The ManyCouples Project

A cross-cultural study on love and well-being

Collaboration Agreement

This agreement clarifies how the international collaboration on the ManyCouples project will be structured and credited. All potential collaborators must read and accept this agreement before applying.

The project aims to investigate love and well-being within romantic relationships, along with several related constructs that allow additional research questions. One of our primary goals is to build a large, diverse, and broadly representative cross-cultural sample of couples spanning more than 50 countries.

The project's principal investigator (PI) and leader of the core team is Marta Kowal (University of Wrocław, Poland). Members of the core team include Piotr Sorokowski, Anna Kusztal, and Amelia Ciniawska from the University of Wrocław, Poland; Michał Misiak from the University of Wrocław, Poland and the University of Oxford, United Kingdom; Joshua Conrad Jackson from Harvard University, United States; and S. Craig Roberts from the University of Stirling, United Kingdom. The PI oversees the project as a whole and makes decisions in consultation with the core team, retaining the final say where views differ.

You can contact the PI via email at marta7kowal@gmail.com or the core team at support@martakowal.com. We invite researchers and academics to apply and collaborate on investigating how love is experienced across cultures around the world. If you wish to see the survey before applying, please write to the PI.

Note for collaborators based in Poland: As the core team is largely based in Poland, different data collection requirements may apply to collaborators based in Poland than to collaborators from other countries. For example, Polish collaborators may be asked to collect data from 60 rather than 30 couples, or to collect data from 30 couples in a country other than Poland. Such requirements will be considered on a case-by-case basis and agreed individually with each Polish collaborator before data collection begins (see sections *Roles and Responsibilities* and *Authorship*).

➢ Conduct and Ethics

Each collaborator is personally responsible for the accuracy and integrity of their work on this project.

By registering to participate, each collaborator agrees to:

- Follow the standardized research protocols provided by the project team
- Maintain data quality standards and participate in quality assurance procedures
- Share de-identified data according to the project's policy (see section *Data Sharing & Open Science*)
- Respect intellectual property and authorship guidelines established by the consortium
- Communicate regularly with the project coordination team
- Document and report any potential issues to the team
- If needed, obtain necessary ethics approvals at their institution before starting data collection
- Conduct this research in accordance with local research regulations and internationally recognized ethical standards (e.g., the Declaration of Helsinki)
- Reflect the collaborative nature of the project in all future publications
- Participate in good faith and contribute to the project's success

Each collaborator obtains ethics approval from their own institution, unless they have ensured that they can act under the approval granted to the principal investigator by the Ethics Committee at the Institute of Psychology, University of Wrocław (approval no. 2025/AWWQO and 2026/AQQWE/EXT). All materials needed for an ethics application can be found below in a shared drive:

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/2/folders/1gL5e9oQ9g18-ZXluCbqXIHHX65aNbTco

➢ Roles and Responsibilities

When applying to become a collaborator on the project, you agree to take on one or more of the following roles and respective responsibilities.

1. Core Roles (collaborators are required to choose one or both of the following to participate in the project):

- **Data Collection**

Data collection is a required contribution for authorship (see section *Authorship*). By choosing this role, you agree to collect complete data from at least 30 couples (60 participants) by sending participants the link to the online survey. This means that both members of a pair (couple) must complete the survey in full (i.e., not be screened out by attention checks and make it to the end of the survey). Different requirements may apply to collaborators based in Poland (see the note below).

How do I collect data?

You can collect data in a way that is most feasible for you, for example, by inviting students, using survey panels, or your own networks. Participant codes, redirection links or ID capture for panels such as Prolific or MTurk will be provided for you. We ask for samples as diverse as possible in age, gender, residence, and socioeconomic background, inside and outside academia. If the target population has no internet access, we ask that you contact the PI to discuss alternatives.

