

**BAŞKENT UNIVERSITY  
INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY  
MASTER IN  
SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY WITH THESIS**

**THE ASSOCIATION OF RELATIONAL UNCERTAINTY WITH  
RELATIONSHIP SATISFACTION AND PERCEIVED PARTNER  
RESPONSIVENESS: A CROSS-SECTIONAL AND A DAILY DIARY  
STUDY**

**BY**

**BÜŞRA BAHAR BALCI**

**MASTER'S THESIS**

**ANKARA - 2020**

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**THESIS ADVISOR**

**ASST. PROF. DR. İLKER DALGAR**

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*In memory of my dear uncle Murat Gün...*

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# ÖZET

**Büşra Bahar Balcı**

**İlişkisel Belirsizliğin İlişki Doyumu ve Algılanan Partner Duyarlılığı ile İlişkisi:  
Korelasyon ve Günlük Çalışması**

**Başkent Üniversitesi**

**Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü**

**Psikoloji Ana Bilim Dalı**

**Sosyal Psikoloji Tezli Yüksek Lisans Programı**

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Romantik ilişkilerde kişinin ilişkisi hakkında ya da kendisinin ve partnerinin ilişkiye olan bağlılığı ile ilgili belirsizlik yaşamaları zordur. Bu tez, bir korelasyonel (Çalışma 1;  $N = 1368$ ) ve bir de çiftlerle yürütülen günlük çalışması (Çalışma 2;  $N = 738$ ) ile ilişkisel belirsizlik ve ilişki kalitesi arasındaki bağlantıyı araştırmıştır. Ayrıca bireylerin politik ideolojileri ve sosyoekonomik seviyelerinin söz konusu ilişkiyi etkileyip etkilemediği de incelenmiştir. Her iki çalışmada da ilişkisel belirsizlik ile ilişki doyumu ve algılanan partner duyarlılığı arasında negatif yönlü bir ilişki bulunmuştur. Fakat günlük ilişkisel belirsizlik ile günlük ilişki doyumu ve algılanan partner duyarlılığı arasındaki ilişki sadece erkek katılımcılarda anlamlı bulunmuştur (Çalışma 2). İlişkisel belirsizlik ile ilişki doyumu ve algılanan partner duyarlılığı arasındaki ilişkinin farklı politik görüşlere sahip kişiler için benzer olduğu sonucuna ulaşılmıştır. Bununla birlikte, keşfedici analizlerde yüksek sosyoekonomik seviyenin ilişki doyumu ve algılanan partner duyarlılığı ile pozitif ilişkili olduğu ve bu ilişkiye düşük ilişkisel belirsizlik tarafından aracılık ettiğine dair küçük bir etki bulunmuştur. Yürütülen iki çalışma neticesinde ilişki kalitesi için ilişkisel belirsizliğin önemli olduğu konusunda güçlü bulgulara ulaşılmıştır. Ayrıca, Çalışma 2'nin doğası sebebiyle, kişilerdeki ve çiftlerdeki günlük değişimleri modelleyerek, test edilen ilişkiler nedensel bir şekilde de ele alınmıştır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** ilişkisel belirsizlik, ilişki doyumu, algılanan partner duyarlılığı, çift günlük çalışması



# **ABSTRACT**

**Büşra Bahar Balcı**

**The Association of Relational Uncertainty with Relationship Satisfaction and Perceived Partner Responsiveness: A Cross-Sectional and a Daily Diary Study**

**Başkent University**

**Institute of Social Sciences**

**Department of Psychology**

**Master in Social Psychology with Thesis**

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Feeling uncertain about the relationship, and about the commitment of the self or the partner to the relationship is challenging in a romantic relationship. In a cross-sectional (Study 1;  $N = 1368$ ) and a dyadic daily diary (Study 2;  $N = 738$ ) study, this thesis investigated the association between relational uncertainty and relationship quality. Furthermore, it also explored if individuals' political orientations and their socioeconomic status was related to these associations. The results in both Study 1 and Study 2 showed that higher relational uncertainty was associated with lower relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness. However, daily variations in relational uncertainty were negatively associated with daily changes in relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness only for the male partners, but not for the females (Study 2). Our exploratory analyses revealed that the association of relational uncertainty with relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness was similar for individuals with different political orientations (Study 1 & 2). However, we found a small effect for that higher socioeconomic status is related to lower relational uncertainty, which is also negatively related to relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness (Study 1). In two studies we showed robust evidence for the importance of relational uncertainty in relationship quality. Furthermore, the nature of Study 2, modeling daily changes within the person and within the dyads, enabled us to discuss the tested associations in a causal way.

**Keywords:** relational uncertainty, relationship satisfaction, perceived partner responsiveness, dyadic diary study

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ANX	Attachment Anxiety
AVO	Attachment Avoidance
CRU	Composite Relational Uncertainty
CUT	Causal Uncertainty Theory
IU	Intolerance of Uncertainty
IS	Investment Size
IUT	Intolerance of Uncertainty Theory
MLM	Multilevel Modeling
POV	Predicted Outcome Value Theory
PPR	Perceived Partner Responsiveness
PU	Partner Uncertainty
RS	Relationship Satisfaction
RTM	Relational Turbulence Model
RTT	Relational Turbulence Theory
RU	Relationship Uncertainty
SES	Socioeconomic Status
SU	Self Uncertainty
UA	Uncertainty Avoidance
UIT	Uncertainty-Identity Theory
UMT	Uncertainty Management Theory
UOT	Uncertainty Orientation Theory
URT	Uncertainty Reduction Theory

# **THE ASSOCIATION OF RELATIONAL UNCERTAINTY WITH RELATIONSHIP SATISFACTION AND PERCEIVED PARTNER RESPONSIVENESS: A CROSS-SECTIONAL AND A DAILY DIARY STUDY**

## **1.1. Uncertainty and Uncertainty Theories**

Social psychology has interested in what causes uncertainty and what are the effects of it for a long time (Hogg, 2009). Uncertainty about the situation or the future is difficult to cope with and can lead to severe anxiety. The human mind continuously makes calculations, predictions, and judgments to understand what is happening around them. However, anything that devastates this process leads to the perception of loss of control and loss of accountability of the environment. Similarly, loss of confidence about one's relationship loads stress to the self and the relationship (Solomon & Knobloch, 2004). Existence of competitors and jealousy (Afifi & Reichert, 1996), emerging problems between couples (Solomon & Knobloch, 2001; 2004), avoidance to face relationship problems (Afifi & Burgoon, 1998), or just a transition in the relationships may result in uncertainty within the romantic relationships with possible negative effects on relationship quality. In this thesis, we investigated how the uncertainties within romantic relationships were associated with the quality of relationships in a cross-sectional study and a dyadic daily diary study.

Several theories emphasized psychological bases of experiencing uncertainties, such as the Intolerance of Uncertainty (IUT; Ladouceur et al., 2000), Causal Uncertainty Theory (CUT; Weary & Edwards, 1994), Uncertainty Orientation Theory (UOT; Sorrentino et al., 1988), Uncertainty-Identity Theory (UIT; Hogg, 2009); Uncertainty Management Theory (UMT; Van den Bos, 2009), and Uncertainty Avoidance (UA; Hofstede, 2001). According to the IUT, people have different levels of tolerance toward the same uncertain situations, even if they have similar perceptions of the possibility of occurrence and results of the situation (Ladouceur et al., 2000). Also, CUT has proposed that some people have uncertain beliefs about their ability to find out causal relationships in their social world, therefore they have poor judgment in cause-and-effect relationships (Weary & Edwards,

1994). On the other hand, UOT suggests that uncertainty oriented people are disposed to deal with uncertainty related situations about themselves and their environments whereas certainty oriented people are motivated by certainty situations about themselves and their environments (Sorrentino et al., 1988). UIT emphasizes group identification processes and according to the theory, uncertainty reduction can be achieved by social categorization which gives us answers about who we are, how we should behave, and how we will be treated (Hogg, 2009). Additionally, UMT proposes cultural worldviews can be used when people try to deal with their uncertainties (Van den Bos, 2009). In addition to these theories, there is also a dimension called Uncertainty Avoidance (Hofstede, 2001) and it proposes that adapting uncertainty is varied from one society to another.

## **1.2. Relational Uncertainty**

Within the scope of this thesis, it was focused on relational uncertainty (Knobloch & Solomon, 1999) which is a relationship or interaction-based uncertainty. Knobloch and Solomon (1999) defined relational uncertainty as the extent of reliance people have in their perceptions of inclusion in the close relationship based on the Uncertainty Reduction Theory (URT; Berger & Calabrese, 1975). It was one of the essential theories on uncertainty suggesting when people who do not know each other meet, want to reduce uncertainty, or increase predictability about themselves and others within the interaction (Berger & Calabrese, 1975). Otherwise, people face uncertainty when their information about themselves and others is lacking (Knobloch & Miller, 2008). Relational uncertainty comprises three components; self uncertainty, partner uncertainty, and relationship uncertainty respectively (Knobloch & Solomon, 1999). Self uncertainty refers to people's questions about their involvement in the relationship (Knobloch & Miller, 2008). Knobloch and Solomon (1999) proposed that self uncertainty consists of people's own desire for the relationship, evaluation of the value of this relationship, and goals for its future. The second component, partner uncertainty, occurs when people are not able to make predictions about other people's attitudes and behaviors (Berger & Calabrese, 1975; Knobloch & Solomon, 1999). Berger and Calabrese suggested that (1975) people in interactions attempt to forecast the most possible actions taken from others. Consistent with factors of self uncertainty, partner uncertainty has the same subscales: the desire for relationships, evaluation of its worth, and goals for its progress (Knobloch & Solomon,

1999). The third and final component of relational uncertainty is relationship uncertainty. It means people may have doubts about their relationships' in general (Knobloch & Miller, 2008). The subscales of relationship uncertainty are behavioral rules, reciprocity, description, and future of the relationship (Knobloch & Solomon, 1999).

### **1.2.1. Relational uncertainty theories**

As above mentioned, URT (Berger & Calabrese, 1975) is one of the leading theories in the field of uncertainties in social interactions and proposes that in interactions, the primary motivation of people is the reduction of uncertainty or increase predictability about both themselves and others. But it is not the only theory that attempts to understand uncertainty and its mechanisms in social situations. There are also Predicted Outcome Value Theory (POV; Sunnafrank 1986a; Sunnafrank 1986b) and Relational Turbulence Theory (RTT; Solomon et al., 2016). Firstly, POV (Sunnafrank 1986a; Sunnafrank 1986b) proposes that humans' primary motivation is not asking to reduce the uncertainty, but maximizing positive experiences and outcomes at the beginning of the relationships. However, this theory also indicates that reducing uncertainty may help to achieve these positive outcomes. (Sunnafrank, 1986a; Sunnafrank, 1986b). A study conducted with university students who were unacquainted with each other supported the POV arguments (Sunnafrank & Ramirez, 2004). In this study, same-sex pairs' greater POV (predicted outcome value) was found to be associated with more amount of communication, the elevated long-term attraction for each other, greater relationship development, and finally more proximity to their friends (Sunnafrank & Ramirez, 2004).

Finally, RTT is one of the most impactful theories in relational uncertainties (Solomon et al., 2016). This theory is based on Relational Turbulence Model (RTM; Solomon & Knobloch 2001; 2004), but it has extended the scope of the model (Solomon et al., 2016). According to the model, passing from dating or courtship to a serious or committed relationship creates relational turbulence in relationships (Solomon & Knobloch 2001; 2004). This turbulence is predicted by relational uncertainty and partners' interference (Solomon & Knobloch, 2004). The theory agrees with that transitions from one stage to another cause relational turbulence (Solomon et al., 2016). In the context of the theory, the term "relational turbulence" is defined as a global and insistent assessment of the relationship as turbulent, unstable, fragile, and chaotic resulting from the

accumulation of certain episodes. According to the theory, relational uncertainty refers to prejudiced cognitive evaluations about humans' subjective experiences (Solomon et al., 2016). In an up to date meta-analysis (Goodboy et al., 2020), it was found that three bases of relational uncertainty and partner interference was associated with greater topic avoidance and depression and lower relationship satisfaction. Detailed information about theories on relational uncertainty was presented in Table 1.1.

**Table 1.1.** *Theories Related to Relational Uncertainty*

Author(s)	Theory	Definition	Basic assumption
Berger & Calabrese, 1975	Uncertainty Reduction Theory	People's main motivation is to reduce uncertainty or increase predictability about the acts of themselves and others in their first interaction.	People's main motivation is to reduce uncertainty
Sunnafrank, 1986a	Predicted Outcome Value Theory	Individuals try to maximize their outcomes and tend to build relationships with people who are also able to do so.	People's main motivation is to maximize interpersonal outcomes
Solomon et al., 2016	Relational Turbulence Theory	They define relational turbulence as a global and insistent assessment of the relationship as turbulent, unstable, fragile, and chaotic resulting from the accumulation of certain episodes.	Relational uncertainty makes people's cognitions biased and intensified

### 1.2.2. Effects of relational uncertainty on relationship outcomes

In addition to these theoretical frameworks, researchers have attempted to evaluate the impact of relational uncertainty on relationship outcomes. In a study, Knobloch, Miller, and Carpenter (2007) reported small but positive relationships between relational uncertainty and negative emotions such as anger, sadness, fear, and jealousy. It was also found that there was a negative relationship between intimacy and three aspects of relational uncertainty (Theiss & Solomon, 2006). They also showed that the sources of relational uncertainty were negatively correlated with interference from partners and directness of communication, whereas they are positively correlated with jealousy. In another study, it was concluded that three bases of relational uncertainty are negatively correlated with participants' reports of their partners' affiliation and involvement, on the

other hand, it is positively correlated with their reports' of partners' dominance in married couples (Knobloch, Miller, Bond, et al., 2007). In the same study, it was determined that there is a positive relationship between people's perceptions of self-threat and relationship threat and relational uncertainty. And finally, there is a positive relationship between sad and anger and relational uncertainty and there is a positive association between fear and relational uncertainty in conversations on surprising events between partners. Additionally, in a daily diary study with couples (Knobloch & Theiss, 2011a), it was found that there was a positive correlation between experiencing relational uncertainty and evaluating talks about the relationship more threatening. Also, more avoidance from talking about relationships and initiating fewer talks about the relationship in a week can be a predictor for relational uncertainty in the coming week (Knobloch & Theiss, 2011a). Another study demonstrated that relational uncertainty was negatively correlated with trust and pro relationship behaviors and positively associated with jealousy (Dainton & Aylor, 2001).

However, there is little published data on the positive or neutral effects of relational uncertainty. For example, it was reported that although relational uncertainty seems negative at first, it allows partners to resolve ambiguities and reconfirm commitments (Knobloch & Solomon, 2002). Also, Knobloch (2007) found that there was no correlation between the roots of relational uncertainty and relational turbulence. Even though there was evidence for negative, neutral, and positive impacts of relational uncertainty in different contexts, negative impacts were outnumbered to others.

For romantic relationships, relational uncertainty was mainly studied with variables such as intimacy and people's perceptions of turmoil (Knobloch, 2007; Theiss & Knobloch, 2014), partners' interference (Knobloch, 2007; Knobloch & Theiss, 2011b; Knobloch, Miller, Bond, et al., 2007; Theiss & Nagy, 2013; Theiss & Knobloch, 2014), partners' facilitation (Knobloch & Theiss, 2011b), perceived affiliation, involvement or dominance in messages of partners (Knobloch & Theiss, 2011b), the content of relationship conversation (Theiss & Nagy, 2013), negative emotions (Knobloch, Miller, and Carpenter, 2007), jealousy and communication directness (Theiss & Solomon, 2006), depressive symptoms (Knobloch & Theiss, 2011b), endorsement of traditional gender roles (Redlick, 2019), relationship maintenance or working to change the relationship (Theiss & Knobloch, 2014; Young et al., 2012). Since relational uncertainty was mainly studied in a romantic relationship context, there are few studies that focus other types of relationships

such as the relationship between parent-in-law and children-in-law (Mikucki-Enyart et al., 2015), cross-sex friends (Malachowski & Dillow, 2011), and siblings (Bevan et al., 2006).

### **1.2.3. Relational uncertainty and relationship obsessive-compulsive disorder**

Relationship obsessive-compulsive disorder has shown similarities with relational uncertainty in some respects. This disorder is defined as having excessive doubts about the emotions of oneself and the partner and also the rightness of the relationship (Doron et al., 2012). In this disorder, individuals always question themselves, their partners, and their relationship and they also have a great need for verification (Doron et al., 2012). Relationship obsessive-compulsive disorder or symptoms has 3 dimensions (Doron et al., 2012) in the same way relational uncertainty has (Knobloch & Solomon, 1999). Additionally, it was shown that relationship obsessive-compulsive symptoms significantly predict relationship satisfaction (Doron et al., 2012). On the other hand, there are some differences between relational uncertainty and relationship obsessive-compulsive disorder. Relational uncertainty refers to the confidence degree about oneself, partners, and relationships (Knobloch & Solomon, 1999), whereas people with relationship obsessive-compulsive disorder are always suspicious of their emotions, partner's emotions, and the rightness of relationship (Doron et al., 2012). Relationship obsessive-compulsive disorder mainly focuses on emotions of partners and the accuracy of the relationship (Doron et al., 2012), on the other hand, relational uncertainty does not only focus on emotions or characteristic of the relationship but also desires, goals, and evaluations of partners or rules, future, and description of the relationship (Knobloch & Solomon, 1999). Although there are some similarities between two terms; relational uncertainty is broader than relationship obsessive-compulsive disorder.

### **1.3. The Quality of Romantic Relationships**

Close relationships are based on and include mutual dependencies. Interdependency between relating partners are powerful, frequent, and various between two persons and should last for a long time (Clark & Reis, 1988; Kelley, 1983). In other words, the most essential quality of close relationships are sharing opinions, emotions, and acts mutually

and casually with each other for a long period (Campbell & Surra, 2012). Several relationship types can be considered under the umbrella of close relationships such as relationships between romantic couples, family members, friends, colleagues, and neighbors (Reis et al., 2000). Of these relationships, romantic relationships serve an essential function in human well-being (Campbell & Surra, 2012).

The quality of romantic relationships is related to lots of factors such as interactive relations between partners, emotional experiences, mental representations about the partner and the relationship, and the structures of the relationships (Le et al., 2010). Further, some other factors like satisfaction, trust, commitment, love, intimacy, and passion also impact the relationships (Fletcher et al., 2000), thus it is a hard task to research romantic relationships. In this thesis, two components of the well-being of romantic relationships were studied: *relationship satisfaction* (RS) and *perceived partner responsiveness* (PPR). Relationship satisfaction level indicates the comparison of amounts of positive and negative emotions in a relationship (Rusbult et al., 1998), whereas the perceived partner responsiveness refers to how partners understand, care, and appreciate each other (Reis et al., 2004). It helps to create closeness and intimacy between partners. Research on close relationships has substantial evidence on relationship satisfaction (e.g. Hendrick, 1988) and perceived partner responsiveness (also known as PPR) (Laurenceau et al., 1998). Contrary to relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness, relationship researchers have not researched relational uncertainty in much detail. However, how individuals are certain about their relationship and how they feel about their own and their partners' commitment substantially impacts the relationship quality (Theiss & Nagy, 2013; Young et al., 2012). Therefore, the main aim of this thesis is to investigate the association between relational uncertainty with relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness.

### **1.3.1. Relationship satisfaction**

According to Hendrick (1988), one of the stable areas for assessment of relationships is relationship satisfaction. In addition to satisfaction; quality, adjustment, and happiness are also terms to describe it (Heyman et al., 1994). As already stated, the level of relationship satisfaction level is defined as positive vs. negative emotional experiences in a relationship (Rusbult et al., 1998). A meta-analysis on the measurement of relationship



satisfaction indicated relationship satisfaction is presumably the most thoroughly studied and effective variable in the romantic relationship field (Graham et al., 2011). There are several tools to measure relationship satisfaction (Graham et al., 2011; Heyman et al., 1994). The Locke–Wallace Marital Adjustment Test (LWMAT; Locke & Wallace, 1959), Kansas Marital Satisfaction Scale (KMS; Schumm et al., 1983), Quality of Marriage Index (QMI; Norton, 1983), Relationship Assessment Scale (RAS; Hendrick, 1988), Marital Opinion Questionnaire (MOQ; Huston & Vangelisti, 1991), Semantic Differential Measure (SMD; Karney & Bradbury, 1997), Couples Satisfaction Index (CSI; Funk & Rogge, 2007), Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS; Spanier, 1976), Relationship Satisfaction Questionnaire (Burns & Sayers, 1992) are some of the questionnaires that attempt to measure relationship satisfaction.

Other than scales that abovementioned, in this thesis, the Investment Model Scale (Rusbult et al., 1998) was used to assess relationship satisfaction. This scale is based on the Investment Model (Rusbult, 1980) which was one of the important models on relationships. According to the scale, there are four predictors for relationship continuity. These are commitment level and three elements of dependence (satisfaction level, quality of alternatives, and investment size) (Rusbult et al., 1998). Commitment level includes the intention to persist the relationship, long term orientation for the future of the relationship and emotions of psychological attachment (Agnew et al., 1998; Rusbult et al., 1998). Quality of alternatives refers to the desirability perception of the best appropriate alternative to the relationship and, as already mentioned, the satisfaction level includes both positive and negative experiences (Rusbult et al., 1998). Lastly, investing several resources into the relationship provides a basis of commitment for the relationship (Rusbult, 1983) and this subscale is called investment size (Rusbult et al., 1998).

Relationship satisfaction was associated with several variables such as satisfaction was predicted by positive dyadic coping more than negative coping forms (Falconier et al., 2015). Also, there was a positive relationship between trait emotional intelligence and relationship satisfaction (Malouff et al., 2014). And relationship satisfaction tended to be higher when neuroticism was low, agreeableness conscientiousness, and extraversion were high (Malouff et al., 2010). Besides, there was a negative correlation between relationship satisfaction and both attachment anxiety and avoidance (Candel & Turliuc, 2019).

Additionally, avoidantly and anxious/ambivalently attached people had lower relationship satisfaction points than securely attached people (Pistole, 1989).

#### **1.3.1.1. Relational uncertainty and relationship satisfaction**

Studies on relationship satisfaction or relationship quality frequently mention relationship uncertainty as one of the factors which impact on satisfaction (Knobloch & Delaney, 2012; Knobloch & Theiss, 2011b; Malachowski & Dillow, 2011; Redlick, 2019; Young et al., 2012). In one of these studies, relational uncertainty was found negatively correlated with relational quality and positively correlated with working to change the relationships as reported in a seven days diary study (Young et al., 2012). In the study, working to change referred acts such as home labor, care of children, communication about their relationships, and goals with their partners, finance. They also found that the link between working to change the relationship and relationship quality was stronger when individuals experience relational uncertainty in lower levels; whereas this link was weaker in those days that participants experience relational uncertainty in higher levels (Young et al., 2012). Another study with U.S. military personnel who returned from deployment showed that there was a negative association between depressive symptoms and relationship satisfaction and positive association between depressive symptoms and relational uncertainty and interference from partners (Knobloch & Theiss, 2011b). Additionally, they underlined mediator roles of self uncertainty and interference from partners in the negative association between depressive signs and satisfaction. A recent study (Redlick, 2019), reported a positive relationship between endorsement of traditional gender roles and relationship satisfaction and self and relationship uncertainty. Another study analyzed people's posts about their or partners' depressive symptoms and how they affect the relationship in online platforms such as blogs (Knobloch & Delaney, 2012). They classified negative evaluations of relationship satisfaction as a part of relationship uncertainty. Because people experience dissatisfaction and uncertainties in their relationships due to depression (Knobloch & Delaney, 2012). As abovementioned in other than romantic relationships, people may experience relational uncertainty in different relationships. For example, it was found that relationship satisfaction was predicted negatively by relational uncertainty in cross-sex friends (Malachowski & Dillow, 2011).

Taking all these into consideration, it can be concluded that there was a consistent negative association between relational uncertainty and relationship satisfaction.

### **1.3.2 Perceived partner responsiveness**

Reis et al. (2004) proposed perceived partner responsiveness indicates a process that people start to believe that their romantic partners participate and respond in a supportive way to the central and most important properties of the self. Reflecting appraisals to the partner, establishing an emotional rapport with the partner, and being responsive to the needs of the partner are examples of this process (Reis et al., 2004). Perceived partner responsiveness is a well-studied variable within both its psychological and physical effects in recent years (e.g. Stanton et al., 2019). In detail, it was found that perceived partner responsiveness affected eudaimonic well-being positively (Selcuk et al., 2016). A cross-cultural study also indicated that perceived partner responsiveness predicted not only eudaimonic well-being but also hedonic well being (Tasfiliz et al., 2018). Another study demonstrated that there was a positive correlation between mortality rates and received emotional support from partners in individuals who reported low perceived partner responsiveness levels (Selcuk & Ong, 2013). Additionally, perceived partner responsiveness decreased anxiety and depression; and anxiety and depression decreased sleep problems (Selcuk et al., 2017). The same study also showed that perceived partner responsiveness predicted increased sleep efficacy by lowering anxiety. It was also found that PPR affected levels of diurnal cortisol levels in a longitudinal study with romantic couples (Slatcher et al., 2015).

Relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness were also associated with each other. A study with married couples showed that marital satisfaction was predicted by perceived partner responsiveness and sexual satisfaction. It also demonstrated that the relationship between marital and sexual satisfaction was partially mediated by PPR (Gadassi et al., 2016). A diary study with romantic couples has shown that the association between relationship satisfaction and social anxiety was mediated by perceived partner responsiveness (Bar-Kalifa et al., 2015).

### **1.3.2.1 Relational uncertainty and perceived partner responsiveness**

There are some studies on perceived partner responsiveness and relational uncertainty in the literature (Dooley et al., 2018; Theiss & Knobloch, 2014; Theiss & Nagy, 2013). Theiss and Nagy (2013) investigated associations between perceived partner responsiveness and relationship uncertainty with some other relationship factors with South Korean and American college students and found a negative relationship between relational uncertainty and perceived partner responsiveness. Another study found that perceived partner responsiveness can be predicted by three bases of relational uncertainty and partner interference in a negative way in U.S service members and their partners (Theiss & Knobloch, 2014). It is also suggested that when people experience stressful uncertainty and wait for uncertain news, they perceive the highest support from their partners at the beginning and end of this period (Dooley et al., 2018).

As already mentioned, relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness were two of the most focused topics in the psychology of close relationships. Taking related literature search, it can be concluded that both of the variables are affected by relational uncertainty negatively. In this association, the role of attachment was also investigated within the scope of this thesis because attachment theory is one of the most important topics in relationship research (Fraley & Shaver, 2000). Therefore, it will be discussed attachment and its relationship between relationship satisfaction, perceived partner responsiveness, and relational uncertainty in the next section.

