



## TITLE: Understanding the Meaning-Making of Romantic Relationships among Emerging Adults after Parental Divorce

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### ABSTRACT

Pursuing a romantic relationship is one of the most important developmental aspects of emerging adults. With the increasing divorce rate in Indonesia, the authors were interested in exploring how emerging adults make sense of romantic relationships after parental divorce. Three participants and two significant others were interviewed in this present study, in which interpretive phenomenological analysis was used as the approach to interpreting the data. This study generated two themes that show how emerging adults make meaning of romantic relationships, namely as a source of fear and a source of support. This contradictory meaning-making relates to the experience the participants had during their parents' divorce process and what they learned from the media or their significant others. These, coupled with human agency and the need for love, encourage the participants to learn from their parents' mistakes, develop certain behavioral patterns, and continue to seek romantic relationships in their lives. This study shows how interaction between parents during a divorce process can shape the meaning-making and behavior patterns in the child's romantic relationships. Therefore, it is suggested that divorced parents build an open communication, show positive interactions, and minimize exposing their children to negative interactions during the divorce process.

### BIOGRAPHY

Carissa is an aspiring clinical psychologist who is currently pursuing the master's degree in Universitas Gadjah Mada. Her interests include several topics in psychology such as life-span human development, interpersonal relationships, self-concept, as well as mental health. Her passion in the field were shown in several of her experiences. Her most recent experience was being a Mental Health Counselor for several Non-Profit Organizations in Indonesia, handling several clients with different concerns ranging from educational, vocational, interpersonal, and mental health related. Other than that, Carissa has been involved in several research and academic writing in her faculty. Her undergraduate thesis research was published as an article in a prestigious journal in Indonesia with the title *Understanding the Meaning-Making of Romantic Relationships among Emerging Adults after Parental Divorce*. She too led the writing and publishing process of an academic magazine in her faculty which discussed topics related to Gender Psychology. Carissa was also once a member of Center for Indigenous and Cultural Psychology of Universitas Gadjah Mada.



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