
Marital Egalitarianism * Dummy	-1.76	.77	-1.69	-2.29*
(Constant)	.08	2.37		.03

$R^2 = .17$, $F = 3.59^{**}$

Adj. $R^2 = .12$

Dependent Variable: Physical Injury Prevalence Score				
Predictor Variable	<u>B</u>	<u>SE B</u>	<u>Beta</u>	<u>t</u>
Self Control	-.22	.25	-.09	-.87
Partner Fusion	-.10	.11	-.09	-.84
Marital Egalitarianism	.06	.12	.05	.49
Dummy	2.03	.70	2.08	2.91**
Self Control * Dummy	.10	.36	.06	.26
Partner Fusion * Dummy	-.06	.16	-.21	-.38
Marital Egalitarianism * Dummy	-.36	.16	-1.40	-2.24*
(Constant)	.36	.49		.73

$R^2 = .41$, $F = 12.34^{***}$

Adj. $R^2 = .38$

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

entered into the current equation, group membership absorbed the variance partner fusion had originally contributed to the original overall regression analysis. In other words, the fusion variable was so significant for the Anger group compared to the Other group, that group membership became the dominating variable in this set of regression analyses. There was not a significant interaction between group membership and self-control.

Because marital egalitarianism was the only variable for which there was a significant interaction, the model was reduced by eliminating self-control*group and fusion*group in a two step process (see Tables 21 and 22). These resulting four regression analyses rendered similar results in that the marital egalitarianism interaction variable was a significant predictor for the same three out of four dependent violence measures (physical assault mean, $p < .01$; physical injury mean, $p < .01$; and physical injury prevalence, $p < .05$).

Given these results, simple main effects analyses were conducted in order to get a clearer picture of the differential effect of group membership relative to marital egalitarianism on the use of violent conflict tactics. The sample was divided into the two groups of "Anger" and "Other". In addition, separate correlation matrices were constructed examining the intercorrelations between the predictor and criterion variables for the each of the groups (see Tables 23 and 24). Finally, separate regression analyses of the four violence dependent measures were employed for the two groups using the original three independent variables

Table 21

Summary of Least Squares Multiple Regression Analysis of Original Independent Variables, Dummy Variable, and Marital Egalitarian Interaction Variable for Physical Assault Criterion Variables (n= 133)

Dependent Variable: Physical Assault Mean Scale Score				
Predictor Variable	<u>B</u>	<u>SE B</u>	<u>Beta</u>	<u>t</u>
Self Control	-1.26	1.01	-.10	-1.25
Partner Fusion	-.49	.45	-.09	-1.09
Marital Egalitarianism	.22	.62	.04	.36
Dummy	10.19	3.22	2.12	3.17**
Marital Egalitarianism * Dummy	-2.31	.85	-1.82	-2.70**
(Constant)	1.64	2.52		.65

$R^2 = .24$, $F = 7.97^{***}$

Adj. $R^2 = .21$

Dependent Variable: Physical Assault Prevalence Score				
Predictor Variable	<u>B</u>	<u>SE B</u>	<u>Beta</u>	<u>t</u>
Self Control	-.47	.19	-.18	-2.52**
Partner Fusion	-.15	.08	-.14	-1.82
Marital Egalitarianism	.01	.12	.00	.05
Dummy	.44	.59	.44	.74
Marital Egalitarianism * Dummy	.02	.16	.09	.15
(Constant)	1.01	.47		2.17

$R^2 = .40$, $F = 17.03^{***}$

Adj. $R^2 = .38$

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

Table 22

Summary of Least Squares Multiple Regression Analysis of Original Independent Variables, Dummy Variable, and Marital Egalitarian Interaction Variable for Physical Injury Criterion Variables (n= 133)

Dependent Variable: Physical Injury Mean Scale Score				
Predictor Variable	<u>B</u>	<u>SE B</u>	<u>Beta</u>	<u>t</u>
Self Control	-.84	.87	-.08	-.97
Partner Fusion	.02	.39	.01	.06
Marital Egalitarianism	.04	.54	.01	.08
Dummy	8.08	2.77	2.05	2.92**
Marital Egalitarianism * Dummy	-1.89	.74	-1.81	-2.56**
(Constant)	.33	2.17		.15

$R^2 = .16$, $F = 5.01^{***}$

Adj. $R^2 = .13$

Dependent Variable: Physical Injury Prevalence Score				
Predictor Variable	<u>B</u>	<u>SE B</u>	<u>Beta</u>	<u>t</u>
Self Control	-.18	.18	-.07	-.97
Partner Fusion	-.13	.08	-.12	-1.56
Marital Egalitarianism	.06	.11	.05	.53
Dummy	1.90	.58	1.95	3.30***
Marital Egalitarianism * Dummy	-.37	.15	-1.42	-2.40*
(Constant)	.43	.45		.96

$R^2 = .41$, $F = 17.49^{***}$

Adj. $R^2 = .38$

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

Table 23

Intercorrelations Between Mean Scale Scores of Predictor and Criterion Variables for Other Group

Scale	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Other Group ($n = 70$)						
1. Self Control	1.00	.29*	.27*	-.31**	-.25	-.16	-.15
2. Partner Fusion ^a		1.00	.28*	.01	-.19	.05	-.15
3. Marital Egalitarianism			1.00	-.15	-.10	-.06	.00
4. Physical Assault Mean				1.00	.47***	.62***	.51***
5. Physical Assault Prevalence					1.00	.10	.32**
6. Physical Injury Mean						1.00	.69***
7. Physical Injury Prevalence							1.00

Note. ^a= Lower scores on this scale indicate higher partner fusion and higher scores indicate lower partner fusion.

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

Table 24

Intercorrelations Between Mean Scale Scores of Predictor and Criterion Variables for Anger Group

Scale	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Anger Group ($n = 63$)						
1. Self Control	1.00	.26*	.12	-.20	-.29*	-.13	-.13
2. Partner Fusion ^a		1.00	.21	-.23	-.25*	-.10	-.23
3. Marital Egalitarianism			1.00	-.31**	-.03	-.31**	-.33**
4. Physical Assault Mean				1.00	.26*	.95***	.29*
5. Physical Assault Prevalence					1.00	.19	.58***
6. Physical Injury Mean						1.00	.29*
7. Physical Injury Prevalence							1.00

Note. ^a= Lower scores on this scale indicate higher partner fusion and higher scores indicate lower partner fusion.

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

of self control, partner fusion, and marital egalitarianism. Results from these final regression analyses (see Tables 25 and 26) indicate that for the Anger group marital egalitarianism is a significant predictor of three out of the four violence dependent measures (physical assault mean, $p < .05$; physical injury mean, $p < .05$; and physical injury prevalence, $p < .05$). However, there is not evidence of a relationship between marital egalitarianism and use of violence tactics for the Other group. What this indicates is that while the original overall regression analysis indicated no significant effect of marital egalitarianism on use of violence tactics for the sample as a whole, when the groups are divided, marital egalitarianism is a significant predictor of violence for the Anger group (the fusion group), but not for the Other group. Fusion becomes the mediating variable for this group which makes marital egalitarian attitudes a significant predictor for the Anger group. In other words, for those in the Anger group, when partner fusion is coupled with less egalitarian attitudes, marital egalitarianism becomes a significant predictor for use of violent conflict tactics. See Figures 1-3 for further clarification.

Self control was found to be significant ($p < .01$) for the Other group, but not the Anger group with the dependent measure of physical assault mean. However, it was not significant with the other three dependent measures and the interaction was not significant. Self control was also tested for a possible curvilinear relationship for which there was no supporting evidence.

Table 25

Comparison of Least Squares Multiple Regression Analyses of Other Group and Anger Group for Variables Predicting Use of Physical Assault Conflict Tactics

Dependent Variable: Physical Assault Mean Scale Score				
Predictor Variable	<u>B</u>	<u>SE B</u>	<u>Beta</u>	<u>t</u>
<u>Other Group (n=70)</u>				
Marital Egalitarianism	-.05	.06	-.09	-.77
(Constant)	.22	.26		.82
$R^2 = .11$, $F = 2.85^*$				
Adj. $R^2 = .07$				
<u>Anger Group (n=63)</u>				
Marital Egalitarianism	-1.92	.89	-.27	-2.15*
(Constant)	13.49	3.95		3.41
$R^2 = .14$, $F = 3.27^*$				
Adj. $R^2 = .10$				

Table 26

Comparison of Least Squares Multiple Regression Analyses of Other Group and Anger Group for Variables Predicting Use of Physically Injurious Conflict Tactics

Dependent Variable: Physical Injury Mean Scale Score				
Predictor Variable	<u>B</u>	<u>SE B</u>	<u>Beta</u>	<u>t</u>
<u>Other Group (n=70)</u>				
Marital Egalitarianism	-.04	.12	-.04	-.34
(Constant)	.08	.51		.16
$R^2 = .04$, $F = .90$				
Adj. $R^2 = -.00$				
<u>Anger Group (n=63)</u>				
Marital Egalitarianism	-1.80	.77	-.30	-2.34*
(Constant)	8.75	3.41		2.57
$R^2 = .10$, $F = 2.30$				
Adj. $R^2 = .06$				
Dependent Variable: Physical Injury Prevalence Score				
Predictor Variable	<u>B</u>	<u>SE B</u>	<u>Beta</u>	<u>t</u>
<u>Other Group (n=70)</u>				
Marital Egalitarianism	.06	.10	.07	.58
(Constant)	.36	.41		.88
$R^2 = .04$, $F = .90$				
Adj. $R^2 = -.00$				
<u>Anger Group (n=63)</u>				
Marital Egalitarianism	-.30	.13	-.29	-2.35*
(Constant)	2.39	.57		4.18
$R^2 = .14$, $F = 3.11^*$				
Adj. $R^2 = .09$				

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$.

