

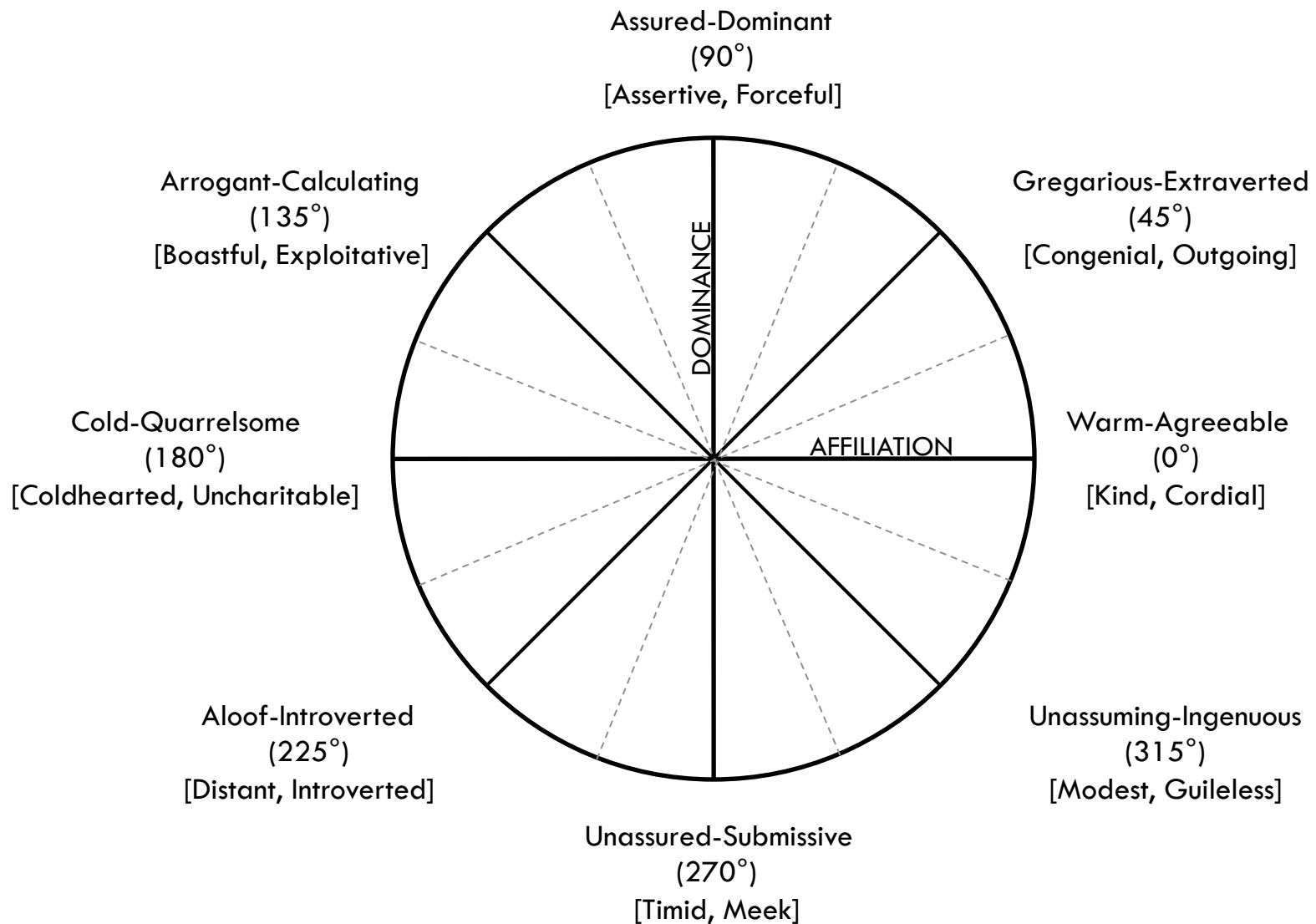
A General Framework for Studying of Social Behavior: Interpersonal Theory of Personality

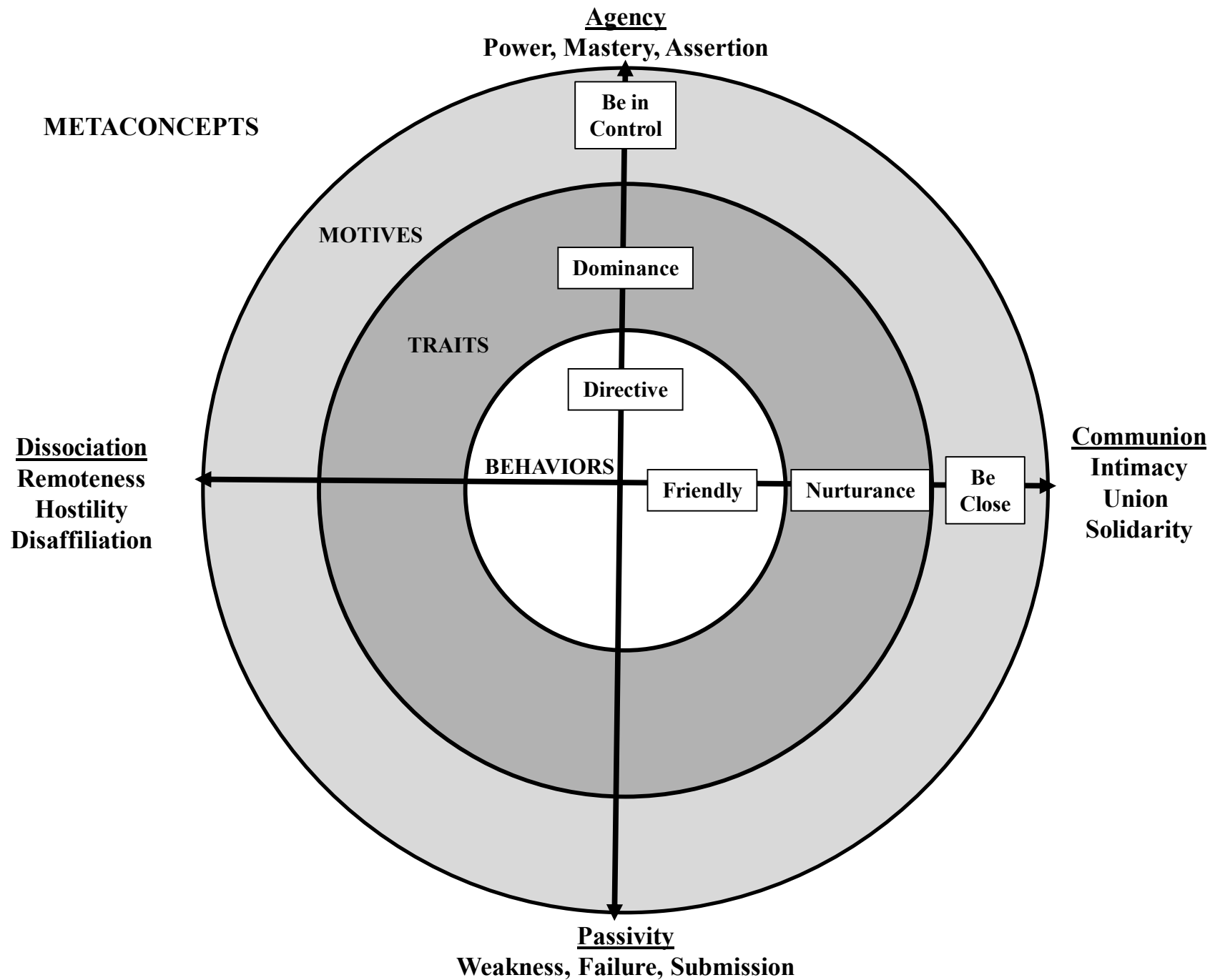
Aidan G.C. Wright
University of Pittsburgh



