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A study of the effects of social media on monogamous African American heterosexual relationships on the campus of Clark Atlanta University

Crystal N. Person
Clark Atlanta University

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ABSTRACT

SOCIAL WORK

PERSON, CRYSTAL N. B.A. CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY, 2005

A STUDY OF THE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON MONOGAMOUS AFRICAN AMERICAN HETEROSEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS ON THE CAMPUS OF CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY

Advisor: Ebony L. McGriff, PhD

Thesis dated May 2012

This study examines the relationship between social media websites like Facebook, Twitter, etc, and how the use of these websites can impact a Monogamous relationship on the campus of Clark Atlanta University. The study was based on the premise that too much social media use among couples will ultimately negatively impact a monogamous relationship. The results revealed that African Americans students who completed the survey do not believe that social media sites, like Facebook cause jealousy in relationships. When the chi square test was applied it indicated that there was no significant relationship (.218). The chi square test also indicated that there was no significant relationship (.524) between social media like Facebook and Twitter ending relationships.
A STUDY OF THE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON MONOGAMOUS
AFRICAN AMERICAN HETEROSEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS
ON THE CAMPUS OF CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY

A THESIS

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF WHITNEY M. YOUNG, JR., SCHOOL OF
SOCIAL WORK IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

BY

CRYSTAL N. PERSON

WHITNEY M. YOUNG, JR., SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
MAY 2012
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

Have you ever found yourself sitting on your computer, being productive, when all of a sudden, without thought you are on the Facebook website looking at your partner’s page. This phenomenon happens more frequently than one might imagine. Social media websites like Facebook give individuals access to every aspect of their partner. Things once kept secret, confined to an individual’s inner thoughts, are now visible to the whole world to see. With social networking sites like Facebook, netting millions of members and growing, it warrants some further research into this phenomena and what if any affects it can have on a monogamous relationship.

The increased usage of social media websites has placed a new strain on the stability of monogamous relationships. Social media websites have made accessibility to former significant others and potential new partners very easy, giving mates more opportunities to go astray. Social Networking Sites or SNS’s provide the ideal infrastructure for the maintenance of existing relationships and the development of new contacts (Tokunaga, 2011).

Social Networking Sites include Twitter, Facebook, Myspace, Friendster, etc. Social Network Sites are defined as web based services that allow individuals to construct a public or semi public profile within a bounded system, articulate a list of other
users with whom they share a connection, and lastly, view and traverse their list of connections and those made by others within the system (Tokunaga, 2011).

According to (Tokunaga, 2011) the use of social networking sites have harmed interpersonal relationships by providing a forum for negative events that result in relational strain to occur. The research further states that interpersonal jealousies, and distrust, for example, are unintended consequences of using SNS’s in romantic relationships.

Social media websites have many characteristics that can cause of magnify problems in relationships. (Tokunaga, 2011) states that there are three context characteristics that initiate negative events on SNS’s. The three characteristics are the equivocal nature of context-specific norms, the ambiguous notion of friends, and the reduced social presence.

In the past, during the pre-social media era that took place during the 90’s, one’s mate flirtatious behavior was kept at bay and separate from his/her partner. Musie, Christofides, and Desmarais (2009) stated that flirtatious gestures of interest or signs of subtle disregard remained entirely within a person’s own control, and partners in close relationships were often not subjected to the daily scrutiny of their exchanges with members of their social circle. Social network sites such as Facebook has created a fundamental shift in this practice.
Statement of the Problem

This study will show that prolonged social media usage on social media websites like Facebook, Twitter, and Myspace can rapidly change the nature of a monogamous relationship by giving mates access to their past lovers and potential new mates, whereas, before social media, access to these individuals were very limited to the physical contact one might encounter with these individuals. Overall, social media usage can ultimately have a negative effect on a monogamous relationship, especially where there are already issues with insecurity and jealousy among partners, ultimately leading to the demise of the romantic relationship. A couple’s exposure to social networking sites like Facebook is increasing which can cause serious complications in their romantic relationship. However, little is known about how their online world can interfere with their offline world.

While the romantic relationships only represent a small part of a person’s Facebook usage it is nevertheless the most public place a couple will represent themselves. Muise et al. (2009) found there was a correlation between the time a user spends on Facebook and relationship jealousy. According to Muise et al. (2009) Exposure to information about a romantic partner’s friends and social interactions may result in an environment that enhances jealousy.

Muise et al. (2009) found that Facebook usage assists in maintaining relationships that may otherwise be only ephemeral, and it may in fact connect people who would not otherwise communicate. In the context of romantic relationships, exposing one’s partner
to all of these individuals may be unknown to the partner, which can possibly increase the potential for jealousy and suspicion.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to explore the relationship between social media usage and the negative effects it can have on monogamous relationships among students on the campus of Clark Atlanta University.

Research Questions

The research questions of the study were as follows:

1. Is there a relationship between social media usage and negative effects on a monogamous relationship on the campus of Clark Atlanta University?

2. Is there a relationship between the use of social media websites and jealousy in monogamous relationships on the campus of Clark Atlanta University?

3. Is there a relationship between social media use and the dissolution of a monogamous relationship on the campus of Clark Atlanta University?

Hypothesis

The null hypothesis of the study is as follows:

1. There is a significant relationship between social media usage and conflicts in monogamous relationships on the campus of Clark Atlanta University.

2. There is a significant relationship between social media use and jealousy in partners.

3. There is a relationship between social media use and the dissolution of a relationship.
Significance of the study

According to Cumming, Butler, and Kraut (2000), people are using social media more heavily than ever for interpersonal communications. Students everywhere use social media to interact with their friends, family, and significant others. Due to having access to technology like cell phones, laptops, etc., students are able to access social media outlets in a matter of seconds, causing them to have more and more contact to their partners' online activities. Several variables affect the ability for social media to cause conflict in a monogamous relationship. Among the variables are how often a partner users social networking sites, if one partner has any insecurities, how often partners monitor their partners online activities, and the longevity and stability of the relationship are among the variables that can affect the couples ability to stay together even with prolonged social media usage. These variables can potentially cause negative feelings between individuals in a monogamous relationship causing the dissolution of their relationship if there is not a solid foundation.

The researcher believes that prolonged social media usage on social media websites like Facebook, Twitter, and Myspace can rapidly change the nature of a monogamous relationship by giving mates access to their past lovers and potential new mates, whereas, before social media, access to these individuals were very limited to the physical contact one might encounter with these individuals. Overall, social media usage can ultimately have a negative effect on a monogamous relationship, especially where there are already issues with insecurity and jealousy among partners, ultimately leading
to the demise of the romantic relationship. A couple's exposure to social networking sites like Facebook is increasing which can cause serious complications in their romantic relationship. However, little is known about how their online world can interfere with their offline world.

