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**OFFENDER VARIABLES: UNIQUE
PREDICTORS OF BENEVOLENCE,
AVOIDANCE, AND REVENGE?**

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Degree
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Abstract

Most past research on interpersonal forgiveness has emphasized qualities of the betrayed partner (e.g. trait forgiveness, dispositional empathy, narcissism) or relationship factors (e.g., relational closeness) in predicting forgiveness. However, research has rarely considered characteristics of the offender as predictors of forgiveness, as when a victim comes to wish the offender well and feel warmth toward him/her, and unforgiveness, as when a victim avoids or retaliates against an offender. Therefore the current project sought to assess the unique contribution of offenders' personality over and above the aforementioned established predictors of forgiveness and unforgiveness outcomes on the Transgression-Related Interpersonal Motivations (TRIM) inventory. It was expected that offender variables (such as high narcissism, low dispositional empathy, low honesty-humility, and high agreeableness) would account for additional, unique variance in predicting forgiveness beyond the known correlates of forgiveness and unforgiveness (e.g., high relational closeness to offender, low betrayal severity, high trait forgiveness, low narcissism). Results for TRIM Benevolence and Avoidance, but not TRIM Revenge, were consistent with the study's hypothesis, such that offender variables contributed significant unique variance above established predictors. Implications for the study of offender variables are discussed, as well as future directions research might consider.

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INTRODUCTION

Research on forgiveness has advanced a great deal in past years. Studies have established that forgiveness might be associated with positive health outcomes, such as decreased physiological stress responses when offenses (Witvliet, Ludwig, & Vander Laan, 2001) and has been shown to have ameliorative effects in patients with coronary artery disease (Waltman, Russell, Coyle, Enright, Holter, & Swoboda, 2009). Further, forgiveness interventions have been used to facilitate resolution of conflicts in marriage (Fincham, Beach, & Davila, 2004), improve outcomes in drug rehabilitation (Lin, Mack, Enright, Krahn, & Baskin, 2004), and assist recovery from traumatic events (Reed & Enright, 2006; Coyle & Enright, 1997). It even has been suggested that forgiveness has broad, societal implications, since it involves relinquishing negative affect held toward wrongdoers, and in effect demonstrates a moral high-road that offenders might be compelled to imitate (Enright, 2001). While definitions of forgiveness abound in literature, forgiveness in the current paper is defined as an interpersonal restorative process whose outcome is represented by distinct patterns of change in three transgression-related interpersonal motivations, or TRIMs, which are Benevolence, Avoidance, and Revenge. A forgiveness outcome is characterized by victims' increased feelings of warmth and offering well-wishes to offenders (Benevolence), and decreased avoidance and revenge (McCullough, Rachal, Sandage, Worthington, Brown, & Hight, 1998).

Research has identified a number of events or characteristics known to predict forgiveness. These precursors to forgiveness range widely, from aspects of the betrayal, such as its severity, to behaviors of the offender (e.g. presence of apology; McCullough, Rachal, Sandage, Worthington, Brown, & Hight, 1998), as well as various characteristics of the relationship (e.g. relationship satisfaction and commitment; Finkel, Rusbult, Kumashiro, &

Hannon, 2002). However, forgiveness is also associated with certain personality characteristics of betrayed partners, such as dispositional forgivingness, or the extent to which a person readily forgives or holds grudges across transgressions (Berry, Worthington, Parrott, O'Connor, & Wade, 2001). Additionally, greater feelings of warmth toward offenders are associated with low trait Neuroticism and high Agreeableness of victims (McCullough & Hoyt, 2002). Not surprisingly, this line of literature has primarily focused on the role of the betrayed partner, as individuals suffering injury are typically the members of relationships who grant forgiveness. In sum, a host of characteristics serve as precursors to granting forgiveness, and those that have been intensively studied tend to reside within the injured partner, or could be considered as emergent properties of the victim-offender relationship.

Research problem

Interestingly, little research has examined the factors associated with the *betraying* partner, i.e., the offender. Offender variables in forgiveness are important to consider because they, too, might influence the likelihood of forgiveness occurring after betrayals. Based on the findings of previous research, there might indeed be cases where a betrayed person is very likely to forgive, yet, because of some specific characteristics of an offender, forgiveness does not occur. In other words, there may be specific offender types that are hard to forgive, and certain offender personality traits could make it difficult to forgive even when the betrayed party possesses every characteristic inclination to do so (Exline, Worthington, Hill, McCullough, 2003). More work is necessary to explicitly assess factors of the offending partner that might contribute to or hinder the forgiveness processes.

There are a number of offender *behaviors* that are associated with greater forgiveness. Presence of apology is perhaps the most notable of these (Rowe & Halling, 1998; Snyder & Lopez, 2002). A good apology is necessarily not a mere verbal expression of remorse, “I’m sorry”; instead, a good apology may better be considered theoretically as a summary of several pro-social acts with a similar restorative goal. Research from close relationships literature shows that good apologies tend to avoid excusing oneself from wrongdoing or offering account, but involve an expression of full personal responsibility (Hodgins & Liebeskind, 2003). Additionally, empirical study suggests that good apologies often state that the offender's conduct was not normative and will not happen again (forbearance), and sometimes incorporate an offer of reparation or restitution (Lazare, 2004; Scher & Darley, 1997). Also, research has found that apologies should be expressed with observance of appropriate social context, as when both partners are in close relationship, or when the offense was committed unintentionally, or when perpetrators feel genuine remorse about injuring someone who is innocent (Exline, Deshea, & Holeman, 2007; McCullough et al., 1998). Apologies, then, are a collection of contextually appropriate offender-produced behaviors that facilitate forgiveness. Empirical evidence suggests that apologies indirectly produce this outcome (Ohbuchi, Kameda, & Agarie, 1989). Perhaps they help to reduce the negative affect associated with a betrayer, which then allows the victim to feel greater empathy and gradually work toward forgiveness (McCullough et al. 1998). Amelioration of victim’s negative affect might occur when apologizing offenders make it abundantly clear that they understand the harm they have caused their partners and communicate their wish to change. Then, perhaps victims perceive greater safety in the relationship and are more willing to forgive (Gordon, Baucom, & Snyder, 2008). Therefore, apologies’ presence—and absence—should matter in terms of which offenders are forgiven, and which are not.

Offender behaviors only partially address the present research question, as they are not appropriate for inferring global characteristics of offenders who are forgiven, and those who are avoided. Two separate offenders could, hypothetically, exhibit the same behavior (e.g. acknowledging the betrayed partners feelings during apology) to partners with appreciably similar personal characteristics (e.g. average levels of empathy and forgivingness), and it still might lead to different forgiveness outcomes. If global characteristics of offenders predicted forgiveness independently of these other variables, on the other hand, this might suggest that the source of a victim's forgiveness or unforgiveness of a betrayal also could reside, at least partially, in the offending partner.

Research on "offender variables" (Tsang & Stanford, 2007) is somewhat scarce. Tsang and Stanford found that male perpetrators of interpersonal partner violence in relationships who were more interpersonally dominant and did not exhibit severe psychopathologies were more often forgiven. Along these lines, Bradfield & Aquino (1999) administered questionnaires asking participants to remember and describe a relatively recent workplace offense, and found that more likeable offenders (rated as generally more cooperative, honest, and sincere) were easier to forgive. Certain offender characteristics have been shown to predict forgiveness, but research has not yet systematically shown which variables might contribute most, nor has it shown whether these variables can predict forgiveness outcomes over and beyond victims' personality or other known predictors such as offense severity, interpersonal closeness, and apology. At this time, systematic study of non-clinical, broad personality traits is warranted.

Which traits should be identified as candidates for the current study? One approach might be to identify forgiveness-facilitating traits of victims and examine whether they play a similar role for offenders. For example, high levels of dispositional empathy in a betrayed

partner are known to correlate with greater forgiveness (Fincham, Paleari, & Regalia, 2002).

Perhaps more empathic offenders also will be forgiven more often. Trait empathy involves feeling another person's emotions vicariously (Batson & Shaw, 1991), and may involve expressions of compassion and tenderness (Batson, 1991; Batson & Shaw, 1991). Therefore, a high-empathy offender might be more cognizant of a betrayed partner's feelings, which in turn would presumably lead him/her to behave more warmly and pro-socially toward the betrayed person than an offender with low empathy. Additionally, there are well-researched personality traits that speak to a similar presence/absence of regard for another's feelings. Lower Agreeableness and Honesty-Humility are related to greater willingness to make unethical business decisions, greater sexual harassment proclivity, greater general delinquency (Ashton & Lee, 2008), as well greater Machiavellianism, and psychopathy (Lee & Ashton, 2005). Perhaps low Agreeableness and Honesty-Humility in an offender would predict lower forgiveness from a betrayed relationship partner. High scorers in the these domains commonly regard others' feelings and motives more highly, and thus offenders with these traits might place higher importance on maintaining current relationships or repairing faltering ones. Meanwhile, disagreeable (unforgiving, harsh, rigid, and impatient) and low honesty-humility (immodest, unfair, insincere, greedy) individuals, who are generally thought to be more manipulative and haughty, might be seen as more selfishly invested in relationships, or as "in it for him/herself." Perhaps these individuals' personalities would make them harder to forgive, as a function of their unwillingness to invest in or work to maintain or repair relationships.

Another variable associated with lack of regard for others is narcissism. Narcissism is defined as a tendency toward inflated views of self, intrapsychic and interpersonal strategies for maintaining inflated self-views, and poor relational functioning (for review, see Morf &

Rhodewalt, 2001). Not surprisingly then, narcissism hinders social interaction (Campbell, Reeder, Sedikides, & Elliott, 2000; Kernis & Sun, 1994), including romantic relationships (Masterson, 1988). Narcissists have been noted for anger and hostility (Rhodewalt & Morf, 1995; Rhodewalt & Morf, 1998) lack of empathy (Watson, Grisham, Trotter, & Biderman, 1984) and tendencies to derogate their partners (John & Robins, 1994; Morf & Rhodewalt, 1993). When betrayed, narcissistic partners are unforgiving, tending to expect special treatment or reparation before forgiveness can be considered (Exline, Baumeister, Bushman, Campbell, & Finkel, 2004). They characteristically utilize self-serving bias in order to take more credit in success and avoid blame in failure (see comparative self-enhancement; Campbell, Reeder, Sedikides, & Elliott, 2000). It is also important to note that individuals high in narcissism tend to score low on Honesty-Humility—a moderately- to strong-sized negative correlation (Lee & Ashton, 2005; Ashton & Lee, 2008), making it potentially useful to study narcissism using the Honesty-Humility dimension. Together, these findings depict a class of individuals who avoid deep or challenging relationships, preferring to strategically exploit their comparatively shallow partnerships to gain quick, frequent, large benefits; further, they are quick to anger when the *status quo* of their relationships is threatened. Because of the drive for self-inflation, narcissistic offenders are likely unwilling to express empathy for a betrayed person or accept blame, leading to decreased forgiveness by the offended party.