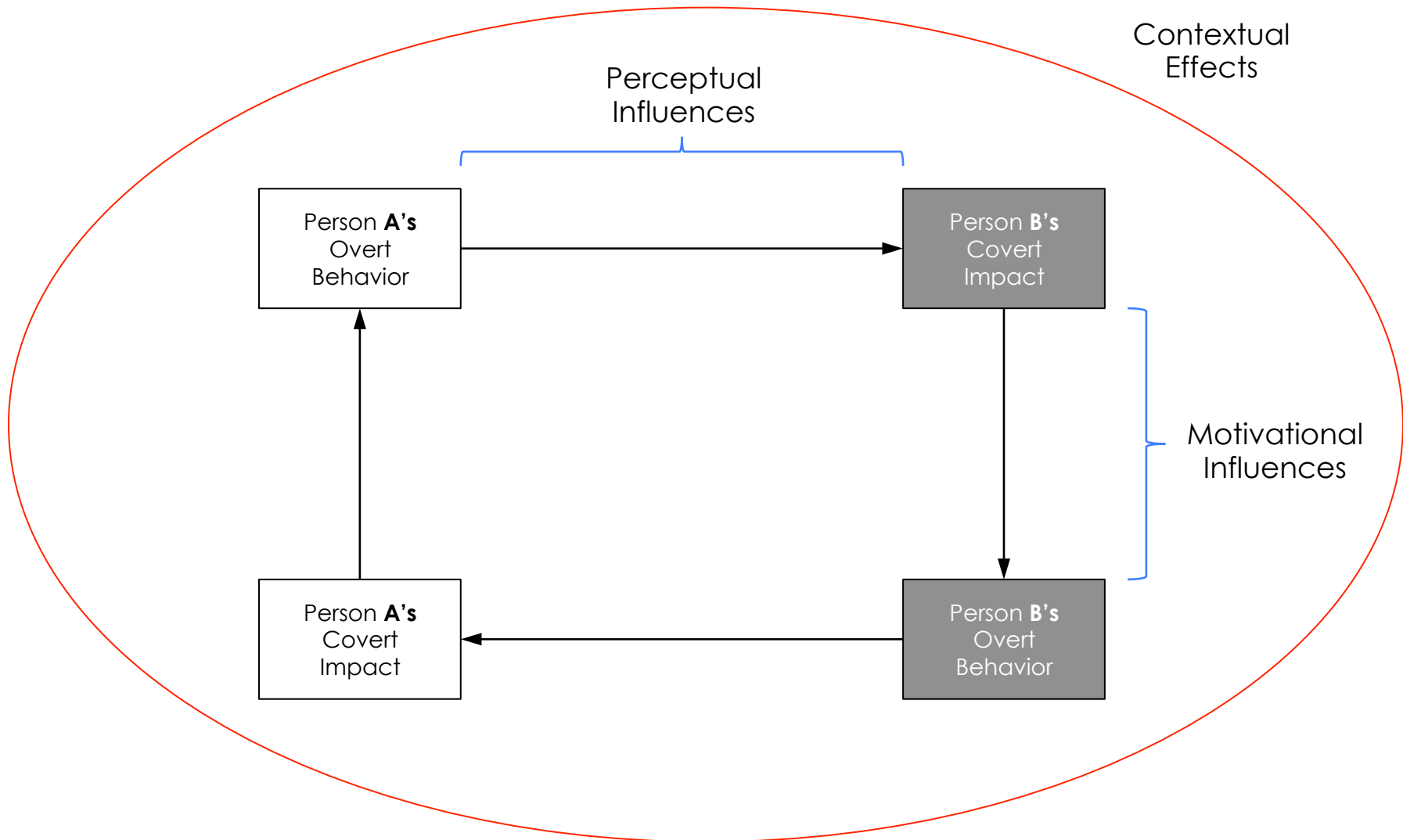
Interpersonal Theory of Personality

- **Assumption I: *Focus/Emphasis*** – The most important expressions of personality (and psychopathology) occur in phenomena involving more than one person (i.e., interpersonal situations).
 - Interpersonal situations occur between proximal interactants *and* within the minds of those interactants via the capacity for perception, mental representation, etc.
- **Assumption II: *Structure*** – Agency and Communion (Dominance and Affiliation) provide an integrative meta-structure for conceptualizing interpersonal situations.
- **Assumption III: *Dynamics/Process*** – Transactional social behavior serves goal pursuit/regulatory functions, and normative patterns (e.g., complementarity) can be considered a common baseline for the field regulatory pulls and invitations of interpersonal behavior.

