

SOME MAJOR CRITICISMS OF INTERDEPENDENCE THEORY

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Interdependence theory grew out of Kelley and Thibault's *Social Psychology of Groups* from 1959. This is a game-theoretic view. It was applied to close relationships from early 1970s and became the dominant theory of close relationships in 1980s. It has its virtues, but I will immediately point out that it is fundamentally flawed from its conception and that is because it ignores the social emotional instincts from its foundations. The problem here is that there are fundamental subcortical natural human drivers that determine sexual, romantic, and attachment desires in human beings that are not part of the fundamental model at all.

I will take a further look into these flaws in the future, but this theory of dependence is not going to be the right theory since it does not use fundamental emotional systems LUST, PLAY, SEEKING, CARE at all in its formulations and assumes a neutrality. In economics, game-theoretic models are reasonable, but in romantic engagements they are likely to be misspecifying the phenomena in fundamental ways.

My intuition about this is quite strong.

Attachment theory began with Bowlby's trilogy (1969, 1973, 1980).