

An investigation of the predictive role of identity dimensions for young adults' marital beliefs

Katarzyna Adamczyk, Monika Wysota

Institute of Psychology, Adam Mickiewicz University

The aim of the study was to investigate whether identity dimensions distinguished in the dual-cycle model of identity formation can be predictive for young adults' marital beliefs. Dimensions of Identity Development Scale and the Marital Meaning Inventory were administered to the sample of 291 students (155 females and 136 males) aged 20–25 years.

A hierarchical regression analysis was used to analyse the data. The results indicated that exploration in breadth was predictive for belief in Special status of marriage, and identification with commitment was predictive for Mutuality. In addition, individuals' representing Moratorium cluster agreement with the perception of marriage as a key means of meeting one's needs was weaker than that of individuals representing Achievement cluster and Ruminative moratorium cluster. Furthermore, individuals representing Diffusion cluster agreed weakly with notion of marriage as being compatible with (or even promoting) maintaining clear individual identities than individuals representing Achievement cluster. Individuals' representing Foreclosure cluster agreement with viewing marriage as a relationship perfectly fit for soul mates or inherently full of agreement and spontaneity was stronger than that of individuals representing Undifferentiated cluster. Sex was not found to be predictive for marital beliefs.

Keywords: *identity dimensions, identity statuses, marital beliefs, young adults*

INTRODUCTION

Young adulthood is a particular point one's lifespan when the formation of intimacy and mating relationships is of high importance (Erikson, 1980). Moreover, in Poland, like in many in other countries, most adolescents and young adults desire to marry and have a successful marital and family life (Rostowski, 2009). Regarding that finding, a partner who is suitable for starting a family which is one of the most important decisions (Janicka & Niebrzydowski, 1994), it is important to search for factors contributing to a lasting, successful romantic and marital relationships. One of the possible correlates of marrying in young adulthood may be marital attitudes and

beliefs (Bakiera, 2009; Mahay & Lewin, 2007). Marital beliefs and attitudes can influence satisfaction in dating relationships (Sullivan & Schwebel, 1995) and the nature of one's marriage, primarily regarding levels of distress, satisfaction, and communication negativity (Foran & Slep, 2007). One of the comprehensive investigation of marital beliefs resulted in a conceptualization of marital meaning along five interrelated dimensions (Hall, 2006). The first dimension was classified as a Special status of marriage *vs.* neutral alternative. Marriage can be seen as the highest expression of love and intimacy and the most satisfying type of relationship, versus being just one of many types of similarly valid couple relationships. The second dimension, Self-fulfillment *vs.* obligation, refers to seeing marriage as a key means of meeting one's needs, such as emotional fulfillment or economic security, versus a type of social obligation for individuals that would take some priority over personal fulfillment. The third dimension, Mutuality *vs.* individuality, incorporates ideas that marriage requires spouses to give up individuality and merge identities, versus marriage being compatible with (or even promoting)

Katarzyna Adamczyk, Institute of Psychology, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, ul. A. Szamarzewskiego 89/AB, 60-568 Poznań, Poland, e-mail: Katarzyna.Adamczyk@amu.edu.pl

Monika Wysota, Institute of Psychology, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, ul. A. Szamarzewskiego 89/AB, 60-568 Poznań, Poland, e-mail: m.wysota@amu.edu.pl

Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Katarzyna.Adamczyk@amu.edu.pl

maintaining clear individual identities. The fourth dimension, Romanticism *vs.* pragmatism, corresponds to viewing marriage as a relationship perfectly fit for soul mates or that a good marriage is inherently full of agreement and spontaneity, versus being primarily a practical exchange system that requires effort and compromise to maintain. The final dimension is Role hierarchy *vs.* role parallelism, which focuses on concepts of control and power and a hierarchy of roles often associated with gender, versus being a horizontal and mutual relationship primarily based on sharing and companionship.