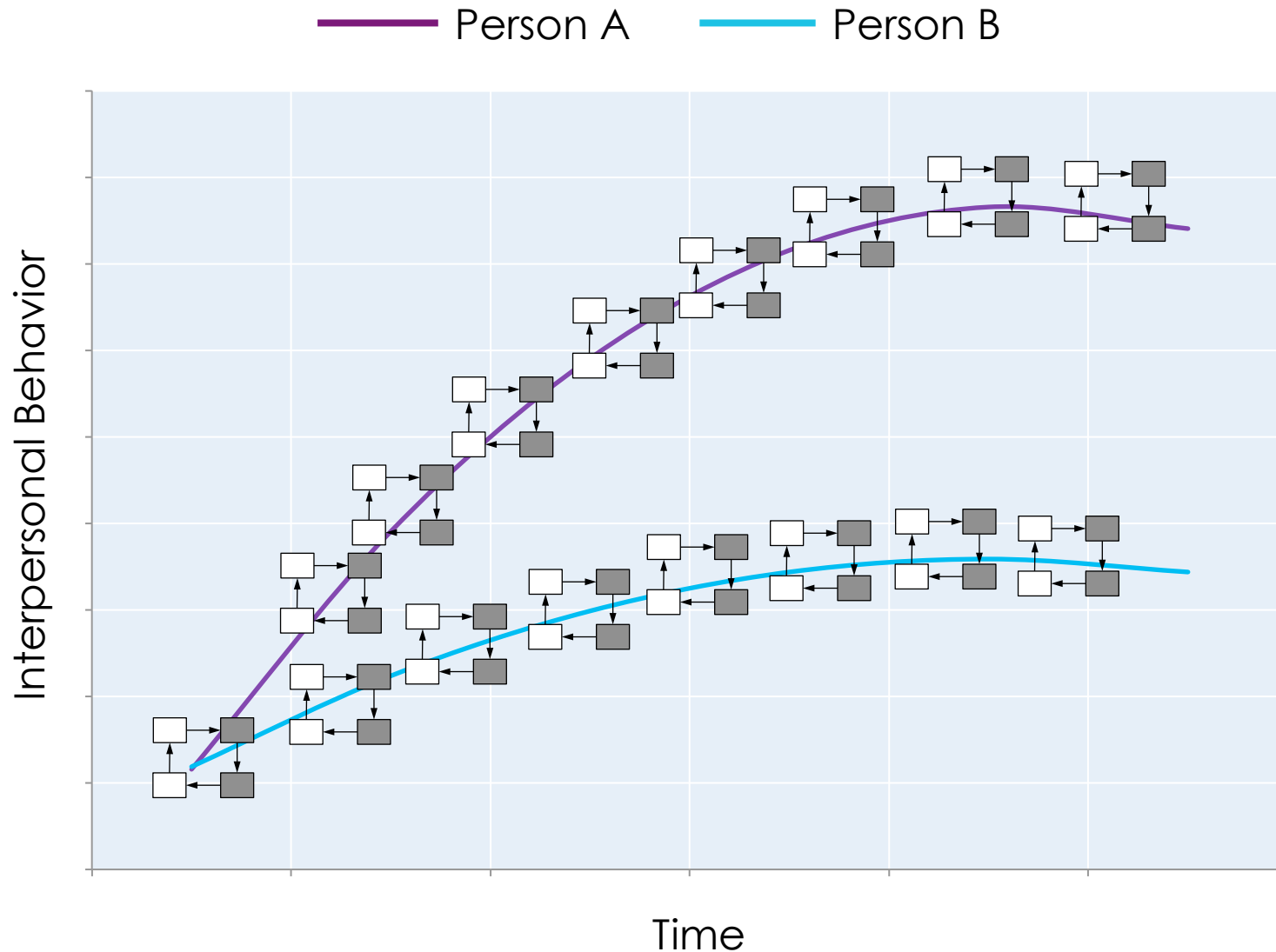




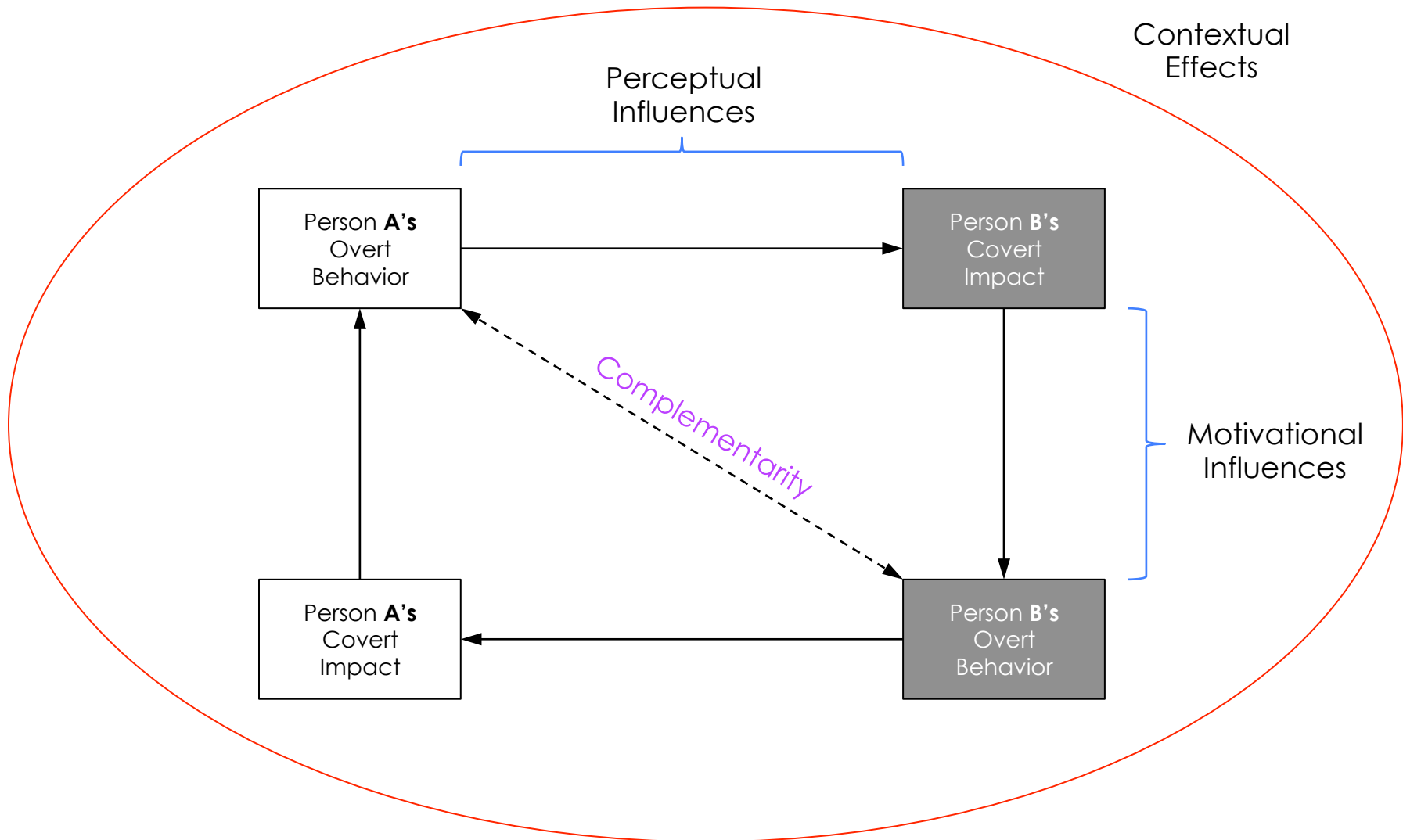
The Interpersonal Transaction Cycle

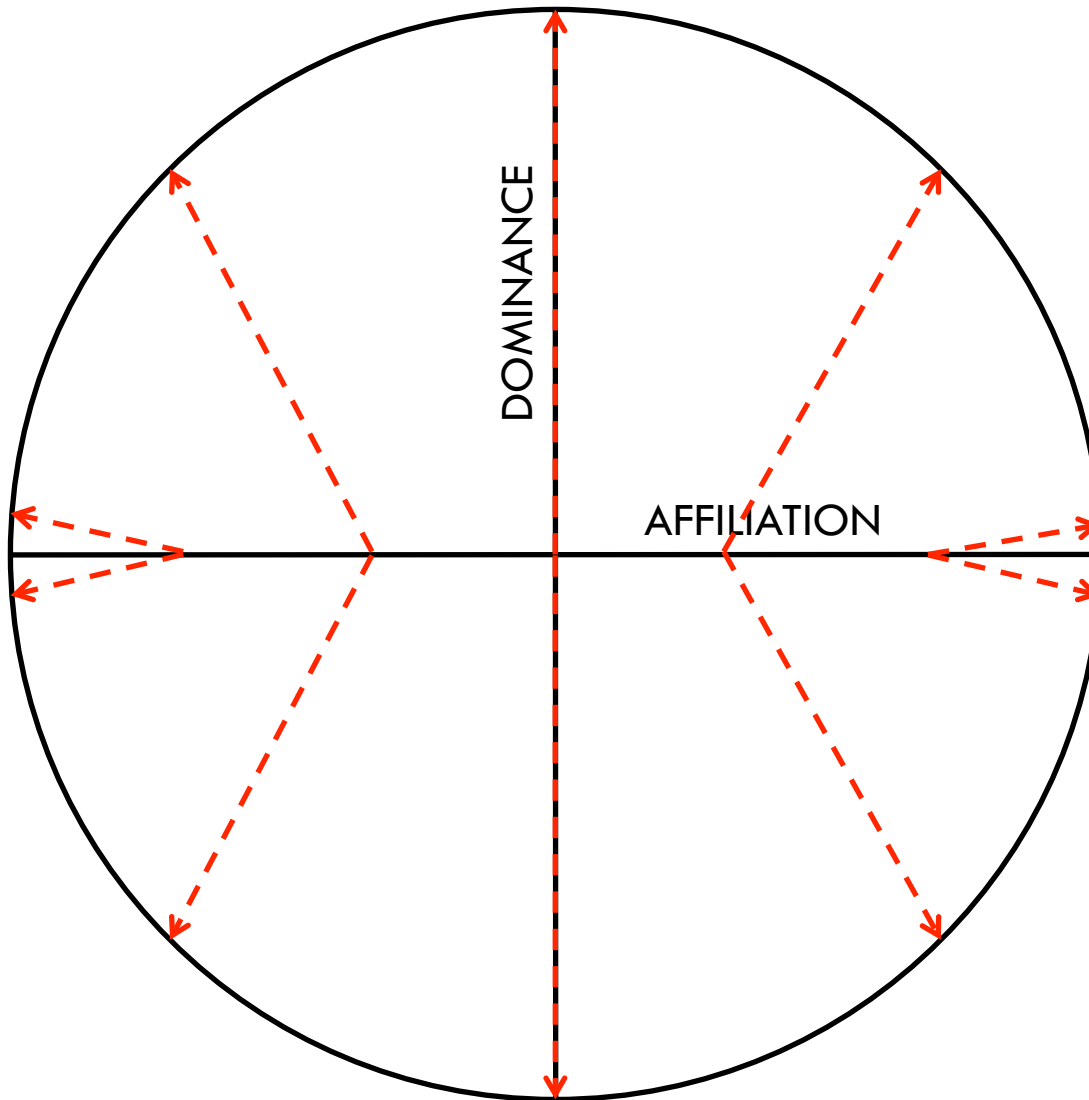


Personality is Patterns of Interpersonal Transactions over Time



The Interpersonal Transaction Cycle





Complementarity Principle:

Equivalence (sameness) on
Affiliation

Reciprocity (oppositeness) on
Dominance

↑ Complementarity = PA,
Satisfaction, Stability

↓ Complementarity = NA,
Frustration, Renegotiation

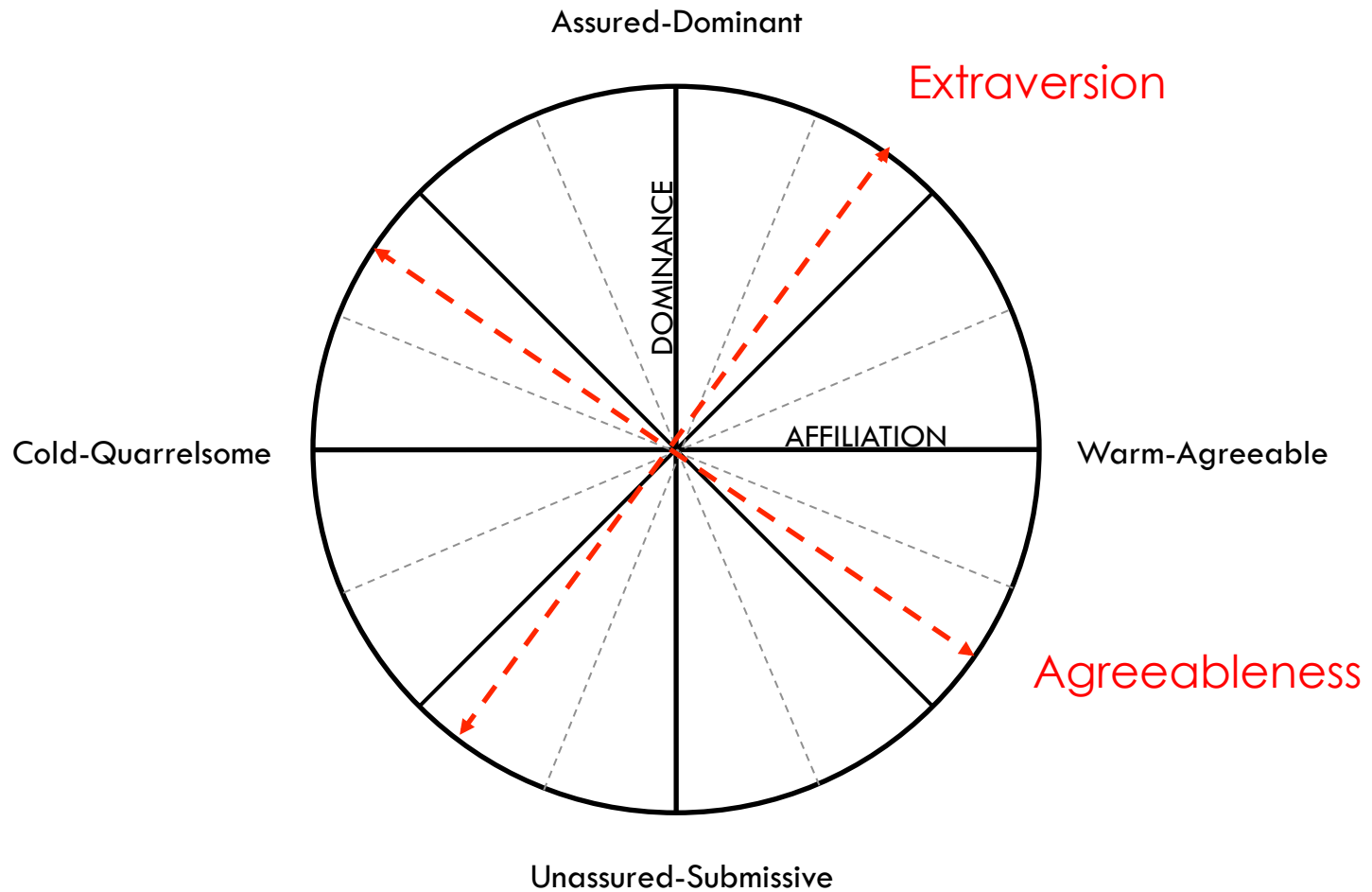


Interpersonal Dispositions

Dispositional Measures

- Interpersonal Adjective Scales (Wiggins, 1979, 1995)
- Inventory of Interpersonal Problems (Alden et al., 1990)
- Circumplex Scales of Interpersonal Values (Locke, 2000)
- Circumplex Scales of Interpersonal Efficacy (Locke & Sadler, 2007)
- Inventory of Interpersonal Strengths (Hatcher & Rogers, 2009, 2012)
- Interpersonal Sensitivities Circumplex (Hopwood et al., 2011)
- NEO-IPC Scales (Traupman et al., 2009)