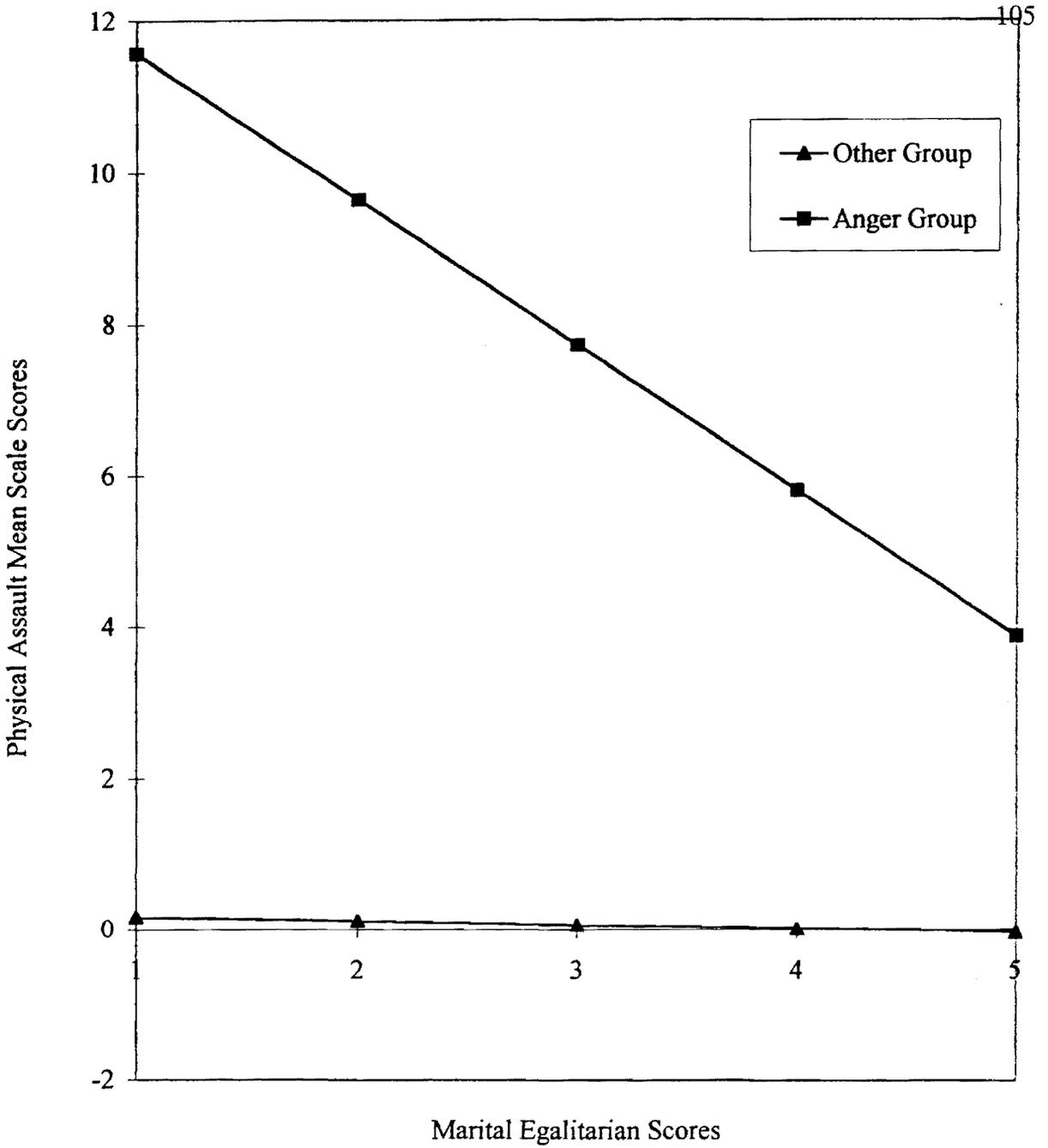


Figure 1. Marital egalitarianism and group membership interaction relative to physical assault mean scale scores.

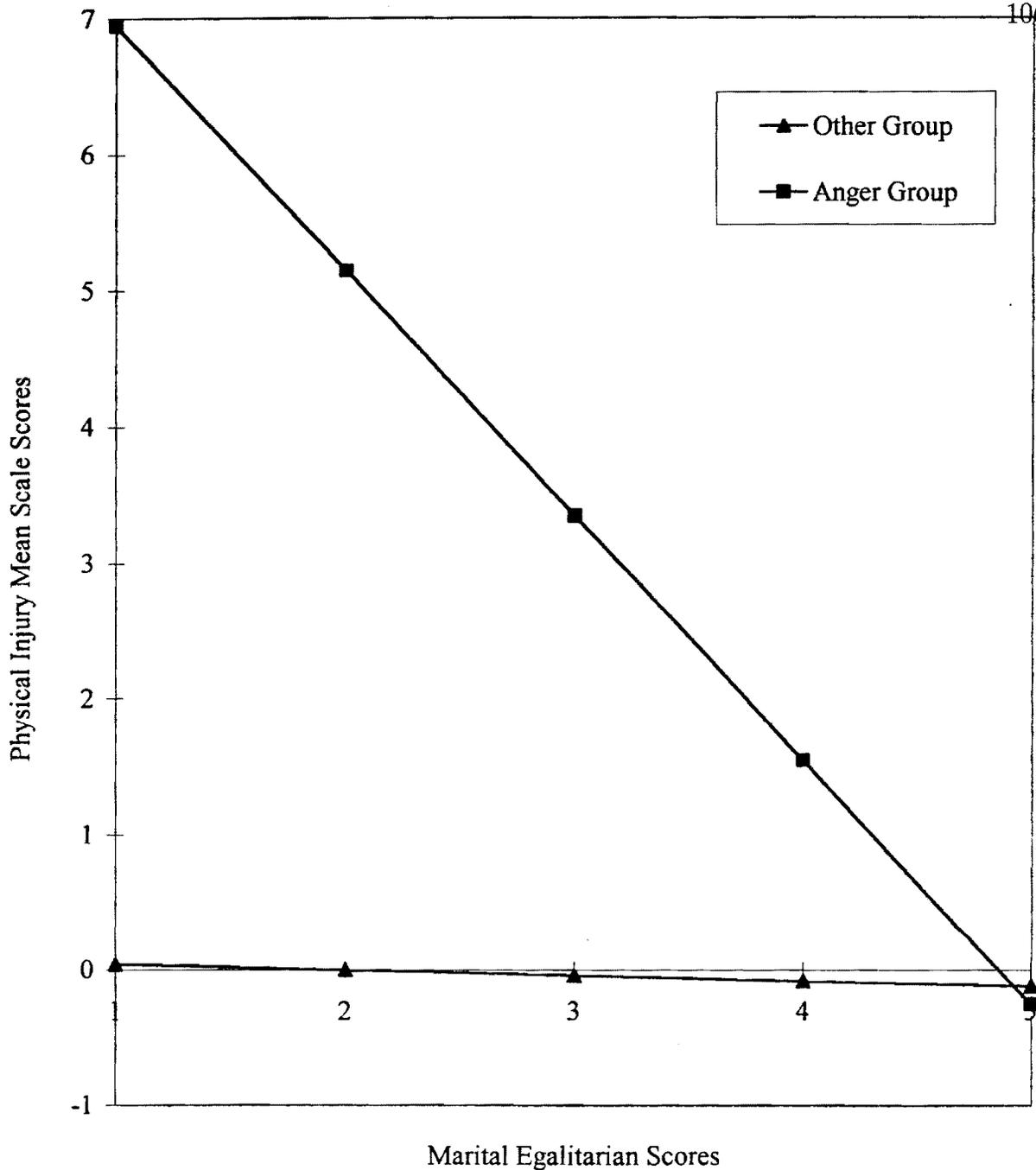


Figure 2. Marital egalitarianism and group membership interaction relative to physical injury mean scale scores.

