ADULT ATTACHMENT AND PREDICTION
OF CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

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Abstract. *The possibility of predicting the quality of love relationships from adult attachment (acquired through contacts with parents in childhood) is investigated. A predictable love relationship could make prevention in the area much easier.*
The research study involved a total of 180 adults, grouped according to age and sex. Adult attachments were examined employing the Adult Attachment Interview (Main, Cassidy, & Kaplan, 1985), whilst love relationships were investigated using the test of Experience in Close Relationships (Brenan, Clark, & Shaver, 1998).
The results of the study suggest a specific, culture-dependent prevalence of some of the attachment patterns. The general finding reveals that there exists a statistically significant level of predictability of love relationships on the basis of attachment quality. The obtained results have been interpreted within the framework of John Bowlby's (1988) and Mary Ainsworth's (1978) attachment theory.

Key words: *attachment patterns, adult attachment, close relationship,*
               internal working model.

CLOSE OR LOVE RELATIONSHIPS

Love relationships are not only the form in which most people spend their lives, but are also typically the essential purpose of our lives. Complexity, diversity, and unpredictability of this phenomenon have been observed and described primarily in fiction. In science, however, this problem has only been theoretically pinned down, with very little empirical research on love relationships.

Typical researchers of love relationships, psychologists and anthropologists, have long noticed the substantial diversity people are prone to within a love bond. According to such observed relations, certain classifications of love relationships have been offered. We could mention Lee's love styles (Lee, 1973), or Sternberg's love model (Sternberg,

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1986). However, in spite of numerous taxonomies and consistent descriptions of particular partner styles, we have long lacked a theoretical framework within which observed individual differences could be explained. With the advancement of attachment theory, researchers of love relationships seem to have been offered an acceptable theoretical concept. This theory not only renews the old hypothesis of the importance of early relationships for future life experience of a person, but also provides a theoretical and methodological grounds for such a hypothesis. More precisely, attachment theorists are trying to prove there is a connection, perhaps even predictability of early mother/child relationships for future love experiences of a person. The possibility that some qualities of a love relationship can be predicted (at least up to a point) is certainly not neglectable. For prediction provides room for prevention.

Since the research below is based on the principles of attachment theory, some more space has been dedicated to this concept.

ATTACHMENT THEORY AS A LIFE-LONG CONCEPT

Attachment theory is primarily a theory of the origins and nature of human sensibility. Stemming from psychoanalytical circles, based on the contributions from ethology, comparative psychology, and cybernetics, this theory integrated various scientific contributions into a creative and original line of thinking on human emotions. The concept of attachment was introduced into science by English psychoanalyst John Bowlby (1907-1970). In his view, attachment represents a specific, unequal relationship which is formed in earliest childhood between the mother and the child, and which then lasts throughout one's life.

According to Bowlby, the need for contact with the adult person is a primary human need (Bowlby,1988). Shortly upon birth, the child expresses this need in numerous ways: by smiling, crying, cooing, being calmed down in the mother's arms. The mother, or the person involved with the child, responds to the child's needs, and, with respect to the quality of this response, the child slowly begins creating the image of itself and people around it. Therefore, if the mother responds to the child's signals consistently and adequately, if she is available and sensitive to the child's needs, the child will create an image of itself as a being worthy of love and care, and the image of the mother as the person it can rely on, the person it can trust. This child will keep the primary strategy of obtaining support and love through contacts with others (*B* pattern). If the mother does not respond to the child's needs consistently, the child will slowly stop sending signals, i.e. it will stop expecting the mother's response to those signals. Its image of itself will be that of a being not worthy of love, the image of the world as an insecure, uncomfortable place, a place which does not accept us. This child's strategy will be retreat, distrust, giving up on others and relying on itself only (*A* pattern). On the other hand, if the mother responds to the child's needs only selectively, if she responds only to certain signals, the child will put in all its energy in order to interpret the mother's actions, i.e. in order to try to send her signals she will respond to. Such a child will become coughing, clumsy, uneating, or crying, accorded with its mother's needs. Its strategy will be that of intensified attachment to the mother (*C* pattern). At a later stage the fourth, *D* pattern of attachment was defined. Studies of children whose parents had been molested (Crittenden, 1989) or had suffered from manic-depressive psychosis (Radke – Yarow, 1985) showed that some children

could not be classified into any of the categories above. These children stood out not because of a new quality, but rather because of various disorganization and disorientation indexes, such as moving towards the wall and leaning against the wall as forms of fearful reactions, climbing and falling upon the parents' entrance into the room, numbness preventing any natural movement, stereotypical behaviour.