Dispositional Profiles: Interpersonal Traits



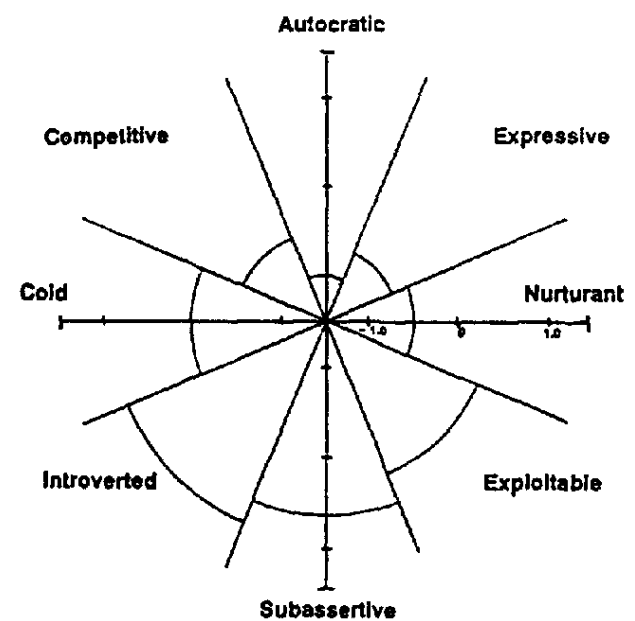
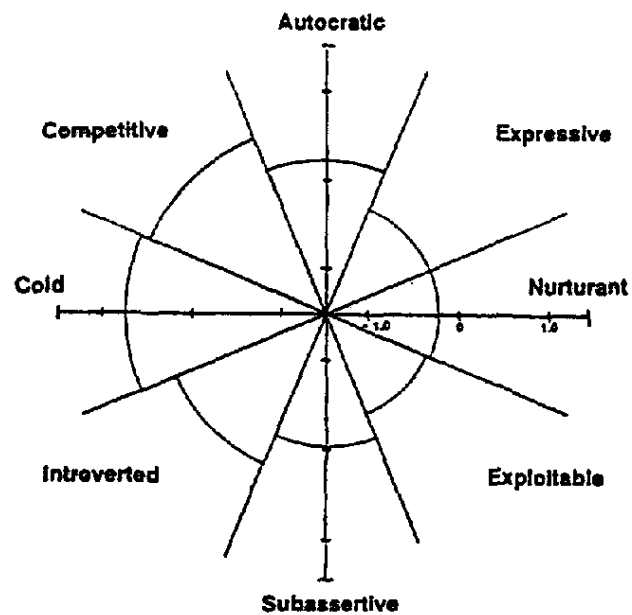
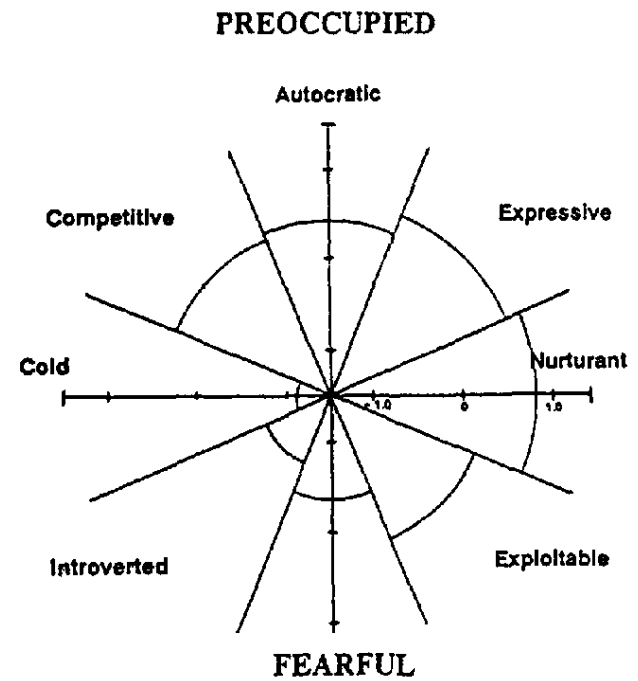
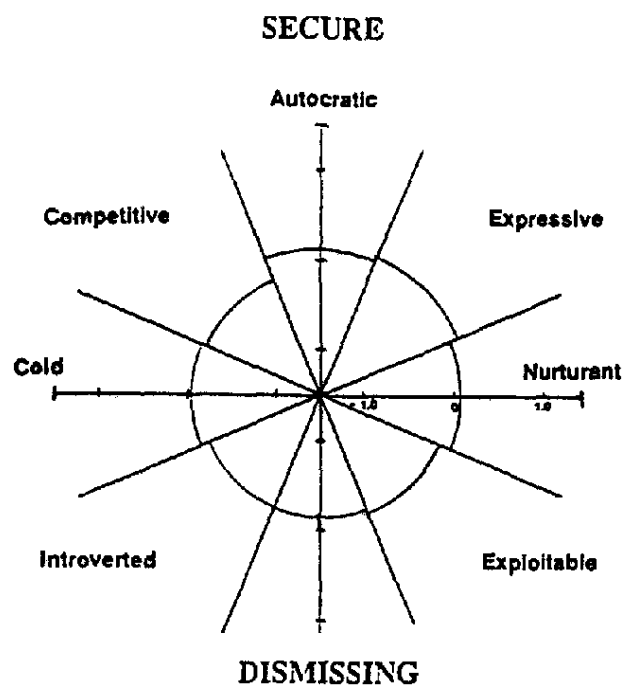
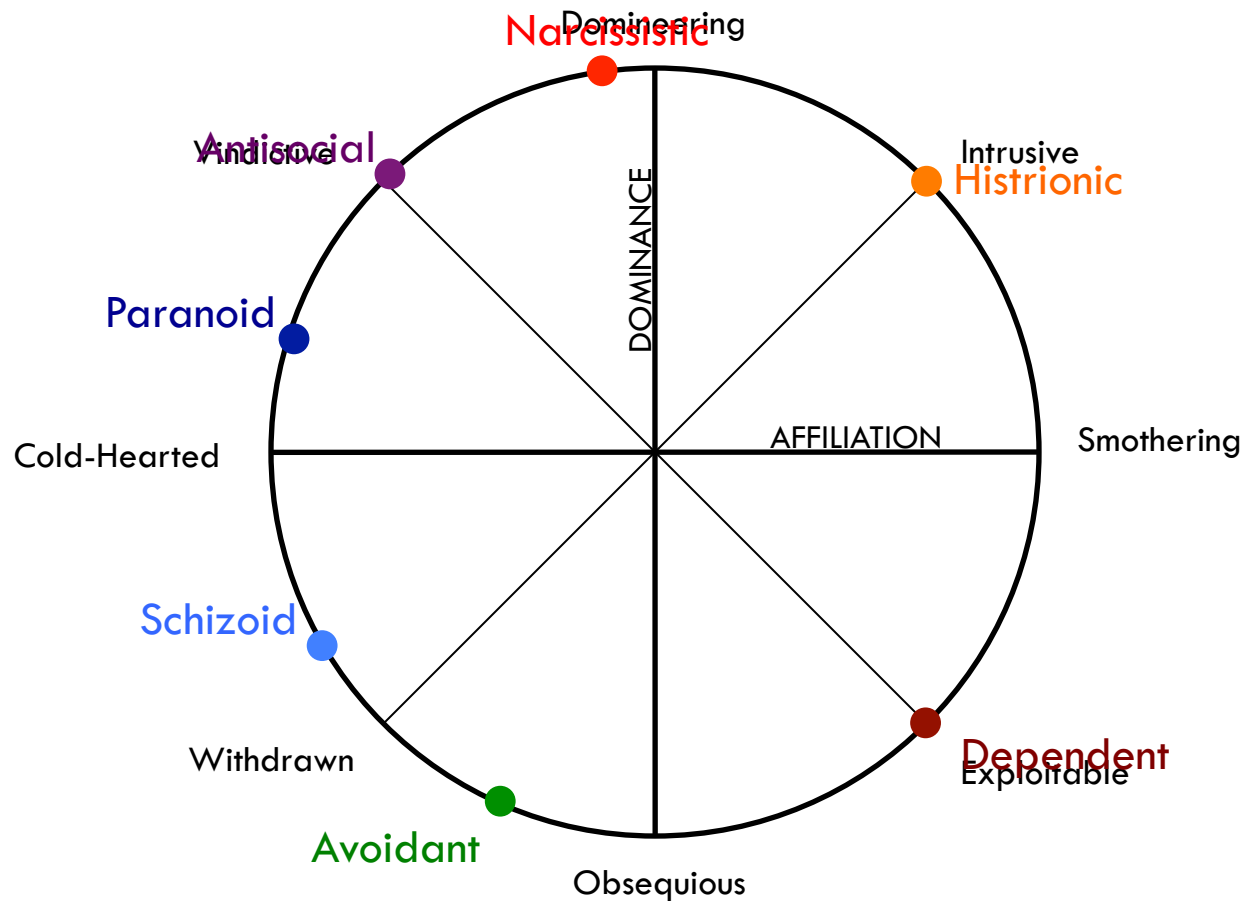