However, offenders in relationships might try to influence the injured party toward forgiveness especially when they are strongly blamed (Hodgins, Liebeskind, & Schwartz, 1996b). Therefore, it also is hypothesized that there are relationship conditions in which the aforementioned offender personalities might not decrease forgiveness, and might instead contribute to *higher* levels of forgiveness. Specifically, it is expected that high relationship

closeness with a narcissistic partner who commits a mild betrayal will predict forgiveness. From past research, it is suggested that offenders—narcissists especially, as they strategically save face and protect their inflated sense of self-importance—downplay the amount of harm they caused in a transgression (Baumeister, Stillwell, & Wotman, 1990) and often tactically communicate to the betrayed partner that their transgressions were minor, justified, or accidental (Benoit & Drew, 1995). Ultimately, this might result in a betrayal victim giving in to the pressure to forgive. Thus, in this study, this pattern of forgiveness is expected to be observed most frequently when *narcissistic* offenders commit *mild* betrayals in *close* relationships. Relative to a severe betrayal, like cheating/infidelity, mild offenses might not be expected to reach a breaking point at which the injured party will cut off ties with the offender; similarly, it would be expected that relationally close partners are less likely to discontinue the relationship in the first place.

Hypotheses

The hypotheses for the current study are as follows:

Hypothesis 1

Offender variables will add to what is already known about variables that predict forgiveness in a betrayed person (victim traits: high empathy, high forgivingness, low narcissism; other known predictors: presence of apology, high closeness, mild severity betrayal). It is expected that offender variables (empathy, forgivingness, Honesty-Humility, Agreeableness) will contribute unique variance in the prediction of each TRIM (Benevolence, Avoidance, and Revenge). Further, it is expected that Benevolence will be positively associated with offender empathy, forgivingness, Honesty-Humility, and Agreeableness, since these variables represent

offenders toward whom it is easier to feel warmth; Avoidance and Revenge, however, will be negatively associated with these offender variables, since the low poles of these qualities represent offender types who are readily avoided and retaliated against.

Hypothesis 2

It is expected that an Honesty-HumilityXClosenessXSeverity interaction will emerge. To elaborate, offenders who are rated as low in Honesty-Humility and were in closer relationships and who committed less severe offenses will have received more forgiveness from their partners, relative to other cases.

RESEARCH METHODS

Participants

A total of 220 undergraduates at a southeastern university were recruited for participation in return for introductory psychology course credit. The text soliciting student participation is presented in Appendix I. There were no exclusionary criteria regarding race, sex, religious affiliation, or sexual orientation. Moreover, students only needed to be able to recall a past relationship (e.g. relative, friend, romantic partner) in which they experienced a betrayal. The mean participant age was 18.62 years ($SD = 1.356$). More women participated ($n = 153$, 69.5%) than men ($n = 67$, 30.5%). The racial ethnic makeup of the sample was largely white ($n = 162$, 73.6%), but contained black ($n = 29$, 13.2%), Latino ($n = 12$, 5.5%), Asian ($n = 13$, 5.9%), and multi-racial and other ($n = 4$, 1.9%) respondents as well.

Reported betrayals were most often relationship infidelities (50.9%), followed by abandonment or discontinuation of relationships by friends or family members (7.7%), lying and other injurious conduct (spreading rumors, leaking secrets, saying rude things; 35.5%), and theft

(3.6%). Regarding the offenders described in the sample, offender age was very similar to participant age, with ages 18-20 years cumulatively describing 68.2% of the sample, while the overall range of offender age ranged from 14 to 60 years. Romantic partners (61.8%) were the most common relationship of offender to victim, followed by friends (28.2%), family members (6.8%), and acquaintances (1.8%).

Measures

Demographics. Participant age, gender, race, state of origin, offender gender, offender age was collected. Each participant was prompted to identify the nature of their past betrayal (e.g., infidelity, theft), as well as the nature of the relationship in which the relationship occurred (e.g., romantic partner, close relative). Additionally, participants endorsed a 1-10 scale of betrayal severity (1 – very mild betrayal, 10 – severe betrayal).

Forgiveness. The Transgression-Related Interpersonal Motivations scale was used to assess self-reports of forgiveness (TRIM; McCullough, et al., 1998). The scale is comprised of 18 items and three subscales: Avoidance, Revenge, and Benevolence. The seven-item TRIM-Avoidance subscale measures the degree to which the offended party intends to reduce contact with the transgressor (e.g., “I keep as much distance between us as possible”). The five-item TRIM-Revenge subscale measures the degree to which the offended party intends to seek revenge on the transgressor (e.g. “I’ll make him/her pay”). The six-item Benevolence subscale measures the extent to which an individual is motivated to have goodwill or warmth toward another (e.g. “Even though his/her actions hurt me, I have goodwill for him/her,” “Despite what he/she did, I want us to have a positive relationship again”). Response options range from 1 (“Strongly disagree”) to 5 (“Strongly agree”). Both the Avoidance and Revenge subscales

demonstrate good convergent and discriminant validity (McCullough et al., 1998; McCullough, Bellah, Kilpatrick, & Johnson, 2001). See Appendix D. Cronbach's alpha for the TRIM are .88 for TRIM-Avoidance and .87 for TRIM-Revenge. In the current sample, the Cronbach's alphas for TRIM-Benevolence, TRIM-Avoidance, and TRIM-Revenge were .89, .93, and .80, respectively.

Apology. Participants filled out checklist items assessing the presence and quality of apology they were offered (offender said "I'm sorry," offender offered to make things right," offender looked genuinely remorseful; items included in Appendix B). The items of the checklist were based on findings of apology and interpersonal concessions research. For instance, the standard verbal statement "I'm sorry" has been shown to be moderately effective apology measure (Darby & Schlenker, 1982), as is the acknowledgement of the victim's feelings (Lazare, 2004; Tavuchis, 1991), so these were both included on the measure. Additionally, expressions of remorse indicate that the offender is truly suffering over his/her wrongdoing and an unlikelihood of recidivation (Gold & Weiner, 2000; Scher & Darley, 1997). Also, offenders who take responsibility for their wrongful actions are evaluated more positively (Hodgins & Liebeskind, 2003; Scher & Darley, 1997). Therefore, checklist items were written to reflect these qualities of good apologies (see Appendix B). The checklist measure contained two additional items to bolster face validity, "made an excuse," and "felt like he/she deserved forgiveness." Cronbach's alpha was .83.

Relational Closeness. Relational closeness was measured with the Inclusion of Other in the Self scale (IOS; Aron, Aron, & Smollan, 1992). The test consists of a single item, in which participants endorse one of seven increasingly disparate Venn diagrams (whose are circles labeled "self" and "other") in order to describe their relationship with another. Circling a Venn

diagram with more overlap indicates more closeness. The IOS has good test-retest reliability, and correlates with other measures of relational closeness (Aron, Aron, & Smollan, 1992). In the current study, subjects filled out the IOS to assess closeness, post-betrayal. See Appendix C.

Dispositional forgiveness. Berry, Worthington, O'Connor, Parrott, & Wade's Trait Forgivingness Scale (TFS; 2005) is a 10-item questionnaire measuring forgivingness, or a characteristic likelihood of an individual forgiving others. The scale is rated from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Sample items include "I can usually forgive and forget an insult," and "I am a forgiving person." Cronbach's alpha statistics in the original four studies were .80, .78, .79, and .74. The current Cronbach's alpha was .79. See Appendix G for items.

Dispositional empathy. Davis's (1983) Interpersonal Reactivity Index (IRI) was used in order to gauge dispositional empathy. The scale contains 28 items which are endorsed on a 0 (does not describe me well) to 4 (describes me very well) point scale. Items include "I sometimes try to understand my friends better by imagining how things look from their perspective," and "I often have tender, concerned feelings for people less fortunate than me." The IRI subscales correlate with measures of social functioning, self-esteem emotionality, and sensitivity to others, indicating convergent validity of the measure (Davis, 1983). Participants filled out this scale twice: once in self-report, once as an observer report on behalf of the absent, offending partner. Observer-reports of the IRI have not been used previously in research, but research has established that participants are able to estimate the empathic capacities of others (see interpersonal sensitivity; Carney & Harrigan, 2003). The current study's IRI alpha was .83, and the IRI-observer report was .84. See Appendix D for items.

Narcissism. Recognized as the most commonly used measure of narcissistic personality, the Narcissistic Personality Inventory (Raskin & Terry, 1988) served as the current study's

measure of narcissism. Here, non-clinical narcissism is defined as a tendency toward inflated views of self, intrapsychic and interpersonal strategies for maintaining inflated self-views, and poor relational functioning (for review, see Morf & Rhodewalt, 2001). Items include “I like to be the center of attention,” and “I wish someone would someday write my biography.” The test contains 40 items, each endorsed in a forced-choice format (strongly/somewhat disagree, somewhat/strongly agree). Construct validity for the NPI has been demonstrated across multiple studies (Emmons, 1988; Raskin & Terry, 1988; Watson, Grisham, Trotter, & Biderman, 1984). Cronbach's alpha was .84 in the original sample. The current study's NPI alpha was .88. See Appendix F for items.

