Journal of Sport Behavior 2021
Vol. 44(4) 447-467
www.journalofsportbehavior.org

Article

What Do Their Partners Say? An Examination of Fan-Family Conflict Through the Lens of Sport Fans' Significant Others

Jason M. Simmons[1]*, Alicia Cintron[1], and Heidi Grappendorf[2]

[1] University of Cincinnati
[2] Western Carolina University
* Correspondence: Jason.simmons@uc.edu; Tel.: +01-513-556-6748

Received: July 2020; Accepted: March 2021; Published: December 2021

Abstract: To date, much of the literature examining inter-role conflict between sport fan and family roles (i.e., fan-family conflict) has focused on this phenomenon from the perspective of the sport fan. Yet prior research has identified a clear spillover effect of fandom affecting significant others in the form of increased household responsibilities and emotional withdrawal from the family (Simmons et al., 2018; Tinson et al., 2017), and has the potential to put a strain on relationships (Vallerand et al., 2008). The current study sought to expand our understanding of fan-family conflict by adding the perspectives of significant others of highly identified sport fans. Interviews were conducted with 12 such participants to gain insights into the types of fan-family conflict experienced within their households, as well as the contributors to conflict. Three types of fan-family conflict were prevalent among those interviewed: time-based, strain-based, and behavior-based. Contributors to conflict included family life cycle, time devoted to the fan role, value incongruity, adherence to traditional gender roles, and fan role support.

Keywords: sport fans; family; inter-role conflict; fan-family conflict

Introduction

Gantz (2012) defined sports fans as "individuals who are consciously and willingly vested in following sports. They watch, read, write, and talk sports because they care, because a

player, team, league, or sport matter to them" (p. 178). It is not an overly complex definition; however, embedded within are the finite resources (i.e., time, financial, energy) sport fans devote to their fan role as they consume sports. Because sports "matter to them," fans may become preoccupied with sport, allowing that preoccupation to spill over and affect other roles, such as family (Simmons et al., 2018). The terms "sports widow" or "football widow" are used to describe someone who is married/partnered to a die-hard sports fan who, at times, prioritizes sport fandom over family (Smalley, 2015). Popular press is rife with stories and examples of sport widows, with terms such as frustrated, annoyed, resentful, neglected, overlooked, and relationship-killing being used to describe this phenomenon (Peachman, 2013; Saltz, 2007; Smalley, 2015; Whitbourne, 2013). Issues can arise where one's significant other wants to watch a game or is constantly distracted on their mobile device, thus potentially leaving a partner frustrated and solely responsible for all household and childcare responsibilities.

Simmons and Greenwell (2014) referred to these types of scenarios as fan-family conflict, defined as perceived difficulty simultaneously balancing the demands of one's fan and family roles. Scholarly exploration into this phenomenon to date has largely focused on the perspective of sport fans (e.g., Simmons & Greenwell, 2014; Simmons et al., 2018; Simmons et al, 2020; Tinson et al., 2017; Vallerand et al., 2008; Wann et al., 2003). Yet as Fletcher (2020) noted, "Playing and following sport can, and often does represent a significant time commitment. And this commitment is not only experienced by the person who is directly involved because these practices will often have a knock on effect in other areas of their lives; notably reducing time spent with other family members" (p. 213). Thus, without the perspective of significant others, our understanding of fan-family conflict is incomplete. Though other studies have considered partner perceptions of fan-based inter-role conflicts (e.g., End et al., 2009; Gantz et al., 1995a; 1995b; Tade, 2017), they do not explore the types of fan-family conflict significant others perceive, nor do they highlight the factors that contribute to such perceptions – which could potentially lead to coping strategies to mitigate such factors (Simmons et al., 2020). The current study sought to address these issues, while offering robust insights into fan-family conflict from the perspective of significant others of highly identified sport fans.

Literature Review

The Gantz (2012) conceptualization of sport fans offered above is somewhat limited in that it fails to account for the complexities of fandom beyond consumption. As Stewart et al. (2003) noted, being a sport fan "involves far more than simply turning up to a game, tuning in, and going home" (p. 211). Fandom involves a degree of psychological and emotional attachment to a team, particularly for highly identified fans (Wann et al. 2001). Samra and Wos (2014) and Hunt et al. (1999) refer to such attachment in terms of fanaticism; characterized by an internalization of the fan role as an important part of one's identity. Not only do these fans invest more resources into sport consumptive activities (James & Trail, 2008, Wann & Branscombe, 1993), the fan role also becomes a source of self-esteem maintenance (Dimmock et al. 2005; Wann et al. 2006), which may lead to higher levels of stress or anxiety stemming from the sport fan role, and helps explain fluctuations in mood states experienced by highly identified fans during and after sporting events (Hirt et al. 1992; Simmons et al., 2018; Smith et al. 1981). Perhaps not surprisingly given what is known about sport fan role, scholars have found some evidence suggesting one's fandom can create tension or conflict within familial relationships (End et al., 2009; Simmons et al., 2020; Vallerand et al., 2008).

At its core, fan-family conflict is the result of competing role demands simultaneously tugging for one's time, energy, and attention. This tug-of-war can be explained by role conflict theory, which supposes an individual will experience psychological conflict when expectations of various roles within a role set exert conflicting pressures (Kahn et al., 1964; Madsen & Hammond, 2005). One such type of role conflict is inter-role conflict, defined as "role pressures associated with membership in one organization [that] are in conflict with pressures stemming from membership in other groups" (Kahn et al., 1964, p. 20). Within the context of fan-family conflict, the fan role and the family role constitute groups or organizations to which an individual perceives belonging within their role set. The challenge with role sets, according to Goode (1960), are the "distracting, and sometimes conflicting array of role obligations" (p. 485) that are a product of the various relationships one forms with individuals in each role. Inter-role conflict, and the resulting strain or psychological conflict, are unavoidable (Goode, 1960).

Dixon and Bruening (2005) contend inter-role conflict and the factors contributing to one's lived experiences with inter-role conflict, exist within a multi-level framework in which macro-level societal influences (e.g. social gender norms) shape micro-level influences at both the structural (e.g. hours one devotes to a role, role pressures) and individual levels (e.g. role values, personality, family life cycle). The concept of family life cycle refers to "a predictable progression or series of stages which are defined by unique combinations of socioeconomic and/or demographic variables" (Fodness, 1992, p. 9) through which families progress. These stages help explain changes in consumer behavior over time (Wells & Gubar, 1966). Although scholars debate the boundaries of each stage, marital status, age, and numbers/ages of children are commonly considered (Bauer & Auer-Srnka, 2012).

