

SUSPICION OF INFIDELITY IN ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP:
INVESTMENT MODEL PERSPECTIVE



SENA ÇOBANOĞLU

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SUSPICION OF INFIDELITY IN ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP:

INVESTMENT MODEL PERSPECTIVE

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SENA ÇOBANOĞLU

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PLAGIARISM

I hereby declare that all information in this document has been obtained and presented in accordance with academic rules and ethical conduct. I also declare that, as required by these rules and conduct, I have fully cited and referenced all material and results that are not original to this work.

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Sena Çobanoğlu

ABSTRACT

Infidelity is one of the most studied topics in relationship literature. It has been shown that it affects both the relationship and the spouses in different ways. This study investigated the relationship between suspicion of infidelity and the commitment level of young adults who were in an ongoing dating relationship with the aid of Investment Model variables which are investment, satisfaction, and quality of alternatives. In the current study, the Investment Model variables were expected to mediate the relationship between the suspicion of infidelity and commitment.

A total of 312 young adults (71.8% women; 27.6% men; 0.6% other) who were in a dating relationship participated in the study. The Relationship Stability Scale, the Partner Intentions Towards Infidelity Scale, and Demographic Information Form were used for data collection. In the current study, our model where suspicion of infidelity was the predictor, satisfaction, quality of alternatives, and investment were mediators, and commitment was an outcome was tested. According to the results, the quality of alternatives and satisfaction partially mediated the relationship between suspicion of infidelity and commitment. Moreover, exploratory analyses showed that suspicion of infidelity did not change in terms of gender or history of being cheated. These results can be important for the understanding of the relationship between suspicion of infidelity and commitment.

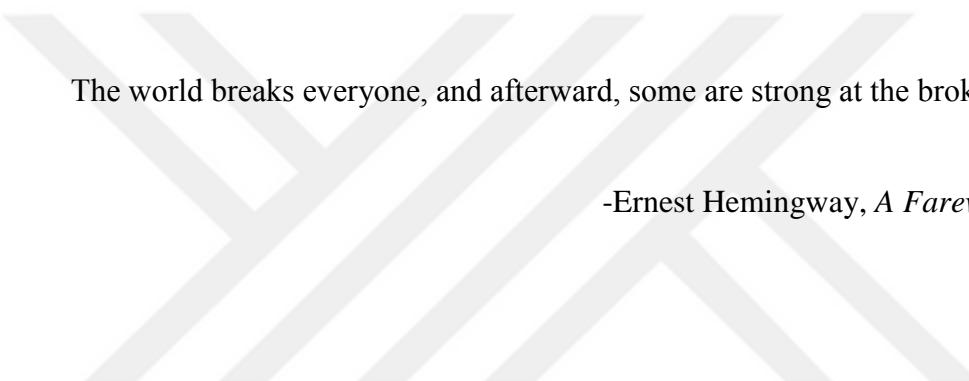
Keywords: infidelity, suspicion of infidelity, investment model, commitment, quality of alternatives, satisfaction, investment

ÖZET

Aldatma, ilişki literatüründe en çok çalışılan konulardan biridir. Hem ilişkisi hem partnerleri farklı şekillerde etkilediği araştırmalarla kanıtlanmıştır. Bu çalışma, devam eden flört ilişkisi içinde olan genç yetişkinlerin aldatılma şüphesi ile bağlanım düzeyleri arasındaki ilişkiyi yatırım modeli değişkenleri olan ilişki yatırımı, ilişki doyumu ve seçeneklerin niteliği yardımıyla araştırılmıştır. Mevcut çalışmada, yatırım modeli değişkenlerinin aldatılma şüphesi ile bağlanım arasındaki ilişkiye aracılık etmesi beklenilmektedir.

Araştırmaya flört ilişkisi içinde olan toplam 312 genç yetişkin (%71,8 kadın; %27,6 erkek; %0,6 diğer) katılmıştır. Verilerin toplanmasında İlişki İstikrarı Ölçeği, Partnerin Aldatmaya Yönelik Niyeti Ölçeği ve Demografik Bilgi Formu kullanılmıştır. Bu çalışmada, aldatılma şüphesinin yordayıcı, ilişki doyumu, seçeneklerin niteliği ve ilişki yatırımının aracı ve bağlanımın sonuç olduğu modelimiz test edilmiştir. Sonuçlara göre, seçeneklerin niteliği ve ilişki doyumu, aldatılma şüphesi ve bağlanım arasındaki ilişkiye kısmen aracılık etmiştir. Ayrıca, aldatılma şüphesinde cinsiyet veya geçmişte aldatılmış olma ile ilgili farklılıklar görülmemiştir. Bu sonuçlar aldatılma şüphesi ve bağlanım arasındaki ilişkiyi anlamak için önemli olabilir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: aldatma, aldatılma şüphesi, yatırım modeli, bağlanım, ilişki doyumu, ilişki yatırımı, seçeneklerin niteliği



The world breaks everyone, and afterward, some are strong at the broken places...

-Ernest Hemingway, *A Farewell to Arms*

To those who get stronger from the broken places...

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1. INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the infidelity and Investment model were defined in two separate sections with the help of literature. The first part of this chapter covered fundamental information about infidelity. In the second part of this chapter, the Investment Model and research about the Investment Model and infidelity were mentioned. In the last part of this section, the aim of the study, research questions, and hypotheses were stated.

1.1. Infidelity

Partners live loving, caring, and wonderful times together, but they also have to deal with negative moments as well. Experience of infidelity and suspicion about it are two distressing situations which can appear in a romantic relationship (Leeker & Carlozzi., 2014). Especially, infidelity is a quite common situation. Research showed that after an affair, only a small percentage of partners could save their marriage, but infidelity does not always cause divorce (Charny & Parnass, 1995). Nevertheless, the most common reason for divorce in the United States is infidelity (Amato & Previti, 2003) and around the world (Buss, 2000). According to the data collected from women, being cheated is among the reasons for divorce at a rate of 10.5% to 32.7% in Turkey (Aktaş, 2011; Özabacı et al., 2015; Sağlam & Aylaz, 2017; Uçan, 2007; Uçar, 2011).

1.1.1. Definition and Types of Infidelity

Many romantic partnerships are marred by infidelity (Mark et al., 2011). For this reason, infidelity has a critical impact on both extramarital and extradyadic relationships (Schonian, 2013). It can give rise to significant difficulties for couples

(Whisman et al., 1997). For this reason, in the clinical psychology field, couple therapists frequently face clients experiencing issues with infidelity (Blow & Hartnett, 2005b; Bischoff, 2003), which is also one of the most challenging issues to deal with (Whisman et al., 1997).

Understanding what infidelity is and setting its limits can be significant in order to work and talk regarding infidelity. Atkins et al. (2001) indicated that “infidelity is a common phenomenon in marriages but is poorly understood” (p. 735). As already mentioned, in many couples therapy practices, infidelity has been widespread for a certain percentage of couples to complain (Blow & Hartnett, 2005b). Although infidelity is an issue that has such an impact on relationships, its operational definition has been changed from one study to another. Furthermore, individual variations contribute to the challenge of defining infidelity, whereas one person may see particular acts as infidelity while someone else does not (Blow & Hartnett, 2005a). Blow and Hartnett (2015a) also explored the preferred definition of infidelity in their study and defined it as heterosexual and/or extramarital intercourse.

There have been several attempts for understanding the nature of infidelity with the help of its definition. One definition by Drigotas and Barta (2001) is “a partner’s violation of norms regulating the level of emotional or physical intimacy with people outside the relationship” (p. 177). Another researcher defined infidelity as “a secret sexual, romantic, or emotional involvement that violates the commitment to an exclusive relationship” (Glass, 2002, p. 48). According to Schneider et al. (2012), infidelity is commonly characterized as the concealment of secrets and the betrayal of trust in a close relationship. Among others, the definition that most comprehensively deals with infidelity is as follows;

Infidelity can be defined as a “sexual and/or emotional act engaged in by one person within a committed relationship, where such an act occurs outside of the primary relationship and constitutes a breach of trust and/or violation of agreed-upon norms (overt and covert) by one or both individuals in that relationship in relation to romantic, emotional or sexual exclusivity (Blow and Hartnett, 2005a, p.191).

Infidelity appears in a variety of forms (Johnson, 2005). According to Thompson (1984), there have been three types of infidelity, emotional, sexual, and combined type of infidelity, they are widely agreed upon by researchers. Emotional infidelity was described as:

The occurrence of emotional involvement with a third party that violates the ground rules established by the couple (e.g., trusting another, sharing your deepest thoughts with another, falling in love with another, being vulnerable with each other, being more committed to another, spending more money on another) (Leeker & Carlozzi., 2014 p. 69).

On the other hand, sexual infidelity is defined as any sexual behavior with an individual other than one’s existing partner (Shackelford & Buss, 1997), such as sexual intercourse, kissing, or intimate caressing. According to previous studies, the most common reason for individuals getting a divorce in the United States (Amato & Previti, 2003) and worldwide (Buss, 2000) was sexual infidelity. The third type of infidelity is referred to as combined infidelity, which encompasses both emotional and sexual infidelity. Even though the literature separates sexual and emotional infidelity, it is appropriate to regard both sorts as overlapping, and people can live it all the same period or one at a time (Knight, 2010).

In the literature, researchers mainly focused on how infidelity impact married couples (i.e., Amato & Previti, 2003; Bird et al., 2007; Burdette et al., 2007; Labrecque & Whisman, 2017, Marín, 2014). This situation was criticized by other researchers (Blow & Harnett, 2005a; Martins et al., 2016; Thompson, 1984). As can be seen from the infidelity literature, it is addressed as a problem for not only married couples but also dating couples (i.e., Blow & Hartnett, 2005; Drigotas et al., 1999; Fincham & May, 2017; Lieberman, 1988.)

The inclusion of cohabiting couples in the survey of extramarital sex and equalization of extra-cohabiting with extramarital was one of the first seen in the study by Buunk (1980). In addition to this, a pioneer study by Thompson (1982, 1984) included couples who were non-married and cohabitated and called all behavior that established infidelity “extradyadic”. According to Thompson (1982), the term “extradyadic relations” gave a broad and conceptually appropriate meaning rather than “extramarital relations”. Since then, there have been many different studies that have focused on the concept of infidelity among individuals who are in a dating relationship (i.e., Allen & Baucom, 2004; Barta & Kiene, 2005; Fincham & May, 2017; Kato, 2014, 2021; Sheppard et al., 1995, Toplu-Demirtaş & Fincham, 2018; Yeniçeri & Kökdemir, 2006). Thompson (1987) mentioned that when attitudes, causes, and consequences of infidelity are considered, infidelity in dating and marital relationships displays similarities in many conditions.

