



## COORIENTATION EFFECTS IN BODY IMAGE OF OLDER MARITAL DYADS

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The purpose of this study was to test a model of spousal interdependence in the perception of body image in older marital dyads. The questionnaire was sent to a total of 194 married couples, aged 60 and older, residing in independent dwellings, and living in three Florida cities. Data from 94 married couples were entered into data analysis.

Analysis via structural equation modeling revealed that (1) husbands' self-assessments of their own appearances corresponded to wives' self-assessments of their own appearances; (2) wives' actual evaluations of their husbands' appearances significantly affected husbands' self-assessments of their own appearances; (3) husbands' actual evaluations of their wives' appearances significantly affected wives' self-assessments of their own appearances; and (4) the correlation in self-assessment of appearance between husbands and wives existed because wives evaluated their husbands' appearances similarly to how husbands evaluated their wives' appearances. Overall, husbands' and wives' actual evaluations of their spouse's appearance simultaneously influenced husbands' and wives' self-assessments of their own appearance.

The results lend support for coorientation theory (Kenny, 1988). Coorientation effects on body satisfaction have not clearly been demonstrated in previous literature.

Kenny, D. A. (1988). Interpersonal perception: A social relations analysis. Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, 5, 247-261.