Considering marital and romantic relationships, sex is found to be an important factor in shaping attitudes toward marriage (e.g., Alqashan & Alkandari, 2010). For example, in a study conducted by Willoughby (2009) women were found to attach more general and relative importance to marriage; they also had higher expectations of marrying and expected to marry earlier than men. Similarly, in the study run on a sample of Polish young adults women exhibited greater approbation of marriage than did men, and men expressed more disapprobation toward marital union than did women (Bakiera, 2009). However, in a more recent study conducted in Poland (Adamczyk, 2014a) no sex differences emerged between women and men in regard to marital beliefs.

Apart from marital beliefs, studies also confirm the role of a strong sense of identity in the facilitation of achieving satisfying committed relationships in adulthood (e.g., Zimmer-Gembeck & Petherick, 2006), and the role of identity in the initiation, maintenance, and dissolution of intimate relationships in late adolescence and young adulthood (e.g., Klimstra et al., 2012). Identity develops as individuals transition into adult roles including, for instance committed partnerships (Fadjukoff, Pulkkinen, & Kokko, 2005; Luyckx et al., 2010). In particular, Erikson (1968) indicated that the true “engagement” with others requires a confirmed, firm self-delineated identity. The successful resolution of identity issues provides a clear sense of self, well-defined personal beliefs and values, and a feeling of belonging within the community (Côté & Levine, 2002). The vast body of prior research showed the significance of identity for many aspects of human functioning and adjustment, for example for general mental health, psychological well-being, and social functioning (Luyckx, et al., 2007). According to Erikson (1968), the true “engagement” with others requires a firm self-delineated identity, and an established identity prepares an individual to make and sustain interpersonal commitments (Markstrom & Kalmanir, 2001).

Recently, Luyckx, Goossens, Soenens, and Beyers (2006) proposed an extension of the identity status model known as

the dual-cycle model of identity formation, which includes two cycles of identity formation. In this model, the first cycle represents Marcia’s (1966) classical paradigm (i.e., being focused on the formation of commitments) and encompasses exploration in breadth and commitment making, whereas the second cycle reflects the more recent views on identity formation (i.e., being focused on the evaluation of commitments) and encompasses exploration in depth and identification with commitment. Finally, in this model, an additional exploration dimension is included, that is, ruminative exploration. This type of exploration pertains to an individual’s concerns and problems experienced in the course of identity exploration (Luyckx, et al., 2008). In addition to that, in order to capture multivariate interactions of the five identity dimensions, or identity statuses, on the basis of cluster analysis of Luyckx and colleagues (2008), six clusters representing six identity statuses retained. The retained clusters were as follows: the Achievement cluster scored very high on both commitment dimensions, moderately high to high on exploration in breadth and exploration in depth, and low on ruminative exploration. The Diffused Diffusion cluster scored very low on both commitment dimensions, intermediate on exploration in depth and exploration in breadth, and high to very high on ruminative. The Carefree Diffusion cluster scored moderately low to low on both commitment dimensions, low to very low on exploration in breadth and exploration in depth, and intermediate on ruminative exploration. The Ruminative Moratorium cluster scored moderately low to intermediate on both commitment dimensions, and high to very high on the three exploration dimensions. The Foreclosure cluster scored moderately high to high on both commitment dimensions, moderately low to very low on exploration in breadth and ruminative exploration, and moderately low to intermediate on exploration in depth. Finally, an Undifferentiated cluster emerged which scored intermediate on all dimensions.

THE CURRENT STUDY

As far as the significance of identity for intimate relationships and identity’s influence on subjective norms, attitudes, beliefs and decision (Bosch, 2014) are concerned, in the present study we intended to explore the predictive role of identity for marital beliefs as related to marital relationships. The results presented are a part of a larger research project concerning identity, self-construals, romantic and marital beliefs of Polish young adults. The results concerning identity status and relationship status, and sex were presented in another paper (Adamczyk, 2014b, in review), as well as results concerning identity dimensions and self-construals which were also elaborated

in another paper (Adamczyk & Luyckx, 2015). In addition, a part of the results included in the article was presented at International Psychological Application Conference and Trends in Porto, 4-6.04.2014.