1.1.2. The Prevalence of Infidelity

Infidelity prevalence studies display a broad variety of results, with some showing rates as low as 1.5% and others as high as 25% (Blow & Harnett, 2005). There have been different data on the frequency of infidelity owing to a lack of

operation definition (Özgün, 2010). The majority of research attempting to determine infidelity rates have focused on sexual intercourse between heterosexual couples (Blow & Hartnett, 2005b). According to Atkins et al. (2001), 13% of participants in a nationwide poll in the United States admitted to having extramarital sex. Another study conducted among women revealed that 10% of participants had a secondary sex partner, with the prevalence of secondary sex partners being lower for married women (4%) compared to dating women (18%) and cohabiting women (20%) (Forste & Tanfer, 1996). Some current studies mentioned that estimates of infidelity lifetime prevalence range from 20% to 52%, depending on how infidelity is defined and measured (Mark & Haus, 2019; Thompson & O'Sullivan, 2016).

Based on the type of relationship, the results of studies on the prevalence of infidelity differ. In order to assess the prevalence of marital infidelity, Labrecque and Whisman (2017) examined data between 2000 and 2016 from the General Social Survey that included a total of 13,030 participants. They found that more than 16-17 percent of individuals had been unfaithful in their relationship. Other studies mentioned that infidelity occurs in approximately 75% of dating infidelity and 20-25% of marriages (Laumann et al., 1994; Wiederman, 1997).

Dating infidelity is even more common among college students (Allen & Baucom, 2004; Barta & Kiene, 2005; Toplu-Demirtaş & Fincham, 2018), and it is also possible that it is more prevalent among this population than previously thought (Hall & Fincham, 2009). One of the first studies of dating infidelity displayed that 54.4% of the participant women and 70.9% of the participant men had cheated on their partners (Hansen, 1987). While in a significant relation, between 65 and 75 percent of college students reported that they engaged in emotional, sexual, or

combined infidelities (Shackelford et al., 2000; Wiederman & Hurd, 1999). One of the recent studies showed that 69% of their participants reported that they had experienced sexual and romantical unfaithfulness with someone other than their partner (Allen & Baucom, 2004). Moreover, Hall and Fincham (2009) detected that 35% of college students mentioned that they engaged in infidelity in their dating relationship. Also, in this study, infidelity was characterized as physical and emotional by 29% and %28 of those who reported it, respectively, with the other 43% categorizing it as both. Research on dating infidelity among Turkish samples is rather scarce (Toplu-Demirtaş & Fincham, 2018). In a Turkish sample, one study found that 19.6% of participants cheated on their partners. (Yeniçeri & Kökdemir, 2006). In addition to this, Toplu-Demirtaş and Fincham (2018) mentioned that nearly 14% of participants cheated on their partners in their current relationship.

1.1.3. Gender Differences in Infidelity

An important variable in infidelity research is gender, which has been extensively researched (Atkins et al., 2001). Moreover, the type of infidelity is impacted by gender (Özgün, 2010). According to Blow and Harnett (2005b), the difference between types of infidelity and gender can be explained as follows: “for women, there generally appears to be a greater emphasis on emotional connection than for men, whereas, for men, there generally seems to be a greater emphasis on sexual experience” (p. 221).

There have been two groups of studies in order to understand gender differences (Zare, 2011). One of the groups focused on the reaction toward the partners’ infidelity depending on gender differences (Miller & Maner, 2008, 2009; Shackelford et al., 2002). Concerns regarding infidelity differ somewhat between

those of men and women. Particularly, it appears that men and women react differently to emotional infidelity compared to sexual infidelity (Miller & Maner, 2009). Especially, men are more likely to end the current relationship when their partner commits sexual infidelity than emotional infidelity. Also, men experience difficulties forgiving sexual infidelity than emotional infidelity (Shackelford et al., 2002). On the other hand, women are less inclined to forgive their partner and are more likely to end the current relationship with an emotionally unfaithful spouse than men are (Shackelford et al., 2002). While more women than men said that their partner's emotional infidelity would disturb them the most, more men than women reported that their partner's sexual infidelity would hurt them the most (Groothof et al., 2009). On the other hand, according to a meta-analysis, when participants were forced to select which type of infidelity was troubling more, both genders generally tended to select emotional infidelity as more distressing (Carpenter, 2012).

Another group of researchers have focused on the gender distribution of cheating by gender. As can be seen from the infidelity literature, there has been a question; Who is cheating more? In general, it is assumed that men are more unfaithful than women (Allen & Baucom, 2004; Atkins et al., 2001). According to Kinsey et al. (1948, 1953), at some point in their marriages, more than 14% of women and nearly 50% of men attempted extramarital sexual behavior. Moreover, Wiederman (1997) reported that around 12% of women and 23% of men cheated on their partners. In addition, in long-term relationships, 23% of men and 20% of women reported having sexual intercourse with an extra partner at some time throughout the relationship (Allen et al., 2005; Atkins et al., 2001; Laumann et al., 1994). Furthermore, in a recent study, Mark et al. (2011) pointed out greater rates of

infidelity in their research, with almost 25% of 506 men and 20% of 412 women reporting their infidelity.

Wierdman and Hurd (1999) discovered that 75% of men and 68% of women noticed extradyadic relations in a significant dating relationship. In recent literature, some studies found that engaging in dating infidelity is more common in men (Allen & Baucom, 2004; Fernandez, 2012; Martins et al., 2016). Martin et al. (2016) reported the dating infidelity rate as 15% for women and 24.4% for men. On the other hand, there have been some studies which mentioned no difference among dating college couples (i.e., Barta & Kiene, 2005; Negash et al., 2019; Wiederman & Hurd, 1999). In addition to this, some studies found that women have greater rates of infidelity (e.g., Brand et al., 2007; Shimberg et al., 2016).

1.1.4. Adverse Effects of Infidelity

Infidelity reveals the broken promises of the partners to each other and the shattered dreams (Bischoff, 2003). It is widely acknowledged to be destructive to individuals and relationships (Whisman et al., 1997). Thus, there have been many negative consequences of partner infidelity for noninvolved partners, which means that people were cheated. Just a fraction of couples has been able to rebuilt their relationship after one of them noticed the existence of marital infidelity, while the majority continue to struggle with numerous issues (Charny & Parnass, 1995). Usually, the destruction caused by cheating is so great that even if the couples would like to maintain the relationship, it may not be possible to be like before cheating (Bischoff, 2003). Decreased self-esteem, higher risk of mental health problems, guilt, and depression are all common reactions among infidelity victims and offenders (Russell et al., 2013). According to Charny and Parnass (1995), following romantic

betrayal, 53 percent of women and 67 percent of men reported harm to their confidence, confidence about sexuality, and self-image.

In one study investigating the damage of infidelity in women, Cano and O'Leary (2000) indicated that women who faced spouses' infidelity or threats of marital dissolution were six times more likely to receive a diagnosis with depressive episodes than women who had no such experience. This study found that women who were faced with spouses' infidelity also showed more depression and anxiety symptoms than women who had never been through any of these experiences. In longitudinal research, Cano et al. (2004) discovered that marital disagreement was associated with subsequent depressive and anxiety symptoms in women who had just experienced a significant marital stressor, like a separation threat of infidelity.

The result of another study displayed that negative opinion about infidelity was connected with more infidelity-related stress, which was also related to anxiety and depression symptoms. In line with this result, the more noninvolved partners comprehended that their partner caused the infidelity and they were responsible for it, the more they felt overwhelmed and exacerbated their symptoms of anxiety (Shrout & Weigel, 2020). Moreover, according to Shrout and Weigel (2018), individuals who were victims of infidelity in an unfaithful relationship may have reported more depression, anxiety, and distress symptoms, based on the level of self-blame or blame for their partner and guilt. Another important point in affecting mental health outcomes is how noninvolved partners find out about the affair. Finding out about the affair directly from the unfaithful partner gives rise to a better mental health outcome than finding out in other ways (Whisman, 2016).

Furthermore, Shrout and Weigel (2018) found that noninvolved partners have greater levels of depression, anxiety, and distress to more health-risky behaviors, such

as increased drinking of alcohol, substance use, and unprotected sex. Moreover, Charny and Parnass (1995) highlighted that fury, loss of trust, damaged self-esteem, worry about abandonment, and diminished personal and sexual confidence as noninvolved partners' reactions after infidelity.

According to Warach and Josephs (2021), victimization of infidelity can have some cognitive implications. It can destroy a betrayed partner's sense of security and stability in the current relationship. Individuals who have noticed their partner's infidelity frequently have a sense of loss of control, which may be followed by the feeling of hopelessness (Bird et al., 2007; Gordon et al., 2008). Moreover, noninvolved partners' overall abilities in order to trust their partners can be harmed by romantic betrayal. Also, the victims' suspicion about their partners' ability to stay faithful and worry regarding future infidelity can be occurred by post-infidelity (e.g., Johnson, 2005; Johnson et al., 2001; Josephs, 2018; Schade & Sandberg, 2012).

It is commonly acknowledged that infidelity can be a form of interpersonal trauma that manifests traumatic symptoms (Lusterman, 2005; Whisman & Wagers, 2005). According to Kelley et al. (2012), when compared to symptoms induced by and connected with life-threatening events or injury, perceived infidelity ended up with severe PTSD symptoms in some cases. In addition to trauma symptoms, infidelity can trigger a grieving reaction in people, including the five stages of grief (Dean, 2010), which are denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance (Kübler-Ross & Kessler, 2005).

In a nutshell, the fact that infidelity results in such hurts cannot be surprising given attachment theory, since it is clear that the unfaithful spouse cannot provide a safe haven for the betrayed (Warach & Josephs, 2021). Bird et al. (2007) explained the insecure environment created by the infidelity of a partner as follows:

“Like other trauma victims, betrayed spouses may no longer view the world as a safe, predictable place because the affair violated a basic belief about marriage: that both partners are emotionally and sexually committed to each other and to no one else.” (p.16).

1.1.5. Suspicion of Infidelity and Consequences

Concern about a partner’s actual or perceived relationship with another individual can be referred to as suspicion of infidelity (Weigel & Shrout, 2021). Suspicion of infidelity can indicate that the relationship is on the verge of ending (Barelds & Dijkstra, 2007), create a feeling of rejection (Mathes et al., 1985), and challenge individuals’ perception of how a good relationship can be (Feeney, 2005) and infringe on established relationship rules (Treas & Giesen, 2000).

