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The Relationship of Interests and Values to Marital Happiness

James Carroll McGreevey

Loyola University Chicago

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THE RELATIONSHIP OF INTERESTS AND VALUES TO MARITAL HAPPINESS

by

James Carroll McGreevey

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of Loyola University in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts

January 1957
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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LIFE

James Carroll McGreevey was born in Anaconda, Montana, December 2, 1925.

He was graduated from Anaconda Central High School, Anaconda, Montana, May, 1943, and from the College of Education, Great Falls, Montana, June, 1948, with the degree of Bachelor of Science.

The author began his graduate studies at Loyola University in September, 1948. His studies were interrupted when he was recalled to active duty in the United States Navy in 1951.
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

Marriage is one of the oldest and one of the most important of all human institutions. No other touches so intimately the lives of practically every human being.

Because of the intimate relationship between man and wife that exists in marriage, misunderstandings or difficulties involving happiness are almost certain to occur. These difficulties vary in degree from occasional minor disagreements to more permanent, more intense incompatibility that results in continued unhappiness, separation, or divorce.

The problems on marriage have, for ages, been the subject of concern of religionists, moralists, poets, lawmakers, and social reformers. Of late, scientists have applied their methods to the study of marital problems in an endeavor to determine those factors contributing to marital happiness. Psychologists, as part of the scientific group, have directed investigations designed to study particularly the psychological factors that are conducive to marital happiness.

There are opposing philosophies regarding the
meaning and purpose of marriage. Felix Adler and Willy-stine Goodsell express the extremes of these philosophies. According to Adler:

Happiness is an incident, a concomitant and you can not make it the highest end, without coming to the intolerable position that marriage should cease when happiness ceases. . . . The supreme aim of marriage is to contribute to the growth of character, of the mind, and of the feelings. . . . The performance of it may be attended by unspokable pain. Yet, it must be attempted nonetheless and preserved to the end.1

Goodsell, stressing the well being of the individual, writes:

The well being of the individual is of prior importance to the stability of the institution that he has created. . . . Common sense and regard for personality alike revolt against the theory that the institution of marriage is more sacred than the well being of those who have entered it; that the integrity of the family should be purchased, if necessary, by the misery and stultification of its members.2

Investigating what psychological factors are associated with marital happiness is worthwhile regardless of which philosophy one prefers. All human beings tend toward happiness. Happiness should be preferred to unhappiness.

1 Felix Adler, Marriage and Divorce, New York, 1915, 48.
Today's high divorce rate, with its effect of broken homes on children, is becoming an ever increasing problem. At present, according to Sbarbaro, one out of every five marriages in the nation is ending in divorce, and if the present trend continues, by 1965 the figure will reach one out of every two marriages. Many of the children from these broken homes are destined for insecure, unhappy futures. From their ranks is coming a large number of our juvenile delinquents. Kanner states that review of eight juvenile court statistics from different areas of this country shows that between 34 and 58 per cent of the children lived in broken homes. However, Shaw and McKay point out that it is not so much the broken home situation in itself which is associated with delinquency, but disunity and conflict in the family.

It is evident, then, that there is a need for studies that will shed more light on those factors that are favorable in marital happiness.

3 John A. Sbarbaro and Ellen Saltonstall, Marriage Is on Trial, New York, 1947, XII.


The purpose of this study is to determine what relationship exists between interests and values and marital happiness. Interests were measured by Kuder Preference Record, Vocational, Form BB.\(^6\) Values were measured by the Allport-Vernon Scale of Values,\(^7\) and marital happiness was measured by Terman's Marital Happiness Schedule.\(^8\)

By having couples complete the marital happiness schedule, the interest and values tests, and having the husbands and wives estimate each other's interests and values, data were obtained to determine: (1) If certain interests and values are most favorable for marital happiness; (2) If husbands and wives who have similar interests and values are more or less happy than husbands and wives who have less similarity of interest and values; and (3) If husbands and wives who are better able to estimate each other's interests and values are more or less happy than husbands and wives who are less adept at estimating each other's interests and values.

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7 Gordon W. Allport and Philip E. Vernon, \textit{A Study of Values}, Boston, 1931.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Terman\(^1\) points out that most of the earlier investigations of factors responsible for marital success or failure were made by members of the medical profession and this led to excessive emphasis upon the importance of sexual factors in marital adjustment. The studies of sociological workers such as Bernard, Cottrell and Burgess, were influential in directing attention to sociological and personality factors in marital happiness. These studies were concerned primarily with establishing measures of marital happiness and attempting to relate happiness to factors present in the backgrounds of the husband and wife.\(^2\)

To measure success in marriage Bernard\(^2\) devised a test whereby the subject was required to check the traits


which applied to his spouse that he considered necessary for or harmful to success in marriage.