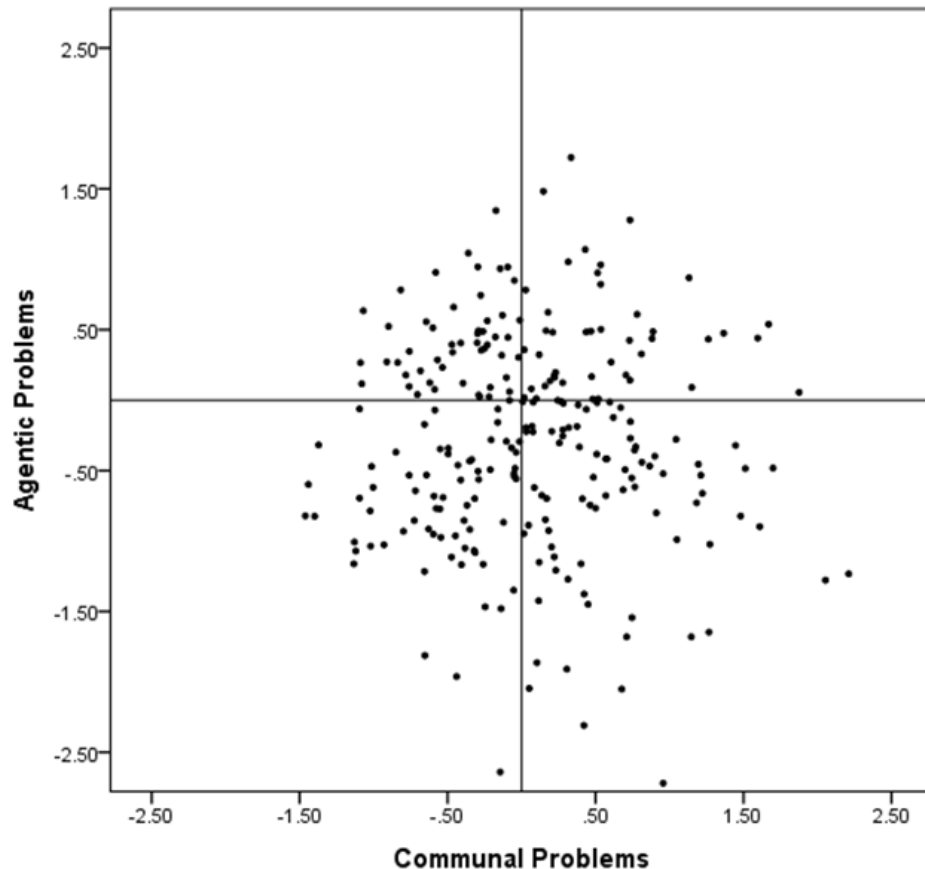
Figure 6. Self-report profiles of interpersonal problems across attachment groups.

Dispositional Profiles: Personality Disorders

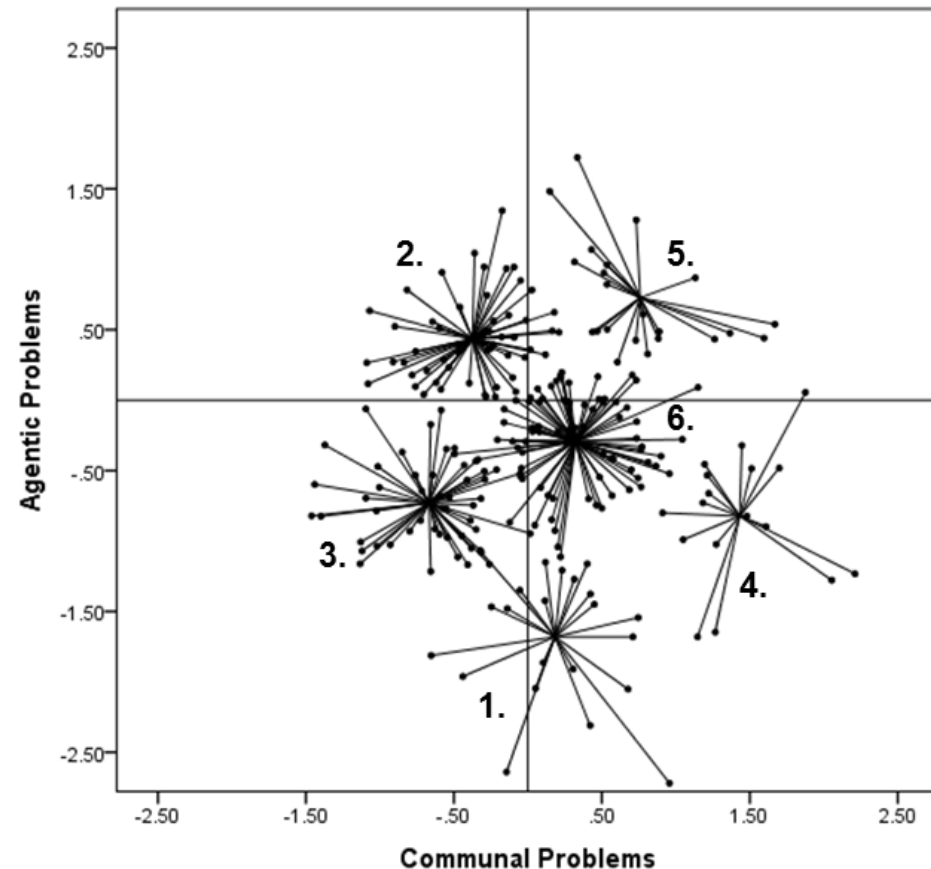


Clarifying Heterogeneous Diagnoses: BPD

A.



B.





Interpersonal Variability and Signatures

Interpersonal Variability

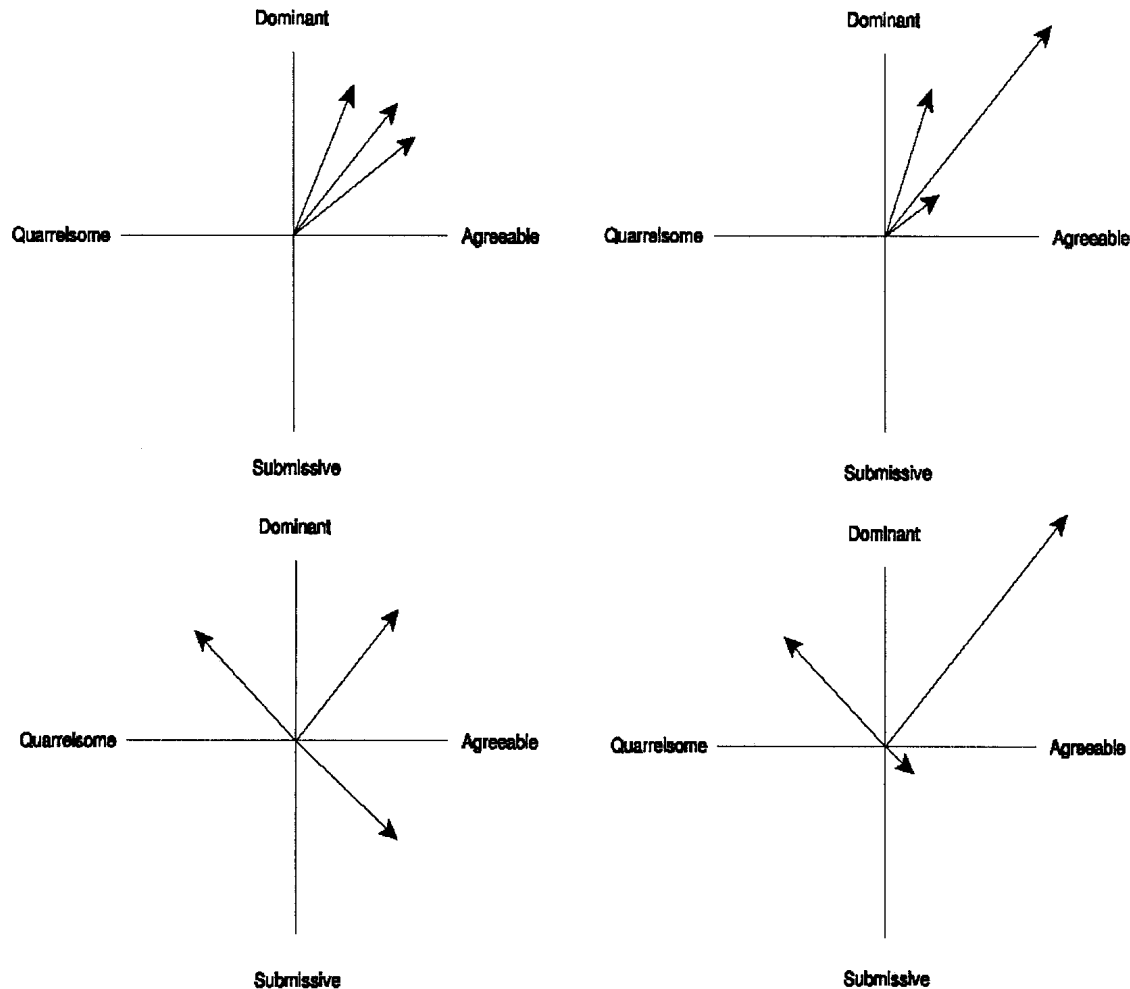
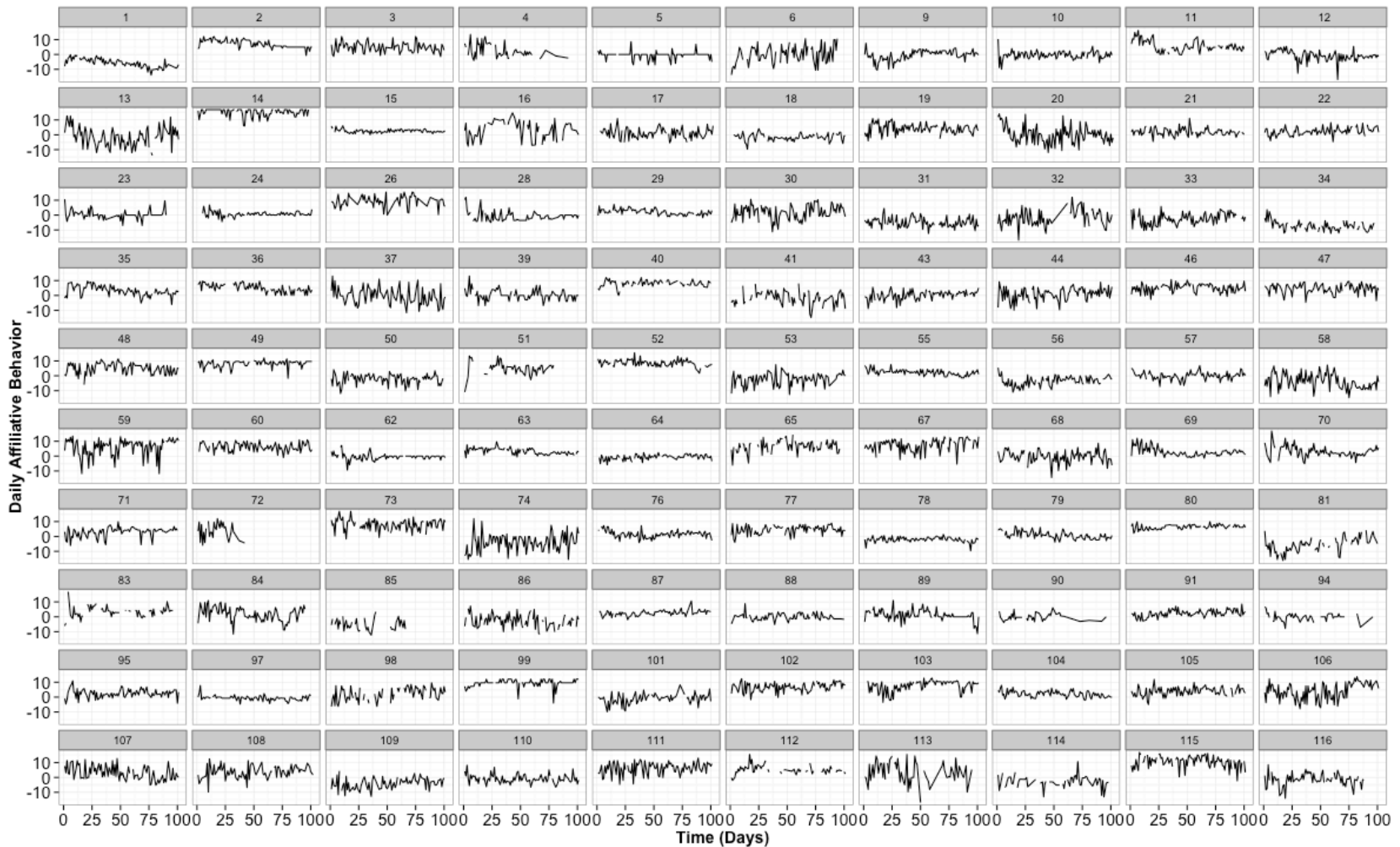