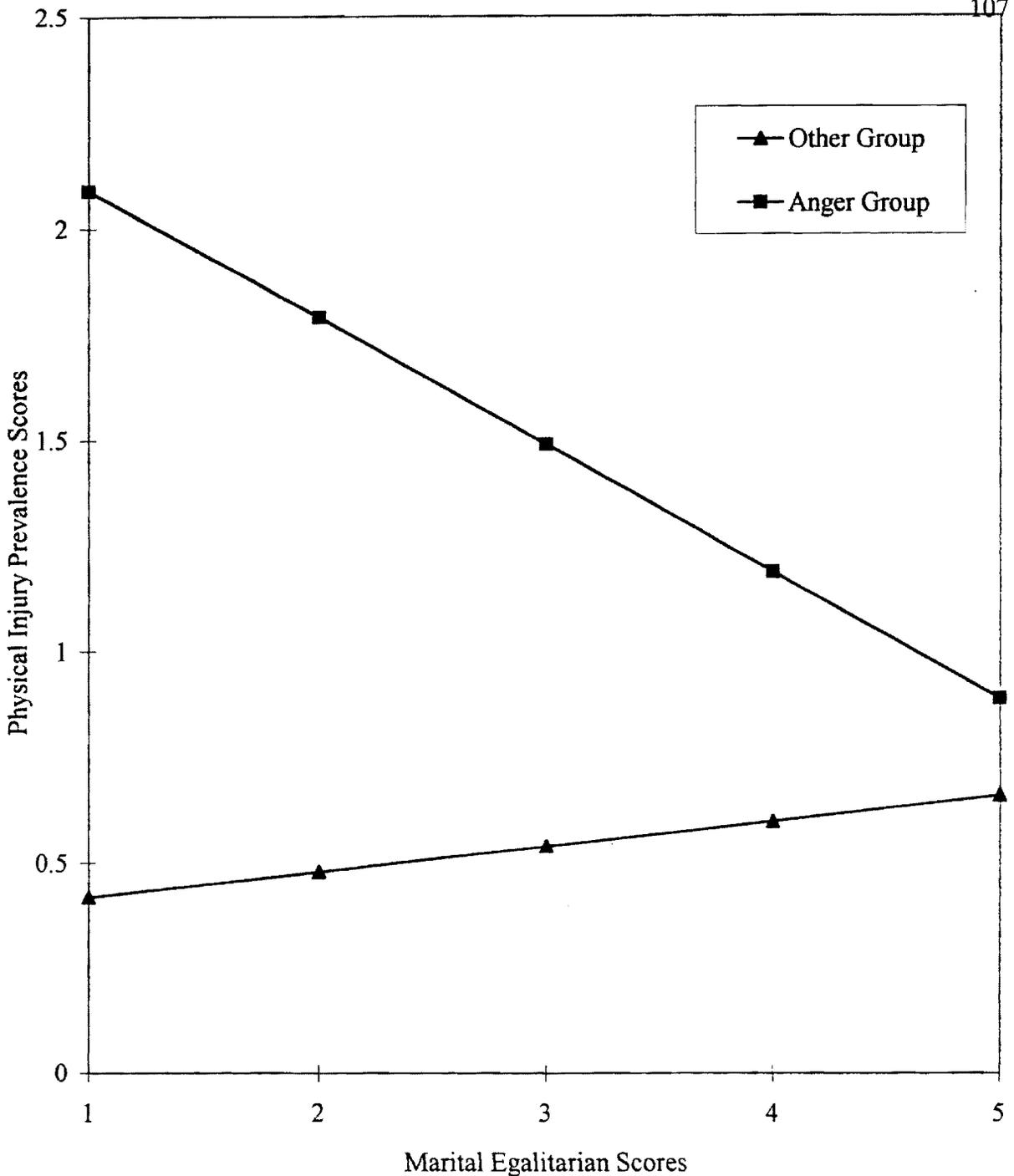


Figure 3. Marital egalitarianism and group membership interaction relative to physical injury prevalence scores.

Summary of Multiple Regression Analyses

Based on the theoretical frameworks used in this study and previous research, it was expected that a significant proportion of variance in men's scores on the four violence measures of physical assault and physical injury would be explained by the variance in the correlated scores of self-control, partner fusion, and marital egalitarianism. In the overall regression analysis of this study, the linear combination of the predictor variables of self control, partner fusion, and marital egalitarianism contributed significantly to the prediction of all four violence measures. This supports the original theoretical foundations of this study combining the family violence and feminist perspectives (Bartle & Rosen, 1994; Goldner et al., 1990) indicating that these particular individual, interpersonal, and cultural forces all contribute to the complex phenomenon of partner violence.

While holding the effects of the other variables constant, partner fusion significantly contributed to the prediction of three of the four violence measures of physical assault mean, physical assault prevalence, and physical injury prevalence. Of the three predictor variables, only partner fusion was consistently a significant predictor of violent conflict tactics in the overall sample when group membership was not considered. These findings support Bowen's theory of differentiation in which individuals who are more fused with their partners will be more likely to use dysfunctional behavior such as violence to perhaps mediate or regulate too much closeness in a relationship (Bowen, 1966). According to

Bowen, differentiation of self, which is the opposite of partner fusion, involves a healthy or mature balance of a self which is both independent from and connected to others (Bartle & Rosen, 1994; Bowen, 1966; Papero, 1988). Those relationships which are fused lack a balance of connection and autonomy and are characterized by people who rely on their partners to fulfill a sense of security (Pistole & Tarrant, 1993).

The results of partner fusion and violence in the current study are consistent with the previous research of Rosen, Bartle-Haring, and Stith (1996) who found partner fusion to be the strongest predictor of violent conflict tactics in college student relationships. The study by Rosen, Bartle-Haring, and Stith (1996) differed from the current study in three main ways: 1) in addition to couple fusion, the examination of demographic information, emotional reactivity towards parents, potentially stressful life events, psychological symptoms, and violence in the family of origin and current dating relationships of college students was assessed; 2) the use of the Differentiation in the Family System (DIFS) Scale to assess partner fusion instead of the Personal Authority in the Family System (PAFS) subscale of Spousal Fusion (SPFUS), and 3) the sample was composed exclusively of college students. Regarding partner fusion, the current study extended the findings of Rosen, Bartle-Haring, and Stith, to include a broader cross-section of the population. These findings suggest that not just with college students, but with the population in general, the degree to which a couple

manages the delicate balance between connection and autonomy is predictive of current levels of violence.

The finding of the current study regarding partner fusion also lends further support to the research of Bartle and Rosen (1994) who found that partner fusion was a common theme for women in abusive relationships. The study by Bartle and Rosen differed from the current study in that it involved multiple qualitative case studies of women who were previously in abusive relationships. Inherent in the narratives of these women were stories of a lost "I" within a "we" whereby these women were fused with their abusive partners and had little sense of self as separate. Similarly, based on the results of the current study, abusive men appear to also be fused with their female partners and have little sense of an autonomous self.

In addition to the two previously cited studies, the current study also supports the clinical observations of Star (1983), Currie (1983), and Coleman (1980) regarding a correlation between partner fusion and use of violent conflict tactics. Star (1983) identified and examined community based and family service programs throughout the country that offered alternatives to incarceration. One theme that emerged from observations of counselors who worked with spouse abusers was that the men often had little sense of themselves as separate from their partners and were threatened by intimacy. For these men, Star found that "individuation or any type of separation is threatening" (Star, 1983, p. 34). One

counselor noted "they are so tied to the relationship that they have no sense of the wife as a separate entity" (Star, 1983, p. 34). Similarly, Currie (1983), describes a nine week intervention used with one group of 6-8 men who met for weekly two hour sessions. At the beginning phase of this program, it was noted that the men were "beginning to internalize responsibility for their own behavior and to experience themselves as separate individuals" (p. 183). Currie (1983) notes that participants saw their partners as extensions of themselves at the beginning of treatment and as separate individuals by the end.

Finally, Coleman (1980) examined characteristics of 33 conjugally violent men who attended a marriage and family clinic in the south to receive psychiatric assistance with their conjugal violence. Through interviews and therapy sessions, the men expressed feelings of ambivalence about being dependent on their wives and concurrently "desired and feared intense fusions" with their partners (Coleman, 1980, p. 211). Thus, the findings of the current study are consistent with these clinical observations which suggest that men who are physically violent towards their female partners exhibit characteristics of fusion with their partners.

Given the differences in the types of groups included in this study, additional analyses rendered further information to clarify the results of the overall regression analysis. The anger management participants who were known to have a history of violence were separated into one group, and all other group members who were more representative of a broader spectrum of society were

collapsed into another group. T-tests were run on these groups and revealed a significant difference for partner fusion, but not on the other variables of self-control or marital egalitarianism which confirm the results of the overall regression analysis regarding significant differences between the two groups.

While the original overall regression analysis explained the outcome variables in terms of differences between the two groups, further analysis examined group differences by examining the interaction of the predictor variables and group membership relative to outcome variables. Using a series of multiple regression analyses and interaction variables, a model was constructed to best explain the outcome variables in light of group differences. Marital egalitarianism was the only variable that rendered a significant interaction with group membership on three out of four of the violence measures. To further understand these findings, separate descriptive statistics, correlation matrices, and regression analyses were calculated for the two groups. For the Anger group, marital egalitarianism emerged as a significant predictor for three out of four of the violence measures. For the Other group, marital egalitarianism was not a significant predictor on any of the four violence measures. Compared to the original regression analysis in which marital egalitarianism was not a significant predictor, when the relationship between group membership and marital egalitarianism was examined, a different picture emerged.