Four different types of fan-family conflict have been identified in prior research: time-based, strain-based, behavior-based, and economic-based (Greenhaus & Beutell, 1985; Simmons & Greenwell, 2014). Time-based and economic-based fan-family conflict refer to the finite nature of time and financial resources which cannot be simultaneously devoted to two or more roles. For example, time spent watching a game cannot simultaneously be spent on household chores or recreational activities with the family. Likewise, money spent on season tickets cannot also be devoted to family expenses. Strain-based conflict occurs when strain or stress emanating from one role inhibits performance in another. Consider a sport fan who is upset following a loss by his/her favorite team and needs some time to decompress before returning to active engagement with his/her family. This fan would be experiencing strain-based conflict. Finally, behavior-based conflict occurs when behaviors exhibited in one role are inconsistent with expected behaviors in a competing role. Whereas behavioral expectations in the family role are often thought of as "warm, nuturant, emotional, and vulnerable" (Greenhaus & Beutell, 1985, p. 82), behavior-based conflict could exist in situations where sport fans exhibit aggressive or dysfunctional behaviors (Wakefield & Wann, 2006) such as heavy drinking or using foul language.

To date, fan-family conflict studies have primarily considered sport fan perspectives of this phenomenon. Simmons and Greenwell (2014) examined the relationship between fan-family conflict and team identification. Results indicated highly identified fans reported significantly greater levels of time-based and strain-based fan-family conflict than fans low in identification with a team. Simmons, Greenwell, et al. (2016) considered differences in fan-family conflict based on one's family structure (e.g., marital status and presence of children in the home), while controlling for team identification. Surprisingly, single individuals, irrespective of parental status, experienced significantly higher levels of fan-family conflict compared to married respondents. The authors attributed this finding to several factors, most notably a failure to account for age of children in the home and the sharp increase in

the amount of time single individuals spent watching sport compared to those in relationships.

More recently, Simmons et al. (2018; 2020) published a series of qualitative studies exploring the factors causing fan-family conflict within the home, as well as the consequences of fan-family conflict within both the fan and family roles. Results suggested highly identified fans experience three types of fan-family conflict: time-based, strain-based, and economic-based. Further, conflict intensified based on age of children, family support, and the adherence to traditional gender roles. As a result of fan-family conflict, those interviewed expressed feelings of guilt over prioritizing their fan role over family, and friction/irritation among family members.

Although these studies offer insight into sport fan experiences of fan-family conflict, their experiences do not exist in a vacuum. Results from the aforementioned studies strongly suggest the effects of fan-family conflict extend to family members as well, who at times, are left to deal with and accommodate their partner's sport fandom. For example, sport fans interviewed in the Simmons et al. (2018) study discussed off-loading childcare duties to spouses and partners during games. Other interviewees experienced a negative mood for several days following games, affecting familial relationships. Similar findings were reported by Tinson et al. (2017) in their article examining the effect of parenthood on sport fandom.

Prior research suggests inter-role conflict between fan and family roles can have a detrimental effect on relationships as a whole. The large majority of the 1,442 respondents in the Wann et al. (2003) study indicated their fan role either improved or had no effect on their relationships. That said, 10.2% of respondents indicated slight or serious difficulties in some relationships with family, suggesting that for some, fan-family conflict is an issue. Vallerand et al. (2008) found sport-partner relationship conflict was significantly higher amongst fans who are obsessively passionate about their team (e.g., uncontrollable urge to engage in the fan role, which represents a large portion of individual's identity). Those individuals experiencing higher sport-partner relationship conflict were also more likely to score lower on a relationship satisfaction measure with their partner/significant other.

The above examples illustrate that sport fandom is not necessarily an individual hobby/leisure activity, particularly for fans with families. Significant others are indirectly involved in that they potentially: 1) spend less time with their spouse/partner, 2) enjoy less leisure time of their own, and 3) assume additional childcare/household responsibilities (Grappendorf, et al., 2020). Fan role support in the home, such as providing time to watch, scheduling family leisure time around sporting events, and taking care of children has been shown to lessen perceptions of fan-family conflict (Simmons et al., 2018); however, it can also be a source of friction among sport fans and their significant others (Simmons et al., 2020). As noted by Greenhaus and Beutell (1985), "Spouse dissimilarity in fundamental beliefs can weaken the mutual support system and produce stress" (p. 81).

Family Member Perspectives

Gantz et al. (1995a; 1995b) conducted a series of studies assessing the impact of televised sport viewership within relationships. Although the majority of those surveyed indicated televised sport played a small, positive role in their relationship, nearly 12% of the overall sample, and 21.9% of females surveyed, felt resentment towards their spouses for watching sports. Further, relationship satisfaction scores were significantly lower in relationships where resentment over televised sport consumption was present (Gantz et al., 1995a). Adding to the complexity beyond just viewing, partners of sport fans also recognize the effect of team wins and losses on their relationships. End et al. (2009) reported

that when a significant other's team loses, negative affect and irritability are significantly higher than when their partner's team wins. There was also a significantly higher fear of being yelled at following a loss than a win.

Providing a cultural and global perspective, Tade (2017) reported similar findings resulting from interviews with married women of European soccer club fans in Nigeria. Tade described losses by the husband's team as conflict inducing within the family, where wives were ignored, felt as if they were not as important as the soccer team, and familial communication suffered. Beyond wins and losses though, their husband's fandom was a regular source of inter-role conflict where the wives were concerned. In many cases, respondents felt obligated to support their husband's club out of fear of "negative consequences on social relations between the husband and the wife and their children" (Tade, 2017, p. 5). During games, wives felt alienated, with one respondent articulating a hatred for the team for which she feels she is in competition with for her husband's time.

Tade's (2017) findings, coupled with those reported by Gantz et al. (1995a; 1995b) and End et al. (2009) clearly indicate the resources devoted to one's fan role, as well as moods/attitudes that spillover from the fan role into one's relationship, can be a source of conflict where significant others are concerned. Noting this, our understanding of inter-role conflict between fan and family roles from the perspective of family members (other than the fan) is incomplete. The Gantz et al. queries were limited to the effects of televised sport consumption on relationships, using telephone administered questionnaires. End et al. relied on a student sample with 77 respondents. Tade's study, although offering the lived experience perspectives of wives of soccer fans, was situated within the cultural context of Nigeria. As such, the purpose of the current study was to expand on the findings reported by Gantz et al., End et al., and Tade, by exploring established fan-family conflict typologies (Simmons & Greenwell, 2014; Simmons et al., 2018), and the associated contributors to fan-family conflict from the perspective of spouses/partners of highly identified sport fans. Therefore, research questions included:

RQ1: What forms of fan-family conflict do significant others of highly identified sport fans experience?

RQ2: What factors most contribute to those perceptions of fan-family conflict?

Methods

Design

To address the research purpose and questions, a phenomenological qualitative approach was utilized to understand the experiences and perspectives of partners of highly identified sport fans in terms of the family unit (Moustakas, 1994). A phenomenological approach seeks to examine the nature of a phenomenon by looking at it from the perspective of those that have lived it. This approach is used to explore what was experienced and how it was experienced (Teherani et al., 2015). Specifically, hermeneutic phenomenology (van Manen, 2007) was employed as it encourages researchers to interpret the meanings found in relation to a phenomenon. This research sought to explore the experiences of significant others of highly identified sport fans to get a better understanding the complexity of fan-family conflict from the perspective of someone who is potentially affected by high levels of fandom (Creswell & Poth, 2018).