Figure 2. Representations of combinations of pulse and spin using vectors from three events: low spin and low pulse (upper left panel), low spin and high pulse (upper right panel), high spin and low pulse (lower left panel), and high spin and high pulse (lower right panel).

Daily Variability in Interpersonal Behavior

100-Day Daily Diary Study of Individuals with Personality Disorders

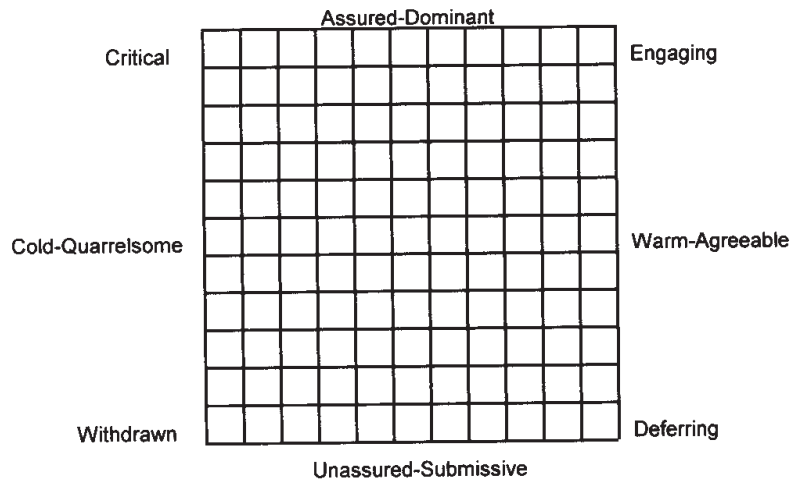


Relevant Dynamic Constructs

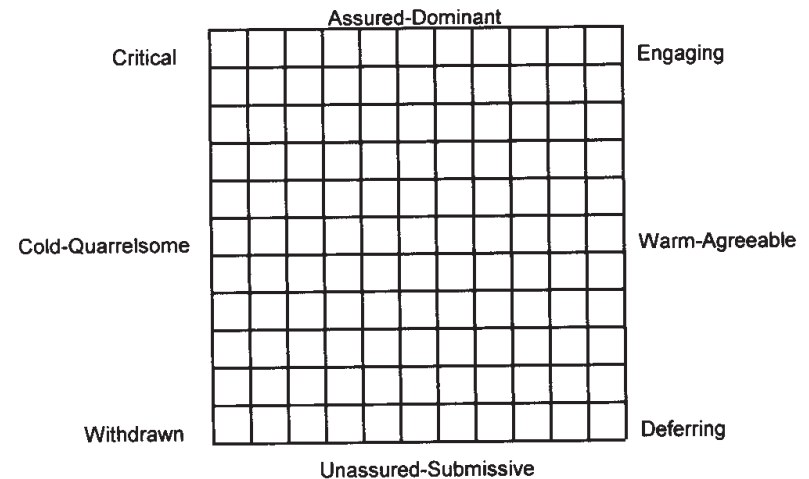
- Rigidity vs. Flexibility
- Instability vs. Stability
- Extremity vs. Moderation
- Match vs. Mismatch to Situation

Ratings of Both Self and Other

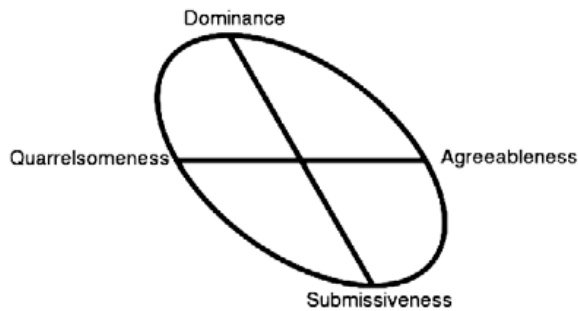
Self



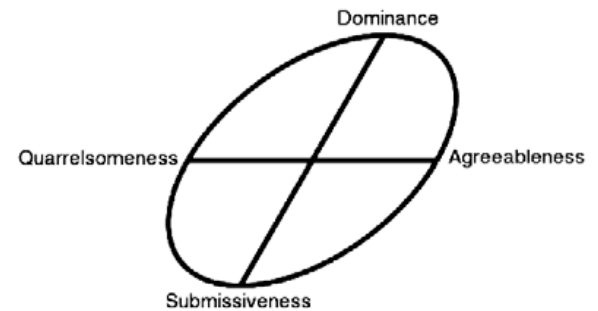
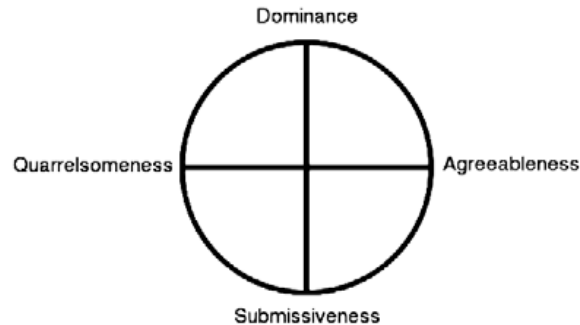
Other



Interpersonal Signatures



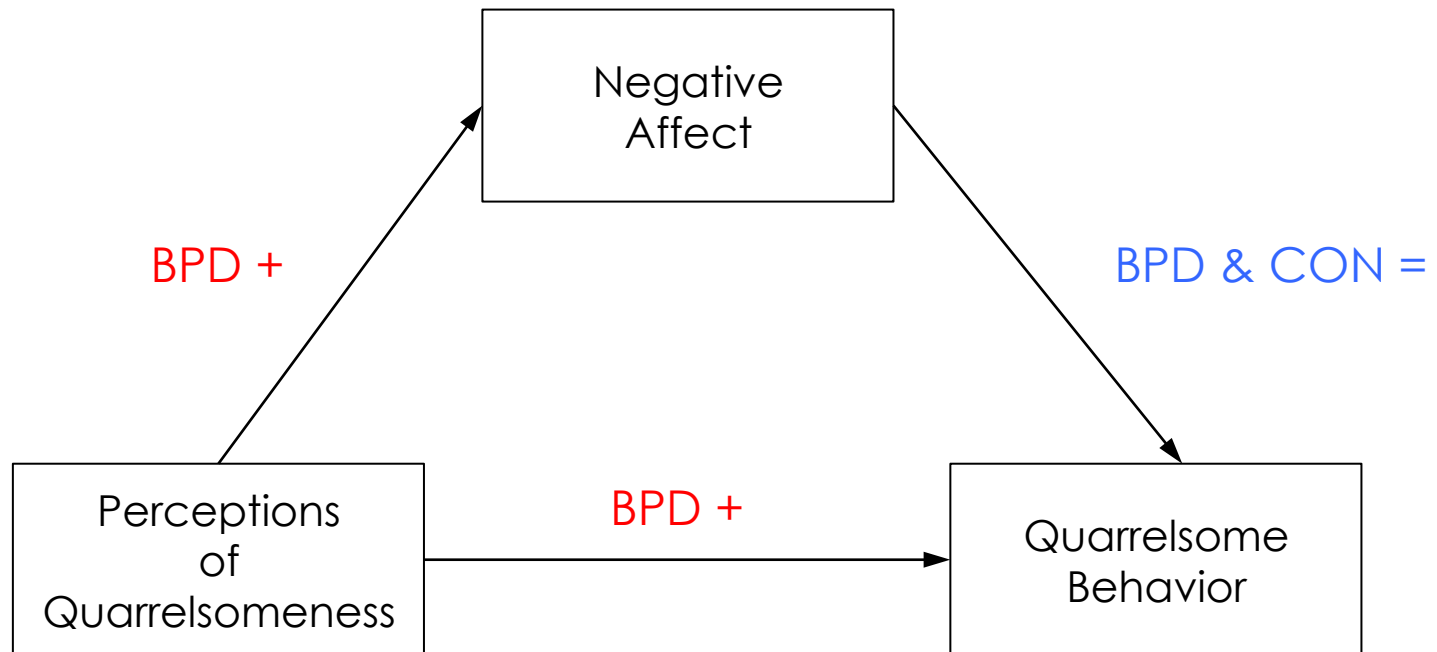
Neuroticism $r = .31$
Depression $r = .29$



Self Esteem $r = .43$

Interpersonal Signatures in BPD

20 Day EMA Study – BPD vs. Control Group





Interpersonal Transactions

Drilling Down into Continuous Momentary Interpersonal Behavior

A new method...