A second study was made to determine the effectiveness of the test in distinguishing between happily and non-happily married couples. From the results obtained the author concluded that the instrument was effective in distinguishing between these two groups. He reported a reliability coefficient of .96, using the Spearman-Brown formula. Validity coefficients, based on comparison of scores with ratings of objective observers, ranged from .824 to .891.

Burgess and Cottrell, in attempting to discover whether adjustment in marriage could be predicted from a knowledge of certain items in the background of prospective husbands and wives, obtained complete questionnaires from 625 couples. An index of marital adjustment and premarital background information was obtained. A prediction score was constructed by correlating each item of information on the premarital backgrounds of husbands and wives

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with the adjustment score. The background scores correlated .51 with the marital adjustment scores.

The instrument was tested on a new sample of 155 couples to determine the extent to which adjustment could be predicted from background factors. A correlation of .48 was obtained between the adjustment and prediction scores.

Kirkpatrick made a comparison of 104 married couples rated by friends as well adjusted and seventy couples rated by friends as poorly adjusted. The results suggested relationships between marital adjustment and unequal intimacy of women with their parents, excess or deficiency of friendship with the opposite sex on the part of men, similarity of mates as regard to schooling, and assortative mating with respect to age. However, the validity of ratings by friends as a criterion of marital adjustment can be questioned as they have not been found to correlate high with other ratings. Hartman, for example, found that self estimates of happiness did not


correlate high with ratings by friends.

Following the studies by Bernard, Cottrell and Burgess many investigations were done on the relationship between marital happiness and interests, values, and other personality traits. Similarities of husbands and wives interests, values, and attitudes have also been investigated as factors contributing to marital adjustment.

The Bernreuter Personality Inventory and the Strong Vocational Interest Test were administered by Terman and Buttenwieser\(^7\) to 345 married couples and 116 divorced couples. A study was made of the 100 most happily married couples, the 100 least happily married couples, and 100 divorced couples. The results showed low or negligible correlations. Only three of the correlations were as high as .20. These were husbands' teachers interest with wives' happiness (.198), husbands' neurotic tendency with own happiness (-.222), husbands' introversion with his own happiness (-.244). The authors, however, state that more than a quarter of the 545 items of the tests were taken singly and appear to have appreciable validity as indicators of marital compatibility.

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Hartman\(^8\) correlated the six phases of the Allport-Vernon scale of values blank, the three main divisions of the Bernreuter Personality Inventory, the Decamp Intelligence, and Watson's Public Opinion Booklet with happiness scores of 195 college sophomores. The happiness score was the average of two self ratings taken one month apart and ratings by four friends. With the possible exception that unhappy people are mildly inclined to be neurotic, most of the contributions of the study were negative in character. The author pointed out that attenuation and the fact that self-estimates of happiness did not correlate high with ratings of friends probably accounted for most of the negative results.

To determine the effect of marriage on similarity between husbands and wives, Schooly\(^9\) compared the correlations obtained for a group of forty couples who had been married for periods of time varying from one to four years with a group of forty couples who had been married from five to twenty years. The correlations

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compared were those obtained from the five values of the Allport-Vernon Scale of Values, attitudes toward Communism and birth control, free associations (Kent-Rosanoff Free Association Test), neurotic tendency, and weight.

Characteristics that showed higher relationships for the group that was married the longer period of time were attitude toward birth control, neurotic tendency, community of associations, and economic and religious values. Characteristics that had slightly higher relationships for the group that was married the shorter period of time were theoretical and aesthetic values and weight. The author did not report whether or not the differences between the correlations for the two groups were significant.

To determine if information obtained before marriage could be used to predict adjustment after marriage, Adams\(^\text{10}\) tested one hundred engaged couples. The tests consisted of items from the Bernreuter Personality Inventory, the Strong Vocational Interest Blank, questions dealing with views about the ideal marriage and family background, the Adams-Lepley Personal Audit, and the Guilford-Martin

Personnel Inventory. When the couples had been married an average of 2.36 years, husbands and wives independently completed Terman's Marital Happiness Schedule, Burgess' and Cottrell's Index of Marital Adjustment, and the thirteen questions used by Hamilton to appraise marital happiness.