Recruitment

This study was part of an expanded study on spousal/partner perceptions of fan-family conflict. Given that the current study's focus was on perceptions of fan-family conflict from the significant other's point of view, a purposeful sampling technique was taken. Purposeful sampling is utilized when researchers want to gain insight and understanding, and therefore must select participants from which this information can be obtained (Maxwell, 2013; Merriam & Tisdell, 2016). For purposeful sampling, criteria must be determined that indicate what is essential that participants meet (Merriam & Tisdell, 2016). The selection criteria for inclusion in the current study were: 1) the participant must score their partner's fan role involvement at a 4.0 or higher (on a 7-point scale), 2) the participant must self-identify that they are in a committed relationship, and 3) participants must be 18 years of age or older.

An initial questionnaire was developed to recruit participants for the study. The recruitment survey included 18 items (7-point Likert scale) addressing the participant's perception of their significant other's fan role involvement and fan-related consumption, a self-fandom assessment, and perceptions of fan-family conflict. Significant other fan role involvement was assessed using an adapted version of Kanungo's (1982) job involvement questionnaire. Item examples included "The most important things that happen to my significant other involve being a sports fan," and "Being a sports fan is a large part of who my significant other is." Significant other fan-related consumption was measured through respondent estimates regarding the number of hours per week spent actively engaged in the sport fan role, as well as annual fan-related expenses. Self-fandom and perceptions of fan-family conflict were measured using single items which included "I consider myself to be a sports fan," and "Sometimes, my significant other's sport fan role conflicts with family role responsibilities." The latter was adapted from the fan-family conflict measure used by Simmons and Greenwell (2014). The questionnaire also requested demographic information and contact information if there was interest in participating in the interview portion of the study.

Initial recruitment started with respondents of the Simmons et al. (2018) study which examined contributors, typologies, and outcomes associated with inter-role conflict between sport fan and family roles. Participants in the Simmons et al. (2018) study were asked to share the recruitment questionnaire with their partners. Recruitment questionnaires were also posted on two NFL team message boards to which one of the authors had access. Football was chosen specifically as data collection took place in the fall. Following a poor response rate after two weeks, efforts were expanded to share the recruitment questionnaires on the researchers' personal Facebook pages.

In total, 57 respondents completed the questionnaire. Of those, 16 respondents expressed interest in participating in the interview portion of the study. From this group, all but one met the criteria for inclusion. Interviews were conducted until data reached saturation. Data saturation was determined through code saturation, with an evaluation of the amount of codes identified, code prevalence across interviews, and codebook stability (Hennink et al., 2016). The researchers determined data saturation upon completion of the second cycle of coding when no new codes were identified (Hennink et al., 2016). In total, 12 participants (11 female, 1 male) were interviewed. Polkinghorne (1989) recommended that researchers interview from 5 to 25 individuals who have all experienced a phenomenon to get to the point to understand it.

Data Collection

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with each of the participants. A semi-structured interview approach was taken in order to ask follow-up questions tailored to the unique interviewee responses (Bhattacharya, 2017). Semi-structured interviews allow for follow-up probing questions to help construct participant narratives to better understand their perspective (Creswell & Poth, 2018). Thus, questions were created as a guide, but flexibility and adaptation based upon participant responses was taken into account.

The final interview protocol was adapted from Dixon and Bruening (2007) and Simmons et al. (2018), and included 10 questions that focused on five areas – significant other's fan role experience (e.g., consumption-based activities, effect on behavior/mood), family engagement with the significant other's fan role (e.g., participant fan role involvement, significant other's attitude toward fan role), family role demands (e.g., importance of family role to significant other, breakdown of family role responsibilities), fan-family conflict (e.g., perceptions and examples of time, strain, behavior, economic-based fan-family conflict), and fan-family enrichment (e.g., family role benefits from significant other's fan role). Examples of fan-family conflict focused questions included "Tell us about a situation where the time demands of your spouse/partner's sport fan role and the time demands of his/her family role were in conflict" and "Tell us about a time when the behaviors your spouse/partner exhibited while engaged in the sport fan role were not appropriate for the family role." Depending on participants responses to these prompts, probing questions were asked to garner more insights (i.e., How did that situation affect you or the family? How did you handle this situation?). Two researchers conducted each interview, sharing the responsibilities of questioning, probing, and note taking. All interviews were conducted via telephone and lasted between 25 and 50 minutes. Interviews were immediately transcribed verbatim by a third-party company. To ensure privacy and anonymity, pseudonyms were assigned to participants (Miles et al., 2014).

Data Analysis

Creswell and Poth (2018) indicate that the first step in data analysis is to acknowledge one's own biases. The researchers all had varying family structures that could have affected how the data were interpreted, and all are sport fans, with one being highly identified. The researchers were conscious of how their life experiences and situations could influence their interpretations and reflected on this before and during the study. Researchers also sought feedback during both stages of coding from the members of the researcher team to clarify biases and positions when interpreting the data.

In addition to clarifying researcher bias, the researchers sought participant feedback to ensure validation of the data. Several participants reviewed rough drafts of the findings and provided feedback on language used as well as critiqued the interpretations. This strategy allowed the participants to reflect more on their experience, and provide feedback and critical observations on how the analysis represents their experiences and perspectives (Creswell & Poth, 2018). One respondent expressed feeling of validation when reading through the findings knowing that she was not alone in her experiences of fan-family conflict. Another brought clarity to the distinction between themes, namely value incongruity and support, and the struggle she experiences to support her partner's fan role when she does not understand why it is so important. This insight helped the researchers clarify, ensure accuracy, and better frame the findings to make the distinction between themes more explicit.

The data were analyzed independently using a two-cycle coding approach (Miles et al., 2014). First, the data were coded using an initial coding strategy (Saldaña, 2013), where the analysis was open-ended and also guided by the four fan-family conflict typologies (i.e., time-based, strain-based, behavior-based, economic-based). After the initial coding strategy formed units of analyses, pattern coding was employed as the second cycle of coding to develop major themes from the data (Saldaña, 2013). Once the coding cycles were complete, the research team convened to discuss codes and patterns discovered in the data, as there were commonalities in responses (Elliott, 2018). For example, participants used the same or similar words to describe their experiences, and in particular their feelings and emotions. Researchers noted this as they were discussing the codes and patterns, and the themes became evident to the researchers. Discussion and clarification regarding codes, patterns, themes, and personal bias occurred during the debrief to ensure trustworthiness of the data analysis (Patton, 2014). The research team came to consensus on the identified codes and themes.