To the best of our knowledge, the current study is the first study aimed to investigate the predictive role of identity dimensions proposed by Luyckx and his colleagues (2006) for marital beliefs distinguished by Hall (2006). In addition, we were also interested to examine the role of sex for marital beliefs. At the same time, due to the general lack of previous research regarding the linkage between identity dimensions and marital beliefs, no specific hypotheses concerning the direction of this linkage were developed. Instead, the purpose of this study was to fully explore how identity dimensions are related to young adults' marital beliefs, and what is the role of sex for marital beliefs. In this study we address the following three research questions:

Q1. Are identity dimensions predictive for young adults' marital beliefs?

Q2. Is sex predictive for young adults' marital beliefs?

Q3. Do individuals of different identity statuses differ in regard to marital beliefs?

METHODS

Participants and Procedure

The study was carried out on a sample of 291 university students (155 females and 136 males) from different faculties of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. Participants were 20–25 years old ($M = 22.29$, $SD = 2.05$) and resided in a large Polish city with a population exceeding 500,000 inhabitants. All respondents were never married, had no children, and were heterosexual.

The first author distributed the measures to the participants across the different courses. The questionnaire packages were administered in classrooms to groups of 20 to 30 students at a time and participation was voluntary. The instructions were read aloud. An explanation as to the purpose of the study was given as was an assurance that the information provided would remain anonymous and confidential. Participants were also informed that they could resign from the study at any time.

Materials

The questionnaire package presented to the study participants was comprised of the following instruments:

Demographic Questionnaire. This questionnaire was designed to obtain general descriptive information about participants' background such as their age, gender, education, and current relationship status.

Dimensions of Identity Development Scale (DIDS; Luyckx et al., 2008) (Polish adaptation – Brzezińska & Piotrowski, 2010a). It is an instrument designed to measure five identity dimensions. It consists of 25 items evaluated on 5-point Likert-type scales ranging from 1 = *completely disagree* to 5 = *completely agree*. It is a reliable instrument with a clear factor structure (Luyckx, Schwartz et al., 2008). In the current study, Cronbach alpha reliabilities were estimated to be .80, .79, .63, .89, .79 for exploration in breadth, exploration in depth, ruminative exploration, commitment making subscale, and identification in commitment, respectively.

Marital Meaning Inventory (MMI; Hall, 2006) (Polish adaptation – Adamczyk & Hall, 2014). It is a 21-item instrument to examine the meaning that the institution of marriage can hold for young adults, based on their systems (or collections) of beliefs about marriage. The statements include in the MMI were inspired by the five themes of marital meaning identified in the literature and, to the extent possible, were similar to single items used in the studies from the literature review (Hall, 2016). Respondents are given the following questions: “What do you believe about marriage?” and “How true are the following statements about what you think marriage is like?” Possible responses range from 1 (*not true at all*) to 5 (*very true*). The MMI consists of five polarized and contrasting conceptualizations of marriage. These dimensions are as follow: (a) Special status of marriage vs. neutral alternative; (b) Self-fulfilment vs. obligation; (c) Mutuality vs. individuality; (d) Romanticism vs. pragmatism; (e) Role hierarchy vs. role parallelism. Higher scores mean higher agreement with the first pole of the dimension. In the present study, Cronbach's alphas were as follow: .63 for Special status of marriage, .73 for Self-fulfillment, .61 for Mutuality, .60 Romanticism, and .61 Role hierarchy.

RESULTS

To address the aims of the study, we performed hierarchical regression with an enter method and a one-way ANOVA test with post-hoc comparisons by Bonferroni test. Data were analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences SPSS 21.0. The significance level was set at .05.

First, descriptive statistics of variables were determined (see Table 1).

Second, regression analysis was preceded by investigation of Pearson r correlations between five identity dimensions and five marital beliefs (see Table 2).