Global personality. Distinguished from the traditional “Big Five” factor model, the HEXACO model comes from a program of cross-cultural lexical research conceiving of six personality dimensions: Honesty-Humility, Emotionality, eXtraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, and Openness to Experience. While conceptually similar to the Big Five, there are a few key differences in the HEXACO model. Most notably, Honesty-Humility, a new integrity-related factor, emerges as a rough analogue of Big Five Neuroticism and Agreeableness. Additionally, Big Five Agreeableness and Neuroticism dimensions have been essentially “reorganized,” such that HEXACO Agreeableness absorbs lexical content relevant to gentleness (Big Five Agreeableness) and even-temper (Big Five Neuroticism), while HEXACO Emotionality consists of vulnerability (Big Five Neuroticism) and sentimentality (Big Five Agreeableness). Definitions for the remaining factors remain somewhat constant across tests (for a review, see Lee & Ashton, 2004).

The differences observable in the HEXACO make it particularly appropriate for the study of relationship offenders. Its Honesty-Humility dimension represents the extent to which

participants are greed-avoidant, modest, fair, and sincere, versus greedy, pretentious, sly, and conniving. Moreover, Honesty-Humility accounts for greediness and conceitedness beyond the Straightforwardness and Modesty facets of Big Five Agreeableness (Ashton & Lee, 2005). As conceitedness, greediness, and other forces are thought to underlie human reciprocal altruistic tendencies (or lack thereof), the Honesty-Humility factor is particularly relevant to the study of forgiveness. This is to say that if an offender is inclined to seek individual gain rather than contribute to a relationship with the victim, forgiving that offender will be difficult, as future betrayals might appear more likely. Another advantage is that the HEXACO-PI-R demonstrates useful correlations with measures of narcissism, whereas the Big Five does not (Lee & Ashton, 2005). Thus, the HEXACO-PI-R can justifiably be used to measure offender narcissism via observer report in the current study. Additionally, another variable of interest, Agreeableness, involves the extent to which a person is calm, cooperative, and easy-going, as opposed to being harsh, temperamental, and critical. Additionally, HEXACO gauges gentleness in its Agreeableness factor (in addition to cooperativeness, calmness), a construct that implies other-directed behaviors and feelings, perhaps related to empathy. Therefore, the 100-item HEXACO-PI-R (Ashton & Lee, 2008) was selected for the current study, in order to measure these constructs.

Participants filled out HEXACO-PI-R observer report scales. So, offended participants responded to HEXACO items in order to describe the offender's traits. These observer report forms have been used in previous research (Lee & Ashton, 2006; Ashton & Lee, 2008; Lee, Ashton, Pozzebon, Visser, Bourdage, & Ogunfowora, 2009) and it has been shown that HEXACO observer reports correlate usefully with self-reports (Ashton & Lee, in press; de Vries, in press; Lee & Ashton, 2006). Items are endorsed on a Likert scale ranging from 1 ("strongly

disagree”) to 5 (“strongly agree”). Internal reliability subscales range from .78 to .84 in the half-version of the HEXACO-PI-R. For the current sample, the Cronbach’s alpha for overall HEXACO-PI-R observer report was .89. Additionally, alpha was .85 for Honesty-Humility and .88 for Agreeableness. See Appendix H for items.

Procedure

Participants arrived in a large auditorium-style campus classroom, sitting at least one desk apart from other. Participants gave informed consent, and received questionnaire packets which prompted them to remember a relationship (though not necessarily a romantic one) in which a person they knew recently betrayed them or made them feel betrayed, and to hold this offender and betrayal in mind for the length of the questionnaire packet. Upon completion, the participants were thanked, debriefed, and dismissed. As mentioned before, offenders alluded to in participants’ betrayals were not recruited for this study. Instead, in order to measure offender personality variables, participants filled out observer-report measures to describe their perceptions of the offending partners. Thus, this study prompted participants to describe themselves in self-report and also the offenders in observer-report.

Approximately 17% ($N = 38$) of the total sample received a manipulation check to assess subjective participant accuracy in responding ($M = 8.66$, on a 1-10 scale, where 10 = “very accurate”), as well as subjective participant awareness of the working hypothesis (4.5% felt aware, $N = 10$; 12.7% were unaware, $N = 28$). Participants were also given an opportunity to guess the working hypothesis of the study. Ten participants wagered a guess, and no participants were able to guess correctly. Finally, for those participants who guessed ($N = 10$), an opportunity was given state how much they felt influenced by their knowledge of this hypothesis

($M = 3.3$ on a 1-10 scale, where 10 = “very influenced¹”). These statistics suggest that the results obtained were not influenced by participants behaving in a socially desirable way to confirm the study’s working hypothesis, or by participants cathartically maximizing the harmfulness and undesirability of their offenders.

RESULTS

Means and standard deviations

In general, the severity of betrayals was moderate to severe ($M = 7.35$, $SD = 1.81$). Regarding the interpersonal closeness of offenders to injured parties measured by the IOS, partnerships were generally close ($M = 5.30$, $SD = 1.46$). Participants in this sample tended most noticeably toward avoidance motivations for their offenders ($M = 20.98$, $SD = 8.28$), followed by benevolence motivations ($M = 18.97$, $SD = 6.13$), and then revenge motivations ($M = 11.68$, $SD = 4.42$). Relative to men ($M = 17.57$), women ($M = 19.59$) reported more benevolence ($F_{1,217} = 5.16$, $p = .03$), but men and women did not differ in avoidance and revenge. Additionally, when offenders were men ($M = 12.28$) relative to women ($M = 10.93$), revenge was more likely ($F_{1,217} = 5.25$, $p = .02$). Comparisons of forgiveness across race and ethnicity are not performed due to underrepresentation in sample.

Participants did not differ in avoidance or revenge across types of betrayal. An effect was found for benevolence, however ($F_{1,217} = 5.34$, $p < .01$), such that participants were more benevolent toward offenders in cases of injurious conduct ($M = 20.51$) than when cheating/infidelity ($M = 17.76$) was reported. Additionally, participants did not differ in avoidance or revenge across different relationships to the offender. However, participants were

¹ One participant endorsed a 9 on this scale, indicating that he/she felt very influenced by knowledge of the working hypothesis. His/Her guess of the working hypothesis, however, was wrong.

more benevolent toward friends who offended ($M = 21.32$) than for romantic partners ($M = 17.82$; $F_{1,217} = 5.85, p < .01$). Not surprisingly, these statistics communicate that infidelity from romantic partners is less forgivable than rudeness from friends.

Offenders about which participants reported tended to be slightly above the scale average in terms of HEXACO Xtraversion ($M = 56.7$), but below scale average in Honesty-Humility ($M = 40.89$), Agreeableness ($M = 39.39$), and Openness ($M = 43.61$). Overall, participant characteristics conformed to a normal distribution. The means, standard deviations, and minimum/maximum values for the measures of this study are listed in Table 1, while Pearson correlations of the study's variables are presented in Table 5.

Unique variance contribution of offender variables

Transgression-related interpersonal motivations (benevolence, avoidance, revenge) were entered as DVs for three-step hierarchical regression. The known correlates of forgiveness comprised the IVs for the first two blocks of analysis: Block 1 was made up of miscellaneous forgiveness predictors (e.g. relational closeness to the offender, apology, betrayal severity), while dispositional variables of the injured partner (dispositional forgiveness, dispositional empathy, narcissism) comprised Block 2. Block 3 contained offender variables (observer reports of dispositional empathy and six-factor personality dimensions).

Each block of predictors contributed uniquely to betrayed partner benevolence (see Table 2 for a summary), including the block of interest, the offender variable block ($R^2 = .41$; $F_{8,205} = 10.66, p < .01$; See Table 3 for the full model). In support of hypothesis 1, the R^2 change associated with the addition of the offender variable block was also significant ($R^2 \Delta = .08, p < .01$). In the final model, greater offender Conscientiousness uniquely predicted higher

benevolence ($\beta = .08, t(219) = 2.58, p = .01$), as well as greater Honesty-Humility ($\beta = .08, t(219) = 2.35, p = .02$). Observer IRI (i.e., the measure of offender empathy) did not predict benevolence, however. Other forgiveness predictors such as lower betrayal severity ($\beta = -.63, t(219) = -2.92, p < .01$), greater relational closeness on the IOS ($\beta = 1.45, t(219) = 6.10, p < .01$), and incidence and higher quality of apology ($\beta = .50, t(219) = 2.29, p = .02$) also uniquely predicted of greater benevolence. Betrayed partner variables, such as greater trait forgiveness ($\beta = .16, t(219) = 3.35, p < .01$) and higher empathy ($\beta = .07, t(219) = 2.45, p = .02$) were uniquely associated with greater benevolence.

Findings for Avoidance followed in similar pattern. In addition to each predictor block uniquely predicting Avoidance (see Table 3), the entire model containing other forgiveness predictors, victim characteristics, and offender characteristics was significant ($R^2 = .48; F_{8, 205} = 13.38, p < .01$). In support of hypothesis 1, the R^2 associated with the addition of the offender variable block also was significant ($R^2 \Delta = .06, p = .02$). However, in this model, the only offender variable uniquely predictive of higher Avoidance was low offender Conscientiousness ($\beta = -.08, t(219) = -1.97, p = .05$). All other forgiveness predictors—higher betrayal severity ($\beta = .74, t(219) = 2.77, p = .01$), lower relational closeness ($\beta = -2.08, t(219) = -7.13, p < .01$), and absence and lower quality of apology ($\beta = .43, t(219) = 2.80, p = .01$)—were predictive of greater avoidance. The only betrayed partner variable that was predictive of greater avoidance was lower trait forgiveness ($\beta = -.20, t(219) = -3.26, p < .01$).

Predicting Revenge, however, Hypothesis 1 was not supported. Adding the offender variable block did not add unique variance in predicting Revenge motivation ($R^2 = .33; F_{7, 206} = 7.91, p = .13$), nor was the change in R^2 significant when offender variables were added ($R^2 \Delta = .04$). However, the overall model still significantly predicted Revenge ($F_{13, 206} = 7.91, p < .01$).