### **1.3.3. Attachment**

The attachment was defined as a connection or a continuous relationship between an infant and his/her mother (Ainsworth et al., 1978). Attachment behaviors are formed via this connection and then become the mediator of the relationship (Ainsworth et al., 1978). Attachment theory assumes that human babies are born very immature and need protection and care; therefore parents' behaviors are regulated by infants' behaviors (Hazan & Shaver, 1994). Bowlby (1983) conceptualized attachment behavior as a social behavior type and he suggested that these behaviors are as important as mating and parenting behaviors. It was classified three different attachment patterns; secure, anxious, and avoidant (Ainsworth et al., 1978). On the other hand, it was suggested that this categorical

approach was not adequate to point out personal differences and a dimensional perspective is more appropriate in attachment measure recently (Fraley & Shaver, 2000; Ravitz et al. 2010).

For securely attached babies, their caregivers were a secure base when they experienced a stressful situation (Ainsworth et al., 1978; Simpson, 1990). Anxiously/ambivalently attached babies show protest and anger to their caregivers when they face a stressful situation (Ainsworth et al., 1978; Simpson, 1990). Finally, avoidantly attached infants acted as detached toward their caregivers in a stressful condition (Ainsworth et al., 1978; Simpson, 1990). Hazan and Shaver (1987) found that these attachment types in infancy are nearly as common as in adulthood; more than half of their participants identified themselves as secure and others identified themselves as either avoidant or anxious/ambivalent. In adulthood people with secure attachment have a positive point of view toward themselves and other significant people (Simpson, 1990). People with anxious attachment perceive others as inconsistent for a committed relationship; whereas people with avoidant attachment are uncomfortable with others' interests (Simpson, 1990).

#### **1.3.3.1. Associations of attachment with relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness**

Simpson (1990) found that securely attached people experience greater satisfaction in addition to commitment, trust, and interdependence within their romantic relationships than anxiously and avoidantly attached people. Similarly, other studies have demonstrated that relationship satisfaction points of people with attachment avoidance and anxious/ambivalent attachment were lower than people securely attached (Pistole, 1989; Stackert & Bursik, 2003). One study found that marital satisfaction was negatively associated with attachment avoidance and anxiety in both genders in married couples (Butzer & Campbell, 2008). Another study conducting with only women found that there was a negative correlation between attachment anxiety and relationship and sexual satisfaction (Birnbaum, 2007). Harma and Sümer (2015) found that attachment avoidance and anxiety were linked to the greater marital conflict in both actors and partners; whereas only attachment avoidance was linked to lower marital satisfaction. In addition to

relationship satisfaction, perceived partner responsiveness was also associated with attachment types. For example, securely attached individuals were found to have higher perceived partner responsiveness scores than both anxiously and avoidantly attached ones (Segal & Fraley, 2016). It was also shown that both women and men perceived their partner less responsive when their attachment anxiety was greater in a study with couples suffering from chronic genito-pelvic pain (Bosisio et al., 2020).

### **1.3.3.2 Relational uncertainty and attachment**

In literature, there are only a few studies on attachment and relational uncertainty (Jin & Peña, 2010; Knobloch et al., 2001). For example, it was found that greater voice call time and frequency is negatively correlated with dimensions of relational uncertainty and with avoidant attachment (Jin & Peña, 2010). Also, it was suggested that the relationships between attachment anxiety and cognitive jealousy mediated by relational uncertainty (Knobloch et al., 2001).

Based on the findings related to attachment and our main variables, it can be concluded attachment may have the potential to affect the association between relation uncertainty and relationship outcomes. Therefore, attachment dimensions were also examined in this study.

## **1.4. Political Ideology**

The research on political ideology and its emotional (Hodson & Costello, 2007; Inbar et al., 2009; Leone & Chirumbolo, 2008; Napier & Jost, 2008), cognitive (Amodio et al., 2007; Tetlock, 1983), and behavioral (Gromet et al., 2013) effects indicated distinct underlying motivations of individuals with different ideological orientations. Conservatives and liberals significantly differ from each other in their motivations, cognitions, and behaviors on several social and psychological domains including personality traits (Carney et al., 2008; Hirsh et al., 2010), moral judgments (Graham et al., 2009; Helzer & Pizarro, 2011; Hirsh et al., 2010; Poteat & Mereish, 2012), dogmatism (Conway et al., 2015), disgust sensitivity (Inbar et al., 2009), and social cognition (Jost et al., 2003), as well as *their reaction to the uncertainty* (Jost & Amodio, 2012).

Political psychology research has repeatedly demonstrated that people who hold different political orientations have different uncertainty tolerance levels (Jost et al., 2003). For instance, relatively conservative individuals' intolerance of uncertainty was higher than relatively liberal individuals (Jost et al., 2003). According to IUT (Ladouceur et al., 2000) people differ from each other in terms of their intolerance level of uncertainty. In addition to IUT, several theories attempted to find ways to cope with uncertainties. For example, people may use their social or identified groups (UIT; Hogg, 2009) to reduce or deal with uncertainty threat or they may also attach to their ideologies or worldviews (UMT; Van den Bos, 2009) when they face uncertainty (See in Table 1.2) Although these theories were related to personal or self uncertainties, there is much less information about the role of our identified groups when dealing with relational uncertainty. For example, might people attach more to their groups or ideologies to reduce their anxiety or cope with it in a relational uncertainty situation? Or do their identified ideologies provide them more resources to deal with relational uncertainty? This perspective provides an important basis for this study, thus, we also investigated the role of an identified political ideology on the association between relational uncertainty and relational outcomes.

**Table 1.2.** *Theories of Uncertainty*

Author	Theory	Uncertainty Definition	Basic assumption
Hogg, 2009	Uncertainty-Identity Theory	Self-uncertainty indicates any part of an individual that he/she is not sure of.	Identifying with groups helps us to reduce self-uncertainty and extreme groups provide it better.
Van den Bos, 2009	Uncertainty Management Theory	Self or personal uncertainty refers to a feeling of doubt or instability in self or worldviews or the mutuality between them	Cultural worldviews become important when people face personal uncertainty and they behave negatively toward people who have different worldviews when personal uncertainty increases.

#### **1.4.1 Political ideology and uncertainty**

The research on the uncertainty has focused on the association between political ideology and how people deal with the uncertainty (Jost & Amodio, 2012; Jost et al., 2003;

Jost et al., 2007; Proulx & Brand, 2017). A meta-analysis with 88 studies revealed that uncertainty intolerance and dogmatism-intolerance of ambiguity are predictors for political conservatism; in addition to some variables such as death anxiety or system instability (Jost et al., 2003). In another research, uncertainty avoidance and threat management were found to be correlated with political conservatism but not with political liberalism (Jost et al., 2007). Also, it was suggested that conservatives become less open and show greater defense when they face uncertainty and threat than liberals (Proulx & Brandt, 2017). And finally, both behavioral and neuroscientific studies showed that there was a positive correlation between motivation to gain certainty and security and being conservative or rightist (Jost & Amodio, 2012). Therefore, it can be concluded that conservatives and liberals manage uncertainty in different ways.

Although some studies pointed out the similarities between conservatives and liberals (e.g. Brandt et al., 2013), there was more studies on the distinctions between two groups in their reactions to uncertainty (Jost & Amodio, 2012) as well as other domains such as social cognition (Jost et al., 2003), dogmatism (Conway et al., 2015), moral judgments (Graham et al., 2012; Poteat & Mereish, 2012). Within the scope of this thesis, conservatives and liberals' reactions to relational uncertainty were also investigated. To our knowledge, there has been no investigation if the political orientation of individuals is related to the impact of relational uncertainty on relationship quality. Therefore, we also aimed to investigate if the association of relational uncertainty with relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness is changing according to different political orientations.

#### **1.4.2. Political ideology and close relationships**

Most research focuses on political ideology with attachment aspects of close relationships (Gaziano, 2017; Koleva & Rip, 2009; Thornhill & Fincher, 2007) and have some mixed results. For example, in one of these studies, it is found that both liberals and conservatives can be securely attached and there is a positive correlation between security attachment style and household income (Gaziano, 2017). On the other hand, another study showed that conservatism is positively correlated with secure but negatively correlated with avoidant attachment (Thornhill & Fincher, 2007). A review suggested that secure



attachment is positively correlated with liberalism; insecure anxious-ambivalent attachment is positively associated with conservatism; but the insecure-avoidant attachment is positively correlated with both of the ideologies (Koleva & Rip, 2009). Therefore, it can be inferred that political ideology studies with attachment (one of the important aspects of close relationships) have contradictory findings.

One another study found that political orientations have an impact on the love of friends, family, and other people. Although the correlations are very small, there is a positive correlation between conservatism and love of family but a negative correlation between conservatism and love of friends (Waytz et al., 2019). Lastly, a study proposed people find it difficult to depend on others and take their perspectives if they live in an environment with people holding dissimilar political beliefs (Chopik & Motyl, 2016). Although this study is not on close relationships but overall relationships, it indicates that political ideologies might affect our interpersonal processes.

## **1.5. Current Thesis**

### **1.5.1. Purpose**

This thesis aims to investigate the associations between relational uncertainty and relationship quality (i.e., relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness). Additionally, it is aimed to investigate these associations in people with different political backgrounds. To do so, a cross-sectional study (Study 1) and a dyadic daily diary study (Study 2) were carried out.

### **1.5.2. Hypotheses**

Within the scope of Study 1 and 2, we had a main and an exploratory hypothesis. According to our main hypothesis, relational uncertainty will be negatively associated with relationship quality. More precisely relational uncertainty will be negatively associated with relationship satisfaction (Hypothesis 1a) and perceived partner responsiveness (Hypothesis 1b). To test Hypothesis 1 we will first control the possible variables that may

affect relationship quality such as attachment avoidance, attachment anxiety, and intolerance of uncertainty.

Within the data exploration framework, we will explore the data to test if the association between relational uncertainty and relationship quality will be different for people with different political ideologies. We suspect that the negative association between relational uncertainty and relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness will be stronger for relatively conservative individuals compared to relatively liberal individuals (Hypotheses 2a and 2b). To test these exploratory hypotheses we will test the same models in both Study 1 and Study 2 samples, and make conclusions only if both data supports the associations by using Study 2 data as cross-validation (confirmatory) data.

In addition to these hypotheses, we hypothesized that the daily relational uncertainty will be negatively associated with daily relationship satisfaction and daily perceived partner responsiveness in romantic couples for both male and female participants (Hypotheses 3a and 3b) in Study 2. Additionally, we also hypothesized that the daily changes in the experienced relational uncertainty will negatively predict closeness between partners for both males and females (Hypothesis 4). Finally, we expect an interdependence between male and female partners within couples in their relationship quality (relationship satisfaction, perceived partner responsiveness, and closeness) (Hypothesis 5).

### **1.5.3. Importance**

This study had 3 importances. First of all, despite the effects of relational uncertainty on the wellbeing of relationships; it was not one of the well-studied topics in psychology. Therefore, the findings of this study may provide new insight into the field of close relationships, especially romantic relationships. Moreover, because of conducting two studies, we first tested our main and exploratory hypotheses in Study 1. Then, we tried to confirm them in Study 2. In this way, we have reached some robust findings. Finally, due to the nature of Study 2, we inferred cause-effect relationships between our study variables and we had the chance to observe the interdependence between partners in romantic relationships.

# STUDY 1

This study will test the hypothesis that relational uncertainty would be negatively associated with relationship quality. Accordingly, relational uncertainty will be negatively associated with relationship satisfaction (Hypothesis 1a) and perceived partner responsiveness (Hypotheses 1b) after partially out the association of attachment anxiety, attachment avoidance, and intolerance of uncertainty. In addition to our hypotheses, we will explore the data if these associations would be different for people with different political ideologies (Hypothesis 2a) and with different socioeconomic statuses (Hypotheses 2b). We suspect that when the relational uncertainty is high, the relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness will be lower in relatively conservative (individuals who identify themselves on the right-wing of the scale) individuals compared to relatively liberal individuals (who identify themselves on the left-wing of the scale).

## 2.1. Method

### 2.1.1. Procedure

Data was collected online via using Qualtrics (<https://www.qualtrics.com>). The survey link was distributed in a psychology class at Başkent University. The instructor provided course credit for students' participation. Additionally, the study was also announced on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Both individuals with a current romantic relationship and individuals that had at least one romantic relationship in their past were asked to participate in the study.

The survey consisted of Relational Uncertainty Scale (Knobloch & Solomon, 1999; Gürcan, 2015; Knobloch & Theiss, 2011b), ideological orientation questions, Relationship Stability Scale (Rusbult et al., 1998; Büyükşahin et al., 2005), Perceived Partner Responsiveness (Reis, 2003; Sağel et al., (in press)), Experiences in Close Relationships-Revised (Fraley et al., 2000; Selçuk et al., 2005), Intolerance of Uncertainty (Buhr & Dugas, 2002; Freeston et al., 1994; Sarı & Dağ, 2009) and demographic information form (<https://osf.io/xkj6a>). The survey started with informed consent. After approving the

consent, participants responded to scale questions. Participants were asked to think about their current romantic relationship while answering questions. If they did not have a romantic relationship at that time, they were asked to think about their recent romantic relationship. All scales including the demographic information form was presented in random order. After completing the survey, participants were asked if they would like to participate in the second study of the thesis. Some of the participants approved the request and left their email addresses in the survey. Some of them did not prefer to participate in the second study. In any case, all participants were debriefed and thanked.

### 2.1.2. Materials

*Demographic Information Form:* Common demographics such as gender, age, highest educational level achieved, current romantic relationship status, political ideology, religious affiliation, mothers' highest educational level achieved, total household income, perceived socioeconomic status were measured. The last three questions were used to evaluate participants' socioeconomic status, but we used only income as an objective socio-economic status indicator and perceived socioeconomic status as a subjective socioeconomic status indicator in the analyses.

*Relational Uncertainty:* This scale was developed by Knobloch and Solomon (1999) and translated to Turkish by Gürcan (2015). There were three subscales of the measure: self uncertainty, partner uncertainty, and relationship uncertainty. The scale had 54 items in total. Within the scope of this thesis, we used the brief version of the scale (Knobloch & Theiss, 2011b). In the brief version, each subscale was measured by 4 items. All subscales were found to be reliable: self uncertainty (e.g. "how you feel about your relationship", Cronbach's  $\alpha = .90$ ), partner uncertainty (e.g. "how your partner feels about your relationship", Cronbach's  $\alpha = .94$ ), and relationship uncertainty have 4 items (e.g. "the current status of your relationship", Cronbach's  $\alpha = .84$ ). The reliability assessment of the total scale was also satisfactory (Cronbach's  $\alpha = .93$ ). Participants rated their relational uncertainty from "1" ("I am not sure at all") to "7" ("I am completely sure"). Higher scores indicated **lower** levels of relational uncertainty.

*Ideological Orientation:* Participants identified their ideological orientation with three questions. They rated their political view from “0” (“*very leftist*”) and “100” (“*very rightist*”) and their ideological orientation from “0” (“*very liberal*”) and “100” (“*very conservative*”) by sliding a bar on the scale. At last, they indicated how religious they were from “0” (“*I do not have any religious affiliation*”) to “100” (“*very religious*”) by sliding a bar on the scale. We only used the “left-right” scale in analyses.

*Relationship Stability Scale (satisfaction level and investment size subscales):* Relationship satisfaction and investment size were measured by the Relationship Stability Scale which was originally developed by Rusbult et al. (1998) and translated to Turkish by Büyükşahin et al. (2005). This scale originally had four subscales called commitment, satisfaction level, quality of alternatives, and investment size. In this study, we used two of these subscales; satisfaction level and investment size. The satisfaction level subscale had 10 items (e.g. “*I feel satisfied with our relationship*”, Cronbach’s  $\alpha = .92$ ). The first half of these items were scaled from “1” (“*completely false*”) to “4” (“*completely true*”) (Cronbach’s  $\alpha = .83$ ) whereas, the other half of the items were scaled from “1” (“*completely false*”) to “7” (“*completely true*”) (Cronbach’s  $\alpha = .93$ ). Similarly, the investment size subscale had 10 items (e.g. “*I have put a great deal into our relationship that I would lose if the relationship were to end*”, Cronbach’s  $\alpha = .81$ ). The first 5 items were measured from “1” (“*completely false*”) to “4” (“*completely true*”) (Cronbach’s  $\alpha = .62$ ) and the other 5 items were measured from “1” (“*completely false*”) to “7” (“*completely true*”) (Cronbach’s  $\alpha = .83$ ). We applied all 20 items in the study, but used only the second half of the items (5 items for relationship satisfaction and 5 items for investment size) in analyses as Rusbult and colleagues suggested (1998).

*Perceived Partner Responsiveness.* This scale (Reis, 2003; Sağel et al., (in press)) had 18 items and participants indicated their level of perceived partner responsiveness (e.g. “*My partner understands me*”, Cronbach’s  $\alpha = .96$ ) on a 7-point Likert type scale (“1” (“*It is not true*”) to “7” (“*completely true*”)).

*Experiences in Close-Relationships-Revised.* This scale was originally formed by Fraley and colleagues (2000) and adapted to Turkish by Selçuk and colleagues (2005). The scale had 36 items and two subscales; attachment anxiety (e.g. “*I worry that romantic partners won’t care about me as much as I care about them*”, Cronbach’s  $\alpha = .89$ ) and

attachment avoidance (e.g. “*I prefer not to be too close to romantic partners*”, Cronbach’s  $\alpha = .89$ ). Participants rated their attachment styles from “1” (“*I do not agree at all*”) to “7” (“*I completely agree*”).

*Intolerance of Uncertainty* (Buhr & Dugas, 2002; Freeston et al., 1994; Sarı & Dağ, 2009). The scale had four subscales; uncertainty is stressful and upsetting (e.g. “*Uncertainty makes me uneasy, anxious, or stressed*”), negative self-evaluations related to uncertainty (e.g. “*Being uncertain means that I am not first rate*”), it is uncomfortable to not to know the future (e.g. “*I always want to know what the future has in store for me*”), uncertainty leads to the inability to act (e.g. “*A small unforeseen event can spoil everything, even with the best planning*”). Although the scale comprised four subscales, Buhr and Dugas (2002) suggested that researchers should use the total IUC (Intolerance of Uncertainty) points. The scale consists of 26 items (Cronbach’s  $\alpha = .95$ ) and participants indicated their intolerance of uncertainty from “1” (“*It does not describe me at all*”) to “7” (“*It describes me completely*”).

### **2.1.3. Participants**

Power analysis with GPower (Faul et al., 2007) recommended 436 participants as the sample size to detect a small to the medium effect size of .03 by 95% power and .05 alpha value. Considering possible dropouts and missing values in the data set, the sample size is decided to be up to 500. However, the study link was popularized on social media, and we reached 2442 individuals in a very short time. Participants who did not complete at least half of the survey ( $n = 906$ ) and participants who did not complete the main study variables (relationship uncertainty, relationship satisfaction, and perceived partner responsiveness;  $n = 103$ ) were omitted from the data. Furthermore, in our pre-registration (<https://osf.io/xkj6a>) we decided to exclude participants who were very slow or very fast to complete the survey ( $\pm 3$  z scores above or below the mean duration) and who were under age 18. After applying the criteria, the remaining sample size was 1368 (Female = 1013, Male = 342, rest is not reported). The mean age of the participants was 27.18 ( $SD = 6.45$ ; range from 18 to 58). The descriptives of demographic variables including the participant profiles related to relationship status were summarized in Appendix 2.

## **2.2. Analysis Strategy**

All analyses were performed in Jamovi, Version of 1.1.9 and 1.2.2, and IBM SPSS Statistics for Microsoft, Versions 20.0, and 25.0. First of all, descriptive analyses and correlation analyses were conducted. Then a confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was performed for the brief version of the relational uncertainty scale. After, two independent sample t-tests were conducted for comparing females and males and for comparing participants with and without a long-distance relationship (The results of these analyses were reported on Appendix 2). Before hypothesis testing, as mentioned in preregistration, three independent sample t-tests were carried out to compare relational uncertainty scores of participants who had a current romantic relationship and who did not.

For testing the main hypotheses regarding relational uncertainty and relationship satisfaction, two separate hierarchical regression analyses were conducted for participants who were in a relationship and who were not. Similarly, for testing the main hypothesis regarding relational uncertainty and perceived partner responsiveness, two separate hierarchical regression analyses were carried out for participants who had a relationship and who did not.

Then, for testing the exploratory hypothesis regarding the moderation effect of political ideology, separate moderation analyses were carried out using the PROCESS model (Hayes, 2018) with 5000 bootstrapping re-samples. Similarly, for exploring the moderation effect of SES, separate moderation analyses were conducted using the PROCESS model (Hayes, 2018) with 5000 bootstrapping re-samples. And separate mediation analyses for the SES were performed using the PROCESS model (Hayes, 2018) with 5000 bootstrapping re-samples.

## **2.3. Results**

Table 2.1 summarizes descriptive statistics of demographics and all scales. Distributions of all variables were evaluated with skewness and kurtosis values and histograms (min. skewness = -1.09, max. skewness = 1.47, min. kurtosis = -1.20, max.

kurtosis = 2.49). According to these values and histograms, distributions appeared to be normal (Tabachnick & Fidell, 2013).

**Table 2.1.** *Descriptive Statistics of the Variables*

Variables	Mean	SD	Minimum	Maximum	Skewness	Kurtosis
Age	27.18	6.45	18	58	1.47	2.49
Political Ideology	30.31	20.85	0	100	.59	.36
Religiosity	29.64	28.59	0	100	.52	-.96
Income	6.92	3.20	1	12	.13	-1.20
Social Ladder	5.91	1.75	1	10	-.24	-.06
Self-Uncertainty	5.52	1.44	1	7	-1.09	.67
Partner Uncertainty	5.18	1.76	1	7	-.92	-.19
Relationship Uncertainty	5.32	1.50	1	7	-.92	.02
Composite Relational Uncertainty	5.34	1.38	1	7	-.80	-.10
Relationships Satisfaction	5.29	1.50	1	7	-.94	.17
Perceived Partner Responsiveness	5.22	1.36	1	7	-.93	.23
Investment Size	3.52	1.48	1	7	.32	-.62
Attachment Avoidance	2.61	1.02	1	6.57	.54	-.11
Attachment Anxiety	3.49	1.14	1	6.89	.39	-.29
Intolerance of Uncertainty	4.30	1.33	1	7	-.19	-.63

### **2.3.1. Psychometric properties of the brief version of relational uncertainty scale**

As above mentioned, in the Turkish form of relational uncertainty scale, higher scores mean less relational uncertainty (Gürcan, 2015). In other words, high scores indicate that people are more certain about themselves, their partners, and their relationships.



### 2.3.1.1. Confirmatory factor analysis

To the best of our knowledge, this study is the first to use the brief version of the relational uncertainty scale in a Turkish sample. A confirmatory factor analysis via Jamovi, Version of 1.1.9 was conducted to better understand the construct validity of the scale before further analyses. Accordingly, the model demonstrated good model-data fit (Table 2.2). Also, the factor loadings of each item (standard estimates) were ranged between .60 and .90. So, the consistent factor structure was observed in the Turkish sample.

**Table 2.2.** *Results of Confirmatory Factor Analysis*

	Chi-square	df	<i>p</i>	CFI	TLI	SRMR	RMSEA
Model	433	51	<.001	0.972	0.963	0.0245	0.0740

### 2.3.2. Correlations for study variables

The correlations between demographics and study variables were calculated (Table 2.3). Three subscales of relational uncertainty were positively correlated with relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness were (*rs* ranged between .66 and .72) and perceived partner responsiveness (*rs* ranged between .60 and .68). Composite relational uncertainty was positively correlated with relationship satisfaction ( $r = .78$ ) and perceived partner responsiveness ( $r = .74$ ). The individuals with lower relational uncertainty were more satisfied with their relationships and perceived their partners more responsive. The correlation between relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness was also substantially high ( $r = .81$ ).

Subscales of relational uncertainty were negatively correlated with attachment avoidance (*rs* ranged between -.43 and -.51) and attachment anxiety (*rs* ranged between -.26 and .47), indicating higher relational uncertainty was associated with higher attachment avoidance and anxiety.

Additionally, three subscales of relational uncertainty were positively correlated with objective socioeconomic status (income) (*rs* ranged between .08 and .10). Income was also positively correlated with relationship satisfaction ( $r = .07$ ) and perceived partner

responsiveness ( $r = .07$ ). Three subscales of relational uncertainty were positively correlated with subjective socioeconomic status (ladder) ( $r$ s ranged between .10 and .11). Ladder was also positively correlated with relationship satisfaction ( $r = .10$ ) and perceived partner responsiveness ( $r = .11$ ) (Table 2.3).

**Table 2.3.** *Correlations for Study Variables*

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1.Age	1															
2.Sex	.17**	1														
3.LeftRight	-.09**	.09**	1													
4.Religiosity	-.08**	-.09**	.45**	1												
5.Income	.31**	.08**	-.03	-.04	1											
6.Ladder	.08**	-.03	.04	.09**	.38**	1										
7.SU	.05	-.02	-.01	.04	.08**	.10**	1									
8.PU	-.002	-.05*	.01	.01	.10**	.11**	.53**	1								
9.RU	.02	-.03	-.03	.002	.10**	.11**	.68**	.76**	1							
10.CRU	.02	-.04	-.01	.02	.11*	.12**	.82**	.88**	.92**	1						
11.RS	-.06*	-.06*	-.008	.007	.07**	.10**	.66**	.67**	.72**	.78**	1					
12.PPR	-.08**	-.08**	-.02	.02	.07**	.11**	.60**	.68**	.67**	.74**	.81**	1				
13.IS	.01	.08**	.06*	.09**	.04	.002	.23**	.06*	.11**	.15**	.17**	.07**	1			
14.AVO	-.02	.01	.09**	.07*	-.11**	-.15**	-.51**	-.43**	-.50**	-.55**	-.56**	-.55**	-.14**	1		
15.ANX	-.11**	.005	.03	.05	-.11**	-.14**	-.26**	-.47**	-.42**	-.45**	-.37**	-.39**	.26**	.38**	1	
16.IU	-.12**	-.13**	-.009	.02	-.10**	-.15**	-.12**	-.16**	-.17**	-.18**	-.14**	-.12**	.27**	.18**	.51**	1

*SU = Self-Uncertainty, PU = Partner Uncertainty, RU = Relationship Uncertainty, CRU = Composite Relational Uncertainty, RS = Relationship Satisfaction, IS = Investment Size, PPR = Perceived Partner Responsiveness, AVO = Attachment Avoidance, ANX = Attachment Anxiety, IU = Intolerance of Uncertainty. \* p < .05, \*\* p < .01.*

### 2.3.3. T-test for people with and without a current romantic relationship

As already mentioned in preregistration (<https://osf.io/xkj6a>), before hypothesis testing, three independent sample t-tests were conducted to compare self uncertainty, partner uncertainty, and relationship uncertainty between participants with and without a current romantic relationship (Table 2.4). Results showed that there was a significant difference between people who were in a relationship and who were not in self uncertainty,  $t(583.24) = 11.74, p < .001$ ; partner uncertainty  $t(566.29) = 20.80, p < .001$ ; and relationship uncertainty  $t(588.99) = 20.33, p < .001$ . Additionally, another independent sample t-test was conducted for composite relational uncertainty,  $t(640.62) = 22.09, p < .001$ .<sup>1</sup>

**Table 2.4.** *Self Uncertainty, Partner Uncertainty and Relationship Uncertainty of Participants with and without a Romantic Relationship*

Variables	Participants with a romantic relationship			Participants without a romantic relationship			<i>t</i>
	<i>n</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	
Self Uncertainty	980	5.82	1.25	387	4.76	1.60	11.74*
Partner Uncertainty	979	5.78	1.34	388	3.67	1.80	20.80*
Relationship Uncertainty	978	5.81	1.18	388	4.08	1.50	20.33*
Relational Uncertainty	980	5.80	1.12	388	4.17	1.27	22.09*

\* $p < .001$ .