For men in the anger management groups (those with the higher fusion scores), there was a significantly negative correlation between marital egalitarianism and the use of violent conflict tactics such that the more egalitarian attitudes the men had in marriage, the less likely they were to use violent conflict tactics in their partner relationships. This finding is consistent with the research of Crossman, Stith, and Bender (1990) and Stith and Farley (1993) who conducted research involving men in substance abuse and anger management programs and found a significant relationship between egalitarian attitudes and use of "severe" conflict tactics. Crossman, Stith, and Bender (1990) used the same measurement instruments as the current study for measuring egalitarian attitudes and violence, however, in addition to violence and egalitarian attitudes, they also assessed approval of marital violence and social desirability in their study.

Similarly, Stith and Farley (1993) also used the same measurement instruments as the current study for measuring egalitarian attitudes and violence, however, they conducted a path analysis study using one exogenous variable of observing marital violence during childhood and five endogenous variables of acceptability of marital violence, level of marital stress, level of sex-role egalitarianism, level of alcoholism and level of self-esteem. Among other findings, egalitarian attitudes were found to have both direct and indirect effects on the use of "severe" forms of violence in relationships. The current study extends the findings of Crossman, Stith, and Bender (1990) and Stith and Farley (1993) to

include not only men in anger management groups, but men from the general population as well. This study sheds light on the conflicting results obtained in other studies.

Finally, the current study's finding regarding the relationship between marital egalitarianism and partner violence supports the clinical intervention model designed by Pence and Paymar (1993). Pence and Paymar (1993) have developed a 26-week intervention model for working with abusive men in which men in battering relationships are encouraged to develop more egalitarian attitudes in order to become nonviolent. Men are encouraged to move from power and control relationships where one partner is dominant over the other, to egalitarian relationships, where power is shared. One of the primary goals of this program is to have the men examine deeply rooted beliefs and create long-term change in those beliefs. The finding of the current study supports the usefulness of a program such as Pence and Paymar's which encourages men with a history of violence to become more egalitarian in their sex role attitudes in order to decrease violence towards their female partners.

Self control was found to have a significant effect on the physical assault prevalence scores across both the Anger group and the Other group. Furthermore, when the groups were divided into Anger and Other, self-control was found to have a significant effect on physical assault mean scores for the Other group, but not the Anger group. Self-control is defined as the relationship

between the "expression of impulse and the management of aggression" (Gough, 1968, p. 12). Those who have low scores on this scale are described as having a "quick and even explosive response to frustration or annoyance, and a tendency to react aggressively to threat or interference" (Gough, 1968, p. 12). In addition, a person with a low score is characterized as having "strong feelings and emotions, and mak[ing] little attempt to hide them; speak[ing] out when angry or annoyed" (Gough, 1987, p. 6). Thus, this finding supports Bowen's theory that undifferentiated people who are unable to control their emotional reactivity or impulsivity will be less likely to behave responsibly, and thus, more likely to use violent conflict resolution tactics. This finding is also consistent with the findings of Barnett and Hamberger (1992) in which, using the same measurement instrument as the current study, self control was found to be one among several significant variables distinguishing between violent and non-violent men. In addition, this finding lends further support to the previous research which has linked impulsivity with violent behavior (Buikhuisen et al., 1988; Star, 1983; & Stermac, 1987). Similarly, this finding is consistent with Stets' (1988) finding that when men who had been violent towards their female partners were able to learn to control their own behaviors and impulsivity, they learned to become nonviolent.

Chapter Five

Summary

Procedure

There is a substantial amount of research literature and theories which attempt to understand and explain partner violence from two main perspectives: the "family violence" perspective and the "feminist" perspective. Those who approach the research from a "family violence" perspective focus more on the microsystem variables of causality and psychological attributes as well as dynamics of violent relationships (Bartle and Rosen, 1994). The "feminist" perspective, on the other hand, takes a more macrosystem approach to partner violence by examining the context in which violence occurs by addressing cultural and institutional inequalities which exist between men and women. Previous studies have not examined partner violence from an individual, interpersonal, and cultural perspective simultaneously. The purpose of the current study was to provide a more thorough and comprehensive examination of partner violence than previous studies by examining both microsystem and macrosystem variables concurrently. Murray Bowen's theory of differentiation was used as the theoretical framework for understanding the individual variable of self control of emotional reactivity and the interpersonal variable of partner fusion. Feminist theory was used as the theoretical framework for understanding the contextual or cultural variable of marital egalitarianism or gender equality in the relationship.

The instruments employed in this study were aimed at assessing the relationship between four violence variables (physical assault mean scale scores, physical assault prevalence, physical injury mean scale scores, and physical injury prevalence) and self control, partner fusion, and marital egalitarianism variables. The instruments were administered to 133 men from various men's groups (men's anger management groups, a college athletic team, a civic group, church groups, a court services group, and men from counseling centers) in the Richmond and Roanoke/Blacksburg, Virginia areas, who voluntarily agreed to participate in the study. Each participant received a questionnaire accompanied by a letter explaining the purpose of the study and requesting their voluntary participation in the study. The questionnaire was comprised of a demographic questionnaire created by the author (see Appendix - C), the Self Control (Sc) subscale of the California Psychological Inventory (CPI) (see Appendix - F), the Spousal Fusion (SPFUS) subscale of the Personal Authority in the Family System Questionnaire (PAFS-Q) (see Appendix - D), the Marital Roles subscale of the Sex Role Egalitarianism Scale (SRES) (see Appendix - E), and the Revised Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS2) not including the Sexual Coercion Scale (see Appendix - G).

Data from the 133 men were analyzed. The data analysis consisted of descriptive analysis, correlational analysis, t-tests, and a series of multiple regressions. Descriptive analyses of demographic variables consisted of frequency distributions for categorical variables (education level, income level, group

affiliation, and location). In addition, means and standard deviations were used to describe interval variables (age and length of relationship).

The Pearson product-moment correlation procedure was used to examine the bivariate relationships between the criterion variables (physical assault mean scale scores, physical assault prevalence, physical injury mean scale scores, and physical injury prevalence) and predictor variables (self control, partner fusion, and marital egalitarianism). This procedure was also used to assess the interrelationships among all of the variables.

Least squares multiple regression analysis was used to test the relationships between the criterion and predictor variables. Based on group affiliation, t-tests were then performed to determine if there were significant differences between groups on both the criterion and predictor variables. Finally, interaction between the group variable and each of the independent variables was examined, and least squares multiple regression analyses were run for the two groups separately in order to understand the nature of the interactions.

Significant Findings

Descriptive Results. The following descriptive characteristics resulted from an analysis of the frequency distributions:

1. Most participants (92%) graduated from high school. Eleven percent of the sample had an associate's degree and 19.5%

completed a four year college degree. A small percentage (5.3%) of the sample had completed graduate degrees.

2. The majority of participants (66%) had an annual family income of under \$60,000/year. Twenty percent of the sample had an annual family income of less than \$20,000/year, and 27% percent of the sample had an income exceeding \$60,000/year.
3. Anger management groups comprised the largest percentage (47%) of the sample. The percentage of men from other groups included: 8% from a civic group, 8% from counseling centers, 17% from church groups, 17% from a men's collegiate athletic team, and 3% from a court services unit.
4. The majority of participants (59%) were from the Roanoke/Blacksburg, Virginia area in comparison to 41% from the Richmond, Virginia area.

Variable Correlations. Based on the theoretical frameworks used in this study and past research, the criterion variables were expected to be highly correlated with the predictor variables. Pearson product-moment correlations were conducted on the criterion and predictor variables prior to the regression analyses to determine if there were significant bivariate relationships between the criterion and predictor variables.

The following are significant relationships which resulted from this Pearson product-moment correlation procedure:

1. There was a significant negative relationship ($r = -.25$; $p < .05$) between partner fusion and physical assault mean scores.
2. There were no significant relationships between self control and marital egalitarianism and physical assault mean scores.
3. There was a significant negative relationship ($r = -.26$; $p < .05$) between self control and physical assault prevalence.
4. There was a significant negative relationship between partner fusion ($r = -.34$; $p < .001$) and physical assault prevalence.
5. There was no significant relationship between marital egalitarianism and physical assault prevalence.
6. There was a significant negative relationship ($r = -.22$; $p < .05$) between marital egalitarianism and physical injury mean scale scores.
7. There were no significant relationships between self control and partner fusion and physical injury mean scale scores.
8. There was a significant negative relationship ($r = -.32$; $p < .001$) between partner fusion and physical injury prevalence.
9. There were no significant relationships between self control and marital egalitarianism and physical injury prevalence.