The very founder of attachment theory assumed that attachment patterns formed early represent a long-lasting capital of a person, that they are stable and resistant to change, that they remain for the entire lifetime, influencing all relationships of the adult. The mechanism which makes such duration possible was termed *internal working model* by Bowlby. In other words, based on daily repetition of interactions with the person taking care of it, the child develops a model of itself, but also a model of the person raising it. *The model of the self* is a set of the child's expectations of and beliefs in itself, reached on the basis of the quality of the parent's attitude to the child. *The model of others* is the set of the child's beliefs and expectations in relation with others, also based on the perceived paternal behaviour to the child. According to Bowlby, models are stable through the years and resistant to change: "They influence expectations, strategies, and behaviours in all important relationships later in life" (Bowlby, 1988). Bowlby's theoretic assumption was tested by researchers of Berkley University in California (Main, Kaplan, Cassidy, AAI, 1985), who even constructed an instrument which successfully codified attachment patterns in adults. The instrument in question is actually an interview which is used to assess the actual status of the person's attachment, as related to childhood memories and numerous other parametres. Based on this interview, the following adult attachment patterns have been determined:

a) Dismissing attachment (Ds): persons setting up distance from others, cynical with respect to the importance of emotions in life, liable to falsifying unpleasant memories. They mostly function relying on themselves only, they often invest in material goods.

b) Secure attachment (F): persons confident in others, but also open to their own emotions.

c) Preoccupied attachment (E): unsolved conflicting childhood memories contaminate current relations, attitude to oneself and others.

d) Disoriented attachment (Ud): expectations from others followed by a fear of others' reactions, and also being insecure of one's own values, make these persons inconsistent, frightened, even confused.

Therefore, Bowlby contributed to the description of attachment with the idea that affective ties are present throughout one's life, and also with the idea that love partners are figures to which in adulthood the pattern of attachment with parents is translated. On the basis of these ideas, in mid 1980's there grew out a new research field: *attachment in close relationships*.

ATTACHMENT IN CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Particularly meritorious for the growth of this field are researchers Shaver and Hazan (Shaver, P & Hazan, C), of Davies University in California. Towards the end of the previous century, they published a text in which they systematized all existing knowledge common to attachment and close relationships. The work in question was called *The*

Study of Romantic Love (Hazan & Shaver,1987). In this paper, Hazan and Shaver tried to provide arguments for the explanation why romantic love could be viewed as an attachment process. It seems important to mention that since 1987, when the text in which they consider romantic relationships as affective came out, their arguments have been quoted by over 400 researchers. We shall quote them on this occasion, too:

- Emotional dynamics of both early affective and romantic relationship is governed by the same behavioural system.
- Individual differences in mother/child relationships are similar to individual differences identified in close relationships.
- Individual differences in adult attachment behaviour are a consequence of expectations and beliefs people created about themselves and their own close relationships based on their own affective relationships in the past.
- Romantic love presupposes mutual interaction of closeness, devotion, and sex.

Naturally, empirical studies followed. Let us mention the research of Collins and Read (Collins&Read, 1994) after which the hierarchy of attachment models was established, the research of Kirckpatrick and Davis (Kirckpatrick&Davis, 1995), and numerous studies of Judith Feeny (Feeny, 1998). In an attempt to integrate the diversified empirical results in the affective partner attachment field, Kim Bartholomew (Bartholomew, 1999) formulated the so-called *four category attachment model*. The basis of her conception is Bowlby's internal model of the self and others, but also dimensions identified with factor analysis: the rejection and anxiety dimensions. By cross-referencing dimensions and working models four main attachment styles are obtained: *secure, preoccupied, dismissing, and fearful attachment style* (Scheme 1).

THE MODEL OF THE SELF
(Anxiety)

		Positive (low anxiety)	Negative (high anxiety)
THE MODEL OF OTHERS (Avoidance)	Positive (low avoidance)	Secure partner attachment	Occupied partner attachment
	Negative (high avoidance)	Dismissing partner attachment	Fearful partner attachment

Scheme 1. The four partner attachment category model, after Kim Bartholomew

Each of the attachment styles above is characterized by different approach to love relationships, i.e. different strategies of emotional response and behaviour to the partner.