### 2.3.4. Hypothesis testing for relational uncertainty, relationship satisfaction, and perceived partner responsiveness (Hypothesis 1)

Four separate hierarchical regression analyses were conducted for testing the main hypotheses about the associations between relational uncertainty, relationship satisfaction,

<sup>1</sup> Levene's test for equality of variances was significant for all four variables. Therefore, we reported the second line for these variables which refers to *equal variances not assumed*. However, results were also significant in the first line referring to *equal variances assumed*,  $t(1365) = 13.02, p < .001$ ,  $t(1365) = 23.53, p < .001$ ,  $t(1364) = 22.46, p < .001$ ;  $t(1366) = 23.27, p < .001$ .

and perceived partner responsiveness. Attachment avoidance, attachment anxiety, intolerance of uncertainty, long-distance relationship, and relationship duration were entered in the first level and self uncertainty, partner uncertainty, and relationship uncertainty were entered in the second level of the regression equation when predicting relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness. Because of the suppression effect (Tabachnick & Fidell, 2013) relationship duration and because of the non-significant associations of long-distance relationships, these variables were omitted from the models.

#### **2.3.4.1. Relational uncertainty and relationship satisfaction (Hypothesis 1a)**

*For participants with current romantic relationships*, we conducted a hierarchical regression analysis where attachment avoidance, attachment anxiety, and intolerance of uncertainty were in the first model and self, partner, and relationship uncertainty were the second model. Both model 1 ( $R^2_{\text{adjusted}} = .26$ ,  $F(3, 805) = 96.08$ ,  $p < .001$ ) and model 2 ( $R^2_{\text{adjusted}} = .61$ ,  $F(6, 802) = 217.61$ ,  $p < .001$ ) were significant, and adding sub-factors of relational uncertainty significantly improved the regression models ( $\Delta R^2 = .35$ ,  $F(3, 802) = 249.98$ ,  $p < .001$ ). Accordingly, self, partner, and relationship uncertainty were positively and significantly associated with relationship satisfaction indicating that lower relational uncertainty was related to higher satisfaction (see Table 2.5 for all estimates). Attachment avoidance was negatively and significantly associated with relationship satisfaction. Attachment anxiety and intolerance of uncertainty were not related to relationship satisfaction.

*For people without current romantic relationships*, we tested the same hierarchical models. Both model 1 ( $R^2_{\text{adjusted}} = .17$ ,  $F(3, 329) = 24.40$ ,  $p < .001$ ) and model 2 ( $R^2_{\text{adjusted}} = .39$ ,  $F(6, 326) = 37.40$ ,  $p < .001$ ) were significant, and adding sub-factors of relational uncertainty significantly improved the regression models ( $\Delta R^2 = .22$ ,  $F(3, 326) = 41.40$ ,  $p < .001$ ). Accordingly, self and partner uncertainty were positively and significantly associated with relationship satisfaction (Table 2.6). Attachment avoidance was negatively and significantly associated with relationship satisfaction. Relationship uncertainty, attachment anxiety, and intolerance of uncertainty were not related to relationship satisfaction.

**Table 2.5.** Summary of Hierarchical Regression of Variables on Relationship Satisfaction (Participants with Romantic Relationships)

Variable	Model 1						Model 2					
	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	$\beta$	% 95 CI	<i>p</i>	Partial Correlation	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	$\beta$	% 95 CI	<i>p</i>	Partial Correlation
Attachment Avoidance	-.56	.04	-.44	-.64, -.48	<.001	-.42	-.20	.03	-.15	-.26, -.13	<.001	-.20
Attachment Anxiety	-.19	.04	-.17	-.27, -.11	<.001	-.16	.05	.03	.04	-.01, .11	.109	.05
Intolerance of Uncertainty	.06	.03	.07	.003, .123	.040	.07	.02	.02	.03	-.01, .07	.223	.04
Self-Uncertainty							.21	.03	.22	.14, .27	<.001	.21
Partner Uncertainty							.14	.02	.16	.09, .20	<.001	.18
Relationship Uncertainty							.39	.03	.40	.31, .47	<.001	.33
<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>				.26						.61		
Adjusted <i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>				.26						.61		
<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup> Change										.35		
<i>F</i>				96.08						217.61		
<i>F</i> Change										249.98		

**Table 2.6.** Summary of Hierarchical Regression of Variables on Relationship Satisfaction (Participants without Romantic Relationships)

Variable	Model 1						Model 2					
	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	$\beta$	% 95 CI	<i>p</i>	Partial Correlation	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	$\beta$	% 95 CI	<i>p</i>	Partial Correlation
Attachment Avoidance	-.56	.07	-.38	-.71, -.41	<.001	-.38	-.30	.06	-.20	-.44, -.17	<.001	-.24
Attachment Anxiety	-.16	.07	-.12	-.31, -.01	.037	-.10	-.03	.06	-.02	-.16, .10	.623	-.02
Intolerance of Uncertainty	-.04	.06	-.03	-.17, .09	.523	-.03	-.07	.05	-.06	-.18, .04	.227	-.06
Self-Uncertainty							.30	.04	.32	.21, .39	<.001	.33
Partner Uncertainty							.23	.04	.27	.14, .33	<.001	.26
Relationship Uncertainty							.08	.06	.07	-.03, .20	.181	.07
<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>					.18						.40	
Adjusted <i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>					.17						.39	
<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup> Change											.22	
<i>F</i>					24.40						37.40	
<i>F</i> Change											41.40	

#### **2.3.4.2. Relational uncertainty and perceived partner responsiveness (Hypothesis 1b)**

*For participants with current romantic relationships,* we conducted a hierarchical regression analysis where attachment avoidance, attachment anxiety, and intolerance of uncertainty were the first model and self, partner, and relationship uncertainty were the second model. Both model 1 ( $R^2_{\text{adjusted}} = .24$ ,  $F(3, 803) = 89.35$ ,  $p < .001$ ) and model 2 ( $R^2_{\text{adjusted}} = .50$ ,  $F(6, 800) = 138.47$ ,  $p < .001$ ) were significant, and adding sub-factors of relational uncertainty significantly improved the regression models ( $\Delta R^2 = .26$ ,  $F(3, 800) = 140.88$ ,  $p < .001$ ). Accordingly, self, partner, and relationship uncertainty were positively and significantly associated with perceived partner responsiveness (Table 2.7). Attachment avoidance was negatively and significantly associated with relationship satisfaction. Attachment anxiety and intolerance of uncertainty were not related to perceived partner responsiveness.

*For people without current romantic relationships,* we conducted a hierarchical regression analysis where attachment avoidance, attachment anxiety, and intolerance of uncertainty were the first model and self, partner, and relationship uncertainty were the second model. Both model 1 ( $R^2_{\text{adjusted}} = .20$ ,  $F(3, 329) = 28.90$ ,  $p < .001$ ) and model 2 ( $R^2_{\text{adjusted}} = .42$ ,  $F(6, 326) = 42.11$ ,  $p < .001$ ) were significant, and adding sub-factors of relational uncertainty significantly improved the regression models ( $\Delta R^2 = .22$ ,  $F(3, 326) = 44.00$ ,  $p < .001$ ). Accordingly, self and partner uncertainty were positively and significantly associated with perceived partner responsiveness (Table 2.8). Attachment avoidance and attachment anxiety were negatively and significantly associated with perceived partner responsiveness. Relationship uncertainty and intolerance of uncertainty were not related to perceived partner responsiveness.



**Table 2.7.** Summary of Hierarchical Regression of Variables on PPR (Participants with Romantic Relationships)

Variable	Model 1							Model 2					
	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	$\beta$	% 95 CI	<i>p</i>	Partial Correlation	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	$\beta$	% 95 CI	<i>p</i>	Partial Correlation	
Attachment Avoidance	-.50	.04	-.42	-.58, -.42	<.001	-.40	-.23	.03	-.19	-.30, -.16	<.001	-.22	
Attachment Anxiety	-.19	.03	-.18	-.26, -.11	<.001	-.17	.01	.03	.01	-.04, .08	.569	.02	
Intolerance of Uncertainty	.07	.02	.08	.01, .12	.015	.08	.03	.02	.04	-.008, .084	.106	.05	
Self-Uncertainty							.12	.03	.13	.05, .19	.001	.12	
Partner Uncertainty							.18	.03	.23	.12, .24	<.001	.21	
Relationship Uncertainty							.28	.04	.31	.20, .37	<.001	.23	
<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>					.25						.50		
Adjusted <i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>					.24						.50		
<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup> Change											.26		
<i>F</i>					89.35						138.47		
<i>F</i> Change											140.88		

**Table 2.8.** Summary of Hierarchical Regression of Variables on PPR (Participants without Romantic Relationships)

Variable	Model 1							Model 2					
	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	$\beta$	% 95 CI	<i>p</i>	Partial Correlation	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	$\beta$	% 95 CI	<i>p</i>	Partial Correlation	
Attachment Avoidance	-.50	.06	-.37	-.64, -.37	<.001	-.38	-.31	.06	-.22	-.43, -.19	<.001	-.26	
Attachment Anxiety	-.31	.06	-.25	-.44, -.17	<.001	-.24	-.15	.06	-.13	-.28, -.03	.011	-.14	
Intolerance of Uncertainty	.09	.06	.08	-.02, .21	.129	.08	.05	.05	.05	-.04, .15	.281	.06	
Self-Uncertainty							.23	.04	.27	.15, .31	<.001	.29	
Partner Uncertainty							.32	.04	.40	.23, .40	<.001	.38	
Relationship Uncertainty							-.02	.05	-.02	-.12, .08	.690	-.02	
<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>					.20						.43		
Adjusted <i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>					.20						.42		
<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup> Change											.22		
<i>F</i>					28.90						42.11		
<i>F</i> Change											44.00		

### **2.3.5. The moderation effect of political orientation on the association between relational uncertainty and relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness (Hypotheses 2a and 2b)<sup>2</sup>**

We explored the data to test if the negative association between relational uncertainty and relationship outcomes (relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness) is different for individuals with relatively left-wing ideologies and individuals with relatively right-wing ideologies. Using the PROCESS model (Hayes, 2018), we conducted two separate moderation analyses with 5000 bootstrapping resamples, where composite relational uncertainty score was the predictor, left-right scale as the moderator, and relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness were the outcomes. Because, the bivariate correlations of self-, partner-, and relationship-uncertainty were between .53 and .76; and the  $r$  between all scale items were between .35 and .85, we used the composite variable of relational uncertainty. Then, we repeated the same analyses for different sub-factors of relational uncertainty and reported their results in Appendix 2.

The results showed a non-significant interaction between political orientation and relational uncertainty to predict relationship satisfaction ( $B = .0006$ ,  $SE = .0009$ ,  $p = .468$ , 95% *C.I.* [-.001, .002]) and perceived partner responsiveness ( $B = .0008$ ,  $SE = .0008$ ,  $p = .349$ , 95% *C.I.* [-.0009, .0024]), indicating a similar pattern of associations between relational uncertainty and relationship outcomes for both individuals with left and right political orientation.

### **2.3.6. Exploratory analyses with subjective and objective socioeconomic status**

#### **2.3.6.1. Moderation analysis with SES**

We carried out exploratory analyses to test if objective and subjective socioeconomic status influenced the associations between relational uncertainty with relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness. Using the PROCESS model (Hayes, 2018), we conducted four separate moderation analyses with 5000 bootstrapping resamples, where composite relational uncertainty score was the predictor, objective and

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<sup>2</sup> For the Turkish population, previous studies used one left-right question to assess political ideology in the Turkish population (Yılmaz et al., 2016; Yılmaz et al., 2016). Parallel to their research, we decided to use only the left-right scale in the analyses.

subjective socioeconomic status scale as the moderator, and relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness were the outcomes.

Objective SES did not moderate the relationship of relational uncertainty with relationship satisfaction ( $B = -.003$ ,  $SE = .005$ ,  $p = .551$ , 95% *C.I.* [-.014, .008]) and perceived partner responsiveness ( $B = -.007$ ,  $SE = .005$ ,  $p = .197$ , 95 % *C.I.* [-.018, .003]). And, subjective SES did not moderate the relationship of relational uncertainty with relationship satisfaction ( $B = .004$ ,  $SE = .010$ ,  $p = .640$ , 95% *C.I.* [-.015, .024]) and perceived partner responsiveness ( $B = -.0007$ ,  $SE = .009$ ,  $p = .940$ , 95 % *C.I.* [-.019, .018]). Thus, the associations between relational uncertainty and relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness were similar for both low and high SES participants.

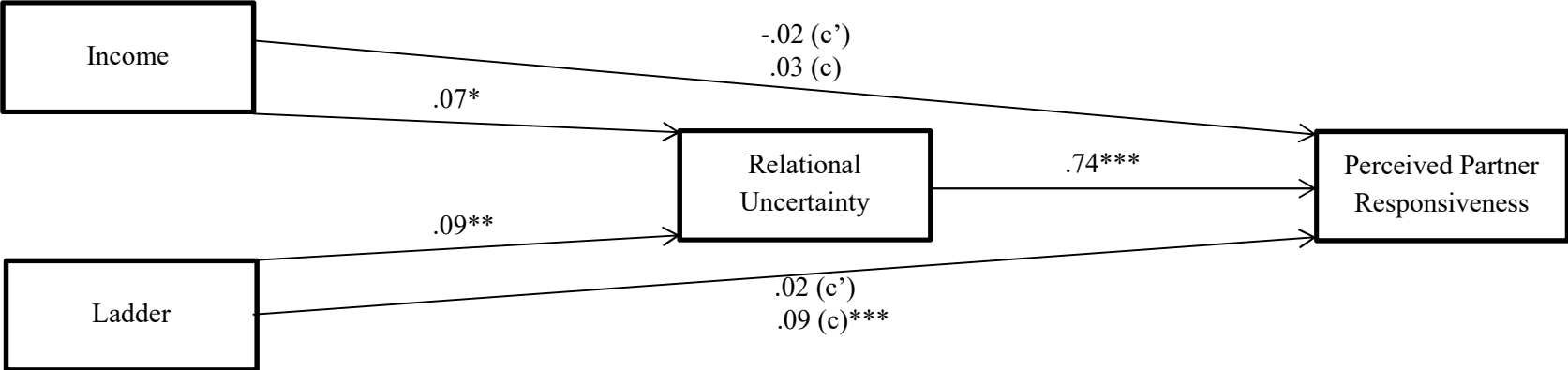
### **2.3.6.2. Mediation analysis with SES**

After moderation analysis, to explore the association of socioeconomic status with the relationship outcomes (i.e., relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness) we performed two mediation analysis as the objective and subjective SES variables were the predictors, composite score of relational uncertainty was the mediator, and relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness were the outcomes (See the Figure 2.1 and 2.2). We used a GLM mediation approach with 5000 bias corrected bootstrap resamples in Jamovi v.1.2.2. In the first model, both objective ( $B = .032$ ,  $SE = .012$ ,  $p = .011$ , boot 95% *C.I.* [.006, .055],  $\beta = .074$ ) and subjective ( $B = .073$ ,  $SE = .024$ ,  $p = .002$ , boot 95% *C.I.* [.025, .121],  $\beta = .093$ ) SES variables were positively associated with relational uncertainty, indicating the participants with higher SES reported lower relational uncertainty. In turn, the relational uncertainty was positively associated with perceived partner responsiveness ( $B = .740$ ,  $SE = .019$ ,  $p < .001$ , boot 95% *C.I.* [.702, .779],  $\beta = .748$ ) indicating that participants with lower relational uncertainty revealed higher perceived partner responsiveness. However, the direct associations of objective and subjective SES with perceived partner responsiveness were non-significant when the relational uncertainty was in the model. The indirect associations of both objective ( $B = .024$ ,  $SE = .009$ ,  $p = .011$ , boot 95% *C.I.* [.005, .041],  $\beta = .055$ ) and subjective ( $B = .054$ ,  $SE = .018$ ,  $p = .002$ , boot 95% *C.I.* [.019, .090],  $\beta = .069$ ) SES with perceived partner responsiveness were significant.

In the second model, when all three predictors were in the model, the relational uncertainty ( $B = .848$ ,  $SE = .020$ ,  $p < .001$ , boot 95% *C.I.* [.808, .889],  $\beta = .783$ ) was positively associated with relationship satisfaction, however direct effects of both objective and subjective SES variables were non-significant. The indirect associations of both objective ( $B = .028$ ,  $SE = .011$ ,  $p = .008$ , boot 95% *C.I.* [.008, .050],  $\beta = .060$ ) and subjective ( $B = .059$ ,  $SE = .011$ ,  $p = .005$ , boot 95% *C.I.* [.019, .099],  $\beta = .068$ ) SES with relationship satisfaction were also significant; indicating that higher objective and subjective SES was associated with lower relational uncertainty, which in turn associated with higher relationship satisfaction.

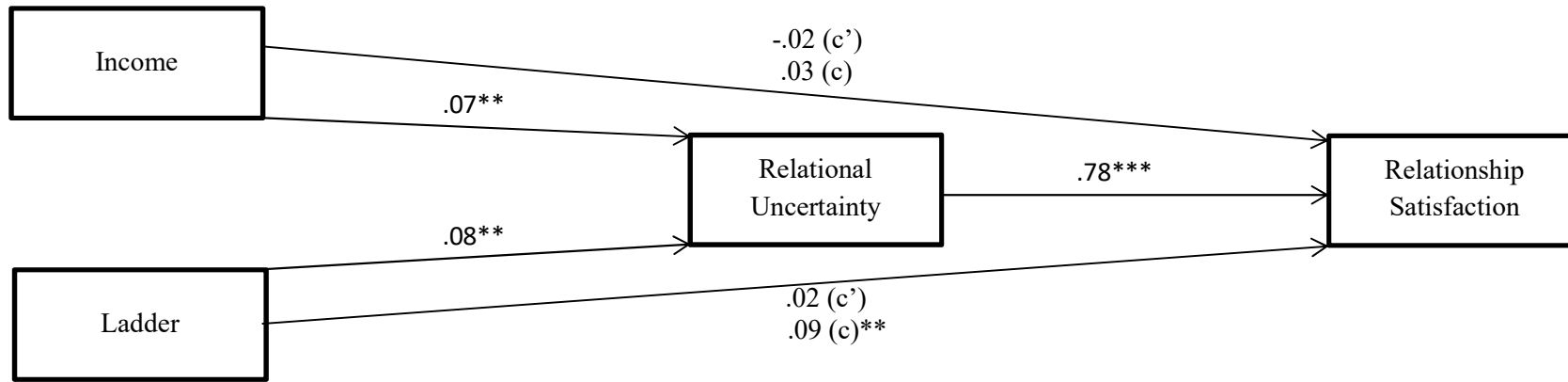
Similar to moderation analyses, we first used composite relational uncertainty scores in mediation analyses and reported here. Then, the analyses were repeated with subscales of relational uncertainty and were presented in Appendix 2.

Figure 2.1. Mediation Analysis for Perceived Partner Responsiveness



\* $p < .05$ , \*\* $p < .01$ , \*\*\* $p < .001$ .

**Figure 2.2.** *Mediation Analysis for Relationship Satisfaction*



\* $p < .05$ , \*\* $p < .01$ , \*\*\* $p < .001$ .

## 2.4. Discussion

The main objective of the current study was examining the associations of relational uncertainty with relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness. Attachment and intolerance of uncertainty were also controlled in these associations. The second objective of this study was exploring the data to test the effects of individual properties like political ideology and socioeconomic status to explain the association between relational uncertainty and relationship outcomes.

As aforementioned, previous research reported the negative association between relational uncertainty and relationship satisfaction (e.g. Knobloch & Theiss, 2011b). Consistent with the literature, this study showed that people were more satisfied with their relationships when they experienced lower levels of self, partner, and relationship uncertainty. Prior studies have also noted the negative association between relational uncertainty and perceived partner responsiveness (e.g. Theiss & Nagy, 2013). Consistently, this study showed that people perceived more partner responsiveness when they experienced less self, partner, relationship uncertainty. The findings of the present study successfully replicated the previous research and supported our main hypotheses.

Results also demonstrated that the moderation effect of political ideology was non-significant on the association between relational uncertainty and relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness, indicating similar associations between relational uncertainty and relationship satisfaction for people with right and left political ideology. The association between relational uncertainty and perceived partner responsiveness was also similar for people with different political orientations. The literature on the political ideology suggested that conservatives and liberals were substantially different in terms of their motivations, cognitions, and behaviors in different domains including moral judgments (Graham et al., 2012; Poteat & Mereish, 2012), dogmatism (Conway et al., 2015); and social cognition (Jost et al., 2003), as well as their reaction to the uncertainty (Jost & Amodio, 2012). Contrary to this literature, intolerance of uncertainty was not correlated with any end of the political ideology in our sample (see Table 2.3). Furthermore, we couldn't find any evidence for the difference in relationship outcomes due to political ideology. We suppose that our findings are more compatible with the research on the similarity of liberals and conservatives (see Brandt et al., 2013) that regardless of



their political ideology individuals are affected similarly when they face some problems in their romantic relationships.

However, relational uncertainty mediated the relationship between SES (both objective and subjective) and relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness. This finding was unexpected and needed to be confirmed. To do so, the same associations were tested in a different sample in Study 2.

#### **2.4.1. Limitations and implications of the study**

This study has some limitations. The first limitation was the design of the study. Because of the cross-sectional design, we can not infer cause-effect relationships. Also, this study had some exploratory findings. All these exploratory findings need to be confirmed with a different sample to make more robust conclusions. Finally, the study focused on individuals as a unit of analysis without considering the relationship dynamics. However, the relationship research encourages more to focus dyads as a unit of analysis and modeling within dyad dynamics that could influence relationship outcomes (Laurenceau & Bolger, 2005). In Study 2, we tried to address these limitations.

This study also has some implications. First of all, although relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness are well-studied topics in close relationships, relational uncertainty is not studied as much, especially in psychology. Our findings suggested that both satisfaction and PPR were affected by relational uncertainty significantly. Therefore, it seems relational uncertainty may be one of the important variables that affect relationship outcomes. So, future studies with a focus on relational uncertainty were suggested. Also, this study is the first study that used the brief version of the Relational Uncertainty Scale (Knobloch & Theiss, 2011b) in a Turkish population. The confirmatory factor analysis suggested that the scale is reliable and valid. For future studies, Turkish researchers may continue to use the scale.

## STUDY 2

In the first study, we investigated the association between relational uncertainty with relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness (PPR) in a sample that consisted of people with and without romantic relationships. It was anticipated that there would be a negative association between relational uncertainty with relationship satisfaction and PPR. Results supported our main hypotheses. Individuals experienced more relationship satisfaction when they were less uncertain about themselves, their partners, and their relationships. Similarly, participants' perceived partner responsiveness scores were higher when their relational uncertainty levels were lower. However, our exploratory hypotheses regarding political ideology were not supported. The data failed to approve the moderator role of political ideology in the association between relational uncertainty with relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness. On the other hand, it was found that the mediator role of relational uncertainty in the association between objective and subjective socioeconomic status with relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness.

Before explaining the structure and methodology of Study 2, it was necessary to explain one of the relationship-related concepts; *closeness*. In general, people think that closeness as the power of emotional connection between persons or having specific information about the other person, or both of the situations (Dibble et al., 2011). Closeness was defined as the extent of interdependence between partners in a relationship (Dibble et al., 2011). As already mentioned, interdependence occurs when two people affect each other strongly, frequently, and diversely for a long time (Kelley, 1983). Young et al. (2012) used closeness, satisfaction, and commitment to measure positive relationship quality; and they found that relational uncertainty was negatively correlated with the composite positive relationship quality. Therefore, closeness was also measured in Study 2, in addition to relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness.

### **3.1. Dyadic Studies**

*Dyad* refers to a group that consists of two people and some dyad examples are dating or married couples, parents and children, siblings, colleagues, friends, or people who share the same living space (Kenny & Kashy 2011). There are different types such as *distinguishable dyads* (opposite-sex couples, parents and children, age-differentiated siblings, etc.) and *indistinguishable dyads* (same-sex couples, twins, etc.) (Kenny et al., 2006). Several research topics in psychology should be treated in a dyadic level instead of individual-level such as relationship satisfaction level, reciprocity, person perception, love, conflict, aggression, etc. (Kenny et al., 2006). Clark and Reis (1988) drawn attention to the importance of dyadic studies by stating that relationships are based on the interaction between two people instead of only one person. Dyadic studies allow researchers to investigate not only the differences between persons within a dyad but also the differences between different dyads and related factors (Wittenborn et al., 2013). On the other hand, dyadic diary studies has also some challenges. For example, conducting power analysis for a dyadic study or analyzing results via multilevel modeling or structural equation modeling could be challenging (Lane & Hennes, 2018). Additionally, researchers have to decide whether they should put importance on the number of dyads or the number of measurements from each dyad per day in their studies (Lane & Hennes, 2018). However, if we were able to deal with these challenges, dyadic studies may expand our understanding of relationships.