Even though the block as a whole did not significantly improve the model, greater revenge was predicted by lower dispositional empathy of the offender ($\beta = -.06, t(219) = -2.22, p = .03$), as well as higher openness to experience in the offender ($\beta = -.04, t(219) = 2.24, p = .03$). In the other forgiveness predictors block, lower closeness ($\beta = -.50, t(219) = -2.89, p < .01$) and incidence and lower quality of apology ($\beta = -.45, t(219) = -2.83, p = .01$) predict revenge, but not betrayal severity. Betrayed partner variables, including lower trait forgiveness ($\beta = -.21, t(219) = -5.77, p < .01$) and higher narcissism ($\beta = .04, t(219) = 2.39, p = .02$) predicts greater revenge motivation. Betas and R^2 values are presented in Table 4.

In sum, the findings presented above indicate that offender variables explain unique variance in most instances, even when controlling for an injured partner's characteristics and other forgiveness predictors. Therefore, the first hypothesis is largely supported.

Predicted interaction

The current study hypothesized that greater Benevolence would be expressed in situations where relational closeness was high, betrayal severity was low, and offender Honesty-Humility was low. Each of these variables was centered, then as an interaction terms were created using the centered variables. The interaction variables and main effects variables were entered into regression. The interaction term was not significant; thus the second hypothesis was not supported.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

The current study expands upon previous literature that tends to describe forgiveness as a function of victim characteristics and other forgiveness predictors. Indeed, the addition of

offender variables helps to explain unique variance in Benevolence and Avoidance on the TRIM when controlling for known forgiveness correlates. Interestingly, observer reports of offender personality help bring greater detail to our understandings of forgivable and unforgivable offenders. Greater Benevolence was predicted by greater offender Honesty-Humility and Conscientiousness in offenders, while greater Avoidance was predicted by less offender Conscientiousness.

Considering the findings, the offender traits that are predictive of forgiveness in these models might make theoretical sense. Offenders who are sloppier, haphazard, and disorganized would tend to be unreliable across contexts, even when their intentions are excellent. Less Conscientious individuals perhaps run the risk of appearing lazy, unmotivated, and disengaged from the relationship; if they do not appear competent to do the work necessary to repair the relationship, victims are more likely to avoid them. More Conscientious individuals, on the other hand, appear more organized, engaged, focused, motivated, and committed to their responsibilities. Since they are motivated to work hard, be thorough and careful, and above all, considerate, victims of these offender types might have a more favorable post-betrayal impression of their offenders; therefore, conscientious offenders seem worth the effort for victims to attempt a relationship repair. For victims who are struggling with the decision to dissolve a relationship, conscientious offenders might very well be easier to forgive due to the trustworthy image they put forth.

However, in order to feel relational warmth toward the offender, something more is needed. In other words, individuals can resume contact with offenders and still not feel warmth toward them or wish them well (i.e., experience Benevolence). Here, the current data suggest that perceptions of a fair, honest, and humble offender matter a good deal. Victims were less

likely to feel warmth toward offenders who were perceived as manipulative, haughty, greedy, and conceited. If an offender does not foster the image of a “good person,” it might be much harder to wish them well or feel warmth toward them. It could be that perceiving an offender as insincere, greedy, and manipulative damages the victim’s ability to trust the offender again, which implies a potential mediator role of trust that future research could investigate. Perhaps being betrayed by someone who is perceived as “in it for him/herself” leads a victim to make more attributions of blame, then to evaluate the offender as less trustworthy, which could result in lower warmth. “Trust erosion” has been studied in managerial contexts (Elangovan, Auer-Rizzi, & Szabo, 2007) and in interpersonal relationships where transgressions occur (Haselhuhn, Schweitzer, & Wood, 2010) with some interesting results. As per the former, trust erodes more for organizational partners who *do not want* to fulfill trust expectations, relative to being somehow *incapable* of doing so. For the latter, trust in others is more difficult to regain when offenders are believed to have questionable moral character. The forgivability of offenders and organizational trustees alike seems to hinge on whether or not victims and trustors believe their partners capable of an alternative to transgression. No articles to date have specifically included offender personality as a contributing factor to trust attributions, however.

Findings regarding Revenge in this study also offer a sensible story. The tendency to desire retaliation seems to be largely grounded in the victim’s own characteristics. Specifically, the profile of a revenge-seeker in these data suggest a victim who tends toward higher narcissism and grudge-holding (low trait forgiveness), who has been betrayed by someone not very close to him/her, who did not receive a very effective or heartfelt apology. Consistent with prior research, vengeful victims are particularly concerned about the degree to which others esteem them, whether or not they have been treated unfairly, how unjust their circumstances are, and

how horrible they construe offenses to be. Additionally, research has found that retaliation is sometimes only removed with an apology (Zechmeister, Garcia, Romero, & Vas, 2004). Furthermore, revenge in the current sample is best predicted by individuals who were betrayed by interpersonally distant others. Whereas revenge itself is vilified, and many episodes of revenge are thought to be deleterious, perhaps the revenge motivations measured in the current data reflect healthy interpersonal functioning. Revenge can actually be helpful in some interpersonal relationships, promoting greater cooperation by demonstrating low tolerance for abuse (Axelrod, 1984), or helping individuals in organizations to restore face after being discredited (Bies, Tripp, & Kramer, 1997). In interpersonal relationships, perhaps it is more difficult to elicit apologies, promises of bettered future conduct, and displays of remorse from acquaintance-level and distant offenders without “tit-for-tat” norms of revenge, relative to close partnerships and romantic relationships, where partners are more deeply invested in each other (Rusbult, Verette, Whitney, Slovik, & Lipkus, 1991).

Although the block containing offender variables did not significantly contribute variance to the prediction of Revenge motivation, two offender variables were significant predictors of greater revenge: lower empathy and higher Openness to Experience. Regarding empathy, it is not surprising that victims were motivated to retaliate against offenders who did not appear to have any understanding of their hurt feelings. However, it is unclear why higher Openness would predict revenge. Why would victims tend to wish revenge for offenders who seek out challenge, originality, self expression, less conventional beliefs, and new ideas and cultural settings? Perhaps this association is descriptive of victims wish to control their betrayers in such a way as to make them conform to their expectations for relationships. Indeed, given that people seeking revenge tended to be more narcissistic and grudge-holding, it might not be surprising if

this were the case. Taken together, these findings suggest that Revenge motivations are fueled by victims' own fears of exploitation, as well as other forgiveness predictors: the offender's closeness to and investment in the victim (and vice versa), as well as the offenders' offer of apology or concessions.

In essence, without an offender demonstrating Conscientiousness or Honesty-Humility, there is nothing redeeming enough in the offender's personality to help a victim maintain positive affect about them. Offenders who appear minimally invested, thoughtless, or exploitative might be more likely than others to be perceived as blameworthy for their wrongdoings, which shifts the locus of responsibility inside the offender. Perhaps blame acts as a catalyst for the erosion of trust in the relationship. Similarly, perhaps as blameworthiness of the offender increases, experienced resentment, bitterness, hostility, anger, and fear also increase, as these negative emotions can no longer be held at bay (Worthington & Scherer, 2004).

Equity theory (Adams, 1965) offers an alternative interpretation of the perception of offender personality. In this view, offender and victim are partners in social exchange, and the relationship is equitable as long as partners' expenditures are proportionate to their rewards (Walster, Walster, & Berscheid, 1978). Partnerships suffer from overbenefitting when one party asymmetrically reaps benefits. Although theory suggests the norm is for partners to seek equity, relationships in which betrayals occur might present an exception. Offenders who might be manipulative or lack empathy also might increase the inequity gap with further untoward behavior, or be more reluctant to close it. Furthermore, it is possible that low Conscientiousness offenders shirk the responsibilities associated with re-establishing equity, such as delaying his/her impulses that lead to problem behavior, or thoroughly revising his/her outlook on how to conduct him/herself. Future studies could examine these hypotheses more directly.

Limitations to the current study

Recent forgiveness literature offers a limited account of the role of the offender in relationship betrayals, and so these results should be interpreted with some caution. Notably, the data include observer report measures for relationship offenders, and not reports from offenders, themselves. However, Ashton and Lee (2008) conducted research using observer report forms to measure global personality, and found that most observer report dimensions correlate moderately with self-report. Therefore, while these classes of measures do not yield high correlations in rating the same subject, they have been shown to express meaningful agreement between sources. Indeed, observer reports of personality offer objective measures of behavior that are potentially more valid than self-reports (Kolar, Funder, & Colvin, 1996) and there are certainly contexts in which self-assessments are questionable, like physician self-assessments of competence (Davis, Mazmanian, Fordis, Harrison, Thorpe, & Perrier, 2006), as well as other selection settings or clinical areas where individuals might have limited capacity to offer self-reports (Ashton & Lee, 2008). Self-reports in these contexts will contain source error not shared by external observers, and more accurate reports can lead to better prediction of outcomes. Thus, there are predictive advantages of using and interpreting observer-reports over self-reports.

At any rate, one can still safely presume that victim *perceptions* were measured in this study. Therefore, observer report data is useful and informative in the study of forgiveness from two angles. First, as mentioned earlier in this manuscript, offenders who offer accounts of their own behaviors in the context of betrayals tend to embellish, self-present, and minimize the amount of harm they perpetrated (Kearns & Fincham, 2005; Hodgins & Liebeskind, 2003; Zechmeister & Romero, 2002; Baumeister et al., 1990) perhaps using tactics akin to those used

in saving public face after an untoward action (e.g. denying responsibility, denying injuring the other; Benoit & Drew, 1995). Thus, victim data arguably might be the most credible source of offender data available at present. Offenders' attempts to account for their wrongdoings add sufficient "noise" to their reports as to make their data potentially inaccurate. The limitation, here, is that victim perception, rather than offender personality, might have been measured. However, either way, the current findings are still of interest. Both offender personality and victim *perceptions* are interpretable in that they consistently predict benevolence and avoidance on the TRIM. Further, offender variables uniquely predict TRIM outcomes when controlling for well-established correlates, like narcissism, empathy, apology, closeness, and forgiveness.

Cross-sectional data in this study presents a number of interpretational problems. First, the data cannot assess whether offenders or offender perceptions changed across time. Perhaps victim reports collected at multiple time points would reflect an incremental decrease of offender Honesty-Humility and Conscientiousness leading up to and/or following a betrayal. A longitudinal design would bring more clarity to this issue.

