Table of Contents

Та	ble of Contents	V		
Li	List of Tables			
Li	st of Figures	XV		
	7 1 18a1e0	11,		
In	troduction	1		
P	art I Social Background and Research Agenda			
1.	Marriage and Partnership in a Changing Social Landscape	7		
	1.1. Demographical Issues	8		
	1.1.1. The 'New' Outlook of Dutch Partnership	8		
	1.1.2. Transitions in Partnership Interpreted	14		
	1.1.3. Much Ado About What?	16		
	1.2. Theoretical Issues	20		
	1.2.1. The Homo Optionis: Choice, Risk and Partnership	21		
	1.2.2. Emotionality, Identity, Stability and Vulnerability	24		
	1.3. Gender Issues	26		
	1.3.1. Who Gets the Best Deal?	26		
	1.3.2. The Gender Division of Emotion	28		
	1.3.3. The Gendered Impact of Children	31		
	1.4. Conclusion	33		
2.	Towards a Research Design for Marital Satisfaction	35		
	2.1. Impetus of the Study	35		
	2.1.1. The Vulnerability-Stress-Adaptation Model of Marriage	37		
	2.1.2. From a Conceptual to a Methological Toolkit	41		
	2.2. Research Questions	42		
	2.3. Structure of this Study	47		

3.	Method	51
	3.1. Dutch Panel Data	51
	3.2. Procedure	55
	3.3. Selection and Characteristics of the Married Sub-sample	56
	3.4. Validation of the Sample and Missings Cases	58
	3.4.1. External Validation	59
	3.4.2. Internal Validation	62
	3.4.3. Item Non-Response	64
Pa	art II The Study	
4.	The Dutch Marital Satisfaction and Communication	
	Questionnaire: A Validation Study	69
	4.1. Introduction	69
	4.2. Research Aim	72
	4.3. Study 1	73
	4.3.1. Procedure and Participants	74
	4.3.2. Measures	74
	4.3.3. Results	75
	4.4. Study 2	79 70
	4.4.1. Procedure and Participants	79
	4.4.2. Measures 4.4.3. Results	81
		81 83
	4.5. Study 3	83
	4.5.1. Procedure and Participants 4.5.2. Measures	83
	4.5.3. Results	
	4.6. Discussion	84 85
	4.0. Discussion	63
5.	The relationship Between Communication and Marital	-
	Satisfaction. A Cross-Lagged Panel Analysis	89
	5.1. Introduction	89

	5.2. Method	94	
	5.2.1. Procedure and Sample	94	
	5.2.2. Measures	95	
	5.3. Results	97	
	5.4. Discussion	105	
6.	Effects of Spousal Economic and Cultural Characteristics on		
	Marital Satisfaction	109	
	6.1. Introduction	109	
	6.2. Theoretical and Empirical Background	110	
	6.3. Present Study and Hypotheses	115	
	6.4. Study Design	116	
	6.5. Method	117	
	6.5.1. Procedure and Sample	117	
	6.5.2. Measures	118	
	6.6. Results	120	
	6.7. Conclusion and Discussion	131	
7.	Social Position, Gender Role Identity and Marital Satisfaction	137	
	7.1. Introduction	137	
	7.2. Empirical Background	138	
	7.3. Present Study and Hypotheses	143	
	7.4. Method	145	
	7.4.1. Procedure and Sample	145	
	7.4.2. Measures	146	
	7.5. Results	148	
	7.6. Discussion	160	
8.	Associations Between Gender Characteristics and Marital Out-		
	comes. A Test of Identity Theory in Established Marriages	169	
	8.1. Introduction	169	
	8.2. Present Study	175	

	8.3. Method	176
	8.3.1. Participants	176
	8.3.2. Measures	178
	8.4. Results	180
	8.5. Discussion	191
9.	Marital Relationships and Parenting Experiences in	
	Established Marriages. Short-Term and Long-Term	
	Interrelationships	199
	9.1. Introduction	199
	9.2. Short-Term Relationships Between Parenting Experiences	
	and Marital Relationships	201
	9.3. Long-Term Relationships Between Parenting Experiences	
	and Marital Satisfaction	209
	9.4. Present Study	210
	9.5. Method	213
	9.5.1. Sample	213
	9.5.2. Measures	215
	9.6. Results	217
	9.7. Discussion and Conclusion	231
D.		
Pa	art III Conclusion and Implications	
10	. Central Findings and Reflections	245
	10.1. Introduction	245
	10.2. Central Findings Recapitulated and Reconsidered	247
	10.2.1. Communication	247
	10.2.2. Parenting	249
	10.2.3. Spouses' Labor Market Resources and Their	
	Cultural Orientations	252
	10.2.4. Gender	255

10.3. Concluding Reflections: Strengths, Unresolved Issu	ies and
Future Directions	259
10.3.1. Methodological Reflections	260
10.3.2. Theoretical Reflections	262
10.3.3. Towards a New Research Agenda for Study	ing
Marital Satisfaction	264
10.3.4. Policy Thoughts	268
10.4. Marriage in Motion: Final Reflection	272
Samenvatting – Dutch summary	275
References	293