

## Premarital Relationship and Marital Adjustment : A Longitudinal Study

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We undertook a longitudinal study to examine the connection between the processes through which premarital partners joint together as mate and the subsequent marital adjustment processes and outcomes. Forty nine Taiwanese newly-married couples were interviewed to obtain graphs of changes in commitment during courtship and reasons for the changes, which were coded into eight categories. Three years later, data revealed their marital adjustment processes and outcomes were collected. Longitudinal data were analyzed using regression and MONOVA methods. Three major findings were unveiled. First, compared to those who met due to environmental propinquity or intermediary of a third party, couples met in accidental (chance) conditions perceived more difficulty balancing their work and family after marriage. Second, husbands' adjustment difficulty on work and family was related to premarital interaction with social network and other circumstantial events while wives' level of dyadic adjustment difficulty was predicted by their evaluation of the partner against a predetermined standard and their perceived positiveness of premarital dyadic interaction. Finally, courtships with high volatility were found to result in lower level of dyadic adjustment and marital satisfaction. Because couples with unstable courtship pattern, compared to those with stable courtship pattern used more negative (passive) coping strategies, they therefore developed passive and negative adjustment patterns and may more easily subject to later marital dissolution.

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