This issue has some impacts on both the relationship and the parties to the relationship. Individuals who suspect their partners of infidelity are more likely to feel insecure regarding the status and future of their relationships, as well as they develop a distrust of their relationship (Feeney, 2005; Guerrero & Andersen, 1998) and increased negative feelings (Harmon-Jones et al., 2009). Suspicion of infidelity can also lead to greater conflict, violence, retaliation, and relationship breakdown (Guerrero & Andersen, 1998). In addition to this, a recent study showed that suspicion of a partner’s infidelity was related to physical symptoms, depression, higher levels of distress, and risky health behavior. The same researchers mentioned that the more individuals suspected partners’ infidelity, the more distressing it became for them (Weigel & Shrout, 2021). Furthermore, when there is an infidelity history of both partners, suspicion was linked to increased physical health symptoms. Individual and relational variables like these may lead one to be more concerned regarding a

partner's potential betrayal (Weigel & Shrout, 2021). Moreover, Weigel and Shrout (2021) demonstrated that suspicion-related stress and physical health complaints were more common in women.

Why can suspicion of infidelity have such devastating outcomes? One argument is that suspected infidelity goes against people's fundamental thoughts and conventions regarding what is and is not appropriate in a committed relationship (Weigel & Shrout, 2022). Indeed, infidelity is frequently characterized as any action that breaches a romantic relationship's exclusivity rules (Glass, 2002) and an individual's fundamental value of fidelity (Treas & Giesen, 2000; Watkins & Boon, 2016). This information can be significant for understanding suspicion of infidelity due to the fact that the great majority of people believe that fidelity is a basic expectation in a romantic relationship in Western societies (Sharpe et al., 2013). Even suspicion of infidelity has the potential to alter relational traditions that control what constitutes a monogamous relationship (Weigel & Shrout, 2021). A recent study's results indicated that a conflict between one's conviction in the value of fidelity (higher expectation) and the potential of partner infidelity (higher suspicion) is linked to individual distress, negative emotions, and depression symptoms (Weigel & Shrout, 2022). It is obvious that damage to a core belief that can be important for an individual's relationship can hurt the person. Although the literature focuses on what the suspicion of infidelity means for individuals and how it will affect individuals' mental and physical health, it is not focused on why individuals continue their current relationships and what they keep in the relationships upon the experience of infidelity. In the current study, we tried to have a better understanding of the reason why and how people continue their current relationships despite the suspicion of infidelity.

1.2. Investment Model

1.2.1 The Interdependence Theory

The interdependence theory should be clearly understood before detailing the Investment Model. The Investment Model (Rusbult, 1980, 1983) arises from The Interdependence Theory of Thibaut and Kelley (1959), which is one of the most complete theories for analyzing interpersonal structures, arguing that dependence plays a major role in the structure by assisting in the maintenance of a relationship. In other words, interdependence theory describes how individuals sustain their relationship with the aid of structure and the process of mutual dependency. Interdependence is defined as the actions and attitudes of individuals' partners that are influenced by each other's experience on preferences, goals, and behaviors (Rusbult & Arriaga, 1997). It focuses on the relationship between partners, and mutuality between partners is inconceivable without it (Kelley & Thibaut, 1978).

1.2.2. Factors of Investment Models

Rusbult (1983) came up with some questions to understand individuals' relationships: "What causes individuals to be committed to maintaining their involvements? Why do some relationships persist over time, whereas others end? (p.101)" Rusbult tried to understand the underlining mechanism of individuals' satisfaction with their relationship and how individuals decide to terminate a relationship. Satisfaction can be one of the decisive factors in maintaining individuals' relationships. However, it is not always possible to say this alone is sufficient. Even if people are dissatisfied in their relationships, they can sometimes continue the relationship or vice versa. For this reason, Rusbult specified that in order to comprehend how and why some relationships continue while others end, individuals'

commitment to their relationships needs to be understood clearly (Rusbult et al., 2011).

The Investment Model (Rusbult, 1980, 1983) determines an appropriate framework for forecasting and understanding the state of commitment to someone or something. Moreover, it was created to go beyond paying attention to positive impact in predicting persistence in relationships (Rusbult et al., 2011). The Investment Model assumes that all kinds of relationships last not only owing to positive quality, which draws partners together (satisfaction), but also because of the bond that connects partners to one other (investment) and the lack of a better option beyond the current relationship (absence of alternatives). All of these elements are significant in understanding commitment (Rusbult, 1983; Rusbult et al., 1986, 2011).

The main component of the Investment Model is *commitment* which is a claim to sustain a relationship and feel psychologically connected to the relationship (Rusbult, 1983). Individuals committed to their relationship have a variety of relationship-maintenance techniques at their disposal to keep their interest in the current relationship (Park & Park, 2021). According to the Investment Model, three factors should impact the commitment to continue the relationships, which are satisfaction, investment, and quality of alternatives (Rusbult, 1983).

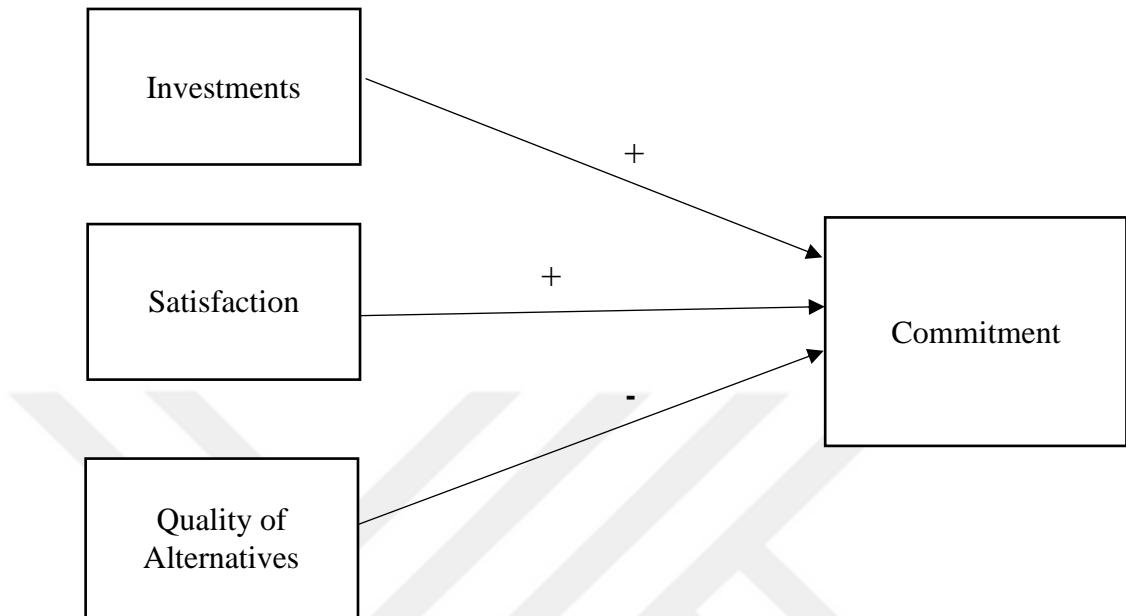
The level of positive feelings in a current relationship and attraction to the relationship are referred to as *satisfaction* (Rusbult, 1980, 1983). The degree to which individuals are delighted with a romantic relationship can also be referred to as their satisfaction (Dedekorkut, 2015). Relationships with low costs and high rewards are usually considered to be satisfying (Impett et al., 2001). Rewards can be defined as what individuals receive from their partner or the relationship they find satisfying,

such as social support or sexual satisfaction (Impett et al., 2001). On the other hand, the cost can be defined as qualities of their partner or their relationship that one dislikes, including financial obligations or some arguments (Impett et al., 2001). With the aid of a higher level of satisfaction, positive feelings, or attraction to a relationship (Rusbult, 1983, Rusbult et al., 1986), commitment becomes stronger (Rusbult et al., 1986). The degree to which a relationship satisfies an individual's most basic needs, such as friendship, security, closeness, and sexuality, enhances their level of satisfaction (Greene & Britton, 2015; Rusbult et al., 1998).

Quality of alternatives means that desirable or attractive alternative rather than the current relationship, based on individuals' perception (Greene & Britton, 2015). Individuals should feel more committed when they have a low-level expectation of another alternative (Rusbult et al., 1986). A particular attractive alternative does not always have to be another partner, or friends. Recreational activities can be seen as the quality of the alternatives. Also, being single can be a better alternative to a current relationship (van der Wiel et al., 2018). Rusbult and Buunk (1993) addressed this issue as follows; "in a general sense, quality of alternatives refers to the strength of the forces pulling an individual away from a relationship, or the degree to which an individual believes that important needs could be effectively fulfilled outside the relationship" (p.182). The more likely an alternative is to produce a better result from the current relationship, the more desirable and quality the alternative is considered. As a result, the desire to stay in the current relationship decreases (Dedekorkut, 2015). In other words, the quality of alternatives is expected to be in a negative relationship with commitment (Drigotas et al., 1999).

Investment symbolizes the resources one would lose if the relationship is over, and the size of the investment is positively related to commitment (Drigotas et al., 1999). Commitment becomes greater with the individuals' investment (Rusbult et al., 1986). There are two different categories of investment: Extrinsic and intrinsic. When previously unrelated resources (e.g., common acquaintances, shared memories, or any activities or events material linked with the relationship) become intimately linked to a relationship, extrinsic investment emerges. When it is believed that ending a present relationship will result in the loss of such chances, individuals' commitment levels will rise, and the probability of leaving the relationship decreases (Rusbult, 1980a). Intrinsic investments, on the other hand, are all of the resources such as self-disclosures, time, and emotional effort that are directly involved in the romantic relationship. Partners of relationship make these investments in the hopes of laying a solid foundation for a long-term relationship (Rusbult et al., 2011). The investment component enhances the level of commitment of individuals since the resources put in the current relationship increase the cost of leaving the romantic relationship (Rusbult, 1980a). As a result, investments serve as a strong psychological motivator to continue the relationship (Rusbult et al., 2011).

According to Rusbult (1983), commitment to maintaining a relationship is increased by great satisfaction, but at the same time, commitment should be affected by other the Investment Model variables: Investment size and alternative quality. The Investment Model (Rusbult, 1980, 1983) suggests that when individuals notice that they have a poor alternative to their current relationship, they turn more committed.