Predictive Relationships. A series of least squares multiple regression analyses were conducted to test the following research questions:

1. Could a significant proportion of variance in men's scores on conflict tactics (CTS2) be explained by the variance in the correlated scores of self-control, partner fusion, and marital egalitarianism?
2. Could a significant proportion of the variance in men's scores on conflict tactics (CTS2) be explained by the variance in self-control scores?
3. Could a significant proportion of variance in men's scores on conflict tactics (CTS2) be explained by the variance in partner fusion scores?
4. Could a significant proportion of variance in men's scores on conflict tactics (CTS2) be explained by the variance in marital egalitarianism scores?

Regression analyses yielded statistically significant relationships between all four of the conflict tactics criterion variables (physical assault mean, physical assault prevalence, physical injury mean, physical injury prevalence) and the linear combination of the predictor variables of self-control, partner fusion, and marital egalitarianism. The correlated scores of self-control, partner fusion, and marital egalitarianism explained between 6% and 15% of the variance in men's scores on the four conflict tactics measures. The significant relationships between the criterion and predictor variables are as follows:

1. Partner fusion was found to be a significant predictor of three out of the four violence dependent variables [(B= -.19; $p < .05$) physical

assault mean; ($B = -.30$; $p < .001$) physical assault prevalence; and ($B = -.28$; $p < .01$) physical injury prevalence].

2. Self control was found to be a significant predictor ($B = -.18$; $p < .05$) of physical assault prevalence.
3. Marital egalitarianism was found to be a significant predictor ($B = -.19$; $p < .05$) of physical injury mean scores.

Because the anger management group of this sample was specifically chosen due to the fact that these men, in general, were known to have the presence of violence in their relationships and the other groups were more representative of a broader spectrum of society (men's church groups, a civic group, court services, a collegiate athletic group, and men from a clinical population), the latter groups were collapsed into one group labelled "Other group" and compared to the "Anger group". T-tests were employed to determine if there were significant differences between these groups on both the independent and dependent variables. T-tests revealed a significant difference between the two groups on partner fusion ($p < .001$), physical assault mean ($p < .000$), physical assault prevalence ($p < .000$), physical injury mean ($p < .01$), and physical injury prevalence ($p < .000$). Thus, there is a significant relationship between partner fusion and use of violent conflict tactics, particularly when comparing men with a violent history to those of the general population.

Due to the results of the t-tests, it became necessary to determine if there were differential effects between the two groups on the variables by examining the relationship between group membership and the variables in the study. This was approached through a series of multiple regression analyses which examined whether or not group membership interacted with the independent variables. Marital egalitarianism was the only variable for which there was a significant interaction with group membership. Separate regression analyses of the four violence dependent measures were employed for the two groups using the original three independent variables of self control, partner fusion, and marital egalitarianism. The significant relationships between the criterion and predictor variables from this set of regression analyses are as follows:

1. For the Anger group, marital egalitarianism was a significant predictor of three out of the four violence dependent measures [(B= -.27; $p < .05$) physical assault mean; (B=-.30; $p < .05$) physical injury mean; and (B=-.29; $p < .05$) physical injury prevalence]. There was no significant relationship between marital egalitarianism and use of violence tactics for the Other group.
2. Self control was found to be significant ($p < .01$) for the Other group, but not the Anger group with the dependent measure of physical assault mean scale scores. However, it was not significant with the other three dependent measures and the interaction was not

significant.

In summary, use of violent conflict tactics was found to be significantly correlated with partner fusion on physical assault mean, physical assault prevalence, and physical injury prevalence scores. In addition, self control was significantly correlated with physical assault prevalence scores, and marital egalitarianism was significantly correlated with physical injury mean scale scores. All of these correlations proved to have predictive value through multiple regression analysis. The hypothesized relationship between self control, partner fusion, marital egalitarianism and the four violence measures was supported with the correlated scores of self-control, partner fusion, and marital egalitarianism explaining between 6% and 15% of the variance in men's scores on the four conflict tactics measures.

As mentioned earlier, because the anger management groups of this sample were specifically chosen because these men, in general, were known to have the presence of violence in their relationships and the other groups were more representative of a broader spectrum of society (men's church groups, a civic group, court services, a collegiate athletic group, and men from a clinical population), it became necessary to determine if there were differential effects between the two groups on the variables. For the Anger group, marital egalitarianism was a significant predictor for three out of the four violence dependent measures (physical assault mean, $p < .05$; physical injury mean, $p < .05$;

and physical injury prevalence, $p < .05$). However, there is no significant relationship between marital egalitarianism and use of violence tactics for the Other group. What this indicates is that while the original overall regression analysis indicated no significant effect of marital egalitarianism on use of violence tactics, when the groups are divided, marital egalitarianism is a significant predictor of violence for the Anger group, but not for the Other group when it is coupled with partner fusion. In addition, self control was found to be significant for the Other group, but not the Anger group with the dependent measure of physical assault mean scores. However, self control was not significant with the other three dependent measures and the interaction was not significant.

Implications and Recommendations

While the demographic information collected in this study was used for the purpose of description and was not a part of the regression analyses, when comparing the men in the Anger group and the Other group on demographic information, it appears that several factors may be relevant for future study. While the mean age for both groups was 33, the standard deviation was eight years for the Other group and 14 years for the Anger group. In other words, there was a larger range of ages for the Anger group than for the Other group. Conversely, it appears that the men in the Other group had longer relationships than the men in the Anger group. The mean for the length of partner

relationships for the Other group was 11 years with a standard deviation of 13 while for the Anger group the mean was six years and the standard deviation was six years. It would perhaps be useful to have future studies which examine the effects age and length of relationship have on partner violence.

In addition to age and length of relationship, education level and income level appear to also be different for the two groups. For the Other group only 3% did not complete high school while 14% of the Anger group did not complete high school. For the Anger group, 60% had a high school diploma with 16% completing associate's degrees while 50% of the Other group had high school diplomas and 7% had associate's degrees. Ten percent of the Anger group had either a college or graduate school degree while 40% of the Other group had college or graduate school degrees. Thus, for this sample, those who were part of the anger management groups appeared to have somewhat less education than those in the Other group, however, there were men from each education category represented in each group. Similarly, the men in the Other group seemed to have slightly higher income levels than the men in the Anger group. Ten percent of the Other group made less than \$20,000 annually compared to 32% of the Anger group. Forty percent of the Other group had an annual income of \$40,000 or more compared to 29% of the Anger group. Again, however, while the Other group had higher income levels overall compared to the Anger group, there were men from each income level category represented in each group. Thus, future

research examining the relationship between levels of income and education and violent conflict tactics may be useful.

For men in the anger management groups (those with the higher fusion scores), there was a significant negative correlation between marital egalitarianism and the use of violent conflict tactics such that the less egalitarian attitudes the men had in marriage, the more likely they were to use violent conflict tactics in their partner relationships. It is when higher partner fusion scores are coupled with lower egalitarian scores that egalitarian attitudes make a difference in predicting partner violence for the Anger group, therefore, fusion seems to be a key to this significant relationship. However, there was no correlation between marital egalitarianism and the use of violent conflict tactics for the men in the Other group. The difference in the significance of marital egalitarianism between the Anger group and the Other group may help in explaining the complexity and inconsistencies previous researchers (Hotaling and Sugarman, 1986) have discovered in investigating the relationship between egalitarian attitudes and use of violent conflict tactics. Hotaling and Sugarman (1986) suggested that "sex role inequality may be so pervasive in American society that indicators of male power and female powerlessness are not capable of distinguishing violent from nonviolent men" (p. 119). When sex-role expectations are surveyed of the population at large and between group differences are assessed, egalitarianism is not a significant predictor of use of violent conflict tactics possibly because

traditional sex-role expectations are so pervasive for both violent and non-violent men. However, the present study found that when men with a previous history of violence in their relationships are assessed separately from men in the general population, marital egalitarianism is a significant predictor of the use of violent conflict tactics when it is coupled with partner fusion.

Another explanation for this finding may be consistent with Johnson's (1995) theory that partner violence is not a monolithic phenomenon. Johnson (1995) outlines two distinct forms of domestic violence: patriarchal terrorism and common couple violence. Johnson defines patriarchal terrorism as "a form of terroristic control of wives by their husbands that involves the systematic use of not only violence, but economic subordination, threats, isolation, and other control tactics" (p.284). In contrast, Johnson defines common couple violence as "less a product of patriarchy, and more a product of the less-gendered causal processes . . . in which conflict occasionally gets 'out of hand,' usually leading to 'minor' forms of violence, and more rarely escalating into serious, sometimes even life-threatening, forms of violence" (p. 285). One would expect to find men with a history of more serious and life-threatening forms of violence in anger management groups.

Consistent with the findings of the present study, the men who were involved in anger management groups had higher partner fusion scores and more patriarchal and less egalitarian attitudes which significantly predicted their use of

violent conflict tactics. In the present study, when the sample of men was assessed as a whole, marital egalitarianism was not a significant predictor of violent conflict tactics, however, when the groups were divided into Anger and Other, marital egalitarianism became a significant predictor for the Anger group, but not the Other group when it was coupled with higher partner fusion. In accordance with Johnson's theory, the violence of the Anger group might be described as "patriarchal terrorism" where their less egalitarian and more patriarchal attitudes correlate with their use of violent conflict tactics. On the other hand, the Other group's violent conflict tactics could be described as "common couple violence" where there is not a relationship between the men's sex role attitudes about marriage and their use of violent conflict tactics.