Furthermore, it is possible that perceptions of offender personality are affected by attributions of blame, such that an offender begins to appear less conscientious, less honest and humble when the locus of responsibility for the betrayal is made to reside in the offender, resulting in unforgiveness. This might suggest that victims' "blame-readiness," a disposition toward blaming others, as well as victims' perception of offenders' blameworthiness, can precipitate a change in how they characterize others, at least along the dimensions of Conscientiousness and Honesty-Humility.

The current study uses retrospective self-report measures obtained solely from the victim. The danger here is that remembering betrayals might elicit negative emotions, leading to

embellished or inaccurately negative evaluations of offenders (see state-congruent recall; Bower, 1981). Future studies might negotiate this difficulty by cross-source validation, perhaps collecting observer report data of a mutual victim-offender acquaintance. Additionally, self-report measures risk eliciting social desirability effects from participants. Estimates of forgivingness, empathy, or accuracy of answering during the study could be artificially inflated, because it is arguably more desirable to be forgiving, empathic, and accurate when others are present. Perhaps recruiting an acquaintance of the victim to rate him/her and subsequently measure agreement could help to rule out confounding sources of error variance.

Future research also might use a community sample, since the betrayals experienced by traditional college students are not necessarily those shared by the rest of the population. Projects could simultaneously recruit and run offenders, betrayed partners, and mutual acquaintances of both, collecting personality self- and observer- data from all parties, and looking for concordance and cross-source effects. Additionally, it may also be interesting to examine the differential impact of different classes of betrayal *a priori*. Might there be personality differences between offenders who commit infidelity and those who steal or lie about their partners? Post-betrayal, do friends have different perceived personalities than romantic partners?

Furthermore, future research also would benefit from including a measure of relationship attributions to check for possible mediation of the association between Benevolence-(offender) Conscientiousness and Avoidance-(offender) Conscientiousness. Perhaps attributing responsibility to the offender for the betrayal is more likely when the offenders are not perceived as careful, thorough, organized individuals or if they appear as though they are not trying very hard, or are in a relationship only for themselves. As discussed earlier with trust erosion,

offenders who behave badly by design rather than by circumstance might be more blameworthy, leading the victim not to excuse their conduct or delay negative emotions, keeping the locus of responsibility within the offender.

Conclusion

Previous literature identified a number of phenomena that predict forgiveness after a betrayal, but tended to neglect the characteristics of offenders that could uniquely predict forgiveness and unforgiveness. The current study sought to examine the influence of offender personality variables, using victim personality data as well as observer-report measures about offender personality. Hierarchical regression analyses were conducted, and it was found that even when controlling for phenomena that explain a great deal of variance in Benevolence and Avoidance, offender variables still explain something new. In particular, when predicting benevolence motivation, it matters that the offender is perceived as careful, thorough, and organized, as opposed to impulsive, haphazard, and disorganized. Additionally, victims feel more warmth toward fair, sincere, and modest offenders—as opposed to manipulative, pretentious, and greedy ones—perhaps because these offenders are perceived as more trustworthy. Moreover, victims want to avoid sloppy, haphazard, careless offenders more. Both Benevolence and Avoidance are uniquely predicted by offender variables, even controlling for victim-level and other forgiveness predictor variables. Additionally, victims feel more vengeful toward offenders who lack empathy and are higher in Openness to Experience, though, to qualify, the offender variable block did not significantly increase the variance predicted in revenge. Revenge is likely more a function of a victim's characteristics (e.g. narcissism, low trait forgiveness) than those of the offender. In sum, whether the data describe the actuality or

perceptual reality of offender personality, there is much to be done with offender personality variables.

Future research interested in the examination of offender variables should consider longitudinal paradigms, and might consider recruiting mutual offender-victim acquaintances in order to address mono-source problems encountered when gauging both offender and victim personality from the victim. Research should precisely determine whether all specific betrayal acts, as well as relationship of the betrayal perpetrators to the victim, are followed with the same patterns of offender perception.

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APPENDICES

Table 1

Descriptive Statistics for Analyzed Measures

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Avoidance	220	7	35	20.98	8.28
Benevolence	220	6	30	18.97	6.13
Revenge	220	6	27	11.68	4.42
Betrayal Severity	220	2	10	7.35	1.81
IOS	220	1	7	2.42	1.66
Checklist Apology Tool	220	0	5	1.70	1.73
Trait forgiveness	220	17	49	34.12	7.24
IRI self	220	28	94	69.27	12.79
NPI self	220	66	153	102.96	14.65
IRI other	220	13	87	48.79	14.50
Honesty-Humility	220	19	75	40.89	11.29
Emotionality	220	21	75	48.64	11.39
Xtraversion	220	25	79	56.71	10.31
Agreeableness	220	16	70	39.39	11.10
Conscientiousness	220	21	77	44.37	11.59
Openness	220	19	78	43.61	12.16
Age	212	18	28	18.62	1.36
Offender's age	218	14	60	20.62	6.53
Participant's perceived accuracy	38	6	10	8.66	1.12

Table 2

Summary of Hierarchical Linear Regression when Predicting Benevolence

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		<i>t</i>	Sig.	<i>R</i> ²	<i>R</i> ² Change
		<i>B</i>	Std. Error				
Model 1	Betrayal Severity	-.63	.21	-2.92	.00	.27	.00
	IOS	1.45	.24	6.10	.00		
	Checklist	.50	.22	2.29	.02		
	Apology						
Model 2	Betrayal Severity	-.46	.21	-2.17	.03	.32	.00
	IOS	1.36	.23	5.88	.00		
	Checklist	.48	.21	2.27	.02		
	Apology						
	Trait forgiveness	.16	.05	3.35	.00		
	IRI self	.07	.03	2.45	.02		
	NPI self	-.02	.02	-.82	.41		
Model 3	Betrayal Severity	-.44	.21	-2.14	.03	.38	.00
	IOS	1.25	.23	5.54	.00		
	Checklist	.32	.21	1.56	.12		
	Apology						
	Trait forgiveness	.19	.05	3.95	.00		
	IRI self	.06	.03	2.39	.02		
	NPI self	-.01	.02	-.50	.62		
	IRI other	.01	.04	.31	.76		
	Honesty-Humility	.08	.04	2.35	.02		
	Emotionality	-.02	.04	-.58	.57		
	Xtraversion	.00	.03	.09	.93		
	Agreeableness	-.02	.04	-.51	.61		
	Conscientiousness	.07	.03	2.33	.02		
	Openness	.04	.03	1.42	.16		

IOS - Inclusion of Self in Other (relational closeness), IRI - Interpersonal Reactivity Index (empathy), NPI – Narcissistic Personality Inventory (narcissism)

Table 3

Summary of Hierarchical Linear Regression when Predicting Avoidance

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		<i>t</i>	Sig.	<i>R</i> ²	<i>R</i> ² Change
		<i>B</i>	Std. Error				
Model 1	Betrayal Severity	.95	.27	3.54	.00	.39	.00
	IOS	-2.25	.30	-7.59	.00		
	Checklist	-1.00	.27	-3.68	.00		
	Apology						
Model 2	Betrayal Severity	.75	.27	2.76	.01	.42	.01
	IOS	-2.15	.29	-7.37	.00		
	Checklist	-.97	.27	-3.65	.00		
	Apology						
	Trait forgiveness	-.18	.06	-2.84	.00		
	IRI self	-.04	.03	-1.07	.28		
	NPI self	.03	.03	1.06	.29		
Model 3	Betrayal Severity	.74	.27	2.77	.01	.46	.02
	IOS	-2.08	.29	-7.13	.00		
	Checklist	-.87	.27	-3.23	.00		
	Apology						
	Trait forgiveness	-.20	.06	-3.26	.00		
	IRI self	-.04	.03	-1.04	.30		
	NPI self	.03	.03	.89	.38		
	IRI other	.00	.05	-.02	.98		
	Honesty-Humility	-.07	.05	-1.43	.15		
	Emotionality	.02	.05	.31	.76		
	Xtraversion	.04	.04	.90	.37		
	Agreeableness	.00	.05	.04	.97		
	Conscientiousness	-.08	.04	-1.97	.05		
	Openness	-.06	.04	-1.42	.16		

IOS - Inclusion of Self in Other (relational closeness), IRI - Interpersonal Reactivity Index (empathy), NPI – Narcissistic Personality Inventory (narcissism)

Table 4

Summary of Hierarchical Linear Regression when Predicting Revenge

		Unstandardized Coefficients		<i>t</i>	Sig.	<i>R</i> ²	<i>R</i> ² Change Sig.
		<i>B</i>	Std. Error				
Model 1	Betrayal Severity	.37	.17	2.19	.03	.16	.00
	IOS	-.60	.19	-3.25	.00		
	Checklist	-.57	.17	-3.34	.00		
	Apology						
Model 2	Betrayal Severity	.12	.16	.74	.46	.30	.00
	IOS	-.50	.17	-2.89	.00		
	Checklist	-.53	.16	-3.42	.00		
	Apology						
	Trait forgiveness	-.21	.04	-5.69	.00		
	IRI self	-.01	.02	-.53	.59		
	NPI self	.05	.02	2.56	.01		
Model 3	Betrayal Severity	.10	.16	.65	.52	.33	.13
	IOS	-.44	.17	-2.50	.01		
	Checklist	-.45	.16	-2.83	.01		
	Apology						
	Trait forgiveness	-.21	.04	-5.77	.00		
	IRI self	.00	.02	-.20	.84		
	NPI self	.04	.02	2.39	.02		
	IRI other	-.06	.03	-2.22	.03		
	Honesty-Humility	-.04	.03	-1.54	.12		
	Emotionality	.04	.03	1.26	.21		
	Xtraversion	.01	.03	.54	.59		
	Agreeableness	.04	.03	1.55	.12		
	Conscientiousness	-.02	.02	-1.03	.31		
	Openness	.05	.02	2.24	.03		

IOS - Inclusion of Self in Other (relational closeness), IRI - Interpersonal Reactivity Index (empathy), NPI - Narcissistic Personality Inventory (narcissism)

