9.3 Hypothesis testing from a partly-dyadic perspective

The association between ~~sex-role identity combinations~~ and ~~joint relationship-satisfaction outcomes~~ between the partners in couples has now been investigated (under 9.2) as central part of the ~~dyadic~~ focus of the study. In response to the reminder by Burleson and Denton (1997), it is accepted that such dyadic effects may mask or hide other important individual effects. As a result, ~~partly dyadic~~ (see 9.3) and non-dyadic (see 9.4) patterns have been investigated comprehensively as well. To avoid obscuring the core focus of the study and repeating too much material, a deliberate attempt is made hence to concentrate only on core findings, to note those deviating from or corresponding with findings at the dyadic level, and, generally speaking, to keep reporting as selective and concise as possible. Central findings, in summary form, are reported as early as possible, followed by more detailed evidence and explanations, as appropriate.

~~Personal (or individual)~~ ~~sex-role identity~~ **type in itself can be associated in unique ways with** ~~relationship satisfaction~~ **in** ~~dyadic~~ **configurations. Also,** ~~dyadic~~ ~~sex-role identity~~ **configurations can be associated with the** ~~personal~~ ~~relationship satisfaction~~ **outcomes in partners. As a result, two clusters of analysis can be considered** ~~partly dyadic~~**.**

- In the first case, the central question is whether or not a particular sex-role identity type, relative to any other identity type, in a (one) partner is associated with a high level of relationship satisfaction in both partners. Section 9.3.1 is used to report the findings on this question.
- In the second instance, certain sex-role identity combinations or configurations, more than others, between partners may be associated with any one of the partners' personal relationship satisfaction level. Section 9.3.2 is used for reporting the findings in this regard.

Because high correlations have thus far (see Sections 9.1 and 9.2) emerged from the data based on the various instruments in terms of alternative measurement (*DAS* and short scale for relationship satisfaction, and *BSRI* and *ACL-SRI* for sex-role identity), and in terms of technique (self-reported and ascribed sex-role identity ratings), the analyses following hereafter are based on the *DAS* scores and *BSRI* self-ratings only.

9.3.1 Personal sex-role identity and dyadic relationship satisfaction

When both partners in a couple experience the same level of relationship satisfaction, it was found that femininity and androgyny, in this order (albeit not statistically significantly), are significantly more closely associated with this relationship satisfaction outcome than masculinity and an undifferentiated sex-role identity type.

This set of findings corresponds very well with that/those reported in Table 9.60 (in Section 9.2.4). It is thus indicated that knowing that an individual partner's sex-role identity type is feminine (or androgynous), enables predicting with equal certainty that both partners in a couple will have high and simultaneous relationship satisfaction, just as well as knowing that at least one partner in a couple

(implying a dyadic evaluation, relative to a known similarly- or less-adaptive sex-role identity type in the other partner) is feminine (or androgynous).

The overall conclusion, just related, is based first on chi-square analyses (using tau-coefficients for two nominal variables), which were performed by sub-sample on the cross-tabulated frequency distributions reflecting the joint or combined dyadic relationship satisfaction outcomes (both, either, or neither partners in a couple are satisfied) for each sex-role identity type. The findings (in order of significance) revealed that individual:

- masculinity and androgyny, in this order (and by no means an undifferentiated sex-role identity type), among lesbian respondents (p=0,024; significant at the 5%-level);
- androgyny and femininity, (and not masculinity and an undifferentiated sex-role identity type), among heterosexual males (p=0,132);
- femininity and androgyny, among heterosexual females (p=0,143); and
- femininity and androgyny, among gay respondents (p=0,684);

were associated more, compared to other sex-role identity types, with (dyadic) relationship satisfaction.

The extent to which Hypotheses 4 to 9 apply to the present investigations was investigated by through analysis of variance (ANOVA) procedures applied to the mean relationship satisfaction (*DAS*) scores of the respondents in the various sub-samples. Data complexities obviated the comparison of patterns by sex across sexual orientation, as homosexual respondents' data and those of heterosexual respondents again had to be kept and analysed in different datasets. As a result, only sex effects within each sexual orientation are referred to.

Simultaneous comparison of the correspondence of mean relationship satisfaction scores for couples with their sex-role identity types, revealed a significant link (p=0,033; at the 5%-level)[1] for heterosexual males (with scores ranging from highest to lowest for feminine, androgynous, masculine and undifferentiated individuals). For heterosexual females, the link was insignificant (p=0,219) (and the findings showed almost equally high couple scores for feminine, undifferentiated and androgynous female partners, but low scores for masculine ones). For gay respondents, the link was insignificant (p=0,609) (and the couple score sequence evenly spread from highest to lowest corresponding with partners' androgynous, feminine, masculine and undifferentiated sex-role identity types). Among lesbian respondents, the relationship was also insignificant (p=0,149) (with couples' scores corresponding evenly with the sequence followed from feminine, through androgynous and masculine, to undifferentiated partner sex-role identity types). The more detailed **pair-wise patterns**, elaborated on below, emerged within the broader picture portrayed above.

The findings do not confirm Hypothesis 4, expecting higher (dyadic) relationship satisfaction among androgynous respondents, compared to feminine ones.

Femininity, in turn, slightly more than androgyny, was associated with greater (corresponding) relationship satisfaction between partners by inspecting the between-group variances among lesbian

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[1] Significant differences (5%- and 1%-level) are underscored, being highly meaningful for small sub-sample sizes.

(p=0,747, n=11), heterosexual male (p=0,171, n=25), heterosexual female (p=0,785, n=31), combined homosexual (p=0,920, n=26), and combined heterosexual (p=0,391, n=56) respondents (each analysed separately). Gay respondents did follow the hypothesised pattern (p=0,651, n=15). These patterns largely concur with those in Section 9.2.3.3 and Table 9.47 (at the dyadic level), reporting on the highest adaptive sex-role identity type present in a partner.

The findings confirm Hypothesis 5, expecting higher (dyadic) relationship satisfaction among ~~androgynous~~ respondents, compared to ~~masculine~~ ones.

This applied to the between-group variances among gay (p=0,358, n=11), lesbian (p=0,451, n=17), heterosexual male (p=0,163, n=29), heterosexual female (p=0,083, n=24), all homosexual (p=0,217, n=28), and all heterosexual (p=~~0,039~~, n=53) respondents. These findings concur very strongly with those reported in Section 9.2.3.3 and Table 9.48, where the highest adaptive sex-role identity type present in either partner was studied.

The findings confirm Hypothesis 6, expecting higher (dyadic) relationship satisfaction among ~~androgynous~~ respondents, compared to ~~undifferentiated~~ ones.

This applied to the between-group variances among gay (p=0,305, n=8), lesbian (p=0,088, n=24), heterosexual male (p=0,101, n=23), all homosexual (p=0,009, n=32), and all heterosexual (p=0,196, n=49) respondents. Only one exception to the hypothesised pattern occurred, namely for heterosexual female respondents (p=0,810, n=26). These findings concur quite strongly, especially with regard to all female and all homosexual respondents, with those reported in Section 9.2.3.3 and Table 9.49.

The findings confirm Hypothesis 7, expecting higher (dyadic) relationship satisfaction among ~~feminine~~ respondents, compared to ~~masculine~~ ones.

This applied to the between-group variances among gay (p=0,568, n=14), lesbian (p=0,270, n=16), heterosexual male (p=~~0,009~~, n=26), heterosexual female (p=0,128, n=23), all homosexual (p=0,131, n=30), and all heterosexual (p=~~0,016~~, n=49) respondents, each analysed separately. The finding for heterosexual partners in particular concur very strongly with the findings reported in Section 9.2.3.3 and Table 9.50.

The findings confirm Hypothesis 8, expecting higher (dyadic) relationship satisfaction among ~~feminine~~ respondents, compared to ~~undifferentiated~~ ones.

This applied to the between-group variances among gay (p=0,385, n=11), lesbian (p=0,035, n=23), heterosexual male (p=~~0,036~~, n=20), heterosexual female (p=0,936, n=25), all homosexual (p=~~0,002~~, n=34), and all heterosexual (p=0,093, n=45) respondents, each analysed separately. These findings generally concur well with those reported in Section 9.2.3.3 and Table 9.51, especially regarding the outcomes among all homosexual and all female respondents. However, it also appears as if the mere presence of femininity among individual male and/or heterosexual respondents (more than an undifferentiated sex-role identity type), can predict relationship satisfaction just as well as femininity, when present in at least one of the partners (dyadically compared). The latter finding could also partly be an artefact of slightly low cell frequencies in the categories concerned.

The findings do not consistently confirm Hypothesis 9, expecting higher (dyadic) relationship satisfaction among masculine respondents, compared to undifferentiated ones.

The hypothesis was confirmed (no findings were significant; expected direction only) with regard to the between-group variances among gay (p=0,498, n=7), lesbian (p=0,343, n=29), heterosexual male (p=0,351, n=24), and all homosexual (p=0,158, n=36) respondents. For heterosexual female (p=0,071, n=18) and all heterosexual (p=0,728, n=42) respondents, the findings were not in the expected direction. For all homosexual partners, especially females, these trends correspond to the findings reported in Section 9.2.3.3 and Table 9.52.

It has to be noted that the findings concerning heterosexual and homosexual respondents are based on different datasets, because of the nature of the data, and limitations with regard to the structuring of datasets by grouping variables and cases in ways that would enable the required analyses. The effect of this may be that the strength of observed correlations may not be on an equivalent scale. For heterosexual couples (n=49), the dataset (n=80) treating couples as cases was used. This was possible because the different variables for sex-role identity scores corresponded perfectly with the two sexes of the respondents (i.e., separate variables comprised the scores of the male and female partners respectively, related to their joint or common relationship satisfaction outcomes). However, in the case of homosexual couples (n=11 and n=20 respectively for gays and lesbians), this is not the case. For instance, to relate male partners' sex-role identity scores to their joint relationship satisfaction outcomes, the dataset (n=160) treating respondents as cases had to be used. Only in this way could the total number of gay and lesbian partners, respectively, be combined into two separate but complete sub-groups (with n=22 and n=40 respectively). The only alternative would be to run serial or parallel, but separate, analyses on the scores of either of the two partners in homosexual couples, thus again reducing the cell frequencies drastically, as would be the power of the technique to detect significant patterns.

9.3.2   Dyadic sex-role identity and personal relationship satisfaction

In this section, the dyadic sex-role identity patterns among pairs of partners are studied further, particularly in as far as they may predict relationship satisfaction in individual partners, instead of simultaneously for the partners of every couple, when treated as a unit. It can be argued that a close, dyadic relationship can only be considered successful or happy when both partners share at least a realistic, minimum satisfaction level. This point is granted, explaining the focus of the study and findings so far.

However, in the best interest of science, it has to be established whether or not the dyadic sex-role identity dynamics apply at the level of personal relationship satisfaction. This research question implies that there may be unique configurations or factors of value to individuals, considered purely on their own. Some circumstances may from time to time dictate that the interests of any given partner be protected or attended to in a special sense or separately from those of the other partner. A case in point may be when such a partner is in need of therapy, with his/her mental wellbeing delicately poised. Under such, and most likely many other circumstances, not explored here, fuller knowledge

about the factors determining individual relationship satisfaction may be of great value. This motivation also lies at the basis of the analyses and findings reported in Section 9.4, where even the sex-role identity dynamics are separated completely from any dyadic configurations.

The approach introduced in this section also allows the most effective use of the empirical data, in the sense that no individual records are lost because of grouping individuals together within pre-determined categories comprising inter-partner combinations with regard to the research variables. Instead, the strength of the hypothesised research interactions is assessed without diluting the variance in individuals' personal relationship satisfaction levels. This route makes it easier to detect significant findings, because the full sample of 160 records is used, without extensive sub-group categorisation.

The findings are organised and discussed in parallel to the relevant hypotheses covered in Section 9.2.3. This time, with regard to relationship satisfaction, individual partners are treated as the unit of analysis, and their personal *DAS* scores are accepted as the dependent variable. As a result, the following sections are included:

- Section 9.3.2.1, to analyse and report respondents' *DAS* relationship satisfaction scores in terms of sex-role identity congruence between the partners in couples;
- Section 9.3.2.2, to analyse and report on respondents' relationship satisfaction in terms of the highest adaptive sex-role identity type present in either partner of a couple; and
- Section 9.3.2.3, to analyse and report on respondents' relationship satisfaction in terms of direct comparisons between identical androgyny, femininity and masculinity between the partners in a couple.

9.3.2.1 Relationship satisfaction and sex-role identity congruence between partners in couples

To start with, chi-square analyses were performed by sub-sample on the cross-tabulated frequency distributions reflecting respondents' relationship satisfaction outcomes (high or low level of individual satisfaction) for the four combinations of sex-role identity type. Table 9.61 shows that sex-role identity type (in)congruence between partners is not significantly related to partners' individual relationship satisfaction for the full sample, or for homosexual respondents. However, for heterosexual partners, the link is significant. Also, mixed sex-role identity combinations are not associated with high relationship satisfaction levels relative to identical or non-identical sex-role identity types.

Table 9.61: Cross-tabulated frequencies showing the relationship between (non-)identical sex-role identity type among partners and individual relationship satisfaction (n=160 partners)

Relationship satisfaction * (heterosexual) [homosexual] **	Couples' combination of sex-role identity traits			
	Identical masculinity and femininity	Identical femininity only (mixed)	Identical masculinity only (mixed)	Non-identical masculinity and femininity
DAS scores of 110 or below	**(6) [11] 17	(12) [3] 15	(10) [2] 12	(3) [3] 6
DAS scores above 110	(32) [13] 45	(16) [19] 35	(8) [4] 12	(11) [7] 18
Total	**(38) [24] 62**	**(28) [22] 50**	**(18) [6] 24**	**(14) [10] 24**

* Chi-square statistic for overall frequencies is not significant (p=0,185). (Heterosexual, p=0,009; homosexual, p=0,132)

The row frequencies show that partners more frequently experience high relationship satisfaction when both masculinity ~~and~~ femininity, or at least femininity, is common to both partners in a couple (Row 2).

Frequencies show that identical masculinity ~~and~~ femininity, especially among heterosexual couples (Column 1), is associated more often with a high level of individual relationship satisfaction. So is identical femininity only, especially among homosexual couples (Column 2).

These two findings were predicted (see Section 6.3.1). However, an exception is also evident in that non-identical masculinity ~~and~~ femininity between partners is also associated more often with individual satisfaction (Column 4). This pattern can be explained should good communication (or other factors) between partners result in the acceptance of differences with regard to sex-role identity characteristics, so that the latter become complementary in the end, to actually enhance or broaden the relationship.

Inspecting the frequency distributions separately by sex and sexual orientation, produced non-significant chi-square values for the ~~gay~~ sub-sample (p=0,247). An almost significant pattern (at the 5%-level) emerged for ~~lesbian~~ respondents (p=0,067). This resulted from the more frequent association of low individual satisfaction with identical sex-role identity types, and of high satisfaction with identical-femininity mixed configurations. Among heterosexual partners, the pattern was different. For both ~~heterosexual male~~ and ~~heterosexual female~~ respondents (p=0,110 and p=0,086 respectively), high satisfaction was associated more often with identical sex-role identity types between partners, while the mixed sex-role identity type combinations, especially with a common masculinity trait, but also common femininity mainly among males, were associated more often with low relationship satisfaction. When ~~male~~ respondents were combined, identical, identical-femininity mixed, and non-identical sex-role identity types were all very often related to high satisfaction, unlike identical-masculinity mixed types (p=0,069). Among all ~~females~~, this pattern was also evident, albeit much more diffuse (p=0,698).

It became even clearer that identical femininity among lesbian respondents was associated more often with satisfaction for both partners, and common masculinity ~~and~~ femininity for neither of them.

This pattern can be explained by the discord created between partners who experience competition as a result of being too similar (the familiarity-breeds-contempt phenomenon, see Section 6.3.2).