Figure 1*The Investment Model***1.2.3. Investment Theory and Infidelity**

The Investment Model was used in order to understand different situations of romantic relationships. There have been some topics such as the behavior of staying or leaving in an abusive romantic relationship (Katz et al., 2006; Truman-Schram et al., 2000), dating violence (Toplu-Demirtaş et al., 2013), forgiveness to partner (Cann & Baucom, 2004), interpersonal forgiveness and trust (Wieselquist, 2009), romantic jealousy (Bevan, 2008) and infidelity (Anlatan, 2019; Drigotas et al., 1999; Fricker, 2006)

The Investment Model is especially appropriate for predicting infidelity in a romantic relationship (Drigotas et al., 1999) because it gives some of the prior findings on infidelity a theoretical framework and presents them in the context of the Investment Model. Recent research has shown that low satisfaction with one's existing relationship

and satisfaction with a new partner is frequently used as excuses for infidelity. In the Investment Model, these two factors are clearly represented as satisfaction and alternative quality. The significant point is that the model explains how both factors are connected to infidelity: Quality of the alternatives and satisfaction (also investment) have a significant impact on infidelity by damaging commitment to the romantic relationship (Drigotas et al., 1999).

Drigotas et al. (1999) tried to test the effectiveness of the Investment Model with heterosexual young adults. The results showed that the level of participants' commitment accurately predicted the later times of infidelity. Moreover, individuals who were more satisfied in their relationship, made more investments, had fewer options, and were more committed to their current partner while less likely to be unfaithful to their partner. McAlister et al. (2005) conducted a study with participants who were young adults and had a dating relationship to determine the factors that influence the likelihood of infidelity. The study showed that two components of the Investment Model, satisfaction and quality of alternatives, were significant predictors of infidelity; that is, infidelity tendency had a positive correlation with the quality of alternatives, but it had a negative correlation with satisfaction.

Moreover, another study investigated the prediction of infidelity using a component of the Investment Model, attachment, and love styles by participants who had a current romantic relationship (Fricker, 2006). According to the Fickers' results (2006), lower levels of satisfaction and commitment significantly correlated with the tendency of infidelity. Additionally, there was a positive correlation between the tendency of infidelity and the quality of alternatives (Fricker, 2006). Fricker (2006)

found that the perceived alternatives, a significant predictor of unfaithfulness, predicted infidelity.

Lastly, a study based on Turkish young adults investigated the degree of commitment level of participants (Anlatan, 2019) and found that commitment predicted attitudes and intentions toward infidelity. According to the study's findings, satisfaction, quality of alternatives, and investment level of participants predicted the level of commitment to their relationships. Moreover, the level of commitment to their relationship significantly predicted individuals' attitudes and intentions toward infidelity (Anlatan, 2019). According to McAlister et al. (2005), the Investment Model may be the most appropriate theoretical framework for forecasting dating infidelity. All these studies were significant guidance for current studies to understand the relationship between infidelity and the Investment Model. However, suspicion of infidelity has not been adequately studied based on the Investment Model perspective.

1.3. The Aim of the Study

In a dating relationship, the consequence of infidelity can be severe (Toplu-Demirtaş & Fincham, 2018). Infidelity in a dating relationship has an enormous effect on the betrayed partner (Shackelford et al., 2000) and the relationship (Drigotas et al., 1999; Hall & Fincham, 2006). Individuals who are the betrayed partner can experience stress, depression, anxiety (Cano & Leary, 2000; Shrout & Weigel, 2018, Shackelford et al., 2000), blameworthiness, hostility, humiliation, insecurity (Shackelford et al., 2000) and lowered self-esteem (Shrout & Weigel, 2020). Moreover, it has been known that even suspicion of a partner's infidelity reveals strong consequences such as anxiety,

fear, anger, jealousy, and insecurity (Guerrero et al., 1995; Sharpsteen & Kirkpatrick, 1997). In addition, suspicion of infidelity has powerful psychological, physical, and behavioral impacts on the relationship (Weigel & Shrout, 2021). However, in the literature, how individuals continue their relationship despite their living with suspicion of infidelity has not been fully addressed yet. For this reason, this study focused on even if there is a suspicion of infidelity and how young adults continue their romantic relationships. The current research focused on understanding the relationship between the suspicion of infidelity and commitment considering the Investment Model (Rusbult, 1980, 1983) variables; satisfaction, investment, and quality of alternatives.

1.4. Research Question and Hypotheses of the Study

Based on the previous literature, the research question of the current study is as follows:

Was the relationship between suspicion of infidelity and commitment in the relationship mediated by Investment model variables; satisfaction, quality of alternatives, and investment?

Hypotheses;

H1: The relationship between the suspicion of infidelity and commitment is expected to vary according to three variables of the Investment Model, which are satisfaction, investment, and quality of alternatives. The investment mediates the relationship between the suspicion of infidelity and commitment.

H2: The relationship between the suspicion of infidelity and commitment is expected to vary according to three variables of the Investment Model, which

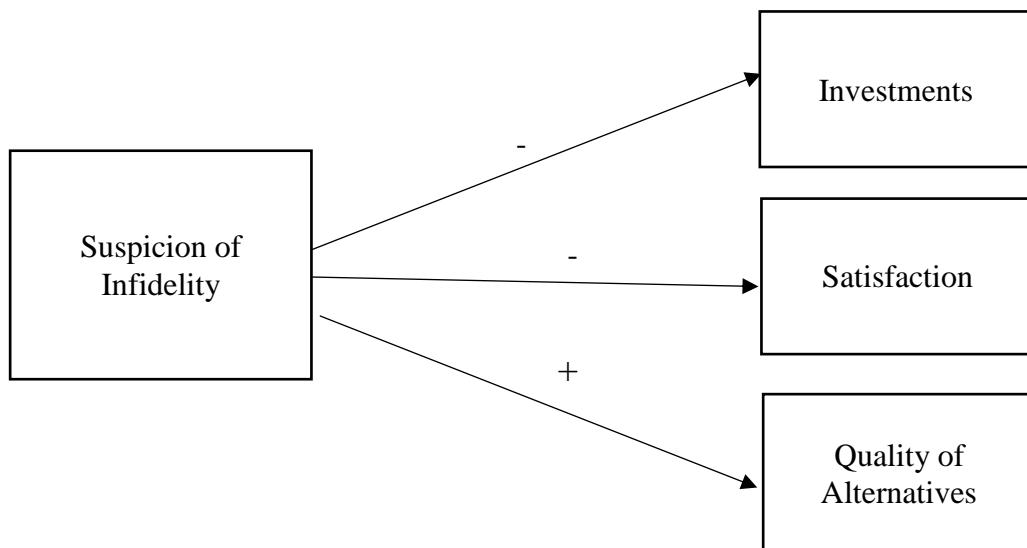
are satisfaction, investment, and quality of alternatives. Satisfaction mediates the relationship between the suspicion of infidelity and commitment.

H3: The relationship between the suspicion of infidelity and commitment is expected to vary according to three variables of the Investment Model, which are satisfaction, investment, and quality of alternatives. Quality of alternatives mediates the relationship between the suspicion of infidelity and commitment.

The relationship between gender, history (being cheated before or not) and suspicion of infidelity were also explored.

Figure 2

The expectation of Relation between Suspicion of Infidelity and The Investment Model Variables.



2. METHOD

2.1. Participants and Sampling Procedure

The target participant of the present study was identified as young adults who were in a dating relationship. Having a minimum six-month length of dating relationship and being between the age of 18-30 were determined inclusion criteria for this present study. Online data collection was used for the data collection process. All data collection instrument was prepared for Google Forms which is a tool for using online data collection, and social media platforms were used for the announcement. The data was gathered using a convenience sample approach with two criteria: Being between the ages of 18 and 30 and having been in a dating relationship for at least six months.

This study included a total of 362 respondents. One participant did not complete all of the questions. Data of 40 participants were discarded because of their relationship status (34 of them were engaged, and 6 of them were married). Data of 6 participants were excluded because of their relationship status and age, which was not within the expected range. Lastly, four participants were not included because their relationship duration was shorter than six months. The final sample included 312 young adults who were in a dating relationship at the time.

2.2. Participants' Demographic Characteristics

Gender, education level, gender orientation, economic status, cohabitation, and history of infidelity status of the participants were shown in Table 1. Women were the majority of participants ($n = 224$; 71.8%). Participants' age ranged between 18 to 30

($M = 24.50$, $SD = 2.53$). The duration of participants' dating relationship ranged between 6 to 180 months ($M = 29.74$, $SD = 24.54$).

Table 1

Demographic Characteristics of Participants

Variables		n	%
Gender	Women	224	71.8
	Men	86	27.6
	Other	2	0.6
Education Level	Middle School	1	0.3
	High School	50	16.0
	University	211	67.6
	Graduate Degree	50	16.0
Gender Orientation	Heterosexual	274	87.8
	Gay/Lesbian	3	1.0
	Bisexual	21	6.7
	Not Prefer to Say	8	2.6
	Other	6	1.9
Economic Status	Low	7	2.2
	Low- Middle	127	40.6
	Middle- High	161	51.4
	High	17	5.4
Cohabitation	Yes	65	20.8
	No	247	79.2
History of Infidelity	Yes	117	37.5
	No	195	62.5

2.3. Data Collection Instruments

This section informs regarding the Relationship Stability Scale (Büyüksahin et al., 2005), the Partner Intentions Towards Infidelity Scale (Toplu-Demirtaş et al., 2022), and the Demographic Information Form, which were used for getting data in the present study.

2.3.1. Relationship Stability Scale (RSS)

The Investment Model Scale was developed (Rusbult et al., 1998) based on the Investment Model (Rusbult, 1980, 1983) in order to measure participants' current relationship status through investment size, satisfaction, and quality of alternatives which are the predictors of individuals' commitment level. There are four sub-dimension to measure the level of the Investment Model variables which are investment, quality of alternatives, satisfaction and commitment. Items of the investment sub-scale cover, for example, "Many aspects of my life have become linked to my partner (recreational activities), and I would lose all of this if we were to break up." and "My relationships with friends and family members would be complicated if my partner and I were to break up (e.g., partner is friends with people I care about)". Items of satisfaction sub-scale include, for instance, "Our relationship does a good job of fulfilling my needs for intimacy companionship, etc." and "My relationship is close to ideal.". Some of the items of quality of alternatives sub-scale are "If I weren't dating my partner, I would do fine-I would find another appealing person to date." and "My needs for intimacy, companionship, etc., could easily be fulfilled in an alternative relationship.". Some of the items of the commitment sub-scale are "I am oriented toward the long-term future of my relationship (for example, I imagine being with my partner several years from now)." and "It is likely that I will

date someone other than my partner within the next year.”. Sub-dimension of commitment consists of 7 items and items are nine-point Likert type (1 = “Totally False” and 9 = “Totally True”). The other sub-dimension consists of 10 items. The first five items are facets item of each sub-dimension are four-point Likert type (1 = “Totally False” and 4 = “Totally True”); the last five items are nine-point Likert type (1 = “Totally False” and 9 = “Totally True”).