Thus, family therapists and other clinicians who work with this population may find that encouraging more egalitarian attitudes in therapeutic interventions may assist men with a history of violence to become nonviolent towards their female partners. As mentioned previously, Pence and Paymar (1993) have already developed such a program which is a 26-week intervention model for working with men in battering relationships. In this model, men are encouraged to move from power and control relationships where one partner is dominant over the other, to more egalitarian relationships. The results of the current study lend further support and credence to this and other clinical interventions for men's anger management groups which are designed to increase men's egalitarian attitudes in

order to help them become nonviolent. In addition, since partner fusion was a key element in the significance of marital egalitarianism as a predictor of partner violence for the Anger group, such intervention programs may want to also assess for partner fusion and add a component to their treatment intervention which addresses the issue of partner fusion.

In the current study, although the men in the anger groups had significantly higher fusion scores than the Other group, regardless of group membership, partner fusion was a significant predictor of partner violence. Johnson (1995) notes that there may be:

conditions under which particular combinations of the same causal factors might produce qualitatively different patterns of violent behavior . . . [and that] using the synergistic approach to theory development, we might note that some, if not all, of the causal factors involved in patriarchal terrorism may also be involved in common couple violence and vice versa(p. 292).

In the present study, partner fusion could be an underlying contributing factor to both common couple violence and patriarchal terrorism. Johnson suggests that while some men may be motivated to use violence towards their partner as a means of maintaining power and dominance, other men may become violent as a reaction to individual or interpersonal stresses which he labels "common couple violence". Clearly, partner fusion could be viewed as an interpersonal stress and Johnson's notion of common couple violence may help explain the current study's

findings regarding partner fusion and partner violence.

Ferraro (1988) suggests that violence may be a man's way of attempting to minimize what he perceives as a threat to his sense of self. Bowen (1966) suggested that the lower a person is in differentiation, the more likely that individual is to use dysfunctional behavior such as "violence . . . to control the emotion of 'too much closeness'" (p. 360). Bartle and Rosen (1994) use Bowen's theory of differentiation to conceptualize violent behavior and suggest that violence is perhaps a mechanism which mediates or regulates that balance between connection and autonomy. In relation to the findings on partner fusion of the current study, it appears that the interpersonal stress of balancing intimacy with one's partner and a sense of autonomy may contribute to common couple violence for men in the theoretical population from which this sample was drawn.

Furthermore, Johnson (1995) notes that individual stresses may contribute to common couple violence. In the current study, self control was found to be a significant predictor of physical assault prevalence for the sample as a whole and was a significant predictor for the Other group on physical assault mean scores when the sample was divided into two groups. The latter finding with the Other group is particularly salient to Johnson's theory of common couple violence because the Other group was more representative of a broad spectrum of society. Johnson (1995) suggests that common couple violence is perhaps a situation "in which conflict occasionally gets 'out of hand,' usually leading to 'minor' forms of

violence, and more rarely escalating into serious, sometimes even life-threatening, forms of violence" (p. 285). One would expect to find men with a history of more serious and life-threatening forms of violence in anger management groups and perhaps the more "minor" forms of violence which are a reaction to everyday stresses in the population at large. Thus, Johnson's theory that individual stresses contribute to "common couple violence" may help explain the findings of the current study regarding self control and partner violence.

As outlined previously, both self control and partner fusion are aspects of Bowen's theory of differentiation. However, Bowen's theory has rarely been applied to working with issues of partner violence. As was previously mentioned, lack of control over emotional reactivity coupled with low levels of partner differentiation appear to contribute to high levels of anxiety in reaction to normal day-to-day stresses which can be contained for a period of time, but may eventually erupt into violent acts. Thus, the findings of the current study suggest that perhaps using Bowen's theory as a model for couples therapy where violence is an issue may be useful. Helping couples to become better differentiated, on both an individual and interpersonal level, may help them in becoming nonviolent. Individually, men could learn to separate thoughts and feelings and become more cognizant of their own part in problems and more willing to claim responsibility for their actions (Kerr & Bowen, 1988), thus, gaining greater self-control. Interpersonally, couples could learn to become less fused by learning to maintain

a healthy balance between a self that is connected and a self that is separate (Bartle and Rosen, 1994).

The quantitative data analysis of the current study provides useful information for family therapists and other clinicians in working with issues of domestic violence. Little research in the area of partner violence has employed qualitative methods with men who batter. Future research which extends the findings of the current study by examining issues of self-control, partner fusion, and marital egalitarianism and partner violence from a qualitative perspective may be useful in further augmenting the findings of the current study. Such research could include in-depth interviews or case studies of men who batter as well as men who are nonviolent and may further assist family therapists and clinicians in developing interventions which are effective in helping men who batter to become nonviolent.

Limitations

One limitation of the current study is that the sample was nonrandom and was drawn primarily from two geographical locations due to limitations of time, money, and access. Future studies which are random and pull from several national geographical locations would be more generalizable to a broader population. Another limitation of the study was that while the groups included in this sample were diverse in nature, some included only one group of each type.

For example, there was only one civic group included in this sample and only one collegiate athletic group. Future studies which include larger numbers of each type of group would also increase the generalizability of the study. In addition, the circumstances surrounding the administration of the questionnaires varied by group setting. Making a more standardized questionnaire administration may also make the study more rigorous. Also, the study relied on self-report measures and a limitation of this data collection method is that respondents may have responded in socially desirable ways.

The men's anger management groups which were included in this sample met from 12-20 weeks. The present study did not control for the stage at which participants were in their anger groups. For example, some men filled out questionnaires at their first meeting, while other men filled out the questionnaires as they completed their last week of the group. Men from these groups may have varied in their responses depending on where they were in the intervention process. Future studies which assess men at the intake stage only may be more useful in determining the relationship among these variables prior to intervention. Finally, the current study assessed the men and not the women in these battering relationships. Future research which assesses both men and women may increase the strength of the findings. The current study was intended to contribute a piece of the story regarding violence in relationships. By focusing on men in this current study, the author does not intend to suggest that women are helpless to

get themselves out of battering situations.

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Appendix A - Cover Letter to Participants

June 3, 1997

Dear Participant:

I would like to thank you for participating in this study about men and their current relationships with women. **If you are NOT currently in a relationship with a woman, you do not need to participate in the survey and may turn your materials back into the person administering the survey. Thank you for your time.** If you **ARE** currently in a relationship with a woman, please continue with the survey.

This packet has three parts. First there is an informed consent form which explains the study and gives you details about the procedures for the study. Please read and sign both copies of the informed consent. Second, there is a sheet requesting background information. Third, there is a survey which includes four sections of questions about your relationship with your partner. Please read the directions for each section and answer the questions according to your own beliefs about relationships between men and women.

Once you have completed the survey, please detach the yellow and blue copies of the informed consent forms from the rest of the survey. The blue copy is yours to keep. Please place the yellow copy of the informed consent into the envelope marked "Informed Consent Forms" and the survey in the envelope marked "Surveys". The reason for separating your informed consent form from your survey is to maintain your anonymity in the study. You will notice a number in the right hand corner of the survey and the informed consent. This is to identify that with each survey, the person has given their written consent to participate. These forms will not be re-matched in any form or fashion in order to maintain your anonymity in the study. The forms will be stored in a locked file drawer in my home office for safe keeping.

Thank you again for your assistance with this research to better understand men's relationships with their female partners. If you have any questions about the study, please contact me at the number listed below.

With sincere appreciation,



Elizabeth Ellis Schubert
Project Director
(540) 563-5316

Appendix B - Informed Consent

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
**Informed Consent for Participants
of Investigative Projects**

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Title of Project: Men and Women: Issues of Attitudes and
Conflict Resolution in Intimate Relationships

Principal Investigators: Elizabeth Ellis Schubert and Howard O. Protinsky

Purpose of this Research Project

You are invited to participate in a study about men's attitudes about relationships and how men handle conflict in their intimate relationships with women. The purpose of the study is to better understand attitudes and conflicts in intimate relationships. There will be a total number of 150-200 men participating in this study.

Procedures

As a participant in this study you must currently be in a heterosexual relationship with a woman. You will be asked to answer some questions regarding your background, your attitudes about relationships, and how you handle conflict in relationships. It is expected that answering these questions will take you approximately 30 minutes.

Risks of this Project

Although most questions pose no risk, we may request some information which you may not feel comfortable giving or care to divulge. These few questions may ask that you recall some conflictual experiences with your partner which may not be pleasant to recollect. If it becomes too uncomfortable for you at any time, you may withdraw from this study at any time. If you would like to make an appointment with a counselor, in Roanoke, you may call Family Service of the Roanoke Valley at (540) 563-5316. In Blacksburg and the New River Valley, you may call the Center for Family Services at (540) 231-7201.