Frequency distributions (as in Table 9.61) and combining all respondents from sub-samples both can mask diverse patterns of relationship satisfaction among various groups of respondents. Therefore, the ~~(mean) score distributions~~ have been investigated too in terms of the significance levels and expected trends discussed next. Table 9.62 indicates the mean scores on relationship satisfaction for the respondents from the various dyadic sex-role identity type combinations using the four sex-role identity measures/techniques.

The expected higher mean scores on relationship satisfaction for partners who are identical with

regard to both masculinity ~~and~~ femininity, or only femininity, is clear. However, a surprising finding is the high relationship satisfaction scores for dyads with non-identical sex-role identity types.

The additional adaptive value of partners' ability to complement each other through good communication or other strategies from unique repertoires of sex-role behaviour is again a plausible explanation for this pattern.

Table 9.62: Mean scores for respondents on relationship satisfaction by dyads' sex-role identity type combinations as measured on the various instruments

| Relationship satisfaction* score** by sex-role identity instrument (n) | Couples' combination of sex-role identity traits | | | | |
	Both identical	Only identical femininity	Only identical masculinity	Both non-identical	Total (n)
DAS with *BSRI* (self-rated)	(62) 116,8	(50) 115,0	(24) 109,5	(24) 118,0	(160) 115,3
DAS with *BSRI* (ascribed)	(66) 118,6	(36) 112,6	(26) 110,6	(32) 115,3	(160) 115,3
DAS with *ACL-SRI* (self-rated)	(52) 114,8	(36) 118,9	(44) 111,1	(28) 118,2	(160) 115,3
DAS with *ACL-SRI* (ascribed)	(50) 119,2	(42) 111,5	(30) 109,9	(38) 118,7	(160) 115,3

* Measured by means of *DAS*
** ANOVA (f-statistic) p-values for the models in this column were 0,303, 0,170, 0,193 and ~~0,033~~ respectively

In Table 9.63, the effect of sex and sub-sample on the relationship between sex-role identity type combinations and relationship satisfaction is investigated. Only scores achieved by using the *DAS* and *BSRI* (self-ratings) are reported. However, the p-values for all the sex-role identity techniques/instruments associated with every model are reported below the table.

Table 9.63: Mean scores for respondents on relationship satisfaction by sex-role identity type combination as measured on the *DAS* and *BSRI* (self-ratings) by sex and target group (sub-sample)

| Relationship satisfaction score* by sex and sub-sample (n) | Respondents' combination of sex-role identity traits | | | | |
	Both identical	Only identical femininity	Only identical masculinity	Both non-identical	Total (n)
Gay respondents	(8) ~~122,4~~	(8) ~~126,0~~		(6) 118,0	(22) 122,5
Heterosexual males	(19) 119,2	(14) 108,1	(9) 104,8	(7) ~~124,9~~	(49) 114,2
All male respondents	(27) 120,1	(22) 114,6	(9) 104,8	(13) 121,7	(71) 116,8
Lesbian respondents	(16) 104,0	(14) 120,3	(6) ~~126,8~~	(4) 101,3	(40) 112,9
Heterosexual females	(19) 122,9	(14) 110,1	(9) 102,6	(7) ~~120,7~~	(49) 115,2
All female respondents	(35) 114,3	(28) 115,2	(15) 112,3	(11) 113,6	(89) 114,1
All homosexual respondents	(24) 110,1	(22) ~~122,4~~	(6) ~~126,8~~	(10) 111,3	(62) 116,3
All heterosexual respondents	(38) 121,1	(28) 109,1	(18) 103,7	(14) ~~122,8~~	(98) 114,7

* ANOVA (f-statistic) p-values for the eight models in this column respectively for *BSRI* (self-rated), [*BSRI* (ascribed), *ACL-SRI* (self-rated), and *ACL-SRI* (ascribed)] were: 0,367, [~~0,002~~, 0,498, 0,576]; ~~0,049~~, [0,452, 0,073, 0,286]; 0,061 [0,441, ~~0,021~~, 0,431]; ~~0,009~~, [0,917, 0,058, 0,287]; ~~0,020~~, [0,296, 0,134, 0,154]; 0,969, [0,485, 0,718, 0,077]; ~~0,021~~, [0,811, 0,112, 0,554], and 0,001, [0,214, ~~0,006~~, ~~0,049~~]. Note how the self-rated evaluations tend to detect significance better, as do the *BSRI* above the *ACL-SRI*. These observations further supported the decision to focus hence only on *BSRI* self-ratings.

It becomes clear that sexual preference (sub-sample) has a moderating influence on the relationship between sex-role identity type combination and relationship satisfaction, also in association with biological sex itself.

Non-identical sex-role identity types between heterosexual male partners, and identical femininity traits between gay partners were associated with the highest relationship satisfaction. So were both identical and non-identical sex-role identity types between heterosexual female, and identical masculinity traits among lesbian partners.

The findings on homosexual *vis-à-vis* heterosexual, and male *vis-à-vis* female dyads, therefore, reveal a kind of cross-typed adaptive ability among couples. Also, as foreseen in Section 6.3.2, non-identical sex-role identity types are sometimes related to satisfaction, implying that opposites could also attract.

The hierarchy of relationships, introduced in Sections 6.2.1 to 6.2.6 and set formally as ~~hypotheses~~ from Section 6.3.1 onwards, are covered in closing for the individual relationship outcomes associated with dyadic sex-role identity patterns. (The full dyadic relationship is covered in Section 9.2.3.)

The expected sequence of combinations of sex-role identity type (see 6.3.2), assumed to be associated with the stated personal relationship satisfaction level ranging from high to low (with the subjective outcome of the relationship experience in brackets), are: identical + satisfied (accord); non-identical + satisfied (acceptance); identical + dissatisfied (discord); and non-identical + dissatisfied (non-acceptance). Analysis of the data broadly support this hypothesis (p=0,303, f-statistic/ANOVA), with the mean *DAS* scores respectively for heterosexual and homosexual respondents, following the sequence above, being 124,5 and 121,9; 127,8 and 120,5; 104,0 and 95,3; and 84,0 (only homosexual couples in the last category). It is again evident that acceptance of non-identical sex-role identity types have substantive adaptive value.

A further plausible explanation may lie in the relationship preference (egalitarian, comradeship, or traditional) of individuals within the various configurations listed above (as anticipated under 6.2.6). Because very few respondents preferred traditional relationships, proper analysis is not possible. When **homosexual ~~and~~ heterosexual** respondents with an ~~identical sex-role identity type~~ were ~~dissatisfied~~ with their relationship, and had an ~~egalitarian relationship preference~~, they had much **higher** relationship satisfaction scores (108,0 and 109,0 respectively on *DAS*) **compared to** those with a ~~comradeship preference~~ (93,3 and 99,0) (see Figure 9.2). However, when partners with ~~non-identical sex-role identity types~~ were ~~satisfied~~ with their relationship, **homosexual** and **heterosexual** respondents **differed** on their *DAS* scores in terms of their relationship preference. Homosexual respondents preferring an egalitarian relationship scored much higher (129,0) than those preferring a comradeship relationship (118,8). Inversely, among heterosexual couples, those with a comradeship preference scored much higher (129,3) than those with an egalitarian preference (117,0).
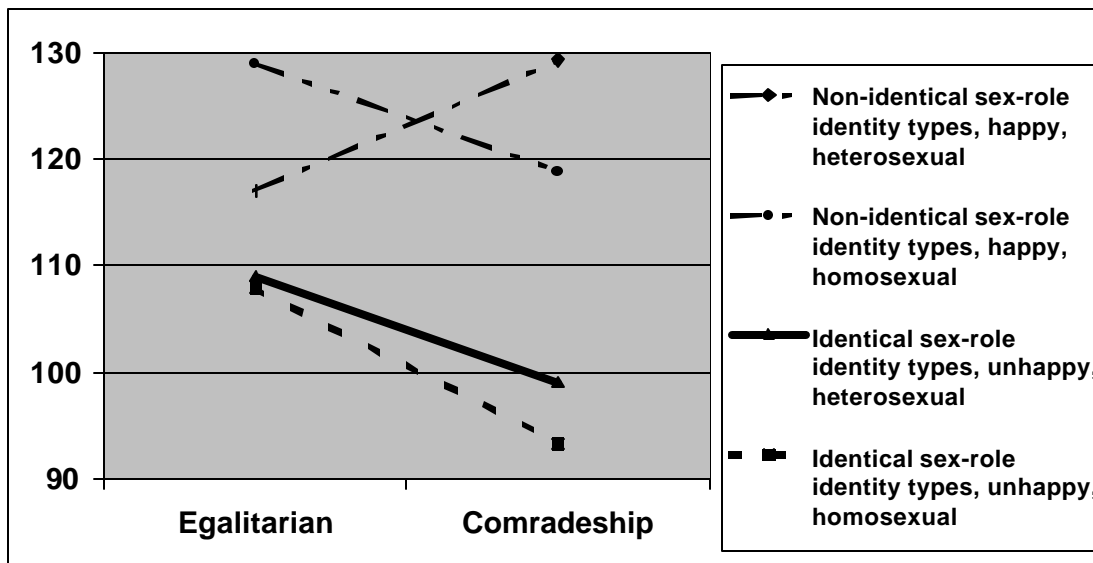
Figure 9.2: Graphic representation of selected relationship satisfaction (*DAS)* scores according to the sub-sample, sex-role identity type combination, and relationship satisfaction of respondents (n < 10 in all cases)

~~Identical sex-role identity types~~, with both partners being androgynous, or masculine, or feminine, or undifferentiated, only proved to be associated with the highest relationship satisfaction mean scores (in the rows of Table 9.63) for heterosexual females, although it took the second position quite often. The sex-role identity and relationship satisfaction congruence theory is thus supported only partially.

The hypotheses set in Section 6.3 are now dealt with in much the same manner as under 9.2.3.2, albeit much reduced to avoid unnecessary repetition.

~~Hypothesis 1~~: **Relationship satisfaction scores for partners (n=62) with an ~~identical~~ sex-role identity type, although higher at 116,8, as expected, were not significantly higher than those of partners (n=50) with ~~identical femininity~~, but non-identical masculinity traits, at a score of 115,0 (p=0,550).**

Table 9.64 shows how/where this pattern changes for sub-groups based on sex and sub-sample. The hypothesis about the superiority of an identical sex-role identity type is only supported for heterosexual respondents, while an identical femininity trait only is more adaptive for homosexual couples.

Table 9.64: Comparison of relationship satisfaction scores between partners in which both sex-role identity traits and only femininity are identical by sex and sub-sample

Sub-sample	Sex-role identity trait combination	Male respondents *			Female respondents *		
		DAS score	n	p-value	*DAS* score	n	p-value
Homosexual	Both identical	122,4	8	0,481	104,0	16	0,006
**	Only femininity identical	126,0	8		120,3	14	
Heterosexual	Both identical	119.2	19	0,067	122.9	19	0,023
**	Only femininity identical	108,1	14		110,1	14	

* All males (n=49): both traits identical (120,1; n=27), only femininity identical (114,6; n=22), p=0,227;
  All females (n=63): both traits identical (114,3; n=35), only femininity identical (115,2; n=28), p=0,823.
** All homosexual respondents (n=46): both traits identical (110,1; n=24), only **femininity** identical (122,4; n=22), p=~~0,008~~;
   All heterosexual respondents (n=66): **both** traits identical (121,1; n=38), only femininity identical (109,1; n=28), p=~~0,003~~).

Hypothesis 2 : **As expected, relationship satisfaction scores for partners (n=62) with an ~~identical~~ sex-role identity type were higher, at 116,8, than those of partners (n=24) with ~~identical masculinity,~~ but non-identical femininity traits, at a score of 109,5 (almost significant at the 5% level, with p=0,087).**

Table 9.65 shows how/where this pattern changes with reference to the sub-groups. The hypothesis about the superiority of an identical sex-role identity type over identical masculinity is only supported for heterosexual respondents, while identical masculinity is more adaptive for lesbian couples. (Because of the small gay sub-sample, no male respondents had identical masculinity traits only.)

Table 9.65: Comparison of relationship satisfaction scores between partners in which both sex-role identity traits and only masculinity are identical by sex and sub-sample

Sub-sample	Sex-role identity trait combination	Male respondents *			Female respondents *		
		DAS score	n	p-value	*DAS* score	n	p-value
Homosexual	Both identical	122,4	8	-	104,0	16	0,016
**	Only masculinity identical	-	0		126,8	6	
Heterosexual	Both identical	119,2	19	0,042	122,9	19	0,003
**	Only masculinity identical	104,8	9		102,6	9	

* All males (n=36): **both** traits identical (120,1; n=27), only masculinity identical (104,8; n=9), p=~~0,011~~;
   All females (n=50): both traits identical (114,3; n=35), only masculinity identical (112,3; n=15), p=0,739.
** All homosexual (n=30): both traits identical (110,1; n=24), only **masculinity** identical (126,8; n=6), p=~~0,046~~;
   All heterosexual (n=56): **both** traits identical (121,1; n=38), only masculinity identical (103,7; n=18), p=~~0,000~~.

Hypothesis 3 : **Contrary to expectations, relationship satisfaction scores for partners (n=62) with an ~~identical~~ sex-role identity type were not higher, at 116,8, than those of partners (n=24) with ~~non-identical~~ sex-role identity types, at a score of 118,0 (p=0,727).**

Table 9.66 shows pattern deviations by sub-groups. The absence of significant findings shows consistent lack of support for the hypothesis about the superiority of identical over non-identical sex-role identity types. The trend for heterosexual male respondents is not in the expected direction of the hypothesis, albeit not significant.

Table 9.66: Comparison of relationship satisfaction scores between partners in which sex-role identity types are identical and non-identical by sex and sub-sample

Sub-sample	Sex-role identity trait combination	Male respondents *			Female respondents *		
		DAS score	n	p-value	*DAS* score	n	p-value
Homosexual	Both identical	122,4	8	0,350	104,0	16	0,780
**	Both non-identical	118,0	6		101,3	4	
Heterosexual	Both identical	119,2	19	0,261	122,9	19	0,600
**	Both non-identical	124,9	7		120,7	7	

* All males (n=40): both traits identical (120,1; n=27), both traits non-identical (121,7; n=13), p=0,658;
   All females (n=46): both traits identical (114,3; n=35), both traits non-identical (113,6; n=11), p=0,912.
** All homosexual respondents (n=34): both traits identical (110,1; n=24), both traits non-identical (111,3; n=10), p=0,851;
   All heterosexual respondents (n=52): both traits identical (121,1; n=38), both traits non-identical (122,8; n=14), p=0,590.

Hypothesis 12: **Without having set any expected direction, relationship satisfaction scores for partners (n=50) with ~~identical femininity,~~ but non-identical masculinity, were higher, at 115,0, than those of partners (n=24) with ~~identical masculinity,~~ but non-identical femininity, at a score of 109,5 (p=0,298).**

The effects based on sex and sub-sample were investigated and are reported in Table 9.67. No significant findings have emerged, but the figures suggest that sexual orientation (sub-sample) could serve as modifier of the relationship between relationship satisfaction and the congruence of femininity and masculinity traits.

Table 9.67: Comparison of relationship satisfaction scores between partners in which only the femininity and only the masculinity sex-role identity trait is similar by sex and sub-sample

Sub-sample	Sex-role identity trait combination	Male respondents *			Female respondents *		
		DAS score	n	p-value	*DAS* score	n	p-value
Homosexual	Only femininity identical	126,0	8	-	120,3	14	0,407
**	Only masculinity identical	-	0		126,8	6	
Heterosexual	Only femininity identical	108,1	14	0,731	110,1	14	0,445
**	Only masculinity identical	104,8	9		102,6	9	

* All males (n=31): identical femininity only (114,6; n=22), identical masculinity only (104,8; n=9), p=0,258;
  All females (n=43): identical femininity only (115,2; n=28), identical masculinity only (112,3; n=15), p=0,665.
** All homosexual respondents(n=28): identical femininity only (122,4;n=22), identical masculinity only (126,8;n=6), p=0,522;
  All heterosexual respondents (n=46): identical femininity only (109,1; n=28), identical masculinity (103,7; n=18), p=0,419.