Next, on the basis of correlations presented in Table 2 hierarchical regression analysis was conducted for these marital beliefs as dependent variables which were

Table 1
Means and Standard Deviations on Identity Dimensions and Marital Beliefs

Variables	Total sample (<i>N</i> = 291)	Women (<i>n</i> = 155)	Men (<i>n</i> = 136)
	Mean (<i>SD</i>)	Mean (<i>SD</i>)	Mean (<i>SD</i>)
<i>Identity dimensions</i>			
Commitment making	21.97 (5.35)	21.22 (5.57)	22.52 (5.13)
Identification with commitment	14.69 (7.94)	21.10 (6.07)	10.03 (5.53)
Exploration in breadth	17.18 (3.56)	17.86 (3.43)	16.40 (3.56)
Exploration in depth	16.71 (3.21)	17.16 (3.05)	16.20 (3.31)
Ruminative exploration	13.90 (4.09)	14.42 (4.05)	13.32 (4.08)
<i>Marital beliefs</i>			
Special status of marriage vs. neutral alternative	15.99 (3.10)	15.86 (3.02)	16.12 (3.20)
Self-fulfillment vs. obligation	16.16 (2.62)	14.39 (2.63)	13.90 (2.58)
Mutuality vs. individuality	8.01 (1.90)	7.87 (1.87)	8.17 (1.93)
Romanticism vs. pragmatism	10.69 (2.30)	10.51 (2.42)	10.87 (2.17)
Role hierarchy vs. role parallelism	8.50 (1.82)	8.41 (1.76)	8.60 (1.87)

Table 2
Correlations Among Identity Dimensions and Marital Beliefs

Variable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. Commitment making	-	.75**	-.12*	-.07	-.78**	.04	.04	.14*	.16**	.05
2. Identification with commitment		-	-.12*	.13*	-.60**	.11	.05	.23**	.17**	.12*
3. Exploration in breadth			-	.78**	.38**	.20**	-.08	.15*	.03	.02
4. Exploration in depth				-	.35**	.13*	-.07	.12*	-.01	.05
5. Ruminative exploration					-	-.03	-.03	-.06	-.11	-.03
6. Special status of marriage vs. neutral alternative						-	-.22**	.54**	.44**	.17**
7. Self-fulfillment vs. obligation							-	-.13*	.10	-.10
8. Mutuality vs. individuality								-	.45**	.17**
9. Romanticism vs. pragmatism									-	.23**
10. Role hierarchy vs. role parallelism										-

Note. *N* = 291.

***p* < .01, two-tailed; **p* < .05, two-tailed.

significantly correlated with identity dimensions. As a result, hierarchical regression analysis was not conducted for marital belief of 'Self-fulfillment vs. obligation' since this belief was not associated with any of five identity dimensions.

In the first step of hierarchical regression analysis, sex was controlled for. In the second step, five identity dimensions were investigated, and in the third step interactions between five identity dimensions and sex were examined. Table 3 gives the standardized betas, the adjusted R^2 -values, and the

Table 3
Hierarchical Regression Analysis Predicting Marital Beliefs from Identity Dimensions

Predictor	Special status of marriage vs. neutral alternative			Mutuality vs. individuality			Romanticism vs. pragmatism			Role hierarchy vs. role parallelism		
	β	R^2	ΔR^2	β	R^2	ΔR^2	β	R^2	ΔR^2	β	R^2	ΔR^2
Step 1		.00	.002		.00	.006		.00	.006		.00	.002
Sex	.04			.08			.08			.05		
Step 2		.04	.06**		.06	.07***		.02	.03		.00	.03
Commitment making	-.12			.02			.10			-.05		
Identification with commitment	.06			.23*			.12			.15		
Exploration in breadth	.27**			.12			.11			.14		
Exploration in depth	-.02			-.00			-.11			-.07		
Ruminative exploration	-.18			.06			.04			.01		
Step 3		.04	.02		.06	.03		.03	.02		.00	.01
Commitment making * sex	.18			.41			.44			-.23		
Identification with commitment * sex	.12			-.30			-.72*			.20		
Exploration in breadth * sex	.44			.74*			.03			.42		
Exploration in depth * sex	-.57			-.59*			.04			-.23		
Ruminative exploration * sex	.37			.15			.05			-.19		

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

R^2 -change values for the subsequent steps in the regression analysis.