Participants

Twelve participants were interviewed for the current study, including 11 female identifying participants and one male. Participant ages ranged from early 20's to late 60's, with 10 identifying as Caucasian, one as Hispanic or Latino, and one as Asian/Pacific Islander. In terms of relationship status, 11 of the participants were married and one self-identified as being in a serious relationship. Finally, nine of the participants had children, with five having children four years of age or younger. Data from the recruitment questionnaire showed the sample perceived their significant other's fan role involvement fairly high (6.14 out of 7.0). Many of the respondents considered themselves fans as well, as demonstrated by a 5.08 out of 7.0 mean self-assessment on the fan involvement measure. Complete participant demographics can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. Study Participant Demographic Information.

Name	Age	Marital Status	Children in the Household (Ages)	Partner Fan Involvement
Sandra	30-34	Married	1 (pregnant/5mo.)	6.75
Keri	50-54	Married	0	5.00
Kiley	35-39	Married	3 (9, 6, 1 month)	6.75
Joseph	50-54	Married	0	5.50
Adele	35-39	Married	2 (6, 3)	5.75
Natalie	30-34	Married	0	6.50
Kamila	25-29	Married	0	6.50
Sierra	35-39	Married	1 (5)	7.00
Lindsay	18-24	Dating	0	6.50
Debbie	40-44	Married	4 (13, 9, 5, 2)	6.25
Emma	50-54	Married	0	5.00
Ariana	40-44	Married	0	6.25

Results

The purpose of the current study was to extend our understanding of the fan-family conflict phenomenon to include the perspectives of other family members. Specifically, this study sought to identify the forms of fan-family conflict experienced by significant others of highly identified sport fans (RQ1), as well as understand the factors contributing to perceptions of conflict (RQ2). Results indicated participants experienced three types of fan-family conflict: time-based, strain-based, and behavior-based. None of the 12 participants expressed perceptions of economic-based fan-family conflict in their household. Regarding the second research question, five themes were discovered to explain how perceptions of fan-family conflict intensify within the household: 1) family life cycle, 2) time devoted to the fan role, 3) value incongruity, 4) adherence to traditional gender roles, and 5) significant other support for the fan role (Table 2).

Table 2. Themes and Illustrative Quotes.

Theme	Quotes
	Fan-Family Conflict Typologies
Time Based FFC	It was emotional to me because I thought that he didn't want to hangout with my family and chose a game over them. (Sandra)
Strain-Based FFC	If they lose, he's stomping around and being all grumpy and doesn't want to go because they lost. So he has to get over that first before we head out the door. I can be in the car waiting with all the kids, ready to go, and still waiting on him. (Kiley)
Behavior-Based FFC	Nobody wants to watch the games with him because he's just swearing and throwing things and mad. (Sierra)
	Contributors to Fan-Family Conflict
Family Life Cycle	Normally, he would catch himself and apologize, or they may not even know those words. They're still pretty young. They may not realize that those aren't words you're supposed to say. (Adele)
Time Devotion	First thing in the morning, he's on the computer doing his fantasy sports. He's following ESPN. I have noticed when we're driving, if we're at a red light, he'll look at ESPN. Whenever I turn on the TV, it's always a sports channel. That's what he does at night after the kids go to bed, is he watches the ESPN channels, does a final check of his fantasy leagues. And so, it's just a lot of that. (Debbie)
Value Incongruity	I think we have different ... I don't know if values is the right word. I just don't like the TV being on. To me, it's not productive time, you know? He's watching the game while his kids are still awake, or doing that. I just feel like, "Oh my gosh, there's so much more that needs to be done." (Debbie)

Gender Role Adherence	When I know a game's on, I don't ask him to help with the girls or anything like that because he's focused on the game…I have to make sure they're entertained and not bugging him. So he can have his time. (Kiley)
Fan Role Support	I think just supporting him even though maybe I don't know every single player on the team, but I like to go just to hang out and support that. And I like to be included in if they're doing well, or if they're doing bad. I wanna know why, and who's not playing well, so I can actually have a conversation about it. (Lindsay)

Fan-Family Conflict Typologies

Time-Based Fan-Family Conflict

Time-based conflicts occurred on a regular basis in the households of those interviewed. Frequently such conflict involved game times conflicting with other activities, such as church or a child's sporting event; however, several participants also spoke of time-based fan-family conflict occurring outside of scheduled games when their significant others were glued to their computer or mobile devices. With respect to the former, Kiley, a mother of three, noted she attends separate church services than her husband because he likes to watch college football on Saturdays. Said Kiley,

> If we want to go to church, I have to watch the game time. I'll typically go by myself with the kids if the game is on later, he won't go to church. He'll wait 'til Sunday to go to church, when we go typically on Saturdays. He'll stay home and I'll go to church with the kids and he'll watch the game in peace by himself.

Kiley continued,

> Now that our kids are getting older, they want to go out and do stuff. They don't want to stay in the house. So, if we plan something, like if one random Saturday I want to go to the zoo, he'll want to watch the game. But you know, I'd go to the zoo by myself with the girls.

Other participants echoed similar sentiments. Ariana, for example, recalled her partner going out to his car during a friend's wedding to watch a game on his phone. Kamila, meanwhile, caught her husband checking scores and highlights during their own wedding.

Time-based conflicts also occurred when games were not taking place. Kamila is also a sport fan but expressed irritation at the fact that her significant other is unable to disconnect. Kamila commented,

> I think where we differ in our sports fandom and how we handle that fandom is he wants to read, listen to radio shows, find out everything he can about his sports teams. Often times at night, after he's worked all day, we come home. I'm cooking dinner and how our house is set up, I'm in the kitchen, he's in the living room. I can't really see him, but I'll be saying something to him, and he doesn't respond. I say, "What are you doing?" He's reading some article about the [team name] on his phone. That's where it's frustrating to me is, I'll give you your games, I'll give you going to the games and I'd love to go to the games and watch them as well, but you've got to shut off for a minute every now and then and talk about other things. I don't want to sound needy but give me a little attention to talk about my day at work or something like that. He's just constantly reading about any of those teams.

Time-based fan-family conflict is a product of the time-demands from the fan role interfering with one's ability to fully perform in the family role. The quotes above illustrate fan time commitments include not only watching games, but also staying up to date on team and game-related information. This suggests that for some participants, the time boundaries of their partner's fan role are unclear or extend beyond what family members consider acceptable, particularly when family needs (e.g., communication, family leisure) suffer as a result.

Strain-Based Fan-Family Conflict

Consistently, study respondents referenced instances of their partner's mood spilling over to negatively affect his/her functioning or presence within the family role. Often times, such spillover manifested itself in the form of grumpiness or mental preoccupation that distracted from fully engaging with family. In Sierra's family, a sour mood can last for days following a game:

> You can't talk to him after the game because he's upset. Then for a good four days, you just can't talk about it…I have no problem planning our lives around sporting events at this point, but I need him to jump back up and be back in dad and husband mode afterward. If he can't jump back up and do that, then it's even more time that he's taking away from his family.

Kiley shared similar experiences from her household, noting that her husband's grumpiness following a loss keeps the family from being on time to previously scheduled engagements. Kiley said:

> If they lose, he's stomping around and being all grumpy and doesn't want to go because they lost. He has to get over that first before we head out the door. I can be in the car waiting with all the kids, ready to go, and still waiting on him.