Rusbult et al. (1998) recommend applying all items but conducting analyzes with the last five items for each dimension. Reliability coefficients of satisfaction ranged between .92 and .95, quality of alternatives ranged between .82 to .88, .82 to .84 for investment, and .91 to .95 for commitment. Turkish adaptation was conducted by Büyüksahin et al. (2005) named the Relationship Stability Scale (RSS). After first adaptation study, the Commitment dimension was translated by Büyüksahin, and Taluy (2008). Based on the adaptation study result, Cronbach alpha reliability coefficients as .93 for satisfaction, .83 for quality of alternatives, .84 for investment and .70 for commitment.

In the current study, Cronbach alpha was computed as .92 for satisfaction, .80 for quality of alternatives, .83 for investment and .92 for commitment.

2.3.2. Partner Intentions Towards Infidelity Scale (P-ITIS)

The scale was developed by Toplu-Demirtaş et al. (2022). P-ITIS measured perception of the partner’s extradyadic involvement intentions with a five-item scale. A 7-point Likert-type scale (1 = “Not likely at all” and 7= “Extremely likely”) was used. The following are some examples of P-ITIS’ items: “How likely is your partner to be unfaithful to you if s/he knew s/he wouldn’t get caught?”, “How likely would your partner be to lie to you about being unfaithful?”, “How likely do you think your

partner would be to get away with being unfaithful to you?”. Cronbach alpha reliability coefficients as .83. For the current study, Cronbach alpha was computed as .81.

2.3.3. Demographic Information Form

Demographic Information Form was used to collect participants' demographic characteristics: Gender, sexual orientation, age, education, relationship status, relationship length, cohabitation, and history of infidelity (Have you been cheated on in previous romantic relationships).

2.4. Data Collection Procedure

First, ethics committee permission was obtained to perform the present study from the Social and Human Sciences Ethical Committee of Yeditepe University (see Appendix F). Following ethical approval, the researcher began collecting data via an online survey. Before the data was collected, participants were given thorough information regarding the research and its objective. They were expected to answer the question regarding their current romantic relationship, which took about 10-15 minutes, by following the instructions. After the participants had agreed to participate voluntarily, they continued to fill out the questionnaire.

2.5. Data Analysis Procedure

Normality assumptions were checked visually and also via skewness and kurtosis. If the assumption is violated, the log-transformed data were implemented in the analyses. Prior to the analyses, correlational analyses took place. Independent sample t-tests were conducted to assess the differences in suspicion of infidelity and the components of the Investment Model, where gender and history are quasi-

independent variables. For the mediation analysis, process macro version 4 for SPSS was used (Hayes, 2013). The following regression-based mediation model was investigated in this study; suspicion of infidelity as a predictor, investment, satisfaction and quality of alternatives as a mediator, and commitment as an outcome measure were conducted. The significance of the indirect effect and the direct effect were explored to evaluate the conditions of the mediation model (Mathieu & Taylor, 2006). A 10,000 bootstrap (Preacher & Hayes, 2004) with random resampling (Hayes, 2017) was used to determine the significance of the indirect effect. Model 4 was used. As a part of the model testing technique, the heteroscedasticity-consistent approach to estimating standard errors (HC3) was used to defend against bias in standard errors estimated as part of analyses. Alpha was set .05.

3. RESULTS

3.1. Preliminary Analyses

Mean scores, standard deviation, skewness, and kurtosis of suspicion of infidelity, quality of alternatives, satisfaction, investment, and commitment scores were presented in Table 2. Due to the leptokurtic distribution (George & Mallery, 2010) of satisfaction (kurtosis = 3.30) and commitment (kurtosis = 2.05), log-transformed data were used for two variables before the analyses.

Table 2

Descriptive Statistics of the Variables

Variable	N	Mean	SD	Skewness	Kurtosis
Suspicion of Infidelity	312	11.13	6.17	1.22	.971
Quality of Alternatives	312	4.70	1.96	.152	-.721
Satisfaction	312	7.84	1.36	-1.77	3.30
Investment	312	4.95	1.98	.169	-.705
Commitment	312	7.88	1.58	-1.66	2.05

3.2. Correlations Analyses

Pearson Correlation among variables was presented in Table 3. The age of the participants had a positive correlation with suspicion of infidelity and a negative correlation with investment. The duration of their relationship was not found to be correlated with any component of the Investment Model and suspicion of infidelity.

Relationship duration and age were not correlated with each other either. However, suspicion of infidelity was found to be positively correlated with the quality of alternatives and negatively correlated with satisfaction and commitment. Quality of alternatives had negative correlations with investment, satisfaction and commitment as well. Satisfaction had positive correlations with the investment and commitment. Lastly, investment, which is one of the variables of the Investment Model, was positively correlated with commitment.

Table 3

Bivariate Correlations Between Variables

Variable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.Age	-	.087	.112*	.076	-.039	-.143*	-.041
2.Relationship Duration		-	-.055	-.018	.068	.110	.101
3. Suspicion of Infidelity			-	.331***	-.515***	.009	-.496***
4.Quality of Alternatives				-	-.377***	-.322***	-.589***
5.Satisfaction					-	.184**	.657***
6.Investment						-	.302***
7.Commitment							-

Note. $N = 312$ * $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$

3.3 Suspicion of Infidelity Comparing History of being Cheated and Gender

Suspicion of infidelity did not differ based on gender or the history of being cheated (see Tables 4 and 5).

Table 4

Gender Differences

	<i>Gender</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
Suspicion	Woman	224	10.86	6.02	308	-.981	.33
of							
Infidelity							
	Man	86	11.63	6.51			

Table 5

History of Being Cheated

	<i>History</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
Suspicion	Yes	117	11.48	6.31	310	.783	.43
of							
Infidelity							
	No	195	10.91	6.10			

3.4. Component of the Investment Model Comparing History of being Cheated and Gender

All component of the Investment Model, except investment, did not differ based on gender differences (see Table 6). Moreover, they did not differ based on the history of being cheated either (see Table7).

Table 6*Gender Differences on the Investment Model*

	<i>Gender</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
Satisfaction	Woman	224	.657	.231	308	-.717	.47
	Man	86	.678	.234			
Quality of Alternatives	Woman	224	4.63	1.82	308	-1.02	.31
	Man	86	4.88	2.29			
Investment	Woman	224	4.70	1.82	308	-3.47	.00
	Man	86	5.57	2.23			
Commitment	Woman	224	.720	.245	308	1.24	.22
	Man	86	.679	.301			

Table 7*History of Being Cheated on the Investment Model*

	<i>History</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
Satisfaction	Yes	117	.656	.240	310	-.363	.72
	No	195	.666	.227			
Quality of Alternatives	Yes	117	4.77	2.10	310	.446	.66
	No	195	4.66	1.87			
Investment	Yes	117	4.86	2.01	310	-.582	.56
	No	195	5.00	1.96			
Commitment	Yes	117	.689	.280	310	-.831	.41
	No	195	.715	.253			

3.5. Regression-based Mediation Analyses

To test the current study's hypotheses that the Investment Model variables, which are satisfaction, investment, and quality of alternatives, mediated the relationship between the suspicion of infidelity and commitment, a mediation model was analyzed. The mediation model explained a significant unique variance in commitment, $R^2 = .595$, $F(4, 307) = 134.87$, $p < .001$.

Table 8

Model coefficients for predicting commitment in mediational analyses and model coefficients of suspicion of infidelity predicting satisfaction, quality of alternatives and investment

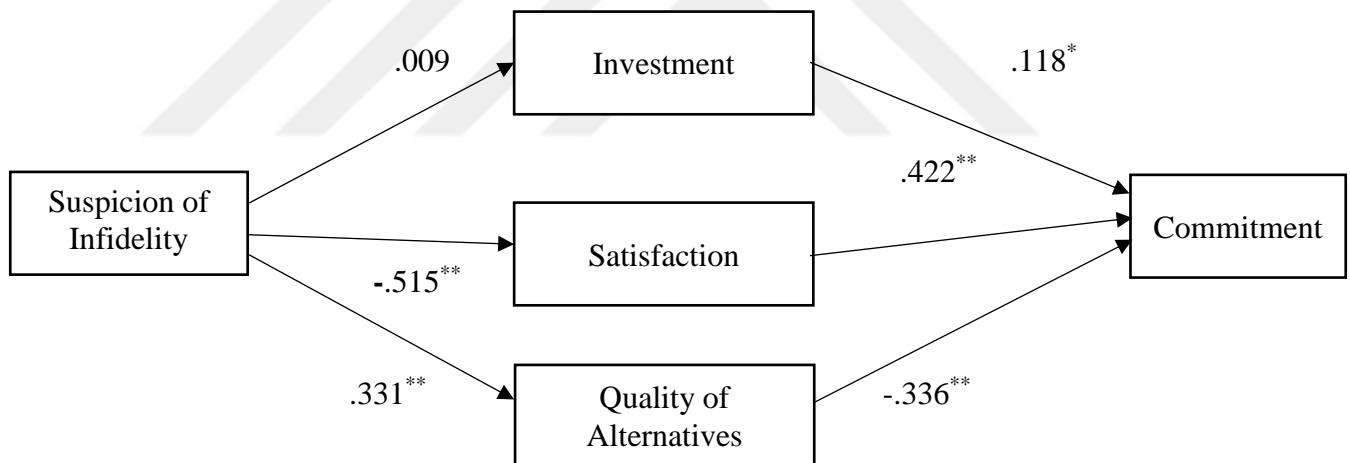
	Suspicion of			Commitment		
	Infidelity (X)			(Y)		
	b	SE	95% CI	b	SE	95% CI
Satisfaction (M_1)	-.019**	.002	-.023, -.016	.480**	.064	.354, .606
Quality of Alternatives (M_2)	.105**	.017	.071, .139	-.045**	.006	-.057, -.033
Investment (M_3)	.003	.019	-.035, .041	.016*	.006	.005, .027
Suspicion of Infidelity(X)	-	-	-	-.007*	.002	-.012, -.003

Note. All coefficients were unstandardized. M = mediator; X = independent variable; Y = dependent variable * $p < .01$, ** $p < .001$

Suspicion of infidelity was significantly and positively related to the quality of alternatives and negatively related to satisfaction, while suspicion of infidelity was not found to be related to investment. Quality of alternatives, satisfaction and investment were found to be significantly related to commitment. The relationship between suspicion of infidelity and commitment (the direct effect) was also significant (see Table 8 and Figure 3).