> Hypothesis 10: **The relationship satisfaction scores for partners (n=50) with identical femininity, but non-identical masculinity, were lower, against expectations, at 115,0, than those of partners (n=24) with both sex-role identity traits non-identical, at a score of 118,0 (p=0,489; not statistically significant).**

The effects based on sex and sub-sample are reported in Table 9.68. A significant (at the 5%-level) finding, in the expected direction, emerged in the case of lesbian respondents, indicating that identical femininity traits between partners is associated with higher satisfaction levels than non-identical sex-role identity types. The scores of gay respondents also follow the trend, but not those of heterosexual respondents.

Table 9.68: Comparison of relationship satisfaction scores between partners with identical femininity traits and non-identical sex-role identity types by sex and sub-sample

Sub-sample	Sex-role identity trait combination	Male respondents *			Female respondents *		
		DAS score	n	p-value	*DAS* score	n	p-value
Homosexual	Only femininity identical	126.0	8	0,238	120.3	14	0,034
**	Both non-identical	118.0	6		101.3	4	
Heterosexual	Only femininity identical	108.1	14	0,066	110.1	14	0,246
**	Both non-identical	124.9	7		120.7	7	

* All males (n=35): identical femininity only (114,6; n=22), both traits non-identical (121,7; n=13), p=0,255;
  All females (n=39): identical femininity only (115,2; n=28), both traits non-identical (113,6; n=11), p=0,807.
** All homosexual respondents (n=32): identical **femininity** (122,4; n=22), both traits non-identical (111,3; n=10), p=0,047;
  All heterosexual respondents (n=42): identical femininity (109,1; n=28), **both** traits **non-identical** (122,8; n=14), p=0,029.

> Hypothesis 11: **The relationship satisfaction scores for partners (n=24) with identical masculinity, but non-identical femininity, were lower, against expectations, at 109,5, than those of partners (n=24) with both sex-role identity traits non-identical, at a score of 118,0 (p=0,154; not statistically significant).**

The effects based on sex and sub-sample are reported in Table 9.69. Although all the findings approached significance at the 5%-level, they were not in the expected direction for heterosexual respondents, but only for lesbian respondents. There were no gay respondents with identical masculinity traits. For lesbian respondents, therefore, there is an indication that identical masculinity traits between partners are associated with a higher satisfaction level, rather than non-identical sex-role identity types.

Table 9.69: Comparison of relationship satisfaction scores between partners with identical masculinity traits and non-identical sex-role identity types by sex and sub-sample

Sub-sample	Sex-role identity trait combination	Male respondents *			Female respondents *		
		DAS score	n	p-value	*DAS* score	n	p-value
Homosexual	Only masculinity identical	-	0	-	126.8	6	0,098
**	Both non-identical	118.0	6		101.3	4	

Heterosexual **	Only masculinity identical	104.8	9	0,058	102.6	9	0,099
	Both non-identical	124.9	7		120.7	7	

* All males (n=22): identical masculinity only (104,8; n=9), **both** traits **non-identical** (121,7; n=13), p=~~0,035~~;
  All females (n=26): identical masculinity only (112,3; n=15), both traits non-identical (113,6; n=11), p=0,881.

** All homosexual respondents(n=16): identical masculinity only (126,8;n=6), both traits non-identical (111,3;n=10),p=0,127;
  All heterosexual respondents (n=32): identical masculinity (103,7; n=18), **both** traits **non-identical** (122,8; n=14),p=~~0,009~~.

9.3.2.2 Relationship satisfaction and highest adaptive sex‑role identity type in couples

Personal relationship satisfaction level was anticipated (in Section 6.3.1) to decrease from high to low as at least one partner in a couple has an androgynous, feminine, masculine, or undifferentiated sex‑role identity type, in this order. It is conceivable that there may come a point, also for individual partners, where sex‑role identity congruence gives way to the unique contribution of androgyny, or even femininity and masculinity, from the side of any one of the partners in a couple. The role of an identical sex‑role identity type between partners (e.g., both are feminine) is covered in Section 9.3.2.3.

Chi‑square analyses were conducted by sub‑sample on the cross‑tabulated ~~frequency distributions~~ that reflect respondents' relationship satisfaction outcome (high or low level of personal satisfaction) for each highest adaptive sex‑role identity type combination.

Table 9.70 shows that the **highest adaptive sex‑role identity type in any of the two partners of a couple is significantly related to partners' personal relationship satisfaction**. What is more, it is clear that individuals more frequently experience high relationship satisfaction when **androgyny, and ~~femininity~~ in particular** (note slight change in order)**, is the most adaptive sex‑role identity type present in at least one of the partners**.

Table 9.70: Cross‑tabulated frequencies showing the relationship between partners' highest adaptive sex‑role identity type and personal relationship satisfaction

Relationship satisfaction * (heterosexual) [homosexual] **	Highest adaptive sex‑role identity type present in either partner			
	Androgyny	**Femininity**	**Masculinity**	**Undifferentiated**
DAS scores of 110 or below	**(14) [2] 16	(5) [3] 8	(12) [5] 17	[9] 9
DAS scores above 110	(30) [20]50	(23) [9] 32	(10)[13] 23	(4) [1] 5
Total	**(44) [22] 66**	**(28) [12] 40**	**(22) [18] 40**	**(4) [10] 14**

* Chi‑square statistic for overall frequencies is significant (p=~~0,004~~). (Heterosexual, p=~~0,022~~; homosexual, p=~~0,000~~)
** Figures between round brackets " ( )" signify the number of heterosexual respondents, and those between square brackets "[ ]",
  the number of homosexual respondents

~~Androgyny~~'s role is particularly strong among partners from ~~homosexual couples~~ (Column 1 frequencies), as is that of ~~femininity~~ among partners from ~~heterosexual couples~~ (Column 2). Inversely, when the highest adaptive sex‑role identity type between two heterosexual partners is masculinity, low personal satisfaction occurs more often (Column 3), as when homosexual partners have an undifferentiated sex‑role identity type (Column 4).

Similar findings emerged from chi‑square analyses of the frequency distributions by sex and sexual orientation.

- ~~Gay~~ sub‑sample: very few respondents have low relationship satisfaction; (non‑significant) p=0,400.
- ~~Lesbian~~ sub‑sample: strong role of androgyny, in particular, but also partly of masculinity; p=~~0,006~~.

Findings

- ~~Heterosexual male~~ and ~~heterosexual female~~ respondents: strong role of femininity and androgyny (pattern stronger for males, also for masculinity and low satisfaction); p=0,052 and p=0,439 respectively.
- All ~~male~~ respondents: femininity and androgyny proved important again, and masculinity not[2]; p=0,118.
- All ~~female~~ respondents: femininity and androgyny important, and not being undifferentiated; p=~~0,012~~,

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A consistent finding is that personal relationship satisfaction occurs more frequently when at least one partner in a couple is either feminine or androgynous. Although androgyny was anticipated to be more adaptive than femininity, the literature concurs with the eventual high value of femininity towards relationship satisfaction too.

The pattern just noted also appears to suggest that individuals experience satisfaction more often in couples that succeed in accessing the sex-role behavioural repertoires not conventionally available by virtue of their mere constitution. This explanation means that two female partners (assumedly more feminine) will benefit from additional masculinity in the relationship, while a heterosexual arrangement (assumedly often still dominated by the head-of-the-household masculinity of the male partner) will benefit from additional femininity.

Frequency distributions (as in Table 9.70), and combining respondents from sub-samples, can both mask diverse patterns of relationship satisfaction scores among sub-groups. Therefore, the ~~(mean) score distributions~~ have been studied again, and both significance levels and adherence to expected trends are again reported. Table 9.71 indicates the mean scores on relationship satisfaction (*DAS*) for the respondents from the various highest adaptive sex-role identity combinations using the four sex-role identity measures/techniques.

The expected higher mean relationship satisfaction scores for partners in couples in which the highest adaptive sex-role identity in either partner is **femininity or androgyny**, are clear.

Table 9.71: Mean scores for respondents on relationship satisfaction by the highest adaptive sex-role identity type present in either partner of a dyad as measured on the various instruments

Relationship satisfaction* score** by sex-role identity instrument (n)	Dyads' highest adaptive sex-role identity type				Total (n=160)
	Androgyny	Femininity	Masculinity	Undifferentiated	
DAS with *BSRI* (self-rated)	(66) 118,3	(40) 119,4	(40) 109,0	(14) 107,8	115,3
DAS with *BSRI* (ascribed)	(78) 120,4	(42) 117,6	(22) 104,0	(18) 101,6	115,3
DAS with *ACL-SRI* (self-rated)	(78) 115,7	(34) 117,3	(30) 115,0	(18) 110,3	115,3
DAS with *ACL-SRI* (ascribed)	(50) 117,0	(42) 118,7	(50) 112,1	(18) 111,4	115,3

* Measured by means of *DAS*
** ANOVA (f-statistic) p-values for the models in this column were ~~0,007~~, ~~0,000~~, 0,597 and 0,214 respectively

In Table 9.72, the effect of sex and sub-sample on the relationship between the highest adaptive sex-role identity type among couples and relationship satisfaction is investigated. Only scores achieved

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[2] Citing any sex-role identity type as ~~not~~ playing a strong role, implies it correlated strongly with a low satisfaction level.

by using the *DAS* and *BSRI* (self-ratings) are reported. However, the p-values for all the sex-role identity techniques / instruments associated with every model are reported below the table.

Table 9.72: Mean individual relationship satisfaction scores by highest adaptive dyadic sex-role identity type as measured on the *DAS* and *BSRI* (self-ratings) by sex and target group (sub-sample)

Relationship satisfaction score* by sex and sub-sample (n)	Dyads' highest adaptive sex-role identity type				
	Androgyny	Femininity	Masculinity	Undifferen-tiated	Total (n)
Gay respondents	(10)125,2	(8) 120,3	(4) 120,3		(22)122,5
Heterosexual males	(22)114,0	(14)120,8	(11)104,4	(2)124,5	(49)114,2
All male respondents	(32)117,5	(22)120,6	(15)108,6	(2)124,5	(71)116,8
Lesbian respondents	(12)120,8	(4) 120,5	(14)111,6	(10)102,0	(40)112,9
Heterosexual females	(22)118,1	(14)117,2	(11)106,0	(2)120,0	(49)115,2
All female respondents	(34)119,0	(18)117,9	(25)109,2	(12)105,0	(89)114,1
All homosexual respondents	(22)122,8	(12)120,3	(18)113,6	(10)102,0	(62)116,3
All heterosexual respondents	(44)116,0	(28)119,0	(22)105,2	(4)122,3	(98)114,7

* ANOVA (f-statistic) p-values for the eight models in this column respectively for *BSRI* (self-rated), [*BSRI* (ascribed), *ACL-SRI* (self-rated), and *ACL-SRI* (ascribed)] were: 0,550, [0,622, 0,243, 0,498]; 0,133, [0,018, 0,433, 0,750]; 0,155, [0,099, 0,275, 0,662]; 0,096, [0,000, 0,004, 0,053]; 0,312, [0,119, 0,804, 0,472]; 0,044, [0,000, 0,429, 0,160]; 0,006, [0,000, 0,004, 0,069]; and 0,035, [0,002, 0,355, 0,358]. Note how the ascribed *BSRI* evaluations tend to pick up significance better, as do the *BSRI* above the *ACL-SRI*. These observations further supported the decision to abandon using *ACL-SRI* ratings.

> The greater adaptive role of femininity and androgyny, in at least one partner of a couple, is clear from the data reported in Table 9.72, irrespective of sex or sexual orientation. However, low cell frequencies in the category for undifferentiated sex-role identity led to a few higher mean scores in Column 4 as well.

The hypotheses, set formally in Section 6.3.1.1, now form the basis of the brief report on the association between individual relationship outcome and highest adaptive dyadic sex-role identity type patterns. (The fully dyadic relationship between sex-role identity and relationship satisfaction is covered in Section 9.2.3.)

> Hypothesis 4: **Contrary to expectations, relationship satisfaction scores for partners (n=66) where the "highest" (supposedly most adaptive) sex-role identity type for at least one partner was androgyny, were not higher, at 118,3, than those of partners (n=40) where the "highest" sex-role identity type for at least one partner was femininity, at a score of 119,4 (p=0,746).**

The effects of sex and sub-sample on this relationship were also investigated, and the findings are reported in Table 9.73. No further findings were significant. Whereas the *DAS* scores of gay respondents varied in the hypothesised direction, the inverse applied to heterosexual male participants.

Table 9.73: Comparison of personal relationship satisfaction scores with either partner in a couple having androgyny or femininity as highest adaptive sex-role identity type by sex and sub-sample

Sub-sample	Highest adaptive sex-role identity type	Male respondents *			Female respondents *		
		DAS score	n	p-value	*DAS* score	n	p-value
Homosexual	Androgyny	125,2	10	0,355	120,8	12	0,984
**	Femininity	120,3	8		120,5	4	
Heterosexual	Androgyny	114,0	22	0,276	118,1	22	0,883
**	Femininity	120,8	14		117,2	14	

* All males (n=54): androgyny highest (117,5; n=32), femininity highest (120,6; n=22), p=0,495;
  All females (n=52): androgyny highest (119,0; n=34), femininity highest (117,9; n=180, p=0,839.
** All homosexual respondents (n=34): androgyny highest (122,8; n=22), femininity highest (120,3; n=12), p=0,676;
  All heterosexual respondents (n=72): androgyny highest (116,0; n=44), femininity highest (119,0; n=28), p=0,488.

The effects of sex and sub-sample are shown in Table 9.74. No further findings were significant (see low cell frequencies). The *DAS* scores varied as expected, and androgyny proved to be more adaptive than masculinity.

Table 9.74: Comparison of personal relationship satisfaction scores with either partner in a couple having androgyny or masculinity as highest adaptive sex-role identity type by sex and sub-sample

Sub-sample	Highest adaptive sex-role identity type	Male respondents *			Female respondents *		
		DAS score	n	p-value	*DAS* score	n	p-value
Homosexual **	Androgyny	125.2	10	0,465	120.8	12	0,232
	Masculinity	120.3	4		111.6	14	
Heterosexual **	Androgyny	114.0	22	0,128	118.1	22	0,066
	Masculinity	104,4	11		106,0	11	

* All males (n=47): androgyny highest (117,5; n=32), masculinity highest (108,6; n=15), p=0,084;
  All females (n=59): **androgyny** highest (119,0; n=34), masculinity highest (109,2; n=25), p=0,039.
** All homosexual respondents (n=40): androgyny highest (122,8; n=22), masculinity highest (113,6; n=18), p=0,087;
   All heterosexual respondents (n=66): **androgyny** highest (116,0; n=44), masculinity highest (105,2; n=22), p=0,016.

The effects of sex and sub-sample are report ed in Table 9.75. The finding for lesbian respondents was significant (at the 5%-level). The *DAS* scores varied in the hypothesised direction, and androgyny proved to be more adaptive than an undifferentiated sex-role identity type. (The gay sub-sample was so small that no couples had a common undifferentiated sex-role identity type between the partners.)

Table 9.75: Comparison of personal relationship satisfaction scores with either partner in a couple having androgyny or both an undifferentiated sex-role identity type as the highest adaptive combination by sex and sub-sample

Sub-sample	Highest adaptive sex-role identity type	Male respondents *			Female respondents *		
		DAS score	n	p-value	*DAS* score	n	p-value
Homosexual **	Androgyny	125,2	10	-	120,8	12	0,015
	Undifferentiated	-	0		102,0	10	
Heterosexual **	Androgyny	114,0	22	0,385	118,1	22	0,858
	Undifferentiated	124,5	# 2		120,0	# 2	

Cell frequencies are too small to have any confidence in the scores.
* All males (n=34): androgy ny highest (117,5; n=32), both undifferentiated (124,5; n=2), p=0,544;
  All females (n=46): **androgyny** highest (119,0; n=34), both undifferentiated (105,0; n=12), p=0,010.
** All homosexual respondents (n=32): **androgyny** highest (122,8; n=22), both undiffer entiated (102,0; n=10), p=0,001;
   All heterosexual respondents (n=48): androgyny highest (116,0; n=44), both undifferentiated (122,3; n=4), p=0,433.