### **3.2. Daily Diary Studies**

In Study 1, we focused on how individuals are affected by relational uncertainty. In Study 2, additionally, it was aimed to focus on how couples are affected by relational uncertainty. We investigated the effects of relational uncertainty on relationship outcomes in the *dyadic level* instead of the individual level. To do so, a two-week diary study was conducted to replicate the findings of Study 1 and to test the daily fluctuations in the associations between the relational uncertainty and perceived partner responsiveness, and relationship satisfaction as couples live their everyday life. It was stated that in relationship science, several specialists use several methods to study relationships such as having interviews, conducting the case, laboratory or field studies, or collecting data by surveys,

experiments, quasi-experiments, psychophysical records, and longitudinal studies (Campbell & Surra, 2012; Clark & Reis, 1988). In this way, a diversity of methods was generated and we can understand the processes of close relationships more deeply (Campbell & Surra, 2012). Conducting a daily diary study in addition to a cross-sectional study, we aimed to observe the dynamics of close relationships deeply and in real-life contexts. If our main hypothesis is confirmed, we can make causal inferences (Bolger et al., 2003) about the effect of relational uncertainty on the well-being of romantic relationships in terms of satisfaction and perceived responsiveness.

Reis (1994) stated that in addition to unexpected and major ones, usual and minor life events are also important in our lives. Therefore, collecting daily data in relationship science is valued although it is not the only area where diary methods are used. To the best of our knowledge, the study of Csikszentmihalyi and colleagues (1977) on the experiences of adolescents was the first diary study in psychology. From then, daily diary studies were conducted in several research topics such as social support (Bolger et al., 2000; Shrout et al., 2010), daily mood and relationship satisfaction (Gable et al., 2003), marital and family processes (Laurenceau & Bolger, 2005), conflict and sex in romantic relationships (Maxwell & Meltzer, 2020). There are several advantages of using daily diary methods in relationship research (Iida et al., 2012). This research design help scientists to understand specific topics that may not be understood by other traditional methods (Reis et al., 2014). By using this study design, researchers can observe couples in their natural settings, gather information about their contexts, and understand the process of interpersonal relationships (Laurenceau & Bolger, 2005). In addition to these benefits, daily diaries provide scientists more accurate information because it decreases the time between events and measurements (Bolger et al., 2003; Reis, 1994).

Despite all these advantages, unfortunately, diaries are used less than self-reports or observations in relationship contexts such as families or marriages (Laurenceau & Bolger, 2005). Because there are some disadvantages to using dairy studies. For example, answering the same questions over a period may lead to a burden for participants and bias in responses (Bolger et al., 2003). Therefore, diary researchers try to ask a limited number of questions and minimize survey time (Bolger et al., 2003). In this way, they try to balance between the reliability of their measures and the fatigue of the participants (Reis et al., 2014). Also, it is the researchers' responsibility to make sure that participants fully

understand the process of study and the expectations from them; therefore detailed training sessions are required before starting the study. (Reis et al., 2014.) Moreover, researchers should control the data all the time if data are collected in digital platforms or for couple studies, they should be sure that participants could not reach their partners' responses (Reis et al., 2014) Also, the analyses should be taken special attention and efforts in diary studies (Reis, et al., 2014).

In the current study, we suspect that the daily dynamics of the relationships would influence both partners as individuals and the well-being of their relationships as a unit. Thus, tracking their relationship daily will provide us to evaluate micro-level associations of relational uncertainty and relationship outcomes (Laurenceau & Bolger, 2005). Also, daily change in relationship dynamics will allow us to make conclusions about the within-relationship (couple) variation in the association between relational uncertainty and perceived partner responsiveness (PPR) and relationship satisfaction.

### **3.2.1. Daily diary studies on relational uncertainty**

Previous daily research had findings on the effects of relational uncertainty, some of them were also dyadic diary studies. In a diary study, Knobloch and Theiss (2011a) found that when relational uncertainty was higher, individuals feel more self and relationship threat; also they showed more avoidance toward relationship-related talks. Another study suggested that the negative feelings and turbulence of a partner in a week impacted relational uncertainty and partner interference of another partner in the following week (Knobloch & Theiss, 2010). In another dyadic daily diary study, Young and colleagues (2012) found that there was a negative correlation between relational uncertainty and composite positive relationship quality which referred to satisfaction, commitment, and closeness. And also they found that the relationship between working to change and relationship quality was more powerful in days in which relational uncertainty was lower. In another study, positive communication experiences in couples were found negatively associated with the self uncertainty of wives and relationship uncertainty of husbands (Brisini & Solomon, 2019). Also, Theiss (2011) found that relational uncertainty of husbands was negatively associated with the sexual satisfaction of wives and relational uncertainty of wives was negatively linked to the sexual satisfaction of husbands in another

dyadic study. All of the studies demonstrated that the fluctuations in daily relational uncertainty were negatively correlated with different relationship outcomes.

### **3.3. Hypotheses**

We expected to confirm the study hypotheses of Study 1 on a daily basis. We hypothesized that the daily relational uncertainty will be negatively associated with daily relationship satisfaction (Hypotheses 3a) and daily perceived partner responsiveness (Hypotheses 3b) in romantic couples for both male and female participants in Study 2. Additionally, we also hypothesized that the daily changes in the experienced relational uncertainty will negatively predict closeness (Hypothesis 4) between partners for both males and females. Finally, we expect an interdependence between male and female partners within couples in their relationship quality (relationship satisfaction, perceived partner responsiveness, and closeness) (Hypothesis 5).

In Study 1, intolerance of uncertainty was also analyzed. Although there were significant correlations with intolerance of uncertainty and study variables, it was not a significant predictor of relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness (Detailed information can be found in the result section of Study 1). Therefore, intolerance of uncertainty scale was excluded from Study 2. However, apart from the testing of the above hypotheses, all the models tested in Study 1 will be re-tested in the Study 2 data to confirm the findings of Study 1.

### **3.4. Method**

#### **3.4.1. Procedure**

All data was collected online via using Qualtrics (<https://www.qualtrics.com>). To recruit couples to the study we announced the study in psychology classes of Başkent University. Students were asked to participate in one 15-minute survey study (baseline study), which was followed by a fourteen-day diary study with their romantic partners. Instructors provided course credit for their students' participation. If they did not have a current romantic affiliation, they were allowed to find a couple instead (as in the study of

Young et al., 2012). In addition to their participation or finding one couple, they were given extra course credits if they found another couple to help participant recruitment. Instructors from other universities (Atılım University and Ted University) also shared the survey link with their students, but their participation was voluntary. The study was also announced on social media (Twitter and Instagram). In addition to these announcements, participants who indicated that they wanted to participate in this study by adding their email addresses in Study 1 (<https://osf.io/xkj6a>) were also invited to participate in daily surveys.

Each individual shared the first survey link with their partner and in this way, both of the partners completed the baseline survey. Each partner gave their and their romantic partners' email addresses in the baseline survey after they accepted the informed consent, thus we used their email addresses as identifiers to match the couples and their responses on the daily surveys. Then they were informed about the confidentiality of their responses, which includes that they should complete each survey privately and independently from their partners. Also, they were asked not to share the links of diary questions with their partners because these links were personal use only and linked to their own email addresses.

In the first survey, the participants completed the background questionnaire which was called the baseline survey. The survey included Relational Uncertainty Scale (Knobloch & Solomon, 1999; Gürcan, 2015; Knobloch & Theiss, 2011), Relationship Stability Scale (Rusbult et al., 1998; Büyükşahin et al., 2005), Perceived Partner Responsiveness (Reis, 2003; Sağel et al., (in press)), Experiences in Close Relationships-Revised (Fraley et al., 2000; Selçuk et al., 2005), and demographic information form (including ideology and SES). All scales including demographic questions were randomized in the baseline survey.

After both partners completed the baseline survey, they waited for a while for receiving daily diary questions. When a substantial number of couples were accumulated, the diaries were started. Each partner received a link to a short survey for the daily diary for 14 successive days in the evenings at 20.00. Participants were asked to answer these questions in the evening between 20.00 to 01.00. But we enabled them to answer questions until 11 a.m. on the next day. In preregistration, we stated that we enabled them to

participate until 9 a.m. in the morning, but we extended the time within the data collection procedure. The daily diary questions included questions about relational uncertainty, closeness, relationship satisfaction, perceived partner responsiveness, and daily routines. All questions referred to their experiences on the given day.

All data were collected in three waves, 134 couples in the first wave (diary data collection dates between May 15 and May 28, 2020), 145 couples in the second wave (diary data collection dates between May 27 and June 9, 2020), and 88 couples in the last wave (diary data collection dates between June 1 and June 14, 2020). Couples were grouped by their participation date in the baseline survey. Partners who completed the survey earlier received diary questions earlier. In preregistration (<https://osf.io/wujgx>), we stated that data collection would be stopped on May 30, 2020, because the semester would end in the first half of June and we had to provide course credits for them. We applied this rule for the baseline survey. For diaries, data collection was stopped on June 14, 2020. In any case, it was provided with all course credits, because the academic calendar of Başkent University was extended due to the coronavirus pandemic.

### **3.4.2. Materials of the baseline survey**

The structure and procedure of this survey were the same as Study 1 which can be seen in detail in the method of Study 1 (<https://osf.io/xkj6a>), except before filling out these questionnaires, participants were asked to share their and their partners' email addresses.

*Demographic Information Form:* Common demographics such as gender, age, highest educational level achieved were measured in addition to the duration of the current romantic relationship. *Ideological orientation:* Participants identified their ideological orientation with two questions. They rated their political view from “0” (“*very leftist*”) and “100” (“*very rightist*”) by sliding a bar on the scale. And, they indicated how religious they were from “0” (“*I do not have any religious affiliation*”) to “100” (“*very religious*”) by sliding a bar on the scale. Different from Study 1, we did not use the conservative-liberal version of this question. *The social economical status* was measured by asking participants to state their (1) total household income, and (2) social ladder questions.



*Relational Uncertainty*: The scale was developed by Knobloch and Solomon (1999) and translated to Turkish by Gürcan (2015). We used a brief version of this scale (Knobloch and Theiss, 2011), where each subscale has 4 items. The reliability assessments were satisfactory for all subscales: .90 for self uncertainty, .90 for partner uncertainty, .83 for relationship uncertainty. Participants rated their relational uncertainty from “1” (“*I am not sure at all*”) to “7” (“*I am completely sure*”). In total, a composite relational uncertainty scale had 12 items (Cronbach’s  $\alpha = .93$ ). Differently from Study 1, similar to the study of Knobloch and Theiss (2011b) these 12 items were reversed in Study 2. Therefore, directions of the main correlations were changed but the meanings were the same.

*Relationship Stability Scale (satisfaction level subscale)*: Relationship satisfaction was measured by the Relationship Stability Scale which was originally developed by Rusbult et al. (1998) and translated to Turkish by Büyükşahin et al. (2005). The satisfaction subscale had 10 items in total. (e.g. “*I feel satisfied with our relationship*”, Cronbach’s  $\alpha = .89$ ). The first half of these items are from “1” (“*completely false*”) to “4” (“*completely true*”) (Cronbach’s  $\alpha = .75$ ). And the other half of the items are from “1” (“*completely false*”) to “7” (“*completely true*”) (Cronbach’s  $\alpha = .90$ ). We applied all 10 items in the study but we used the last 5 items in further analyses in the way Rusbult and colleagues suggested (1998). Unlike Study 1, we did not use the Investment Size scale in Study 2.

*Perceived Partner Responsiveness*: This scale has been generated by Reis (2003) and adapted to Turkish by Sağel et al. (in press). Participants indicated their level of perceived partner responsiveness (e.g. “*My partner understands me*”, Cronbach’s  $\alpha = .94$ ) from “1” (“*It is not true*”) to “7” (“*completely true*”). This scale has 18 items in total.

*Experiences in Close-Relationships-Revised*: This scale was originally formed by Fraley et al. (2000) and adapted to Turkish by Selçuk et al. (2005). The scale has 36 items and two subscales; attachment anxiety (e.g. “*I worry that romantic partners won’t care about me as much as I care about them*”, Cronbach’s  $\alpha = .84$ ) and attachment avoidance (e.g. “*I prefer not to be too close to romantic partners*”, Cronbach’s  $\alpha = .85$ ). Participants rated their attachment styles from “1” (“*I do not agree at all*”) to “7” (“*I completely agree*”).

### 3.4.3. Daily diary survey

In the diary surveys, all questions (items of relational uncertainty, relationship satisfaction, perceived partner responsiveness, and closeness) but daily routines were randomized. Questions for daily routines were presented at last.

*Relational Uncertainty:* In the daily diary, daily relational uncertainty was measured with three questions from the Relational Uncertainty scale (Knobloch & Solomon, 1999; Gürcan, 2015); “*Today, how ambivalent, or uncertain, did you feel about your feelings for your partner?*”, “*Today, how ambivalent, or uncertain, did you feel about your partner’s feelings for you?*”, and “*Today, how ambivalent, or uncertain, did you feel about the future of your relationship with your partner?*”. The first two questions were chosen by researchers to measure self and partner uncertainty. The third question was adapted from Young and colleagues (2012). A composite score was computed by using these three questions from 1 (“*I did not feel at all*”) to 7 (“*I felt very much*”). Higher scores indicate higher relational uncertainty on that day. Summary statistics for relational uncertainty averaged over persons and time were  $M = 1.78$ ,  $SD = 1.28$  for male participants, and  $M = 1.96$ ,  $SD = 1.39$  for female participants.

*Closeness:* Closeness was measured by asking “*Today, how close did you feel to your partner?*” (adapted from Young et al., 2012) on a Likert type scale from 1 (“*I did not feel at all*”) to 7 (“*I felt so much*”). Summary statistics for closeness averaged over persons and time were  $M = 5.63$ ,  $SD = 1.51$  for male participants, and  $M = 5.49$ ,  $SD = 1.58$  for female participants.

*Relationship Satisfaction:* Relationship satisfaction was measured with two questions on a Likert type scale from 1 (“*I did not feel at all*”) to 7 (“*I felt so much*”): “*Today, how satisfied were you with your relationship with your partner?*” (adapted from Young et al., 2012) and “*Today, how much did your relationship make you happy?*” (adapted from Rusbult et al., 1998). A composite score was computed by mean of these two questions. Summary statistics for relationship satisfaction averaged over persons and time were  $M = 5.60$ ,  $SD = 1.48$  for male participants, and  $M = 5.41$ ,  $SD = 1.57$  for female participants.

*Perceived Partner Responsiveness:* Perceived partner responsiveness (PPR) was measured with three questions on a Likert type scale from 1 (“*Not at all*”) to 7 (“*So much*”): “*Today, how much did your spouse or partner really care about you?*”, “*Today, how much did he or she understand the way you feel about things?*”, and “*Today, how much did he or she appreciate you?*”. These questions were taken from a study of Selcuk et al. (2016) and adapted to the daily diary format by adding “today” and using the past tense. A composite score was computed by using these three questions. Summary statistics for relationship satisfaction *averaged over persons and time* were  $M = 5.44$ ,  $SD = 1.53$  for male participants, and  $M = 5.29$ ,  $SD = 1.58$  for female participants.

*Daily Routines:* Finally, participants answered three yes/no questions about their daily routines with their partners and one open-ended question: “*Today, did you see each other with your partner?*”, “*Today, did you spend face to face time together with your partner?*”, “*Today, did you spend time via online platforms even if not face to face together with your partner?*” and a short description of what they did together if they spent time together. Male participants reported they saw each other with their partners 1829 times, spent face to face time together with their partner 1587 times, spent time via online platforms (phone call or video call) even if not face to face together with their partner 2894 times of 4466 data points during 14 days. Female participants reported they saw each other with their partners 1784 times, spent face to face time together with their partner 1595 times, spent time via online platforms (phone call or video call) even if not face to face together with their partner 3110 times of 4466 data points during 14 days. We did not include these responses on the following model tests but just investigated for descriptive purposes.

#### **3.4.4. Participants**

We suspected a medium effect size in our study and decided to recruit at least 150 couples but aimed to recruit as many couples as possible and try to reach 300 couples if possible to increase the power (Lane & Hennes, 2018). Nine hundred seventy individuals entered the baseline survey through the Qualtrics (<https://www.qualtrics.com>) link. In our preregistration (<https://osf.io/wujgx>), we had determined some inclusion and exclusion criteria and after applying these criteria the final sample size was composed of 738

participants (Female = 369; we reported the details of participant deletion in Appendix 5. The mean age of the participants was 28.10 ( $SD = 10.99$ ; range from 18 to 89). The mean duration of their relationship was 74.50 months ( $SD = 109.07$ ; range from 1.50 to 744). You can see some other participant properties and other relationship status-related features such as daily couple activities and communication, and education levels in Appendix 5.

*Participants in Daily Diary:* After removing participants by the inclusion and exclusion criteria 319 couples ( $N = 638$ ; Female = 319) remained in the data that participated at least 7 days of total 14 days in diaries (see Appendix 5 for the process). The mean duration of their relationship was 78.49 months ( $SD = 113.17$ ; range from 1.5 to 744). For females, the mean age was 27.82 ( $SD = 10.89$ ; range from 19 to 80). For males, the mean age was 29.19 ( $SD = 11.78$ ; range from 18 to 89). Ninety couples were married and 229 couples were either single or cohabiting. Fifty-four couples had a long-distance relationship whereas 265 couples were living in the same city.

### **3.5. Analysis Strategy**

All analyses of Study 2 were performed in Jamovi, Version of 1.2.2, and IBM SPSS Statistics for Microsoft, Versions 20.0, and 25.0. To confirm the findings of Study 1, we run the same analysis codes of Study 1 with the baseline survey data.

Then, to test the daily diary we used a multilevel modeling approach (Bolger & Laurenceau, 2013). MLM (multilevel modeling) is a helpful statistical method for dyadic data analysis (Kenny et al., 2006). As its name signifies, there is more than one level in this model; these levels or *units* are nested with each other such as individuals nested in dyads or observations are nested in individuals (Kenny et al., 2006). Multilevel modeling was also used in several relationship studies (e.g. Maxwell & Meltzer, 2020; Young et al., 2012). In our daily dyadic data, we conducted three separate three-level multilevel models as the level 1 units were daily responses of individuals nested to individuals; the level 2 units were individuals that nested to dyads, and the level 3 units were dyads.

### 3.6. Results

#### 3.6.1. Descriptives of the baseline survey data

First of all, the mean scores of all variables were computed. Table 3.1 presents descriptive statistics of demographic variables and all scales. Distributions of all variables were evaluated with skewness and kurtosis values and histograms (min. skewness = -1.49, max. skewness = 1.81, min. kurtosis = -1.08, max. kurtosis = 4.23). Investigating the histograms and skewness and kurtosis values and considering the size of the sample, we kept the data as it is and behaved as normally distributed (Tabachnick & Fidell, 2013).

**Table 3.1.** *Descriptive Statistics of the Variables*

Variables	Mean	SD	Minimum	Maximum	Skewness	Kurtosis
Age	28.10	10.99	18	89	1.72	2.43
Political Ideology	39.86	24.20	0	100	.40	-.39
Religiosity	48.92	29.10	0	100	-.32	-1.06
Income	8.16	3.08	1	12	-.35	-1.08
Social Ladder	6.61	1.51	1	10	-.47	1.08
Self-Uncertainty	1.72	.95	1	7	1.81	4.23
Partner Uncertainty	1.84	1.00	1	7	1.75	4.18
Relationship Uncertainty	1.79	.91	1	7	1.74	3.77
Composite Relational Uncertainty	1.78	.85	1	6.33	1.56	3.12
Relationships Satisfaction	6.18	.89	2	7	-1.49	2.56
Perceived Partner Responsiveness	5.92	.88	2.22	7	-1.22	1.66
Attachment Avoidance	2.27	.81	1	5.06	.62	-.13
Attachment Anxiety	3.26	.92	1.28	6.28	.46	.01

### 3.6.2. Correlations for main survey variables

Correlations were calculated for all participants (heterosexuals, homosexuals, and participants who did not report their orientation). Then correlations were recalculated after excluding same-sex relationships. The results were similar largely. Therefore, the results of the second analysis were reported here.

As depicted in Table 3.2, three subscales of relational uncertainty were negatively correlated with relationship satisfaction ( $r$ s ranged between  $-.58$  and  $-.70$ ), and perceived partner responsiveness ( $r$ s ranged between  $-.56$  and  $-.59$ ). Composite relational uncertainty was negatively correlated with relationship satisfaction ( $r = -.72$ ), and perceived partner responsiveness ( $r = -.65$ ), indicating participants with lower relational uncertainty were also reported higher relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness. It is also found a strong correlation between relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness ( $r = .73, p < .01$ ). These results were consistent with Study 1.

Also, three subscales of relational uncertainty were positively correlated with attachment avoidance ( $r$ s ranged between  $.37$  and  $.47$ ), and attachment anxiety ( $r$ s ranged between  $.25$  and  $.37$ ). (See Table 3.2)

Parallel to Study 1, political ideology (left-right scale) was positively correlated with participants' religiosity and attachment avoidance. Differently from Study 1, political ideology was positively correlated with attachment anxiety in Study 2. (See Table 3.2) Consistent with Study 1, religiosity was negatively correlated with attachment avoidance. Unlike Study 1, religiosity was also correlated with self uncertainty, partner uncertainty, and composite relational uncertainty. (See Table 3.2)

Similar to Study 1, objective socioeconomic status (income) was negatively correlated with subscales and composite relational uncertainty. Subjective socioeconomic status (ladder) was also negatively correlated with bases of relational uncertainty except for self-uncertainty. Additionally, the ladder was positively correlated with relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness. Income was negatively correlated with attachment avoidance and attachment anxiety. The ladder was negatively correlated only with attachment anxiety. (See Table 3.2)

**Table 3.2. Correlations for Study Variables**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.Sex	1													
2.Age	.05	1												
3.Political Ideology	.10**	.02	1											
4.Religiosity	-.06	.15**	.52**	1										
5.Income	-.01	.15**	-.02	-.01	1									
6.Ladder	-.04	.01	.03	.11**	.33**	1								
7.SU	-.12**	-.13**	-.05	-.14**	-.08*	-.07*	1							
8.PU	.02	-.11**	-.06	-.15**	-.07*	-.11**	.62**	1						
9.RU	-.08**	-.15**	-.008	-.06	-.09*	-.08*	.80**	.69**	1					
10.Composite RU	-.06	-.15**	-.04	-.13**	-.09**	-.10**	.89**	.86**	.92**	1				
11.RS	.09**	-.08*	.000	.005	.06	.15**	-.66**	-.58**	-.70**	-.72**	1			
12.PPR	.04	-.08*	-.04	.000	.03	.08*	-.58**	-.56**	-.59**	-.65**	.72**	1		
13.AVO	-.03	.04	.12**	.08*	-.07*	-.06	.47**	.37**	.46**	.48**	-.51**	-.46**	1	
14.ANX	-.04	-.17**	.08*	.04	-.09**	-.12**	.25**	.37**	.32**	.35**	-.26**	-.25**	.34**	1

*SU = Self-Uncertainty, PU = Partner Uncertainty, RU = Relationship Uncertainty, Composite RU = Composite Relational Uncertainty RS = Relationship Satisfaction, PPR = Perceived Partner Responsiveness, AVO = Attachment Avoidance, ANX = Attachment Anxiety, \* p < .05, \*\* p < .01.*

### **3.6.3. Confirmation of Study 1 findings in the baseline survey**

In this section, we will test the data of the baseline survey to confirm the Study 1 findings. Thus, we run the same analysis codes that we used to explore Study 1 data to test the Study 2 data.

#### **3.6.3.1. The association between relational uncertainty and relationship satisfaction**

In Study 1, we found that self, partner, and relationship uncertainty and attachment avoidance were significant predictors for relationship satisfaction in people with romantic relationships. However, attachment anxiety was not associated. To test if these findings would replicate, we conducted a hierarchical regression analysis where attachment avoidance and anxiety were the first model and self, partner, and relationship uncertainty were the second model. Confirming the findings of Study 1, both model 1 ( $R^2_{\text{adjusted}} = .27$ ,  $F(2, 733) = 138.25$ ,  $p < .001$ ) and model 2 ( $R^2_{\text{adjusted}} = .56$ ,  $F(5, 730) = 190.31$ ,  $p < .001$ ) were significant, and adding sub-factors of relational uncertainty significantly improved the regression models ( $\Delta R^2 = .29$ ,  $F(3, 730) = 163.63$ ,  $p < .001$ ). Accordingly, attachment avoidance, self, partner, and relationship uncertainty were negatively and significantly associated with relationship satisfaction (see all estimates in Table 3.3). Parallel to Study 1, attachment anxiety was not related to relationship satisfaction.

#### **3.6.3.2. The association between relational uncertainty and perceived partner responsiveness**

In Study 1, we found that self, partner, and relationship uncertainty and attachment avoidance were significant predictors for perceived partner responsiveness in people with romantic relationships. However, attachment anxiety was not associated. To test if these findings would replicate, we conducted a hierarchical regression analysis where attachment avoidance and anxiety were the first model and self, partner, and relationship uncertainty were the second model. Confirming the findings of Study 1, both model 1 ( $R^2_{\text{adjusted}} = .22$ ,  $F(2, 733) = 109.72$ ,  $p < .001$ ) and model 2 ( $R^2_{\text{adjusted}} = .45$ ,  $F(5, 730) = 121.46$ ,  $p < .001$ ) were significant, and adding sub-factors of relational uncertainty significantly improved



the regression models ( $\Delta R^2 = .22$ ,  $F(3,730) = 99.73$ ,  $p < .001$ ). Accordingly, attachment avoidance, self, partner, and relationship uncertainty were negatively and significantly associated with perceived partner responsiveness (see all estimates in Table 3.4). Parallel to Study 1, attachment anxiety was not related to perceived partner responsiveness.