Product-moment correlations were computed between the adjustment scores and the premarital tests. The author concluded that adjustment in marriage can be measured reliably. The three tests of marital adjustment correlated from .72 to .83 indicating that they were fairly comparable.

Benson investigated the interests of happily married couples by using data from the study of Burgess and Wallin in which 1,000 couples were studied at the time of their engagement and a follow-up study was conducted several years later on two-thirds of the couples who had married. The author compared interests at engagement with respect to adjustment during the engagement period and to subsequent adjustment in marriage. Little or no relationship was found between number of common leisure time interests and adjustment in engagement or marriage.

correlation ratio of .12 offered only limited support to the assumption that common interests foreshadow a successful marriage. The author concludes that mutuality of interests in the home, children, romantic love, sexual relations of the couple, and religion is more prevalent among happy, well-adjusted couples.

One of the five major investigations for the more strictly psychological approach was the study conducted by Terman\(^\text{12}\) to determine what psychological factors are associated with marital happiness.

The group studied, consisting of 792 married couples, represented the urban, and semi-urban married population of California at the middle and upper-middle cultural levels. The marital happiness schedule used in the study was the same as that used in the present study. Terman correlated personality characteristics, background factors, and sex factors, with marital happiness. His findings are as follows: Of the 233 personality test items approximately 140 were found to show an appreciable degree of correlation with the happiness scores of either husbands or wives; the background factors showing the

\[\text{12 Louis M. Terman, Psychological Factors in Marital Happiness, New York, 1938.}\]
highest correlation were the relative mental ability of husband and wife, parental attitude toward the subject's early sex curiosity, amount of conflict with father, and amount of attachment to both father and mother. Sex factors correlating quite markedly with the happiness scores were the number of sexual complaints checked, rated degree of satisfaction from intercourse with spouse, frequency with which intercourse is refused, reaction of spouse who is refused, and frequency of desire for extramarital intercourse; the wife's orgasm adequacy and husband-wife difference in felt strength of sex drive are in all probability determiners of marital happiness.

Franklin\textsuperscript{13} compared the direct and indirect approach to the measurement of marital adjustment. He describes two types of indirect measurement: the disguised-nonstructured, i.e., typical projective techniques, and the disguised-structured, i.e., tests which approximate the objective testing of attitudes. The author lists many negative aspects of marriage adjustment scales of the direct type such as examinee manipulation, antagonism at being asked personal questions, variations in motivation

of the examinees because of the nature of the questions, and fictitiously high reliability resulting from the examinee being able to control his responses. He concludes that the indirect approach is superior to the direct type of marital adjustment scales because they are more reliable, provide information not obtainable by the direct scales, and yield more uniform and normal distributions of scores.

Carsini\textsuperscript{14} gave a series of tests to twenty married couples which included a measure of marital happiness and a fifty item adjective \& sort. Examples of adjectives used are daring, resourceful, jealous, stubborn, and worrying. Marital happiness was correlated with perceptions of self, perceptions of mate, perceptions of mate's self-perception, and perceptions of one mate's perception of the other.

Results indicate no evidence that happiness in marriage is a function of understanding the mate or that understanding the mate is a function of similarity of selves of the mates. The results also indicate that husbands and wives are no more similar in their self-perceptions than randomly paired men and women. The results of

the study did indicate that happiness in marriage is related to the conformity of men to self-perceptions of their sex.

In general the results of investigations of factors associated with marital happiness have not been too productive. Where correlations have been found they have been relatively low. From the various studies reviewed, marital adjustment seems to correlate most highly with neurotic tendencies, relative mental ability of husband and wife, parental attitude toward early sex curiosity, amount of conflict with father and amount of attachment to both father and mother. The most important sexual factors which seem directly related to happiness are husband-wife difference in felt strength of sex drive and wife's orgasm adequacy.

With respect to similarity of mates, Stagner\(^{15}\) points out that, "Correlations are higher on intellectual, interest, and attitude scores than on other measures of temperament. While theory would suggest that length of marriage and happiness of marriage would increase resemblance, the data does not support this prediction." As an

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explanation Stagner suggests that husbands and wives may develop congruent rather than consistent patterns on certain personality traits and that the correlation coefficient may be the wrong tool for studying the problem of marital resemblance as a mutual adaptation process may take place in a manner which does not produce similar traits.
CHAPTER III

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The questionnaire, consisting of the Kuder Preference Record with two answer sheets, two Allport-Vernon Scales of Values, and one marital happiness schedule, was given under supervision to fifty married couples. The majority of the couples were obtained through the assistance of Cama Conference, a Catholic organization for married couples, in Chicago, Illinois. The husbands of the remaining couples were, for the most part, students at either Loyola or Northwestern Universities.