Note for collaborators based in Poland: As the core team is largely based in Poland, we anticipate particularly strong interest in the project among Polish researchers. If this is the case, we may discuss with individual Polish collaborators the possibility of collecting data in countries other than Poland to help ensure balanced and diverse representation of participants in the final dataset (e.g., by collecting data in countries where recruitment is otherwise unlikely to meet the target sample size, provided that collaborators have the necessary resources). In practice, this means that the standard requirement of 30 couples described above may not apply to collaborators based in Poland. Instead, Polish collaborators may be asked, for example, to collect complete data from more couples or to collect data from couples in a country other than Poland. These arrangements will be considered on a case-by-case basis and discussed individually with each Polish collaborator before data collection begins.

- **Translation**
  To ensure high-quality translation of study materials, collaborators who are native speakers of one or more languages in which data collection is planned are invaluable.

How is translation handled?

As a translator, you will receive detailed instructions, the base (English) version of the questionnaire, and an initial translation prepared with AI. Your role will be to proofread the AI translations for accuracy and cultural appropriateness, and propose necessary changes.

2. Additional Roles (optional for interested collaborators):

- **Data Analysis**
  Contributing to statistical analyses after data collection is finished.

- **Writing**
  Commenting and improving the manuscripts the core team drafts.

Core Team Responsibilities

The core team is responsible for coordinating the project and supporting collaborators by:

- Providing study materials, protocols, and guidance on recruitment, translation, and ethics applications;
- Communicating timelines, milestones, and relevant changes, and responding to collaborators' questions;
- Managing and monitoring data quality and maintaining contribution records;
- Coordinating analyses and publications, giving eligible collaborators opportunities to review and discuss manuscripts, and obtaining final author approval before submission;
- Applying the agreed authorship rules consistently and addressing concerns and disagreements fairly.

Collaborators remain responsible for their agreed contributions, local ethics requirements, and local teams and costs, as described in this agreement.

➢ Authorship

How do I become a co-author?

To become a co-author, you must contribute to data collection as well as read and approve the final manuscript. For every 30 couples recruited through your personalized study link, you will be invited to collaborate on and co-author one paper arising from the project. Recruiting 60 couples qualifies you for an invitation to co-author two papers, while recruiting 90 couples qualifies you for three. Finally, researchers who recruit at least 100 couples will be invited to collaborate on all publications planned by the core team using data from this project, up to and including the data descriptor describing the final dataset. An invitation is where the work starts, not where it ends: co-authorship follows the contribution you make to each manuscript.

For each manuscript on which they are invited to be a co-author, collaborators will have the opportunity to read the full draft and provide comments before submission. To be considered an author, each collaborator must remain engaged beyond data collection by reading the manuscript and explicitly approving the final version before submission. Data collection alone does not qualify a collaborator for authorship.

Please note that for collaborators based in Poland, the number of couples required for each co-authorship invitation may differ from the thresholds above (e.g., 60 rather than 30 couples per paper, or couples recruited in a country other than Poland), as agreed individually with the core team before data collection begins (see section *Data Collection*).

Only complete responses from both members of a pair (couple) count toward your contribution. A response is considered complete if the participant passes the attention checks and completes the survey in full.

You may collect data independently or, at your own discretion, establish and lead a data collection team at your institution. Students, research assistants, and other collaborators may help you recruit participants. However, a co-authorship invitation is based on each registered collaborator's individual recruitment contribution, not simply on membership in a team. If you involve others, you are responsible for agreeing on and providing any compensation or recognition for their contributions; the core team does not arrange this.

If your team members recruit couples using your personalized link, those couples will count toward your recruitment total. Team members who recruit through your link will not receive individual credit toward co-authorship eligibility for those couples. If they wish to qualify for co-authorship in their own right, they must register separately as collaborators and obtain their own personalized study link.

Can I use the collected data for my own paper?

You can write your own paper using the collected data. Collaborators will have privileged access to the data before final publication, but are required to contact the PI first to check that the idea does not overlap with papers planned by the core team. Then, collaborators should pre-register the hypotheses and analysis plan, receive the dataset, run the analyses, and write the first draft. The project's co-authorship rules apply, and teams proposing a new manuscript should consult with the PI and the core team, who should be invited to co-author the paper. These rules apply until the data descriptor describing the final dataset has been published (see section *Data Sharing & Open Science*).