The researcher believes that prolonged social media usage amongst partners in a monogamous relationship on the campus of Clark Atlanta can cause severe problems in the relationship which can in turn lead to the dissolution of the relationship. This outcome can be avoided if both parties set parameters for social media usage in their relationship and share openly with their partners their feelings about their social media persona. Despite the fact that most couples are aware of the pitfalls of too much social media use, many refuse to stay away from the websites. This study is designed to see if prolonged social media use can cause a monogamous relationship to end.
CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The purpose of this literature review is to lay out a scholarly foundation to establish the basis for the outcome evaluation. This chapter is a review of the most current literature on the use of social media websites and how the use of these websites among couples can negatively affect the stability of their relationship. Due to social media websites being fairly new, research about how they can impact a relationship is fairly sparse, so there is a dearth of information on this topic. However this topic warrants further research since social media has become somewhat of the norm for everyone. This review will cover how too much social media being used in a relationship by one or both parties can result in their untimely breakup among college students on the campus of Clark Atlanta University.

This literature review will provide insight as to how social media use among couples who do not set up parameters within their relationship for its use can lead to a break up. According to Walter (1996) scholarly research and popular perception have held that computers are a nonverbal-impoverished “lean” medium (Daft & Lengel, 1984), which makes it challenging to create a sense of social presence and convey the interpersonal cues so important to creating and maintaining emotional closeness.
Historical Perspective

The evolution of Information Technology has resulted in innovations that have an increasing effect on the life of the average American. The new developments affect all aspects of one’s life, from how we work, where we work, and with whom we interact face to face or electronically with. According to a preliminary report done by Nie and Erbring (2000) the more time people spend using the internet the more they lose contact with their social environment. The effects of this are noticeable even with as little as 2-5 internet hours per week, the effect substantially rise for those spending more than 10 hours per week. Another statistic that is hardly shocking is the fact that internet users spend much less time talking to the phone to friends and family.

A key finding of the study is that “the more hours people use the internet, the less time they spend with real human being,” (Nie and Erbring, 2000). At the time of this study, this trend was shocking and the authors felt as though the trend needed to be monitored more closely. According to the authors internet could be the ultimate isolating technology that further reduces one’s participation in communities even more than television did before it. Of regular internet users, who use the net 5 or more hours a week, about one quarter report spending less time with family and friends, either in person or on the phone, and ten percent say they spend less time attending social events outside of the home.

This study was done 10 years ago when internet use was just beginning to flourish, today users spend more and more of their time online on social networking sites isolating them even more from their significant others, family and friends. The historical
data found in this study suggest that the shift from physical face to face contact to a less formal online contact can potentially make it harder to sustain a loving relationship (Nie and Erbring, 2000).

Social Media Network Sites Usage

Users of social networking sites seem to construct an ideal reality that they want to convey to the world. According to Zhao, Grasmuck, and Martin (2008) Facebook users are looking for friendships as well as romantic relationships among two types of people: those they know in person and those they do not know in person, unlike those who utilize internet dating sites to look for romantic relationships. A major function of Facebook is to help the users connect with those they already know and extend that connection to those they do not know yet. The authors hypothesized that Facebook users will engage in what people on internet dating sites were found doing.

One study found that there was support for a relationship between intimacy and relationship satisfaction, while post hoc analyses found a negative relationship between intimacy and perception of a partner’s use of online social networks. The study also found that intimacy mediates the relationship between online social network usage and overall relationship satisfaction (Hand, 2011).

In a similar study the impact of Facebook rituals was examined to see if they had an impact on romantic relationships. The study accomplished this task by comparing trends inside the rituals of the relationship status, public displays of affection and photographs on Facebook and how the previously mentioned variables can impact a relationship in the offline world by looking at the design and features of Facebook to see
how it can impact the emotional repertoire among couples. The study found that the website has the potential to provide a new focus and channel for a partner in a relationship to display where their relationship is going, feeling rules can be attached to certain rituals on the website. The study went on to suggest that by focusing on the relationship status option and public displays of affection, it was emphasized that these rituals accentuate themes of possession and territory and can be used to configure a couple’s superiority. Furthermore, the discussion on photographs that are on display on the Facebook website illustrated how the website can bring problems and jealousy to the relationship, particularly when an ex-partner was taken into account (Mod, 2010).

Does Facebook use bring out the green eyed monster in a relationship; does too much Facebook create jealousy and suspicion in romantic relationships? One study suggests that it can and does. The objective of the study was to explore the role that Facebook in the experience of jealousy and to determine if increased Facebook exposure predict jealousy. Three hundred eight undergraduate students completed online surveys which explored respondents Facebook use. This particular study revealed that increased Facebook use significantly predicted Facebook related jealousy. The researchers attributed this outcome to the fact that there was a feedback loop whereby using Facebook exposes people to ambiguous information about their partner that they may not otherwise have access to typically and that new information may possibly incite further Facebook use. In the end, this study provided evidence of Facebook’s contribution to the experience of jealousy in romantic relationships (Muise, 2009).
Trait jealousy is positively related to Social Networking Sites according to a similar study. Some predictors of Facebook jealousy scale address online monitoring behavior such as checking your partners profile on a regular basis or adding your partners friends to your own profile to keep tabs on your partner. It seems as if people who monitor their partner in various ways should be more likely to experience jealous when seeing rather harmless events such as public conversations of the partner on a social networking site with any person of the opposite sex. The researchers of this study argue that it is socially acceptable to visit your partner's profile, they argue that these sites provide an opportunity to unobtrusively monitor their partner without raising eyebrows. The results of the study indicated that about half of the participants admitted to engaging in monitoring behavior at least every know and then. Also about 35% of participants reported that they were likely to visit their partner's profiles regularly, while 30% reported that they would check their partners profile if they were suspicious, and another 30% reported they were likely to monitor the profile of the partner on a regular basis (Muise et.al 2000).

Just like the above study, the next study extended previous research by investigating further the link between Facebook intrusion, jealousy in romantic relationship, and relationship outcomes in a sample of undergraduates currently in a romantic relationship. Just like the previous study, a questionnaire was used. In the end the results highlighted the possibility of high levels of Facebook intrusion spilling over into romantic relationships, resulting in problems such as jealousy and dissatisfaction (Elphinston et al, 2011).
A similar study looked at the relationship between internet use and social relationships. The study utilized 117 participants aged 18 to 63 years old. The study results were as followed, time spent using social media was associated with a larger number of online social network friends. On the other hand, time spent using social media was not associated with larger offline networks, or feeling emotionally closer to offline network members. Interestingly, the study found that those who used social media, as opposed to non-users, did not have larger offline networks, and were not emotionally closer to offline network members (Pollet, 2011).