The dismissing partner attachment pattern is represented by the positive model of the self and negative model of others (low anxiety and high avoidance). Due to negative expectations they have with regards to others, these persons avoid closeness with other people, but retain the feeling of their own value, cherishing the importance of close relationships and stressing independence. Their emotional relationships are either rare, with no expectations, or frequent, but shallow.

The secure partner attachment pattern is defined by the positive model of the self and the positive model of others (low anxiety and low avoidance). Persons belonging to this

attachment style are characterized by both the feeling of their own value and the pleasure stemming from closeness in emotional relationships.

The preoccupied partner attachment pattern is marked by the negative model of the self and the positive model of others (high anxiety and low avoidance). Persons belonging to this attachment style compensate the feeling of their own lower importance with excessive closeness with the partner. In close relationships, preoccupied persons are recognized as symbiotic partners.

The fearful partner attachment pattern is defined by the negative model of the self and the negative model of others (high anxiety and high avoidance). Fearfully attached persons are highly dependent on others, since through their relationship with others they look for confirmation of their own importance. At the same time, they have negative expectations from others, and are thus liable to avoiding closeness. These two contradictory positions keep them in constant conflict. In consequence, their emotional relationships are infrequent and chaotic, they usually boil down to fantasizing about the partner, to fearful flirting.

THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

Within the theoretical framework described above, we organized a study of adult affective relationships and a research of affective ties in close relationships. We first distributed the patterns of affective relationships described above, and compared them with affective relationship distributions in other environments. The second research aim was to study the possibilities of prediction of affective relationship with a partner based on *adult* attachment. A part of the research plan was to also test the role of sex, i.e. the question of whether the relationship with the mother or the father is more important for the prediction of a close attachment. Since close relationships have not been studied in the context of attachment theory in Serbia so far, and since this field is still young and insufficiently developed, one should emphasize that the research is exploratory. Hence, the research is expected to provide answers to some of the following questions:

1. Is the distribution of adult attachment and close relationship attachment in our part of the world similar to distributions obtained in other parts, and are there some characteristics specific to our environment?
2. Based on adult affective patterns, is it possible to predict the quality of attachment in a close relationship?
3. Is the relationship with the mother more predictive of attachment assessment in close relationship (as compared with the relationship between the child and the father)?

BASIC VARIABLES AND RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

Adult attachment

Attachment of adults is described by most authors as the position of the person towards himself or herself, but also towards the world around him or her, based on experiences of this person with the attachment figure from his or her childhood (M.Main,1995).

Decisive for the development of this theoretical field was the construction of the afore-mentioned AAI technique (Adult Attachment Interview, Main,Kasidy & Caplan,1985), used for the assessment of affective ties in adults acquired in childhood. The technique of determining early patterns in adults opened up the way to testing earlier and later affective patterns, without any use of long-term and often ultimately uncertain longitudinal strategy. Adult attachment patterns will in the research be operationalized via this interview. This is a semi-structured interview for adults pertaining to childhood attachment experience, consisting of 15 questions mainly focused on early attachment experience. A number of scale sets is used for assessment:

1. *The childhood experience scale* – with dimensions: Being loved, Being rejected, Playing reversed roles, Pressuring the child because of achievement, and Neglecting the child.
2. *The scale of current attitude to parental figures*, with dimensions: Idealization, Occupation with anger, and Cynicism.
3. *The scale of general subject's mood in relation to childhood* – with the following dimensions: Insistence on the impossibility to recall childhood events, Passivity, i.e. indeterminacy of expression, Global cynicism, Irrational fear of child loss, Unprocessed loss experience, Unprocessed traumatic experience, Transcript coherence, and Consciousness coherence.

Based on AAI technique, attachment patterns (as described in the theoretical section of the paper) are identified: *Ds* or insecure/rejecting attachment pattern, *F* or secure attachment pattern, *E* or insecure/preoccupied attachment pattern, and *Ud* or insecure/disoriented attachment pattern.