Benefits of this Project

No benefits are guaranteed to you and there is no monetary compensation for your participation. However, your participation in this project may help you better examine your views about your relationship. You will help researchers better understand how men deal with conflict in their intimate relationships. Many people feel unable to handle stress and conflict in their intimate relationships and your participation in this study may help us understand how we might help couples experiencing difficulty in this area.

Extent of Anonymity and Confidentiality

Names will not be requested on the answer sheets of this survey, therefore individuals participating in this study will not be identifiable and responses will be anonymous. Once you have completed the survey, please detach the yellow and blue copies of the informed consent forms from the rest of the survey. The reason for separating your informed consent form from your survey is to maintain your anonymity in the study. You will notice a number in the right hand corner of the survey and the informed consent form. This is to identify that with each survey, the person has given their written consent to participate. These forms will not be re-matched in any form or fashion in order to maintain your anonymity in the study. The forms will be stored in a locked file drawer in my home office for safe keeping.

Compensation

There will be no compensation for participation in this study.

Freedom to Withdraw

You are free to withdraw from this study at any time without penalty.

Approval of Research

This research project has been approved, as required, by the Institutional Review Board for projects involving human subjects at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and by the Department of Family and Child Development.

Subject's Responsibilities

I voluntarily agree to participate in this study.

Subject's Permission

I have read and understand the Informed Consent and conditions of this project. I have had all my questions answered. I hereby acknowledge the above and give my voluntary consent for participation in this project.

If I participate, I may withdraw at any time without penalty.

_____	_____
Signature	Date

Should I have any questions about this research or its conduct, I may contact:

<u>Beth Schubert</u> Investigator	<u>(540) 563-5316</u> Phone
<u>Howard O. Protinsky</u> Faculty Advisor	<u>(540) 231-7201</u> Phone
<u>H. Thomas Hurd</u> Chair, Institutional Review Board Research Division Virginia Tech	<u>(540) 231-9359</u> Phone

Once you have completed the survey, please detach the yellow and blue copies of the informed consent forms from the rest of the survey. The blue copy is yours to keep. Please place the yellow copy of the informed consent into the envelope marked "Informed Consent Forms" and the survey in the envelope marked "Surveys". The reason for separating your informed consent form from your survey is to maintain your anonymity in the study.

Appendix C - Demographic Questionnaire

Background Information

First, I would like to request some general information needed to help interpret the results of the study.

1. Are you currently married or in a committed relationship with a woman? (circle number)
 - 1 no . . . **If no, thank you for your time, you do not need to continue with the survey.**
 - 2 yes . . . If yes, please continue with the survey.

2. What is your age? _____
 (age)
(You must be at least 18 years old in order to participate in this study).

3. How long have you been in this relationship? _____

4. What level of education have you completed? (circle number)
 - 1 Less than high school
 - 2 High school
 - 3 Associate's degree
 - 4 College degree
 - 5 Graduate degree

5. What was your approximate family income in 1996? (circle number)
 - 1 Less than \$19,999/yr
 - 2 \$20,000 - \$39,999/yr
 - 3 \$40,000 - \$59,999/yr
 - 4 \$60,000 - \$79,999/yr
 - 5 \$80,000 - \$99,999/yr
 - 6 Over \$100,000/yr

Appendix D -

Personal Authority in the Family System Questionnaire (PAFS-Q)

Section I.

James H. Bray, the author of The Personal Authority in the Family System Questionnaire (PAFS-Q), requested that the actual instrument should not be put in the final manuscript of the dissertation. Anyone who wishes to have a copy of the instrument, should contact Dr. Bray at the following address:

Dr. James H. Bray
Clinical and Family Psychologist
5510 Greenbriar
Houston, Texas 77005
Phone: (713) 798-7751 Fax: (713) 798-7775

Appendix E - Sex Role Egalitarian Scale (SRES)

Section II.

The following statements are about men and women. Read each statement and decide how much you agree or disagree with it. We are not interested in what society says, and there are no right or wrong answers. We are interested in *your personal opinions*.

	1	2	3	4	5
	strongly agree	agree	neutral or undecided or no opinion	disagree	strongly disagree
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
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30.					
31.					
32.					
33.					

34.	Husbands are able to be more independent than their wives.	1	2	3	4	5
35.	Male managers are more valuable to a business than female managers.	1	2	3	4	5
36.	A woman should have as much right to ask a man for a date as a man has to ask a woman for a date.	1	2	3	4	5
37.	Social courtesies should not favor one sex over the other.	1	2	3	4	5
38.	A marriage will be more successful if the husband's needs are considered first.	1	2	3	4	5
39.	Women should have just as much right as men to go somewhere without an escort.	1	2	3	4	5
40.	Men are more able than women to get along with different types of people. . .	1	2	3	4	5
41.	Women are equal to men in their reliability on the job.	1	2	3	4	5
42.	A person should be more polite to a woman than to a man.	1	2	3	4	5
43.	Most wives are able to handle the family finances as well as their husbands. . .	1	2	3	4	5
44.	Men are the same as women in the desire for a friend with whom to share problems.	1	2	3	4	5
45.	A husband has to be more willing than a wife to adapt in a marriage.	1	2	3	4	5
46.	A male doctor inspires more confidence than a female doctor.	1	2	3	4	5
47.	If a woman is as smart as her husband, the marriage will not work.	1	2	3	4	5
48.	Men should not work in day care jobs.	1	2	3	4	5
49.	Women should feel as free as men to express their honest opinion.	1	2	3	4	5
50.	Men and women differ in the time required to get used to a new work setting	1	2	3	4	5
51.	Only men should stand when being introduced to another person.	1	2	3	4	5
52.	A wife's career should be of equal importance to her husband's.	1	2	3	4	5
53.	An applicant's sex should be important in job screening.	1	2	3	4	5
54.	A wife is just as qualified as a husband to decide what car to buy.	1	2	3	4	5
55.	Men and women should be paid equally for equal work.	1	2	3	4	5
56.	Wives are better able than husbands to send thank you notes for gifts.	1	2	3	4	5
57.	Only the wife is qualified to decide how much a family must spend on food and clothing.	1	2	3	4	5

Appendix F -

Self Control Subscale (Sc) of the California Psychological Inventory (CPI)

Section III.

Please read each of the following statements and decide how you feel about it and then mark your answer. If you *agree* with a statement, or feel that it is true about you, circle T for TRUE. If you *disagree* with a statement, or feel that it is not true about you, circle F for FALSE.

- | | | | |
|-----|--|---|---|
| 1. | A person needs to "show off" a little now and then. | T | F |
| 2. | I have had very peculiar and strange experiences. | T | F |
| 3. | I am often said to be hotheaded. | T | F |
| 4. | I sometimes pretend to know more than I really do. | T | F |
| 5. | Sometimes I feel like smashing things. | T | F |
| 6. | Most people would tell a lie if they could gain by it | T | F |
| 7. | I think I would enjoy having authority over other people. | T | F |
| 8. | I have sometimes stayed away from another person because I feared
doing or saying something that I might regret afterwards. | T | F |
| 9. | Sometimes I feel like swearing. | T | F |
| 10. | I like to boast about my achievements every now and then. | T | F |
| 11. | I must admit I often try to get my own way regardless of what others may want. | T | F |
| 12. | I would do almost anything on a dare. | T | F |
| 13. | I like to be the center of attention. | T | F |
| 14. | At times I feel like picking a fist fight with someone. | T | F |
| 15. | I do not always tell the truth. | T | F |
| 16. | I would like to wear expensive clothes. | T | F |
| 17. | I consider a matter from every standpoint before I make a decision. | T | F |
| 18. | My home life was always happy. | T | F |
| 19. | I often act on the spur of the moment without stopping to think. | T | F |
| 20. | My way of doing things is apt to be misunderstood by others. | T | F |
| 21. | Sometimes I feel as if I must injure either myself or someone else. | T | F |
| 22. | I often do whatever makes me feel cheerful here and now, even at
the cost of some distant goal. | T | F |
| 23. | I can remember "playing sick" to get out of something. | T | F |
| 24. | I think I would like to fight in a boxing match sometime. | T | F |
| 25. | I like to go to parties and other affairs where there is lots of loud fun. | T | F |
| 26. | I keep out of trouble at all costs. | T | F |
| 27. | I am apt to show off in some way if I get the chance. | T | F |
| 28. | I am often bothered by useless thoughts which keep running through my mind | T | F |
| 29. | I must admit that I have a bad temper, once I get angry. | T | F |
| 30. | I like large, noisy parties. | T | F |
| 31. | I am a better talker than a listener. | T | F |
| 32. | Sometimes I rather enjoy going against the rules and doing things I'm
not supposed to do. | T | F |
| 33. | I have very few quarrels with members of my family. | T | F |
| 34. | I have never done anything dangerous for the thrill of it. | T | F |
| 35. | I feel that I have often been punished without cause. | T | F |
| 36. | I would like to be an actor on the stage or in the movies. | T | F |
| 37. | At times I have a strong urge to do something harmful or shocking. | T | F |
| 38. | Police cars should be specially marked so that you can always see them coming. | T | F |

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**Appendix G -
Revised Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS2)**

Section IV.