Figure 3

Standardized regression coefficients for the relationship suspicion of infidelity and commitment as mediated by the Investment Model variables which are investment, satisfaction and quality of alternatives.



Note. * $p < .01$, ** $p < .001$

The indirect effect of the quality of alternatives was significant ($B = -.005$, $SE = .001$, 95% $CI = -.007$ to $-.003$) and also the indirect effect of satisfaction was significant ($B = -.009$, $SE = .002$, 95% $CI = -.012$ to $-.007$). This was not the case for investment ($B = .000$, $SE = .000$, 95% $CI = -.001$ to $.001$).

4. DISCUSSION

4.1. Overview of the Study

Research on suspicion of infidelity is limited. For this reason, the aim of the study is to understand the relationship between suspicion of infidelity and commitment considering the Investment Model (Rusbult, 1980, 1983) variables; satisfaction, investment, and quality of alternatives. In this study, data provided by 312 young adults who were in a dating romantic relationship was analyzed to test our model where suspicion of infidelity is a predictor, satisfaction, quality of alternatives, and investment are mediators, and commitment is an outcome. Our results showed that age has a positive correlation with suspicion of infidelity and a negative correlation with investment. Suspicion of infidelity has a positive correlation with the quality of alternatives. Moreover, suspicion of infidelity is negatively correlated with satisfaction and commitment. In addition, our correlation results showed that commitment has a negative correlation with the quality of alternatives, and it has positive correlations with investment and satisfaction. Furthermore, two components of the Investment Model, the quality of the alternatives and satisfaction, partially mediated the relationship between suspicion of infidelity and commitment. Hence, H2 and H3 were partially supported, while H1 was not supported. In addition to the mediation analyses, we did explorative analyses for the gender differences and history of being cheated, assessing the difference between suspicion of infidelity as a function of these variables. Our results displayed that suspicion of infidelity did not show any differences based on gender differences or history of being cheated.

4.2. Component of The Investment Model and Suspicion of Infidelity

The aim of the current study was to examine the relationship between suspicion of infidelity and commitment with the aid of three components of the

Investment Model. Correlational findings showed that suspicion of infidelity had a negative correlation with the commitment, which was expected. This result is in the line of infidelity literature, which shows that infidelity negatively influences the level of commitment to the relationship (Drigotas et al., 1999; Fricker, 2006). Moreover, in a study among university students, extradyadic involvement in a dating relationship was more prevalent among those who had lower relationship commitment and were more accepting of dating infidelity than others who had higher relationship commitment and less welcoming attitudes about dating infidelity (Oikle, 2003). Suspicion of infidelity is related to the feeling of insecurity regarding the future of the current relationship and the status of the current relationship (Feeney, 2005). For this reason, when individuals' suspicion of infidelity becomes higher, individuals might feel more insecure about the future and status of their relationship, and it can have an impact on the commitment of the current relationship.

Suspicion of infidelity was positively associated with the quality of alternatives. This can be interpreted as the more people suspect that their partners are cheating on them, and the more they think that there are other alternatives around because suspicion of infidelity can give a signal that the relationship is on the verge of ending (Barelds & Dijkstra, 2007). Also, in the literature, previous studies found a positive relationship between infidelity and a high level of quality of alternatives (Drigotas et al., 1999; Fricker, 2006). It is known that when the quality of alternatives increases, it means that there are better options than the current relationship, and even solitude may be a better option (van der Wiel et al., 2018). Also, the quality of alternatives is found to be a significant predictor of unfaithful actions that consisted of sex and kissing (McAlister et al., 2005). On the other hand, the quality of alternatives was negatively correlated with commitment in the current study. It was consistent

with the results of a previous study conducted among Turkish university students (Anlatan, 2019). This study demonstrated that there was a negative relationship between the quality of alternatives and commitment to the relationship (Anlatan, 2019). In a study by Fricker (2006), the quality of alternatives was seen as a strong indicator of unfaithful behavior.

Our correlational results with regard to satisfaction and commitment were expected. According to other research, satisfaction was determined to be a strong predictor of commitment (Anlatan, 2019; Rusbult, 1980a, 1983; Taluy, 2013; Toplu-Demirtaş et al., 2013). A positively significant relationship between commitment and satisfaction was found in the current study. It was consistent with literature that satisfaction is positively correlated with commitment (Anlatan, 2019). Also, a negative correlation was found between suspicion of infidelity and satisfaction in the current study. In the line of the infidelity literature, another study found that satisfaction significantly and negatively correlated with physical and emotional infidelity and the author mentioned that a low level of relationship satisfaction became a strong predictor of infidelity (Shaye, 2009). It should not be forgotten that suspicion of infidelity and infidelity are different concepts; suspicion of infidelity is mostly related to one's own thoughts, but infidelity is mostly dependent on one's partner's actions. It is known that suspicion of infidelity can create a feeling of rejection (Mathes et al., 1985), and challenge individuals' perception of how a good relationship can be (Feeney, 2005). According to the result of the current study, the satisfaction level of the individuals who experience high level of suspicion of infidelity in their current relationship can decrease since the suspicion of infidelity can possibly increase negative affectivity (Harmon-Jones et al., 2009).

In the current study, as expected, the investment was positively correlated with commitment. This result is consistent with the literature (Anlatan, 2019). Furthermore, it is also expected that investment would be negatively correlated with suspicion of infidelity because it was known that investment is the resources one will lose when the relationship ends (Drigotas et al., 1999), and suspicion of infidelity can give a message regarding relationship can end (Barelds & Dijkstra, 2007). However, this relationship was not found to be significant in the current study. Similarly, in a previous study, emotional and physical infidelities were not predicted by investment either (Drigotas et al., 1999). Also, a recent study found a similar result among Turkish young adults for intentions towards infidelity (Anlatan, 2019). More interestingly, Fricker (2006) found that investment was actually positively correlated with unfaithful beliefs and also predicted a higher level of unfaithful behavior. In fact, these findings were unexpected, especially considering that investment has an impact on individuals' commitment to their relationships (Rusbult, 1986). Since this was contrary to what the Investment Model predicted, Fricker (2006) posed the investment as a component which may not be as crucial enough to discourage unfaithfulness. However, further research is necessary regarding this issue, considering possible mechanisms which may have an impact on commitment and suspicion of infidelity, such as the relationship status. For example, an earlier study showed that dating individuals reported the lowest level of investment (Büyüksahin & Hovardaoglu, 2007) compared to engaged and married individuals. In that regard, for a dating relationship, it may be possible to say that the investment is not a complete deterrent to infidelity and suspicion of infidelity, even if it has an enormous impact on the commitment to a relationship.

4.3. The Relation Between the Suspicion of Infidelity and Commitment

It is well recognized that the Investment Model can be used to predict infidelity in a heterosexual dating relationship (Drigotas et al., 1999). In this current study, we would like to test the Investment Model in order to understand the mediation effect on the relationship between suspicion of infidelity and individuals' commitment. Also, we invited young adults who have a current dating relationship.

In the current study, our findings showed that both direct and indirect effects of the quality of alternatives and satisfaction were significant among all the Investment Model variables. It means that these components of the Investment Model partially mediated the relationship between suspicion of infidelity and commitment. In other words, the quality of the alternatives and satisfaction components of the Investment Model mediated the relationship between suspicion of infidelity and commitment, but there might be other factors which can explain this relationship as well, such as attachment styles, love styles, personality differences, jealousy, and fear of being single.

In fact, a current study's result displayed that young adults who were anxiously attached were more likely to be suspicious of infidelity (Toplu-Demirtaş et al., 2022). Furthermore, a researcher investigating the relationship between love style and infidelity (Fricker, 2006) found that Ludus (game-playing love, see Lee, 1973) had a strong correlation with infidelity, and it was a predictor of infidelity where, Eros (passionate love, see Lee, 1973) had a negative correlation with infidelity and it was indicative of unfaithful behavior. Accordingly, the motivation for unfaithful behavior can be partially explained using the concept of adult attachment and the typology of love style (Fricker, 2006). Personality differences can be another mediator of the relationship commitment and suspicion of infidelity. Big Five Personality was used by

some infidelity studies. One of them found that individuals who have a higher score on Extroversion and Openness reported greater infidelity (Orzeck & Lung 2005). Romantic jealousy can also explain the relationship between suspicion of infidelity and commitment since it is one of the types of jealousy which can become a problematic issue in a romantic relationship (Kemer et al., 2016). Lastly fear of being single can be another mediator of the relationship between suspicion of infidelity and commitment. Fear of being single is defined as a general concern or distress about the situation of not having a romantic partner (Spielmann et al., 2013). Although fear of being single is widely studied in single individuals, individuals who are in a current relationship may report this type of anxiety to a greater degree because anxiety is about probable future threats (George et al., 2020; Spielmann et al., 2016).

In the current study, the quality of alternatives was one of the variables that partially mediated the relationship between suspicion of infidelity and commitment (H3). When suspicion of infidelity increased, participants might look around for new alternatives because suspicion of infidelity can give a message that the relationship is on the verge of ending (Barelds & Dijkstra, 2007). Looking at the new alternatives can possibly lead to a decreased level of commitment. In line with this result, it is known that the quality of alternatives had a negative relationship with commitment (Drigotas et al., 1999; Fricker, 2006). It means that if any alternative outside that relationship is high in quality, it affects commitment in that relationship. According to this result, H3 was partially supported.

The other Investment Model variable that partially explained the relationship between suspicion of infidelity and commitment was satisfaction (H2). In previous studies, satisfaction was mentioned as a strong predictor of commitment (Anlatan, 2019; Rusbult, 1980a, 1983; Taluy, 2013; Toplu-Demirtaş et al., 2013). In the current

study, satisfaction partially mediated the relationship between suspicion of infidelity and commitment. It may mean that when individuals' suspicion of infidelity increased, their level of satisfaction is decreased because suspicion of infidelity can increase negative emotions (Harmon-Jones et al., 2009) and create a feeling of rejection (Mathes et al., 1985). This decrement may affect their commitment to their relationship negatively because it is known that commitment becomes stronger when satisfaction level is higher in the relationship (Rusbult, 1983, Rusbult et al., 1986). In another study, satisfaction was positively correlated with commitment as well (Anlatan, 2019). Other component of the Investment Model, investment (H1), did not mediate the relationship between suspicion of infidelity and commitment. Investment is understood to be the resources one will lose when the relationship ends (Drigotas et al., 1999). For this reason, it is expected that investment mediated the relationship between suspicion of infidelity and commitment (H1). However, the results did not show what was expected. As mentioned above, the investment may not be a factor that is important enough to deter infidelity (Fricker, 2006). Moreover, the current study focused on dating relationship. An earlier study displayed that individuals who have a dating relationship reported the lowest level of investment (Büyüksahin & Hovardaoglu, 2007) when compared to engaged and married individuals. This may be a reason H1 was not supported because it can be possible to say that the investment is not a complete deterrent to infidelity and suspicion of infidelity in a dating relationship, even if the investment had an effect on the commitment to a relationship.