The recurring notion behind most of the research that I have found is that social network use is a substitute for face to face contact which can result in deteriorating relationship quality and decreased intimacy among its users. This present study differs from most in that the authors hypothesized that social media usage is not a substitute for face to face contact, rather an extension of communication with face to face partners. The study was administered to 183 college students who used Facebook and MySpace. The study confirmed that Facebook and MySpace do act as an extension of face to face interaction, but that some users do tend to rely on Facebook and MySpace for interpersonal communication more than face to face interaction (Kujath, 2011).

Significance of Monitoring Partners Online Activities

Another study looked at the relationship between monitoring versus stalking your partner. The study explored different behaviors to establish a pattern. The study found that 50 percent of the study participants reported doing the following behaviors to their partners without their prior knowledge: checking their partners cell phone call log, text
messages and photos, these partners also monitored comments and profiles of commenter’s on their partners MySpace of Facebook page. The study also found that 33 percent of participants reported checking their partner’s email without their knowledge (Reardon, 2007).

More research has been done on the idea of Facebook stalking of partners and former partners. Like the above study, another study examined whether individuals obsessively monitor or harass their ex-partners on Facebook and whether those individuals would also engage in cyber obsessional pursuit and obsessive relational pursuit, which are categories of cyber stalking and stalking. This study used 411 participants. The participants were asked questions about the way they communicate with their ex-partners on Facebook. Participants who admitted that they participate in some form of Facebook stalking of their former romantic partners also admitted to other types of stalking behaviors (Lyndon et.al, 2011).

One study’s findings investigated the negative (SNS jealousy) and positive (SNS relationship happiness) consequences of Social Network Sites use for romantic relationships. The authors examined whether relationship satisfaction, trait jealousy, SNS use and need for popularity predicted these emotional consequences of SNS use as well as testing the moderating role of self-esteem. For low-self-esteem individuals, SNS relationship happiness was determined by relationship satisfaction, but also by frequency of login. Throughout the study it was found that the need for popularity had a marginal positive effect. This further corroborates the assumption that low-self-esteem individuals compensate their low-self-esteem with the display of a happy relationship, and become
happier if they succeed in it. For high-self-esteem individuals, only SNS use for grooming contributed to SNS relationship happiness, indicating that SNS relationship happiness as well as SNS jealousy of high-self-esteem individuals is mainly based on the content encountered on the profiles of friends or the partner. In general, it was found that individuals were more likely to experience relationship happiness than to experience SNS jealousy. The study demonstrates that SNS have the potential to increase relationship satisfaction and happiness, because they allow for public demonstrations of affection and relationship commitment (Utz, 2011).

Longevity and Stability of Relationships

One study that was done examined college students’ expression of affection on Facebook. The researchers believed that expressions of affection are in part used to maintain and develop relationships. The study had a two-fold purpose, the first being to look at the way college students express affection to their friends on Facebook and identified gender differences in the amount of expressed affection and the perceived appropriateness of expressed affection through Facebook. The second part of the study was to examine the extent to which trait affection that is given is related to the amount of expressed affection and the perceived appropriateness of affection through Facebook. The undergraduate students identified 29 types of expressed affection through Facebook as well as complete the corresponding questionnaire. Results of the study supported prior affectionate communication research conducted in face to face contexts indicating that women are more likely to express affection and perceive expressions of affection through Facebook as more appropriate than men (Mansson, 2011).
The literature between mass media influences on one’s idea of self objectification and objectification of one’s partners are virtually nonexistent. However a study that examined these very variables attempted to address the gap in literature about this subject. The study participants were 91 women and 68 men who were enrolled at a university on the west coast. The study asked participants to complete self report measures of variables, some which include self objectification, partner objectification, relationship satisfaction, and exposure to objectifying media. The study found that men reported higher levels of partner objectification than women; the study also found that there was no gender difference in self objectification. Also, a path model revealed that consuming objectifying media is related to lowered relationship satisfaction through the variable of partner objectification (Zurbriggen, 2011).

Some of the literature examined the relationship between Facebook and the well being of college students. One study which did just that examined three distinct research questions, but for the purpose of this literature review, only one will be reviewed in detail. The questioned asked whether participant’s sex, partner sex, and relationship type associated with the extent to which face to face, telephone, and internet communication were used relative to one another. It was found that the sex of neither the participants nor their partners was associated with relational media use. Basically this means that women did not differ from men in the proportion of their relational communication they conducted online relative to face to face and telephone interaction. This data contradicts other studies’ findings that women were more likely than men to use the internet for relational communication. One explanation that could explain this is that college students
are fairly homogenous regarding availability of media, financial situation, and lifestyle, therefore the differences that might appear in other populations may not appear in this one. The study has several findings, first year students had a stronger emotional connection to and spent more time on Facebook while reporting that they had fewer friends than upper class students did. It was also found that the number of Facebook friends potentially hinders academic adjustment, and spending a lot of time on Facebook is related to low self esteem. Lastly, it was found that the number of Facebook friends and not the time spent on Facebook predicted college adjustment, suggesting the value of studying further the notion of Facebook friends (Kalpidou, 2011).

Although this study examined Taiwanese users, the information still offered some valid data to the topic at hand. The study examined if close relationships among partners resulted in more interaction on Facebook among Taiwanese users. The first part of the study investigated how users interact with their different friends. It was found that overall, users used less time and effort with newly added friends. The study also examined the behaviors in terms of their closeness and intimacy toward four different types of friends. Not surprisingly, the study found that users interacted more closely, intimately with closer friends. Lastly, it was found that perceived acquaintances with closer friends were significantly lower than those with less close friends. These findings imply that Facebook is a mechanism for new friends, rather than close friends to become more acquainted (Chiung-Wen et.al, 2011).

According to Bowen, (2011) relationship made in virtual space can be just as powerful and meaningful as those formed in the real world. The author believes that
social ties are being created, strengthened and even weakened in an unbelievable variety of ways. Someone with more that 3,000 Facebook friends probably has more than 2,000 shallow friendships, but there’s a tremendous amount of variety in that number, some of these friendships are viable clients, others may be service providers, others may be long term friend prospects, or secret crushes, or members of a social circle to which the person with 3,000 friendships wants access.

This study looked at the impact of the internet on people’s social relationship. The study looked at two components, the first thing the authors needed to know to successfully explore this topic is how computer mediated communication affects the quality of particular social interactions and relationships. The authors wanted to know if online relationships sustained better than, as good as, or inferior to those sustained by other means. The second type of evidence the authors needed to know was how computer mediated communication affects one’s mix of social interactions and relationships. Impacts of the internet is likely to be very different if it supplements communication with already established friends and family or if, instead, it substitutes for more traditional communication and traditional social ties. This particular study summarized evidence from several empirical studies, the one that looked at for the purpose of this thesis was survey of college students, which used the same methodology as the other studies, by focusing on personal relationships, replicated the same results. The end results of this research suggest that Internet is less effective than other means of forming and sustaining strong social relationships (Cummings et.al, 2000).
Afrocentric Perspective

The Afrocentric Perspective is grounded in Humanistic values. The Afrocentric perspective believes that blacks are leaders in the interpretation of the black experience reality and must therefore take the responsibility of defining it within the framework of objective reality. Thirdly the Afro-Centric Perspective provides reinforcement for continual sensitivities to the need for filtering all social, economic and political phenomena through this decontaminating screen, so as to understand the consequences both affectively and effectively on Blacks and other oppressed people. Examining the effects of social media on African American couples would require an understanding of how Blacks in general utilize social media in their daily lives and how much value is put on this particular outlet (Manning et.al, 2004).