**Table 3.3.** Summary of Hierarchical Regression of Variables on Relationship Satisfaction

Variable	Model 1						Model 2					
	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	$\beta$	% 95 CI	<i>p</i>	Partial Correlation	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	$\beta$	% 95 CI	<i>p</i>	Partial Correlation
Attachment Avoidance	-.52	.03	-.48	-.59, -.45	<.001	-.46	-.23	.03	-.21	-.29, -.17	<.001	-.26
Attachment Anxiety	-.09	.03	-.10	-.16, -.03	<.001	-.11	.02	.02	.02	-.02, .07	.371	.03
Self-Uncertainty							-.18	.04	-.19	-.26, -.10	<.001	-.16
Partner Uncertainty							-.13	.03	-.14	-.19, -.07	<.001	-.15
Relationship Uncertainty							-.34	.04	-.35	-.43, -.25	<.001	-.27
<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>					.27						.56	
Adjusted <i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>					.27						.56	
<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup> Change											.29	
<i>F</i>					138.28						190.31	
<i>F</i> Change											163.63	

**Table 3.4.** Summary of Hierarchical Regression of Variables on Perceived Partner Responsiveness

Variable	Model 1						Model 2					
	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>B</i>	% 95 CI	<i>p</i>	Partial Correlation	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	$\beta$	% 95 CI	<i>p</i>	Partial Correlation
Attachment Avoidance	-.46	.03	-.43	-.53, -.39	<.001	-.41	-.22	.03	-.20	-.29, -.15	<.001	-.23
Attachment Anxiety	-.10	.03	-.10	-.16, -.03	.002	-.11	.01	.02	.01	-.04, .07	.608	.01
Self-Uncertainty							-.16	.04	-.17	-.25, -.08	<.001	-.13
Partner Uncertainty							-.22	.03	-.25	-.29, -.15	<.001	-.23
Relationship Uncertainty							-.17	.04	-.18	-.27, -.08	<.001	-.13
<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>				.23						.45		
Adjusted <i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>				.22						.45		
<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup> Change										.22		
<i>F</i>				109.72						121.46		
<i>F</i> Change										99.73		

### **3.6.3.3. The moderation effect of political orientation**

We had explored the data to investigate if political orientation was associated with the relationship of relational uncertainty with relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness. Using the PROCESS model (Hayes, 2018), we conducted two separate moderation analyses with 5000 bootstrapping resamples, where composite relational uncertainty score was the predictor, left-right scale as the moderator, and relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness were the outcomes. We found non-significant interactions between relational uncertainty and political ideology to predict relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness in Study 1.

To replicate what we found in Study 1, we tested the same models in Study 2 data. Confirming the previous findings, political orientation did not moderate the relationship of relational uncertainty with relationship satisfaction ( $B = -.0008$ , boot  $SE = .0012$ ,  $p = .519$ , 95%  $C.I.$  [-.003, .001]) and perceived partner responsiveness ( $B = -.002$ , boot  $SE = .001$ ,  $p = .063$ , 95%  $C.I.$  [-.0049, .0001]). Thus, negative association between relational uncertainty and relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness were similar for both left- and right-winged participants.

### **3.6.3.4. Replicating subjective and objective socioeconomic status**

We had explored the data to investigate if socioeconomic status was associated with the relationship of relational uncertainty with relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness. Using the PROCESS model (Hayes, 2018), we conducted four separate moderation analyses with 5000 bootstrapping resamples, where composite relational uncertainty score was the predictor, objective and subjective socioeconomic status scale as the moderator, and relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness were the outcomes. We found non-significant interactions between relational uncertainty and SES to predict relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness in Study 1. To replicate what we found in Study 1, we tested the same models in Study 2 data. Confirming the previous findings, objective SES did not moderate the relationship of relational uncertainty with relationship satisfaction ( $B = -.010$ ,  $SE = .009$ ,  $p = .268$ , 95 %  $C.I.$  [-.027, .007]) and perceived partner responsiveness ( $B = -.018$ ,  $SE$

= .009,  $p = .065$ , 95% C.I. [-.037, .001]). Also, subjective SES did not moderate the relationship of relational uncertainty with relationship satisfaction ( $B = .025$ ,  $SE = .016$ ,  $p = .118$ , 95 % C.I. [-.006, .053]) and perceived partner responsiveness ( $B = .010$ ,  $SE = .018$ ,  $p = .562$ , 95% C.I. [-.025, .045]). Thus, the negative associations between relational uncertainty and relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness were similar for participants from both low and high-level SES.

In Study 1 we explored if relational uncertainty was mediating the relationship between participants' socioeconomic status and their relational outcomes. Indeed, we found significant indirect associations of subjective and objective socioeconomic status and relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness as relational uncertainty was carrying out the relationship. To replicate the exploratory findings of the indirect association of objective and subjective SES with perceived partner responsiveness and relationship satisfaction in Study 1, we tested the same models in Study 2 using GLM Mediation with 5000 bias-corrected bootstrap sampling in Jamovi, Version of 1.2.2. Unlike Study 1, the indirect associations of objective and subjective SES with perceived partner responsiveness and relationship satisfaction were non-significant in Study 2 at  $p = .05$  (See Table 3.5 for the estimations). Thus, these results did not confirm the findings of Study 1.

**Table 3.5.** *Mediator Effect of Relational Uncertainty*

		95% C.I.					
Type		$B$	$SE$	Lower	Upper	$\beta$	$p$
Indirect	Income→RU→PPR	.012	.006	-8.215	.026	.044	.067
	Ladder→RU→PPR	.029	.015	-.001	.061	.050	.064
Component	RU→PPR	-.668	.035	-.736	-.595	-.650	<.001
Direct	Income→PPR	-.011	.009	-.028	.006	-.041	.190
	Ladder→PPR	.021	.016	-.011	.053	.036	.196
Indirect	Income→RU→RS	.014	.008	-8.460	.031	.049	.080
	Ladder→RU→RS	.033	.018	-.001	.069	.056	.068
Component	RU→RS	-.749	.037	-.824	-.676	-.717	<.001
Direct	Income→RS	-.009	.007	-.025	.005	-.034	.209

Ladder→RS	.054	.016	.022	.086	.092	<.001
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*RU = Relational Uncertainty, PPR = Perceived Partner Responsiveness, RS = Relationship Satisfaction.*

### **3.6.4. Analysis of daily diary data: A multilevel modeling approach to dyadic data**

#### **3.6.4.1. Data structure and preliminary analysis**

Each person had 14 observations and each couple had 28 observations in total. The final sample has consisted of heterosexual couples therefore gender of persons was used as a distinguishable variable. The data that we analyzed included 8932 observations of 319 couples (638 individuals) for 14 successive days.

#### **3.6.4.2. Statistical model**

To test the hypotheses, we based our method on Bolger and Laurenceau (2013) and adapted the SPSS MIXED syntax they recommended (p. 173). Thus, to test the daily diary data we conducted three separate three-level multilevel models with dyadic data, as the level 1 units were daily responses of individuals nested to individuals; the level 2 units were individuals that were nested to dyads, and the level 3 units were dyads.

In the analyses, we centered the independent variables. A critical feature of our analyses was that we created both within- and between-subject versions of the relational uncertainty variable, separately for female and male participants. We centered the relational uncertainty (independent variable) for both within-person and between-person and used both variables in the models. The original scale of time was first coded from 0 (first day of the diaries) to 13 (the last day of the diaries); then to increase interpretability of the intercept as *an average typical day of couples*, we centered it around the middle of the time which referred to day 6.5. The dependent variables were relationship satisfaction, perceived partner responsiveness, and closeness in three different models.

Table 3.6 to 3.8 summarizes the results of multilevel models as the fixed (or average) effects on the upper panel and random effects on the bottom panel. In these models, we

determined a within-person process of reactivity in daily relationship satisfaction, perceived partner responsiveness, and closeness to daily relational uncertainty that was hypothesized to be significant, on average, for both female and male partners.

The results showed that in a typical day male and female partners reported 5.6 and 5.5 units relationship satisfaction on average (Table 3.6), respectively, where the scale was between 1 (lowest satisfaction) to 7 (highest satisfaction). The association between relational uncertainty and relationship satisfaction was significant only for males: on days that the relational uncertainty increased one unit was associated with .29 unit decrease in relationship satisfaction, ( $\gamma_{10} = -0.2923$ ,  $SE = 0.1213$ ,  $p = .016$ , 95% *C.I.* (-.5310, -.0537)). For female participants, the association was non-significant ( $\gamma_{10} = 0.1308$ ,  $SE = 0.1206$ ,  $p = .279$ , 95% *C.I.* (-.1064, .3681)). Since the effect of relational uncertainty on relationship satisfaction on average was significant for males but not for females, we also inspected the between-dyads random effects to investigate how male and female partners between dyads would vary from each other. As you can see on the bottom part of Table 3.6, both the measurement variance (.72,  $se = .01$ ,  $p < .001$ ) and correlation (.28,  $se = .01$ ,  $p < .001$ ) between 14 days were significant. The intercepts for both males and females were also significantly varying across the average effects (1.14,  $p < .001$  and 1.04,  $p < .001$ , respectively). More importantly, the variation in relationship satisfaction due to relational uncertainty was significant both for males (.21,  $se = .02$ ,  $p < .001$ ) and females (.16,  $se = .02$ ,  $p < .001$ ), indicating that approximately 95% of the males' relationship satisfaction reactivity against relational uncertainty fall between -1.21 and .63, and approximately 95% of the females reactivity fall between -.27 and .53. In addition, the bottom panel also depicts the interdependence between males and females within the dyads. Both covariance between male and female partners intercepts (.79,  $p < .001$ ), and the covariance between male and female partners slopes (.07,  $p < .001$ ) were significant and positive. The correlated intercepts showed that male partners with above the average relationship satisfaction associated with their partners' above the average relationship satisfaction. The correlated slopes indicated that male partners with below-average relationship satisfaction as a result of relational uncertainty were associated with a similar pattern in their partners.

**Table 3.6.** *Dyadic Multilevel Model of Daily Relationship Satisfaction as Associated with Daily Relational Uncertainty for Male and Female Partners*

Fixed effects		Estimate	(SE)	<i>t</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>CI</i> <sub>95</sub>	
						Lower	Upper
Female_ Intercept		5.47	.05	91.63	<.001	5.35	5.59
Male_ Intercept		5.57	.06	89.55	<.001	5.45	5.69
Male_ Time		.05	.02	2.37	.01	.01	.10
Female_ Time		.06	.02	2.69	.007	.01	.11
Mean_ RU effect for Male		-.26	.11	-2.27	.02	-.49	-.03
Mean_ RU effect for Female		-.82	.11	-7.08	<.001	-1.05	-.59
Male_ Relational Uncertainty		-.29	.12	-2.40	.01	-.53	-.05
Female_ Relational Uncertainty		.13	.12	1.08	.27	-.10	.36

Random effects ([co- ]variances)		Estimate	(SE)	<i>z</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>CI</i> <sub>95</sub>	
						Lower	Upper
Repeated measures	AR1	.72	.01	56.90	<.001	.70	.75
	diagonal						
	AR1 rho	.28	.01	17.08	<.001	.25	.31
female + male	UN (1,1)	1.04	.08	11.91	<.001	.89	1.23
+male*RUCwc	UN (2,1)	.79	.07	10.01	<.001	.63	.94
+female*RUCwc	UN (2,2)	1.14	.09	11.95	<.001	.97	1.34
[subject = Dyad]	UN (3,1)	.01	.03	.34	.72	-.06	.09
	UN (3,2)	.03	.04	.96	.33	-.04	.11
	UN (3,3)	.21	.02	7.41	<.001	.16	.27
	UN (4,1)	-.01	.03	-.48	.62	-.08	.05
	UN (4,2)	-.07	.03	-2.10	.03	-.14	-.005
	UN (4,3)	.07	.02	3.63	<.001	.03	.11
	UN (4,4)	.16	.02	6.87	<.001	.12	.22

The results also showed that in a typical day male and female partners reported 5.4 and 5.3 units perceived partner responsiveness on average (Table 3.7), respectively, where the scale was between 1 (lowest PPR) to 7 (highest PPR). The association between relational uncertainty and perceived partner responsiveness was significant only for males: on days that the relational uncertainty increased one unit was associated with .31 unit decrease in perceived partner responsiveness, ( $\gamma_{10} = -0.3148$ ,  $SE = 0.1289$ ,  $p = .015$ , 95% *C.I.* (-.5683, -.0613)). For female participants, the association was non-significant ( $\gamma_{10} = 0.0857$ ,  $SE = 0.1235$ ,  $p = .488$ , 95% *C.I.* (-.1571, .3286)). Again, the effect of relational uncertainty on perceived partner responsiveness on average was significant only for male partners but not for females. When we investigated how male and female partners vary



from each other between the dyads through the random effects, both the measurement variance (.76,  $se = .01, p < .001$ ) and correlation (.26,  $se = .01, p < .001$ ) between 14 days were significant. The variation in perceived partner responsiveness as a reaction to relational uncertainty was significant both for males (.23,  $se = .03, p < .001$ ) and females (.18,  $se = .02, p < .001$ ), indicating that approximately 95% of the males' perceived partner responsiveness that was affected by relational uncertainty fall between -1.27 and .65, and approximately 95% of the females reactivity fall between -.34 and .50. In addition, the bottom panel of Table 3.7. also shows an interdependence between males and females within the dyads. The covariance between male and female partners intercepts (1.09,  $se = .09, p < .001$ ) was significant and positive, indicating male partners with above the average perceived partner responsiveness associated with their partners' above the average perceived partner responsiveness. Furthermore, the positive and significant covariance between male and female partners slopes (.08,  $se = .02, p < .001$ ) indicates that male partners with below average relationship satisfaction as a result of relational uncertainty were associated with a similar pattern in their partners.

**Table 3.7.** *Dyadic Multilevel Model of Daily Perceived Partner Responsiveness as Associated with Daily Relational Uncertainty for Male and Female Partners*

Fixed effects		Estimate	(SE)	<i>t</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>CI</i> <sub>95</sub>	
						Lower	Upper
Female_ Intercept		5.35	.06	87.56	<.001	5.23	5.47
Male_ Intercept		5.41	.06	82.38	<.001	5.28	5.54
Male_ Time		.09	.02	3.84	<.001	.04	.14
Female_ Time		.09	.02	4.01	<.001	.05	.14
Mean_ RU effect for Male		-.22	.12	-1.86	.06	-.47	.01
Mean_ RU effect for Female		-.73	.11	-6.18	<.001	-.96	-.50
Male_ Relational Uncertainty		-.31	.12	-2.44	.01	-.56	-.06
Female_ Relational Uncertainty		.08	.12	.69	.48	-.15	.32
Random effects ([co- ]variances)		Estimate	(SE)	<i>z</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>CI</i> <sub>95</sub>	
						Lower	Upper
Repeated measures	AR1 diagonal	.76	.01	57.00	<.001	.74	.79
	AR1 rho	.26	.01	15.54	<.001	.23	.29
female + male	UN (1,1)	1.09	.09	11.91	<.001	.93	1.29
+male*RUCwc	UN (2,1)	.81	.08	9.63	<.001	.64	.97
+female*RUCwc	UN (2,2)	1.27	.10	11.98	<.001	1.08	1.50
[subject = Dyad]							
	UN (3,1)	.04	.04	1.00	.31	-.04	.12
	UN (3,2)	.04	.04	1.05	.29	-.04	.13

UN (3,3)	.23	.03	6.85	<.001	.17	.30
UN (4,1)	.01	.03	.28	.77	-.06	.08
UN (4,2)	-.04	.03	-1.22	.22	-.12	.02
UN (4,3)	.08	.02	3.84	<.001	.04	.12
UN (4,4)	.18	.02	6.65	<.001	.13	.24

Finally, the results showed that in a typical day male and female partners reported 5.6 and 5.5 units closeness on average (Table 3.8), respectively, where the scale was between 1 (lowest closeness) to 7 (highest closeness). The association between relational uncertainty and closeness was non-significant for males ( $\gamma_{10} = -0.2292$ ,  $SE = 0.1206$ ,  $p = .058$ , 95% *C.I.* (-.4663, .0079)) and for female ( $\gamma_{10} = 0.1207$ ,  $SE = 0.1187$ ,  $p = .310$ , 95% *C.I.* (-.1127, .3542)). At last, the effect of relational uncertainty on perceived closeness on average was not significant both for male and female partners of dyads. However, the random effects coefficients showed significant measurement variance (.84,  $se = .01$ ,  $p < .001$ ) and correlation (.24,  $se = .01$ ,  $p < .001$ ) between 14 days. The variance in perceived closeness was also significant for both males (.18,  $se = .02$ ,  $p < .001$ ) and females (.15,  $se = .02$ ,  $p < .001$ ). Approximately 95% of the males' perceived closeness that was affected by relational uncertainty fell between -.64 and .20, and approximately 95% of the females' reactivity fell between -.27 and .51. In addition, the bottom panel of Table 3.8 also shows an interdependence between males and females within the dyads. The covariance between male and female partners intercepts (.76,  $se = .07$ ,  $p < .001$ ) was significant and positive, indicating male partners with above the average perceived closeness associated with their partners' above the average perceived closeness. In addition, the positive and significant covariance between male and female partners slopes (.08,  $se = .01$ ,  $p < .001$ ) indicated that male partners with below average perceived closeness as a result of relational uncertainty were associated with below average closeness in their partners as a result of relational uncertainty.

**Table 3.8.** *Dyadic Multilevel Model of Daily Closeness as Associated with Daily Relational Uncertainty for Male and Female Partners*

Fixed effects	Estimate	(SE)	<i>t</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>CI</i> <sub>95</sub>	
					Lower	Upper
Female Intercept	5.55	.05	94.65	<.001	5.43	5.66
Male Intercept	5.60	.06	90.56	<.001	5.48	5.72
Male Time	.04	.02	1.72	.08	-.006	.09

Female_Time		.04	.02	1.87	.06	-.002	.09
Mean_RU effect for Male		-.29	.11	-2.52	.01	-.51	-.06
Mean_RU effect for Female		-.77	.11	-6.82	<.001	-1.00	-.55
Male_Relational Uncertainty		-.22	.12	-1.90	.06	-.46	.007
Female_Relational Uncertainty		.12	.11	1.01	.31	-.11	.35
		<hr/>					
Random effects ([co- ]variances)		Estimate	(SE)	<i>z</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>CI</i> <sub>95</sub>	
						Lower	Upper
Repeated measures	AR1	.84	.01	57.65	<.001	.81	.87
	diagonal						
	AR1 rho	.24	.01	14.17	<.001	.20	.27
female + male	UN (1,1)	1.00	.08	11.78	<.001	.84	1.18
+male*RUCwc	UN (2,1)	.76	.07	9.94	<.001	.61	.91
+female*RUCwc	UN (2,2)	1.12	.09	11.85	<.001	.95	1.32
[subject = Dyad]	UN (3,1)	.01	.03	.39	.69	-.05	.08
	UN (3,2)	.04	.03	1.18	.23	-.02	.12
	UN (3,3)	.18	.02	7.02	<.001	.14	.24
	UN (4,1)	-.01	.03	-.38	.70	-.07	.05
	UN (4,2)	-.06	.03	-1.76	.07	-.13	.007
	UN (4,3)	.08	.01	4.49	<.001	.04	.12
	UN (4,4)	.15	.02	6.51	<.001	.11	.21

### 3.7. Discussion

The first aim of this study was to replicate the main hypotheses and exploratory findings of Study 1 to confirm the associations. The second and more important aim of the current study was to investigate the effect of relationship uncertainty on a daily basis within the dyads. Accordingly, it was hypothesized that daily relational uncertainty will be negatively associated with daily relationship satisfaction and daily perceived partner responsiveness in romantic couples for both male and female partners. The second aim of this study was to test the hypothesis that the daily relational uncertainty will be negatively associated with closeness in both male and female partners. Finally, we expected an interdependence between male and female partners within couples in their relationship quality (relationship satisfaction, perceived partner responsiveness, and closeness).

In Study 1, we found that relational uncertainty was negatively correlated with relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness. We also demonstrated that the association between relational uncertainty and relationship outcomes was similar for both people with right and left political ideology. Finally, we showed a mediation effect of

relational uncertainty on the association of objective and subjective socioeconomic status with relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness. In the baseline survey of Study 2, we confirmed the first two findings: (1) relational uncertainty was negatively associated with both relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness after partialling out the variance due to attachment avoidance and anxiety, and (2) these associations were similar for individuals with different political ideologies. However, the data did not replicate the Study 1 finding that relational uncertainty did not mediate the relationship between socioeconomic status and relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness.

Our findings in Study 2 indicate a robust link between uncertainties in romantic relationships and relationship quality as the higher the uncertainty lower the satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness. Furthermore, we may conclude that in our samples from Turkey, the political orientation does not matter for these associations. Even, previous research on uncertainty reported individuals with different political orientations varied in their reactance to uncertainty (Jost et al., 2003; Jost et al., 2007); we did not find such an effect in romantic relationship context. Similarly, we have shown that there was a small association between socioeconomic status with relational uncertainty and relationship quality as individuals with higher status were more certain about their relationships and reported higher relationship quality, however the uncertainty did not play a role in the latter association.

The associations between relational uncertainty and relationship outcomes were also tested in the daily survey. Different from Study 1 and the baseline survey of Study 2, we aimed to compare male and female partners' relational experiences on a daily basis and within their relationship dynamics. Our results showed that the daily relational uncertainty was negatively associated with daily relationship satisfaction and daily perceived partner responsiveness on average for male participants only. However, contrary to our expectations, these associations were not significant for females. Earlier dyadic or diary studies demonstrated relational uncertainty was negatively associated with positive relationship outcomes such as relationship satisfaction, sexual satisfaction, commitment, closeness, and positive communication strategies that help couples to deal with transition processes (Brisini & Solomon, 2019; Theiss, 2011; Young et al., 2012). Therefore, our results partially supported the previous research. Also, the effects of daily relational

uncertainty on daily closeness were non-significant for both males and females. This finding was also unanticipated and inconsistent with the earlier findings (e.g. Young et al., 2012).

Although the average effects of relational uncertainty on relationship satisfaction and PPR were only significant for males, the random effects showing the between dyad effects and within dyad dynamics were significant for both males and females. The variation in relationship satisfaction and PPR due to relational uncertainty was significant for females and males. However, within the dyads, results revealed there was an actor partner interdependence effect within the dyad indicating that an increase or decrease in relationship satisfaction and PPR due to relational uncertainty in males was associated with a similar connection in females. There were similar results for closeness referring to significant differences between males and females between dyads. And, there was an interdependence effect within the dyads indicating the experienced closeness due to relational uncertainty was similar for both females and males within the dyads. These results showed that the dyads were more heterogeneous compared to other dyads on average and the individuals within the dyads were more homogeneous compared to other individuals from other dyads.

### **3.7.1. Limitations and implications of the study**

This study has some limitations. First of all, although our study was not restricted to heterosexual couples, our final sample consisted of only heterosexual relationships. In preregistration, we stated that we will compare heterosexual and same-sex couples with each other if we reached an adequate number of same-sex couples. However, we only reached 4 couples (2 of them were gay and 2 of them were lesbian). Therefore, we could not compare the two groups and had to exclude same-sex couples from the analysis as in the way Young and colleagues did (2012). Secondly, relational uncertainty was lower whereas relationship satisfaction, perceived partner responsiveness, and closeness levels were higher in our study. Young and colleagues (2012) stated that this may create a ceiling effect and a generalizability problem. Therefore, our results may differ in couples who experience greater relational uncertainty or lower satisfaction, perceived partner responsiveness, and closeness.

This study also has some implications. First of all, by means of the nature of daily studies, we had the opportunity to observe the fluctuations in the study variables and inferred causality (Bolger et al., 2013). Additionally, because our final sample consists of couples, we could focus on ongoing romantic relationships more detailed and provide evidence on the dynamics of them.

## GENERAL DISCUSSION

This study aimed to understand the connections of relational uncertainty with relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness. Relational uncertainty was commonly classified as one of the risk factors that affect relationships negatively (Theiss & Solomon, 2006). Within this thesis, a cross-sectional study with a large sample (Study 1) and a daily diary study with couples (Study 2) were carried out to test this link. Additionally, we investigated if political ideology had a moderation effect on the association between the study variables. Both of the expectations were tested firstly in Study 1, then in Study 2. In addition to these hypotheses, we also anticipated daily fluctuations in relational uncertainty will be associated with daily variation in relationship satisfaction, perceived partner responsiveness, and closeness in Study 2.

Both Study 1 and Study 2 samples supported the negative association between relational uncertainty (all three subscales and the composite relational uncertainty) and relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness and provided robust evidence with two statistically powerful studies. Study 2 was conducted during the coronavirus pandemic and people may experience greater uncertainty as compared to times before the coronavirus epidemic was started. However, the means and standard deviations of relational uncertainty were close to each other in Study 1 and Study 2. Therefore, people's uncertainty levels were similar to each other before and after the coronavirus pandemic was started. Participants reported greater relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness when their relational uncertainty is lower. Furthermore, the results of the daily diary study indicated a causal effect of relational uncertainty on relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness for males. These findings were consistent with the earlier findings of Knobloch and Theiss (2011b) and Theiss and Nagy (2013). We suppose that uncertainties about relationships load stress and anxiety on individuals and on the relationship, which decreases the well-being of relationships.

According to Knobloch and Theiss (2011b) self uncertainty was a predictor of satisfaction. In our studies for people with a current romantic relationship, all three subscales of the relational uncertainty (self uncertainty, partner uncertainty, and

relationship uncertainty) predicted satisfaction. Our results on perceived partner responsiveness also replicated and confirmed the findings of Theiss and Knobloch (2014) as all three subscales predicted responsiveness. However, in Study 1, for people without a current romantic relationship, relationship uncertainty was not a predictor for satisfaction and PPR (see Table 2.6 and Table 2.8). We asked participants to think about their past and closest romantic relationship to answer the questions. These non-significant associations might reflect the weakness of relationship uncertainty as a retrospective predictor; it is informative only for the stress in the current situation. Probably remembering past relationships was affected by the biases such as global evaluations of past experiences and overestimation of negative emotions (Zygar-Hoffman & Schönbrodt, 2020). It is still important to note that the effect of relational uncertainty appears to be situational instead of global. Also, for future studies, we can recommend caution for retrospective investigation of relationships.

In Study 2, we also found a daily effect of relational uncertainty on relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness for male participants, however unexpectedly this average effect was not observed for females. Previous research on dyads found similar effects of relational uncertainty on different relationship outcomes for both males and females (Young et al., 2012). A possible explanation for this might be inter-individual differences in romantic relationship experiences. For instance, Brisini and Solomon (2019) reported that the subscales of relational uncertainty were differentially associated with positive communication experiences in males and females. For females, self-uncertainty was negatively related to positive communication, whereas it was relationship uncertainty for males. Similarly, in our sample females and males could experience the measured day's relational uncertainty differently, which led to a gender variation.

Previous research found a non-significant gender difference in relational uncertainty in a Turkish sample (Gürçan, 2015) and non-Turkish sample (Mikucki-Enyart et al., 2015). Similarly, we also found non-significant gender differences in self- and relationship uncertainty, but the partner uncertainty was higher in males compared to females that females were more certain about their partners compared to males in Study 1. On the contrary, in Study 2 our sample showed gender differences in composite scores of relational uncertainty that female participants reported lower relational certainty compared



to males (Appendix 5). Thus, higher relational uncertainty on average in females might be related to the gender difference in our daily diary data.