Table 5

Pearson Correlations between Variables

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1. Avoidance	1								
2. Benevolence	-.81**	1							
3. Revenge	.60**	-.57**	1						
4. Severity	.32**	-.29**	.19**	1					
5. IOS	-.57*	.49**	-.33**	-.33**	1				
6. Apology	-.29**	.21**	-.26**	.16*	.25**	1			
7. Trait forgiveness	-.28**	.31**	-.40**	-.23**	.16*	.02	1		
8. IRI self	-.10	.18**	-.09	-.00	.05	.01	.11	1	
9. NPI self	.16*	-.15*	.21**	.22**	-.13	.00	-.07	-.08	1
10. IRI other	-.14*	.14*	-.11	.04	.13	.16*	-.08	.08	-.01
11. Honesty-Humility	-.26**	.28**	-.13	-.04	.18**	.17*	-.12	.02	-.10
12. Emotionality	-.02	.01	-.02	.09	.01	.06	-.04	.00	-.01
13. Xtraversion	-.04	.06	-.03	-.05	.14*	.15*	.02	.02	-.07
14. Agreeableness	-.07	.05	.07	.01	.10	.02	-.20**	-.08	-.01
15. Conscientiousness	-.21**	.23**	-.10	.01	.07	.12	-.05	-.01	-.06
16. Openness	-.14*	.17*	.06	.02	.00	.05	-.03	.02	.02
17. Age	.10	-.17*	.06	.27**	-.14*	.02	.04	-.08	.09
18. Gender	-.06	.15*	-.07	-.10	.13	.14*	-.04	.37**	-.13*

* Denotes correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

** Denotes correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 5, continued

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1. Avoidance									
2. Benevolence									
3. Revenge									
4. Severity									
5. IOS									
6. Apology									
7. Trait forgiveness									
8. IRI self									
9. NPI self									
10. IRI other	1								
11. Honesty-Humility	.26**	1							
12. Emotionality	.6**	0.07	1						
13. Xtraversion	0.01	-0.09	-0.13	1					
14. Agreeableness	.31**	.37**	-0.04	0.08	1				
15. Conscientiousness	.18**	.38**	.17**	-0.05	.15*	1			
16. Openness	.42**	.29**	0.13	0.01	.17**	.26**	1		
17. Age	0.13	0.02	.16*	-0.04	0.01	0.06	0.07	1	
18. Gender	-.21**	0.12	-.25**	0.11	-0.05	-0.07	-0.11	-.27**	1

* Denotes correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

** Denotes correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Appendix A

Informed Consent Statement

Participation in a Study about Interpersonal Forgiveness

You are asked to participate in a research study conducted by Patrick Carmody, B.A. and Kristina Coop Gordon, Ph.D. from the Department of Psychology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. You were selected as a possible participant in this study because of your current enrollment as an undergraduate at the University of Tennessee. Please note that you must be at least 18 years old to participate.

Purpose of Study

The purpose of this study is to investigate characteristics of offending partners in relationships where betrayal has occurred.

Procedures

You will receive with this form a packet of questions asking you to remember a time in a relationship when you felt betrayed by another person. This packet will ask you questions about your personal characteristics, as well as those of the person who you feel betrayed you, and for a description of the betrayal. You will also be asked some questions about how you feel about forgiveness in general, as well as how you feel about forgiving this person.

Potential Risks and Discomforts

The risks to your participation are expected to be very small, but it is possible that you may feel somewhat uncomfortable as a result of remembering someone in your life acting in an unpleasant way and how these actions affected your relationship. You may stop participating at any time, and if the emotional discomfort persists, we ask that you contact one of the investigators who can assist you with the uneasiness and refer you to resources to help you deal with this discomfort. However, if you are referred, you will be responsible for the costs of the treatment or evaluation you receive.

Potential Benefits to Subjects and/or to Society

What we learn from you will assist us in improving our understanding of how individuals view people who have betrayed them, and how these offender variables affect their perceptions of an interpersonal betrayal. This will be greatly beneficial to the field of psychology and, specifically, research in the field of interpersonal forgiveness. Furthermore, you will receive four points of credit for your undergraduate psychology course in return for completing today's initial survey.

Confidentiality

All information about your participation in this research study will be kept confidential. All records that may link you to this study will be stored securely in locked filing cabinets, which will be kept in a locked research laboratory. All of the data that we will collect from you will be identified by your university identification number, rather than by name, and the master list containing the names and this signed consent form will also be kept in a secured, locked filing cabinet. This master list and all consent forms will be destroyed 3 years after the study has ended. Access to this information will only be allowed to those persons directly involved in conducting this study. Those persons involved in this study have all signed forms pledging to keep all of the information we receive from you confidential.

Right of Research Participants

Your participation is completely voluntary. You will not be penalized if you refuse to participate at any time during the study. In addition, you do not have to complete any portions of the surveys that you would prefer not to complete.

Identification of Investigators

If at any time you have questions regarding this study, you may contact Dr. Kristina Coop Gordon (the Co-Principal Investigator) at (865) 974-3347 or at kgordon1@utk.edu. Or you may contact the

Principal Investigator, Patrick Carmody, at pcarmody@utk.edu. If you have questions about your rights as a participant, contact the UT Compliance Section at (865) 974-3466.

Signature of Research Participant

I have read and understood the above explanation about the study, have received a copy of this form, certify that I am at least 18 years of age, and agree to participate.

Printed Name of Participant

Email Address

Appendix B

Items of the Checklist Apology Tool**Did this person apologize to you for the offense?**

Yes No

If you answered “yes” above, when this person apologized to you, which of the following items best resemble the statements and behaviors included in that apology? Please place X (an) mark(s) to indicate the items.

This person...

_____ said “I’m sorry.”

_____ made an excuse to explain why he/she betrayed.

_____ said he/she would never do it again.

_____ looked genuinely remorseful.

_____ accepted full responsibility for the betrayal.

_____ offered to try to make things right somehow.

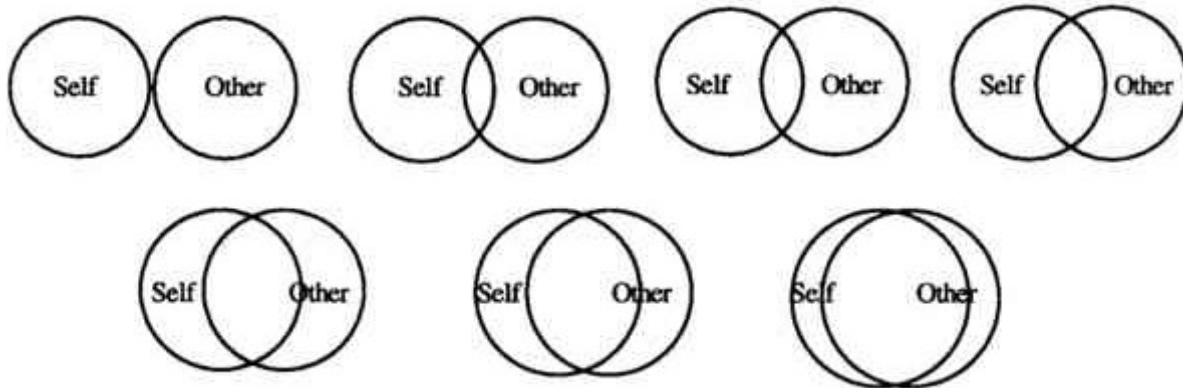
_____ acknowledged my feelings about the betrayal.

_____ felt that he/she deserved forgiveness.

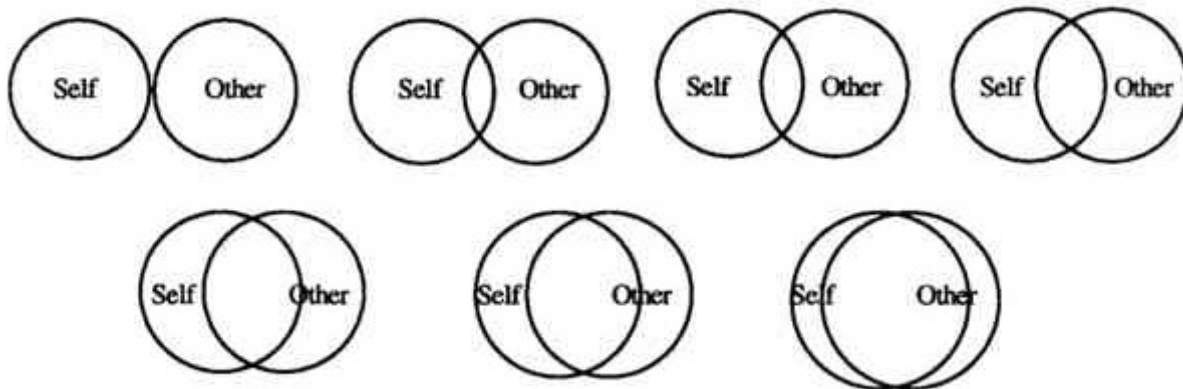
Appendix C

Inclusion of Other in the Self (IOS)

From the seven Venn diagrams below, which one best describes your closeness to the person who betrayed you *before the betrayal took place*? (More overlap indicates more closeness.)



Which Venn diagram best describes your closeness to the person who betrayed you *after the betrayal*?



Appendix D

Items of the Transgression-Related Interpersonal Motivations scale (TRIM)

For the questions on this page, please indicate your current thoughts and feelings about the person who recently hurt you. Use the following scale to indicate your agreement with each of the questions.

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| <i>1</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>4</i> | <i>5</i> |
| <i>Strongly</i> | <i>Disagree</i> | <i>Neutral</i> | <i>Agree</i> | <i>Strongly</i> |
| <i>disagree</i> | | | | <i>agree</i> |
-
- | |
|---|
| ☐ 1. I'll make him/her pay. (R) |
| ☐ 2. I am trying to keep as much distance between us as possible. (A) |
| ☐ 3. Even though his/her actions hurt me, I have goodwill for him/her. (B) |
| ☐ 4. I wish that something bad would happen to him/her. (R) |
| ☐ 5. I am living as if he/she doesn't exist, isn't around. (A) |
| ☐ 6. I want us to bury the hatchet and move forward with our relationship. (B) |
| ☐ 7. I don't trust him/her. (A) |
| ☐ 8. Despite what he/she did, I want us to have a positive relationship again. (B) |
| ☐ 9. I want him/her to get what he/she deserves. (R) |
| ☐ 10. I am finding it difficult to act warmly toward him/her. (A) |
| ☐ 11. I am avoiding him/her. (A) |
| ☐ 12. Although he/she hurt me, I am putting the hurts aside so we could resume our relationship. (B) |
| ☐ 13. I'm going to get even. (R) |
| ☐ 14. I forgive him/her for what he/she did to me. (B) |
| ☐ 15. I cut off the relationship with him/her. (A) |
| ☐ 16. I have released my anger so I can work on restoring our relationship to health. (B) |
| ☐ 17. I want to see him/her hurt and miserable. (R) |
| ☐ 18. I withdraw from him/her. (A) |

Note. Items on the Avoidance, Revenge, and Benevolence subscales are denoted with (A), (R), and (B), respectively.