Another participant, Debbie (married with four children living at home), shared that even when her husband is "there," he's not always "there." Said Debbie,

> I think he's frequently preoccupied, and I don't even realize it because I'll be talking to him and telling him stuff, and then I find out a few minutes later he was talking to me but not really ... His mind was somewhere else.

In each of these quotes, strain-based conflict occurred following losses by their significant other's favorite team. Other family members (e.g., spouse/partner, children) recognize these mood states and are made to feel less important or that they need to carry more of the family role burden (e.g. getting the kids ready to go), while their partner's fan role spills over into their family role. Participants suggested they knew not to trivialize the importance of a team loss with their partner, but Sandra (married and pregnant with first child at the time of the interview) was at a loss for how to help their significant other cope. Sandra explained,

> There are times when all of [his] teams are losing and it puts him in a funk and I can't pinpoint what's wrong and I try and approach him about it and ask if there's anything that I can do and I feel like you're not happy for some reason and I know that I'm not the one to make you happy…but what can we do?

Behavior-Based Fan-Family Conflict

Interviewees described many behaviors their partners exhibited while actively engaged with the sport fan role, that were not well-suited for family. Such behaviors ranged from extensive foul language use, to shouting, to uncontrollable anger. For Sierra, her husband's behavior during games gives her pause about letting their six-year-old son watch alongside him:

> I don't watch games with him anymore because he's intolerable during games. He gets really upset. He gets mad. He swears. He throws things. Our son can't be in the room with him when his team is losing because you don't know what's going to come out of his mouth.

Ariana, shared a similar story about her husband's behavior getting them thrown out of a bar during a game:

> He can get very mad if the team is not performing correctly, or to the full potential he believes they have. He can get very angry at referees. I have seen him thrown out of a bar when his team is losing badly, and he just gets so mad he just wants to go home. It's nothing you can do to control him.

In both of these quotes, Sierra and Ariana describe highly emotional and aggressive behaviors that contradict the expected behavioral expectations in the home. These two were not alone in their descriptions of incompatible fan role behaviors; however, given variations in family life cycles stages among participants, the extent to which such behaviors caused inter-role conflict varied from family to family.

Contributors to Fan-Family Conflict

Family Life Cycle

Respondents in the current study were aware of their family life cycle stage and mentioned it often when discussing the intensity of perceived fan-family conflict. Participants with small children living at home were mindful of their significant other modeling inappropriate fan role behaviors. As seen in Sierra's comments above, the presence of young children makes watching sports in the household a tenuous leisure activity. Kiley is also cognizant of what her six-year-old picks up from her father while watching sports. Said Kiley,

> She's starting to ask a little bit more questions about what's happening during the game. And he'll explain it to her, if it's a commercial break or something. But during the games he's focused on the game. And she will yell at the TV screen and try to mimic him, but it's nothing to the point where I need to say, "No, you can't do that."

Adele considers herself a sport fan but has checked her husband's language on numerous times during games when her three- and six-year-old daughters are present. Adele said, "Normally, he would catch himself and apologize, or they may not even know those words. They're still pretty young. They may not realize that those aren't words you're supposed to say."

Younger participants who were either dating or newly married without kids, such as Kamila and Lindsay, tolerated their partner's fan behavior for the time being, but repeatedly commented that when they had kids, things would need to change. "We don't have children at this point in our lives, but I've thought that when kids do come around, that's going to have to change, because he's very, very loud. Very loud and swear words do come out quite often," said Kamila. Lindsay, meanwhile, expressed concern over her boyfriend's sport-related expenditures, but did not think it would be a problem until they had children:

> I could see it becoming a problem later down the line, if he was spending all of his money on sport related things and not his family. But right now, given our age and where we're at in life, I think it's okay to spoil himself with things that he wants as a sport fan. But I think later down the road, that would be a conversation we would have to have and talk through.

Other participants were in later stages of their family life cycle. The kids were older or had moved out, and they had come to accept their significant other for the way they were.

Debbie, for example, recognizes her partner's fan role behavior is inappropriate, but after nearly a decade and a half of marriage, she's realized he will not change. Debbie explained:

> As I've learned over 13 years of marriage, it's who he is and I can't change that, so I just need to make a request, and he'll do it. He won't fight it or anything, but he's not gonna do it on his own. He needs me to ask him…It doesn't bother me anymore.

Emma also discussed how early on in their relationship, her partner attempted to hide or downplay his sport fandom, but as they grew together, he began to open up more about how he liked to spend his days talking about sports with his son.

The progression through the various relationship/family stages clearly influence how fan-family conflict is perceived. Those with young children in the house appeared to experience conflict, particularly behavior-based fan-family conflict, to a more intense degree than those whose children are older. Those who have yet to have children recognize the potential for conflict, but it has not yet risen to an intensity that may cause strain on the relationship.

Time devoted to the fan role. Across the board, participants described their partners' fandom in terms of fanaticism (i.e., high levels of devotion to their favorite team). Keri, for example, said that family activities, including vacations, needed to be scheduled around team games. Sandra called her husband "one of the three most passionate sports fans I have ever met." Debbie simply stated, "That's his passion. That's his pastime. His free time is spent following sports." Prior research suggests high levels of fan identity lead to increases in resources (i.e., time, money, energy) devoted to the fan role (Wann & Branscombe, 1993). That was certainly the case in the current study, as participants described the amount of time their partners spent consuming and be consumed by sports. Debbie illustrated what this looks like in her household:

> First thing in the morning, he's on the computer doing his fantasy sports. He's following ESPN. I have noticed when we're driving, if we're at a red light, he'll look at ESPN. Whenever I turn on the TV, it's always a sports channel. That's what he does at night after the kids go to bed, is he watches the ESPN channels, does a final check of his fantasy leagues. And so, it's just a lot of that.

She continued:

> And the kids associate ... They'll say, "Why is the TV always on? Why is he sitting in front of the TV?" And sometimes I feel like he plays with them when he wants to, and he'll do his 15 minutes or whatever, and then he'll be like, "Okay, I'm done." (laughter) He'll resume his watching the game, or checking his phone or something. And the kids have just kind of ... That's normal for them. They don't really ... It doesn't bother them, I guess, because that's just always how it's been.

As described above, the time commitment extends beyond scheduled sporting events. This includes (based on how the team performs), the hours, and sometimes days, following games is spent in a funk. Sierra explains how those mood states are time taken from the family:

> The frustration and the depression that he goes into if the team loses is ... That takes up time too, to let him get over that and move on. The time spent on writing in forums, the time spent actually watching the games, that's a lot of time away from being an active family member. I think that's probably the biggest stressor is the time that he spends doing it.