As Table 3 displays, in Step 1 sex did not add significantly to the prediction of marital beliefs. In Step 2, the main effects explained significant portion of the variance in the outcomes. In particular, exploration in breadth was positively related to Special status of marriage, and identification with commitment was positively related to Mutuality, whereas the rest of identity dimensions were unrelated to the remaining marital beliefs. To be precise, higher level of exploration in breadth was related to higher agreement with the notion of marriage as a relationship having a special status, whereas higher level of identification with commitment was related to stronger agreement with the notion of marriage as a relationship being compatible with (or even promoting) maintaining clear individual identities.

In Step 3, the interaction effects did not significantly add to the prediction of each of the four outcome variables.

In the final step of the analysis, the possible differences between individuals with different identity statuses in regard to marital beliefs were investigated. This analysis was preceded by k -means cluster analysis performed on z -scores on identity dimensions. The general characteristic of clusters retained in the present study is as follows:¹ Cluster 1, Moratorium is characterised by high scores

¹ The detailed description of six clusters representing identity statuses obtained in the framework of the research project and sex differences between six clusters is provided in paper "Identity status vs. possession versus the lack of life partner in young adulthood" (Adamczyk, 2014b, in review). A one-way ANOVA test revealed significant differences between the retained clusters in regard to identity dimensions. The results of this analysis are accessible by request.

Table 4
Comparison of Identity Statuses in Regard to Marital Beliefs – A One-way ANOVA Results

	Identity Statuses						F ratio
	1 Moratorium (n = 35; 12.03%)	2 Diffusion (n = 42; 14.43%)	3 Achievement (n = 40; 13.75%)	4 Undifferentiated (n = 80; 27.49%)	5 Foreclosure (n = 46; 15.81%)	6 Ruminative moratorium (n = 48; 16.49%)	
	M (SD)	M (SD)	M (SD)	M (SD)	M (SD)	M (SD)	
Special status of marriage vs. neutral alternative	17.01 (2.37)	15.60 (3.74)	16.00 (3.41)	15.89 (2.99)	15.82 (13.22)	15.67 (2.74)	1.12
Self-fulfillment vs. obligation	12.81 (2.93) ^a	13.91 (.2.65) ^a	14.95 (2.63) ^b	14.14 (2.40) ^a	14.21 (2.64) ^a	14.72 (2.38) ^c	3.22**
Mutuality vs. individuality	8.42 (1.54) ^a	7.24 (2.21) ^b	8.62 (1.27) ^c	8.23 (1.83) ^a	7.91 (1.86) ^a	7.65 (1.98) ^a	3.22**
Romanticism vs. pragmatism	10.71 (2.21) ^a	10.36 (2.38) ^a	11.09(2.39) ^a	10.35 (2.29) ^b	11.61 (2.07) ^c	10.29 (2.31) ^a	2.59*
Role hierarchy vs. role parallelism	8.53 (1.93)	8.02 (1.74)	9.14 (1.84)	8.39 (1.98)	8.53 (1.70)	8.52 (1.61)	1.63

Note. The same letters mean no differences ($p > .05$) between the clusters in regard to a given variable. * $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$.

on exploration in breadth, exploration in depth and low scores on ruminative exploration, commitment making and identification with commitment. Cluster 2, Diffusion is characterized by increased scores on ruminative exploration. Cluster 3, Achievement stands out scores on exploration in breadth, exploration in depth, commitment making, identification with commitment, and low scores on ruminative exploration. Cluster 4, Undifferentiated is characterized by low scores on all five dimensions identity. Cluster 5, Foreclosure is characterized by high scores on commitment making and identification with commitment, and low scores on exploration in breadth, exploration in depth and ruminative exploration. Finally, Ruminative moratorium cluster is characterized by moderate scores on exploration in breadth, exploration in depth, commitment making and identification with commitment, and high scores on ruminative exploration.

The possible differences on marital beliefs between six identity statuses were analyzed by means of a one-way ANOVA test. The results of this analysis are presented in Table 4.