The effects of sex and sub-sample are reported in Table 9.76. The finding for heterosexual male respondents was also significant (at the 5%-level), while the scores for female participants all varied in the hypothesised direction.

Table 9.76: Comparison of personal relationship satisfaction scores with either partner in a couple having femininity or masculinity as highest adaptive sex-role identity type by sex and sub-sample

Sub-sample	Highest adaptive sex-role identity type	Male respondents *			Female respondents *		
		DAS score	n	p-value	*DAS* score	n	p-value
Homosexual	Femininity	120,3	8	1,000	120.5	4	0,433
**	Masculinity	120,3	4		111.6	14	
Heterosexual*	Femininity	120,8	14	0,048	117.2	14	0,203
*	Masculinity	104,4	11		106,0	11	

* All males (n=37): **femininity** highest (120,6; n=22), masculinity highest (108,6; n=15), p=0,043;
  All females (n=43): femininity highest (117,9; n=18), masculinity highest (109,2; n=25), p=0,166.
** All homosexual respondents (n=30): femininity highest (120,3; n=12), masculinity highest (113,6; n=18), p=0,259;
  All heterosexual respondents (n=50): **femininity** highest (119,0; n=28), masculinity highest (105,2; n=22; p=0,019.

> Hypothesis 8: **As expected, relationship satisfaction scores for partners (n=40) where the "highest" (supposedly most adaptive) sex-role identity type for at least one partner was femininity, were significantly higher (at the 5%-level), at 119,4, than those of partners (n=14) where the sex-role identity type of both was undifferentiated, at a score of 107,8 (p=0,040).**

The effects of sex and sub-sample are reported in Table 9.77. Only the finding for lesbian respondents approached significance (in the expected direction). None of the remaining pairs of *DAS* scores could be interpreted with confidence because of two low and one zero cell frequency in the different pairs.

Table 9.77: Comparison of personal relationship satisfaction scores with either partner in a couple having femininity or both an undifferentiated sex-role identity type as the highest adaptive combination by sex and sub-sample

Sub-sample	Highest adaptive sex-role identity type	Male respondents *			Female respondents *		
		DAS score	n	p-value	*DAS* score	n	p-value
Homosexual	Femininity	120,3	8	-	120.5	4	0,069
**	Undifferentiated	-	0		102,0	10	
Heterosexual	Femininity	120,8	14	0,813	117,2	14	0,858
**	Undifferentiated	124,5	2		120,0	2	

* All males (n=24): femininity highest (120,6; n=22), both undifferentiated (124,5; n=2), p=0,759;
  All females (n=30): femininity highest (117,9; n=18), both undifferentiated (105,0; n=12), p=0,066.
** All homosexual respondents (n=22): **femininity** highest (120,3; n=12), both undifferentiated (102,0; n=10), p=0,004;
  All heterosexual respondents (n=32): femininity highest (119,0; n=28), both undifferentiated (122,3; n=4), p=0,760.

> Hypothesis 9: **Contrary to expectation, relationship satisfaction scores for partners (n=40) where the "highest" (supposedly most adaptive) sex-role identity type for at least one partner was masculinity, were not significantly higher, at 109,0, than those of partners (n=14) where the sex-role identity type of both was undifferentiated, at a score of 107,8 (p=0,830).**

The effects of sex and sub-sample are reported in Table 9.78. Only the finding for lesbian respondents approached significance (in the expected direction). None of the remaining pairs of *DAS* scores could be interpreted with confidence because of two low and one zero cell frequency in the different pairs.

Table 9.78: Comparison of personal relationship satisfaction scores with either partner in a couple having masculinity or both an undifferentiated sex-role identity type as the highest adaptive combination by sex and sub-sample

Sub-sample	Highest adaptive sex-role identity type	Male respondents *			Female respondents *		
		DAS score	n	p-value	DAS score	n	p-value
Homosexual **	Masculinity	120,3	4	-	111,6	14	0,144
	Undifferentiated	-	0		102,0	10	
Heterosexual **	Masculinity	104,4	11	0,169	106,0	11	0,395
	Undifferentiated	124,5	2		120,0	2	

* All males (n=17): masculinity highest (108,6; n=15), both undifferentiated (124,5; n=2), p=0,234;
 All females (n=37): masculinity highest (109,2; n=25), both undifferentiated (105,0; n=12), p=0,501.
** All homosexual respondents (n=28): masculinity highest (113,6; n=18), both undifferentiated (102,0; n=10), p=0,056;
 All heterosexual respondents (n=26): masculinity highest (105,2; n=22), both undifferentiated (122,3; n=4), p=0,102.

9.3.2.3 Relationship satisfaction and identical sex-role identity types in couples

Identical sex-role identity types for both partners in a couple may also affect personal relationship satisfaction. Personal relationship satisfaction level is expected to decrease from high to low when both partners in a couple are androgynous, compared to both being feminine, or masculine, or undifferentiated, in this order. Non-identical identity type combinations should also figure somewhere in the hierarchy. The subsequent analyses investigate whether or not sex-role identity configurations beyond sex-role identity congruence (9.3.2.1) and highest adaptive sex-role identity type (9.3.2.2) make unique contributions to relationship satisfaction..

Chi-square analyses were performed by sub-sample on the cross-tabulated frequency distributions reflecting respondents' relationship satisfaction outcome (high or low level of individual satisfaction) for each identical sex-role identity type combination. The findings were largely as predicted (in Section 6.3.1).

It is clear from Table 9.79 that individuals more frequently experience high relationship satisfaction when **androgyny**, and **femininity** in particular, is the identical sex-role identity type of both partners in a couple.

This finding applies to the full sample, and heterosexual (at the 5%-level) and homosexual partners combined.

Column frequencies also show that when identical undifferentiated sex-role identity types occur between partners from homosexual couples (Column 4 of the data), low personal satisfaction occurs more frequently.

Table 9.79: Cross-tabulated frequencies showing the relationship between partners' identical sex-role identity types and personal relationship satisfaction

Relationship satisfaction * (hetero-)[homosexual]**	Identical sex-role identity types between partners				
	Androgyny	Femininity	Masculinity	Undifferentiated	Not identical
DAS scores of 110 or below	**(4) 4		(2) [2] 4	[9] 9	(25) [8] 33
DAS scores above 110	(12) [2] 14	(12) [4] 16	(4) [6] 10	(4) [1] 5	(35) [30] 65
Total	**(16) [2] 18**	**(12) [4] 16**	**(6) [8] 14**	**(4) [10] 14**	**(60) [38] 98**

* Chi-square statistic for overall frequencies is significant (p=0,004). (Heterosexual, p=0,032; homosexual, p=0,000). Excluding the "not identical" category (p=0,001) did not make any difference to the significance of the finding.

Similar findings emerged from chi-square analyses of the frequency distributions by sex and sexual
orientation.

- Gay sub-sample: very few respondents have low relationship satisfaction; (non-significant)
  p=0,897.
- Lesbian sub-sample: strong role of masculinity for satisfaction, with even stronger role of
  undifferentiated sex-role identity types in determining dissatisfaction; p=0,004).
- Heterosexual male and heterosexual female respondents: femininity and androgyny (in this
  order); p=0,261 and p=0,187 respectively.
- All male respondents: femininity in particular, also androgyny and masculinity; p=0,264.
- All female respondents: same (but stronger) pattern as for males, undifferentiated sex-role
  identity type also associated with low satisfaction level; p=0,010.

It is very clear that when both partners in a couple are either **feminine**, or **androgynous**, relationship
satisfaction occurs more frequently. An identical undifferentiated sex-role identity type between
homosexual and female partners (combined separately) are often also associated with low satisfaction
scores.

The pattern suggests that individuals experience satisfaction more often in couples where both
partners experience the femininity trait and its incumbent sex-role behaviour repertoire, even with
femininity manifesting in an identical androgynous sex-role identity type. When this is not the case,
female and homosexual partners in particular seem to miss the familiar feminine traits, resulting more
frequently in a low satisfaction level.

Frequency distributions (cf. Table 9.79), and combining all respondents from sub-samples, can both
mask other patterns of relationship satisfaction among sub-groups. Therefore, the score distributions
have been studied too. Significance levels and (expected) trends are again reported. Table 9.80
shows the mean relationship satisfaction scores (*DAS*) for respondents in the various identical sex-
role identity type combinations.

The expected significantly higher personal mean relationship satisfaction scores in couples where the
identical sex-role identity types between partners are **femininity** or **androgyny**, are clear.

Table 9.80: Mean scores for respondents on relationship satisfaction* according to identical sex-role
identity types present in both partners of a dyad as measured by the *BSRI* (self-ratings)

Identical sex-role identity types between partners (n=160; overall mean = 115,3 **)				
Androgyny	Femininity	Masculinity	Undifferentiated	Not identical
(18) 120,6	(16) 125,2	(14) 111,5	(14) 107,8	(98) 114,4

* Measured by means of *DAS*
** ANOVA (f-statistic) p-value for the model was 0,037

In Table 9.81, the effect of sex and sub-sample on the relationship between identical sex-role identity
type between the partners in couples and personal relationship satisfaction is investigated.

Table 9.81: Mean personal relationship satisfaction scores by identical dyadic sex-role identity type as measured on the *DAS* and *BSRI* (self-ratings) by sex and target group (sub-sample)

Relationship satisfaction score* by sex and sub-sample (n)	Identical sex-role identity type between partners in couples				
	Androgyny	Femininity	Masculinity	Undifferentiated	Not identical
Gay respondents	(2) 126,5	(4) 120,8	(2) 121,5		(14) 122,6
Heterosexual males	(8) 116,1	(6) 126,2	(3) 110,0	(2) 124,5	(30) 111,0
All male respondents	(10) 118,2	(10) 124,0	(5) 114,6	(2) 124,5	(44) 114,7
Lesbian respondents			(6) 107,3	(10) 102,0	(24) 118,8
Heterosexual females	(8) 123,5	(6) 127,2	(3) 114,7	(2) 120,0	(30) 110,3
All female respondents	(8) 123,5	(6) 127,2	(9) 109,8	(12) 105,0	(54) 114,1
All homosexual respondents	(2) 126,5	(4) 120,8	(8) 110,9	(10) 102,0	(38) 120,2
All heterosexual respondents	(16) 119,8	(12) 126,7	(6) 112,3	(4) 122,3	(60) 110,7

* ANOVA (f-statistic) p-values (n; *DAS* mean score) for the eight models in this column: 0,941 (22; 122,5); 0,378 (49; 114,2); 0,547 (71; 116,8); 0,039 (40; 112,9); 0,165 (49; 115,2); 0,071 (89; 114,1); 0,020 (62; 116,3); .0,036 (98; 114,7).

Generally speaking, the figures in Table 9.81 confirm the greater role of identical femininity and androgyny for relationship satisfaction. The effect for sexual orientation is significant (at the 5%-level). Identical androgyny operates more strongly among homosexual partners, and identical femininity for heterosexual respondents. This is particularly evident among males. Another less salient and somewhat tenuous effect (low cell frequencies) is related to sex. In this case, female respondents with identical femininity as sex-role identity type, experience high satisfaction, while males also do so in cases of an identical undifferentiated sex-role identity type. Last, the significant (at the 5%-level) observation for lesbian respondents cannot be taken too seriously in the absence of partners with identical androgynous and masculine sex-role identity types.

> The greater importance of identical femininity and androgyny between partners for their individual relationship satisfaction, compared to other identical sex-role identity combinations, as well as non-identical combinations, which include, for instance, the potentially superior adaptive role of androgyny and femininity in at least one partner, is also clear from the findings.

Parallel to the approach in Section 9.2.3.4, additional hypotheses, modifying the hierarchical comparison of the effect of identical sex-role identity type, are tested in the remainder of the present section. The dyadic variable created for each respondent for this purpose reflects the extent to which the partners in couples have an identical sex-role identity type. The frequency distribution in Table 9.82 reveals that the number of respondents remaining in the dataset for some of the analyses is reduced dramatically in this way, because identical sex-role identity types occur in no more than 40 % of the cases. Nevertheless, the ANOVA technique is robust and takes into account sample and sub-group sizes, so it is considered worthwhile to inspect the outcomes.

Table 9.82: Frequency distribution of correspondence in sex-role identity type between partners in couples by sub-sample

Sex-role identity type * common to partners	Sub-sample				
	Gay respondents	Lesbian respondents	Heterosexual males	Heterosexual females	Total
Androgyny	2		8	8	18
Femininity	4	-	6	6	16
Masculinity	2	6	3	3	14
Undifferentiated		10	2	2	14
No identity type in common	14	24	30	30	98

Total	22	40	49	49	160

* Based on typology derived from *BSRI* (self-report) scores

Hypothesis A (additional): **Relationship satisfaction scores for ~~androgynous~~ partners (n=18) were not higher, at 120,6, than those of ~~feminine~~ partners (n=16), at a score of 125,2 (p=0,123). Contrary to the hypothesis, but in line with many previous research findings, partners with a feminine sex-role identity type in common achieved greater relationship satisfaction.**

The effects of sex and sub-sample on this relationship were also investigated, and the findings are reported in Table 9.83. No further findings were statistically significant. Whereas the *DAS* scores of heterosexual respondents were higher when both respondents were feminine, androgyny was associated with greater relationship satisfaction among gay respondents.

Table 9.83: Comparison of personal relationship satisfaction scores for partners with an identical androgynous or feminine sex-role identity type by sex and sub-sample

Sub-sample	Identical sex-role identity type for both partners	Male respondents *			Female respondents *		
		DAS score	n	p-value	*DAS* score	n	p-value
Homosexual **	Androgynous	126.5	2	0,349	-	0	-
	Feminine	120.8	4		-	0	
Heterosexual **	Androgynous	116,1	8	0,090	123,5	8	0,331
	Feminine	126.7	6		127,2	6	

* All males (n=20): androgyny identical (118,2; n=10), femininity identical (124,0; n=10), p=0,188;
  All females (n=14): androgyny identical (123,5; n=8), femininity identical (127,2; n=6), p=0,331.
** All homosexual respondents (n=6): androgyny identical (126,5; n=2), femininity identical (120,8; n=4), p=0,349;
  All heterosexual respondents (n=28): androgyny identical (119,8; n=16), **femininity** identical (126,7; n=12), p=~~0,050~~.

Hypothesis B (additional): **As expected, relationship satisfaction scores for ~~androgynous~~ partners (n=18) were higher, at 120,6, than those of ~~masculine~~ partners (n=14), at 111,5 (p=0,068).**

The effects of sex and sub-sample are reported in Table 9.84. No further findings were statistically significant, mainly because of the relatively low cell frequencies. However, all the trends were in the expected direction, with common androgyny having a much stronger association with relationship satisfaction than common masculinity.

Table 9.84: Comparison of personal relationship satisfaction scores for partners with an identical androgynous or masculine sex-role identity type by sex and sub-sample

Sub-sample	Identical sex-role identity type for both partners	Male respondents *			Female respondents *		
		DAS score	n	p-value	*DAS* score	n	p-value
Homosexual **	Androgynous	126.5	2	0,617	-	0	-
	Masculine	121.5	2		107.3	6	
Heterosexual **	Androgynous	116.1	8	0,398	123.5	8	0,154
	Masculine	110.0	3		114.7	3	

* All males (n=15): androgyny identical (118,2; n=10), masculinity identical (114,6; n=5), p=0,539;
  All females (n=17): androgyny identical (123,5; n=8), masculinity identical (109,8; n=9), p=0,095.
** All homosexual respondents (n=10): androgyny identical (126,5; n=2), masculinity identical (110,9; n=8), p=0,371;
  All heterosexual respondents (n=22): androgyny identical (119,8; n=16), masculinity identical (112,3; n=6), p=0,117.

Hypothesis C (additional): **As expected, relationship satisfaction scores for ~~androgynous~~ partners (n=18) were significantly higher, at 120,6, than those of ~~undifferentiated~~ partners (n=14), at 107,8 (p=0,004).**

The effects of sex and sub-sample are reported in Table 9.85. No further findings were statistically significant. Low cell frequencies also most likely caused some erratic patterns, especially for heterosexual male respondents, where the trend was not as expected (n=2; relatively high satisfaction; with undifferentiated type).