4.4. Explorative Analysis

4.4.1. The Differences in History of Being Cheated in Suspicion of Infidelity

The broken promises that partners have made to one another and the crushed dreams about the relationship are revealed by infidelity (Bischoff, 2003). According to literature, infidelity has an enormous impact not only on the noninvolved partner but also on the relationship (Whisman et al., 1997). Arguably interesting result in the current study, suspicion of infidelity did not show any differences based on the history of being cheated. However, infidelity is clearly known that there have been many negative outcomes for noninvolved partners. In the line of previous research about infidelity, decreased level of self-esteem, increased level of mental health problems, depression, and guilt are found more common consequences among victims of infidelity (Russell et al., 2013).

This may be because individuals' previous experience of infidelity does not affect all individuals, in the same way; not all individuals live infidelity consequences the same way. According to Charny and Parnass (1995), 53% of women and 67% of men who experienced infidelity mentioned that it negatively impacted their self-esteem, their self-image, and their sexual confidence. Another study showed that 34.4% of women who experienced infidelity in their marriage completed all DSM-IV criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder, despite the fact that extramarital infidelity is a traumatic event which did not meet the DSM- IV's criteria for PTSD (Özgün, 2010). The fact that not all individuals who experience infidelity show negative outcomes may explain the result of the current study. Future research can focus on the relationship between the history of being cheated and suspicion of infidelity in greater detail considering individual differences.

4.4.2. The Gender-related Differences in Suspicion of Infidelity

It has been known that one of the key variables for infidelity study that has been most frequently investigated is gender (Atkins et al., 2001). In this study, gender differences were researched as an explorative analysis. According to our findings, suspicion of infidelity did not differ based on gender. Previous research mentioned that suspicion of infidelity was found to be more common in men. (Brand et al. 2007) Moreover, the same study claimed that men were more likely to be unfaithful. In addition to these findings, many studies showed that men commit infidelity more often (Allen & Baucom, 2004; Atkins et al., 2001). Even after controlling for the relationship's status (dating or married) and regardless of the definition of infidelity ("have done" or "intend to"), the differences between gender persisted (Blow & Hartnett, 2005a; Schmitt, 2003). The fact that men are more associated with unfaithfulness may be the reason why they experience more suspicion of infidelity. However, according to Brand et al. (2007), women were equally or even more unfaithful than men. Also, when it came to emotional and sexual infidelity, there were no discernible gender differences, according to Shaye's study (2009), that involved participants aged between 18 to 30. Although gender is an important issue for infidelity, it can be difficult to reach a definitive conclusion because of the inconsistency of findings. Hence, a deeper investigation is needed on these issues. Future studies are recommended to focus on individual differences, relationship characteristics, and culture, which may have an impact on suspicion of infidelity and gender relationship.

4.5. Limitations of The Study and Recommendations for Future Studies

The current study had several limitations. Firstly, this study was cross-sectional. This makes it difficult for us to establish a causal or a strong predictive relationship. Future studies can adopt longitudinal designs. Relationship status can be another limitation of this study. We wanted to focus on dating relationships. However, infidelity is a situation that is not very easy to define and appears in many different contexts. According to Martin et al. (2016), the lack of clear boundaries, like in marriage, makes it difficult to identify infidelity in a dating relationship. In addition to relationship status, we invited individuals who are between the age of 18 and 30 as participants. The fact that only people between the ages of 18 and 30 with a dating relationship participated in the study may hamper the external validity. The current study shows that suspicion of infidelity had a positive correlation with age. For this reason, by keeping the age range wider, including married and engaged couples in the study, future studies can be conducted. Another limitation could be the distribution of gender. In this study, the number of woman participants was higher than man participants. For future studies, researchers may try to include more man participants, especially while assessing gender-related differences. In general, considering the characteristic of the sample; most participants were women, college educated, heterosexual, and middle-class. This can be another limitation of this study making it difficult to generalize the results to the whole population.

In the previous part, we mentioned that there might be other possible mediators such as personality (Orzeck & Lung, 2005; Shackelford et al., 2008; Shaye, 2009); attachment styles (Russell et al., 2013); fear of being single (Sakman et al., 2021); jealously (Kemer et al., 2016) and love styles (Fricker, 2006) which potentially

influence the model but were not considered in the current study. Future research is recommended to focus on these mediators.

4.6. Clinical Implication

It is known that in many couples therapy practices, therapists frequently work with the issue of infidelity (Blow & Hartnett, 2005b). Also, suspicion of infidelity can be another important topic in clinical practice because of the fact that individuals who suspect their partners of infidelity are more likely to feel insecure regarding the status and future of their relationships, as well as they develop a distrust of their relationship (Feeney, 2005; Guerrero & Andersen, 1998) and increased negative feelings (Harmon-Jones et al., 2009). When a client is talking about suspicion of a partner's infidelity, the therapist can learn more information regarding the person's satisfaction and him/her quality of alternatives. Also, the details about the commitment level can be more elaborated because of possible negative relationship between the suspicion of infidelity and commitment. Furthermore, the current study showed that satisfaction and quality of alternatives partially mediated the relationship between suspicion of infidelity and commitment. With regard to quality of alternatives, it should be noted that a better alternative than an existing relationship does not always have to be a new individual. Sometimes being alone can be a better option than the current relationship (van der Wiel et al., 2018). Also, high level of satisfaction or positive feelings to a relationship is related to stronger commitment (Rusbult, 1983, Rusbult et al., 1986). For these reasons, in the therapy session, therapists can focus on the individuals' level of satisfaction and their alternatives and obtain more information to understand the relationship between suspicion of infidelity and commitment.

5. CONCLUSION

In this study, we investigated the relationship between suspicion of infidelity and commitment to the relationship, with the help of the Investment Model variables which are quality of alternatives, investment, and satisfaction. We found that the relationship between suspicion of infidelity and commitment was partially mediated by the quality of alternatives and satisfaction. Moreover, no gender difference or history of being- cheated-related differences were observed in suspicion of infidelity. This study has the potential to significantly contribute to the literature on infidelity because, as highlighted in previous studies, suspicion of infidelity has some significant impacts not only on the individuals but also on their relationships. However, the literature on suspicion of infidelity is limited, although this topic is immensely important both for mental and physical health (Weigel & Shrout, 2021, 2022). The current study can help to have a better understanding of the infidelity literature within the context of suspicion of infidelity and commitment. Future studies are recommended to study married couples and examine other important variables such as attachment, love styles, fear of being single, jealousy, and personality traits for a better understanding of the relationship between suspicion of infidelity and commitment.

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Appendix A: Informed Consent

Bu çalışma Yeditepe Üniversitesi Klinik Psikoloji Yüksek Lisans Programı kapsamında Dr. Öğretim Üyesi Ayşe Berna Sarı Arasıl danışmanlığında Sena Çobanoğlu tarafından bir tez çalışması olarak yürütülmektedir. Çalışmaya YALNIZCA en az 6 aydır devam eden (evli veya nişanlı bireyler HARİÇ) romantik bir ilişkisi olan 18-30 yaş arası yetişkinlerin katılması beklenmektedir. Çalışmada romantik ilişkilerdeki tutumlar incelenecaktır. Katılımcılardan şu anda var olan romantik ilişkilerine dair yaklaşık 10-15 dakika süren anket sorularını yönergeleri takip ederek yanıtlamaları beklenmektedir. (Çalışmaya mobil cihazlar üzerinden katılan katılımcıların ekranlarını yana çevirerek soruları doldurmaları gerekmektedir.)

Bu çalışmaya katılmak tamamen gönüllülük esasına dayanmaktadır. Bu formu okuyup onaylamanız araştırmaya katılmayı kabul ettiğiniz anlamına gelmektedir. Ancak çalışmaya katılmama veya katıldıktan sonra herhangi bir anda çalışmayı bırakma hakkına da sahipsiniz. Bu çalışmaya katılmanın sizin açısından herhangi bir risk ya da fayda oluşturmaması beklenmemektedir. Çalışmadan edinilecek veriler tamamen bilimsel amaçlarla mesleki ve bilimsel etik çerçevesinde kullanılacaktır. Eğer araştırma ile ilgili daha fazla bilgiye edinmek isterseniz e-posta adresine mail atabilirsiniz.

- Yukarıda yer alan bilgileri okudum ve katılmam istenen çalışmanın amacını ve gerekliliklerini anladım. Çalışmaya gönüllü olarak katılmayı kabul ediyorum.**

Appendix B:

Algılanan - Partnerin Aldatmaya Yönelik Niyeti Ölçeği

Sorularda belirtilenleri partnerinizin ne derecede yapabilme olasılığı olduğunu, aşağıdaki derecelendirmeyi kullanarak, her sorunun karşısında verilen numaraları işaretleyerek belirtiniz.

Hiç olası değil 1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7

Tümüyle olası

1. Yakalanmayacağını bilse, partnerinizin sizi aldatma olasılığı ne olurdu?

Hiç olası değil 1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7 Tümüyle olası

2. Partnerinizin sizi aldattığı konusunda size yalan söyleme olasılığı ne kadardır?

Hiç olası değil 1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7 Tümüyle olası

3. Partneriniz sizi aldatırsa, partnerinizin durumdan kolayca sıyrılabilme olasılığının ne kadar olduğunu düşünüyorsunuz?

Hiç olası değil 1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7 Tümüyle olası

4. Partnerinizin çekici bulduğu bir kişiden sizinle olan ilişkisini saklama olasılığı ne kadardır?

Hiç olası değil 1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7 Tümüyle olası

5. Partnerinizin gelecekte sizi aldatma olasılığı ne kadardır?

Hiç olası değil 1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7 Tümüyle olası

Appendix C: İlişki istikrarı Ölçeği

I. İlişki Doyumu

1) Şu anki yakın ilişkinizi göz önüne alarak, aşağıdaki ifadelerden her birine ne derece katıldığınızı belirtiniz.