It was clear from the interviews, the time their partners devoted to the sport fan role, either directly through watching games, or indirectly through social media or mental/emotional preoccupation, is a precursor to fan-family conflict, particularly time-based fan-family conflict. Further, this time commitment is a product of their fan role identity. Sport was

always on the mind of their significant other. From humming the school's fight song throughout the day – every day, to actively seeking every piece of information about the team they could find, participants describe their partner as psychologically and emotionally invested in their teams/sport.

Value incongruity. That level of identity and investment was not shared with most study participants. This led to a lack of understanding as to why their partners cared so much or why sports needed to be the focal point of their free time. Although interviewees recognized sport to be their significant other's primary passion, many, such as Debbie and Ariana, struggled to understand why it took on so much meaning in their lives. Said Debbie:

> I think we have different ... I don't know if values is the right word. I just don't like the TV being on. To me, it's not productive time, you know? He's watching the game while his kids are still awake, or doing that. I just feel like, "Oh my gosh, there's so much more that needs to be done."

Additionally, Ariana noted:

> Well, honestly, I do not understand getting that upset at a game…You're getting this upset over a game, and I would get this upset over a fight I had with a friend, or a family member, or some bad thing that happened at work. I don't think I've ever said to him, "You know it's just a game, right?" I know that wouldn't be perceived well, necessarily, but yeah. There have been times where I really kind of roll my eyes, and [said] "you're completely overreacting." It's just over the top.

Sandra makes efforts to engage in her husband's fan role, but finds she struggles to keep up in conversations about the team and does not derive much enjoyment from it. Sandra shared:

> My biggest challenge is not being involved enough and not knowing enough about it to hold a conversation or to talk to someone in the family about it…I would like to be able to participate, but I just don't have the desire to go out on my own and read the blogs and everyone else's opinion or sports talk radio and I hate it so much.

This disconnect between study participants and their significant others in terms of the importance placed on the sport fan role was a key contributor to fan-family conflict. That is not to say partners were justified in their time commitment to sports or their degree of emotional investment, but rather, since those values were not shared among other household members, arguments and irritation ensued as interviewees were, at times, not able to rationalize this level of commitment.

Gender roles. All but one of the participants in this study were female. As they shared their experiences, it became evident that conversations about fan-family conflict cannot occur without exploring how traditional gender role expectations within the home shape perceptions of conflict. Whether explicitly stated or implicitly inferred, women assumed a larger share of the domestic responsibilities to allow their partner to watch games or recover psychologically/emotionally in the hours, and sometimes days, that follow. This was even the case for women who self-identified as sport fans as well, as Kamila explained:

> I do the cooking for the family. Pretty much every night of the week I cook and he does the cleaning. That at times has caused a little ... I don't want to say fights, but just bickering, especially if there's a game on and I feel like I want to be watching the game.

> But I know that I'm cooking dinner whereas if he cleans up, he can do that whenever the game's over...I wouldn't describe it as a fight. I would more say it's frustrating.

Kamila continued,

> The part of me that struggles with that inner conflict is, one, it's kind of the arrangement that we've made in our relationship that has worked well for five years. It's that I'm going to cook and he's going to clean. But at the same time, what I want him to know sometimes is that ... He knows that I'm a huge sports fan so offering to help me cook while that game is on so that I get it done faster so that we both can be watching the game…I know it's my responsibility to do that but I also want to be a sports fan at the same time. I wish that he would pick up on that sometimes, without me having to ask because there have been times that I mention, "Hey would you mind helping me out with this?" And it's always a "yup." He never once said no but he is also never the one to just offer it up. I have to ask.

The frustration Kamila expresses is rooted in the double standard in balancing household duties with leisure time between her and her husband. More broadly, Kamila's experiences speak to an adherence to traditional gender roles in her household, where her leisure time is curtailed by household/family responsibilities while her husband is freed from similar obligations. Such a demarcation is even more pronounced in Debbie's family, where she constantly finds herself overwhelmed which childcare and other domestic responsibilities while her husband isolates during sport-related leisure activities (e.g., watching games, fantasy drafts). Debbie spoke of her frustration surrounding the gendered breakdown of familial responsibilities:

> I just know that that's him, and I've accepted that because I've always known that. But if it does interfere, for example if I'm trying to make dinner and the kids are screaming at each other, he's looking at his fantasy feed, I'll say, "Excuse me, I need help here." But you know, I don't nag him about it or anything like that.

As her kids aged, Debbie grew irritated that she never got a break from "mom duty," while her husband consistently prioritized sports over family.

> That was always hard because I always had a very young child, and it was hard to leave for any stretch of time. But as my youngest is approaching three, I'm getting out more and doing more things for myself, and I think that has helped a lot of maybe inner conflict that I had, like, "Why do you get to do all this stuff? I'm home with the kids."

Debbie offered that her husband's role with the kids is more of a playful, roughhousing role; whereas she sees her role as ensuring the well-being of her children. As a result, her husband can take breaks from his role to enjoy leisure, while she feels tethered to family duties.

Family support for the sport fan role. Although the themes described above contribute to perceptions of fan-family conflict, support for partners' fan role within the home lessened the intensity of inter-role conflict. The examples of support shared by study participants took three forms: behavioral, emotional, and logistical (Goff et al., 1997). Joseph, for example, is not as big of a sport fan as his wife but enjoys watching/attending games with her because of the social scene. Because of Joseph's behavioral support of his wife's passion, fan-family conflict occurs with much less frequency in their house. Said Joseph,

> [Sport] tends to be some of the more important stuff for us. It's part of our social scene, so we do end up spending a lot of time with like-minded individuals where that's concerned. Social is really an important element for us in our day-to-day, and the sports element tends to just be part of that.

Others shared how they struggled to get into sports but recognized it as their partner's passion and encouraged their fandom. Even when fan-family conflict exists, respecting their partner's fan role identity as a big part of who they were helped the fan and family roles coexist, as Natalie explained, "He has [sport] as his one really hobby or passion so it's hard for me to justify squashing that even if it's not my interest as well." Similarly, Lindsay wants to keep up with her partner's team so he can talk to her about it. If it's important to her significant other, it's important to Lindsay:

> I think just supporting him even though maybe I don't know every single player on the team, but I like to go just to hang out and support that. And I like to be included in it if they're doing well, or if they're doing bad. I wanna know why, and who's not playing well, so I can actually have a conversation about it.

For some though, such as Kiley, support for the fan role took the form of providing time and space provisions for her significant other to watch. She might not understand why sport is so important to her partner, but she recognizes that it is, and tries to provide him with an opportunity to watch. Said Kiley,

> Okay. You need your space. We're gonna let you stay home, and we'll go and do this. I wanted you to come, but I don't want him to be out and not have a good time, and be anxious while we're out…Him being able to at least sit down and watch a game, is something he can [do to] relax and do by himself.

Likewise, Emma acknowledged that she supports her partner's teams by wearing team gear on game days and watching parts of the game with her partner. She also allows space for her husband to share that important bond with his son, even though sport is not as important to her personally.

