

# We're learning more about the role of **nonverbal synchrony** in romantic relationships.



## Nonverbal Synchrony in Long-Term Romantic Relationships

Testing for Associations with Relationship Length, Rapport, and Love in the Moment

### Background

- Nonverbal synchrony is the coordination of movement that occurs between people in an interaction. This often happens spontaneously!
- Nonverbal synchrony is a component of rapport, an interactional experience that promotes the development and maintenance of social bonds (Tickle-Degnen & Rosenthal, 1990).

### Methods



Analyzed video and survey data from n=154 romantic couples



Used OpenPose for automated coding of nonverbal synchrony

### Results

We did not find evidence for associations between nonverbal synchrony and relationship length, rapport, or love in the moment.

### Future Directions

- Investigating nonverbal synchrony in a wider variety of conversational contexts (the present study used only one conversation, which was in a positive context)
- Investigating less established romantic relationships (all couples in the present study had been together for at least 6 months)
- Incorporating multiple camera angles for more accurate pose estimation using OpenPose (the present study used only one camera)
- Aggregating measures for nonverbal synchrony (the present study used only one measure for nonverbal synchrony)