RELIGIOUS SIMILARITY
AND RELATIONSHIP QUALITY

Ashlie M. Lester

Dr. Christine Proulx, Dissertation Supervisor

ABSTRACT

This analysis tested social support and joint religious activities as mediators of the relationship between religious similarity and relationship quality, as theorized by the relational spirituality framework. Using a national sample of couples (N = 621) from the Portraits of American Life Study (PALS), support for mediation was found only for partners’ perceptions of religious similarity. All other hypotheses were unsupported. A discussion of results, implications, and limitations are included.