A barrier with fully understanding the impact of social networking sites and their impact on African Americans is that very little research done on the African American population is that very little research done on African Americans is researched by African Americans. One article stated that those of African descent, usually have non African-Americans who are informed by outside influences speak to the realities of African American communities based on stereotypes that are usually irrelevant or inconsistent. One article points out a disturbing fact, that Afrocentric interpretation of the subject of research is absent in African American communities. The article suggests that as a result of these practices an alien imposed definition of the phenomenon, the research question, its solution, and its criteria for success. The article also stated the approach of Afrocentric
research is to center the question in the lived experience of the African peoples (Davis, Williams, Akinyela, 2009).

According to Schiele, (2000) "when the Afrocentric perspective is applied to social work research, such a perspective can help generate information on the implication of human behavior and social events in the lives of people of African descent". If the Afrocentric approach is taken into account, culturally meaningful constructs can emerge and become part of the research agenda.

Theoretical Framework

The theory of planned behavior assumes that rational considerations govern the choices and behaviors of individuals. Specifically, according to a precursor of this theory, called the theory of reasoned action, behavior is determined by the intentions of individuals--their explicit plans or motivations to commit a specific act. For example, intention to quit smoking refers to an explicit commitment to this abstinence. Facebook has become a new method for partners to monitor each others' activities. Unfortunately, there is little known about Facebook Monitoring taking place in romantic relationships, as well as the psychological predictors of this type of behavior (Darvell et.al, 2011).

This study utilized an extended theory of planned behavior framework, which included self esteem, partner trust, and demographic characteristics to predict partner monitoring on Facebook. In this study Facebook users completed measures assessing the standard TBD constructs, and demographic characteristics. The following week participants reported their level of Facebook partner monitoring during the previous week. The study found partner trust, but not self esteem, significantly predicted frequent
Facebook partner monitoring intentions. The study also found that daily Facebook logins predicted both intentions and behavior and, unexpectedly, relationship length directly affected behavior. The results from this study offered a new understanding of an individual’s use of Facebook, which has become in the last few years the world’s leading social networking site. The study will provide a foundation for future studies to take place (Darvell et al., 2011).

Social Exchange Theory states that all relationships have give and take, although the balance of this exchange is not always equal. Social Exchange Theory explains how we feel about a relationship with another person depending on our perception of the balance between what we put into the relationship and what we get out of it, the kind of relationship we deserve, the chances of having a better relationship with someone else.

Kurt Lewin, a noted social psychologist was the first to make a theoretical analysis of jealousy. Lewin (as cited in Buunk, 1991) noted that jealousy is easily aroused in marital relationships because of the overlapping region in the life spaces of partners and because of the tendency for love to be all inclusive. Social Exchange Theory offers a very broad perspective on human behavior, it also shares the basic premise that individuals form and maintain close relationships in light of the rewards these relationships offer (Burgess & Huston, 1979). Relationships tend to be more satisfying and stable when the outcomes for each partner (rewards, punishments, and cost) are more or less equal (Brunk, 1991).
CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

Chapter III presents the methods and procedures that were used in conducting the outcome evaluation. The following are described: research design, description of the site, sample and population, treatment of data, and limitations of the study.

Research Design

For the purpose of this study, a dichotomous exploratory research design was used. Exploratory research is a type of research conducted for a problem that has not been clearly defined. For the purpose of this study, the relationship between social networking sites and jealousy evoking behavior is a phenomenon that has not been clearly defined as a problem; therefore, exploratory research design was the best choice for this study.

Similarly in the study, qualitative design was used. Qualitative research is all about exploring issues, understanding phenomena, and answering questions. As it relates to this study, the qualitative design will seek to answer several research questions, the first being, Is there a relationship between social media usage and conflicts in monogamous relationships on the campus of Clark Atlanta University? The second question the qualitative research design will seek to answer is, is there a relationship between the use of social media websites, like Facebook and jealousy among monogamous relationships on the campus of Clark Atlanta University?
Lastly, it will seek to answer, is there a relationship between social media use and the dissolution of monogamous relationships on the campus of Clark Atlanta University.

Description of the Site

The study was conducted on the 1st floor in the Carl and Mary Ware Building lounge area on the campus of Clark Atlanta University. This site was selected because many students congregate here due to the amenities this location offers to the students. The site location is wireless ready and it offers a coffee bar where students can purchase and enjoy snacks. This particular site is an alternative to the library and student center, which are both common areas for students to hang out. This location was chosen because students can speak openly as opposed to the library where students are required to whisper. In this particular location on campus, the students appear to be more laid back and in a relaxed mood. This location also offered plenty of tables and chairs for the students to sit comfortably to fill out the questionnaire, as well as large windows for the students to enjoy the view of the campus.

Sample and Population

The non probability technique known as convenience sampling was employed for this study. Convenience sampling is simply selecting individuals who are convenient for the researcher to reach. The sampling frame included 43 undergraduate and graduate students on the campus of Clark Atlanta University. The campus of Clark Atlanta University had a total student enrollment of 3127 undergraduate students and 716 graduate students. Of the students enrolled, 45 percent are Georgia students, while 53
percent of the student body comes from out of state, with Caribbean Islands and more than 15 foreign countries represent 2 percent of the student body.

As students entered the research location, the researcher approached students and explained the study. The researcher then asked the potential participants 3 qualifying questions to ensure that they were appropriate to participate in the study. The students were asked if they identified themselves as African American, if they were in a relationship, and lastly if they or/and their partner were active on any social networking sites. Based on their response students were either included or excluded from participating in the survey.

The population for the purpose of this study included 42 undergraduate and graduate African American students who identified themselves as being in a relationship on the campus of Clark Atlanta University. The sample was a convenience sample of students aged 18-35 that were on the campus of Clark Atlanta University. Each participant was asked if they were in a relationship and used social media websites in order to ensure that only those who used social media websites would participate. A total of 42 students participated in the survey.

Instrumentation

The study utilized a questionnaire of 23 questions to collect data. The survey was entitled A Study of the Effects of Social Media on Monogamous African American Heterosexual Relationships on the Campus of Clark Atlanta University. The instrument included two sections, demographic, which consist of age, relationship status, and education. The second portion of the instrument included questions designed to get the
participants opinions concerning social media and its impact on their past and current monogamous relationships. Section 2 included questions such as, do you think it is a problem for your partner to “friend” one of his/her ex’s on Facebook, or how frequently do you check your partners Facebook page. Participants were asked yes or no questions for some questions, while additional questions asked more detailed questions.