The group studied is representative of a class above the average social and cultural level of the general population. Fifty-six percent of the husbands were engaged in professional or semi-professional and managerial occupations.\(^1\) Twenty-eight percent were engaged in clerical work and skilled trades and sixteen percent comprised semi-skilled and minor clerical workers.

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\(^1\) Graduate students, the majority of whom were law students at Northwestern University, were included in the professional group.
The mean number of years of schooling is 14.0 for the wives and 15.0 for the husbands with the standard deviations being 2.13 and 1.91 respectively. Fifty-six percent of the husbands and thirty-six percent of the wives graduated from college. The mean age of the husbands is 35.1 years, of the wives 32.9 years. The standard deviations are 4.91 and 4.61 respectively. The average length of marriage is 8.0 years and the standard deviation is 4.23 years. Eighteen percent of the couples have been married more than 14 years and 8 percent have been married less than three years.

The questionnaire was administered to small groups of five to ten couples. Instructions for completing each test were read by the supervisor. The subjects were invited to ask any questions they might have regarding the manner of completing the tests. They were told that they were to complete two sets of the Kuder and Value tests. On the first set they would answer each question themselves. On the second set they would answer each question as they thought their wives would, and the wives would answer each question as they thought their husbands would. The couples were instructed not to cooperate while filling out the questionnaire or to compare answers after they were finished. They were assured that
the tests were not marked in any way so the questionnaire or any particular couple could be identified.

Husbands and wives combined their questionnaires after they were completed, so that the tests for each couple would be together.

To distinguish between husbands' and wives' tests the husbands' questionnaires were labeled as follows: marital happiness schedule was labeled "Husband," one Values tests were labeled "Self-Husband," the other, "Husband's Estimate of Wife." One Kuder answer sheet was labeled "Self-Husband" and the other "Husband's Estimate of Wife." The tests comprising the wife's questionnaire were labeled in a similar manner. The average time required for completing the questionnaire was two and one-half hours.

Terman's Marital Happiness Schedule was used in the present study. The schedule consists of questions dealing with congeniality of tastes and interests; the spouses' ability to agree, their expressions of satisfaction with mate and marriage; general estimates of their

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marital happiness; and the enumeration of complaints and frictions. The total happiness score for husbands utilizes the answers to 75 questions, and that of wives the answers to 71 questions.

To determine the validity of the Marital Happiness Schedule Terman tested the items by computing the correlations between all possible combinations of the schedule. This was done for both husbands' and wives' answers. Intercorrelations range from .22 to .84. The average of all intercorrelations was .57.

To establish a method for scoring the Marital Happiness Schedule, Terman weighed each item with reference to two criteria: (1) the average magnitude of its correlation with each of the other items; (2) the size of the husband-wife correlation for the item in question. The categories for each item were assigned numerical values such as to make the standard deviations of the items proportionate to the respective weights desired on the basis of the above criteria. The highest score obtainable was 87; the lowest, or least happy, was 0.

In the present study, the Marital Happiness Schedule was scored by using the weights Terman assigned to each item.

The Kuder Preference Record is designed to measure persons' interests, or preferences, in nine
general areas: (1) mechanical; (2) computational; (3) scientific; (4) persuasive; (5) artistic; (6) literary; (7) musical; (8) social service; and (9) clerical. Each question in the test consists of a group of three activities. The subject chooses the activity he prefers most and the activity he prefers least, and punches with a pin on a scoring sheet opposite each of his choices.

The Preference Record was devised as a means of making a systematic approach to the problem of selecting of occupations. It is widely used for vocational guidance in pointing out vocations with which a person may not be familiar, but which involve activities of the type for which he has preferences, and to check of whether a person's choice of an occupation is consistent with the type of thing he ordinarily prefers to do. The Preference Record is also intended for use in employee counseling, particularly in improving the placement of employees.

A reliability study of the Kuder Preference

Record was offered by Traxler. The study was conducted on a group of 41 graduate students. The test-retest reliabilities ranged from .93 on the social service scale to .93 on the computational and clerical scales with a time interval of three days.