As Table 4 shows, significant differences between clusters representing identity statuses emerged for the following marital beliefs: Self-fulfillment *vs.* obligation, Mutuality *vs.* individuality, and Romanticism *vs.* pragmatism. Post hoc comparisons by means of Bonferroni test revealed that individuals representing Moratorium cluster scored lower on Self-fulfillment *vs.* obligation (i.e., their agreement with the perception of marriage as a key means of meeting one's needs, such as emotional fulfillment or economic security) was weaker than agreement of individuals representing Achievement cluster, and individuals representing Ruminative moratorium cluster. Furthermore, individuals representing Diffusion cluster scored lower on Mutuality *vs.* individuality (i.e., their agreement with notion of marriage as being compatible with or even promoting maintaining clear individual identities) was weaker than agreement of individuals representing Achievement cluster. In addition, individuals representing Foreclosure cluster scored higher on Romanticism *vs.* pragmatism (i.e., their agreement with viewing marriage as a relationship perfectly fit for soul mates or inherently full of agreement and spontaneity) was stronger than agreement of individuals representing Undifferentiated cluster).

DISCUSSION

The aim of the study was to investigate the predictive role of identity dimensions for young adults' marital beliefs. In addition to that, we were also interested in investigating predictive role of sex for marital beliefs.

Our findings indicated the significant role of two identity processes for young adults' marital beliefs. In particular, exploration in breadth (i.e., a process of examining different alternatives in a life domain) was found to be related to the marital belief 'Special status of marriage', which refers to the perception of marriage as the highest expression of love and intimacy and the most satisfying type of relationship. It seems plausible that this type of exploration as a process of searching for and examining various life options by young adults is also related to searching for and examining the meaning of marriage by an individual. In other words, this exploration may be associated with the pursuit of an answer to the question 'What does marriage mean to me as an individual?'. This question is, in turn, of key significance in young adulthood, when the search for a lifetime partner/spouse remains an area of significant interest and importance to young adults (Havighurst, 1981; Willoughby & Dworkin, 2009). Young adulthood is a time when young people explore various available alternatives and possible paths of life (Arnett, 2000). Perhaps the greater exploration of the available tenders, the stronger the perception of marriage as a very special relationship, which like other life tasks can give happiness and satisfaction.

The second identity process – identification with commitment – was predictive for the marital belief 'Mutuality', which incorporates the idea of marriage as being compatible with (or even promoting) maintaining clear individual identities. Identification with commitment refers to the degree to which adolescents/adults feel certain about, can identify with, and internalize their choices (Luyckx, et al., 2008). It is plausible that the possibility to identify and internalize an individual's choices facilitates the perception of marriage as demanding the surrender of spouses' identities or as maintaining clear individual identities. Perhaps the greater certainty of one's own choices reduces the fear that marriage is a relationship in which individuals have to give up their identity.

In order to understand the connection between identity dimensions and marital beliefs more deeply, we performed a one-way analysis of differences in regard to marital beliefs between six clusters representing identity statuses. The results of this analysis indicated that individuals' representing Moratorium cluster agreed with the perception of marriage as a key means of meeting one's needs, such as emotional fulfillment or economic security, was weaker than that of individuals representing Achievement cluster, and individuals representing Ruminative moratorium cluster. Furthermore, individuals' representing Diffusion cluster agreed with notion of marriage as being compatible with (or even promoting) maintaining clear individual identities was weaker than that of individuals representing

Achievement cluster. In addition to that, individuals' representing Foreclosure cluster agreement with viewing marriage as a relationship perfectly fit for soul mates or inherently full of agreement and spontaneity was stronger than that of individuals representing Undifferentiated cluster. This pattern of results indicated that commitment making and identification with commitment are important dimensions which affect perception of marriage as a key means of meeting one's needs, such as emotional fulfillment or economic security. The results obtained suggest that people who stop at the phase of searching and checking the available possibilities do not treat marriage as an institution which is important and has significance for satisfying particular needs. These individuals, being at the stage of searching, may have some difficulties with recognition of marriage as an important aspect of life. Commitment making and identification with commitment also appear to be of key importance to viewing marriage as a relationship perfectly fit for soul mates or inherently full of agreement and spontaneity. As indicated by Erikson (1968) and other researchers (e.g., Zimmer-Gembeck & Petherick, 2006) a strong sense of identity in the facilitation of achieving satisfying committed relationships in adulthood. A strong identity as related to awareness of one's own desires, needs and values and with some key decisions made facilitates the establishment of a relationship without fears and perception of marriage as strong union of souls and merging identities. Increase of exploration in breadth and exploration in depth, in turn, contributes to notion of marriage as strong separation of partners' identities. It seems to be possible that staying in the phase of searching life alternatives without a sense of some choices made may be related to perception of marriage as a separate existence of two individuals.