A completed questionnaire was obtained from each participant. The questionnaire was administered to students who were sitting in a lounge in the Carl and Mary Ware building on the campus of Clark Atlanta University. The survey was designed to be analyzed by the Statistical Package for Social Services (SPSS).

Treatment of Data

Data was collected and analyzed by the Statistical Package for Social Services (SPSS). The analysis utilized descriptive statistics, which included measures of frequencies. A demographic profile was developed on the participants.

Limitation of the Study

There were several limitations for this study. The first limitation was that gender information was not obtained on the participants; therefore, the researcher could not analyze gender differences amongst participants which limited the study’s results. By not researching gender differences, the researcher limited the amount of data that could have been used to support or disprove the hypothesis for the study. Another limitation was that the study was only conducted on the campus of Clark Atlanta University which limited the sample of participants greatly because the researcher could only distribute the survey to willing participants. The study was limited to the campus so that the researcher
could reach a specific demographic population. The population that the researcher wanted to reach was undergraduate and graduate students. This population was chosen because research shows that the largest populations of users who access social networking sites on a regular consistent basis are that population. If the study was not so restrictive, and more inclusive, the researcher could have researched different nationalities and included a wider age range as well. Lastly, the researcher defined social media as social networking sites, which are web based services that allow individuals to construct a public or semi public profile within a bounded system; these include, but were not limited to Facebook, Myspace, Twitter. However due to social media websites being fairly new, research on these sites and how they can impact a relationship is fairly sparse, so there was a dearth of information on the topic. This greatly limited the researcher's ability to thoroughly research the topic
graduate degree. Of the students surveyed (30.2%) identified themselves as single, (11.6%) dating casually, (46.5%) committed relationship, (7.0%) married, and (4.7%) identified themselves as divorce. (100%) identified themselves as African American/Black.

Table 1 is a profile of the study participants. It presents the frequency distribution of the demographic variables.

Table 1
Demographic Profile of Study Participants (N=43)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-21</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>42.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-25</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>26.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-30</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 and older</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>41.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelors</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Coursework</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>41.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Degree</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>31.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dating Casually</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committed Relationship</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>45.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The chart above analyzes four variables which are age, education, relationship status, and ethnicity. In the table above 42.9 percent of those surveyed identified themselves as being in the age range of 18-21, and 26.2 percent identified themselves as being in the age group of 22-25, 14.3 percent identified themselves as being in the age range of 26-30, while 16.2 percent identified themselves as being in the age range of 31 and older. The next variable that was analyzed was education. Of those surveyed 40.5 percent identified themselves as having some education, 11.9 percent identified themselves as having a bachelors degree, 40.5 percent identified themselves as having completed some graduate coursework, while 4.8 percent reported that they had a graduate degree. The next variable that was analyzed was relationship status. 31.0 percent reported that they are single, 11.9 reported that they were dating casually, 45.2 percent identified themselves as being in a committed relationship, 7.1 percent identified themselves as married, while just 4.8 percent identified themselves as being divorced. The final variable that was analyzed was ethnicity. Of those students surveyed, 100 percent of the students identified themselves as African American/Black.
Table 2

Do I have a Facebook account

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>97.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>43</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 is a frequency distribution of 42 students who were asked if they had a Facebook account. As indicated in the table, 97.6 percent of students reported that they do in fact have a Facebook account; only 2.4 percent reported not having a Facebook account.

Table 3

Does your partner have a Facebook account

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>70.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>24.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Do Not Know</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 is a frequency distribution of 43 students indicating if their partner has a Facebook account. In the table above 70.7 percent of those surveyed reported that their partner has a Facebook account, 24.4 percent stated that their partner does not have a Facebook account, 4.9 percent reported that they do not know if their partner has a Facebook account.

Table 4

Is your relationship status currently displayed on your profile on Facebook

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>45.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>54.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4 is a frequency distribution of 43 participants of the survey who reported if their relationship status was displayed on their profile page on Facebook. The study revealed that 45.2 % of the participants replied yes, their relationship status was on display on their page, and 54.8 % replied that their relationship status was displayed on their Facebook profile page.
Table 5

If No, Why

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Person</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>23.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Business</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>28.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>47.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>22</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5 is a frequency distribution of the reasons participants reported for not listing their relationship status on their personal Facebook page. The above tables shows that 23.8 percent of those surveyed stated that they are a private person, 28.6 percent stated that they did not want other in their personal business and 47.6 percent chose other as their choice.
Table 6

If yes, what is your relationship status listed as

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In a relationship with</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>31.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In a relationship</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>27.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Its Complicated</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married too</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>22.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>22</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6 is a frequency distribution of the 43 students on the campus of Clark Atlanta University who listed what their relationship status is listed as on their Facebook page. In the above table 31.8 percent stated that they are in a relationship with, 27.3 percent stated that they are in a relationship, choosing to leave off their partners name, 9.1 percent listed their relationship status as its complicated, 4.5 percent relationship status is displayed as married, 4.5 percent stated married too, and 22.7 percent has their relationship status listed as single.
Table 7

How long have you and your partner been together

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 6 months</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year to 3 years</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>56.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 to 5 years</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 5 years</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>32</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7 is a frequency distribution of 43 students on the campus of Clark Atlanta University. In the above table 25 percent reported that they have been with their partner for less than six months, 56.3 percent reported that they have been with their partner for 1 year to 3 years, 9.4 percent reported that they have been with their partner for 3 to 5 years, and 9.4 percent reported that they have been with their partner for over 5 years.
Table 8

Are you friends with your partner on Facebook

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>58.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>41.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 8 is a frequency distribution of 43 college students who reported whether or not they are friends with their partner on Facebook. Of those surveyed, 58.3 percent stated yes, that they are friends with their partners on Facebook, while 41.7 stated that they were not friends with their partner on Facebook.

Table 9

Have you ever felt jealous about a conversation your partner has had with someone of the opposite sex on their page.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>47.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>52.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 9 is a frequency distribution of 4 college students on the campus of Clark Atlanta University who participate in the survey. Of those surveyed, 50 percent of those surveyed stated yes that they have felt jealous over a conversation that their partner has had with someone of the opposite sex, 50 percent responded no that they have not felt jealous about a conversation that their partner has had with someone of the opposite sex.