Another possible explanation for the gender difference in daily diary data might come from emotion regulation strategies, that both males and females similarly experienced relational uncertainty, however they coped with the emotional load differently. Females have more awareness of their emotions than men; this may ease emotion regulation for them (Nolen-Hoeksema, 2012). Parallely, females were found to be using emotion regulation (Nolen-Hoeksema, 2012; Nolen-Hoeksema & Aldao, 2011) and coping (Tamres et al., 2002) strategies such as reappraisal, rumination, social support, problem-solving, acceptance, and distraction more frequently compared to males. Such strategies could provide females more resilience against the stress and anxiety related to relational uncertainty compared to males that reduce males' relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness.

Our findings could not confirm the findings reported in Young and colleagues (2012). They reported an association between daily relational uncertainty and daily closeness, however, it was non-significant in our sample. Such differences might be due to the difference in analytical strategies. Previous dyadic studies of relational uncertainty did not estimate different slopes for males and females but treated the dyads as the only analyzed units. For example, Young et al. (2012) found that daily relational uncertainty was negatively correlated with daily positive relationship quality (i.e., satisfaction, commitment, and closeness); but they haven't estimated the slopes for males and females separately. Thus, this variance in analytical methods would result in variations in findings. In our sample, there were some ceiling effects in satisfaction, perceived partner responsiveness, and closeness compared to lower values of relational uncertainty. The pattern of data might also be a possible reason for variations in the results. Finally, there could be other moderator variables in the association between our variables that we should focus on in future studies.

Our findings suggested some interdependence between male and female partners within a dyad. Accordingly, the above-average relationship satisfaction of males was associated with above-average relationship satisfaction of females and reduced relationship satisfaction due to the relational uncertainty of males was associated with reduced

relationship satisfaction due to the relational uncertainty of their partners. Similarly, the above-average perceived partner responsiveness of males was associated with above-average perceived partner responsiveness of females. And the negative effect of relational uncertainty on perceived partner responsiveness in male partners was associated with the similar negative effect of relational uncertainty on perceived partner responsiveness in their partners. Finally, the higher perceived closeness of males was associated with the higher perceived closeness of females. Additionally, low perceived closeness due to relational uncertainty in males was associated with a similar pattern in their partners. Interdependence and co-regulation of emotions between couples are common features of romantic relationships as partners synchronize their emotions and cognitions, influence each other, transfer the emotional states (Boker & Laurenceaus, 2007; Butler, 2011; Larson & Almeida, 1999). Our findings also evidenced the co-regulation and emotional interdependence between partners.

Harma and Sümer (2005) found that there was a negative correlation between satisfaction and attachment avoidance in a Turkish sample. Consistently, our findings demonstrated that relationship satisfaction was predicted by attachment avoidance negatively. Similar to satisfaction, attachment avoidance is also negatively associated with perceived partner responsiveness. Attachment anxiety was also negatively associated with satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness; however, these associations became non-significant when relational uncertainty subscales were added to the model in regression. Sümer and Yetkili (2018) discussed the effects of attachment avoidance and anxiety on individual and relationship outcomes across different cultural contexts. Consistent with their findings and arguments, our samples coming from Turkey, a collectivistic culture, represented relatively higher attachment anxiety. Such a cultural feature could explain the small effect of attachment anxiety in our sample compared to attachment avoidance.

Intolerance of uncertainty was not a predictor for relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness suggesting uncertainty in romantic relationships was different from other uncertainties in other life domains.

Research in political and moral psychology revealed variation in motives, thoughts, and behaviors of conservatives and liberals in various domains such as social cognition

(Jost et al., 2003), ), dogmatism (Conway et al., 2015), moral judgments (Graham et al., 2012; Poteat & Mereish, 2012), and more importantly in their reactions to the uncertainty (Jost & Amodio, 2012). Prior research stated that conservatives and liberals have different uncertainty tolerance levels and conservatives avoid uncertainty more than liberals (Jost & Amodio, 2012; Jost et al., 2003; Jost et al., 2007; Proulx & Brand, 2017). Based on these robust findings, we explored our data if such differences could expand to the romantic relationship context. We suspected a variation in relational uncertainty and its association with relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness. However, investigating data of both Study 1 and Study 2 revealed that relational uncertainty was not related to political ideology and its associations with relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness were not affected by the ideology. Despite previous research finding a difference in intolerance of uncertainty due to political ideologies, in our samples either there was a difference in intolerance of uncertainty or intolerance of uncertainty was associated with relationship outcomes and relational uncertainty. Thus, our exploration of political ideology to expand the previous findings in other domains into the relationship domain was unsuccessful. There wasn't a variation in relationship outcomes and relational uncertainty due to ideology, at least in Turkey. We suppose that romantic relationships were a domain that individuals with different ideologies might react similarly to relational uncertainty. Another explanation for our null result could be due to culture-specific reasons. Political distinctions in Turkey argued to be different from some other countries (Öniş, 2007). For example, in Western and European countries, political ideologies differ from each other by attitudes toward socioeconomic policies, however, in Turkey rightist and leftist people may focus much more on nationalism- and religion-related issues to vary instead of socioeconomic policies (Öniş, 2007). So, what was found in the US would not replicate in Turkey.

The subjective and objective socioeconomic status was negatively correlated with relationship uncertainty and positively correlated with relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness. Individuals with higher socioeconomic status were more certain and satisfied from their relationships, perceived more partner responsiveness. We also tested if relational uncertainty was mediating the association of socioeconomic status with relationship outcomes; however, found only a small-sized indirect association. Why individuals with lower socioeconomic status experience more relational uncertainty, lower

relationship satisfaction, and perceive lower partner responsiveness needs to be investigated in future studies.

#### **4.1. Limitations and Implications of the Study**

First of all, as already mentioned, diary studies have some difficulties compared to other traditional methods such as participant burden, familiarize with questions, biased responses, and using an only limited number of questions (Bolger et al., 2003; Brisini & Solomon, 2019; Reis et al., 2014). In our study, participants might have experienced burdens, because they had to answer the same questions each day for 2 weeks. We also measured our main variables with fewer questions. Thus, we could use only key components of our scales instead of well-validated scales (Reis et al., 2014).

Another limitation of the study was collecting data online. This issue was especially important for the diary study because participants were composed of partners and they should not know their partners' responses to provide confidentiality. We tried to deal with this challenge both by stating this rule beforehand and sending participants a video about the process of the diaries before starting it. However, our control over the data collection was still limited.

The third limitation of the study was related to Covid-19. We collected data during the coronavirus pandemic that most people in Turkey were isolating themselves or placing distance to others. A current study found that corona related stress factors were negatively correlated with relationship satisfaction and positively correlated with relationship conflict; but perceived partner responsiveness had a buffering effect in these correlations (Balzarini et al., 2020). Although the levels of relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness were high, our findings may be still affected by this unusual process.

On the one hand, our results demonstrated the average effects of relational uncertainty on relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness were significant only in males, future research should focus more deeply on the possible reasons for this gender variation. On the other hand, participating in a daily diary could inflate the couples' responses in a positive direction if they think positive aspects and in the negative

direction if they focus on the negative aspects of their relationships (Laurenceau & Bolger, 2005). Therefore, a follow-up study should aim to replicate the findings of this study for a more robust conclusion.

Finally, we explored the Study 1 data to discover if there are any patterns between variables and tried to confirm what we have found in Study 2 data. Exploration required a higher number of analyses to repeat compared to confirmatory approach. We predefined results as significant if their p-value was smaller than .05, however, we recommend using more conservative alpha probability to reevaluate some findings in Study 1. Some of our findings may be no longer significant with the more stringent alpha value.

There are also some implications of the study. First, we demonstrated the negative connection between relational uncertainty and relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness in two different samples from Turkey. In this way, we replicated the previous research and reached robust findings by confirming our own findings from Study 1 to Study 2. However, our results also demonstrated the effects of relational uncertainties on relationship outcomes differed in males and females. This finding may be critical for further relationship studies and relationship-based applications such as couple therapies.

Secondly, as already mentioned, diary methods have several advantages such as reducing the time between events and measurements or observing people in their natural settings (Bolger et al., 2003; Laurenceau & Bolger, 2005; Reis, 1994 for more detail). Additionally, by using a daily diary design, we had the opportunity to observe the fluctuations in the study variables and inferred cause and effect relationships in addition to observing couples as dyads.

Thirdly, all participants were couples in the diary study; in this way, we were able to focus directly on the mechanisms of ongoing romantic relationships. Additionally, both of the partners have attended the study. So, we treated couples as a unit and studied them on a dyadic level in this study. Thus, the mutual dynamics between couples have been included in the data.

Finally, our two samples were diverse, which increased the generalizability of our findings beyond the university students. For example, some of the couples were married, some of them cohabiting, and some were bachelors. In addition to their relationship status, the age range was long and there was a variation in the cohabitation of the couples. In this way, it is possible to generalize these findings to the relatively larger population of Turkey compared to sampling only university students.

## **4.2. Conclusion**

The main aim of this thesis was investigating the effects of relational uncertainties on romantic relationships with both a cross-sectional and a daily diary study. Earlier studies demonstrated that experiencing uncertainty in romantic relationships had negative effects on the dynamics or outcomes of relationships. This study has consistently shown that there was a negative association of relational uncertainty with relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness. It also demonstrated that daily variation in relational uncertainty was negatively related to the daily changes in relationship satisfaction and perceived partner responsiveness in male participants. Taken together, our results suggested that relational uncertainty was one of the factors that have an impact on the quality and well-being of romantic relationships. Relational uncertainty has been mostly investigated in communication studies, but this research has shown that relationship researchers in psychological science should also show interest in the topic as an important factor in the well-being of relationships.

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## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1: SURVEY MATERIALS OF STUDY 1

#### Informed Consent

Sayın katılımcı,

Bu araştırma, Başkent Üniversitesi Psikoloji Bölümü Sosyal Psikoloji Tezli Yüksek Lisans programı öğrencisi Büşra Bahar Balcı'nın, Dr. Öğr. Üyesi İlker Dalgar danışmanlığında yürüttüğü yüksek lisans tezinin ilk çalışmasıdır. Bu çalışmada romantik ilişkilerdeki tutum ve davranışlar hakkındaki bilgi birikimimizi arttırmayı hedeflemekteyiz.

Anketin cevaplanması yaklaşık 20 dakika sürmekte olup herhangi bir süre kısıtlaması bulunmamaktadır. Lütfen anketi zaman bakımından uygun olduğunuz ve rahatsız edilmeyeceğiniz bir zamanda tamamlayın.

Bu çalışma kapsamında vereceğiniz tüm bilgiler tamamen gizli kalacaktır. *Çalışmanın hiçbir bölümünde isminizi ve kimliğinizi ortaya çıkaran herhangi bir soru sorulmamaktadır.* Sadece gruplardan elde edilen genel bulgular değerlendirilecek, bireysel sonuçlar analiz edilmeyecektir. Çalışmanın objektif olması ve elde edilecek sonuçların güvenilirliği bakımından anket uygulamalarında samimiyetle duygu ve düşüncelerinizi yansıtacak şekilde yanıtlar vermeniz önemlidir.

Çalışmaya katılım tamamıyla gönüllülük esasına dayanmaktadır. Anket genel olarak, kişisel rahatsızlık verecek sorular içermemektedir. Yine de katılım sırasında herhangi bir nedenden ötürü kendinizi rahatsız hissederseniz, çalışmayı istediğiniz zaman bırakabilirsiniz. Verdiğiniz bilgiler gizli tutulacak ve sadece araştırmacılar tarafından değerlendirilecektir; elde edilen veri seti hiçbir katılımcının ayırt edilemeyeceği bir formatta düzenlendikten sonra diğer bilim insanları ile paylaşımına açılacaktır; elde edilecek bilgiler bilimsel yayınlarda kullanılacaktır.

Katılımınız için şimdiden teşekkür ederiz. Çalışma hakkında daha fazla bilgi almak için Büşra Bahar Balcı (e-posta: baharbalci2@gmail.com) ile iletişim kurabilirsiniz.

*Bu çalışmaya tamamen gönüllü olarak katılıyorum ve istediğim zaman yarıda kesip çıkabileceğimi biliyorum. Verdiğim bilgilerin bilimsel amaçlı yayınlarda kullanılmasını kabul ediyorum.*

Evet

Hayır

## **Explanation**

Bu arařtırmada sizden anketlerde yer alan sorulara samimi ve iten bir Őekilde cevap vermenizi bekliyoruz. Anketlerde yer alan soruların doęru veya yanlıř cevabı yoktur. Ltfen soruları cevaplamadan nce soruları anladığınızdan emin olun ve aklınıza gelen ilk Őekilde cevaplamaya alıřın.

Ankette genellikle romantik iliřkiler ile ilgili sorular bulunmaktadır. Maddelerde sz geen "*birlikte olduęum kiři*" ifadesi ile romantik iliřkide bulunduęunuz kiři kastedilmektedir.

Eęer hlihazırda bir romantik iliřki ierisinde deęilseniz, ařaęıdaki maddeleri yařadığınız en son iliřkiyi dřnerek cevaplandırınız. Katılımınız iin teřekkr ederiz.

## Demographic Information Form

Cinsiyetiniz:

- Kadın
- Erkek
- Diğer
- Söylememeyi tercih ediyorum.

Doğum yılınız:

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Tamamladığınız en üst eğitim seviyesi nedir?

- Ortaokul ve altı
- Lise
- Yüksekokul / Üniversite (Lisans)
- Üniversite (Yüksek lisans, doktora)

Hâlihazırda devam eden romantik bir ilişkiniz var mı?

- Evet
- Hayır

*Display This Question:*

*If Halihazırda devam eden romantik bir ilişkiniz var mı? = Evet*

Partnerinizle (sevgilinizle veya eşinizle) ne kadar süredir birliktesiniz?

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*Display This Question:*

*If Halihazırda devam eden romantik bir ilişkiniz var mı? = Evet*

Partnerinizle aynı şehirde mi yaşıyorsunuz?

- Evet
- Hayır

*Display This Question:*

*If Halihazırda devam eden romantik bir ilişkiniz var mı? = Evet*

Partnerinizle yüz yüze ne sıklıkta görüşüyorsunuz?

- Günde birkaç kez
- Haftada birkaç kez
- Ayda birkaç kez

*Display This Question:*

*If Halihazırda devam eden romantik bir ilişkiniz var mı? = Evet*

Partnerinizle telefonda ne sıklıkta görüşüyorsunuz?

- Günde birkaç kez
- Haftada birkaç kez
- Ayda birkaç kez

Medeni durumunuz:

- Bekâr
- Partneriyle yaşıyor
- Evli
- Boşanmış


Çalışma durumunuz:

- Çalışan
- Kendi işim / Serbest meslek
- Öğrenci
- Emekli
- İşsiz


Yaşamınızın çoğunun geçtiği (en uzun yaşadığınız) yer:

- Köy
- Kasaba / Belde
- İlçe
- İl
- Büyükşehir

Lütfen kendinizi politik olarak nerede tanımladığınızı aşağıdaki skala üzerinde belirtiniz.

	Çok sol	Çok sağ
Lütfen belirtiniz.		

Lütfen kendinizi politik olarak nerede tanımladığınızı aşağıdaki skala üzerinde belirtiniz.

	Çok liberal	Çok muhafazakâr
Lütfen belirtiniz.		

Kendinizi ne kadar dindar biri olarak tanımlarsınız?

	Dini inancım yok	Çok fazla dindarım
Lütfen belirtiniz.		

Annenizin tamamladığı en üst eğitim seviyesi nedir?

Okuma yazma bilmiyor. / Okula hiç gitmedi.

Ortaokul ve altı

Lise

Yüksekokul / Üniversite (Lisans)

Üniversite (Yüksek lisans, doktora)

Yaşadığınız eve giren gelir miktarı:

0-1300 Türk Lirası

1301-2324 Türk Lirası

2325-3000 Türk Lirası

3001-4000 Türk Lirası

4001-5000 Türk Lirası

5001-6000 Türk Lirası

6001-7000 Türk Lirası

7001-8000 Türk Lirası

8001-9000 Türk Lirası

9001-10.000 Türk Lirası

10.001-15.000 Türk Lirası

15.001 Türk Lirası ve üzeri

Aşağıdaki merdivenin Türkiye'deki insanların durduğu yeri temsil ettiğini düşünün.



Merdivenin tepesindekiler her şeyin en iyisine (en çok paraya, en iyi eğitime ve en saygın mesleklere) sahip olanlar. Merdivenin en altındakiler ise, en kötü koşullara sahip olanlar (en az paraya, en az eğitime ve en az sayılan mesleklere sahip olanlar ya da hiçbir işi olmayanlar).

Bu merdivende daha yüksek bir konuma sahip olmanız en tepedeki insanlara daha yakın olduğunuz; daha aşağıda olmanız ise en alttaki insanlara daha yakın olduğunuzu gösterir.

Bu merdivende kendinizi nereye yerleştirirdiniz?

En alt 1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

En üst 10

## Relational Uncertainty

Bu bölümde; kendinizle, partnerinizle ve ilişkinizle ilgili romantik ilişkinizde yaşayabileceğiniz "ilişkisel belirsizlik" ifadeleri yer almaktadır. Bu ifadeler hakkında ne derece emin olduğunuzu belirtmeniz gerekmektedir.

Örnek:

Kendinizle ilgili bu konularda ne kadar eminsiniz?	Hiç emin değilim	Emin değilim	Biraz emin değilim	Kararsızım / Fikrim yok	Biraz eminim	Eminim	Tamamen eminim
1)Partnerimden hoşlanma düzeyim hakkında	1	2	3	4	5		7

Bu ifade sizden istenen, partnerinizden hoşlanma düzeyiniz değil, partnerinizden hoşlanma düzeyiniz hakkında sizin ne kadar emin olduğunuz ve bu durumun sizin için ne kadar açık / belirli olduğudur. Bu sadece bir örnektir. Lütfen bu üç bölümü kapsayan soruları emin olma durumunuza göre cevaplayınız.

Bu bölümde **kendinizle** ilgili olarak aşağıda verilen "**ilişkisel belirsizlik**" durumları hakkında ne derece emin olduğunuzu işaretleyiniz. Eğer hâlihazırda bir romantik ilişki içerisinde değilseniz, aşağıdaki maddeleri yaşadığınız en son ilişkiyi düşünerek cevaplandırınız. Kendinizle ilgili bu konularda ne derece eminsiniz?  
Hiç emin değilim (1) Tamamen eminim (7)

- 1 Bu ilişkinin benim için öneminden
- 2 İlişkinin geleceğine yönelik benim amaçlarımdan
- 3 Bu ilişkiye yönelik görüşlerimden
- 4 Bu ilişki hakkında nasıl hissettiğimden

Bu bölümde **partnerinizle** ilgili olarak aşağıda verilen "**ilişkisel belirsizlik**" durumları hakkında ne derece emin olduğunuzu işaretleyiniz. Eğer hâlihazırda bir romantik ilişki içerisinde değilseniz, aşağıdaki maddeleri yaşadığınız en son ilişkiyi düşünerek cevaplandırınız. Partnerinizle ilgili bu konularda ne derece eminsiniz?  
Hiç emin değilim (1) Tamamen eminim (7)

- 1 Bu ilişkinin partnerim için öneminden
- 2 Partnerimin bu ilişkinin geleceğine yönelik amaçlarından
- 3 Partnerimin bu ilişkiye yönelik görüşlerinden



4	Partnerimin bu ilişki hakkında nasıl hissettiğinden
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	<p>Bu bölümde <b>ilişkinizle</b> ilgili olarak aşağıda verilen “<b>ilişkisel belirsizlik</b>” durumları hakkında ne derece emin olduğunuzu işaretleyiniz. Eğer hâlihazırda bir romantik ilişki içerisinde değilseniz, aşağıdaki maddeleri yaşadığınız en son ilişkiyi düşünerek cevaplandırınız. İlişkinizle ilgili bu konularda ne derece eminsiniz? Hiç emin değilim (1) Tamamen eminim (7)</p>
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1	İlişkimin şu anki durumundan
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2	Partnerimin yanındayken nasıl davranabileceğim ya da davranamayacağımdan
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3	İlişkimin tanımından
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4	İlişkimin geleceğinden
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## Relationship Satisfaction

Şu anki yakın ilişkinizi göz önüne alarak, aşağıdaki ifadelerden her birine ne derece katıldığınızı belirtiniz. Eğer halihazırda bir romantik ilişki içerisinde değilseniz, aşağıdaki maddeleri yaşadığınız en son ilişkiyi düşünerek cevaplandırınız.  
Tamamen yanlış (1) Tamamen doğru (4)

1	Birlikte olduğum kişi, kişisel düşünceleri, sırları paylaşma gibi yakınlık gereksinimlerimi karşılıyor.
2	Birlikte olduğum kişi beraberce bir şeyler yapma, beraber olmaktan keyif alma gibi arkadaşlık gereksinimlerimi karşılıyor.
3	Birlikte olduğum kişi el ele tutuşma, öpüşme gibi cinsel gereksinimlerimi karşılıyor.
4	Birlikte olduğum kişi istikrarlı bir ilişki içinde güvende ve rahat hissetme gereksinimlerimi karşılıyor.
5	Birlikte olduğum kişi duygusal olarak bağlı hissetme, o iyi hissettiğinde kendimi iyi hissetmem gibi gereksinimlerimi karşılıyor.

Şu anki yakın ilişkinizi göz önüne alarak, aşağıdaki ifadelerden her birine ne derece katıldığınızı belirtiniz. Eğer halihazırda bir romantik ilişki içerisinde değilseniz, aşağıdaki maddeleri yaşadığınız en son ilişkiyi düşünerek cevaplandırınız.  
Tamamen yanlış (1) Tamamen doğru (7)

1	İlişkimiz benim için doyum verici.
2	İlişkim başkalarının ilişkilerinden çok daha iyi.
3	İlişkim ideal bir ilişkiye yakındır.
4	İlişkimiz beni çok mutlu ediyor.
5	İlişkimiz yakınlık, arkadaşlık vb. gereksinimlerimi karşılama açısından oldukça başarılı.

## Investment Size

Şu anki yakın ilişkinizi göz önüne alarak, aşağıdaki ifadelerden her birine ne derece katıldığınızı belirtiniz. Eğer halihazırda bir romantik ilişki içerisinde değilseniz, aşağıdaki maddeleri yaşadığınız en son ilişkiyi düşünerek cevaplandırınız.

Tamamen yanlış (1) Tamamen doğru (4)

1	İlişkimiz için çok fazla yatırım yaptım.
2	Birlikte olduğum kişiye, sırlarım gibi pek çok özel şey anlatmaktayım.
3	Birlikte olduğum kişi ve ben birlikte, yeri doldurulması güç bir entelektüel yaşama sahibiz.
4	Bireysel kimlik duygum yani kim olduğum birlikte olduğum kişi ve ilişkimizle bağlantılı.
5	Birlikte olduğum kişi ve ben pek çok anıyı paylaşıyoruz.

Şu anki yakın ilişkinizi göz önüne alarak, aşağıdaki ifadelerden her birine ne derece katıldığınızı belirtiniz. Eğer halihazırda bir romantik ilişki içerisinde değilseniz, aşağıdaki maddeleri yaşadığınız en son ilişkiyi düşünerek cevaplandırınız.

Tamamen yanlış (1) Tamamen doğru (7)

1	İlişkimize öyle çok yatırım yaptım ki, eğer bu ilişki sona erecek olursa çok şey kaybetmiş olurum.
2	Boş zaman etkinlikleri gibi yaşamımın pek çok yönü, şu anda birlikte olduğum kişiye çok fazla bağlı ve eğer ayrılacak olursak bunların hepsini kaybederim.
3	İlişkimize çok fazla bağlandığımı ve bu ilişkiye çok şey verdiğimi hissediyorum.
4	Birlikte olduğum kişiyle ayrılmamız, aile ve arkadaşlarımla olan ilişkilerimi olumsuz etkiler.
5	Başkalarının ilişkileriyle karşılaştırılırsa, ben ilişkiye oldukça fazla yatırım yapmaktayım.

## Perceived Partner Responsiveness

Lütfen şu anki romantik partnerinizle (yani sevgiliniz ya da eşinizle) ilgili aşağıdaki soruları cevaplayınız. Eğer halihazırda bir romantik ilişki içerisinde değilseniz, aşağıdaki maddeleri yaşadığınız en son ilişkiyi düşünerek cevaplandırınız. Partnerim (eşim, sevgilim) çoğu zaman: Hiç doğru değil (1) Tamamen doğru (7)	
1	... nasıl biri olduğumu çok iyi bilir.
2	... "gerçek ben" i görür.
3	... iyi yönlerimi ve kusurlarımı, benim kendimde gördüğüm gibi görür.
4	... söz konusu bensem yanılmaz.
5	... zayıf yönlerim de dahil her şeyimi takdir eder.
6	... beni iyi tanır.
7	... iyisiyle kötüsüyle "gerçek ben"i oluşturan her şeye değer verir ve saygı gösterir.
8	... çoğu zaman en iyi yönlerimi görür.
9	... ne düşündüğümün ve hissettiğim farkındadır.
10	... beni anlar.
11	... beni gerçekten dinler.
12	... bana olan sevgisini gösterir ve beni yüreklendirir.
13	... ne düşündüğümü ve hissettiğimi duymak ister.
14	... benimle birlikte bir şeyler yapmaya heveslidir.
15	... yetenek ve fikirlerime değer verir.
16	... benimle aynı kafadadır.
17	... bana saygı duyar.
18	... ihtiyaçlarıma duyarlıdır.