In a study of the relation of scores on vocational interest tests and vocational choices of high school students, Kopp and Tussing obtained the following results. The stated vocational choices of 260 boys and 326 girls were correlated with the scores on the Kuder test and the Cleston Vocational Interest Inventory. On the Kuder Preference Record, the correlations were .50 for girls and .59 for boys. For the Cleston test the correlations were .86 and .53 for girls and .44 and .50 for boys.

In reviewing validity studies of the Kuder Preference Record, Berdie reported that they reveal 72

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different occupational groups. Those groups obtained statistically different mean scores on one or more of the scales. These studies were conducted on a group of 2,667 men and 1,429 women. He reported that reliability of the tests was satisfactory with test-retest coefficients ranging from .81 to .98 on the nine scales. He observed that the tests had low correlations with achievement and ability tests. In a separate study by the same author\(^7\) scores on the Strong Vocational Interest Blank and the Kuder tests were analyzed in relation to self-ratings. For 500 men, scores on the Kuder test tended to have a closer relationship to self-rating of interests than scores on the Strong test. The correlation coefficients approximated .50.

The Kuder Preference Record was used by Triggs\(^8\) in order to determine if it would differentiate between interests of nurses and women in other occupations. She

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also attempted to determine if various types of nurses had different interest patterns so that the test could be used as a guidance instrument in counseling nurses. The test was administered to a group of 826 registered nurses from different fields. The results revealed nurses' interests were above women in general on the scientific and social service scales; below women in general on the clerical and persuasive scales. The interests of the various types of nurses were not significantly differentiated to permit guidance usage. In a subsequent report by Triggs it was found that there were certain reliable differences between specialized fields of nursing by analysis of profiles.

The Study of Values aims to measure the relative prominence of six basic interests or motives in personality: the theoretical, economic, aesthetic, social, political, and religious. The classification is based directly on Edward Spranger's Types of Men.


Spranger holds that the personalities of men are best known through a study of their values or evaluative attitudes.

The scale consists of a number of questions based upon a variety of familiar situations in which two alternative answers (in Part I) and four alternative answers (in Part II) are provided. In all there are 120 answers, 20 of which refer to each of the six values. The subject records his preferences numerically by the side of each alternative answer.

Whitney\(^\text{11}\) administered the Study of Values to 84 college students each fall during their four years of college and found a relatively high degree of constancy of the mean scores for the successive administrations of the test. The coefficients of correlation between the various administrations ranged from .36 to .78 indicating that the values are fairly stable. Coefficients for religious and aesthetic values were highest and those for social values lowest.

Schaefer\(^\text{12}\) gave the Study of Values to fifty-one


sophomores at Reed College and found a number of significant correlations between the scores on the Study of Values and scores on the seven sections of American Council on Education College Sophomore Test. The correlations ranged from .21 between intelligence and theoretic values to -.60 between intelligence and political values. Schaefer concluded that scores on certain sections of the ACE test can be predicted more accurately from certain values scores than from intelligence scores.

The Study of Values was administered by Harris to 338 Lehigh University students and 52 faculty members. He found characteristically different scores for individuals in different fields of study and for students in different vocational fields. Reliable differences in theoretical values were found between Art students and Business students, between Engineering students and Business students, and between faculty and students. In aesthetic values faculty members in Language differed significantly from those in Sciences and Engineering and Art students differed significantly from Business students and Engineers. Business students differed

reliably from Art students and Engineering students in political values. Reliable differences were also found in political values between Engineering students and Art students and between students and faculty. No reliable differences were found in the religious values. Scores were reported for only theoretical, aesthetic, political, and religious values.

Duffy in reviewing investigations employing the Study of Values concludes that there are characteristic differences between the evaluative attitudes of students in different colleges, between students in different fields of study within the same college, between individuals who express a preference for different occupations, between individuals who score differently on the Strong Vocational Interest Blank, and between men and women. She further concludes that the value scores of individuals show a fair degree of consistency during the college years, and that studies support the Cantrill and Allport conclusion that evaluative attitudes are persuasive, enduring, and generalized traits of personality.

In evaluating the Study of Values, Meehl\textsuperscript{15} states that the reliabilities in the sense of internal consistence are not as high as are usually required.

"Test-retest reliabilities range from around .70 to .90 with the exception of the social score which is reported by numerous investigators as being of doubtful meaning and stability. Validity as indicated by ratings, correlation with other tests, and differentiation of various academic and occupational groups, is fairly good when the attenuating factors in such a situation are taken into account."