Table 10

Has your partner ever displayed jealousy about a conversation you have had with someone of the opposite sex on your Facebook page

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>47.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>52.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 10 is a frequency distribution of 43 students on the campus of Clark Atlanta University. Of the 42 students surveyed 47.4 percent stated yes, their partners have displayed jealousy about a conversation they have had with someone of the opposite sex on their Facebook page, 52.6 percent responded no, that their partner has not displayed jealousy over a conversation on their page with someone of the opposite sex.
Table 11

Do you feel as though social media like Facebook contribute to conflict amongst couples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>53.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>39.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>43</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 11 is a frequency distribution of 43 students on the campus of Clark Atlanta University. Of the 42 students that were surveyed 53.5 responded yes, they do feel as though social media websites like Facebook contribute to conflict amongst couples, 7.0 percent responded no, they do not feel as though social media like Facebook contribute to conflict among couples, and 39.5 percent responded somewhat, they feel as though social media like Facebook contribute to conflict amongst couples.
Table 12

Do you think social media sites like Facebook make it easier for people in relationships to cheat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>35.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>26.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>38.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 12 is a frequency distribution of the 43 participants in the study and if they felt like social media sites like Facebook make it easier for people in relationships to cheat. Of those surveyed 35.7 percent stated that they do feel as though social media use makes it easier to cheat, 26.2 percent did not agree, responding no, and 38.1 percent responded somewhat to the survey question.
Table 13

Do you think it is a problem for your partner to friend one of his/her ex’s on Facebook

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>23.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>46.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>30.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>43</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 13 is a frequency distribution of 43 students on the campus of Clark Atlanta University. Of those surveyed 23.3 percent thought that it is a problem for their significant other to friend their ex on Facebook. 46.5 percent responded no, it is not a problem to friend an ex, and 30.2 percent responded somewhat to the survey question.

Table 14

Are you friends with any of you ex’s on Facebook

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>85.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>42</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 14 is a frequency distribution of 43 students, the students were asked if they are friends with any of their ex’s of Facebook. Of the students surveyed 85.7 stated that they are friends with their ex’s on Facebook, and 14.3 of them responded no, they are not friends with any of their ex’s on Facebook.

Table 15
Is your partner friends with any of his/her ex’s on Facebook

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>70.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>29.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 15 is a frequency distribution of 43 college students on the campus of Clark Atlanta University. The students were asked if their partner was friends with his/her ex on Facebook. Of the 42 students surveyed, 70.3 percent reported yes, their partner was friends with their ex on Facebook. Of those surveyed 29.7 responded no, their partner was not friends with their ex on Facebook.
Table 16

How frequently do you check your partners Facebook page

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Once a day</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A few time a day</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every other day</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>23.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>53.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>31</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above table is a frequency distribution of 43 students. The students were asked how frequently they check their partners Facebook page. Of the students who responded to the question, 2.6 percent reported that they check their partners page once a day, 11.6 percent reported that they check their partners page a few times a day, 23.3 percent reported that they check their partners page every other day. Finally, 53.5 percent reported that they never check their partner’s page.
Table 17

Have you or your partner ever gotten into an argument over comments made by a third party on his/her page

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>35.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>65.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 17 is a frequency distribution of 43 students who answered the question of whether or not they got into an argument with their partner about comments that were made by a third party on their page. Of the 43 participants, 35 percent responded yes, while 65 percent responded no.

Table 18

Do you have a twitter account

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>62.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>37.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 18 is a frequency distribution of the 42 students. 63.4 percent of the students responded yes, they do have a twitter account, while 35.7 percent reported that they do not have a twitter account.

Table 19

Does your partner have a twitter account

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>44.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>42.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not know</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 38 100.0

Table 19 is a frequency distribution of 43 students. Students were asked if their partner has a twitter account. 44.7 percent responded yes, 42.1 percent responded no, and 13.2 percent responded I do not know.

Table 20

Do you follow your partner on Twitter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>28.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>71.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 35 100.0
Table 20 is a frequency distribution of 43 students. The students were asked if they followed their partner on Twitter. Of the students surveyed, 28.6 percent responded yes, while 71.4 responded no, they do not follow their partner on Twitter.

Table 21

Does your partner follow you on Twitter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>30.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>69.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 21 is a frequency distribution of 43 students on the campus on Clark Atlanta University. Of those students surveyed 30.6 percent responded yes, they do follow their partner on Twitter, while 69.4 percent responded no, they did not follow their partner on Twitter.

Table 22

Has subtweeting caused conflict in your relationship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>83.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The above table is a frequency distribution of 43 students on the campus of Clark Atlanta University. Of the 43 students surveyed 16.7 percent responded yes, subtweeting has caused conflict in their relationship, while 83.3 percent responded no, subtweeting has not caused conflict in their relationship.

Table 23

Do you feel as though Facebook and or twitter end relationships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>25.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>27.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>46.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 23 is a frequency distribution of 43 students. Of the 43 students that were surveyed, 25.6 percent responded yes, Facebook and or Twitter does end relationships, 27.9 responded no, while 46.5 responded somewhat.
Table 24

Has Facebook or Twitter ever been the cause for the dissolution of your relationship or a past relationship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>25.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>74.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 43 100.0

Table 24 is a frequency distribution of 43 students on the campus of Clark Atlanta University. Of those surveyed 25.6 percent responded yes, Facebook or Twitter has caused the dissolution of their relationship, while 74.4 percent responded no.

Research Questions and Hypothesis

Research Question 1: Is there a relationship between social media usage and conflict on monogamous relationships on the campus of Clark Atlanta University?

Hypothesis 1: There is a significant relationship between social media usage and conflicts in monogamous relationships on the campus of Clark Atlanta University.
Table 25

Cross tabulation of relationship status by social media and conflict in relationships (N=43)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relationship Status</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Somewhat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>30.4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dating Casually</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committed Relationship</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>39.1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chi Square=0.620  df 8

Table 25 indicates that of the 43 students surveyed, 30.4 percent of those who identified themselves as single responded yes, social media does in fact cause conflict in relationships, 33.3 of the identified singles responded no, and 29.4 percent of those identified as single responded somewhat. The table also reveals that 21.7 percent of those who identified themselves as dating casually responded yes, social media does cause conflict amongst couples. Of those surveyed who identified themselves as in a committed relationship, 39.1 responded yes, social media does cause conflict amongst couples, 66.2 percent responded no, and 52.9 responded yes. Of the participants who identified themselves as married, 4.3 percent responded yes and 11.8 percent responded somewhat. 4.3 percent of those who identified themselves as divorced responded yes, while 5.9
percent responded somewhat. When the chi square test was applied the null hypothesis was rejected. As the table shows, the chi square indicated that there was no significant relationship (.620) between social media causing conflict amongst couples at the .05 level of probability.

Research Question 2: Is there a relationship between the use of social media websites, like Facebook and jealousy in partners.

Hypothesis 2: There is a significant relationship between social media website use, like Facebook and jealousy in partners.