## ECR-R (Experiences in Close Relationships-Revised)

<p>Aşağıdaki maddeler romantik ilişkilerinizde hissettiğiniz duygularla ilgilidir. Maddelerde sözü geçen "birlikte olduğum kişi" ifadesi ile romantik ilişkide bulunduğunuz kişi kastedilmektedir. Eğer halihazırda bir romantik ilişki içerisinde değilseniz, aşağıdaki maddeleri yaşadığınız en son ilişkiyi düşünerek cevaplandırınız. Her bir maddenin ilişkilerinizdeki duygu ve düşüncelerinizi ne oranda yansıttığını karşılardaki 7 aralıklı ölçek üzerinde gösteriniz. Hiç katılmıyorum (1) Tamamen katılıyorum (7)</p>	
1	Birlikte olduğum kişinin sevgisini kaybetmekten korkarım.
2	Gerçekte ne hissettiğimi birlikte olduğum kişiye göstermemeyi tercih ederim.
3	Sıklıkla, birlikte olduğum kişinin artık benimle olmak istemeyeceği korkusuna kapılırım.
4	Özel duygu ve düşüncelerimi birlikte olduğum kişiyle paylaşmak konusunda kendimi rahat hissedirim.
5	Sıklıkla, birlikte olduğum kişinin beni gerçekten sevmediği kaygısına kapılırım.
6	Romantik ilişkide olduğum kişilere güvenip inanmak konusunda kendimi rahat bırakmakta zorlanırım.
7	Romantik ilişkide olduğum kişilerin beni, benim onları önemseyemediğim kadar önemsemeyeceklerinden endişe duyarım.
8	Romantik ilişkide olduğum kişilere yakın olma konusunda çok rahatımdır.
9	Sıklıkla, birlikte olduğum kişinin bana duyduğu hislerin benim ona duyduğum hisler kadar güçlü olmasını isterim.
10	Romantik ilişkide olduğum kişilere açılma konusunda kendimi rahat hissetmem.
11	İlişkilerimi kafama çok takarım.
12	Romantik ilişkide olduğum kişilere fazla yakın olmamayı tercih ederim.
13	Benden uzakta olduğunda, birlikte olduğum kişinin başka birine ilgi duyabileceği korkusuna kapılırım.
14	Romantik ilişkide olduğum kişi benimle çok yakın olmak istediğinde rahatsızlık duyarım.
15	Romantik ilişkide olduğum kişilere duygularımı gösterdiğimde, onların benim için aynı şeyleri hissetmeyeceğinden korkarım.
16	Birlikte olduğum kişiyle kolayca yakınlaşabilirim.
17	Birlikte olduğum kişinin beni terk edeceğinden pek endişe duymam.
18	Birlikte olduğum kişiyle yakınlaşmak bana zor gelmez.
19	Romantik ilişkide olduğum kişi kendimden şüphe etmeme neden olur.

20	Genellikle, birlikte olduğum kişiyle sorunlarımı ve kaygılarımı tartışırım.
21	Terk edilmekten pek korkmam.
22	Zor zamanlarımda, romantik ilişkide olduğum kişiden yardım istemek bana iyi gelir.
23	Birlikte olduğum kişinin, bana benim istediğim kadar yaklaşmak istemediğini düşünürüm.
24	Birlikte olduğum kişiye hemen hemen her şeyi anlatırım.
25	Romantik ilişkide olduğum kişiler bazen bana olan duygularını sebepsiz yere değiştirirler.
26	Başımдан geçenleri birlikte olduğum kişiyle konuşurum.
27	Çok yakın olma arzumu bazen insanları korkutup uzaklaştırır.
28	Birlikte olduğum kişiler benimle çok yakınlaştığında gergin hissederim.
29	Romantik ilişkide olduğum bir kişi beni yakından tanıdıktan sonra, "gerçek ben"den hoşlanmayacağından korkarım.
30	Romantik ilişkide olduğum kişilere güvenip inanma konusunda rahatımdır.
31	Birlikte olduğum kişiden ihtiyaç duyduğum şefkat ve desteği görememek beni öfkelenendirir.
32	Romantik ilişkide olduğum kişiye güvenip inanmak benim için kolaydır.
33	Başka insanlara denk olamamaktan endişe duyarım.
34	Birlikte olduğum kişiye şefkat göstermek benim için kolaydır.
35	Birlikte olduğum kişi beni sadece kızgın olduğumda önemser.
36	Birlikte olduğum kişi beni ve ihtiyaçlarımı gerçekten anlar.

## Intolerance of Uncertainty

Aşağıda hayatın belirsizliklerine insanların nasıl tepki gösterdiklerini tanımlayan bir dizi ifade yer almaktadır. Bu ifadelerin sizi ne derece doğru yansıttığını, yanındaki rakamlardan size uygun olanı işaretleyerek belirtiniz  
Beni hiç tanımlamıyor (1) Beni tam olarak tanımlıyor (7)

1	Belirsizlik, sağlam bir fikre sahip olmamı engelliyor.
2	Emin olamama, kişinin düzensiz olduğu anlamına gelir.
3	Belirsizlik yaşamı katlanılmaz hale getiriyor.
4	Yaşamda bir güvencenizin olmaması adaletsiz bir durumdur.
5	Yarın ne olacağını bilemezsem zihnim rahat olmaz.
6	Belirsizlik beni rahatsız, endişeli ya da stresli yapıyor.
7	Önceden kestirilemeyen olaylar beni alt üst ediyor.
8	İhtiyaç duyduğum bilginin tümüne sahip olamamak beni engelliyor.
9	Belirsizlik, istediğim şekilde bir yaşam sürmemi engelliyor.
10	Çok iyi planlanmışken bile beklenmeyen ufak bir durum her şeyi bozabilir.
11	Harekete geçme zamanı geldiğinde belirsizlik elimi kolumu bağlıyor.
12	Belirsizlik içinde olmam, benim en iyi olmadığımı gösterir.
13	Emin olmadığım zaman, yapacaklarım konusunda ilerleyemiyorum.
14	Emin olmadığım zaman çok iyi iş çıkartamıyorum.
15	Benim aksime, diğer insanlar ne yapacaklarından emin gözükyorlar.
16	Belirsizlik beni kırılğan, mutsuz ya da hüzünlü kılıyor.
17	Geleceğin benim için neler getireceğini her zaman bilmek isterim.
18	Beklenmedik olaylara katlanamıyorum.
19	En ufak bir şüphe bile harekete geçmemi engelliyor.

20	Her şeyi önceden organize edebilmeliyim.
21	Emin olamamam, güvensiz olduğum anlamına gelir.
22	Başkalarının kendi geleceklerinden eminmiş gibi görünmeleri adaletsizliktir.
23	Belirsizlik, derin uyumamı engelliyor.
24	Bütün belirsiz durumlardan uzaklaşmalıyım.
25	Hayattaki belirsizlikler beni strese sokuyor.
26	Geleceğimle ilgili kararsız olmaya katlanamıyorum.



## Daily Diary Study

Bu çalışma yürütülen bir tez çalışmasının ilk basamağını oluşturmaktadır. Bu çalışmadan elde edilecek veriler doğrultusunda ikinci bir çalışma daha yürütülecektir. İkinci çalışmada katılımcılar sadece partnerlerden oluşacaktır ve 14 gün boyunca her iki partnerin de katılacağı bir çalışma yürütülecektir. İlk çalışmada olduğu gibi ikinci çalışmada da yer almak tamamıyla gönüllülük esasına dayanmaktadır. Partneriniz ile birlikte ikinci çalışmada yer almak isterseniz lütfen aşağıdaki soruyu yanıtladıktan sonra gelen linki tıklayarak açılacak yeni sayfada gelecek soruyu yanıtlayınız.

*Bu tez kapsamında yürütülecek olan ikinci çalışmaya da katılmak istiyorum.*

Evet Hayır

*Display This Question:*

*If Bu çalışma yürütülen bir tez çalışmasının ilk basamağını oluşturmaktadır. Bu çalışmadan elde edil... = Hayır*

Yeni sayfaya geçip size uygun olan seçeneği işaretlemek için lütfen aşağıdaki **linke** tıklayınız.

**Link:** [https://baskentpsychology.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1z8abPBaedlYLMV](https://baskentpsychology.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1z8abPBaedlYLMV)

*Display This Question:*

*If Bu çalışma yürütülen bir tez çalışmasının ilk basamağını oluşturmaktadır. Bu çalışmadan elde edil... = Evet*

Verilerinizi daha sonra eşleyebilmemiz için lütfen bir rumuz oluşturunuz. Bu rumuz günlük çalışmasına verdiğiniz yanıtları eşlemek ve kimliğinizi anonimleştirmek için kullanılacaktır. Çalışmamıza katılarak bir parçası olduğunuz için teşekkür ederiz.

Rumuz oluştururken annenizin evlenmeden önceki soyadının son 3 harfi ve doğduğunuz gün ile ayı birleştirerek yazınız. Örneğin, annenizin evlenmeden önceki soyadı "Kaya" ve doğum gününüz 12 Mayıs olsun, oluşturacağınız rumuz "AYA125" olacaktır.

---

*Display This Question:*

*If Bu çalışma yürütülen bir tez çalışmasının ilk basamağını oluşturmaktadır. Bu çalışmadan elde edil... = Evet*

Günlük çalışmasını size iletebilmemiz için yukarıda oluşturduğunuz rumuza ek olarak aktif olarak kullandığınız bir e-posta adresinize ihtiyacımız olacak. Yeni sayfaya geçip e-posta adresinizi kaydetmek için lütfen aşağıdaki **linke** tıklayınız.

**Link:** [https://baskentpsychology.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bDu1LE3afdvg3pX](https://baskentpsychology.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bDu1LE3afdvg3pX)

## APPENDIX 2: SUPPLEMENTARY ANALYSES OF STUDY 1

### 2.1. Participants

In our pre-registration (<https://osf.io/xkj6a>), we stated that participants who were very slow or very fast to complete the survey ( $\pm 3$  z scores above or below the mean duration) will be excluded from the analysis. The mean duration was 1286 seconds with an *SD* of 1872. The *SD* was unreasonable, and the z scores revealed that 30 participants spent too much time (up to 49613 seconds and 25 z scores). Thus, we first deleted participants who were above +3 z scores, and 22 individuals' z scores were above +3. We repeated the same procedure, and it was shown that 40 participants more were very slow (+3 z score above the mean). When we investigated their time spent on the survey, we realized it was too much (ranged between 6657 and 3548 seconds). These were long to complete the survey; thus we omitted their responses from the data. The negative side of the z scores (speedy individuals) did not reach the -3 standard deviation distance from the mean. Thus, we did not delete any individual according to their fastness by z scores.

Most of the participants reported a university degree or more ( $n = 1097$ ) as their education level, followed by high school ( $n = 270$ ). Only 1 participant reported his/her education level as middle school or lower. Nine hundred eighty of the participants reported that they had a current relationship whereas 388 of them had no current relationship. The mean duration of the relationship was 41.01 months ( $SD = 43.04$ ; range from 1 month to 396 months) for whom the participant reported a current relationship. One thousand thirty-four participants were bachelor, 93 were living with their partner, 216 were married, and 25 were divorced. Seven hundred thirty were living in the same city with their partners and 250 were having a long-distance relationship. We also asked how often face to face they see each other: Three thousand sixty-seven reported that they see each other a few times each day, 346 of the participants see each other a few times each week, and 263 of them see each other a few times each month. Seven hundred fifty-six talk on the phone a few times each day, 192 participants talk on the phone a few times each week, and 32 participants talk on the phone a few times each month. Five hundred thirty-seven were currently working and 599 of them were students. Most of the participants ( $n = 935$ ) lived

in big cities or metropolitans for most of their lives which are followed by provinces ( $n = 250$ ), counties ( $n = 141$ ), and towns and villages ( $n = 42$ ).

The mean of political ideology was 30.31 ( $SD = 20.85$ ; range from 0 (“*very leftist*”) to 100 (“*very rightist*”). The mean of religiosity was 29.64 ( $SD = 28.59$ ; range from 0 (“*I do not have any religious affiliation*”) to 100 (“*very religious*”). The median income was 6 and mode was 5 ( $SD = 3.20$ ; range from 1 (“*1500 TL or below*”) to 12 (“*15.001 TL and above*”). The median of the subjective ladder question was 6 and the mode was 7 ( $SD = 1.75$ ; range from 1 (“*bottom of the ladder*”) to 10 (“*top of the ladder*”).

### 2.1.1. Gender differences in variables

A series of independent sample t-tests were conducted to compare females and males in study variables. Among subscales of relational uncertainty, females and males differ from each other only in partner uncertainty  $t(564.55) = 2.06, p = .039$ . Females ( $M = 5.24$ ) are more certain about their partners than males ( $M = 5.01$ ). And, females ( $M = 5.29$ ) perceived more partner responsiveness than males ( $M = 5.01$ ),  $t(547.50) = 3.19, p = .001$ . On the other hand, males ( $M = 3.80$ ) perceived higher investment size than females ( $M = 3.43$ ),  $t(1334) = -3.95, p < .001$ . Finally, females ( $M = 4.40$ ) had higher intolerance of uncertainty than males ( $M = 3.99$ ),  $t(1190) = 4.29, p < .001$ . (Table 2.1).<sup>3</sup>

**Table 2.1.** *Gender Differences in Variables*

Variables	Females			Males			<i>t-test</i>
	<i>n</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	
Self Uncertainty	1012	5.54	1.42	342	5.47	1.51	.73
Partner Uncertainty	1013	5.24	1.74	341	5.01	1.82	2.06*
Relationship Uncertainty	1013	5.35	1.50	340	5.25	1.51	.96
Composite Relational Uncertainty	1013	5.38	1.38	342	5.25	1.39	1.45

<sup>3</sup> Levene’s test for equality of variances was significant for partner uncertainty, perceived partner responsiveness, and intolerance of uncertainty. Therefore, we reported the second line for these variables which refers to *equal variances not assumed*. However, results were also significant in the first line referring to *equal variances assumed*,  $t(1335) = 3.29, p = .035$ ;  $t(1352) = 2.11, p = .001$ ;  $t(1190) = 4.57, p < .001$ , respectively.

Relationship Satisfaction	1003	5.35	1.49	333	5.16	1.52	1.94
Perceived Partner Responsiveness	1001	5.29	1.34	336	5.01	1.42	3.19**
Investment Size	999	3.43	1.47	337	3.80	1.48	-3.95**
Attachment Avoidance	904	2.61	1.04	288	2.59	.95	.35
Attachment Anxiety	903	3.49	1.12	288	3.50	1.17	.12
Intolerance of Uncertainty	910	4.40	1.28	282	3.99	1.44	4.29**

\* $p < .05$ , \*\* $p < .001$ .

## 2.2. Relationship Duration and the Long-Distance Relationship

Before the main analyses, correlations between relationship duration and main study variables were analyzed and presented in Table 2.2. Additionally, an independent sample t-test was conducted to compare people who live in the same city with their partners and who do not. The results were presented in Table 2.3.<sup>4</sup>

**Table 2.2.** *Relationship Duration and Main Variables*

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.Relationship Duration	1						
2.Self-Uncertainty	.15**	1					
3.Partner Uncertainty	.13**	.53**	1				
4.Relationship Uncertainty	.18**	.68**	.76**	1			
5.Composite Relational Uncertainty	.17**	.82**	.88**	.92**	1		
6.Relationship Satisfaction	.04	.66**	.67**	.72**	.78**	1	
7.Perceived Partner Responsiveness	.000	.60**	.68**	.67**	.74**	.81**	1

\*\* $p < .01$ .

<sup>4</sup> Levene's test for equality of variances was significant for partner uncertainty; therefore, we reported the second line for these variables which refers to *equal variances not assumed*. However, results were also non-significant in the first line referring to *equal variances assumed*,  $t(977) = 1.87$ ,  $p = .061$ .

Levene's test for equality of variances was significant for relationship uncertainty, composite relational uncertainty, and perceived partner responsiveness. Therefore, we reported the second line for these variables which refers to *equal variances not assumed*. However, results were also significant in the first line referring to *equal variances assumed*,  $t(976) = 3.05$ ,  $p = .002$ ,  $t(978) = 2.42$ ,  $p = .015$ ,  $t(963) = -2.35$ ,  $p = .019$ .

**Table 2.3.** *Long Distance Differences in Variables*

Variables	People without a long-distance relationship			People with a long-distance relationship			<i>t</i>
	<i>n</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	
Self-Uncertainty	730	5.86	1.23	250	5.71	1.32	1.68
Partner Uncertainty	729	5.82	1.29	250	5.64	1.48	1.76
Relationship Uncertainty	729	5.88	1.14	249	5.61	1.29	2.86**
Composite Relational Uncertainty	730	5.85	1.09	250	5.65	1.21	2.31*
Relationship Satisfaction	721	5.80	1.15	243	5.73	1.71	.74
Perceived Partner Responsiveness	720	5.59	1.09	245	5.78	1.21	-2.50*

\* $p < .05$ , \*\* $p < .01$ .

**Table 2.4.** *The Moderation Analysis for Subscales of Relational Uncertainty Scale (Self Uncertainty, Partner Uncertainty, and Relationship Uncertainty)*

	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>CI LL</i>	<i>CI UL</i>
SU*Ideology upon RS	.001	.001	.261	-.0009	.0032
PU*Ideology upon RS	-.0003	.0008	-.714	-.001	.001
RU*Ideology upon RS	.0003	.0009	.743	-.001	.002
SU*Ideology upon PPR	.0004	.0010	.670	-.001	.002
PU*Ideology upon PPR	.0002	.0007	.749	-.001	.001
RU*Ideology upon PPR	.0008	.0009	.392	-.001	.002

*SU = Self Uncertainty, PU = Partner Uncertainty, RU = Relationship Uncertainty, RS = Relationship Satisfaction, PPR = Perceived Partner Responsiveness.*

**Table 2.5.** *The Mediation Analysis for Subscales of Relational Uncertainty Scale (Self-Uncertainty, Partner Uncertainty, and Relationship Uncertainty)*

	Effect	BootSE	BootLLCI	BootULCI
Income→SU→PPR	.0202	.0068	.0069	.0335
Income→PU→PPR	.0315	.0079	.0161	.0472
Income→RU→PPR	.0289	.0075	.0140	.0435
Income→SU→RS	.0249	.0084	.0080	.0412
Income→PU→RS	.0342	.0088	.0169	.0519
Income→RU→RS	.0350	.0089	.0171	.0528
Ladder→SU→PPR	.0482	.0134	.0218	.0743
Ladder→PU→PPR	.0592	.0150	.0295	.0887
Ladder→RU→PPR	.0584	.0148	.0296	.0882
Ladder→SU→RS	.0554	.0162	.0236	.0869
Ladder→PU→RS	.0626	.0163	.0304	.0946
Ladder→RU→RS	.0670	.0174	.0320	.1009

*SU = Self-Uncertainty, PU = Partner Uncertainty, RU = Relationship Uncertainty, RS = Relationship Satisfaction, PPR = Perceived Partner Responsiveness.*

### 2.3. Exploratory Analysis with Investment Size

As described in pre-registration (<https://osf.io/xkj6a>), we expected that political orientation may be related to investment size and investment size may influence relational uncertainty. To test this expectation, the data were randomly divided into two parts, exploratory and confirmatory, to cross-validate the initial results. And the same analyses were carried out for both exploratory and confirmatory data.

In exploratory data, results indicated that there was a positive correlation between political ideology and investment size ( $r = .09$ ). Three subscales of relational uncertainty were positively correlated with investment size ( $r$ s ranged between .14 and .27). Composite relational uncertainty was also positively correlated with investment size ( $r = .21$ ). Additionally, investment size was positively correlated with relationship satisfaction

( $r = .22$ ) and perceived partner responsiveness ( $r = .15$ ). Likewise, it was concluded that investment size was positively correlated with attachment anxiety ( $r = .20$ ), intolerance of uncertainty ( $r = .29$ ), and relationship duration ( $r = .17$ ) but negatively correlated with attachment avoidance ( $r = -.17$ ).

In confirmatory data, results showed investment size was not correlated with the left-right scale. Except for partner uncertainty, investment size was positively correlated with subscales and composite relational uncertainty ( $r$ s ranged between .07 and .20). Additionally, investment size was positively correlated with relationship satisfaction ( $r = .14$ ). Contrary to the exploratory data, the relationship between investment size and perceived partner responsiveness was non-significant. Consistent with exploratory findings, it was found that investment size was positively correlated with attachment anxiety ( $r = .29$ ), intolerance of uncertainty ( $r = .27$ ) and relationship duration ( $r = .10$ ). but negatively correlated with attachment avoidance ( $r = -.12$ ).

## APPENDIX 3: MATERIALS OF THE BASELINE SURVEY IN STUDY

### Informed Consent

Sayın katılımcı,

Bu araştırma, Başkent Üniversitesi Psikoloji Bölümü Sosyal Psikoloji Tezli Yüksek Lisans programı öğrencisi Büşra Bahar Balcı'nın, Dr. Öğr. Üyesi İlker Dalgar danışmanlığında yürüttüğü yüksek lisans tezinin ikinci çalışmasıdır. **Bu çalışmaya katılmak için birinci çalışmaya katılım şartı bulunmamaktadır.** Bu çalışmada romantik ilişkilerdeki tutum ve davranışlar hakkındaki bilgi birikimimizi arttırmayı hedeflemekteyiz.

Anketin cevaplanması yaklaşık 10-15 dakika sürmekte olup herhangi bir süre kısıtlaması bulunmamaktadır. Lütfen anketi zaman bakımından uygun olduğunuz ve rahatsız edilmeyeceğiniz bir zamanda tamamlayın. **Bu ankete katıldığınızda bu anket ile bağlantılı olan "günlük" çalışmasına katılmayı da kabul etmiş olmaktadır. Günlük çalışması ile ilgili ayrıntılı bilgi anketin ilerleyen kısımlarında verilmektedir.**

Bu çalışma kapsamında vereceğiniz tüm bilgiler tamamen gizli kalacaktır. *Çalışmanın hiçbir bölümünde isminizi ve kimliğinizi ortaya çıkaran herhangi bir soru sorulmamaktadır.* **Anketin içerisinde hem sizin hem partnerinizin e-posta adresini istediğimiz bir soru bulunmaktadır. Bu kısım vereceğiniz cevaplardan ayrı tutulup cevaplarınız ile eşleştirilmeyecektir. Çalışmanın sonucunda verdiğiniz e-posta adresleri tamamen silinecek ve arşivlenmeyecektir.** Sadece gruplardan elde edilen genel bulgular değerlendirilecek, bireysel sonuçlar analiz edilmeyecektir. Çalışmanın objektif olması ve elde edilecek sonuçların güvenilirliği bakımından anket uygulamalarında samimiyetle duygu ve düşüncelerinizi yansıtacak şekilde yanıtlar vermeniz önemlidir.

Çalışmaya katılım tamamıyla gönüllülük esasına dayanmaktadır. Anket genel olarak, kişisel rahatsızlık verecek sorular içermemektedir. Yine de katılım sırasında herhangi bir nedenden ötürü kendinizi rahatsız hissederseniz, çalışmayı istediğiniz zaman bırakabilirsiniz. Verdiğiniz bilgiler gizli tutulacak ve sadece araştırmacılar tarafından değerlendirilecektir; elde edilen veri seti hiçbir katılımcının ayırt edilemeyeceği bir formatta düzenlendikten sonra diğer bilim insanları ile paylaşımına açılacaktır; elde edilecek bilgiler bilimsel yayınlarda kullanılacaktır.

Katılımınız için şimdiden teşekkür ederiz. Çalışma hakkında daha fazla bilgi almak için Büşra Bahar Balcı (e-posta: baharbalci2@gmail.com) ile iletişim kurabilirsiniz.

*Bu çalışmaya tamamen gönüllü olarak katılıyorum ve istediğim zaman yarıda kesip çıkabileceğimi biliyorum. Verdiğim bilgilerin bilimsel amaçlı yayınlarda kullanılmasını kabul ediyorum.*

Evet (1) Hayır (2)



## Relationship Status

Halihazırda devam eden romantik bir ilişkiniz var mı?

Evet (1) Hayır (2)

*Skip To: End of Survey If Halihazırda devam eden romantik bir ilişkiniz var mı? = Hayır*

*Display This Question:*

*If Halihazırda devam eden romantik bir ilişkiniz var mı? = Evet*

Partnerinizle (sevgilinizle veya eşinizle) ne kadar süredir birliktesiniz? (Lütfen ay olarak belirtiniz.)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If Halihazırda devam eden romantik bir ilişkiniz var mı? = Evet*

Partnerinizle aynı şehirde mi yaşıyorsunuz?

Evet (1) Hayır (2)

*Display This Question:*

*If Halihazırda devam eden romantik bir ilişkiniz var mı? = Evet*

Partnerinizle yüz yüze ne sıklıkta görüşüyorsunuz?

Günde birkaç kez (1)

Haftada birkaç kez (2)

Ayda birkaç kez (3)

Yılda birkaç kez (4)

*Display This Question:*

*If Halihazırda devam eden romantik bir ilişkiniz var mı? = Evet*

Partnerinizle telefonda ne sıklıkta görüşüyorsunuz?

Günde birkaç kez (1)

Haftada birkaç kez (2)

Ayda birkaç kez (3)

## E-Mail

Öncelikle anketimize katılmayı kabul ettiğiniz için tekrar teşekkür ederiz.

Dolduracağınız bu anketin sonucunda bir "**günlük**" çalışmasına katılmanız beklenmektedir. Bu çalışmanın 1 hafta içerisinde başlaması planlanmaktadır. Bu günlük çalışmasına romantik ilişkide bulunduğunuz kişi ile birlikte katılmanız gerekmektedir. Günlük çalışmasının 14 gün boyunca sürmesi planlanmaktadır. Bu çalışmaya katılmak için 14 gün boyunca her akşam aynı saatte (saat 20.00'da) size bir anket linki gönderilecektir. Bu anketi çözmek yaklaşık 2-3 dakikanızı alacak ve tamamlamak için 4 saat (aynı gece 23.59'a kadar) vaktiniz olacaktır. **Gönderilen anketi kendi başınıza doldurmanız ve yanıtlarınızı 2 hafta boyunca partneriniz ile paylaşmamanız bizim için çok önemlidir.**

Bu çalışmada katılımcılardan alacağımız cevaplar tek tek incelenmeyecektir, her iki partnerden de aldığımız veriler çift düzeyinde incelenecektir. Partnerinizin vereceği cevaplar ile sizin vereceğiniz cevapların birbirleriyle eşleştirilebilmesi için lütfen aşağıda yer alan kutucuklara kendinizin ve partnerinizin güncel olarak kullandığı bir e-posta adresi yazınız. **Sizin partneriniz için yazdığınız e-posta adresi ile partnerinizin kendisi için yazdığı e-posta adresinin aynı olduğundan emin olunuz. Aynı şekilde partnerinizin sizin için yazdığı e-posta adresi ile sizin kendiniz için yazdığınız e-posta adresinin de aynı olması gerekmektedir.**

Önümüzdeki 3 hafta boyunca e-posta adreslerinizi her akşam düzenli kontrol etmeniz bizim için çok önemlidir. Lütfen kendinizin ve partnerinizin güncel olarak kullandığı birer e-posta adresini aşağıda yer alan kutulara yazınız.

Kendi e-posta adresim \_\_\_\_\_  
Partnerimin e-posta adresi \_\_\_\_\_

## Explanation

Bu araştırmada sizden anketlerde yer alan sorulara samimi ve içten bir şekilde cevap vermenizi bekliyoruz. Anketlerde yer alan soruların doğru veya yanlış cevabı yoktur. Lütfen soruları cevaplamadan önce soruları anladığınızdan emin olun ve aklınıza gelen ilk şekilde cevaplamaya çalışın.

