




Structural Modeling of Trust in Couples Affected by Infidelity Based on Emotional Schemas with the Mediation of Communication Patterns

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

While the methodology section is generally well-described, it would be beneficial to include more details about the convenience sampling process. Specifically, how were participants approached, and what criteria were used to include them in the study? This would enhance the transparency and reproducibility of the research.

The article briefly mentions the limitations related to gender differentiation and sampling method. It could be strengthened by a more detailed discussion on how these limitations might affect the study's findings and generalizability. Additionally, suggestions for how future research could address these limitations would be valuable.

The discussion provides a good synthesis of the findings in relation to existing literature. However, it could be enhanced by including more specific implications for counseling practice, particularly strategies for counselors working with couples affected by infidelity to leverage emotional schemas and communication patterns in therapy.

Considering the rapidly evolving field, it might be useful to cite more recent studies, especially those published in the last two years, to ensure the literature review is up-to-date. This would also help to solidify the article's contribution to current knowledge.

A few typographical and grammatical errors were noted throughout the document. A careful proofreading pass is recommended to correct these minor issues, ensuring the article's professionalism and readability.

Authors revised and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sampling strategy and data collection methods need to be described in greater detail. Given the sensitive nature of the topic, how were ethical considerations addressed to ensure participants' confidentiality and emotional safety? Moreover, the rationale behind the choice of instruments for measuring emotional schemas, communication patterns, and trust should be elaborated, including their validity and reliability in the context of infidelity.

The statistical analysis section would benefit from a more thorough explanation, especially regarding the choice of structural equation modeling as the analytical framework and the bootstrap method for analyzing mediating relationships. A discussion on the model fit indices and their interpretation would also add depth to the analysis.

The discussion section should more critically engage with how the findings relate to existing theories and research. It would be particularly useful to delve into why maladaptive emotional schemas did not have significant indirect effects through communication patterns, contrary to what might be expected based on existing literature. This could lead to a more nuanced understanding of the complex interplay between emotional schemas and communication patterns in the aftermath of infidelity.

The manuscript requires formatting adjustments to adhere to the journal's guidelines, particularly in the references section. Ensuring consistency in citation style and updating references to include the most recent research would enhance the article's credibility and relevance.

Authors revised and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.