

Week 13: Potential Issues: Online deception, privacy, infidelity

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The rise of online dating has brought about various conveniences but has also resulted in potential issues such as deception and infidelity. "Let my fingers do the Talking: Sexting and Infidelity in Cyberspace" paper examines the connection between sexting and infidelity in cyberspace while exploring changes in interpersonal relationships over the past two decades. Joinson and his team's work provides insights into the complex relationship between trust, privacy, and self-disclosure in cyberspaces. They discuss the psychological aspects involved when an individual makes self-disclosures online. Additionally, the last paper written by Toma and Catalina explores physical attractiveness, self-presentation, and deception in online dating explores the intricate relationship between these three factors. Both papers offer valuable insights into the dynamics of online relationships and their potential implications for individuals' experiences of love and romance.

I agree with Wysocki and Childers that sexting can form infidelity in some cases. Sexting refers to sharing sexually explicit messages and photos using mobile phones or other kinds of digital devices [1]. With the availability of the internet and decreased prices of online dating platforms, sexting has become a common tool to fulfill sexual desires outside the marriage. I also agree with the authors that individuals who engage in sexting violate the trust and commitment of the relationship [1]. The paper titled "Privacy, Trust, and Self-Disclosure Online," written by Joinson and the team explores the role of trust and privacy in online self-disclosure. I agree with the authors that trust and privacy are fundamental human needs, and the feeling of trust and privacy leads to self-disclosure in cyberspaces. On the other hand, self-disclosures can also lead to cyberbullying and privacy violations [2]. Hence, I agree with the authors that individuals should be aware of privacy threats and trust violations while engaging in self-disclosures online. The last paper written by Toma and Hancock provides interesting views to support their hypothesis about physical attractiveness and the level of deception involved in online dating. I particularly agree with the authors that honesty and transparency are also important in online dating [3]. People on online dating sites should represent themselves accurately rather than relying on physical attractiveness [3].

I propose conducting a study to investigate how broken trust and privacy impact the formation of new relationships in the context of online dating. Trust and privacy are crucial elements of any interpersonal relationship, particularly in romantic relationships. By conducting interviews with individuals who have experienced broken trust in previous romantic relationships and subsequently attempted to form new relationships through online dating, I aim to gain insights into their psychological and emotional states, as well as their thoughts and experiences regarding trust and privacy in these new relationships. This study has the potential to provide valuable insights into how individuals can overcome trust and privacy insecurities when forming new romantic relationships. By understanding the factors that contribute to successful new relationships, this research can offer practical guidance and provide support for people struggling with these issues in their dating lives. Overall, the findings of this study can contribute to improving the quality and longevity of romantic relationships in the online dating context.

References:

- [1] Wysocki, Diane Kholos, and Cheryl D. Childers. "'Let my fingers do the talking': Sexting and infidelity in cyberspace." *Sexuality & Culture* 15 (2011): 217-239.
- [2] Joinson, Adam N., et al. "Privacy, trust, and self-disclosure online." *Human-Computer Interaction* 25.1 (2010): 1-24.
- [3] Toma, Catalina L., and Jeffrey T. Hancock. "Looks and lies: The role of physical attractiveness in online dating self-presentation and deception." *Communication research* 37.3 (2010): 335-351.