

PEARSON & NINE GRADUATE STUDENTS
PUBLISH SIX JOURNAL ARTICLES

Pearson, J. C., Carmon, A., Tobola, C., & Fowler, M. (2010). Motives for communication: Why the Millennial generation uses electronic devices. *Journal of the Communication, Speech & Theatre Association of North Dakota*, 22, 45-55.

This study examined the motives college students offer for their technology choices and links their use of technology with their expressions of loneliness and belongingness. Students primarily use their cell phones, computers, televisions, and MP3 players for entertainment, companionship, social interaction, and passing time and they are less likely to use these electronic devices, in general, for escape or for information. Students who reported more loneliness were less likely to use any of the four electronic devices for entertainment purposes and they were also less likely to use the cell phone and television for social interaction. Students who perceive increased social assurance did not appear to be enthralled by technology and electronic devices as evidenced from this investigation.

Pearson, J. C., Child, J. T., Herakova, L. L., Semlak, J. L., & Angelos, J. (2010). Competent public speaking: Assessing skill development in the basic course. *Basic Communication Course Annual*, 22, 39-86.

These authors provide an overall assessment of the basic public speaking course by examining fifteen student attributes divided into three categories (course engagement characteristics, dispositions, and demographics) hypothesized to affect learning and public speaking skill development in the basic course. A four-step hierarchical multiple regression tested two research questions. Course engagement characteristics improved students' public-speaking grade averages, but dispositions did not. The effects of demographic characteristics, particularly biological sex, were not eliminated after controlling for course engagement and dispositional factors.

Pearson, J. C., Child, J. T., & Carmon, A. F. (2010). Rituals in committed romantic relationships: The creation and validation of an instrument. *Communication Studies*, 61, 464-483.

The purpose of this investigation was to create and validate a measure of rituals in committed romantic relationships (Rituals in Committed Romantic Relationships; RCRR). Five hundred and sixty individuals in committed romantic relationships, operationalized as couples who were cohabitating or married, responded to 50 items that measured five sets of rituals pertaining to daily routines and tasks, idiosyncratic behaviors, everyday talk, intimacy, and couple-time. In addition, they completed a relational quality measure and a relational intimacy measure. Multiple analyses supported the five-factor model of rituals and consisted of 30 of the original 50 items. Perceived ritual use predicted alterations in both perceived relational quality and perceived relational intimacy. Specifically, greater use of couple-time, idiosyncratic, and everyday talk rituals predicted higher quality committed relationships while greater couple-time,

idiosyncratic, and daily routines and task rituals predicted deeper levels of perceived relational intimacy.

Pearson, J. C., Child, J. T., & Carmon, A. F. (2010). Rituals in dating relationships: The development and validation of a measure. *Communication Quarterly*.

The purpose of this study, through surveying 590 individuals in dating relationships, was to create and validate the Rituals in Dating Relationships (RDR) measure. Confirmatory factor analysis and structural equation modeling resulted in a five-factor measure, reinforcing previous research (Bruess & Pearson, 1997): couple-time rituals, everyday talk, idiosyncratic rituals, daily routines and tasks, and intimacy expressions. Ritual use was positively related to both perceived relational quality and perceived relational intimacy, demonstrating the concurrent and predictive validity of the RDR measure.

Vevea, N. N., Pearson, J. C., Child, J. T., & Semlak, J. (2010). *Journal of the Communication, Speech & Theatre Association of North Dakota*, 22, 1-8.

This study examines the influence of unwillingness to communicate, self-esteem, and biological sex on students' communication apprehension levels in a public speaking classroom setting. Student participants in basic public speaking courses at two Midwestern universities completed surveys. While all of the variables produced significant main effects, the approach-avoid element of unwillingness to communicate was the best predictor of communication apprehension.

Carmon, A. F., Western, K. J., Miller, A. N., Pearson, J. C., & Fowler, M. R. (2010). Grieving those we've lost: An examination of family communication patterns and grief reactions. *Communication Research Reports*, 27, 253-262.

The authors examined the effect of family communication patterns (FCP) on grief reactions following a death in the family. FCP has been shown to predict a variety of cognitive and behavioral outcomes, but research has not explored their effect on the bereavement process. A survey of 203 participants revealed increased perceptions of conversation orientation prior to a death in the immediate family led to increased feelings of personal growth and decreased feelings of detachment.