Attachment in close relationships

According to most researchers, attachment is, in terms of development, the oldest and the most developed component of love relationships, coming before devotion and sexual attraction components (Brenan, Clark & Shaver,1998). One of the most modern techniques for individual differences assessment in partner attachment, based on the four category partner attachment model (K.Bartholomew, 1991) is the scale known as ECR (Experience of Close Relationships Scale, Brennan, Clark &Shaver, 1998). This instrument operationalizes adult close relationship attachment patterns through the contents of these persons' conscious beliefs in their close, partner relationships. Using the ECR technique, attachment patterns described above are identified in close relationships: *dismissing, secure, occupied, and fearful.*

THE RESEARCH SAMPLE

The sample of the research was made up of 180 adults from Niš. The nature of AAI instrument tasks resulted in the need to spend a number of hours with each subject, and sometimes there was more than one meeting with a particular subject. Since interview questions required that subjects should confide in the interviewer, and that they trust this person, it was rather difficult to find subjects. We recruited subjects in a variety of ways, the young ones were mostly students, but there were also young men currently in their military service.

RESEARCH RESULTS

Basic research results will be presented in a few separate parts, classified by the type of the problem.

Distribution of attachment patterns in our area

Table 1. The frequency of attachment patterns in Niš (adult and partner)

Pattern type	Adults (AAI)	Partners (ECR)
F pattern/ secure attachment type	52.8%	52.3%
Ds pattern/ dismissing attachment type	17.2%	18.3%
E pattern/ occupied attachment type	26.1%	24.4%
Ud pattern/ fearful attachment type	3.9%	5.0%

Discussion of distributions obtained will be clearer if we compare the results from Niš (Serbia) with corresponding results from the United States. In table 2, the results of adult affective relationship patterns obtained with AAI technique are shown, acquired on the sample of 487 adults (van Ijzendoorn and Bakermans-Kranenburg,1996). Unfortunately, apart from the remark that the sample is non-clinical, there are no data on sexual or age-related criteria. There will also be presented the results of a close relationship attachment research on the sample of 124 adults. Authors claim that this sample was comprised of young people (they do not mention specific age), grouped according to sex (Crowell&Waters,1997).

Table 2. Frequency of attachment patterns (USA)

Pattern types	AAI, 1996, van Ijzendoorn&Bakermans	ECR, 1997, Crowell&Waters
F pattern/secure attachment type	55%	46%
Ds pattern/ dismissing attachment type	16%	38%
E pattern/ occupied attachment type	9%	14%
Ud pattern/ fearful attachment type	19%	2%

Predictability of attachment patterns in close relationships

The issue of the possibility to predict the quality of a close relationship on the basis of the quality of attachment certainly deserves some attention. As a prediction measure, in this research, the regressional analysis technique was used. Table 3 shows predictive values of all adult attachment patterns.

Table 3. Predictive value of adult attachment for assessing attachment in close relationships

| Adult attachment patterns	Predictive values
Ds (predictivity for the dismissing partner pattern)	F = 82.479**
F (predictivity for the secure partner pattern)	F = 85.626**
E (predictivity for the occupied partner pattern)	F = 69.163**
Ud (predictivity for the fearful partner pattern)	F = 114.059**

