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**1. What first drew you to relationship science?**

I am primarily intrigued by the “dark side” of relationship processes, specifically the psychological mechanisms underlying why people engage in behaviors that are detrimental to romantic relationships. It is paradoxical that there is a widespread awareness of the destructive nature of negative behaviors such as infidelity, yet a significant number of individuals still choose these actions. What decision-making processes precipitate these detrimental behaviors despite the consequences? Similarly, I am interested in how these negative relational experiences influence individuals’ sense of self.

**2. What are you working on next, or what question are you most excited to pursue?**

An overarching idea I am exploring is the dynamic nature of motivation in relationships, and how momentary needs or goals might drive differential behavior. My dissertation integrates broader motivational frameworks (e.g., Goal Systems Theory) to elucidate how people assess and pursue romantic alternatives based on specific needs in the moment. I hope to also apply these ideas of dynamic motivation to explain other interpersonal phenomena, such as on-again/off-again relationships. Altogether, I am excited to synthesize theories from both motivation and relationship science to shed light on the nuances in the “dark side” of relationships.

**3. What advice would you give to students or early-career scholars interested in relationship science?**

I would advise students and early-career scholars to be open-minded about which theoretical frameworks and methods they use, from both within and outside of traditional relationship science. Being open to multidisciplinary collaborations, exploring different theoretical frameworks, and using diverse methods can lead to exciting innovations.