As far as sex is concerned, it was not found to be predictive for marital beliefs. This finding may be better understood if we take into consideration the changes observed in recent decades related to a diminishing pattern of gender differences in the sphere of intimacy during young adulthood (Feldman, Gowen, & Fisher, 1998). Those changes are thought to contribute to the acknowledgement of the benefits which might be derived from intimacy and closeness with a partner by men (Feldman et al., 1998). Thus, as sex differences in the domain of romantic relationships appear to diminish, it is possible that men and women also hold similar attitudes toward marriage.

The current results should be interpreted in light of some important limitations. The primary limitation of the present study is its correlational design which prevent us from formulating any casual relationships between identity dimensions and statuses, and marital beliefs. Therefore, longitudinal research is needed to provide a better insight

into the role of identity dimensions in the formation of young adults' marital beliefs. Another limitation of the study is the our sample which consisted only of heterosexual, never-married, childless university students, and thus we do not know whether these results could be replicated in sample of older adults or in nonuniversity samples. It is also unclear whether our findings, obtained on individuals at this developmental stage and with history of no marriage, can be generalized to adults, for example, being divorced/separated/widowed or having a child/children. Therefore, a broader, more representative sample needs to be obtained for future research on these issues.

Despite the above-mentioned limitations, the present results indicated that some

identity-related process are related to several marital beliefs held by young adults, and rise the need for deeper examination of the role of identity for marital beliefs and marital relationships in young adulthood.

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Wymiary tożsamości jako predyktory przekonań młodych dorosłych na temat małżeństwa

Katarzyna Adamczyk, Monika Wysota

Instytut Psychologii, Uniwersytet im. Adama Mickiewicza

STRESZCZENIE

Celem przeprowadzonych badań było określenie, czy wymiary tożsamości wyróżnione w modelu podwójnego cyklu formowania tożsamości stanowią predyktory przekonań młodych dorosłych na temat małżeństwa. Dwustu dziewięćdziesięciu jeden studentów (155 kobiet i 136 mężczyzn) w wieku 20–25 lat wypełniło *Skalę rozwoju tożsamości* oraz *Inwentarz przekonań na temat małżeństwa*. Analiza danych z zastosowaniem hierarchicznej analizy regresji ujawniła, iż wymiar tożsamości *eksploracja wszere* stanowił predyktor przekonania *szczególny status małżeństwa*, natomiast wymiar tożsamości *identyfikacja ze zobowiązaniem* stanowił predyktor przekonania *wzajemność*. Jednocześnie, osoby posiadające status tożsamości *Moratorium* w mniejszym stopniu niż osoby posiadające status tożsamości *osiągniętej* i *ruminacyjnej* spstrzeżały małżeństwo jako kluczowy środek zaspokojenia swoich potrzeb. Osoby charakteryzujące się statusem tożsamości *rozproszenie* w mniejszym stopniu niż osoby cechujące się statusem tożsamości *osiągniętej* zgadzały się z pojęciem małżeństwa jako kompatybilnego, a nawet promującego utrzymywanie indywidualnej tożsamości małżonków. Z kolei osoby posiadające status tożsamości *przejęcie* bardziej niż osoby reprezentujące status tożsamości *niezróznicowanie* zgadzały się ze spstrzeganiem małżeństwa jako związku idealnie pasujących do siebie dusz lub związku pełnego porozumienia i spontaniczności. Płeć nie stanowiła predyktora przekonań na temat małżeństwa.

Słowa kluczowe: *wymiary tożsamości, statusy tożsamość, przekonania na temat małżeństwa, młodzi dorośli*

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