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# **How Does Foster Parenting Impact the Marital Relationship?**

Hailey McClain

## **Abstract**

Research has deemed the incorporation of a child into a family as a crisis because of loss of sleep, lower sexual responsiveness, economic pressures, increased chores, and stress (Anderson, Russell, & Schumm, 1983; LeMasters, 1959; Leavitt, McDaniel, Maas, & Feinberg, 2017). In addition to the universal responsibilities of caring for a child, foster parenting involves working with birth families, arranging resources for foster children, forming a secure parent-child relationship, helping children adjust, maintaining records on the child, and working with foster agencies (Rhodes, Orme, & McSurdy, 2003). Being aware of the marital affects couples may experience while fostering, in addition to many other obstacles foster parents face, can help service providers ensure the well-being of foster parents and ultimately the children in their care.

With ecology theory as a lens, this study investigated the relationship between the perceived marital satisfaction of foster parents and the stresses of fostering as well as how foster parents perceive fostering to have impacted their marital relationship. It was hypothesized that fostering would have a negative impact on perceived marital satisfaction and foster parents would perceive their experience fostering to have negatively impacted their marital relationship.

# **Emotional Labor and the Work of the Funeral Director: A Qualitative Study of the Management of Feelings among Recent Licensed Funeral Directors.**

Cami Cho & Gary Steward

## **Abstract**

Funeral directors are integral to the death care industry, assisting families in the unpleasant and often taboo phenomena of death. They are expected to display appropriate emotions for paying customers. Hochschild's (1983) seminal work on emotional labor sparked a cascade of research. Most research investigated service occupations, in which individuals exchanged compliance with organizational emotional expectations for compensation. This qualitative study builds on previous research to investigate the dynamics of emotional labor among funeral directors.

# **Developing a grounded theory of family process and well-being in "boomerang families"**

Shaun Calix

## **Abstract**

Boomerang families are families in which adult children have returned to live in their parents' residence after having lived independently for a significant period of time (Mitchell, 1998). The research literature on boomerang families mostly has focused on the reasons adult children move back home, and the impacts of having boomerang children on parental well-being. Although some research indicates that "boomerang children" are associated with poor parental well-being (Davis et al., 2018; Wister et al., 1997), other research indicates that parental well-being depends on the reason for the adult child's return to the home (Mitchell, 1998; Mitchell and Gee, 1996).

The purpose of the current study is to construct a grounded theory of family processes and well-being in boomerang families. Grounded theory methods (Corbin & Strauss, 2008) will be used to conduct this research.

Participants are recruited from a community in the Southern Great Plains. Participants are interviewed using semi-structured interviews. Two interviews already have been conducted, and the preliminary data indicates that parents and adult children experience infrequent negotiations regarding chores, and parents generally try not to interfere in their children's private lives. Both participants who have been interviewed thus far reported feeling satisfied with their current living arrangements, and experiencing high well-being, though one would like to move into his own residence

# **Honey, Do You Love Me When I Play Games?**

## **The Effects of Online Games on Offline Couple's Relationships**

Thy Nguyen

### **Abstract**

Online games have become one of the phenomena to the young generations. Previous research discussed the negative effects of online gaming. However, whether online games can improve or deteriorate the couple's relationship remains a question. We obtained 60 participants who completed a list of 140 questions about their experience as couples who play online games together. We wanted to examine whether couples preferred playing online games with their partners and whether they have issues with their gaming hours, which may affect the quality of their offline romantic relationships. We also wanted to see whether online games can promote healthy relationships for partners who have avoidance and anxiety issues. We hypothesized that partners with high avoidance and anxiety levels may spend more time on online games, which may result in lower satisfaction in their relationships. Although we did not find a significant difference in the gaming hours and the satisfaction of the couple relationships, more than half of the couples did not have problems with their partners' playing online games as long as they receive love, care, and support from each other. This may help with their intimacy and conflict resolution, which may increase the quality of their romantic relationships. The study can contribute to family and couple therapy in clinical practice. The couples may understand how to enjoy playing online games together while maintaining their healthy offline relationships.