\textsuperscript{15} Paul E. Meehl, "Study of Values: A Scale for Measuring the Dominant Interests in Personality," The Third Mental Measurements Yearbook, 1949, 99-100.
CHAPTER IV

STATISTICAL TREATMENT OF DATA

The mean happiness score for husbands is 76.46 and for wives, 77.44. The standard deviations are 8.66 and 7.38 respectively. The difference between husbands' and wives' mean happiness score is only .98 and the Pearson Product Moment correlation is .61 plus or minus .089.

The correlation is not so high as to exclude instances where one spouse may be happy and the other unhappy. For this reason, the correlations with marital happiness were computed separately for husbands and wives. Raw scores on the interest and values tests were used in computing all correlations.

To determine if certain interests or values are most favorable for marital happiness, correlations were computed between husbands and wives marital happiness and their interest and values scores. Table I presents the relationship between husbands and wives marital happiness and their interest scores.¹

¹ Table I will be found on page 30.
None of the correlations with husbands' interests scores are significant at the five percent level of confidence. The wives' scores on three areas of interest correlated significantly with marital happiness. These are clerical interests at the one percent level of confidence, social interests at the five percent level of confidence, and scientific interests correlated negatively with marital happiness at the five percent level.

TABLE I

CORRELATIONS BETWEEN INTEREST SCORES AND MARITAL HAPPINESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interests</th>
<th>Husbands Marital Happiness</th>
<th>s.e.* of r</th>
<th>Wives Marital Happiness</th>
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</table>

* All standard error figures are plus or minus.

** Significant at the five percent level.

*** Significant at the one percent level.
Table II presents the relationship between husbands and wives marital happiness and their values scores.

**TABLE II**

**CORRELATIONS BETWEEN VALUES SCORES AND MARITAL HAPPINESS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Values</th>
<th>Husbands Marital Happiness</th>
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<th>Wives Marital Happiness</th>
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<td>.042</td>
<td>.143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eco</td>
<td>- .224</td>
<td>.136</td>
<td>.163</td>
<td>.139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aes</td>
<td>- .026</td>
<td>.145</td>
<td>.035</td>
<td>.143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soc</td>
<td>.146</td>
<td>.141</td>
<td>.038</td>
<td>.143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pol</td>
<td>.016</td>
<td>.143</td>
<td>-.157</td>
<td>.139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rel</td>
<td>.248</td>
<td>.154</td>
<td>.331**</td>
<td>.127</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* All standard error figures are plus or minus.

** Significant at the five percent level.

The correlation with wives religious values is significant at the five percent level of confidence.

To determine if similarity of interests and values is related to marital happiness, correlations were computed between marital happiness and the difference between husbands and wives scores on the interest and values tests.1

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1 Difference scores were obtained by subtracting wives raw scores from husbands raw scores. For ease of computation constants were added to eliminate negative items.
Table III presents the correlations between marital happiness and the difference between husbands and wives interest scores.

**TABLE III**

**CORRELATIONS BETWEEN MARITAL HAPPINESS AND INTEREST DIFFERENCE SCORES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interests</th>
<th>Husbands Marital Happiness</th>
<th>s.e. of r</th>
<th>Wives Marital Happiness</th>
<th>s.e. of r</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mec</td>
<td>.104</td>
<td>.141</td>
<td>-.066</td>
<td>.142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Com</td>
<td>.053</td>
<td>.142</td>
<td>.098</td>
<td>.142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sci</td>
<td>.148</td>
<td>.140</td>
<td>-.044</td>
<td>.142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per</td>
<td>-.146</td>
<td>.140</td>
<td>-.056</td>
<td>.142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>.177</td>
<td>.138</td>
<td>-.063</td>
<td>.142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lit</td>
<td>-.025</td>
<td>.143</td>
<td>.007</td>
<td>.143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mus</td>
<td>-.154</td>
<td>.139</td>
<td>.139</td>
<td>.139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soc</td>
<td>-.068</td>
<td>.142</td>
<td>.061</td>
<td>.142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cle</td>
<td>.081</td>
<td>.142</td>
<td>.143</td>
<td>.140</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All standard error figures are plus or minus.

None of the difference scores between husbands and wives interests correlated significantly with marital happiness.