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Table 9.85: Comparison of personal relationship satisfaction scores for partners with an identical androgynous or undifferentiated sex-role identity type by sex and sub-sample

Sub-sample	Identical sex-role identity type for both partners	Male respondents *			Female respondents *		
		DAS score	n	p-value	*DAS* score	n	p-value
Homosexual **	Androgynous	126,5	2		-	0	
	Undifferentiated	-	0	-	102,0	10	-
Heterosexual **	Androgynous	116,1	8		123,5	8	
	Undifferentiated	124,5	2	0,346	120,0	2	0,528

* All males (n=12): androgyny identical (118,2; n=10), undifferentiated identical (124,5; n=2), p=0,466;
  All females (n=20): **androgyny** identical (123,5; n=8), undifferentiated identical (105,0; n=12), p=0,001.
** All homosexual respondents (n=12): **androgyny** identical (126,5; n=2), undifferentiated identical (102,0; n=10), p=0,014;
   All heterosexual respondents (n=20): androgyny identical (119,8; n=16), undifferentiated identical (122,3; n=4), p=0,638.

Hypothesis D (additional):   **As expected, relationship satisfaction scores for feminine partners (n=16) were significantly higher, at 125,2, than those of masculine partners (n=14), at 111,5 (p=0,009).**

The effects of sex and sub-sample are reported in Table 9.86. For heterosexual respondents, the expected trend was confirmed, showing femininity's closer association with relationship satisfaction than masculinity's.

Table 9.86: Comparison of personal relationship satisfaction scores for partners with an identical feminine or masculine sex-role identity type by sex and sub-sample

Sub-sample	Identical sex-role identity type for both partners	Male respondents *			Female respondents *		
		DAS score	n	p-value	*DAS* score	n	p-value
Homosexual **	Feminine	120,8	4	0,888	-	0	-
	Masculine	121,5	2		107,3	6	
Heterosexual **	Feminine	126.2	6	0,082	127,2	6	0,064
	Masculine	110,0	3		114,7	3	

* All males (n=15): femininity identical (124,0; n=10), masculinity identical (114,6; n=5), p=0,104;
  All females (n=15): femininity identical (127,2; n=6), masculinity identical (109,8; n=9), p=0,069.
** All homosexual respondents (n=12): femininity identical (120,8; n=4), masculinity identical (110,9; n=8), p=0,407;
   All heterosexual respondents (n=18): **femininity** identical (127,7; n=12), masculinity identical (112,3; n=6), p=0,007.

Hypothesis E (additional):   **As expected, relationship satisfaction scores for feminine partners (n=16) were significantly higher, at 125,2, than those of undifferentiated partners (n=14), at 107,8 (p=0,000).**

The effects of sex and sub-sample are reported in Table 9.87. The findings for heterosexual respondents, especially females, were as expected, showing the closer association of femininity with relationship satisfaction.

Table 9.87: Comparison of personal relationship satisfaction scores for partners with an identical feminine or undifferentiated sex-role identity type by sex and sub-sample

Sub-sample	Identical sex-role identity type for both partners	Male respondents *			Female respondents *		
		DAS score	n	p-value	*DAS* score	n	p-value
Homosexual **	Feminine	120,8	4		-	0	
	Undifferentiated	-	0	-	102,0	10	-
Heterosexual **	Feminine	126,2	6		127,2	6	
	Undifferentiated	124,5	2	0,869	120,0	2	0,159

* All males (n=12): femininity identical (124,0; n=10), undifferentiated identical (124,5; n=2), p=0,950;
  All females (n=18): **femininity** identical (127,2; n=6), undifferentiated identical (105,0; n=12), p=0,001.
** All homosexual respondents (n=14): **femininity** identical (120,8; n=4), undifferentiated identical (102,0; n=10), p=0,007;
   All heterosexual respondents (n=16): femininity identical (126,7; n=12), undifferentiated identical (122,3; n=4), p=0,392.

Hypothesis F (additional):   **As expected, relationship satisfaction scores for masculine partners (n=14)**

were higher, at 111,5, than those of undifferentiated partners (n=14), at a score of 107,8 (p=0,541).

The effects of sex and sub-sample are reported in Table 9.88. The findings were all insignificant.

The trends for the heterosexual sub-samples were not expected. However, low cell frequencies

prevent firm conclusions.

Table 9.88: Comparison of personal relationship satisfaction scores for partners with an identical
masculine or undifferentiated sex-role identity type by sex and sub-sample

Sub-sample	Identical sex-role identity type for both partners	Male respondents *			Female respondents *		
		DAS score	n	p-value	DAS score	n	p-value
Homosexual **	Masculine	121,5	2	-	107.3	6	0,556
	Undifferentiated	-	0		102.0	10	
Heterosexual **	Masculine	110,0	3	0,331	114,7	3	0,583
	Undifferentiated	124,5	2		120,0	2	

* All males (n=7): masculinity identical (114,6; n=5), undifferentiated identical (124,5; n=2), p=0,389;
  All females (n=21): masculinity identical (109,8; n=9), undifferentiated identical (105,0; n=12), p=0,513.
** All homosexual respondents (n=18): masculinity identical (110,9; n=8), undifferentiated identical (102,0; n=10), p=0,279;
  All heterosexual respondents (n=10): masculinity identical (112,3; n=6), undifferentiated identical (122,3; n=4), p=0,184.

9.3.2.4 Relative effect of direct correspondence and congruence of sex-role identity

Although no explicit hypotheses were set in advance with regard to the relative effect on relationship

satisfaction of an **identical sex-role identity type** between partners (e.g., both are androgynous, or

feminine, etc.), **compared to** only having **certain sex-role identity traits in common** (e.g., masculinity only,

but not femininity, as the androgynous and masculine partners of a couple), or even **no traits at all**

(e.g., as androgynous and undifferentiated, or masculine and feminine partners), these configurations

were all explored. Most of the findings confirmed the expected associations, as briefly summarised

below, without providing any detail.

When comparing relationship satisfaction between partners with an identical sex-role identity type, and

those with sex-role identity trait incongruence of any degree, the observations, noted below, emerged.

 For this set of analyses, the identical-masculinity mixed, identical-femininity mixed, and non-identical

dyads, in terms of sex-role identity traits, were all treated as one sub-group.

- When both partners were androgynous, or feminine (even more so), they were far more[3]
  satisfied with their relationship compared to those with incongruent sex-role identity traits. No
  exceptions emerged for sub-groups by sex (male / female) and/or by sub-sample
  (homosexual and heterosexual).

- When both partners were masculine, or undifferentiated, they were less satisfied in their
  relationships compared to those with incongruent sex-role identity traits. However, this did
  not apply to heterosexual partners/couples, or to heterosexual males in undifferentiated
  couples.

Some noteworthy differences to the general trend just described became evident when the identical-

masculinity mixed, identical-femininity mixed, and non-identical dyads were treated separately in the

analyses.

[3] For all comparisons, some associations were significant at the 5%-level, while else the reported trend was confirmed, unless any
exceptions are mentioned explicitly.

When comparing relationship satisfaction between partners with an identical sex-role identity type, and those with an ~~identical femininity~~ but non-identical (incongruent) masculinity sex-role identity trait, the following findings were made, much as in the overall or combined picture reported first above:

- When both partners were ~~androgynous~~, or ~~feminine~~ (even more strongly so), they were far more satisfied with their relationship compared to identical-femininity mixed couples. Gay partners formed a single exception, with feminine respondents experiencing less satisfaction than partners in identical-femininity mixed dyads (i.e., androgynous-feminine; and masculine-undifferentiated).
- When both partners were ~~masculine~~, or ~~undifferentiated~~, they were less satisfied with their relationship compared to identical-femininity mixed couples. However, this did not apply to heterosexual partners/couples (male and female partners), and to heterosexual males in undifferentiated couples.

When comparing relationship satisfaction between partners with an ~~identical sex-role identity type~~, ~~and~~ those with an ~~identical masculinity~~ but non-identical (incongruent) femininity sex-role identity trait, the following findings were made, which in slight ways differ from the picture reported so far:

- When both partners were androgynous, or feminine (more strongly so), they were far more satisfied with their relationship compared to identical-masculinity mixed couples (i.e., androgynous-masculine; and feminine-undifferentiated), with no exceptions in terms of sex and sub-sample.
- When both partners were ~~masculine~~, or ~~undifferentiated~~, they were less satisfied with their relationship compared to identical-masculinity mixed couples. However, this did not apply to heterosexual partners/couples (male and female partners), and to males (combined). Also, in the overall model (comparing all masculine, or undifferentiated dyads without reference to sex and/or sub-sample, to the "mixed" dyads), not much difference existed between the two sets of satisfaction levels.

When comparing relationship satisfaction between partners with an ~~identical sex-role identity type~~, ~~and~~ those with non-identical (incongruent) sex-role identity traits, the following findings were made:

- When both partners were ~~androgynous~~, they were more satisfied in their relationship compared to non-identical partners (i.e., androgynous-undifferentiated; masculine-feminine), only for homosexual respondents and female respondents. Heterosexual dyads and males formed exceptions.
- When both partners were ~~feminine~~, their satisfaction level was consistently higher compared to that among dyads with non-identical sex-role identity traits.
- When both partners were ~~masculine~~, they were more satisfied in their relationship compared to non-identical partners only in the case of homosexual couples.
- When both partners were ~~undifferentiated~~, they were generally less satisfied in their relationship compared to non-identical couples. This definitely and strongly applied to females (combined) and homosexual partners/couples, but to no other sub-groups.

The findings in this section confirm the relatively strong and consistent contribution of femininity to satisfaction.

The variance across sex and relationship type (target group or sub-sample) is not discussed separately now, as anticipated (under 6.2.5 and 6.2.6), because it has been done already elsewhere throughout Chapter 9. In addition, as mentioned before (under 9.1.1.3 and 9.2.3.5), the main focus of the study has dictated the limitation of analyses and discussions to the overall *DAS* relationship satisfaction score. The sub-scale evidence was mainly used for instrument validation purposes (see Section 9.1.1).

9.3.3   Summary and conclusion

Section 9.3 has been devoted to the outcomes of testing the central research hypotheses from a partly-dyadic viewpoint. The creation of appropriate variables and codes enabled studying two main sets of interactions. The first set comprises the effect of participants' personal sex role identity types on their combined or dyadic relationship satisfaction outcome (9.3.1). Femininity and androgyny, in this order of significance, compared to the other sex-role identity types, are closely related to the simultaneous relationship satisfaction of both partners. This outcome applies strongly for the sex-role identity types of heterosexual female and gay respondents, suggesting sex-typing. The order of the importance of femininity and androgyny was reversed for heterosexual males. Among lesbian respondents, masculinity replaced femininity. In the latter two sub-groups, an undifferentiated personal sex-role identity type was closely associated with (dyadic) dissatisfaction.

The second set of interactions comprises the effect of the various combinations of sex-role identity type and traits (masculinity and femininity) between partners on their personal relationship satisfaction (9.3.2). The findings are summarised in Table 9.89 to evaluate their significance, or at least adherence to the expected trends. In addition, an indication is given of the extent to which the sub-samples (target groups) and sex to which respondents belong, resulted in deviations from the main pattern or hypothesis set for each finding.

Table 9.89: Summary of findings on testing the central hypotheses about the relationship between dyadic sex-role identity combinations and individual relationship satisfaction by sex and sub-sample

	Hypothesis	Significant		Expected direction		Exceptions among respondents by * **		
								Sub-sample
Nr	Contents	Yes	No	Yes	No	Sub-sample	Sex	by sex
	Relationship satisfaction associated with identical/congruent sex-role identity type/traits between partners							
1	Identical > identical-fem mixed		x	✓		Same-sex **		Same-sex **
2	Identical > identical-masc mixed	(#)	x	✓		Same-sex *		Same-sex *
3	Identical > non-identical		x		x			(Hetero)
12	Id-fem mixed id-masc mixed		x	N.a.	N.a.	">" hetero		"<" same-sex
10	Id-fem mixed > non-identical		x		x	Hetero *	(Male)	Hetero #
11	Id-masc mixed > non-identical		x		x	Hetero **	Male*	Hetero #
	Relationship satisfaction associated with highest adaptive sex-role identity type within either partner of a couple							
4	Androgyny > femininity		x		x	(Hetero)	(Male)	(Hetero)
5	Androgyny > masculinity	✓		✓				
6	Androgyny > undifferentiated	✓		✓		(Hetero)		
7	Femininity > masculinity	✓		✓				
8	Femininity > undifferentiated	✓		✓		(Hetero)	(Male)	

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No.	Comparison							
9	Masculinity > undifferentiated		x	✓		Hetero #	(Male)	
Relationship satisfaction associated with comparisons of identical sex-role identity type between two partners								
A	Androgyny > femininity (both)		x		x	Hetero *	(Both)	Hetero # ( )
B	Androgyny > masculinity (both)	(#)	x	✓				Hetero # ( )
C	Androgyny > undifferentiated	✓		✓		(Hetero)	(Male)	(Hetero)
D	Femininity > masculinity	✓		✓				
E	Femininity > undifferentiated	✓		✓				
F	Masculinity > undifferentiated		x	✓		(Hetero)	(Male)	

* ** Indicates significance respectively at the 5%- and 1% levels (with insignificant, unexpected trends reported in brackets)
\# Almost significant at the 5%-level

Legend: fem = feminine;   masc = masculine;   id = identical;   hetero = heterosexual;   = male;   = female

Broad support for the hypotheses is observed, as reflected in the summary of the core findings below.

- As expected, identical sex-role identity types between partners, more than mixed sex-role identity trait configurations, are associated with greater personal relationship satisfaction. None of these associations were statistically significant.
- Androgyny and femininity are associated with greater personal relationship satisfaction when sex-role identity type is treated as an indicator of the most adaptive behavioural repertoire available to either partner in a dyadic relationship. This applies slightly more strongly in the case of homosexual compared to heterosexual couples.
- When androgyny or femininity is identical between the partners in a couple, respondents experience significantly greater personal relationship satisfaction compared to those in other identical sex-role identity type combinations. In some cases (see Table 9.89), this applied less often to heterosexual and/or male partners.
- When both partners in dyads are feminine, and both are androgynous, in this order, a more consistent association with personal relationship satisfaction is observed, relative to that of partners in couples with non-identical (or incongruent) sex-role identity traits (including mixed combinations).

9.4 Hypothesis testing from a non-dyadic or direct perspective

As argued before, certain situations and factors may also (or mainly) operate at the level of individuals, without reference to dyadic combinations or patterns, or to couple scores, which are calculated as the averages of partner scores. For this reason, the association between individual respondents' personal sex-role identity type and their personal or partners' relationship satisfaction has to be investigated as well for unique effects. The basis of the subsequent analyses remains testing the relative influence of each sex-role identity type, according to the known hierarchy of hypotheses. Although this may appear to be a dyadic effect, the partly and fully dyadic analyses, covered in Sections 9.2 and 9.3, make it clear that the present approach is at most inter-individual in some sense. The main reason is that the simultaneous existence of sex-role identity types or of relationship satisfaction level between partners is nowhere focused on. Deviations from, and exceptions to, the central pattern by sub-group, according to sex and sexual orientation, are highlighted where relevant.

To start with, chi-square analyses were performed by sub-sample on the cross-tabulated frequency distributions reflecting respondents' personal relationship satisfaction outcomes (low- or high-score categories) for each sex-role identity type they **personal**ly had. The findings (in order of significance) revealed that:

- androgyny and femininity, and also masculinity to some extent, but definitely not[4] an undifferentiated sex-role identity type, among lesbian respondents (p=0,073);
- femininity and androgyny, among ~~heterosexual males~~ (p=0,107);
- femininity and androgyny, among ~~gay males~~ (p=0,313); and
- androgyny and femininity, and partly an undifferentiated sex-role identity type, among ~~heterosexual females~~ (p=0,484);

were associated more often, compared to other sex-role identity types, with personal relationship satisfaction.