Appendix E

Interpersonal Reactivity Index (IRI) self-report

Please place a number next to each statement in order to indicate how much each statement describes you.

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <i>Does not</i> | <i>Mostly does</i> | <i>Neutral</i> | <i>Somewhat</i> | <i>Describes me</i> |
| <i>describe me</i> | <i>not describe</i> | | <i>describes me</i> | <i>very well</i> |
| <i>at all</i> | <i>me</i> | | | |
-
- ___ 1. I daydream and fantasize, with some regularity, about things that might happen to me.
 - ___ 2. I often have tender, concerned feelings for people less fortunate than me.
 - ___ 3. I sometimes find it difficult to see things from the "other guy's" point of view. (-)
 - ___ 4. Sometimes I don't feel sorry for other people when they are having problems. (-)
 - ___ 5. I really get involved with the feelings of the characters in a novel.
 - ___ 6. In emergency situations, I feel apprehensive and ill-at-ease.
 - ___ 7. I am usually objective when I watch a movie or play, and I don't often get completely caught up in it. (-)
 - ___ 8. I try to look at everybody's side of a disagreement before I make a decision.
 - ___ 9. When I see someone being taken advantage of, I feel kind of protective toward them.
 - ___ 10. I sometimes feel helpless when I am in the middle of a very emotional situation.
 - ___ 11. I sometimes try to understand my friends better by imagining how things look from their perspective.
 - ___ 12. Becoming extremely involved in a good book or movie is somewhat rare for me. (-)
 - ___ 13. When I see someone get hurt, I tend to remain calm. (-)
 - ___ 14. Other people's misfortunes do not usually disturb me a great deal. (-)
 - ___ 15. If I'm sure I'm right about something, I don't waste much time listening to other people's arguments. (-)
 - ___ 16. After seeing a play or movie, I have felt as though I were one of the characters.
 - ___ 17. Being in a tense emotional situation scares me.
 - ___ 18. When I see someone being treated unfairly, I sometimes don't feel very much pity for them. (-)
 - ___ 19. I am usually pretty effective in dealing with emergencies. (-)
 - ___ 20. I am often quite touched by things that I see happen.
 - ___ 21. I believe that there are two sides to every question and try to look at them both.
 - ___ 22. I would describe myself as a pretty soft-hearted person.
 - ___ 23. When I watch a good movie, I can very easily put myself in the place of a leading character.
 - ___ 24. I tend to lose control during emergencies.
 - ___ 25. When I'm upset at someone, I usually try to "put myself in his shoes" for a while.
 - ___ 26. When I am reading an interesting story or novel, I imagine how I would feel if the events in the story were happening to me.
 - ___ 27. When I see someone who badly needs help in an emergency, I go to pieces.
 - ___ 28. Before criticizing somebody, I try to imagine how I would feel if I were in their place.

Items of the Interpersonal Reactivity Index (IRI) observer-report

Please place a number next to each statement in order to indicate how much each statement describes the person who betrayed you.

<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Does not</i>	<i>Mostly does</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Somewhat</i>	<i>Describes him/her</i>
<i>describe him</i>	<i>not describe</i>		<i>describes</i>	<i>very well</i>
<i>or her at all</i>	<i>him/her</i>		<i>him/her</i>	

- ☐ 1. He/she daydreams and fantasizes, with some regularity, about things that might happen to him/her.
- ☐ 2. He/she often has tender, concerned feelings for people less fortunate than him/her.
- ☐ 3. He/she sometimes finds it difficult to see things from the "other guy's" point of view. (-)
- ☐ 4. Sometimes he/she doesn't feel sorry for other people when they are having problems. (-)
- ☐ 5. He/she really gets involved with the feelings of the characters in a novel.
- ☐ 6. In emergency situations, he/she feels apprehensive and ill-at-ease.
- ☐ 7. He/she is usually objective when he/she watches a movie or play, and he/she doesn't often get completely caught up in it. (-)
- ☐ 8. He/she tries to look at everybody's side of a disagreement before he/she makes a decision.
- ☐ 9. When he/she sees someone being taken advantage of, he/she feels kind of protective toward them.
- ☐ 10. He/she sometimes feels helpless when he/she is in the middle of a very emotional situation.
- ☐ 11. He/she sometimes tries to understand his/her friends better by imagining how things look from their perspective.
- ☐ 12. Becoming extremely involved in a good book or movie is somewhat rare for him/her. (-)
- ☐ 13. When he/she sees someone get hurt, he/she tends to remain calm. (-)
- ☐ 14. Other people's misfortunes do not usually disturb him/her a great deal. (-)
- ☐ 15. If he/she is sure he/she is right about something, he/she doesn't waste much time listening to other people's arguments. (-)
- ☐ 16. After seeing a play or movie, he/she has felt as though he/she were one of the characters.
- ☐ 17. Being in a tense emotional situation scares him/her.
- ☐ 18. When he/she sees someone being treated unfairly, he/she sometimes doesn't feel very much pity for them. (-)
- ☐ 19. He/she is usually pretty effective in dealing with emergencies. (-)
- ☐ 20. He/she is often quite touched by things that he/she sees happen.
- ☐ 21. He/she believes that there are two sides to every question and tries to look at them both.
- ☐ 22. He/she would describe himself/herself as a pretty soft-hearted person.
- ☐ 23. When he/she watches a good movie, he/she can very easily put himself/herself in the place of a leading character.
- ☐ 24. He/she tends to lose control during emergencies.
- ☐ 25. When he/she is upset at someone, he/she usually tries to "put himself in another's shoes" for a while.
- ☐ 26. When he/she is reading an interesting story or novel, he/she imagines how he/she would feel if the events in the story were happening to him/her.
- ☐ 27. When he/she sees someone who badly needs help in an emergency, he/she goes to pieces.
- ☐ 28. Before criticizing somebody, he/she tries to imagine how he/she would feel if he/she were in their place.

Appendix F

Items of the Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI) self-report

Please place a number next to each statement in order to indicate how much you agree with each statement.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <i>Strongly disagree</i> | <i>Somewhat disagree</i> | <i>Somewhat agree</i> | <i>Strongly agree</i> |
-
- ☐ 1. I have a natural talent for influencing people.
 - ☐ 2. Modesty doesn't become me.
 - ☐ 3. I would do almost anything on a dare.
 - ☐ 4. I know that I am good because everybody keeps telling me so.
 - ☐ 5. If I ruled the world it would be a much better place.
 - ☐ 6. I can usually talk my way out of anything.
 - ☐ 7. I like to be the center of attention.
 - ☐ 8. I will be a success.
 - ☐ 9. I think I am a special person.
 - ☐ 10. I see myself as a good leader.
 - ☐ 11. I am assertive.
 - ☐ 12. I like to have authority over other people.
 - ☐ 13. I find it easy to manipulate people.
 - ☐ 14. I insist upon getting the respect that is due me.
 - ☐ 15. I like to display my body.
 - ☐ 16. I can read people like a book.
 - ☐ 17. I like to take responsibility for making decisions.
 - ☐ 18. I want to amount to something in the eyes of the world.
 - ☐ 19. I like to look at my body.
 - ☐ 20. I am apt to show off if I get the chance.
 - ☐ 21. I always know what I am doing.
 - ☐ 22. I rarely depend on anyone else to get things done.
 - ☐ 23. Everybody likes to hear my stories.
 - ☐ 24. I expect a great deal from other people.
 - ☐ 25. I will never be satisfied until I get all that I deserve.
 - ☐ 26. I like to be complimented.
 - ☐ 27. I have a strong will to power.
 - ☐ 28. I like to start new fads and fashions.
 - ☐ 29. I like to look at myself in the mirror.
 - ☐ 30. I really like to be the center of attention.
 - ☐ 31. I can live my life in any way I want to.
 - ☐ 32. People always seem to recognize my authority.
 - ☐ 33. I would prefer to be a leader.
 - ☐ 34. I am going to be a great person.
 - ☐ 35. I can make anybody believe anything I want them to.
 - ☐ 36. I am a born leader.
 - ☐ 37. I wish somebody would someday write my biography.
 - ☐ 38. I get upset when people don't notice how I look when I go out in public.
 - ☐ 39. I am more capable than other people.
 - ☐ 40. I am an extraordinary person.

Appendix G

Items of the Trait Forgivingness Scale (TFS)

Directions: Indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with each statement below by using the following scale:

<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Strongly</i>	<i>Mildly</i>	<i>Agree and</i>	<i>Mildly</i>	<i>Strongly</i>
<i>disagree</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>disagree equally</i>	<i>agree</i>	<i>agree</i>

- ☐ 1. People close to me probably think I hold a grudge too long.
- ☐ 2. I can forgive a friend for almost anything.
- ☐ 3. If someone treats me badly, I treat him or her the same.
- ☐ 4. I try to forgive others even when they don't feel guilty for what they did.
- ☐ 5. I can usually forgive and forget an insult.
- ☐ 6. I feel bitter about many of my relationships.
- ☐ 7. Even after I forgive someone, things often come back to me that I resent.
- ☐ 8. There are some things for which I could never forgive even a loved one.
- ☐ 9. I have always forgiven those who have hurt me.
- ☐ 10. I am a forgiving person.