	Tamamen Yanlış	Oldukça Yanlış	Oldukça Doğru	Tamamıyla Doğru
a) Birlikte olduğum kişi, kişisel düşünceleri, sırları paylaşma gibi yakınlık gereksinimlerimi karşılıyor.				
b) Birlikte olduğum kişi beraberce bir şeyle yapma, beraber olmaktan keyif alma gibi arkadaşlık gereksinimlerimi karşılıyor.				
c) Birlikte olduğum kişi el ele tutuşma, öpüşme gibi cinsel gereksinimlerimi karşılıyor.				
d) Birlikte olduğum kişi istikrarlı bir ilişki içinde güvende ve rahat hissetme gereksinimlerimi karşılıyor.				
e) Birlikte olduğum kişi duygusal olarak bağlı hissetme, o iyi hissettiğinde kendimi iyi hissetmem gibi gereksinimlerimi karşılıyor.				

2) İlişkimiz benim için doyum verici.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Tamamen yanlış

Tamamıyla doğru

3) İlişkim başkalarının ilişkilerinden çok daha iyi.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

4) İlişkim ideal bir ilişkiye yakındır.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Tamamen yanlış Tamamıyla doğru

5) İlişkimiz beni çok mutlu ediyor.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

6) İlişkimiz yakınlık, arkadaşlık vb. gereksinimlerimi karşılama açısından oldukça başarılı.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Tamamen yanlış Tamamıyla doğru

II. Seçeneklerin Niteliğini Değerlendirme

1) Lütfen **bir başkasıyla beraber olduğunuzu varsayıñ** ve sizce bu kişi gereksinimleriniz ne oranda karşıladı, tahminlerinizi göz önüne alarak aşağıdaki ifadelerin her birine ne derece katıldığınızı belirtiniz.

	Tamamen Yanlış	Oldukça Yanlış	Oldukça Doğru	Tamamıyla Doğru
a) Kişisel düşünceleri, sırları paylaşma gibi yakınlık gereksinimlerim bir başkasıyla beraber olsam da karşılanabilir.				
b) Birlikte bir şeyler yapma, birbirinin varlığından keyif alma gibi arkadaşlık gereksinimlerim bir başkasıyla beraber olsam da karşılanabilir.				
c) El ele tutuşma, öpüşme gibi cinsel gereksinimlerim bir başkasıyla beraber olsam da karşılanabilir.				
d) İstikrarlı bir ilişkide güvende ve rahat hissetme gereksinimlerim bir başkasıyla beraber olsam da karşılanabilir.				
e) Duygusal olarak bağlanmış hissetme, bir başkası iyi hissettiğinde iyi hissetme gibi duygusal bağlılık gereksinimlerim bir başkasıyla beraber olsam da karşılanabilir.				

2) Birlikte olduğum kişi dışında bana çok çekici gelen insanlar var.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Tamamen yanlış

Tamamıyla doğru

3) Bir başkasıyla flört etme, kendi kendime ya da arkadaşlarımıla zaman geçirmek gibi seçeneklerim de var.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Tamamen yanlış

Tamamıyla doğru

4) Birlikte olduğum kişiyle çıkmıyor olsaydım, bir şey değişmezdi- çekici bir başka kişi bulabilirdim.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Tamamen yanlış

Tamamıyla doğru

5) Bir başkasıyla flört etme, kendi kendime ya da arkadaşlarımıla zaman geçirmek bana oldukça çekici geliyor.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Tamamen yanlış

Tamamıyla doğru

7) Yakınlık, arkadaşlık gibi gereksinimlerim bir başka ilişkide de kolaylıkla karşılanabilir.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Tamamen yanlış

Tamamıyla doğru

III. İlişki Yatırımı

1)

Şu andaki ilişkinizi göz önüne alarak, aşağıdaki ifadelerin her birine ne derecede katkıdığını belirtiniz.

	Tamamen Yanlış	Oldukça yanlış	Oldukça doğru	Tamamıyla doğru
a) İlişkimiz için çok fazla yatırım yaptım.				
b) Birlikte olduğum kişiye, sırlarım gibi pek çok özel şey anlatmaktayım.				
c) Birlikte olduğum kişi ve ben birlikte, yeri doldurulması güç bir entelektüel yaşama sahibiz.				
d) Bireysel kimlik duygum yani kim olduğum birlikte olduğum kişi ve ilişkimizle bağlantılı.				
e) Birlikte olduğum kişi ve ben pek çok anayı paylaşıyoruz.				

2) İlişkimize öyle çok yatırım yaptım ki, eğer bu ilişki sona erecek olursa çok şey kaybetmiş olurum.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Tamamen yanlış

Tamamıyla doğru

3) Boş zaman etkinlikleri gibi yaşamımın pek çok yönü, şu anda birlikte olduğum kişiye çok fazla bağlı ve eğer ayrılarak olursak bunların hepsini kaybederim.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

4) İlişkimize çok fazla bağlandığımı ve bu ilişkiye çok şey verdığımı hissediyorum.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

5) Birlikte olduğum kişiyle ayrılmamız, aile ve arkadaşlarımıla olan ilişkilerimi olumsuz etkiler.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

6) Başkalarının ilişkileriyle karşılaşılırsa, ben ilişkime oldukça fazla yatırım yapmaktayım.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

IV. Bağlanım

Tamamen yanlış

Tamamıyla doğru

1. İlişkimizin çok uzun bir süre devam etmesini istiyorum.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Tamamen yanlış

Tamamıyla doğru

2. Birlikte olduğum kişiyle olan ilişkime bağılıyım.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Tamamen yanlış

Tamamıyla doğru

3. İlişkimiz çok yakın bir zamanda bitecek olsa çok büyük üzüntü hissetmezdim.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Tamamen yanlış

Tamamıyla doğru

4. Önümüzdeki yıl muhtemelen başka biriyle flört ediyor olacağım.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Tamamen yanlış

Tamamıyla doğru

5. Birlikte olduğum kişiye ve ilişkimize çok bağlanmış hissediyorum.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Tamamen yanlış

Tamamıyla doğru

6. İlişkimizin sonsuza kadar sürmesini istiyorum.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Tamamen yanlış

Tamamıyla doğru

7. İlişkimizin gelecekte de devam edecek bir ilişki olmasını istiyorum (örn., birlikte olduğum kişiyle yıllarca beraber olmayı hayal ediyorum).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Tamamen yanlış

Tamamıyla doğru

Appendix D: Demographic Information Form

1-Yaşınız:

2-Cinsiyetiniz:

- Kadın
- Erkek
- Diğer

3- Cinsel Yöneliminiz:

- Heteroseksüel
- Gey/Lezbiyen
- Biseksüel
- Diğer
- Belirtmek istemiyorum

4- Eğitim Durumunuz: (Lütfen son mezun olduğunuz dereceyi işaretleyiniz)

- İlkokul
- Ortaokul
- Lise
- Üniversite
- Lisansüstü (yüksek lisans/doktora)

5-Ekonominik Durumunuz;

- Alt
- Alt-Orta
- Orta-Üst
- Üst

6-Aşağıdaki seçeneklerden şu anki ilişkinizi tanımlayan ifadeyi işaretleyiniz

- Flört
- Nişanlı
- Evli

7-İlişkiniz Ne Kadar Süredir Devam Ediyor? (Lütfen AY olarak belirtiniz, yaklaşık değer verebilirsiniz).

8-Sevgilinizle aynı evi paylaşıyor musunuz?

- Evet
- Hayır

9-Daha önceki romantik ilişkilerinizde aldatıldınız mı?

- Evet
- Hayır

Appendix E: Çalışma Sonu Bilgilendirme Formu

Genç yetişkinlerin ilişki bağlanımları ve ilişki içindeki yaşamış oldukları aldatılma şüphesi arasındaki ilişkinin incelendiği bu çalışmaya katıldığınız için teşekkür ederiz. Bağlanım romantik ilişkileri sürdürmek ve psikolojik olarak partnere ve ilişkiye bağlı olmayı kapsar. Bu çalışmada kişilerin aldatılma şüphesi ile ilişkiye devam etme durumlarına etki edebilecek ilişki doyumu, diğer seçeneklerin niteliği ve ilişkiye yapılan yatırım miktarı faktörlerinin incelenmesi hedeflenmiştir. Elde edilen bilgiler sadece bilimsel amaçlarla kullanılacaktır.

Herhangi bir sorunla karşılaştıysanız, araştırma boyunca sizi rahatsız hissettiren bir durum oluştussa veya sormak istediğiniz bir soru varsa e-mail adresinden bizimle iletişime geçebilirsiniz.

Çalışmanın sağlıklı ilerleyebilmesi için çalışmaya katılacağınızı bildiğiniz diğer kişilerle çalışma ile ilgili detaylı bilgi paylaşımında bulunmamanızı dileriz.

Değerli katılımınız için tekrar çok teşekkür ederiz.

Sena Cobanoğlu

Appendix F: Ethics Committee Permission



YEDİTEPE ÜNİVERSİTESİ REKTÖRLÜĞÜ

05.10.2021

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İLGİLİ MAKAMA

Üniversitemiz Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü Klinik Psikoloji Yüksek Lisans öğrencisi Sena Çobanoğlu'nun, Dr. Öğr. Üyesi Berna Sarı Arasıl danışmanlığında yürütülecek olan "Suspicion of Infidelity in Romantic Relationship: Investment Model Perspective" başlıklı araştırmasının beşeri bilimler etik standartlarına uygunluğuna ilişkin Yeditepe Üniversitesi Beşeri ve Sosyal Araştırmalar Etik Kurul Onayı ekte sunulmuştur.

Gerekli iznin verilmesi hususunu bilgilerinize arz ve rica ederim.

İmza
 Prof. Dr. Fatma Yeşim EKİNCİ
 Rektör a.
 Rektör Yardımcısı

Bu belge, güvenli elektronik imza ile imzalanmıştır.
 Belge Doğrulama Adresi : <http://belgedogrulama.yeditepe.edu.tr/bg.aspx?id=744EEC96-013A-40F2-AEF3-75D542043B6B>
 Yeditepe Üniversitesi 26 Ağustos Yerleşimi, İnönü Mahallesi Kayıdağı
 Caddesi 34755
 Ataşehir / İSTANBUL
 Telefon No: (0216) 578 00 00 Faks No : (0216) 578 02 99
 Internet Adresi www.yeditepe.edu.tr
 Kep Adresi : yeditepeuniversitesi@hs03.kep.tr

Bilgi İçin: Suat ANAR

Telefon No: (0216) 578 00 00