** - statistical significance at the level 0.01
* - statistical significance at the level 0.05

Therefore, based on adult attachment, it is possible to predict the quality of a close relationship. The most reliable prediction is made possible by the so-called *Ud* or disoriented attachment pattern, but other predictions also have the 0.01 significance level. In order to understand the results we obtained, it seems important to discuss each adult attachment pattern in more detail, i.e. to consider the dimensions of AAI instruments comprising these patterns. Let us first discuss the question on grounds of which dimensions Ds attachment pattern predictivity has been derived.
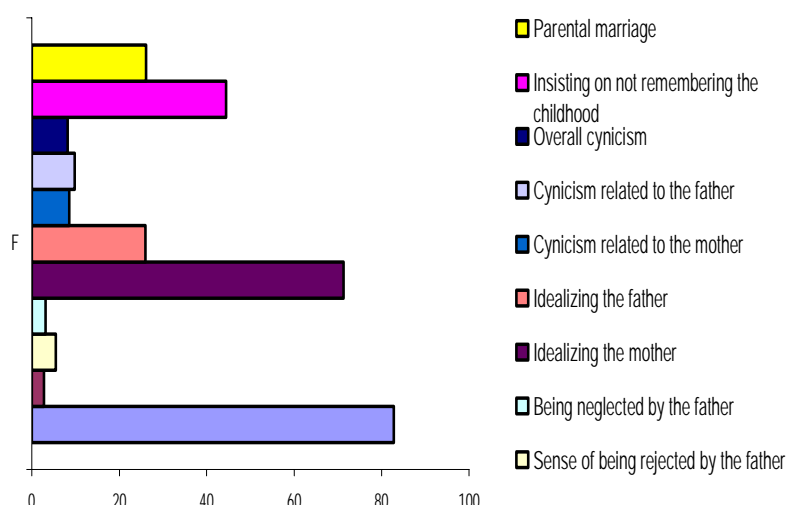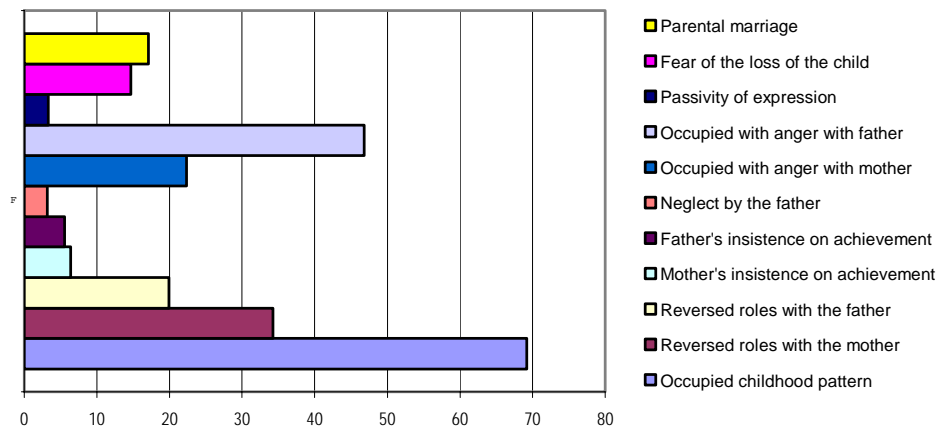

Graph 1. Dimensions of Ds pattern and their predictivity for the dismissing partner pattern
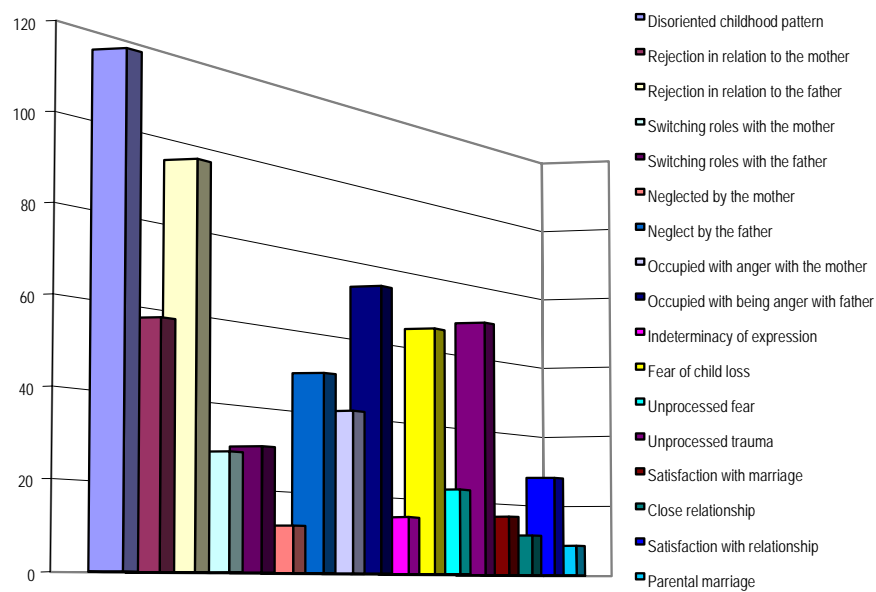
The possibility to predict secure partner attachment has been derived based on the following dimensions:
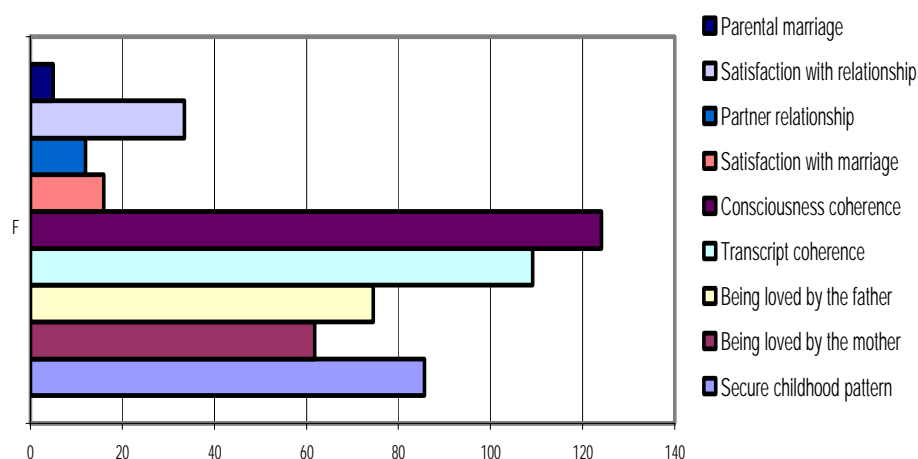
Graph 2. F pattern dimensions and their predictivity for secure partner attachment