Whereas a lack of support for the fan role contributed to more fan-family conflict, those who found ways to encourage or support their significant others, either by watching/attending games with them, talking about the games or encouraging their partner's fandom, or simply making time and financial provisions to allow their partner to consume, appeared to be able to better manage instances of time-based, strain-based, or behavior-based fan-family conflict when they occurred.

Discussion

The current study sought to offer a more complete perspective of the fan-family conflict phenomenon by adding the voices of significant others to the conversation. Until now, the large majority of the work in this line of research considered only the perspective of the sport fan (Simmons & Greenwell, 2014; Simmons et al., 2018; 2020; Tinson et al., 2017; Vallerand et al., 2008; Wann et al., 2003). Results presented here both compliment and contrast prior research, suggesting fan-family conflict is a more complex issue than previously thought.

For example, similar to sport fans interviewed in the Simmons et al. (2018) study, significant others of highly identified fans also experienced time-based and strain-based fan-family conflict as a product of their partner's fan role engagement. In that earlier study, however, sport fans did not report experiencing behavior-based conflict. From the fan perspective, aggressive and/or inappropriate behaviors did occur, but were not a source of conflict within the family role. The authors postulated several reasons as to why this may be the case, including such behaviors becoming normalized and accepted within the family unit and in sport in general. However, family members of sport fans interviewed here offered a different assessment, suggesting not only do such behaviors occur, but they can be distracting, embarrassing, and give study participants pause about allowing children to watch

sports alongside them due to their actions. Conversely, no evidence of economic-based fan-family conflict was found, despite sport fans reporting economic-based fan-family conflict in prior work (Simmons et al., 2018). Significant others were much more concerned about time spent consuming sport, an inability to disengage following games, and inappropriate behaviors, than the amount of money spent on sport-fan related activities. None of the 12 respondents indicated their significant others put fan roles expenditures ahead of family expenses. This could be due to participants' socioeconomic status. Future research in this line should seek insights from participants across various socioeconomic and cultural levels.

The adherence to traditional gender roles continues to emerge as an important theme within this line of research. Past research shows a clear double standard between male and female experiences with respect to leisure and family. Women face societal pressures to put family first, resulting in less time for leisure compared to men (Fuwa & Cohen, 2007; Such, 2006; Thompson, 1999). Women also experience guilt when participating in leisure at the expense of tending to family role responsibilities (Grappendorf et al., 2020; Hambrick et al., 2013; Khan, 2011), and view such responsibilities as a constraint. Men, meanwhile, typically do not view family as a constraint when it comes to leisure (Simmons, Mahoney, et al., 2016). Khan (2011) noted, with respect to travel-related leisure, men off-load family responsibilities and childcare to females when they travel, while women feel constrained to do so "as the daily functioning of the household is disrupted in their absence" (p. 113). Similar patterns were detected in the current study. Female spouses/partners facilitated their significant others' sport consumption by assuming a larger share of household duties, whether that included keeping the kids busy so dad could watch the game or making meals for the family. For the women interviewed in this study, perceptions of fan-family conflict were, in part, a product of inequitable leisure time availability, from which men benefited and females were disadvantaged. The reality of women already assuming a majority of childcare and household chores, coupled with accommodating a significant other's sport fan role before, during, and even after a sporting event appear to have the women in this study exasperated, and further burdened by traditional gender roles.

Value incongruity is a new contribution to the fan-family conflict literature. Viewed through a wider lens, value incongruity is woven into many themes discussed throughout the results. Conflicts over time or psychological/emotional preoccupation stem from not understanding why a game or team is so important. In some families, such as Joseph's and Lindsay's, both partners are sport fans and there is somewhat of a mutual understanding as to why a game means so much. For others, such as Kamila and Ariana, sport is seen as a fun hobby, but they draw a line at obsession and need their partners to disconnect from time to time. Some, however, like Sierra and Debbie, do not understand how sport can be prioritized over family, and find watching sport for long periods of time at the expense of engaging with family to be time wasted. As a result, inter-role conflicts occur, primarily over finite resources such as time and energy.

In addition to gender roles and value incongruity, contributors to fan-family conflict included stage in family life cycle, time devoted to the sport fan role, and the presence, or lack thereof, of support for the significant other's sport fan role. These contributors align well with Dixon and Bruening's (2005) multilevel inter-role conflict theoretical framework which posits perceptions of inter-role conflict are shaped by variables at the individual, structural, and societal levels. Individual level variables seek to explain differences between individuals on the basis of characteristics such as personality or life values, as well as family structure and gender – the latter simply referring to the fact that gender differences affect behaviors and attitudes contributing to inter-role conflict. Dixon and Bruening framed structural factors within the context of work (e.g., work-family conflict); however, the

underlying principle that individual-level decisions and actions are made within a larger structure certainly lends itself to this study – with that larger structure being family. Time requirements and culture are two prominent variables existing at the structural level. Finally, societal, or sociocultural variables, such as gender role constructions, represent "a larger system of social meanings" (Dixon & Bruening, 2005, p. 242) that shape our perceptions of family, and specifically, gendered role expectations concerning family.

Contributors to fan-family conflict identified in this study exist at all three levels. The adherence to traditional gender roles within the household and with respect to leisure is a macro-level sociocultural variable. Undoubtedly, the influence of societal expectations of gender play a role in how participants in this study described the responsibilities of females in the household to free up male partners to watch sport. Contributors such as time devoted to the fan role and family support for the sport fan role are structural level variables. Time commitments are predicated on the date/timing of games relative to family commitments/responsibilities. Support in the home for the fan role, whether that be behavioral, emotional, or logistical; is also going to dictate choices and decisions that are made regarding fan-related sport consumption. At the individual level, the value placed on the fan role, as well as stage in family life cycle, are going to guide actions and ultimately contribute to perceptions of fan-family conflict.

For families, these results highlight the need for communication between partners to aid in alleviating fan-family conflict. When comparing insights gleaned from interviews with sport fans (Simmons et al., 2018) with findings presented here from the perspective of partners of highly identified sport fans, a pattern emerges which suggests fans and their significant others may not always be on the same page when it comes to resources allocated to the sport fan role, as well as what is construed as acceptable behaviors during the game and mood states following games. Much of the discrepancies may be attributed to a difference in values as it relates to fandom. Fans must recognize, that even if family members provide them with time and space to consume sport, it does not mean family members are fully onboard with the amount of sport consumed or how one behaves during games. Fan-family conflict has been shown to have harmful consequences within the family role, namely friction and resentment between family members (Simmons et al., 2020). Further, the continued emergence of gender roles within the fan-family conflict framework suggests fandom may serve to perpetuate stereotypical gender role ideologies. Prior research has already established that women are marginalized in sport fan-related settings/roles (e.g., Hoeber & Kerwin, 2013; Sveinson & Hoeber, 2016); however, results from this study, as well as Grappendorf et al. (2020) suggest fandom may also perpetuate gender stereotypes in the home. Male sport fans, in particular, must be cognizant of the role they play in shaping gendered norms in the home, especially in households with children.