If you wish to do so, you are also welcome to add your own questions at the very end of the survey link used by your participants. Please contact us to discuss and set this up ahead of time, as soon as your application to become a collaborator is accepted.

How is authorship order determined?

By contribution, following four rules.

1. The core team, which leads the project, takes the first and the last positions.

2. The number of couples collected determines how many papers you are invited to and the order.

3. Where numbers are similar (within about 100 participants), tiers apply: substantial contribution to revising the final manuscript; leading both the translation and the data collection team; leading the translation team; leading the data collection team; helping with translation and collecting data; collecting data.

4. Where contributions are comparable or cannot be reliably distinguished using the criteria above, co-authors within the same contribution tier will be listed alphabetically by surname.

➢ Anticipated Outcomes

At least five papers, in high-impact journals, with the final paper being a data descriptor (published in a relevant journal such as Scientific Data). First publications are planned 24 to 30 months after the start of the project, with preprints likely published earlier.

➢ Data Sharing & Open Science

Regarding the data you collect for this project, you agree that:

- De-identified data will be deposited in an open repository after the embargo period,
- Data will be shared under the license agreed on by the consortium,
- Participants will be informed about de-identified data sharing in the consent form,
- You will not publish results from the shared dataset before the primary publications prepared by the core team.

Can I use the data for student theses or presentations?

Yes. Before the primary publications, data from the project may be used in student theses (e.g., bachelor's or master's theses) and in conference or other presentations, provided that they clearly reflect the collaborative nature of the project (e.g., by naming the ManyCouples project and acknowledging the core team and the consortium). Please contact the PI and the core team before starting such a thesis or presentation, so that the details can be discussed and agreed on individually. If your institution requires theses to be posted in a public repository, please let us know in advance.

What happens after the data descriptor is published?

Once the data descriptor describing the final dataset has been published, everyone is free to use the data to address their own research questions, provided that the dataset and the data descriptor are appropriately cited. From that point on, the co-authorship rules described in section *Authorship* no longer apply: authors of new papers based on the data are not required to invite other team members as co-authors, although they are warmly encouraged to do so.

➢ Publication Process and Disagreements

In a large, international research collaboration, differences of opinion about the final manuscript content and publication decisions are inevitable. We welcome constructive discussion and encourage collaborators who wish to take part in writing to share their perspectives and suggestions in the first drafts.

The core team will carefully consider feedback from co-authors. However, to ensure that manuscripts can be completed and submitted in a timely and coherent manner, final decision-making authority regarding the content and direction of publications rests with the core team and, ultimately, with the PI.

Once a manuscript has been finalized, all eligible collaborators will be invited to confirm whether they wish to be listed as co-authors of that paper. Co-authorship will therefore require an explicit agreement to participate in the publication.

➢ Communication

To coordinate the project, we need your consent to:

- Contact you via email about protocol updates and project milestones,
- Include you in the collaborator mailing list for the duration of the project,
- Share your name and affiliation with other collaborators in the consortium.

- Collaborators must keep their email address up to date. If they fail to respond to a manuscript review or authorship confirmation request within 15 days, we reserve the right to omit them from that manuscript's author list.

➢ Withdrawal from the Project

Participation in the project is voluntary, and collaborators are free to withdraw at any time by informing the PI by email. Please note, however, that all data collected for the project are automatically recorded in a central project dataset governed by the PI and the core team. Data collected before a collaborator's withdrawal will therefore remain in the dataset and may continue to be used in all project publications, in line with the consent given by participants. Collaborators who withdraw will no longer receive co-authorship invitations. However, we recognize that personal or professional circumstances may warrant exceptions and encourage collaborators to contact the PI to discuss their situation.

The core team reserves the right to remove a collaborator from the project in cases of ethical, methodological, or academic misconduct, after reviewing the concerns and giving the collaborator an opportunity to respond.

➢ Funding

The project is funded by the Polish National Science Centre (NCN; SONATA-20; grant no. 2024/55/D/HS6/00262), but the grant does not cover collaborators' work, ethics applications, data collection, or participant compensation. Local costs are covered by the collaborators.

I have read the Collaboration Agreement in full and agree to the terms.