Table IV (see page 33) lists the correlations between marital happiness and the difference between husbands and wives values scores.
### TABLE IV

**CORRELATION BETWEEN MARITAL HAPPINESS AND VALUES DIFFERENCE SCORES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Values</th>
<th>Husbands Marital Happiness</th>
<th>s.e. of r</th>
<th>Wives Marital Happiness</th>
<th>s.e. of r</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theo</td>
<td>-.220</td>
<td>.136</td>
<td>-.114</td>
<td>.142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eco</td>
<td>-.051</td>
<td>.142</td>
<td>.105</td>
<td>.141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aes</td>
<td>.088</td>
<td>.142</td>
<td>-.166</td>
<td>.140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soc</td>
<td>.292**</td>
<td>.131</td>
<td>-.132</td>
<td>.140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pol</td>
<td>.040</td>
<td>.143</td>
<td>.041</td>
<td>.143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rel</td>
<td>.036</td>
<td>.143</td>
<td>.042</td>
<td>.143</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#All standard error figures are plus or minus.

##Significant at five percent level.

The relationship between difference scores on social values and husbands marital happiness is significant at the five percent level.

To determine if husbands and wives ability to estimate each other's interests and values is related to marital happiness, correlations were computed between marital happiness and the difference between each spouse's actual interest and values scores and the mate's estimate.

Correlations between marital happiness and the difference between husbands and wives interest scores and the mate's estimates are presented in Table V on page 34.
TABLE V

CORRELATIONS BETWEEN MARITAL HAPPINESS AND THE
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INTERESTS SCORES AND MATE'S ESTIMATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interests</th>
<th>Difference between Husbands actual scores and Wives estimates</th>
<th>s.e. of r*</th>
<th>Difference between Wives actual scores and husbands estimates</th>
<th>s.e. of r*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mec</td>
<td>-.276*</td>
<td>.132</td>
<td>-.112</td>
<td>.141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Com</td>
<td>.062</td>
<td>.142</td>
<td>-.124</td>
<td>.141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sci</td>
<td>.095</td>
<td>.142</td>
<td>-.160</td>
<td>.139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per</td>
<td>-.157</td>
<td>.139</td>
<td>.021</td>
<td>.143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>.000</td>
<td>.143</td>
<td>-.036</td>
<td>.143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lit</td>
<td>.043</td>
<td>.142</td>
<td>.000</td>
<td>.143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mus</td>
<td>.001</td>
<td>.143</td>
<td>-.127</td>
<td>.140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soc</td>
<td>-.126</td>
<td>.140</td>
<td>.121</td>
<td>.141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cle</td>
<td>-.173</td>
<td>.138</td>
<td>.154</td>
<td>.139</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* All standard error figures are plus or minus.
** Significant at the five percent level.

The negative correlation between husbands marital happiness and wives ability to estimate husbands mechanical interests is significant at the five percent level of confidence.

Table VI, which appears on page 35, presents correlations between marital happiness and the difference
between husbands and wives values scores and the mates estimates.

### TABLE VI

**CORRELATION BETWEEN MARITAL HAPPINESS AND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN VALUES SCORES AND MATES ESTIMATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Values</th>
<th>Difference between Husbands actual scores and Wives estimates</th>
<th>s.e. of r*</th>
<th>Difference between Wives actual scores and Husbands estimates</th>
<th>s.e. of r*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theo</td>
<td>-.243</td>
<td>.134</td>
<td>-.263</td>
<td>.133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eco</td>
<td>-.091</td>
<td>.142</td>
<td>-.210</td>
<td>.136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aes</td>
<td>-.106</td>
<td>.141</td>
<td>.059</td>
<td>.142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soc</td>
<td>.194</td>
<td>.157</td>
<td>.152</td>
<td>.140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pol</td>
<td>.135</td>
<td>.140</td>
<td>.016</td>
<td>.143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rel</td>
<td>.061</td>
<td>.142</td>
<td>.000</td>
<td>.143</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* All standard error figures are plus or minus.

None of the correlations between husbands and wives marital happiness and the difference between actual scores and mates' estimates were significant at or beyond the five percent level.

To determine if length of marriage had an effect on the similarity of husbands' and wives' interests and values and their ability to estimate each others interests
and values, the couples were divided into two groups according to length of marriage. Later "t" ratios were computed for the difference between the means of the longest married and the shortest married groups. The "t" ratios were computed for (1) the difference between husbands and wives scores; (2) the difference between wives scores and husbands estimates; and (3) the difference between husbands scores and wives estimates. None of the ratios were found to be significant at the five percent level. They ranged from .02 for the difference between wives' scores and husbands' estimates on computational interests to 2.06 for the difference between wives scores and husbands estimates on economic values.
CHAPTER V

RESULTS

The marital happiness scores ranged from 27 points to 87 points, with a mean of 76.46 for husbands and 77.44 for wives. The respective standard deviations of the distributions were 8.66 and 7.38. The distribution was skewed in the direction of high happiness and there were no markedly unhappy couples represented. Husbands' and wives' happiness scores correlated .61 showing that the happiness of one spouse is relatively independent of the happiness of the other.

