

ABSTRACT

RELATIONSHIPS AND EMOTION

The goal of this thesis was to examine depression pathways in women through the study of relationship mutuality, femininity, and anger expression. Anger expression was examined in conjunction with relationship mutuality and femininity in terms of its predictive power for depression. Analyses included 156 female participants from Introductory Psychology at California State University, Fresno. Subjects completed four questionnaires addressing anger expression, femininity, mutuality, and depression. Hypotheses tested through multiple regression revealed that anger expression dynamics significantly predicted depression in the high femininity, high mutuality group and the low femininity, low mutuality group. Level of femininity was not an independently significant factor of women's depression, but it did interact with relationship mutuality and anger expression in the present study. Level of femininity helped further our understanding of anger expression and mutuality, leading to the idea that the Self-in-Relation Theory needs to incorporate femininity as a contributing factor to women's depression.

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