With regard to personal relationship satisfaction and the sex-role identity type of **partners**, the findings revealed some differences [indicated between square brackets below], in that:
- androgyny and femininity, and also masculinity to some extent, but definitely not an undifferentiated sex-role identity, among ~~lesbian~~ respondents (p=~~0,019~~) [stronger association];
- femininity and androgyny [switched places], and partly an undifferentiated sex-role identity type, among ~~heterosexual females~~ (p=0,093) [moved up two places in significance, with a stronger association];
- femininity and androgyny, among ~~heterosexual males~~ (p=0,215) [weaker association, and dropped one place in significance]; and
- androgyny [switched to front], masculinity [added], and femininity, among ~~gay~~ (p=0,679) [weaker association, and dropped one place in significance];

were associated more often, compared to other partner sex-role identity types, with personal relationship satisfaction.

Analysis of the group as a whole revealed that personal (p=~~0,001~~) and partners' (p=~~0,002~~) femininity, androgyny and masculinity, in this order, were more frequently associated with a high level of personal relationship satisfaction, while the inverse was true for an undifferentiated sex-role identity type.

Hypotheses 4 to 9 were also investigated by performing ~~analysis of variance~~ (ANOVA) procedures on all the combinations of personal relationship satisfaction (*DAS*) scores and sex-role identity types between respondents and their partners for the various sub-samples. **In summary, it was found that femininity and androgyny, in this order, are significantly more closely associated with (personal or partners') relationship satisfaction than masculinity and an undifferentiated sex-role identity type.**

One noteworthy set of exceptions emerged, though. In the case of heterosexual female respondents, their male partners experienced higher satisfaction levels when the female partners had an undifferentiated, instead of a feminine or androgynous, sex-role identity type, while the personal satisfaction of such female respondents was higher when they had an androgynous or feminine, rather than an undifferentiated, sex-role identity type.

This outcome testifies to the conundrum heterosexual women find themselves in. Assumedly in the aftermath of a male-dominated society, with conventional marriages between masculine husbands and feminine wives the order of the day, they still seem to suffer visibly under prohibitive male attitudes,

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[4] Implying that a given sex-role identity type was strongly related with (relatively) low satisfaction.

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not allowing them the wider spread of benefits coming with androgyny, or too strong a deviation from men's comfort zone. In the former situation, the presence of the masculinity trait (as in androgyny) among female partners seems to threaten or compete with the conventional or traditional strength, or uniqueness, that masculinity brings to male partners in such cases. In the latter situation, the conspicuous absence of masculinity (as in femininity) can lead to too small a complementary interface in terms of the conventional strength or traditional uniqueness that masculinity brings to male partners in heterosexual relationships. From another perspective, also when femininity becomes too prominent in female partners, relationship satisfaction in their male counterparts may decrease.

Apart from the exception just noted, this set of findings corresponds very well with those reported in Table 9.60 (in Section 9.2.4). When someone's sex-role identity type is feminine (or androgynous), one can predict with reasonable certainty that such an individual, and his or her partner, will experience relatively high relationship satisfaction.

In the interest of space, and the flow of the presentation, it was decided to report the detailed outcomes of the variance analysis and testing of Hypotheses 4 to 9 as Annexure 9.1.

9.5 Role of extra- and intra-personal (extraneous) factors

A final set of observations is made next. The observations are largely based on an exploration of any possible mediating influences by extra-personal, intra-personal or demographic variables on relationship satisfaction, sex-role identity, or the link between the two, under dyadic, partly dyadic or non-dyadic circumstances.

Because these aspects are somewhat further removed from the core research objectives and hypotheses of the present study, reporting does not follow the comprehensive, systematic layout and format as before. Instead, the approach has been to run comprehensive and systematic analyses, but only to report significant or noteworthy findings. The extraneous variables have been investigated first to establish whether or not any of them are associated with relationship satisfaction (at whichever level, i.e., dyadic, or individual, etc). If not, they have not been considered further when investigating any influence on sex-role identity, or through the latter, on the relationship between sex-role identity and relationship satisfaction, because their effect will have become so diluted by then, and cell frequencies so low, that trying to detect any effects becomes futile. Consequently, the following sub-sections and contents are presented in the remainder of this section:

- Section 9.5.1, for discussing the effect of extraneous variables from a dyadic perspective;
- Section 9.5.2, for discussing the effect of extraneous variables from a partly-dyadic perspective; and
- Section 9.5.3, for discussing the effect of extraneous variables from a direct, non-dyadic perspective.

9.5.1   The effect of extraneous variables from a dyadic perspective

As before, dyadic effects are studied through the combined dataset, organised in such a way that couples are the units of analysis (n=80). Variance analysis (ANOVA) has been conducted first to establish whether or not any of the intra-or extra-personal variables are related to the **relationship satisfaction** mean scores of couples. The analyses were conducted for the whole sample, and separately for the sub-samples (homosexual male, homosexual female, heterosexual male, and heterosexual female respondents).

Only certain variables operate meaningfully within dyadic dynamics. By this is meant that the partners in a couple either experience an identical condition (e.g., family stage and duration of the present relationship), or that it has made sense to create a new common variable (e.g., by calculating the extent to which partners experience a common or different level of conflict-handling skills). In addition, not all the response distributions (see Section 9.1.3) are conducive to extensive analyses. Cell frequencies for sub-samples are often not high enough to allow the detection of differences as statistically significant. A last reason may lie in distribution skewness. As a result, only the six factors recorded below have been considered. For each of them, a combined score has been calculated for each couple before relating it to the simultaneous relationship satisfaction outcome of that couple.

- With regard to relationship preference, when at least one or both partners in a couple preferred an egalitarian or comradeship relationship, their mean satisfaction level is significantly higher (p=0,018) for the full sample (n=80), compared to the few preferring traditional relationships. Among lesbian respondents, preference for an egalitarian relationship is associated with the highest satisfaction level. Among heterosexual respondents, it is the preference for a comradeship relationship. (In Section 9.2.3.2, the influence of relationship preference has been investigated in more detail already.)

- The number of children in couples is not significantly related to relationship satisfaction, although the trend is for relationship satisfaction to be greater in cases where couples have children (one to three), compared to not having any.

- Family stage, as indication of which household or relationship stage couples are in with regard to not having children yet, having them already, and not having them any longer with the couple, is associated (not significantly, p=0,107, n=80) in a non-linear way with relationship satisfaction, which increases when toddlers arrive, reduces gradually up to the point of having children of primary-school stage, rises again to having teenagers at home, drops during the empty-nest phase, and is high again after retirement. The cross-sectional nature of the research design and data, compared to cohort or longitudinal viewpoints, reduces the value of this observation. The very few homosexual couples with children at home appear to be much happier than those couples not having any children (p=0,039, n=31).

- The duration of relationships is not significantly associated with relationship satisfaction, which nevertheless peaks at six to ten years into the relationship (full sample). Among gay couples, satisfaction levels are highest at the outset (three to five years into the relationship), only to

deteriorate afterwards, while for lesbian couples, satisfaction levels remain more or less consistent.

- Total family income is very significantly related to relationship satisfaction (p=0,000, n=80), which peaked at a maximum value when gross family income reached R160 000 or more per year. The matching p-values among homosexual and heterosexual couples respectively were 0,023 and 0,002.

- When both partners score high on communication and problem- and conflict-solving skills, couples are significantly more satisfied (p=0,000, n=80) compared to couples among which only one partner has this skill. The corresponding p-values among lesbian, homosexual (combined) and heterosexual couples respectively were 0,000, 0,001 and 0,000. Gay respondents form an exception, where it seems to be better for relationship satisfaction if only one partner exercises this skill.

In summary, only family income, and communication and conflict-solving skills are significantly associated with relationship satisfaction at the dyadic level.

Investigations (through chi-square analyses) of the possible association between **sex-role identity** (congruent or identical traits; highest adaptive presence; or identical sex-role identity types) and any of the six extraneous variables listed so far (relationship preference, number of children, family stage, duration of relationship, total family income, and communication skills), revealed no significant relationships (full sample or any sub-group). The trends are strong (almost significant) in only two cases. With regard to communication and conflict solving, for the full sample (n=80), couples rating themselves as skilled also more often had androgyny and femininity, but not masculinity or an undifferentiated sex-role identity, as the highest adaptive sex-role identity type in at least one partner (p=0,055). In terms of total family income, lesbian couples with high incomes more often were androgynous or feminine (in terms of congruent, highest adaptive and identical sex-role identity types / traits).

Further analyses have been done through chi-square, partial-correlation and analysis-of-variance techniques of the possible moderating effect of the two variables (cited in the previous paragraph) on the **relationship between sex-role identity and relationship satisfaction**. These analyses revealed that the correlation remaining between relationship satisfaction and the highest adaptive sex-role identity type in at least one partner, after removing the correlation due to their mutual association with the extraneous variables, dropped in the cases of gross family income and conflict-solving or communication skills, signalling their important influence as moderating variables. However, under the same circumstances, the correlation between relationship satisfaction and, respectively, sex-role identity trait congruence and identical sex-role identity type increased.

Variance analysis, through GLM (General Linear Models) procedures [5], making use of all six of the previously listed extraneous variables, suggested the importance of two more effects for sex-role identity trait congruence:

- Among gay partners, who both voiced a preference for a comradeship relationship, and were in identical-femininity mixed sex-role identity couples, relationship satisfaction was significantly greater (p=0,009), compared to all other sex-role identity trait combinations and preference for relationship type.
- Homosexual respondents, with only one partner considering him/herself good at solving conflict, in identical-femininity mixed sex-role identity trait couples, experienced significantly greater relationship satisfaction (p=0,039) relative to that experienced by good problem solvers, and compared to couples from any other sex-role identity trait congruence combination.

Two more effects were highlighted as important with regard to highest adaptive sex-role identity:

- Among homosexual couples, when the highest adaptive sex-role identity type of at least one partner was androgyny and the couple had two children, or when (highest) femininity was combined with having one child, or less so even for two children, relationship satisfaction was significantly greater (p=0,039) relative to that experienced by couples with any other combination of highest adaptive sex-role identity type and number of children. (Under the same conditions, the same applied to lesbian respondents; p=0,041.)
- Among heterosexual couples, relationship satisfaction was significantly greater (p=0,002) when the highest adaptive sex-role identity type of at least one partner was androgyny or femininity while both partners preferred a comradeship relationship, or when the highest adaptive sex-role identity type of at least one partner was masculinity or both were undifferentiated while both partners preferred an egalitarian relationship, in comparison with any other combination of highest adaptive sex-role identity type and relationship-type preference. (The p-value for the identical pattern among the 80 cases in the full sample was 0,006, because of the contribution of the 49 heterosexual couples.)

Only one additional effect was highlighted as important with regard to identical sex-role identity type:

- Among lesbian couples, when partners did not have identical sex-role identity types, in combination with caring for one or two children, their relationship satisfaction levels seemed to be significantly higher (p=0,025), compared to any other combination of corresponding sex-role identity type and number of children, although cell frequencies are becoming very low. (The same observation was made for homosexual respondents (p=0,009), under the same conditions, with the same cell frequency problem applicable.)

9.5.2   The effect of extraneous variables from a partly-dyadic perspective

Individual sex-role identity type and joint relationship satisfaction outcome

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[5] All ANOVA procedures reported in the rest of this section were executed using GLM techniques.

The same data, relationships between the intra- or extra-personal variables and **relationship satisfaction**, and approach to the subsequent analyses, as reported in Section 9.5.1, underlie the discussion in this section. Therefore, the two highlighted variables (family income, and communication and conflict-solving skills) are again most likely to act as moderators of the association between individual sex-role identity and dyadic relationship satisfaction outcome. However, all the extraneous variables surveyed during the fieldwork have been included in the exploratory analyses at the basis of the ensuing discussion.

Chi-square analyses were used to investigate the association between every partner's ~~sex-role identity~~ type and any of the extraneous variables related to that partner. With very few exceptions (see next paragraph), no consistent significant relationships emerged for the full sample, or any sub-group, with regard to the listed intra-personal [emotional functioning (moody, depressed), emotional stability, attitudes towards sex, extraversion, and independence] and extra-personal variables [age, health, highest qualification, job satisfaction, professional career followed, type of relationship (first, second or third time in cohabiting, homosexual or marital arrangement), personal income, mother tongue, living area, population group, religious orientation and activity, relationship type of parents, duration of parents' relationship, and relationship satisfaction levels of parents].

Respondents with a high level of personal ~~problem-solving and communication skill~~ were androgynous or masculine more frequently (p=0,038). This trend was strong (almost significant) among heterosexual couples too. Respondents with a high personal ~~life-satisfaction~~ level were androgynous and feminine more frequently (p=0,040 for all respondents combined; p=0,006 among lesbians; p=0,018 among heterosexual males; p=0,045 among heterosexual females). Heterosexual females experiencing high levels of ~~job-satisfaction~~ were androgynous more frequently (p=0,006). Lesbian respondents with low levels of ~~personal income~~ had undifferentiated sex-role identity types more frequently (p=0,002).

Further joint analyses have been done through chi-square, partial-correlation and analysis-of-variance techniques of the possible moderating effect of the four variables (cited in the previous paragraph) on the **relationship between sex-role identity and relationship satisfaction**. These analyses revealed that the correlation remaining between dyadic relationship satisfaction and personal sex-role identity type in any partner, after partialling out the correlation because of their mutual association with the extraneous variables, remained very constant in the case of all four variables, signalling the unimportant role of the extraneous factors as moderating variables. However, chi-square analyses revealed two effects (for the full sample, n=80). Androgyny and femininity, in liaison respectively with a high level of general ~~life-satisfaction~~ (p=0,036), and with good ~~conflict-handling skill~~ (p=0,035), correlated strongly with partners' simultaneous relationship satisfaction.

Variance analysis, concentrating on the four previously listed extraneous variables, suggested the importance of the following additional moderating effects through ~~personal sex-role identity~~:

- A low relationship satisfaction level among heterosexual couples[6] was very significantly related to low problem-solving skill among androgynous, masculine (very low cell frequency) and undifferentiated male partners, but not feminine ones (p=0,001), implying a very strong contribution by femininity in this situation.

- Some inter-partner effects were also observed. Androgyny among heterosexual female partners, irrespective of low conflict-handling skill among their partners, were still significantly related to high mean relationship scores for the couples (p=0,005), implying a very strong contribution by androgyny in this situation. (Same effect may apply to gay partners / couples – low cell frequencies, however.)

- Only one inter-partner effect emerged with regard to the role of ~~life satisfaction~~. Masculinity among heterosexual female partners, and low ratings of life satisfaction among their male partners, were still significantly related to high mean relationship satisfaction scores for the couple, as was the inverse of very high life-satisfaction ratings among male partners with low mean relationship satisfactio n scores (p=0,007). This erratic pattern is not easy to explain, apart from suggesting a moderating influence towards mediocre dyadic relationship outcomes in the face of "too much" masculinity in female partners.

- Among homosexual couples (mainly lesbian), a low financial ~~income~~ from a partner appears not to preclude the couple from reaching a high satisfaction level, as long as that partner is also androgynous or masculine. Inversely put, a high income from a homosexual partner does not guarantee happiness for the couple, especially not when that partner is feminine or undifferentiated (p=0,016).

- Another inter-partner effect emerged among heterosexual couples in that low and high financial incomes from female partners do not preclude the couple from reaching a high satisfaction level, as long as the male partners are androgynous or feminine. The inverse applies in that male partners with masculine and undifferentiated sex-role identity types do not achieve greater couple happiness when the female partners earn high or low incomes (p=0,020). This pattern can be explained by the greater "skill" that male partners receive to handle either the burden of low incomes or the threat of high incomes from their female partners, when assisted by their own (males') androgyny or femininity.