No matter how well a couple gets along, there are times when they disagree, get annoyed with the other person, want different things from each other, or just have spats or fights because they are in a bad mood, are tired, or for some other reason. Couples also have many different ways of trying to settle their differences. This is a list of things that might happen when you have differences. Please circle how many times you did each of these things in the past year. If you did not do one of these things in the past year, but it happened before that, circle "7".

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1= Once the past year | 5= 11-20 times in the past year |
| 2= Twice in the past year | 6= More than 20 times in the past year |
| 3= 3-5 times in the past year | 7= Not in the past year, but it did happen before. |
| 4= 6-10 times in the past year | 0= This has never happened |

- | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. I showed my partner I cared even though we disagreed. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 2. I explained my side of a disagreement to my partner. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 3. I insulted or swore at my partner. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 4. I threw something at my partner that could hurt. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 5. I twisted my partner's arm or hair. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 6. My partner had a sprain, bruise, or small cut because of a fight with me. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 7. I showed respect for my partner's feelings about an issue. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 8. I pushed or shoved my partner. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 9. I used a knife or gun on my partner. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 10. My partner passed out from being hit on the head in a fight with me. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 11. I called my partner fat or ugly. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 12. I punched my partner with something that could hurt. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 13. I destroyed something belonging to my partner. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 14. My partner went to a doctor because of a fight with me. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 15. I choked my partner. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 16. I shouted or yelled at my partner. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 17. I slammed my partner against a wall. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 18. I said I was sure we could work out a problem. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 19. My partner needed to see a doctor because of a fight with me, but didn't. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 20. I beat up my partner. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 21. I grabbed my partner. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 22. I stomped out of the room or house or yard during a disagreement. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 23. I slapped my partner. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 24. My partner had a broken bone from a fight with me. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 25. I suggested a compromise to a disagreement. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 26. I burned or scalded my partner on purpose. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 27. I accused my partner of being a lousy lover. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 28. I did something to spite my partner. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 29. I threatened to hit or throw something at my partner. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 30. My partner felt physical pain the next day because of a fight with me. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 31. I kicked my partner. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| 32. I agreed to try a solution to a disagreement my partner suggested. . . . | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 |

**Appendix H -
Permission Letters to Use Research Instruments in this Study**

JAMES H. BRAY, PH.D.
CLINICAL AND FAMILY PSYCHOLOGIST
5510 Greenbriar
Houston, Texas 77005
(713) 798-7751 798-7775 FAX

167

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for your request of the **Personal Authority in the Family System Questionnaire**. Enclosed are the materials that you requested.

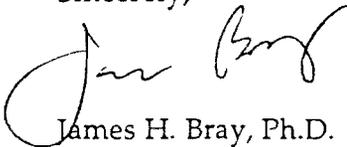
You are hereby granted permission to reproduce the PAFS-Q and answer sheet for your proposed project. **You may not alter the original scales, use items from a single scale, or translate the instrument into any other language.** Be sure to reference the 1984 article or manual in any articles.

If you plan to use the PAFS-Q in your thesis or dissertation, **do not put a copy of the instrument and how to score it in your final manuscript.** Indicate that people should contact me for copies of the instrument.

We may contact you in the future to receive your feedback on the instrument. Since this is the first printing we would greatly appreciate any feedback you have on the instrument and manual.

We will keep your name on our mailing list for future updates. Thank you for your interest in our work. If you have any questions feel free to write or call me at (713) 798-7751.

Sincerely,



James H. Bray, Ph.D.

SIGMA ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS, INC.

P.O. BOX 610984
PORT HURON, MI 48061-0984

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Sigma Assessment Systems, Inc., on this date **March 5, 1997** hereby authorizes:

NAME: Elizabeth Ellis Schubert and Dr. Howard Protinsky

TITLE: Ph.D. Candidate and Program Director

INSTITUTION: Virginia Tech

DEPARTMENT: Family and Child Development

ADDRESS: Center for Family Services, Dept. of Family and Child Development, College of Human Resources and Education, Virginia Tech, 1601 South Main Street, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0515

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A. The Work: The Work means:

NAME: Sex-Role Egalitarianism Scale (SRES)

AUTHOR(S): Lynda King, Ph.D. and Daniel King, Ph.D.

SPECIFIC FORM OF THE TEST OR THE WORK: Form K

PARTICULAR SCALES OR PARTICULAR WORK USED:

Marital Roles, Social-Interpersonal-Heterosexual Roles and Employment Roles

B. Authorized Use: The license granted hereby is specifically limited to the following uses and, no other:

The above named SRES scales will be used in a study taking a comprehensive approach in examining partner violence by gathering data from both violent and nonviolent men at an individual, interpersonal, and contextual level. The study will combine a traditional family violence perspective with a feminist perspective in examining this phenomenon. The independent variables in the study are emotional reactivity (individual), level of partner fusion (interpersonal), and egalitarian attitudes (contextual/feminist). The dependent variable will be the level of violence. Demographic information will also be collected at the initial phase of the project. All participants will be over the age of 18.

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	Test use royalty	\$waived
	TOTAL	\$25.00

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ACCEPTED AND AGREED:

SIGMA ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS, INC.

Elizabeth Ellis Schubert
Licensee

Maureen Moxford-Small
Authorized Signature

3-27-97
Date

4-16-97
Date



Elizabeth Ellis Schubert
2734 Jackson Drive
Salem, VA 24153

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& REPRODUCTION**

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Customer Number:

Permission Code: **1811**

Invoice Number:

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6.1 Test users should evaluate the available written documentation on the validity and reliability of tests for the specific use intended.

6.3 When a test is to be used for a purpose for which it has not been validated, or for which there is no supported claim for validity, the user is responsible for providing evidence of validity.

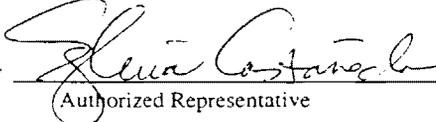
6.5 Test users should be alert to probable unintended consequences of test use and should attempt to avoid actions that have unintended negative consequences."

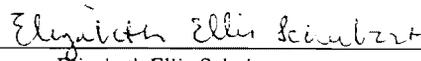
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I AGREE TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS.

By 
Authorized Representative

By 
Elizabeth Ellis Schubert

Date 5/6/97

Date 4/25/97

USE AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT COVERS (circle): CTS2 CTSPC Both

PROJECT TITLE/PURPOSE OF ADMINISTERING THE TESTS: Levels of Partner 172 Fusion Self-Control and Sex Role Egalitarianism in Men as Predictors of Male-to-Female Partner Violence.

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PERSONS TO BE TESTED

WOMEN: _____ MEN: 150-200 COUPLES: _____ (both tested)

MONTH AND YEAR TESTING WILL BEGIN: June 1997 AND END: August 1997

DO YOU PLAN TO CARRY OUT AND PUBLISH PSYCHOMETRIC ANALYSES OF THE DATA?

If YES, please attach a paragraph describing your plan to this form

If NO, please indicate the form in which you plan to provide data to us for purposes of our conducting psychometric analyses

Test answer sheets or test booklets (these will be returned to the Cooperating User by the Authors)
X file of data on disk in one of the following formats (circle one) ASCII, Word Perfect, Word, SPSS, SAS, STATA. ← unsure at this point

Name of Cooperating User: Elizabeth Ellis Schubert

Address: 2734 Jackson Drive
Salem, VA 24153

PHONE (540) 375-0905 FAX (540) 231-7209
E-Mail eschuber@vt.edu

I agree to the terms of agreement on page 1 and to provide data as indicated above.

Cooperating User Signature Elizabeth Ellis Schubert DATE 3/20/97

STUDENTS: Please have the faculty advisor for this research sign this form:
Faculty Advisor Signature Howard O. Protinsky DATE 3/27/97

Advisor Name, Title, and Institution: Howard O. Protinsky, Ph.D.,
Program Director, Marriage and Family Therapy Program,
Virginia Tech
For the Test Authors*: [Signature] DATE 2 April 1997

* The Test Authors of the CTS2 are Murray A. Straus, Sherry L. Hamby, Sue Boney-McCoy, and David B. Sugarman. The Test Authors of the CTSPC are Murray A. Straus, Sherry L. Hamby, Desmond Runyan, and David Finkelhor.

VITA

Elizabeth Ellis Schubert was born in Meridian, Mississippi, and raised in Ashland, Virginia. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature from the University of Virginia in 1989. In 1993, she received her Master of Education degree in Counselor Education from the University of Virginia. Upon completion of the Master's degree, she worked at Longwood College in Farmville, Virginia, as a Residence Education Coordinator for one year. She then relocated to Roanoke, Virginia, and served as an individual and family counselor at Family Service of the Roanoke Valley. She received a Ph.D. in Marriage and Family Therapy from Virginia Polytechnic and State Institute in May of 1999. Currently, she is a family therapist in Richmond, Virginia, at United Methodist Family Services.



Elizabeth Ellis Schubert