None of the husbands' interest scores correlated significantly with marital happiness. The relationship between wives' clerical interests and marital happiness was significant at the .01 level, their social interests correlated significantly with marital happiness at the .05 level and scientific interests correlated negatively at the .05 level of confidence.

Women in general score higher in social and clerical interests and lower in scientific interests than
men. Thus, high social and clerical interests and low scientific interests reflect a cultural pattern in which the role of the wife includes interest in social and clerical matters--both of which are important in home-making--and little interest in technical detail. The significant relationships between wives clerical, social, and scientific interests indicates that the happier wives are those whose interests coincide with this cultural pattern. The absence of significant relationships between husbands interests and their marital happiness suggests that it is the role of the wife to conform to a cultural pattern of interests while the husbands interests are broader and more general.

The only values scores which correlated significantly with marital happiness was wives religioids values. Husbands religious values correlated with marital happiness at the .10 level. Although a relationship this high is not generally accepted as significant, it does suggest that a true relationship may exist. The relationships between husbands and wives marital happiness and their religious values indicates that high religious values are related to marital happiness and that this applies more for wives than husbands.
Similarity of interests does not appear to be related to marital happiness. None of the differences in scores between husbands and wives interests correlated significantly with marital happiness of either husband or wife.

Only one relationship between marital happiness and similarity of husbands and wives values was significant at the .05 level. This is the relationship between similarity of husbands and wives social values and husbands marital happiness which indicates that husbands are happier when their social values are in accord with those of their wives.

Husbands and wives understanding of each others interests and values were not found to play an important role in marital happiness. A negative relationship between husbands marital happiness and wives ability to estimate husbands mechanical interests was the only correlation significant at the .05 level.

Tests of the significance of the difference between longest and shortest married groups indicates that similarity of interests and values and husbands and wives ability to estimate each others interests and values is not influenced by length of marriage.
In general the results of the present study are negative in character. Six out of ninety correlations were significant at or beyond the .05 level of confidence. With this number of correlations, between four and five correlations at the .05 level could occur with chance factors alone operating. The findings agree in general with the negative results of Hartman's study correlating the Allport-Vernon Scale of Values with happiness scores, the low or negligible correlations Terman and Buttenwieser obtained between marital happiness and scores on the Strong Vocational Interest Test and the Bernreuter Personality Inventory, and Dukes' conclusion that the safest answer to the question of significance of values in close personal relationships is that in some areas similarity of values may be vital to congeniality, while in other, differences may be desirable and in still other areas the value may be irrelevant to compatibility.

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CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this study was to investigate relationships between marital happiness as measured by Terman's Marital Happiness Schedule, and interests and values as measured by the Kuder Preference Record Form BB, and the Allport-Vernon Scale of Values.

The group studied consisted of fifty married couples of above average educational, cultural, and social level.

Only six of the ninety correlations computed in the study were significant at the .05 level of confidence. Although these six correlations are high enough to be significant they are still too low to account for a major proportion of the variance. With these limitations in mind, the following conclusions are tentatively drawn:

1. A positive relationship exists between husbands marital happiness and similarity of husbands and wives social values, suggesting that husbands are happier when their social values agree with those of their wives.
2. An inverse relationship exists between husbands' happiness and wives' understanding of husbands' mechanical interests.

3. There appears to be a positive relationship between wives' marital happiness and the similarity of their interests to a general cultural pattern of high social and clerical interests and low scientific interests.

4. High religious values are related to marital happiness of wives.

5. Similarity of interests does not appear to be related to marital happiness for either husband or wife.

6. As marriage increases beyond one year, husbands and wives do not become more similar in their interests or values nor are they better able to estimate each other's interests and values.
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The thesis submitted by James Carroll McGreevey has been read and approved by three members of the Department of Psychology.

The final copies have been examined by the director of the thesis and the signature which appears below verifies the fact that any necessary changes have been incorporated, and that the thesis is now given final approval with reference to content, form and mechanical accuracy.

The thesis is therefore accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts.

May 16, 1957
Date

Signature of Adviser