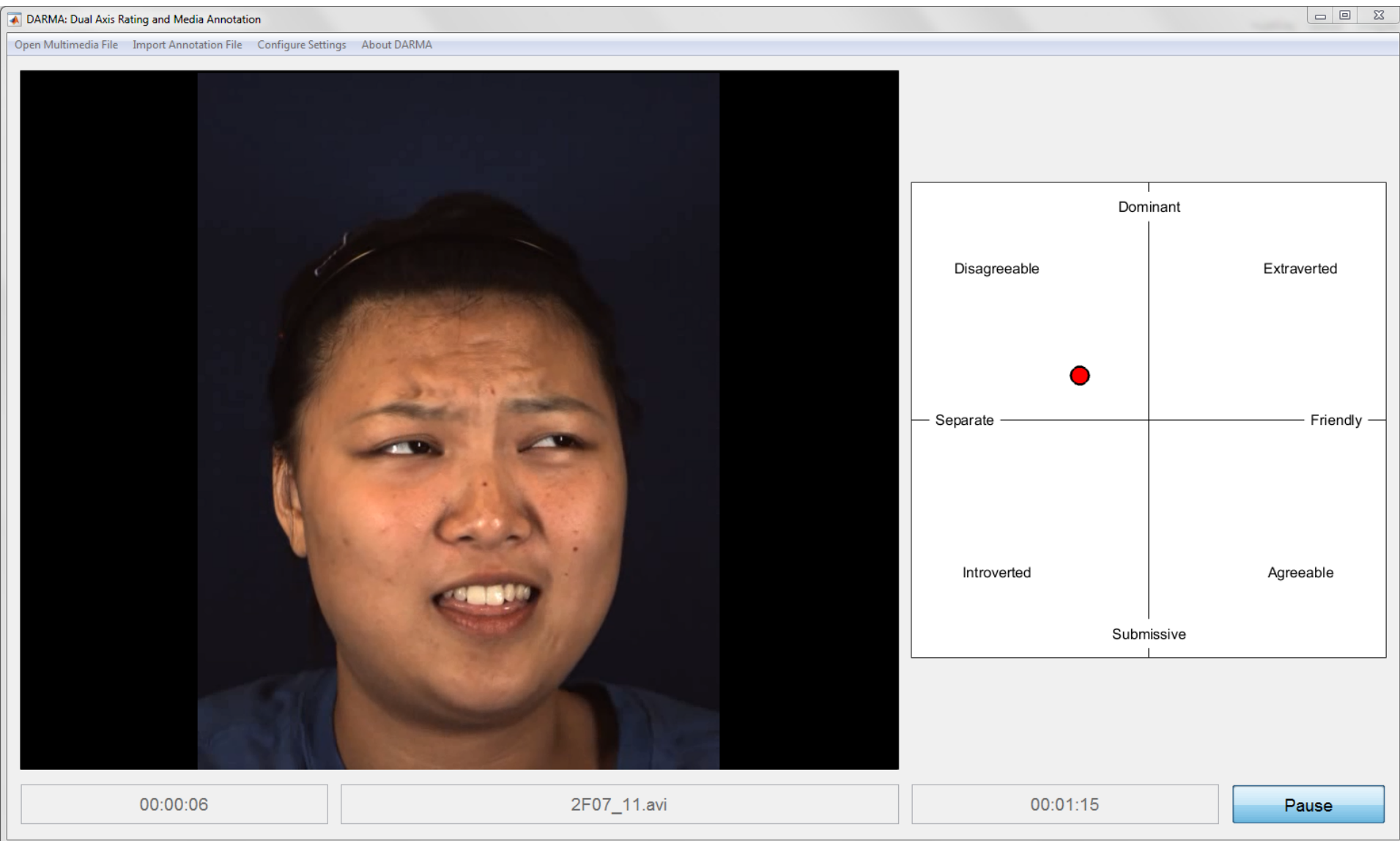
Pamela Sadler
Wilfrid Laurier University

Observer Coding of Momentary Interpersonal Behavior

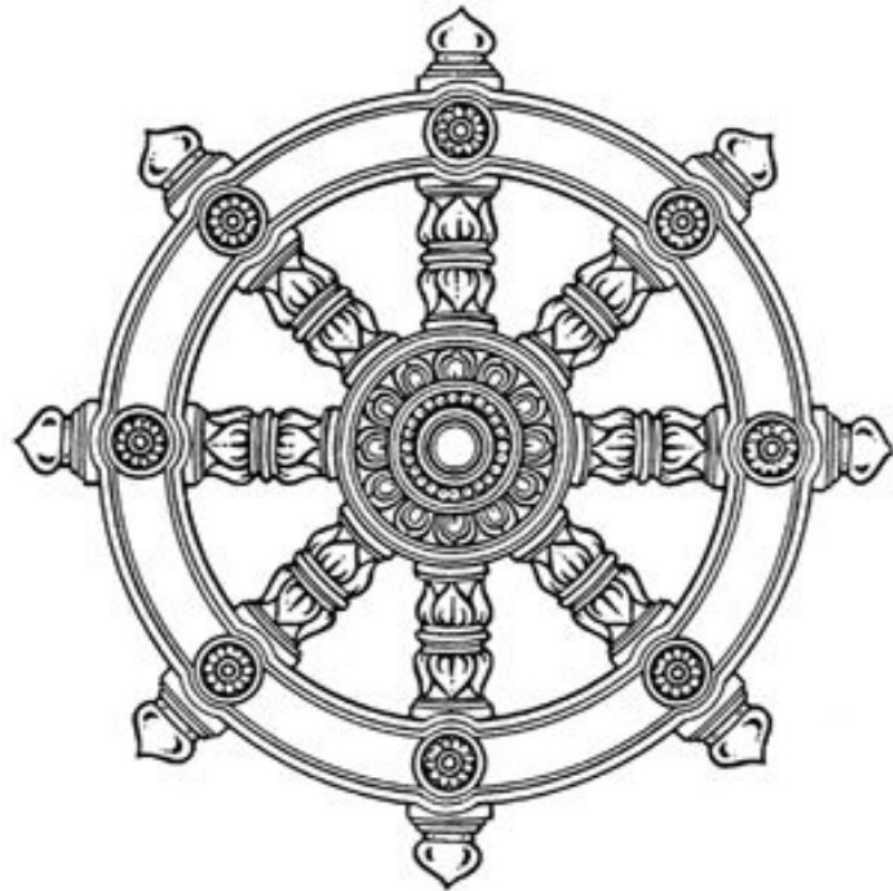
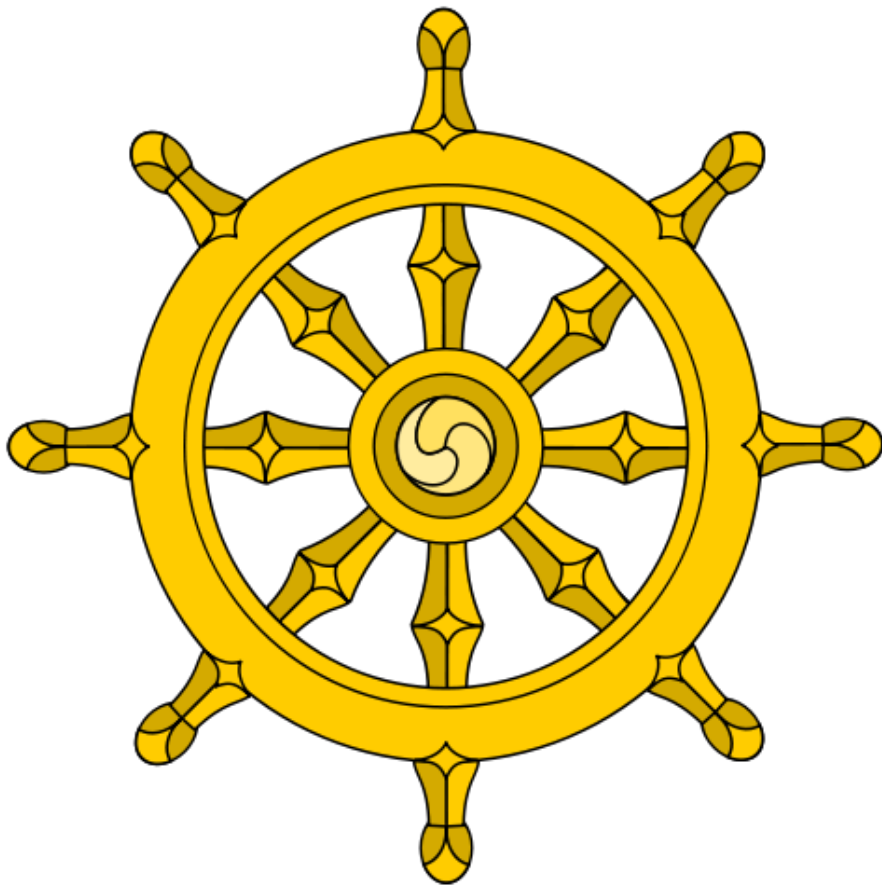
- Observer uses joystick to continuously rate the target's behaviors (e.g., for 10 minutes of interaction)
- $(10\text{mins}) * (60\text{secs}) * (\text{twice/sec}) = 1200$ data points