Table 26 is a cross tabulation of social media website of social media website use like Facebook and whether it can lead to jealousy among partners. The table shows the relationship between the two variables and indicates if there is a relationship between the two.
Table 26

Cross tabulation of relationship status and social media websites, like Facebook and jealousy in relationships (N=43)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Media and Jealousy in Relationships</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>#</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>38.9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dating Casually</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committed Relationship</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>50.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chi Square = .218  df 4

Table 26 indicates that of the nine who identified themselves as single, 38.9 percent responded yes, social media causes jealousy in relationships, while 15.0 percent responded no. 11.1 percent of those identified as dating casually responded yes, and 15.0 percent responded no. 50 percent of those who identified as in a committed relationship, responded yes, and 50 of those responded no. Of the married participants, 10 percent responded no, and those who identified as divorced, 10 percent of them responded no as well. When the chi square test was applied, the null hypothesis was supported. The chi square test indicated that there was no significant relationship (.218) between social media sites causing jealous feelings in partners.
Research Question 3: Is there a relationship between social media use leading to the dissolution of a relationship?

Hypothesis: There is a relationship between social media usage and the dissolution of a relationship.

Table 27

Cross tabulation of relationship status by social media ending relationships (N=43)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Media Ending Relationships</th>
<th>Yes #</th>
<th>Yes %</th>
<th>No #</th>
<th>No %</th>
<th>Somewhat #</th>
<th>Somewhat %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>36.4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>35.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dating Casually</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committed Relationship</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chi Square = .524  df8

Table 27 indicates that of the 43 survey participants, 36.4 percent of those who identified themselves as single responded yes that social media like Facebook or Twitter does end relationships, 16.4 percent responded no, and 35.0 percent responded somewhat. 9.1 percent of those who responded as dating casually responded yes, and 20.0 percent responded somewhat. Of those who identified as being in a committed relationship, 36.4 percent responded yes, and 66.7 percent responded no, while 40.0 percent responded
somewhat. 9.1 percent of married participants responded yes, while 8.3 percent responded no, and 5.0 percent responded somewhat. Lastly, of those who identified as being divorced, 9.1 percent responded yes that they do feel as if social media ends relationships and 8.3 percent of those responded no. The Chi square test indicates that there was no significant relationship (.524) between social media like Facebook and Twitter ending relationships. Therefore the null hypothesis was rejected.
CHAPTER IV
PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

The purpose of this chapter is to present the findings of the survey questionnaire for the effects of social media on African American relationships. The survey was distributed to the students on the campus of Clark Atlanta University to who identified themselves as currently being in a relationship and those students who stated they were in a previous relationship where social media contributed to conflict within their relationship. This chapter will present the findings into two sections: demographic data and research question and hypothesis.

Demographic Data

A demographic profile was developed of the study participants. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the following: age, education, relationship status, and ethnicity.

The study population was a sample of 43 students on the campus of Clark Atlanta University between the ages of 18 to 31 and older. Of the sample population surveyed, (40.5%) indicated that they had some education, (11.9%) indicated that they had a bachelors, (42.9%) reported that they had some graduate coursework, (4.8%) had a
CHAPTER V
CONCLUSION

The study was designed to find out if social media use influences African American couples on the campus of Clark Atlanta University. The study analyzed the target population which included undergraduate and graduate students on the campus of Clark Atlanta University and answered three research questions. The conclusions and recommendation will be included in this chapter.

Research Question: Is there a relationship between social media usage causing negative effects on a Monogamous Relationship on the campus of Clark Atlanta University?

In order to determine if there was any relationship between social media usage causing conflict amongst couples on the campus of Clark Atlanta University a cross tabulation of the two variables were tabulated. The chi square indicated that there was no significant relationship (.620) between social media causing conflict amongst couples at the .05 level of probability.

Research Question 2: Is there a relationship between the use of social media websites, like Facebook causing jealousy in partners.

To determine if there was a relationship between social media use causing jealousy in partners. The chi square test indicated that there was no significant relationship (.218) between social media sites causing jealous feelings in partners.
Research Question 3: Is there a relationship between social media use leading to the dissolution of a relationship?

To determine if there was a relationship between social media use leading to the dissolution of a relationship. The Chi square test indicates that there was no significant relationship (.524) between social media like Facebook and Twitter ending relationships.

Implications for Social Work Practice

The results of this study provided insight into social media websites and how they can potentially impact a relationship. While the hypothesis for this study was not supported, further research into this topic in warranted. The findings of this study would suggest that social workers begin to embrace technology and move themselves to the forefront of this new era. By embracing technology, social workers would be able to educate clients and make client interaction easier. Social workers using social media as a marketing strategy is a option that should be considered by all social workers entering the field as well as those who are not as proficient in technology as research suggest that society is moving into a new technological era. Social workers can also use technology to reach a geographical clientele that was once not available to them, even conducting therapy sessions with the use of modern technology like skype.

As a result of the findings of this study, the researcher is recommending the following:

1. A larger sample of participants would add to the outcome of the research.
2. Use participants from all over the city of Atlanta to reach a diverse population
3. Explore gender differences in the results
APPENDICES
Appendix A: Survey Questionnaire

A Study of the effects of Social Media on Monogamous African American Heterosexual Relationships on the campus of Clark Atlanta University

Section I: Background
Please circle the letter next to the appropriate item. Choose only one answer

Age
a. 18-21
b. 22-25
c. 26-30
d. 31 and older

Education
a. some college
b. Bachelors
c. some Graduate coursework
d. Graduate degree

Relationship Status
a. single
b. dating casually
c. committed relationship
d. married
e. divorced

Section II- The following questions are designed to get your opinion on the effects of social media on Monogamous African American Heterosexual relationships

1. Do you have a Facebook account?
   a. yes
   b. no

2. Does your partner have a Facebook account?
   a. yes
b. no
c. I do not know

3. Is your relationship status currently displayed on your profile on Facebook?
   a. yes
   b. no

4. If no, why?
   a. private person
   b. did not want people in my personal business
   c. caused too much conflict between me and my partner
   d. other

5. If yes, what is your relationship status listed as?
   a. in a relationship with_______
   b. in a relationship
   c. It's complicated with_______
   d. It’s complicated
   e. engaged
   f. engaged to_______
   g. married_______
   h. married to_______
   i. single
   J. in a domestic partnership
   k. in a domestic partnership with_______
   l. in a civil union
   m. in a civil union with_______

6. How long have you and your partner been together?
   a. less than 6 months
   b. 1 year to 3 years
   c. 3 to 5 years
   d. over 5 years

7. Are you “friends” with your partner on Facebook?
   a. yes
   b. no

8. Have you ever felt jealous about a conversation your partner has had with someone of the opposite sex on his page?
9. Has your partner ever displayed jealousy about a conversation you have had with someone of the opposite sex on your Facebook page?
   a. yes
   b. no

10. Do you feel as though social media sites like Facebook contribute to conflict amongst couples?
    a. yes
    b. no
    c. somewhat

11. Do you think social media websites like Facebook make it easier for people in relationships to cheat?
    a. yes
    b. no
    c. somewhat