Graph 3. E pattern dimensions and their predictivity for occupied partner attachment

Graph 4. Ud pattern dimensions and their predictivity for fearful partner attachment.

Which relationship is more predictive – with the mother or with the father?

Results of attachment predictivity suggest that dimensions pertaining to the relationship with parents are also statistically significant. Since AAI technique was used to examine separately the relationship with the mother and the one with the father, it is possible to analyze which of these relationships is statistically more significant, i.e. more predictive of the person's close relationship. In Table 4, each of the four attachment patterns was

analyzed separately as related to dimensions dealing with the relationship with the father, and the relationship with the mother. As seen in the table, certain patterns are different in this respect, too. In some, the relationship with the father is more predictive, whereas in others, this is the case with the relationship with the mother. In some, acceptance dimensions are more pronounced, while in others, the sense of being rejected is dominant.

Table 4. Predictivity of relationships with the mother and the father
for the assessment of affective ties in close relationships

Attachment patterns with AAI interview dimensions	mother	father
Ds PATTERN		
parent idealization	71.261**	35.989**
rejection by the parents	2.772*	5.502*
cynicism to parents	8.544*	9.861*
F PATTERN		
sense of being loved by parents	61.784**	74.457**
E PATTERN		
being occupied with anger with parents	59.464**	23.212**
reversed roles in relation with parents	34.242**	19.914**
Ud PATTERN		
rejection by parents dimension	56.157**	93.338**
being occupied with anger with parents	40.048**	72.263**
neglect by parents	11.318*	48.518**

** - statistical significance at the level 0.01
* - statistical significance at the level 0.05

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

On the occurrence of patterns

Affective relationship study results show definite occurrence of all dominant affective patterns in our environment, which supports the hypothesis of the universality of the attachment phenomenon (van IJzendoorn & Sagi, 1999). Since studies of adult attachments have so far been conducted mostly in the USA, the data we acquired in Serbia were first compared with the findings of American researchers.

Along with obvious similarities (the secure pattern is the most frequent one in both environments), some attention should be given to the fact that in Niš, both in adult and in close relationship distribution, the percentage of occupied attachments is a bit higher than the corresponding percentage of dismissing relationship, which is contrary to the results of American scholars. In favour of this distribution, we should mention a research of attachment in children, conducted in our country, which testifies that there was a preponderance of pattern C (occupied) over pattern A (dismissing). (T.S. Stanojević, 2000). Should we go further, the dominance of pattern C over pattern A is typical of previous child attachment research in China, Japan, Israel (van Ijzendoorn & Sagi, 1999). Before attempting to interpret this result, suffice it to mention an item of data obtained in child attachment research (Bakermans-Kranenburg, & van IJzendoorn, 1997) that in Germany it is exactly A pattern of attachment that is dominant, rather than F pattern (secure).

Therefore, there are certain distribution differences in the studies of attachment of both children and adults. From the standpoint of that fact, some areas are culturally specific, and these differences seem logical. More precisely, while in Germany children are "socialized for independence" (Harris, 2002), and while in the USA becoming independent early is also a priority, in Serbia mothers prefer either to raise their children in what we could deem an overprotective manner or confide in a trustworthy person (usually maternal grandmother) for child raising. This naturally results in different attachment patterns of these children, and consequently in different adult attachment patterns.

