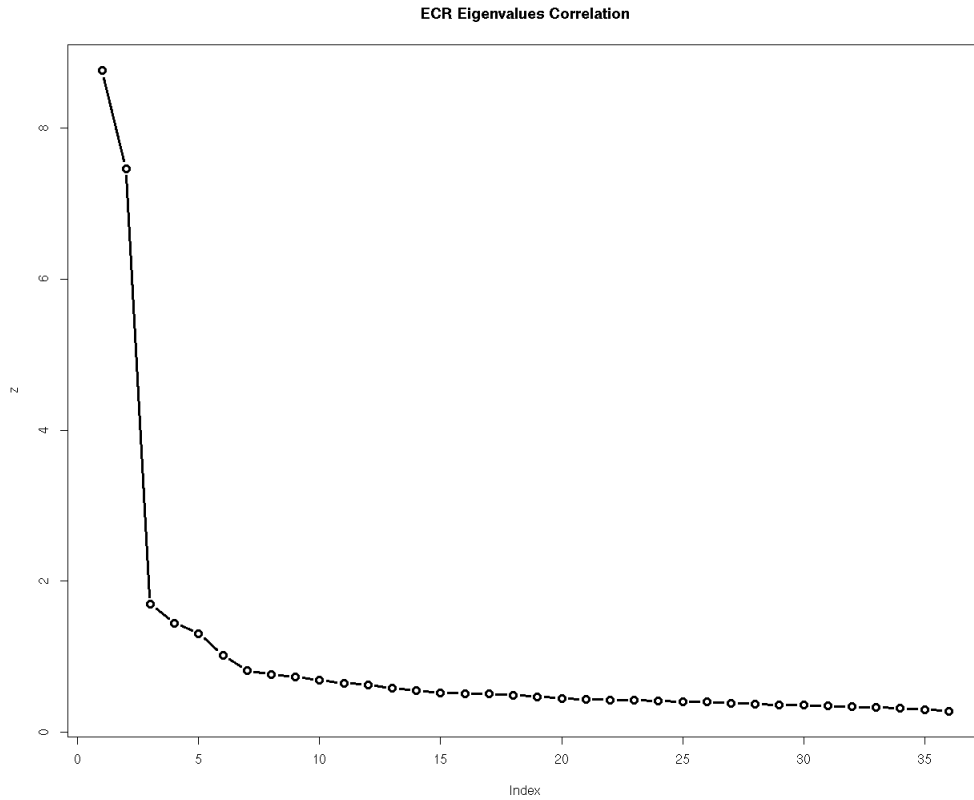


## TWO SIGNIFICANT EIGENVALUES IN CORRELATION MATRIX OF EXPERIENCES IN CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS DATA

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The ECR data set contains data from 51412 people who are in romantic relationships [1]. We consider eigenvalues of the correlation matrix of the data first.



We can see that there are two dominant eigenvalues and the rest are negligible by comparison.

This is very important because this shows that there are *two* orthogonal factors in the measured data from Experiences in Close Relationships.

This is a truly fantastic result, since regardless of all the theories we have constructed about romantic relationships, human nature is actually completely mysterious and determined largely by the genetic code in common,  $G_c$ , which is 99.9% of every person's genome.

This empirical result of *two* orthogonal factors is absolutely essential to appreciate, because it is not a single factor. They can be identified with *Anxiety* and *Avoidance* factors. This is very strong empirical grounds then for further understanding of the dominant variable in close relationships.

I want to revisit the criticisms I have for Attachment theory of Hazan-Shaver 1987. Adult romantic relations are not mother-child relationships. They are entirely different processes with significantly different features. Love and loss in romantic relationships have entirely different outcomes than separation and loss of a child from its mother. I have written about this issue elsewhere.

Now this is empirically determined two factors in actual romantic relationships, and instead of attempting to push mother-child attachment on to romantic relationships, which is I think a major error, it is worthwhile attempting to understand the nature of romantic adult attachment separately.

Now that we have two orthogonal factors from data, we can then consider the interpretation of the factors from Eva Klohnen's circumplex and attempt to produce some universal understanding of romantic relationships.

Her view is to consider the Anxiety and Avoidance as axes on the plane in terms of Self-Other Positive-Negative. That is useful but is not satisfactory. You see, the problem is that it's possible to have positive view of Self, positive view of Other, and still be Anxious or Avoidant. This is crucial to understand. The breakdown by Self-Other Positive-Negative is to limit interpretation of how we are as human beings. Two people could have positive views of Self and positive views of Other and still not be able to maintain a romantic relationship because there is no law of the universe forcing them to stay together.

# 1. ORTHOGONAL ANXIETY-AVOIDANCE IN ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS SHOW IT IS NOT AN ATTACHMENT PROCESS

It is not the norm for mothers to abandon children. They do happen, but it is not dominant in the experience of children on Earth. But both Anxiety and Avoidance axes are simply part of the world of romantic relationships. Therefore Anxiety in a romantic relationship is not abnormal at all. This makes taking the analogy of mother-child relationship to romantic relationships is a grave conceptual error.

The error is understandable before the Attachment system was hypothesized in the brain by Helen Fisher in 1998, because this attraction system does not have any effect for mother-child relationships at all. This was of course Freud's great confusion. Human infants do not have sexual or romantic feelings develop till adolescence.

## REFERENCES

- [1] [https://openpsychometrics.org/\\_rawdata/](https://openpsychometrics.org/_rawdata/)