Ankette genellikle romantik ilişkiler ile ilgili sorular bulunmaktadır. Maddelerde sözü geçen "*birlikte olduğum kişi*" ifadesi ile romantik ilişkide bulunduğunuz kişi kastedilmektedir.

## Demographic Information Form

Cinsiyetiniz:

Kadın

Erkek

Diğer

Söylememeyi tercih ediyorum.

Doğum yılınızı seçiniz

▼ 2002 (1) ... 1930 (73)

Tamamladığınız en üst eğitim seviyesi nedir?

Ortaokul ve altı (1) Lise (2) Yüksekokul / Üniversite (Lisans) (3) Üniversite (Yüksek lisans, doktora) (4)

Medeni durumunuz:

Bekar (1) Partneriyle yaşıyor (2) Evli (3) Boşanmış (4)

Çalışma durumunuz:

Öğrenciyim ve çalışıyorum. (1) Öğrenciyim ve çalışmıyorum. (2)

Öğrenci değilim ve çalışıyorum. (3) Öğrenci değilim ve çalışmıyorum.

Yaşamınızın çoğunun geçtiği (en uzun yaşadığınız) yer:

Köy (1) Kasaba / Belde (2) İlçe (3) İl (4) Büyükşehir (5)

Lütfen kendinizi politik olarak nerede tanımladığınızı aşağıdaki skala üzerinde belirtiniz.

Çok sol

Çok sağ

Lütfen belirtiniz. ()



Kendinizi ne kadar dindar biri olarak tanımlarsınız?

Dini inancım yok

Çok fazla dindarım

Lütfen belirtiniz. ()



Yaşadığınız eve giren gelir miktarı:

- 0-1300 Türk Lirası
- 1301-2324 Türk Lirası
- 2325-3000 Türk Lirası
- 3001-4000 Türk Lirası
- 4001-5000 Türk Lirası
- 5001-6000 Türk Lirası
- 6001-7000 Türk Lirası
- 7001-8000 Türk Lirası
- 8001-9000 Türk Lirası
- 9001-10.000 Türk Lirası
- 10.001-15.000 Türk Lirası
- 15.001 Türk Lirası ve üzeri

Aşağıdaki merdivenin Türkiye'deki insanların durduğu yeri temsil ettiğini düşünün.



Merdivenin tepesindekiler her şeyin en iyisine (en çok paraya, en iyi eğitime ve en saygın mesleklere) sahip olanlar. Merdivenin en altındakiler ise, en kötü koşullara sahip olanlar (en az paraya, en az eğitime ve en az sayılan mesleklere sahip olanlar ya da hiçbir işi olmayanlar).

Bu merdivende daha yüksek bir konuma sahip olmanız en tepedeki insanlara daha yakın olduğunuz; daha aşağıda olmanız ise en alttaki insanlara daha yakın olduğunuzu gösterir.

Bu merdivende kendinizi nereye yerleştirirdiniz?

En alt 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 En üst 10

Aşağıdakilerden hangisi şunda yaşadığımız ilişkiyi en iyi şekilde tanımlar?

Partnerim ile farklı cinsiyetteyim.

Partnerim ile aynı cinsiyetteyim.

## Relational Uncertainty

Bu bölümde; kendinizle, partnerinizle ve ilişkinizle ilgili romantik ilişkinizde yaşayabileceğiniz "ilişkisel belirsizlik" ifadeleri yer almaktadır. Bu ifadeler hakkında ne derece emin olduğunuzu belirtmeniz gerekmektedir.

Örnek:

Kendinizle ilgili bu konularda ne kadar eminsiniz?	Hiç emin değilim	Emin değilim	Biraz emin değilim	Kararsızım / Fikrim yok	Biraz eminim	Emimin	Tamamen eminim
1)Partnerimden hoşlanma düzeyim hakkında	1	2	3	4	5		7

Bu ifadede sizden istenen, partnerinizden hoşlanma düzeyiniz değil, partnerinizden hoşlanma düzeyiniz hakkında sizin ne kadar emin olduğunuz ve bu durumun sizin için ne kadar açık / belirli olduğudur. Bu sadece bir örnektir. Lütfen bu üç bölümü kapsayan soruları emin olma durumunuza göre cevaplayınız.

Bu bölümde **kendinizle** ilgili olarak aşağıda verilen "**ilişkisel belirsizlik**" durumları hakkında ne derece emin olduğunuzu işaretleyiniz. Kendinizle ilgili bu konularda ne derece eminsiniz?  
Hiç emin değilim (1) Tamamen eminim (7)

- 1 Bu ilişkinin benim için öneminden
- 2 İlişkinin geleceğine yönelik benim amaçlarımdan
- 3 Bu ilişkiye yönelik görüşlerimden
- 4 Bu ilişki hakkında nasıl hissettiğimden

Bu bölümde **partnerinizle** ilgili olarak aşağıda verilen "**ilişkisel belirsizlik**" durumları hakkında ne derece emin olduğunuzu işaretleyiniz. Partnerinizle ilgili bu konularda ne derece eminsiniz?  
Hiç emin değilim (1) Tamamen eminim (7)

- 1 Bu ilişkinin partnerim için öneminden
- 2 Partnerimin bu ilişkinin geleceğine yönelik amaçlarından
- 3 Partnerimin bu ilişkiye yönelik görüşlerinden
- 4 Partnerimin bu ilişki hakkında nasıl hissettiğinden

	<p>Bu bölümde <b>ilişkinizle</b> ilgili olarak aşağıda verilen “<b>ilişkisel belirsizlik</b>” durumları hakkında ne derece emin olduğunuzu işaretleyiniz. İlişkinizle ilgili bu konularda ne derece eminsiniz? Hiç emin değilim (1) Tamamen eminim (7)</p>
1	İlişkinin şu anki durumundan
2	Partnerimin yanıdayken nasıl davranabileceğim ya da davranamayacağımdan
3	İlişkinin tanımından
4	İlişkinin geleceğinden

## Relationship Satisfaction

Şu anki yakın ilişkinizi göz önüne alarak, aşağıdaki ifadelerden her birine ne derece katıldığınızı belirtiniz. Eğer halihazırda bir romantik ilişki içerisinde değilseniz, aşağıdaki maddeleri yaşadığınız en son ilişkiyi düşünerek cevaplandırınız.

Tamamen yanlış (1) Tamamen doğru (4)

1	Birlikte olduğum kişi, kişisel düşünceleri, sırları paylaşma gibi yakınlık gereksinimlerimi karşılıyor.
2	Birlikte olduğum kişi beraberce bir şeyler yapma, beraber olmaktan keyif alma gibi arkadaşlık gereksinimlerimi karşılıyor.
3	Birlikte olduğum kişi el ele tutuşma, öpüşme gibi cinsel gereksinimlerimi karşılıyor.
4	Birlikte olduğum kişi istikrarlı bir ilişki içinde güvende ve rahat hissetme gereksinimlerimi karşılıyor.
5	Birlikte olduğum kişi duygusal olarak bağlı hissetme, o iyi hissettiğinde kendimi iyi hissetmem gibi gereksinimlerimi karşılıyor.

Şu anki yakın ilişkinizi göz önüne alarak, aşağıdaki ifadelerden her birine ne derece katıldığınızı belirtiniz. Eğer halihazırda bir romantik ilişki içerisinde değilseniz, aşağıdaki maddeleri yaşadığınız en son ilişkiyi düşünerek cevaplandırınız.

Tamamen yanlış (1) Tamamen doğru (7)

1	İlişkimiz benim için doyum verici.
2	İlişkim başkalarının ilişkilerinden çok daha iyi.
3	İlişkim ideal bir ilişkiye yakındır.
4	İlişkimiz beni çok mutlu ediyor.
5	İlişkimiz yakınlık, arkadaşlık vb. gereksinimlerimi karşılama açısından oldukça başarılı.



## Perceived Partner Responsiveness

Lütfen şu anki romantik partnerinizle (yani sevgiliniz ya da eşinizle) ilgili aşağıdaki soruları cevaplayınız.  
Partnerim (eşim, sevgilim) çoğu zaman:  
Hiç doğru değil (1) Tamamen doğru (7)

1	... nasıl biri olduğumu çok iyi bilir.
2	... "gerçek ben" i görür.
3	... iyi yönlerimi ve kusurlarımı, benim kendimde gördüğüm gibi görür.
4	... söz konusu bensem yanılmaz.
5	... zayıf yönlerim de dahil her şeyimi takdir eder.
6	... beni iyi tanır.
7	... iyisiyle kötüsüyle "gerçek ben"i oluşturan her şeye değer verir ve saygı gösterir.
8	... çoğu zaman en iyi yönlerimi görür.
9	... ne düşündüğümün ve hissettiğim farkındadır.
10	... beni anlar.
11	... beni gerçekten dinler.
12	... bana olan sevgisini gösterir ve beni yüreklendirir.
13	... ne düşündüğümü ve hissettiğimi duymak ister.
14	... benimle birlikte bir şeyler yapmaya heveslidir.
15	... yetenek ve fikirlerime değer verir.
16	... benimle aynı kafadadır.
17	... bana saygı duyar.
18	... ihtiyaçlarıma duyarlıdır.

## ECR-R (Experiences in Close Relationships-Revised)

<p>Aşağıdaki maddeler romantik ilişkilerinizde hissettiğiniz duygularla ilgilidir. Bu araştırmada sizin ilişkinizde yalnızca şu anda değil, genel olarak neler olduğuyla ya da neler yaşadığınızla ilgilenmekteyiz. Maddelerde sözü geçen "birlikte olduğum kişi" ifadesi ile romantik ilişkide bulunduğunuz kişi kastedilmektedir. Her bir maddenin ilişkilerinizdeki duygu ve düşüncelerinizi ne oranda yansıttığını karşılardaki 7 aralıklı ölçek üzerinde gösteriniz. Hiç katılmıyorum (1) Tamamen katılıyorum (7)</p>	
1	Birlikte olduğum kişinin sevgisini kaybetmekten korkarım.
2	Gerçekte ne hissettiğimi birlikte olduğum kişiye göstermemeyi tercih ederim.
3	Sıklıkla, birlikte olduğum kişinin artık benimle olmak istemeyeceği korkusuna kapılırım.
4	Özel duygu ve düşüncelerimi birlikte olduğum kişiyle paylaşmak konusunda kendimi rahat hissedirim.
5	Sıklıkla, birlikte olduğum kişinin beni gerçekten sevmediği kaygısına kapılırım.
6	Romantik ilişkide olduğum kişilere güvenip inanmak konusunda kendimi rahat bırakmakta zorlanırım.
7	Romantik ilişkide olduğum kişilerin beni, benim onları önemsedığım kadar önemsemeyeceklerinden endişe duyarım.
8	Romantik ilişkide olduğum kişilere yakın olma konusunda çok rahatımdır.
9	Sıklıkla, birlikte olduğum kişinin bana duyduğu hislerin benim ona duyduğum hisler kadar güçlü olmasını isterim.
10	Romantik ilişkide olduğum kişilere açılma konusunda kendimi rahat hissetmem.
11	İlişkilerimi kafama çok takarım.
12	Romantik ilişkide olduğum kişilere fazla yakın olmamayı tercih ederim.
13	Benden uzakta olduğunda, birlikte olduğum kişinin başka birine ilgi duyabileceği korkusuna kapılırım.
14	Romantik ilişkide olduğum kişi benimle çok yakın olmak istediğinde rahatsızlık duyarım.
15	Romantik ilişkide olduğum kişilere duygularımı gösterdiğimde, onların benim için aynı şeyleri hissetmeyeceğinden korkarım.
16	Birlikte olduğum kişiyle kolayca yakınlaşabilirim.
17	Birlikte olduğum kişinin beni terk edeceğinden pek endişe duymam.
18	Birlikte olduğum kişiyle yakınlaşmak bana zor gelmez.
19	Romantik ilişkide olduğum kişi kendimden şüphe etmeme neden olur.

20	Genellikle, birlikte olduğum kişiyle sorunlarımı ve kaygılarımı tartışırım.
21	Terk edilmekten pek korkmam.
22	Zor zamanlarımda, romantik ilişkide olduğum kişiden yardım istemek bana iyi gelir.
23	Birlikte olduğum kişinin, bana benim istediğim kadar yakınlaşmak istemediğini düşünürüm.
24	Birlikte olduğum kişiye hemen hemen her şeyi anlatırım.
25	Romantik ilişkide olduğum kişiler bazen bana olan duygularını sebepsiz yere değiştirirler.
26	Başımдан geçenleri birlikte olduğum kişiyle konuşurum.
27	Çok yakın olma arzumu bazen insanları korkutup uzaklaştırır.
28	Birlikte olduğum kişiler benimle çok yakınlaştığında gergin hissederim.
29	Romantik ilişkide olduğum bir kişi beni yakından tanıdıktan sonra, "gerçek ben"den hoşlanmayacağından korkarım.
30	Romantik ilişkide olduğum kişilere güvenip inanma konusunda rahatımdır.
31	Birlikte olduğum kişiden ihtiyaç duyduğum şefkat ve desteği görememek beni öfkelenendirir.
32	Romantik ilişkide olduğum kişiye güvenip inanmak benim için kolaydır.
33	Başka insanlara denk olamamaktan endişe duyarım.
34	Birlikte olduğum kişiye şefkat göstermek benim için kolaydır.
35	Birlikte olduğum kişi beni sadece kızgın olduğumda önemser.
36	Birlikte olduğum kişi beni ve ihtiyaçlarımı gerçekten anlar.

## Debrief

Çalışmamıza katıldığınız için teşekkür ederiz. Bir hafta içinde günlük anketlerin linklerini yazdığınız e-posta adreslerine göndermeye başlayacağız.

## APPENDIX 4: MATERIALS OF THE DAILY DIARY SURVEY IN STUDY 2

<b>Relational Uncertainty</b>							
Bu bölümde; kendinizle, partnerinizle ve ilişkinizle ilgili romantik ilişkinizde yaşayabileceğiniz "ilişkisel belirsizlik" ifadeleri yer almaktadır. Bu ifadeler hakkında ne derece emin olduğunuzu belirtmeniz gerekmektedir.							
<i>Örnek:</i>							
	<i>Hiç hissetmedim</i>	<i>Hissetmedim</i>	<i>Biraz hissetmedim</i>	<i>Kararsızım / Fikrim yok</i>	<i>Biraz hissettim</i>	<i>Hissettim</i>	<i>Çok hissettim</i>
1) Bugün, partnerinizden hoşlanma düzeyinizle ilgili ne kadar ikircikli / belirsiz hissettiniz?	1	2	3	4	5	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	7
Bu ifadede sizden istenen, partnerinizden hoşlanma düzeyiniz değil, partnerinizden hoşlanma düzeyinizle ilgili ne kadar ikircikli / belirsiz hissettiğiniz ve bu durumun sizin için ne kadar açık / belirli olduğudur. Bu sadece bir örnektir. Lütfen bu bölümü kapsayan soruları emin olma durumunuza göre cevaplayınız.							
Bugün partnerinize karşı olan duygularınızla ilgili ne kadar ikircikli / belirsiz hissettiniz? Hiç hissetmedim (1) Çok hissettim (7)							
Bugün partnerinizin size karşı olan duygularıyla ilgili ne kadar ikircikli / belirsiz hissettiniz? Hiç hissetmedim (1) Çok hissettim (7)							
Bugün partnerinizle olan ilişkinizin geleceği hakkında ne kadar ikircikli / belirsiz hissettiniz? Hiç hissetmedim (1) Çok hissettim (7)							
<b>Closeness</b>							
Bugün kendinizi partnerinize ne kadar yakın hissettiniz? Hiç hissetmedim (1) Çok hissettim (7)							
<b>Relationship Satisfaction</b>							
Bugün partnerinizle olan ilişkiniz hakkında ne kadar tatmin olmuş hissettiniz? Hiç hissetmedim (1) Çok hissettim (7)							
Bugün ilişkiniz sizi ne kadar mutlu etti? Hiç mutlu etmedi (1) Çok mutlu etti (7)							

**Perceived Partner Responsiveness**

Bugün eşiniz veya partneriniz sizi gerçekten ne kadar önemsediydi?  
Hiç önemsemedi (1) Çok önemsediydi (7)

Bugün eşiniz veya partneriniz sizin hislerinizi ne kadar anladı?  
Hiç anlamadı (1) Çok anladı (7)

Bugün eşiniz veya partneriniz sizi ne kadar takdir etti?  
Hiç takdir etmedi (1) Çok takdir etti (7)

**Daily Routine**

Bugün partneriniz ile birbirinizi gördünüz mü?  
Evet (1) Hayır (2)

Bugün partnerinizle birlikte yüz yüze zaman geçirdiniz mi?  
Evet (1) Hayır (2)

Bugün partneriniz ile birlikte yüz yüze olmasa bile çevrim içi platformlar aracılığıyla zaman geçirdiniz mi? (Telefon veya görüntülü konuşma gibi)  
Evet (1) Hayır (2)

Eğer birlikte zaman geçirdiyse ne yaptınız? Lütfen kısaca bahsediniz.

## APPENDIX 5: SUPPLEMENTARY ANALYSES OF STUDY 2

### 5.1. Participants

The number of individuals reach to the survey link was 970. However, we omitted some of these participants due to our inclusion and exclusion criteria (<https://osf.io/wujgx>). First, only individuals with a current romantic relationship could have participated in the study, thus, 29 participants without a romantic partner and 27 participants who didn't respond to the question were deleted from the data. We asked to write their own and partners' email addresses to receive daily diary questions. However, 100 participants didn't provide available email addresses and omitted from the analyses. To participate in the study, couples should have been together for at least 6 weeks (1.5 months). Two participants didn't meet the criteria and were deleted from the data. Then, 9 participants who completed the baseline survey less than 4 minutes (240 seconds) were excluded from the analyses. In parallel to the nature of the study, the partners of all these participants (4 participants) were also excluded from the baseline data if they had attended in the study. After another 22 participants were also excluded from the data as some of them participated in the study twice, some of them wrote the same email addresses for both partners and some of them did not provide any usable mail addresses. At last, 31 of the participants were also deleted from data because they completed or entered the baseline survey but their partners did not. In the preregistration document, we stated that if the number of same-sex couples is not adequate ( $N < 20$ ), they will be excluded from the analyses. Among 746 participants, 727 of them reported that their current romantic relationships were heterosexual. Nineteen of the participants indicated they are in a same-sex relationship. However, when we checked the sexes of these participants and their partners, we realized that 11 of 19 participants are in the opposite sexes with their partner. In other words, 11 participants did not mark their sexual orientation properly and only 8 participants (4 couples) had same-sex relationships. Thus, these 8 participants (4 couples) were excluded from the data and remained 11 participants were counted as heterosexual. The final sample was composed of 738 participants who were in an opposite-sex relationship (Female = 369). The mean age of the participants was 28.10 ( $SD = 10.99$ ; range from 18 to 89).

Six hundred eleven participants were living in the same city with their partners, whereas 127 of them had long-distance relationships. Two hundred ninety-eight individuals reported that they see each other at least one time or more each day, 285 see each other a few times each week, 127 see each other a few times each month, and 28 of them see each other a few times each year. Five hundred ninety-eight participants talk on the phone at least one time or more each day, 115 participants talk on the phone a few times each week, and 25 participants talk on the phone a few times each month.

Most of the respondents' highest education was high school ( $n = 376$ ), followed by a college or university degree ( $n = 272$ ), a graduate degree ( $n = 76$ ), middle school, or below ( $n = 14$ ). Most of the participants were bachelor ( $n = 520$ ), followed by married ( $n = 196$ ) and cohabiting ( $n = 22$ ). Four hundred forty-two participants were students and 296 of them were not. Two hundred eighty-one participants had a current job, whereas 457 were not working. Most of the participants ( $n = 551$ ) lived in big cities or metropolises for most of their lives which are followed by provinces ( $n = 111$ ), counties ( $n = 62$ ), and towns and villages ( $n = 14$ ).

The mean of political ideology was 39.86 ( $SD = 24.20$ ; range from 0 (“*very leftist*”) to 100 (“*very rightist*”)). The mean of religiosity was 48.92 ( $SD = 29.10$ ; range from 0 (“*I do not have any religious affiliation*”) to 100 (“*very religious*”)). The median income was 8 and mode was 11 ( $SD = 3.08$ ; range from 1 (“*1500 TL or below*”) to 12 (“*15.001 TL and above*”). The median of the subjective ladder question was 7 and mode was 7 ( $SD = 1.51$ ; range from 1 (“*bottom of the ladder*”) to 10 (“*top of the ladder*”)).

*Participants in Daily Diary:* In preregistration, we had additional inclusion/exclusion criteria for the daily diaries. From the 746 (373 couples; 369 heterosexual and 4 same-sex) participants attended the baseline survey data, 6 couples reported that they did not want to continue in the daily diary study after attending the baseline survey. Therefore, these 6 couples did not receive the diary questions although they completed the baseline questionnaire. Therefore, the daily diaries started with 367 couples. After starting the daily diary study, 4 couples did not want to continue in the following days (2 couples after the first day and 2 couples after the third day). Their email addresses were deleted from the email list and were not received the rest of the days. Thus, 363 couples were sent all of the questions for 14 days. As declared in preregistration, participants that completed daily

surveys at least 7 days were included in the analyses, and the participants who did not complete at least 7 common days were excluded from the dataset. Partners of excluded participants were also omitted from the data regardless they participated in more or less than 7 days. Accordingly, 40 couples were excluded from the analyses. Finally, 4 same-sex couples were also omitted from the sample as the number of same-sex couples was substantially smaller than opposite-sex couples preventing us to compare their similarities or differences. The remaining sample consisted of 319 couples ( $N = 638$ ; Female = 319).

**Table 5.1.** *Gender Differences in the Baseline Survey*

Variables	Female ( $n = 369$ )		Male ( $n = 366$ )		$t$	$P$
	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>		
Self Uncertainty	1.84	.96	1.60	.91	3.45***	.001
Partner Uncertainty	1.83	.92	1.86	1.08	-.35	.727
Relationship Uncertainty	1.87	.91	1.70	.91	2.62**	.009
Relational Uncertainty	1.85	.83	1.72	.87	2.06*	.039

\* $p < .05$ , \*\* $p < .01$ , \*\*\* $p = .001$ .



## APPENDIX 6: ETHICS COMMITTEE APPROVAL



1993

**BAŞKENT ÜNİVERSİTESİ**  
Akademik Değerlendirme Koordinatörlüğü



TSE-ISO 9001  
KALİTE SİSTEM BELGESİ



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**Konu** : Büşra Bahar Balcı'nın Etik Onay  
Başvurusu Hk.

17/02/2020

SOSYAL BİLİMLER ENSTİTÜSÜ MÜDÜRLÜĞÜNE

**İlgi** : 31/01/2020 tarih ve 4014 sayılı yazınız.

Enstitünüz Sosyal Psikoloji Tezli Yüksek Lisans Programı öğrencisi Büşra Bahar Balcı'nın, Dr. Öğretim Üyesi İlker Dalgar'ın danışmanlığında yürütmekte olduğu "The Association of Relational Uncertainty with Relationship Satisfaction and Perceived Partner Responsiveness: Moderation Role of Political Ideology" başlıklı yüksek lisans tez çalışması, Sosyal ve Beşeri Bilimler ve Sanat Araştırma Kurulunda değerlendirilmiş ve bilgilerinize ekte sunulmuştur.

**e-imzalıdır**

Prof. Dr. M. Abdülkadir VAROĞLU  
Kurul Başkanı

Ek : Değerlendirme Formu

**Bu belge 5070 sayılı Elektronik İmza Kanununun 5. Maddesi gereğince güvenli elektronik imza ile imzalanmıştır.**

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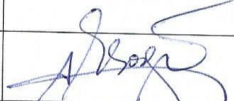
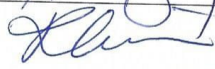
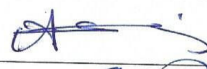

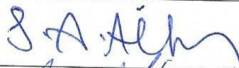


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Konu : Tez Çalışması

10 ŞUBAT 2020

### İlgili Makama

Üniversitemiz Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü Sosyal Psikoloji Tezli Yüksek Lisans Programı öğrencisi Büşra Bahar Balcı'nın, Dr. Öğretim Üyesi İlker Dalgar'ın danışmanlığında yürütmekte olduğu "The Association of Relational Uncertainty with Relationship Satisfaction and Perceived Partner Responsiveness: Moderation Role of Political Ideology" başlıklı yüksek lisans tez çalışması değerlendirilmiş ve yapılmasında bir sakınca olmadığı tespit edilmiştir. Bilgilerinize saygılarımızla sunarız.

### Başkent Üniversitesi Sosyal ve Beşeri Bilimler ve Sanat Araştırma Kurulu

Ad, Soyad	Değerlendirme	İmza
Prof. Dr. M. Abdülkadir Varoğlu	Olumlu/ <del>Olumsuz</del>	
Prof. Dr. Kudret Güven	Olumlu/ <del>Olumsuz</del>	
Prof. Ali Sevgi	Olumlu/ <del>Olumsuz</del>	
Prof. Dr. Işıl Bulut	Olumlu/ <del>Olumsuz</del>	
Prof. Dr. Sadegül Akbaba Altun	Olumlu/ <del>Olumsuz</del>	
Prof. Dr. Can Mehmet Hersek	Olumlu/ <del>Olumsuz</del>	
Prof. Dr. Özcan Yağcı	Olumlu/Olumsuz	

Prof. Dr. Sadegül Akbaba Altun, Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü Sosyal Psikoloji Tezli Yüksek Lisans Programı öğrencisi Büşra Bahar Balcı'nın, Dr. Öğretim Üyesi İlker Dalgar'ın danışmanlığında yürütmekte olduğu "The Association of Relational Uncertainty with Relationship Satisfaction and Perceived Partner Responsiveness: Moderation Role of Political Ideology" başlıklı yüksek lisans tez çalışmasını yapabileceğini; ancak, ölçek sahiplerinden izin alınması gerektiğini iletilmişlerdir.

Prof. Dr. Özcan Yağcı, Sosyal Psikoloji Tezli Yüksek Lisans Programı öğrencisi Büşra Bahar Balcı'nın, Dr. Öğretim Üyesi İlker Dalgar'ın danışmanlığında yürütmekte olduğu "The Association of Relational Uncertainty with Relationship Satisfaction and Perceived Partner Responsiveness: Moderation Role of Political Ideology" başlıklı yüksek lisans tez çalışmasına ait, içerik ve tasarımın başarılı olduğu görüşündeler.