How to interpret the data we obtained? There is a tendency to interpret the data from the American sample as a standard in relation to which deviations in other areas are measured. This kind of data interpretation allows that to different patterns in different cultures be ascribed different meanings. In fact, it is probable that persons with the occupied attachment pattern are not equally adapted in areas where they make up almost or over 30% of the population (Israel, Japan, Serbia) and in those areas where they comprise neglectable 6% (western Europe)?

It is also probable that persons with the rejecting attachment pattern are unequally accepted in the environment in which such a pattern is dominant (Germany) as compared with the environment where this is the least frequent attachment pattern (Israel). In short, attachment theory is a concept that can be understood only if it is considered in the context of socio-cultural differences, rather than in the context of preestablished standards.

On prediction of close relationships or on the irreversibility of early experiences

Research results point to a statistically significant possibility of predicting close relationships based on adult attachment patterns. Therefore, the statistics confirm the possibility that the person who has acquired a particular attachment pattern in relation to the parents should develop the same attachment model in relation to the partner. Does this result make us reconsider the idea of irreversibility of the traces of early childhood – the idea that what we acquire in early childhood is a stumbling block that remains our distinctive feature till the end of our lives? Results of the qualitative analysis of life histories in those persons in which no connection, not even predictivity has been found, point to a possibility of deviation from this early defined model. In this research, we have found two types of such exceptions, or accommodations of the working model acquired early:

- the situation of late, long-term influence of a qualitatively different attachment pattern (such a case was usually the consequence of the partner's attachment pattern which has influenced the change of the person's working model through the years)
- the situation in which there was a sudden impact of certain circumstances, usually traumatic for this person

Therefore, patterns change under certain circumstances and this could obviously be the topic of future research. Predictions from this research will be discussed from the viewpoint of attachment patterns that determine such predictions.

a) According to research results, the most liable to the dismissing partner attachment will be the persons who have formed *Ds* attachment pattern. The basis of this pattern is made up of early experiences defined through the dimensions of *being rejected* and *being neglected*. According to the theory, the pattern acquired early lasts a lifetime due to the internal working model mechanism. In fact, having once learnt that others have a ten-

dency of rejecting people and are thus unreliable, these persons develop a shell around themselves, a shell that absolves them of any new expectations and disappointments. These people try to assimilate all new, even different information into the old model of distrust and enclosure. The model also shapes the way they view their partner, it dictates distance and distrust (high rejection, low anxiety). A bit rigid and certainly focused on defence, persons belonging to this type can be recognized by their verbalization. Their talk is meager, stereotypical, with no particular memories that would breach the shell (the dimension of *not recollecting childhood*), with a high tendency to idealize parental figures (the dimension of *idealization*). A part of their defence is also denial of any importance or influence of attachment on their personal maturation, and also a tendency to use black humour as a position to their parents, but also to the world around them (the dimension of *cynicism*).

b) Persons having developed F or secure attachment pattern most often tend to preserve safe close relationships. The basis of this prediction is also made up of early experiences (the dimension of *being loved*) and the working model of trusting oneself and significant others. Having once acquired the model of trusting others, but also the model of positively valuing the self, these persons retain this model throughout the process of growing up. They enter close relationships with openness and trust (low anxiety and low rejection). Their verbalization is also recognizable: it is fluent and coherent, their memories enroll easily, whether positive or negative (the dimension of *consciousness coherence*, the dimension of *transcript coherence*).

c) On the basis of E attachment pattern there can be predicted a tendency for occupied partner attachment. The foundations for this pattern are typical early experiences (the dimension of *reversing roles between the child and the guardian*, the dimension of *insistence on success*), but also the working model based on a positive image of the others and a negative image of the self. Actually, having once inferred they are unreliable, yet important, these persons invest all their energy in control, i.e. in providing the favour of those very important *others*. Naturally, they expect to improve the image of themselves if they are loved, accepted by significant others. Hence in close relationships they exhibit a tendency to symbiotic attachment.