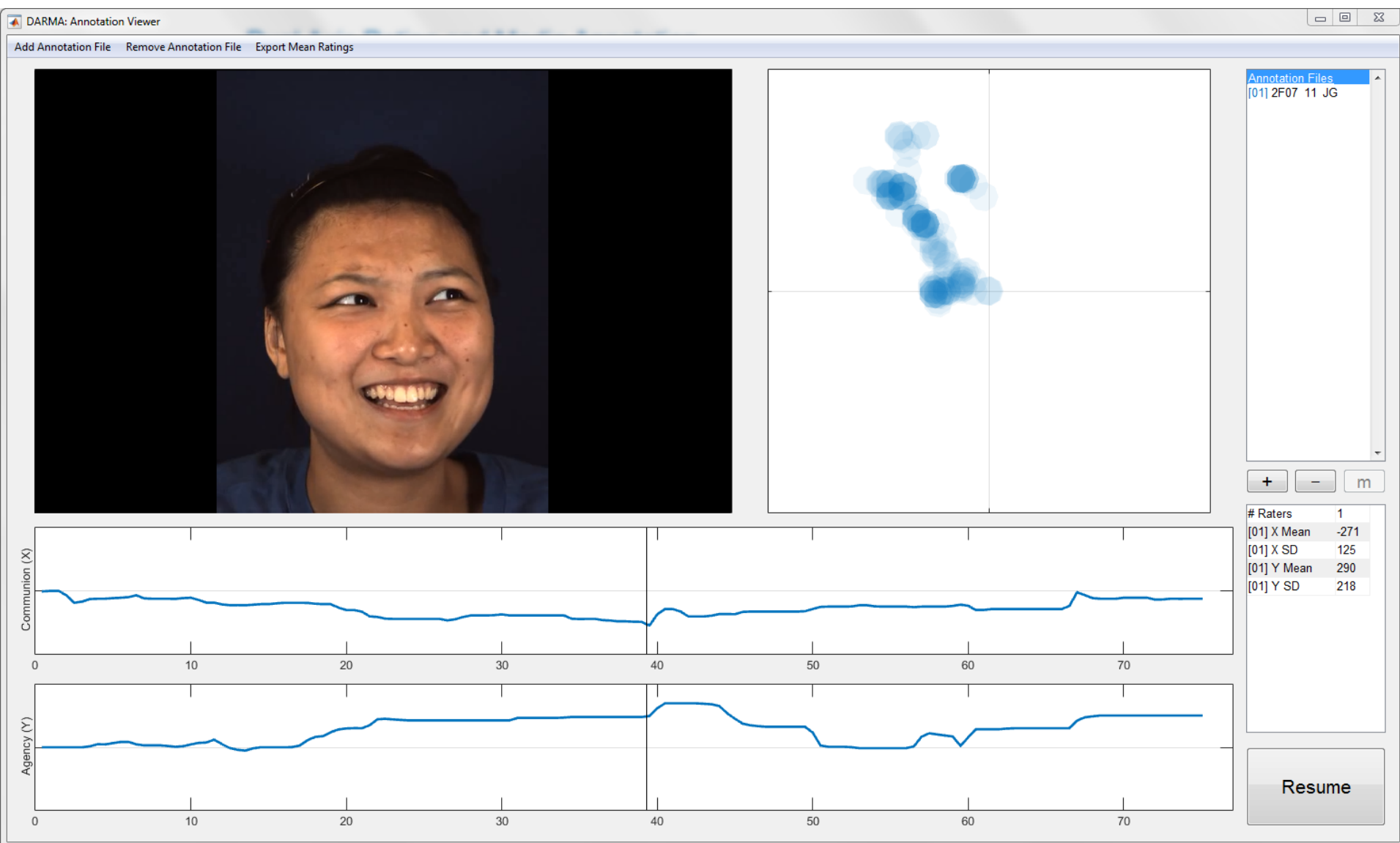
Dual Axis Rating and Media Annotation (DARMA)



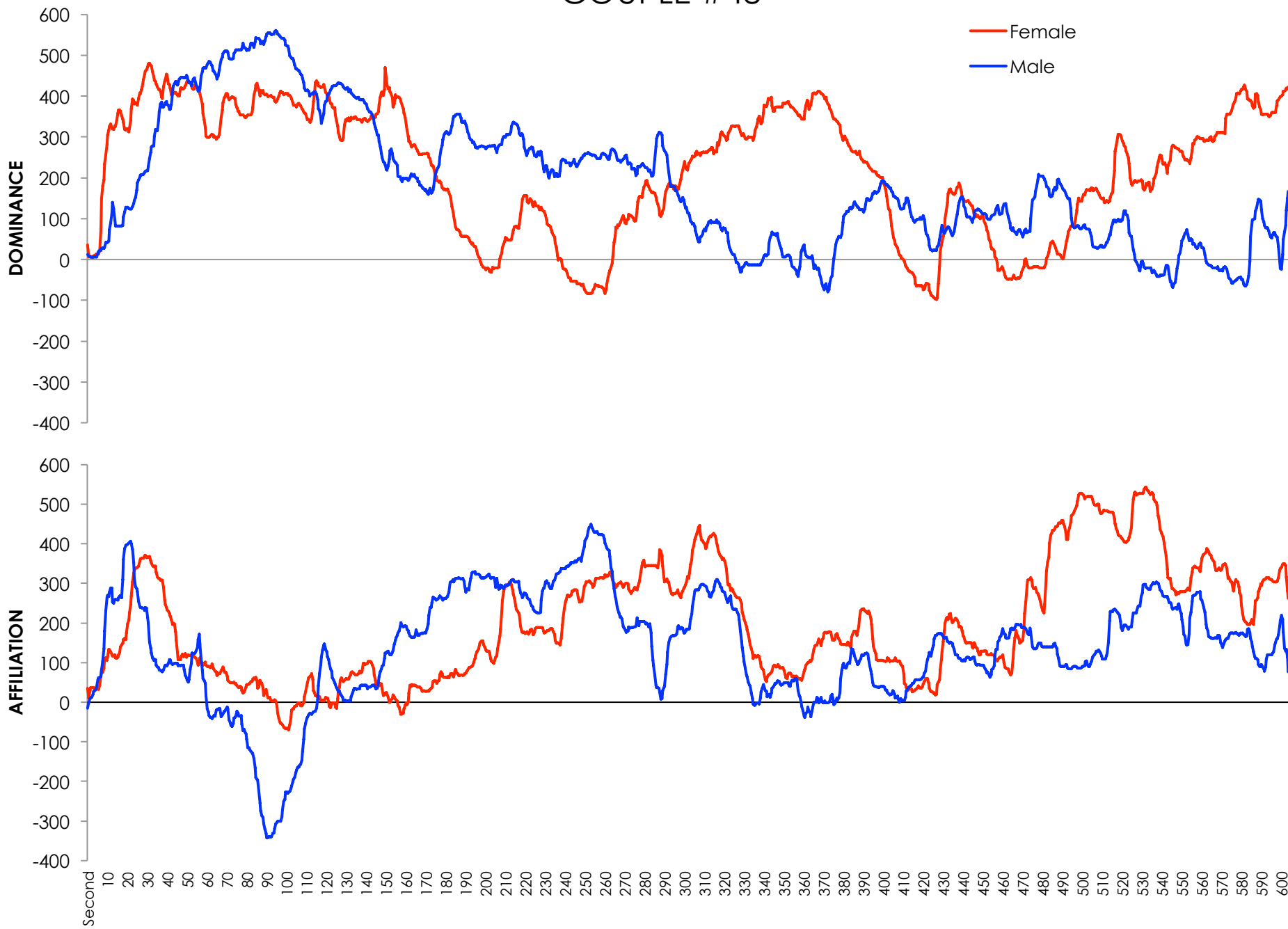
The Dharma Wheel



Dual Axis Rating and Media Annotation (DARMA)



COUPLE #48



Normative and Atypical Patterns

- Complementarity is normative (Sadler et al., 2009 – *JPSP*):
 - **M** Affiliation Cross-corr. = .52
 - **M** Dominance Cross-corr. = -.43
- However, what are the *individual differences*, *contextual features*, and *interactions* (i.e., *person-x-situation*) that lead to dyadic differences in complementarity?
- Are there consistent patterns of deviation from complementarity that reflect psychopathology?

Current Directions

- Study of interpersonal and affective dynamics in patients and partners (R01MH056888; Pilkonis)
 - 3 groups of ~50 couples each (Total N = ~300):
 - Borderline personality disorder
 - Any (other) personality disorder
 - General psychiatric patient (i.e., non-PD)
 - 3 Major Assessment Levels:
 - Dispositional (i.e., psychiatric interview, self-report)
 - 21-Day Dyadic EMA (yoked smartphone design)
 - Video-taped interactions (Gottman tasks, psychophys)

Summary

- Contemporary Interpersonal Theory
 - Is broad and integrative
 - Highly parsimonious (i.e., low dimensionality)
 - Articulates both structure and processes
 - Applicable to both normative and pathological range of functioning
 - Many available tools and techniques



University of Pittsburgh

FIN.

Society for Interpersonal Theory and Research (SITAR):
<http://sitar society.weebly.com>