Appendix H

Items of the HEXACO-PI-R observer report

On the following pages you will find a series of statements about the person that you are rating now. Please read each statement and decide how much you agree or disagree with that statement. Then write your response in the space next to the statement using the following scale:

1 = strongly disagree 2 = disagree 3 = neutral 4 = agree 5 = strongly agree

- ___ 1 He/she would be quite bored by a visit to an art gallery.
- ___ 2 He/she cleans his/her office or home quite frequently.
- ___ 3 He/she rarely holds a grudge, even against people who have badly wronged him/her.
- ___ 4 He/she feels reasonably satisfied with himself/herself overall.
- ___ 5 He/she would feel afraid if he/she had to travel in bad weather conditions.
- ___ 6 If he/she wants something from a person he/she dislikes, he/she will act very nicely toward that person in order to get it.
- ___ 7 He/she is interested in learning about the history and politics of other countries.
- ___ 8 When working, he/she often sets ambitious goals for himself/herself.
- ___ 9 People sometimes say that he/she is too critical of others.
- ___ 10 He/she rarely expresses his/her opinions in group meetings.
- ___ 11 He/she worries about little things.
- ___ 12 If he/she knew that he/she could never get caught, he/she would be willing to steal a million dollars.
- ___ 13 He/she would like a job that requires following a routine rather than being creative.
- ___ 14 He/she often checks his/her work over repeatedly to find any mistakes.
- ___ 15 People sometimes think that he/she is too stubborn.
- ___ 16 He/she avoids making "small talk" with people.
- ___ 17 When he/she suffers from a painful experience, he/she needs someone to make him/her feel comfortable.
- ___ 18 Having a lot of money is not especially important to him/her.
- ___ 19 He/she thinks that paying attention to radical ideas is a waste of time.
- ___ 20 He/she makes decisions based on the feeling of the moment rather than on careful thought.
- ___ 21 People think of him/her as someone who has a quick temper.
- ___ 22 He/she is energetic nearly all the time.
- ___ 23 He/she feels like crying when he/she sees other people crying.
- ___ 24 He/she thinks that he/she is an ordinary person who is no better than others.
- ___ 25 He/she wouldn't spend his/her time reading a book of poetry.
- ___ 26 He/she plans ahead and organizes things, to avoid scrambling at the last minute.
- ___ 27 His/her attitude toward people who have treated him/her badly is "forgive and forget".
- ___ 28 He/she thinks that most people like some aspects of his/her personality.
- ___ 29 He/she doesn't mind doing jobs that involve dangerous work.
- ___ 30 He/she wouldn't use flattery to get a raise or promotion at work, even if he/she thought it would succeed.
- ___ 31 He/she enjoys looking at maps of different places.
- ___ 32 He/she often pushes himself/herself very hard when trying to achieve a goal.
- ___ 33 He/she generally accepts people's faults without complaining about them.
- ___ 34 In social situations, he/she is usually the one who makes the first move.
- ___ 35 He/she worries a lot less than most people do.
- ___ 36 He/she would be tempted to buy stolen property if he/she were financially tight.
- ___ 37 He/she would enjoy creating a work of art, such as a novel, a song, or a painting.
- ___ 38 When working on something, he/she doesn't pay much attention to small details.
- ___ 39 He/she is usually quite flexible in his/her opinions when people disagree with him/her.
- ___ 40 He/she enjoys having lots of people around to talk with.
- ___ 41 He/she can handle difficult situations without needing emotional support from anyone else.
- ___ 42 He/she would like to live in a very expensive, high-class neighborhood.

- ___ 43 He/she likes people who have unconventional views.
- ___ 44 He/she makes a lot of mistakes because he/she doesn't think before he/she acts.
- ___ 45 He/she rarely feels anger, even when people treat him/her quite badly.
- ___ 46 On most days, he/she feels cheerful and optimistic.
- ___ 47 When someone he/she knows well is unhappy, he/she can almost feel that person's pain himself/herself.
- ___ 48 He/she wouldn't want people to treat him/her as though he/she were superior to them.
- ___ 49 If he/she had the opportunity, he/she would like to attend a classical music concert.
- ___ 50 People often joke with him/her about the messiness of his/her room or desk.
- ___ 51 If someone has cheated him/her once, he/she will always feel suspicious of that person.
- ___ 52 He/she feels that he/she is an unpopular person.
- ___ 53 When it comes to physical danger, he/she is very fearful.
- ___ 54 If he/she wants something from someone, he/she will laugh at that person's worst jokes.
- ___ 55 He/she would be very bored by a book about the history of science and technology.
- ___ 56 Often when he/she sets a goal, he/she ends up quitting without having reached it.
- ___ 57 He/she tends to be lenient in judging other people.
- ___ 58 When he/she is in a group of people, he/she is often the one who speaks on behalf of the group.
- ___ 59 He/she rarely, if ever, has trouble sleeping due to stress or anxiety.
- ___ 60 He/she would never accept a bribe, even if it were very large.
- ___ 61 He/she has a good imagination.
- ___ 62 He/she always tries to be accurate in his/her work, even at the expense of time.
- ___ 63 When people tell him/her that he/she is wrong, his/her first reaction is to argue with them.
- ___ 64 He/she prefers jobs that involve active social interaction to those that involve working alone.
- ___ 65 Whenever he/she feels worried about something, he/she wants to share his/her concern with another person.
- ___ 66 He/she would like to be seen driving around in a very expensive car.
- ___ 67 I think of him/her as a somewhat eccentric person.
- ___ 68 He/she doesn't allow his/her impulses to govern his/her behavior.
- ___ 69 Most people tend to get angry more quickly than he/she does.
- ___ 70 People often tell him/her that he/she should try to cheer up.
- ___ 71 He/she feels strong emotions when someone close to him/her is going away for a long time.
- ___ 72 He/she thinks that he/she is entitled to more respect than the average person is.
- ___ 73 Sometimes he/she likes to just watch the wind as it blows through the trees.
- ___ 74 When working, he/she sometimes has difficulties due to being disorganized.
- ___ 75 He/she finds it hard to fully forgive someone who has done something mean to him/her.
- ___ 76 He/she sometimes feels that he/she is a worthless person.
- ___ 77 Even in an emergency he/she wouldn't feel like panicking.
- ___ 78 He/she wouldn't pretend to like someone just to get that person to do favors for him/her.
- ___ 79 He/she has never really enjoyed looking through an encyclopedia.
- ___ 80 He/she does only the minimum amount of work needed to get by.
- ___ 81 Even when people make a lot of mistakes, he/she rarely says anything negative.
- ___ 82 He/she tends to feel quite self-conscious when speaking in front of a group of people.
- ___ 83 He/she gets very anxious when waiting to hear about an important decision.
- ___ 84 He/she'd be tempted to use counterfeit money, if he/she were sure he/she could get away with it.
- ___ 85 I don't think of him/her as the artistic or creative type.
- ___ 86 People often call him/her a perfectionist.
- ___ 87 He/she finds it hard to compromise with people when he/she really thinks he/she is right.
- ___ 88 The first thing that he/she always does in a new place is to make friends.
- ___ 89 He/she rarely discusses his/her problems with other people.
- ___ 90 He/she would get a lot of pleasure from owning expensive luxury goods.
- ___ 91 He/she finds it boring to discuss philosophy.
- ___ 92 He/she prefers to do whatever comes to mind, rather than stick to a plan.
- ___ 93 He/she finds it hard to keep his/her temper when people insult him/her.
- ___ 94 Most people are more upbeat and dynamic than he/she generally is.
- ___ 95 He/she remains unemotional even in situations where most people get very sentimental.
- ___ 96 He/she wants people to know that he/she is an important person of high status.

- ___ 97 He/she has sympathy for people who are less fortunate than he/she is.
- ___ 98 He/she tries to give generously to those in need.
- ___ 99 It wouldn't bother him/her to harm someone he/she didn't like.
- ___ 100 People see him/her as a hard-hearted person.

Appendix I

Text Presented to Potential Participants on Human Participants in Research (HPR) Website

Participant Task (100 words or less - PARTICIPANT WILL SEE):

(Do NOT Press ENTER while typing, let the words wrap to next line automatically!)

The purpose of this study is to investigate characteristics of offending partners in relationships where betrayal has occurred. You will receive a packet of questions asking you to remember a time in a relationship when you felt betrayed by another person. This packet will ask you questions about your personal characteristics, as well as those of the person who you feel betrayed you, and for a description of the betrayal. You will also be asked some questions about how you feel about forgiveness in general, as well as how you feel about forgiving this person.

Participant Task (100 words or less - PARTICIPANT WILL SEE):

(Do NOT Press ENTER while typing, let the words wrap to next line automatically!)

The purpose of this study is to investigate characteristics of offending partners in relationships where betrayal has occurred. The risks to participation are expected to be very small, but it is possible that participants may feel somewhat uncomfortable as a result of remembering someone acting in an unpleasant way and how these actions affected the relationship. Participants may stop participating at any time, and if the emotional discomfort persists, we ask that participants contact one of the investigators who can assist with the uneasiness and refer the participant to resources to help deal with this discomfort. What we learn from participants will assist in improving our understanding of how individuals view those people who betrayed them. All information about participation in this research study will be kept confidential. Records will be stored securely, and access to information collected is restricted to persons directly involved in conducting this study. Participation is completely voluntary, and participants may discontinue participation at any time, and for any reason, without penalty. If participants have questions regarding this study, they may contact Dr. Kristina Coop Gordon (865-974-3347) or Patrick Carmody (336-385-0047). If participants have questions about their rights as participants, they may contact the UT Compliance Section (865-974-3466).

VITA

Patrick Carmody attended Emory & Henry College and double-majored in Religion and Psychology. While attending, he presented original psychological research at regional conferences, on topics such as violent media and the development of trait aggression, as well as dormitory architecture is a potential facilitator of student loneliness, depression, and substance use. He graduated *magna cum laude* with a B.A. in 2006. Next, he attended the University of Tennessee, enrolling in the Experimental Psychology doctoral program, at various points working alongside Dr. Debora Baldwin, Dr. Kristina Gordon, and Dr. John Lounsbury. Patrick was offered several teaching assistantships, including teaching three semesters of Psychology 110, Introductory Psychology, as well as two semesters of Psychology 220, Humanistic Psychology. He graduated with a Master of Arts degree in Summer 2010.