12. Do you think it is a problem for your partner to “friend” one of his/her ex’s on Facebook?
    a. yes
    b. no
    c. somewhat

13. Are you friends with any of your ex’s on Facebook?
    a. yes
    b. no

14. Is your partner friends with any of his/her ex’s on Facebook?
    a. yes
    b. no

15. How frequently do you check your partner’s Facebook page?
    a. once a day
    b. a few times a day
    c. every other day
16. Have you or your partner ever gotten into an argument over comments made by a third party on his/her page?
   a. yes
   b. no

17. Do you have a Twitter account?
   a. yes
   b. no

18. Does your partner have a Twitter account?
   a. yes
   b. no
   c. I do not know

19. Do you follow your partner on Twitter?
   a. yes
   b. no

20. Does your partner follow you on Twitter?
   a. yes
   b. no

21. Has “Subtweeting” caused conflict in your relationship?
   a. yes
   b. no

22. Do you feel as though Facebook and/or Twitter ends relationships?
   a. yes
   b. no
   c. somewhat

23. Has Facebook or Twitter ever been the cause for the dissolution of your relationship or a past relationship?
   a. yes
   b. no
Appendix B: SPSS Output

TITLE 'SOCIAL MEDIA EFFECTS'.

DATA LIST FIXED/
  ID       1-3
  AGE      4
  EDUCATE  5
  RELATION 6
  FBACCT   7
  PTFBACT  8
  RELSTAT  9
  WHY      10
  YESWHY   11
  HWLONG   12
  PRTFRIEND 13
  JEALOUSY 14
  PRTJEALO 15
  SMCONFLI 16
  EASYCHT  17
  EXFRND   18
  YOUSEXFRND 19
  ISEXFRND 20
  HOWFRQT  21
  TRDPRTY  22
  TWITTER  23
  PRTTWITR 24
  FOLWPRT  25
  PRTFLYOU 26
  SUBTWEET 27
  FBTWEND  28
  DISSOLU  29.

VARIABLE LABELS
  ID       'CASE'
  AGE      'Q1 My age group'
  EDUCATE  'Q2 Education'
  RELATION 'Q3 My relationship status'
  FBACCT   'Q4 Do you have a facebook account'

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PTFBACT ‘Q5 Does your partner have a Facebook account’
RELSTAT ‘Q6 Is your relationship status currently displayed on your profile on Facebook’
WHY ‘Q7 If no, why’
YESWHY ‘Q8 If yes, what is your relationship status listed as’
HWLONG ‘Q9 How long have you and your partner been together’
PRTFRIEND ‘Q10 Are you friends with your partner on Facebook’

JEALOUSY ‘Q11 Have you ever felt jealous about a conversation your partner has had with someone of the opposite sex on his page’
PRTJEALO ‘Q12 Has your partner ever displayed jealousy about a conversation you have had with someone of the opposite sex on your Facebook page’
SMCONFLI ‘Q13 Do you feel as though social media like Facebook contribute to conflict amongst couples’
EASYCHT ‘Q14 Do you think social media websites like Facebook make it easier for people in relationships to cheat’
EXFRND ‘Q15 Do you think it is a problem for your partner to friend one of his/her ex’s on Facebook’
YOUEXFRND ‘Q16 Are you friends with any of your ex’s on Facebook’
ISEXFRND ‘Q17 Is your partner friends with any of his/her ex’s on Facebook’
HOWFRQT ‘Q18 How frequently do you check your partner’s Facebook page’
TRDPRTY ‘Q19 Have you or your partner ever gotten into an argument over comments made by a third party on his/her page’
TWITTER ‘Q20 Do you have a Twitter account’
PRTTWITR ‘Q21 Does your partner have a Twitter account’
FOLWPRT ‘Q22 Do you follow your partner on Twitter’
PRTFLYOU ‘Q23 Does your partner follow you on Twitter’
SUBTWEET ‘Q24 Has subtweeting caused conflict in your relationship’
FBTWEND ‘Q25 Do you feel as though Facebook and or Twitter ends relationships’
DISSOLU ‘Q26 Has Facebook or Twitter ever been the cause for the dissolution of your relationship or a past relationship’

VALUE LABELS
AGE
1 ‘18-21’
2 ‘22-25’
3 ‘26-30’
4 ‘31 and older’
EDUCATE
1 ‘Some Education’
2 ‘Bachelors’
3 'Some Graduate Coursework'
4 'Graduate Degree' /

RELATION
1 'Single'
2 'Dating Casually'
3 'Committed Relationship'
4 'Married'
5 'Divorced'

FBACCT
1 'Yes'
2 'No'

PTFBACT
1 'yes'
2 'no'
3 'I Do Not Know'

RELSTAT
1 'yes'
2 'no'

WHY
1 'Yes'
2 'No'

YESWHY
1 'In a Relationship with
2 'In a Relationship
3 'Its complicated with
4 'Its complicated
5 'Engaged'
6 'Engaged to'
7 'Married'
8 'Married to'
9 'Single'
10 'In a Domestic Partnership'
11 'In a Domestic Partnership With'
12 'In a Civil Union'
13 'In a Civil Union with'

HWLONG
1 'less than 6 months'
2 '1 year to 3 years'
3 '3 to 5 years'
4 'Over 5 years'

PRTFRIEN
1 'Yes'
2 'No'
JEALOUSY
   1 'Yes'
   2 'No'/
PRTJEALO
   1 'Yes'
   2 'No'/
SMCONFLI
   1 'Yes'
   2 'No'
   3 'Somewhat'/
EASYCHT
   1 'Yes'
   2 'No'
   3 'Somewhat'/
EXFRND
   1 'Yes'
   2 'No'
   3 'Somewhat'/
YOUEXFND
   1 'Yes'
   2 'No'/
ISEXFRND
   1 'Yes'
   2 'No'/
HOWFRQT
   1 'Once a Day'
   2 'A Few Times a Day'
   3 'Every Other Day'
   4 'Never'/
TRDPRTY
   1 'Yes'
   2 'No'/
TWITTER
   1 'Yes'
   2 'No'/
PRTTWITR
   1 'Yes'
   2 'No'
   3 'I Do Not Know'/
FOLWPRT
   1 'Yes'
   2 'No'/
PRTFLYOU
1 'Yes'
2 'No'

SUBTWEET
1 'Yes'
2 'No'

FBTWEND
1 'Yes'
2 'No'
3 'Somewhat'

DISSOLU
1 'Yes'
2 'No'.

MISSING VALUES
AGE EDUCATE RELATION FBACCT PTFBACT RELSTAT WHY YESWHY HWLONG PRTFRIEND JEALOUSY PRTJEALO SMCONFLI EASYCHT EXFRND YOUEXFRND ISEXFRND HOWFRQT TRDPRTY TWITTER PRTTWITR FOLWPRT PRTFLYOU SUBTWEET FBTWEND DISSOLU (0).
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