- An inter-partner effect emerged regarding the role of ~~job satisfaction~~. A low job-satisfaction level among heterosexual female partners, or not working at all, do not preclude the couple from reaching a high satisfaction level, as long as the male partners are androgynous or feminine (p=0,003). However, when the female partners experience high levels of job satisfaction, couple satisfaction level drops, even when the male partners are feminine. This finding again suggests the high adaptive value of androgyny and femininity among males in heterosexual relationships, provided that female partners' income generating activities are not perceived by their male partners to take energy away from the relationship.

Joint sex-role identity patterns and individual relationship satisfaction outcomes

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[6] Strong too (almost significant) among lesbian respondents. (Heterosexual female partners' sex-role identity and problem-solving skill contributed equally to couples' mean (combined) relationship satisfaction scores.)

From this point onwards, analyses and discussions are based on the dataset in which individual records are treated as the unit of analysis (n=160). As at the beginning of Section 9.5.1, variance analysis (ANOVA) was used first to explore whether or not any of the intra-or extra-personal variables related to individual **relationship satisfaction**. These analyses were conducted for the whole sample, and separately for the various sub-samples (gay, lesbian, heterosexual male, heterosexual female, male, female, homosexual, and heterosexual respondents). Findings suggest that six intra-personal [emotional functioning (moody, depressed), attitudes towards sex, preference of relationship type, extraversion, conflict-solving ability (through communication), and life satisfaction] and six extra-personal factors (personal income, family stage, relationship type, health status, fathers' relationship satisfaction, and parents' relationship type) will most likely act as moderators of the association between sex-role identity combinations and personal relationship satisfaction.

Chi-square analyses of the possible association between partners' **sex-role identity** configurations (congruent type and traits, highest adaptive type, and identical type) and any of the extraneous variables related to either partner confirmed the potential influence of the following three intra-personal and four extra-personal factors respectively as moderators of the association between sex-role identity patterns and personal relationship satisfaction outcome: emotional functioning (moody, depressed), extraversion, and life satisfaction; and personal income, family stage, relationship duration (variable newly identified, as it does not appear in the previous paragraph), and fathers' relationship satisfaction.

The most notable interactions are briefly detailed next. Heterosexual male (p=0,007) and heterosexual female (p=0,022) partners, who were often moody and depressed (emotional functioning), more frequently did not have androgynous or feminine sex-role identity types in common between them. When a lesbian partner experienced a high personal life-satisfaction level, at least one of the partners was androgynous more often (p=0,035), and the partners especially did not have an undifferentiated sex-role identity type in common, partly confirming an observation made at the dyadic satisfaction level (Section 9.5.1). Lesbian partners with a high personal income more often were in identical-femininity mixed sex-role identity combinations (p=0,024). Some observations across the various sub-samples point towards possible links between relationship duration and sex-role identity combinations in that shorter periods are associated more frequently with identical androgyny and femininity, and longer durations with identical masculinity and undifferentiated sex-role identity types. This phenomenon should be kept in mind when the interaction between extraneous variables, sex-role identity configurations and individual relationship satisfaction is commented on further in the next paragraph. Among heterosexual males, perceiving their fathers' relationship satisfaction level to be very high, was more frequently associated with androgyny as the highest adaptive sex-role identity type (p=0,023), while lesbian partners in the same situation more often did not have identical sex-role identity types between the partners (p=0,003).

Joint analyses have been done, through variance and other analyses, on the possible moderating effect of the three intra-personal and four extra-personal variables (identified in the paragraph before the previous one) on the **relationship between sex-role identity and relationship satisfaction**. Exploratory

chi-square analyses on the fu ll sample (n=160) in particular flagged possible moderating influences towards relationship satisfaction by good emotional functioning (p=0,012; with identical androgyny and femininity), (low) life satisfaction (p=0,042; with both partners masculine or undifferentiated, - with low relationship satisfaction), relationship duration (various configurations; p-values ranging from 0,000 to 0,016; trends as suggested in the previous paragraph across configurations for congruent, highest and identical sex-role identity traits and types), and relationship satisfaction level of fathers (p=0,036; with androgyny as highest adaptive sex-role identity type).

Variance analysis unveiled the importance of five significant effects with regard to sex-role identity congruence:

- Heterosexual respondents (combined) with non-identical (incongruent) sex-role identity types between partners, and very high levels of life satisfaction, experienced greater personal relationship satisfaction compared to that of partners in the other sex-role identity type / trait combinations (p=0,042).

- Amidst some erratic patterns, respondents with a low personal income level seemed to achieve very high relationship satisfaction when the sex-role identity traits between the partners are non-identical (p=0,001). (This pattern also emerged for female (p=0,021) and heterosexual respondents (p=0,020). However, male respondents also achieved relatively greater satisfaction in the middle-income ranges with non-identical (incongruent) sex-role identity types (p=0,025), as did female respondents in the higher-income ranges with identical-masculinity mixed configurations (p=0,021), and heterosexual respondents in the higher-income ranges with identical-femininity mixed configurations (p=0,020).

- Depending on the (in)congruence of sex-role identity traits between the partners in couples, female and heterosexual respondents differed significantly (p=0,047 and p=0,002 respectively) in terms of relationship satisfaction level during the various family stages, as shown in Table 9.90. The very different patterns of peak values (shaded in the table) in the various rows are immediately evident.

- Relationship satisfaction in lesbian partners varied significantly over the duration of relationships (from two to twenty years), along with the sex-role identity (in)congruence patterns between the partners, with satisfaction stagnant at just above average levels with identical (congruent)sex-role identity types), satisfaction declining dramatically over time from very high initial levels with identical-femininity mixed sex-role identity traits, and satisfaction increasing dramatically from very low initial levels with identical-masculinity mixed sex-role identity traits (p=0,005). (The picture is very similar among homosexual respondents (combined), with satisfaction declining slightly with identical sex-role identity type, and satisfaction following a bell-shaped curve with non-identical sex-role identity type, in addition (p=0,001).)

- The personal relationship satisfaction level of heterosexual male respondents follows their fathers' relationship satisfaction level for all sex-role identity (in)congruence configurations, except in the case of non-identical sex-role identity types, where high parental satisfaction goes with low personal satisfaction, and the inverse (p=0,030). Among male respondents (combined), the situation is very similar, but personal relationship satisfaction also decreases

for identical-femininity mixed dyads, where fathers' happiness is associated with the lowest level of personal satisfaction (p=0,029).

Table 9.90: Relationship satisfaction scores (*DAS*) of respondents by family stage, sex-role identity type / trait (in)congruence and selected sub-sample

Sex-role identity (in)congruence	Sub-group (n)	Family or relationship stage *							
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII
Identical types / traits	**Female (89) ****	108,5	130.5	120,0	123,7	124,3	102,0	89,7	130.5
	Heterosexual (98)	123,0	127,5	122,3	121,4	120,8	99,0	109,0	128,8
Identical-femininity mixed types/traits	**Female (89)**	116,2	-	121,3	119.3	117,0	109,0	97,5	-
	Heterosexual (98)	85,0	-	107,0	117.5	116,3	112,7	94,8	-
Identical-masculinity mixed types/traits	**Female (89)**	113,5	-	114,3	53,0	136.7	100,0	-	97,0
	Heterosexual (98)	102,0	-	113,2	54,5	127,0	97,5	-	110,5
Non-identical types / traits	**Female (89)**	95.0	117,7	139.0	110,0	129.5	-	-	104,0
	Heterosexual (98)	127.0	112,5	131.5	118,5	126.3	-	-	117,5

* Legend for stages: I = couple without children (still); II = eldest child younger than 36 months; III = pre-school children, eldest 3 to 6 years; IV = schoolchildren, eldest 7 to 12 years; V = teenagers, eldest 13 to 20 years; VI = launching children, between first and last; VII = empty nest till retirement; VIII = couple beyond retirement, oldest above 65.

** "-" refers to empty cells, i.e., no cases were recorded with the particular combination of characteristics

Three effects were highlighted as important with regard to highest adaptive sex-role identity type:

- Among heterosexual male respondents, when the highest adaptive sex-role identity type between the partners in a couple was androgyny or femininity, a high level of life satisfaction was associated with greater personal relationship satisfaction, while the inverse applied when the highest adaptive sex-role identity type was masculinity or both partners were undifferentiated (p=0,017). This pattern applied even more strongly to males as a combined group (p=0,003). However, among heterosexual respondents combined, life satisfaction and relationship satisfaction also increased together, while the inverse pattern applied only when both partners were undifferentiated (0,037).

- Among female respondents, when the highest adaptive sex-role identity type of at least one partner was androgyny or femininity, relationship satisfaction was maintained more consistently over the eight family stages, in particular from having pre-school children to having teenagers at home (p=0,031). However, when masculinity was the highest adaptive sex-role identity type, a more or less consistent reduction of satisfaction over family stage emerged. Among heterosexual respondents as a group, satisfaction was maintained even longer with femininity as the highest sex-role identity type, while it decreased even more dramatically with masculinity as highest adaptive sex-role identity type (p=0,000). (As very few homosexual couples had children, and both partners in a couple were undifferentiated less frequently, a number of low (or zero) cell frequencies resulted, complicating analyses slightly.) Also see Table 9.91.

- Relationship duration acts much the same as family stage in terms of the main interaction pattern reported in the previous paragraph. This was particularly evident for lesbian (p=0,028) and heterosexual respondents (p=0,002). (Overall, across all the respondents, with more data covering homosexual and undifferentiated couples, it appears as if relationship satisfaction also increases slightly over time when both partners in a couple are undifferentiated (p=0,007).)

Table 9.91: Relationship satisfaction scores (*DAS*) of respondents by family stage, highest adaptive sex-role identity type and selected sub-sample

Highest adaptive sex-role identity type	Sub-group (n)	Family or relationship stage *							
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII
Androgyny	Female (89) **	112,9	121,0	124,8	126.7	126.0	112,0	121,0	104,0
	Heterosexual (98)	96,3	121,5	114,7	121,8	123,4	112,2	119,3	117,5
Femininity	Female (89)	109,5	125,5	129,0	101,8	135,0	-	-	119,3
	Heterosexual (98)	125,0	123,0	127,0	104,8	128.0	-	-	122,7
Masculinity	Female (89)	116.9	-	107,0	120.0	97,0	96,5	74,0	-
	Heterosexual (98)	-	-	107,0	118.1	94,5	99,0	60,0	-
Both undifferentiated	Female (89)	102,0	-	120,0	-	-	-	-	-
	Heterosexual (98)	-	-	122,3	-	-	-	-	-

* Legend for stages: I = couple without children (still); II = eldest child younger than 36 months; III = pre-school children, eldest 3 to 6 years; IV = schoolchildren, eldest 7 to 12 years; V = teenagers, eldest 13 to 20 years; VI = launching children, between first and last; VII = empty nest till retirement; VIII = couple beyond retirement, oldest above 65.
** "-" refers to empty cells, i.e., no cases were recorded with the particular combination of characteristics

Only one additional effect was highlighted as important with regard to ~~identical sex-role identity type~~:

- Among lesbian respondents, when partners did not have identical sex-role identity types, it did not matter whether or not extraversion or introversion was present, for them to achieve a moderately high level of relationship satisfaction anyway, different to a consistently higher satisfaction level with extraversion compared to introversion when partners' identity types were identical (p=0,046).

9.5.3 The effect of extraneous variables from a direct, non-dyadic perspective

Extraneous factors possibly associated with the ~~dyadic~~ functioning of sex-role identity and relationship satisfaction (see Section 9.5.1), and with the non-dyadic (~~individual~~) functioning of **sex-role identity** (see first half of Section 9.5.2) and of **relationship satisfaction** (see second half of Section 9.5.2), have been identified already. As a result, the most likely moderators of the association between individual sex-role identity and individual relationship satisfaction outcome are the following four intra-personal and four extra-personal factors respectively: emotional functioning (moody, depressed), extraversion, conflict-solving ability (through communication), and life satisfaction; and personal income, family stage, relationship duration, and fathers' relationship satisfaction. As the ensuing analyses are removed furthest from the central, dyadic objectives of the study, reporting is very brief as well, although extensive analyses have still underpinned the findings.

Joint analyses have again been done through chi-square and analysis-of-variance techniques of the possible moderating effect of the eight variables (cited in the previous paragraph) on the **relationship** ~~between sex-role identity and relationship satisfaction~~. In five cases, the chi-square analyses (on the full sample) revealed that androgyny and femininity (and not masculinity and an undifferentiated sex-role identity type) were associated with personal and partners' relationship satisfaction respectively

through extraneous variables. These effects were visible *with* good ~~emotional functioning~~ (p=0,000 and p=0,009); good conflict-handling skills (p=0,029 and p=0,045); and fathers' relationship ~~satisfaction~~ (p=0,006, personal satisfaction only); and *irrespective of* a ~~low income~~ of R20 000 to R40 000 per year (p=0,012 and p=0,008); and low ~~extraversion~~ scores (p=0,022, for personal satisfaction only). Two additional effects were noted, the first being ~~extraversion~~, which was associated with low relationship satisfaction together with an undifferentiated sex-role identity type, but with high satisfaction together with androgyny, femininity and masculinity (p=0,016 for personal and p=0,023 for partners' satisfaction). The other concerned an undifferentiated sex-role identity type, which was associated with low personal and partners' satisfaction during the first and last ~~family stages~~ (without children; and after retirement / above 65 years old) (p=0,008 for personal and p=0,001 for partners' satisfaction).

Variance analysis suggested the importance of the following additional moderating effects:

- Among androgynous and feminine heterosexual males (p=0,032), but more specifically, males combined as a group (p=0,005), high personal relationship satisfaction was normally associated with good ~~emotional functioning~~ (absence of moodiness or depression). This effect even applied under certain circumstances across the partners in couples. Relationship satisfaction was very clearly observed to increase among the male partners of heterosexual female respondents as the latter's emotional functioning increased, provided that the female partners were not masculine, in which case male satisfaction levels decreased with increasing emotional functioning ratings for the females. This outcome again suggests that masculinity traits could become competitive in situations such as the above, or at minimum, does not provide any substantive adaptive behavioural benefits.

- Among androgynous and feminine lesbian partners, ~~extraversion~~ was associated significantly with low personal relationship satisfaction, while masculinity and an undifferentiated sex-role identity type were associated with high satisfaction (p=0,007). This effect also applied to homosexual respondents as a group (p=0,009), as well as across the partners in couples (p=0,005). Therefore, among androgynous and feminine lesbian partners, extraversion in the one partner was related to low relationship satisfaction among the other partner, and masculinity and an undifferentiated sex-role identity type with high satisfaction. The possibility of some kind of cross-typed adaptive ability among lesbian partners and couples, as already noted in Section 9.3.2.1, is again suggested by the present finding.

- Only with masculinity among heterosexual male respondents, compared to the other three sex-role identity types, did relationship satisfaction not increase significantly as conflict-solving skills increased (p=0,004). This also applied to male respondents combined as group, with the exception that feminine males achieved high relationship satisfaction scores irrespective of low conflict-solving skill among them (p=0,003), showing the strong part played by femininity in itself. The latter scenario also applied across partners to the relationship satisfaction of the female partners of male respondents in heterosexual couples (p=0,001), or generally any partner of a male respondent (p=0,007).

- Only two inter-partner effects were observed with regard to the role of ~~life satisfaction~~. Masculinity among lesbian (p=0,033), and among homosexual partners, combined into one

group (p=0,028), was still significantly related to a relatively high relationship satisfaction score for the second partner, even when the first partner had a rather low rating of life satisfaction too. This finding corresponds to some extent with one reported already at the partly-dyadic level (see first half of Section 9.5.2). Masculinity seems to retain some adaptive value for homosexual couples at a low level of life satisfaction.

- An inter-partner effect was observed among homosexual partners (almost significant at the 5%-level for lesbian partners too), where a low financial income from one partner appears not to preclude the other partner from reaching a high satisfaction level, as long as the first partner is androgynous, feminine or masculine (p=0,004). In addition, a high income for the first partner, in cases of androgyny, and, to a lesser extent, femininity, can also not guarantee happiness for the second partner. This finding again echoes the one noted in Section 9.5.2 (first half).

