**Research Statement**

My interest in social psychology began in earnest when I was introduced to the field as a freshman in college. I was fortunate to be offered a research position to work alongside the faculty member who would become my undergraduate adviser, and my fondness for studying romantic relationships emerged. I have previously studied love styles and personality traits including BIS/BAS and their relationships with betrayals. Upon entering graduate school, I was introduced to the concept of culture of honor and I became interested in determining its effects on domestic violence. I have studied the various points of romantic relationships at which culture of honor forces are evident. I began with initial attraction and how facial features might be related to abusive qualities, and have since progressed to additional characteristics within a dating profile that might draw women to certain types of men. My most recent work is focused on established relationships and the feelings of entrapment that might develop, keeping women with abusive partners. I am interested in continuing to determine the mechanisms by which the culture of honor perpetuates violence in relationships and potential interventions that might emerge as effectively reducing violence.

In the future, I would like to continue investigating the culture of honor and its effects on various aspects of relationships. Although I have solely focused on romantic relationships thus far, I am also intrigued by the family and friendship dynamics that might be affected by beliefs in a culture of honor. While my work to date has primarily assessed females, I am also particularly interested in looking at how males might conform to societal standards unique to honor culture. If given the opportunity, I plan to conduct future studies with undergraduate student samples, but I am also highly interested in online platforms that afford access to adults of a wide variety of ages and demographics to more fully study culture of honor effects on relationship dynamics. I have enjoyed my five years of experience in graduate school working with undergraduate research assistants and eagerly anticipate furthering my collaboration with students as I begin my academic career as a faculty member.