

PSYCHOLOGY

Chair: MICHAEL R. STEVENSON
Department of Psychological Science
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
(317) 285-1695
SUVON + 732-1695

Chair-elect: SAMUEL B. SCHNITZER
Department of Psychology
Indiana State University
Terre Haute, IN 47809
(812) 237-2460
SUVON + 749-2460

ABSTRACTS

Impact of Parental Conflict and Father Closeness on the Development of Children's Heterosexual Relationships. STEPHANIE LAWRENCE, 2875 SOUTH 6TH PLACE #2, Terre Haute, Indiana 47802. MICHAEL R. STEVENSON, Department of Psychological Science, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana 47306.—The primary goal of this study was to assess the quality of participants' intimate heterosexual relationships as determined by their relationships with their fathers and the amount of conflict between parents as observed by the children. Two hundred two single, white students between the ages of 18 and 22 years participated. One hundred two were male and 100 were female. Participants answered questionnaires which consisted of a demographics section, seven items which reported conflict between parents, six measures which assessed their current heterosexual relationships, and two measures which assessed past and present relationships with fathers. Respondents who reported closeness to their fathers also reported satisfaction with their dating activities. Females were more likely to report loving and liking their partners, and also reported more intimacy with their partners. Both males and females were more likely to report more liking and loving of their partners if they also reported minimal parental conflict.

Personality Changes of American Teenage Participants in a Japanese Youth Exchange. MICHAEL H. STITSWORTH, Department of 4-H Youth, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana 47907.—The purpose of this study was to determine whether changes in personality occur in teenagers during one-month homestays in Japan. The sample consisted of 154 exchangees and 112 control group members who did not travel abroad. The California Psychological Inventory was administered to both groups prior to the exchange, again at its conclusion, and a third time four months later. Antecedent information was collected using a pre-exchange questionnaire. Analysis of co-variances was used to determine if the pretest and posttest scores for the two groups were significantly different. Nonparametric tests were used to determine if certain overseas group antecedent subpopulations changed differently. The overseas group increased in flexibility and independence and became less conventional as compared to the control group. Exchangees who were the first member of their family to travel abroad and those who personally paid a high percentage of their trip expenses changed the most. Travelers who had studied a foreign language for one or two semesters experienced no significant changes; those with no previous language study and those who had studied a language for three or four semesters changed significantly.