- Among heterosexual male respondents, four different patterns were observed when comparing their personal relationship satisfaction level to their sex-role identity type over family stage (p=0,002). Relationship satisfaction among androgynous males more or less consistently increased over time (with a slight low during Stage VII; empty nest). Among masculine males, it increased from low levels to reach a peak at Stage V (teenagers in the home), only to decrease strongly again. Among feminine males, it stayed high throughout (with a slight low during Phase II; babies and toddlers). For males who were undifferentiated, it consistently decreased (with some low cell frequencies). Male respondents as a whole showed a very similar pattern (p=0,015). So did female (p=0,023) and heterosexual[7] respondents (p=0,037), except that in these two cases, with masculinity, relationship satisfaction gradually declined (with a small peak at Phase IV; primary-school children at home), while with femininity and an undifferentiated sex-role identity type, it was a little more erratic.

- Only one significant cross-partner effect became clear, namely for male[8] respondents (p=0,009), where four different patterns emerged when comparing their personal sex-role identity type with their partners' relationship satisfaction level over family stage. When a male respondent was androgynous, his (gay male or heterosexual female) partner's relationship satisfaction level peaked during Stages IV and V (children at school). When a male respondent was masculine, his partner's satisfaction decreased rapidly from a slight peak at Stage V (teenagers in the home). When a male respondent was feminine, his partner's satisfaction stayed high throughout (with a slight decrease during Phase VIII; post-retirement and above 65 years). When a male respondent was undifferentiated, his partner's satisfaction consistently decreased (with a small recovery during Phase IV; primary-school children).

- Only **feminine** heterosexual male respondents seemed able to achieve high levels of personal relationship satisfaction when their fathers' relationship satisfaction levels had been very low (p=0,015), again pointing to the positive effect of femininity. However, some cells are empty, and an additional finding indicates that both feminine and **androgynous male** (combined) individuals may achieve this (p=0,003), although the additional value of androgyny is not

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[7] Relationship duration here showed a very comparable trend (p=0,031)

[8] Relationship duration among heterosexual respondents and their partners showed a very comparable trend (p=0,014)

substantiated in the highly significant finding related to heterosexual (combined) respondents (p=0,001). A cross-partner effect was observed for male (p=0,023) and heterosexual (p=0,008) respondents, combined each time. Only the partners of feminine and undifferentiated individuals, whose fathers experienced high levels of satisfaction, could also succeed in achieving great personal satisfaction. It appears as if androgynous and masculine (male, and heterosexual) individuals "transfer" their fathers' unhappiness to their spouses.

9.5.4 Summary and conclusion

In Section 9.5, a limited number of factors and configurations are highlighted with regard to the contribution of extraneous variables in terms of the core research variables of the study. Without repeating any of the details and the specific nature of the various linkages, a brief summary is given below of the central findings.

The dyadic level is focused on first (see Section 9.5.1 on the relationship between sex-role identity combinations and relationship satisfaction outcome patterns between partners, and the extraneous variables).

The extraneous variables playing a significant role are **family income** (the higher, the more conducive to satisfaction), **conflict-handling skills** (same pattern), **relationship preference** (mostly for egalitarian), and a lower **number of children** (one or two) at home. **Androgyny and femininity**, mainly as the highest adaptive sex-role identity type in at least one partner, and **femininity**, from time to time, as common sex-role identity trait, played the largest part. The effects of these factors are most frequently felt in **homosexual couples**.

The partly-dyadic level has been covered next. The findings are reported in two sub-sections. In the first sub-section (see the first half of Section 9.5.2), the relationship between personal sex-role identity and relationship satisfaction outcome patterns between partners, and the extraneous variables, has been dealt with.

The extraneous variables playing a significant role are identified as higher **life satisfaction**, and **conflict-handling skill**. **Androgyny and femininity**, but also **masculinity** under specific circumstances, played the largest part. The effects of these factors are most frequently felt in **lesbian** and **heterosexual female** couples. (However, some specific interactions are from time to time limited to heterosexual male couples.)

In the second sub-section (see the second half of Section 9.5.2), the relationship between sex-role identity configurations and personal relationship satisfaction, and the extraneous variables, have been dealt with.

The extraneous variables playing a significant role are identified as **emotional functioning** (not moody, or depressed), **extraversion**, **life satisfaction**, personal **income**, **family stage**, and **fathers' relationship satisfaction**. **Identical androgyny and femininity**, and even **non-identical** sex-role identity types between partners under specific circumstances, **androgyny** as the **highest** adaptive sex-role identity type between partners, and **identical-femininity** mixed sex-role identity traits, played the largest part. The effects of these factors most frequently apply to **lesbian** and **heterosexual male** individuals. However, the interactions become very complex and nuanced in the case of the moderating influence of family stage.

The non-dyadic level has been covered last (see Section 9.5.3 on the relationship between individual sex-role identity, and their own and their partners' personal relationship satisfaction level, and the extraneous variables).

The extraneous variables playing the most significant role are **emotional functioning**, **conflict-handling skill**, **extraversion**, **income**, **family stage** and **fathers' relationship satisfaction**. **Androgyny**, **femininity** (very strongly), but also **masculinity** under specific circumstances, played the largest part. These factors mostly affect **lesbian** and **heterosexual male** individuals. Inter-partner effects mostly applied in the case of (homosexual and heterosexual) females' sex-role identity type and their partners' relationship satisfaction.

9.6 Concluding summary

The central purpose of Chapter 9 has been to report the findings derived from the empirical data, which were collected and specifically structured to enable testing the hypotheses set in advance in Chapter 6.

The evidence presented first (in Section 9.1) confirmed the ability of the measuring instruments to produce robust information in service of the analyses and hypothesis testing in the subsequent phases of the study. The central focus has been on relationship satisfaction, as the dependent variable of the study, and sex-role identity, as the independent variable. Useful information has also been gathered about alternative measures and items to the mainstream, international instruments opted for. The alternative items or brief scales can be used as economic substitutes to the more comprehensive tools, designs, and procedures, especially for purposes of quick screening or external validation in other studies. Extraneous variables have also been covered. The resulting frequency distributions and selected cross-tabulations revealed ample variance in the response patterns, leading to confidence in the findings. Further thorough examination of these response patterns, scores and correlations pertaining to the scales for relationship satisfaction and sex-role identity provided substantive evidence towards the reliability and validity of the data collected by means of the *BSRI* and *DAS* in particular.

The relevant findings have been summarised within, or at the end of, each section, also taking into account the various levels of the research design (i.e., dyadic, partly-dyadic, and non-dyadic). In the rest of this section, the findings that emerged consistently are highlighted.

The findings obtained from hypothesis testing at the dyadic level have been covered first (Section 9.2). The main aim has been to establish the association between sex-role identity type/trait (in)congruence between partners and relationship satisfaction (in dyadic combinations). New constructs, and even datasets, had to be created at the dyadic level. The outcome has been a highly satisfactory coverage of variables and responses. One specific approach, albeit anticipated in a general form at the outset, only became concrete at a later point, through the development of three detailed sex-role identity configuration systems. These systems cover the (in)congruence of sex-role identity traits, the highest adaptive sex-role identity type in at least one partner of a dyad, and the

relative importance of an identical sex-role identity type between partners. Testing for the relative strengths of some combinations across the three systems has also been accommodated. The most significant and consistent dyadic findings are:

- Sex-role identity and relationship satisfaction, in a combined, overall sense, are not significantly related. (However, many nuances qualify this conclusion, not least of which is the statistical power of techniques to detect significance when samples become small.)
- Androgyny (more strongly among heterosexual couples) and femininity (more strongly among homosexual couples) are important for relationship satisfaction.
- Identical (or congruent) sex-role identity traits between partners are not associated more strongly with relationship satisfaction, compared to mixed trait patterns, or non-identical traits, as anticipated.
- Non-identical sex-role identity traits were "surprisingly" strongly associated with relationship satisfaction.
- When at least one partner displays femininity, or androgyny, in this order of importance, as highest adaptive sex-role identity type, couples are much happier compared to those in which at least one partner has a masculinity, or both an undifferentiated sex role identity type.
- The same pattern applied to an identical sex-role identity type between partners, albeit less strongly.
- The association between sex-role identity (type or trait) combinations and relationship satisfaction decreased from strong to weak for couples in the following sequence: partners have (both) femininity and masculinity trait levels in common (identical/congruent); partners differ in terms of one or both of the sex-role identity traits; both partners' sex-role identity type is masculinity; and both are undifferentiated.

In summary, femininity or androgyny in at least one partner, as the highest adaptive sex-role identity type a couple has access to, proved to be the strongest predictor of relationship satisfaction for the couple as a dyad. (Also see Table 9.60 again for a more complete summary.)

In Section 9.3, the findings, based on hypothesis testing from a partly-dyadic perspective, are related. They cover individual sex-role identity and dyadic relationship satisfaction combinations (Section 9.3.1), as well as dyadic sex-role identity combinations and individual relationship satisfaction (Section 9.3.2), and are:

For individual sex-role identity and dyadic relationship satisfaction combinations:
- The association between (personal) femininity and androgyny, especially among heterosexual respondents, with dyadic relationship satisfaction, is largely confirmed, but an important role is also suggested for masculinity among lesbian couples.

For dyadic sex-role identity combinations and individual relationship satisfaction:
- Sex-role identity trait congruence is again not most strongly associated with relationship satisfaction, compared to other patterns or combinations, although it is fairly important for the satisfaction of heterosexual partners.
- Identical masculinity and femininity (simultaneously) between partners is more relevant to heterosexual respondents, while the identical-femininity mixed combination is for respondents in homosexual dyads. Non-identical sex-role identity types are not necessarily associated with a low satisfaction level.
- With regard to the highest adaptive sex-role identity type in at least one partner, and individual relationship satisfaction, androgyny functions more strongly for homosexual respondents, and femininity for heterosexual partners. (For homosexual respondents individually, therefore, it is better when the highest adaptive sex-role identity type of one partner is androgyny, although, for homosexual couples as units or dyads, mean satisfaction scores are higher when femininity is the highest adaptive type.)

- With regard to the relative value of an identical sex-role identity type between partners, the stronger association between femininity in both and individual relationship satisfaction, compared to the association between androgyny in both and individual relationship satisfaction, was again confirmed.

In summary, femininity and androgyny still prove to be the strongest predictors of relationship satisfaction at the partly-dyadic level, although in a more nuanced sense depending on relationship type and sex-role identity pattern or type. (Table 9.89 can be consulted for a more complete summary.)

The main findings reported after hypothesis testing at the ~~individual level~~, to establish the direct association between personal sex-role identity type and personal relationship satisfaction level (Section 9.4), are:

- Femininity and androgyny is still associated most closely with relationship satisfaction, with indications that masculinity also plays a part among lesbian participants.
- The same factors that are associated with respondents' personal satisfaction are not necessarily associated with the satisfaction of their partners.
- In some instances, the reduction of competition is suggested as an important dynamic. For example, satisfaction among the male partners of heterosexual females is greater when the female partners do not display too much masculinity, as in the case of androgyny, relative to masculinity. In other cases, the risk of too few complementary traits could exist. For example, satisfaction among the male partners of heterosexual females tends to be low when the female partners display high femininity, compared to masculinity. As a result, an optimal level of masculinity may be most desirable.

Broadly speaking, femininity and androgyny also strongly predict relationship satisfaction at the personal level, although more intricate inter-partner effects have to be acknowledged.

~~Extraneous~~ or contextual ~~variables~~ also moderate the relationship between sex-role identity and relationship satisfaction in a variety of ways, depending on the level of analysis (Section 9.5). The most important and consistent findings are:

- The intra-personal factor with the most consistent impact is conflict-handling or problem-solving skill through communication. Then follows emotional functioning (absence of depression and moodiness), and life satisfaction.
- The extra-personal factors with the most consistent impact are (personal or family) income, and family stage, with the relationship satisfaction level of the fathers of respondents also important under particular circumstances.
- The influence of these factors is observed most often in conjunction with androgyny and femininity, and only sometimes with masculinity. All the sex-role identity configurations (highest adaptive, identical, or unique) operate on occasion, depending on the level of analysis (dyadic, partly-dyadic, and non-dyadic).
- These interactions are observed most frequently for lesbian and heterosexual male respondents.

Selected multiple regression analyses, only at the dyadic level, attempting to establish a broad hierarchy of the relative strengths of the association between relationship satisfaction and sex-role identity configurations according to the various models, showed the order to be: highest adaptive sex-role identity type (p=0,014), followed by identical sex-role identity type (p=0,141), and then sex-role identity trait congruence (p=0,373).

A final set of checks was made to establish whether or not any significant interaction between the extraneous variables and sex-role identity and/or relationship satisfaction has been overlooked. The next few paragraphs highlight that this has not happened. The various sets of p-values underpinning the f-statistics (variance analysis) and regression coefficients (regression analyses) are tabled in Annexure 9.2. The layout of these figures corresponds to the structure of the discussion presented below.

When factoring the relative influence of the extraneous factors into the hierarchy for ~~dyadic sex-role identity~~ (highest adaptive type, only) and ~~dyadic relationship satisfaction~~, through univariate variance and univariate regression analyses, only the influence of **conflict solving** and **family income** was confirmed as more important than that of sex-role identity and as significant in determining relationship satisfaction. Relationship preference, and family stage, to a lesser extent, acted strongly in interaction with sex-role identity.

When factoring the relative influence of the extraneous factors into the hierarchy for ~~personal sex-role identity~~ and ~~dyadic relationship satisfaction~~, through the same kinds of analysis, only the influence of **conflict handling**, **life satisfaction** and **personal income** was confirmed as more important than that of sex-role identity and as significant in determining relationship satisfaction. Extraversion came close to making an impact.

When factoring the relative influence of the extraneous factors into the hierarchy for ~~dyadic sex-role identity~~ and ~~personal relationship satisfaction~~, through univariate variance and univariate regression analyses, only the influence of **attitude towards sex**, **conflict handling**, and **life satisfaction** was confirmed as more important than that of sex-role identity and as significant in determining relationship satisfaction. Extraversion, emotional functioning, and personal income showed some inconsistent interactions too. Relationship preference, age, family stage, relationship type, and relationship duration all acted strongly in interaction with sex-role identity.

When factoring the relative influence of the extraneous factors into the hierarchy for ~~personal sex-role identity~~ and **personal** ~~relationship satisfaction~~, only the influence of **attitude towards sex** and **life satisfaction** was confirmed as more important than that of sex-role identity and as significant in determining relationship satisfaction. Emotional functioning, extraversion, conflict handling, job satisfaction, and personal income showed some inconsistent interactions too. Relationship preference, relationship type, and fathers' relationship satisfaction acted strongly in interaction with sex-role identity.

When factoring the relative influence of the extraneous factors into the hierarchy for ~~personal sex-role identity~~ and **partners'** ~~relationship satisfaction~~, only the influence of **life satisfaction** and **personal income** was shown to be more important than that of sex-role identity and as significant in determining relationship satisfaction. Emotional functioning, extraversion, conflict handling, and job satisfaction showed some inconsistent interactions too. The factors, which acted strongly in interaction with sex-

role identity, were qualification level, attitude towards sex, relationship preference, and relationship type.

An interesting observation is that the construct of conflict-handling skills acts much more strongly at the dyadic, interpersonal level, as the significance and consistency of its interactions with individual relationship satisfaction, as reported above, are not nearly as strong as those at the dyadic level, confirming that it operates between people as part of the dynamic of communication.

The final question is what the comprehensive picture, formed by looking into the functioning and dynamics of sex-role identity, relationship satisfaction and extraneous factors, has to say about the theoretical position accepted as basis of the present study (in Section 2.3). This position, which has been formalised into:
- the relationship satisfaction congruence theory, and
- the dyadic relationship outcome theory,

has supported parts of the literature review (see Chapters 3 and 4), the empirical collection of the data, as well as the classification and discussion of the hypothesis testing and research findings. What remains is to evaluate the research findings against the objectives of the study, and per definition, its theoretical framework, to reach closure about the extent to which the theoretical basis stands firm, or has to be modified, because of the empirical observations.

This task is covered in the first section of Chapter 10, after which the conventional critical reflection upon the value of the present work is made.