Verbalization of occupied attachment type persons is also typical: stories of their childhood are long, without clear goals, full of conflicting memories, and irrational fears (the dimension of *being occupied with anger*, the dimension of *irrational fear*, and the dimension of *passivity of expression*), which once again supports the claim that from such a childhood they were not able to gain a positive image of themselves. These persons still struggle for the favour of their parents, they are still angry with them, they are still, and perhaps forever will be, cramped with self-provement. Naturally, they incorporate all these elements into their close relationships, which they tend to view as a possible compensation, a possibility to be accepted, loved by the new figures, since they were not loved by the old ones. To be sure, new figures must make up for what cannot be compensated. This is why close relationships of these persons are filled with exaggerated expectations, superfluous control, excessive attempts to prove one's emotions.

d) Fearful partner attachment can be predicted on the basis of *Ud* pattern (*disoriented attachment pattern*) acquired through the contact with the parents. This prediction is also based on early experiences (the variable of *neglect,* the variable of *being rejected*, the variable of *reversed roles*), but also on a specific working model: persons of this attach-

ment type have built a negative model of the self, and also a negative model of others, which practically blocks their attempts to become closer to their partner. Indeed, due to the negative image of the self, they dream about being in a close relationship, but any more tangible action of finding a partner is prevented by their negative image of others, i.e. the possibility that the partner will reject them. The verbalization of these persons is confused, irrational, contradictory. It employs the dimensions of *unprocessed trauma*, the dimension of *unprocessed loss,* the dimension of *passivity of expression*, the dimension of *being occupied with anger*. In our research, these subjects had a rather consistent and also rather typical life story: they grew up by the alcoholic father, who beat the mother and more than two brothers or sisters. Since alcoholism is not singled out as a problem in other studies, the question remains open whether in our area alcoholism is a more frequent pathology than in other parts of the world, or whether some other disorders are put down to alcohol.

Which relationship is more predictive: with the mother or with the father?

We also attempted to analyze the problem pertaining to the sex of the figure the child is attached to, and thus to at least touch upon the centuries old myth of the undisputed importance of the mother for the maturation of the child. Patterns in which the expectation has been confirmed that the relationship with the mother is more predictive than the relationship with the father are as follows: the rejecting and the occupied affective pattern. In *Ds* or rejecting pattern, the dimension of *idealization of the mother* is more predictive than the dimension of *idealization of the father*, and in the occupied pattern the relationship with the mother is more predictive in the following dimensions: *being occupied with anger* and *reversed roles*. The secure partner pattern can be predicted on the basis of the dimension of *being loved*, but values are pretty equal for both parental figures. A sign of warning is, however, the finding that the fearful partner pattern is almost exclusively predictive of the relationships with the father: *being rejected, being neglected, being occupied with anger*. Although the makeup of the dimensions from the previous sentence indeed represents a warning, we should recall that the subsample of the fearful partner attachment is very small, and very typical (fathers alcoholics).

CONCLUSION

The most important research conclusions are as follows:
1. In our area, both adult attachment patterns and partner attachment patterns have been identified.
2. Adult attachment patterns shape the quality of attachment in close relationships with statistical significance. The relationship with the mother has in some patterns proved to be more significant than the relationship with the father for the prediction of partner attachment (*rejecting* and *occupied* types).
3. The relationship with the father is more important than the relationship with the mother only for the prediction of fearful partner attachment.

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AFEKTIVNO VEZIVANJE ODRASLIH
I PREDIKCIJA PARTNERSKIH ODNOSA

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Predmet istraživanja je mogućnost prediktivnosti afektivne vezanosti odrasle osobe za kvalitet partnerske, ljubavne veze. Mogućnost predikcije ljubavnih veza svakako bi olakšala preventivni rad u ovoj oblasti.

Istraživanje je obuhvatilo 180 odraslih osoba, ujednačenih po polu i starosti. Odrasle afektivne veze su ispitivane testom Adult Attachment Interview, (Main, Casidy, & Kaplan, 1985), a ljubavne veze testom Experience in Close Relationships (Brenan, Clark, & Shaver, 1998.). Rezultati istraživanja ukazuju na specifičnu, kulturološki uslovljenu, zastupljenost pojedinih obrazaca afektivnog vezivanja. Osnovni nalaz istraživanja je da postoji statistički značajna prediktivnost ljubavnih veza na osnovu kvaliteta afektivnog vezivanja.

Dobijeni rezultati su interpretirani u odnosu na teorijski koncept afektivnog vezivanja Džona Bolbija (J. Bowlby, 1988) i Meri Ejnsvort (M.Ainsworth,1978).

Ključne reči: *obrasci afektivnog vezivanja, afektivne veze odraslih, afektivne veze partnera, unutrašnji radni model.*