Limitations and Future Research

As is the case in qualitative research, caution must be taken when attempting to generalize the results beyond those interviewed for this study. The results reported here represent the perspectives of 12 spouses/partners of highly identified sport fans and are not intended to be definitive. Additional research is necessary to corroborate the findings from this study on a wider scale. This study represents an important next step in fan-family conflict research by exploring significant other perceptions of fan-family conflict. Attempts to include highly identified sport fans that are female who have male partners, more same-sex couples, and more people of color could certainly be included in future studies.

That said, Smith (2018) argues generalization is not limited to statistical-probabilistic generalizability. In the current study, the broader themes of time-based, strain-based, and behavior-based fan-family conflict are being examined within a new context – through the lens of significant others of highly identified sport fans, providing a unique perspective of the phenomenon. These forms of inter-role conflict are not original to this research yet provide additional context for prior fan-family conflict studies (e.g. Simmons & Greenwell, 2014; Simmons et al., 2018) and other forms of inter-role conflict-related research (e.g. Dixon & Bruening, 2005; Greenhaus & Beutell, 1985). According to Smith, this is evidence of analytical generalizability. With analytic generalizability, "it is the concepts or theories that are generalizable, not the specific context or population" (p. 141).

In this study, participants were asked to share stories/examples of prior experiences with time-based, strain-based, behavior-based, and economic-based fan-family conflict. Despite the insights gleaned, responses are likely influenced by recency bias or memories most easily recollected. A longitudinal study, perhaps utilizing data logs or multiple data collections throughout the course of season, may unearth original findings not reported here.

Finally, as noted above, this sample proved challenging to recruit participants. Initial screening questionnaires were posted on team message boards with a request to share the questionnaire with their significant other. Following low response rates, survey participants were recruited through the authors' personal Facebook pages. There is some debate regarding the usage of personal Facebook pages, with some research supporting it and others criticizing it as a tool used in academic research (Kosinski et al., 2015). Regardless, social media can be a valuable tool, and other options could be potentially explored in future studies.

References

Bauer, M., & Auer-Srnka, K. J. (2012). The life cycle concepts in marketing research. *Journal of Historical Research in Marketing, 4*(1), 68-96.

Bhattacharya, K. (2017). *Fundamentals of qualitative research: A practical guide*. Routledge.

Creswell, J., & Poth, C. (2018). *Qualitative inquiry & research design: Choosing among five approaches* (4th ed). Sage.

Dimmock, J. A., Grove, J. R., & Eklund, R. C. (2005). Reconceptualizing team identification: New dimensions and their relationship to intergroup bias. *Group Dynamics: Theory, Research, and Practice, 9*(2), 75-86.

Dixon, M. A., & Bruening, J. E. (2005). Perspectives on work-family conflict in sport: An integrated approach. *Sport Management Review, 8*(3), 227-253.

Dixon, M. A., & Bruening, J. E. (2007). Work-family conflict in coaching I: A top-down perspective. *Journal of Sport Management, 21*(3), 377-406.

Elliott, V. (2018). Thinking about the coding process in qualitative data analysis. *The Qualitative Report, 23*(11), 2850-2861.

End, C. M., Worthman, S. S., Foster, N. J., & Vandemark, A. P. (2009). Sports and relationships: The influence of game outcome on romantic relationships. *North American Journal of Psychology, 11*(1), 37-48.

Fletcher, T. (2020). Family sport and the sport widow. In *Negotiating Fatherhood* (pp. 211-238). Palgrave Macmillan.

Fodness, D. (1992). The impact of family life cycle on the vacation-decision-making process. *Journal of Travel Research, 31*(2), 8-13.

Fuwa, M., & Cohen, P. (2007). Housework and social policy. *Social Science Research, 36*(2), 512-530.

Gantz, W. (2012). Reflections on communication and sport: On fanship and social relationships. *Communication in Sport, 1*(1/2), 176-187.

Gantz, W., Wenner, L. A., Carrico, C., & Knorr, M. (1995a). Assessing the football widow hypothesis: A co-orientation study of the role of televised sports in long-standing relationships. *Journal of Sport and Social Issues, 19*(4), 352-376.

Gantz, W., Wenner, L. A., Carrico, C., & Knorr, M. (1995b). Televised sports and marital relationships. *Sociology of Sport Journal, 12*, 306-323.

Goff, S. J., Fick, D. S., & Oppliger, R. A. (1997). The moderating effect of spouse support on the relation between serious leisure and spouses' perceived leisure-family conflict. *Journal of Leisure Research, 29*(1), 47-60.

Goode, W. J. (1960). A theory of role strain. *American Sociological Review, 25*(4), 483-496.

Grappendorf, H., Simmons, J., & Hancock, M. (2020). 'I will go to the game, while you stay home with the kids': Gender role expectations and sport fan-family conflict. *Journal of Global Sport Management,* 1-18.

Greenhaus, J. H., & Beutell, N. J. (1985). Sources of conflict between work and family roles. *Academy of Management Review, 10*(1), 76-88.

Hambrick, M. E., Simmons, J. M., & Mahoney, T. Q. (2013). An inquiry into the perceptions of leisure-work-family conflict among female Ironman participants. *International Journal of Sport Management and Marketing, 13*(3-4), 173-199.

Hennink, M. M., Kaiser, B. N., & Marconi, V. C. (2017). Code saturation versus meaning saturation: How many interviews are enough? *Qualitative Health Research, 27*(4), 591-608.

Hirt, E. R., Zillman, D., Erickson, G. A., & Kennedy, C. (1992). Costs and benefits of allegiance: Changes in fans' self-ascribed competencies after team victory versus defeat. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 63*(5), 724-738.

Hoeber, L., & Kerwin, S. (2013). Exploring the experiences of female sport fans: A collaborative self-ethnography. *Sport Management Review, 16*(3), 326-336.

Hunt, K. A., Bristol, T., & Bashaw, R. E. (1999). A conceptual approach to classifying sports fans. *Journal of Services Marketing, 13*(6), 439-452.

James, J., & Trail, G. T. (2008). The relationship between team identification and sport consumption intentions. *International Journal of Sport Management, 9*, 427-440.

Kahn, R. L., Wolfe, D. M., Quinn, R. P., Snoek, J., & Rosenthal, R. A. (1964). *Organizational stress: Studies in role conflict and ambiguity*. Wiley.

Kanungo, R. N. (1982). Measurement of job and work involvement. *Journal of Applied Psychology, 67*(3), 341-349.

Khan, S. (2011). Gendered leisure: Are women more constrained in travel for leisure. *Tourismos: An International Multidisciplinary Journal of Tourism, 6*(1), 105-121.

Kosinski, M., Matz, S. C., Gosling, S. D., Popov, V., & Stillwell, D. (2015). Facebook as a research tool for the social sciences: Opportunities, challenges, ethical considerations, and practical guidelines. *The American Psychologist*, *70(6)*, 543-56.

Madsen, S. R., & Hammond, S. C. (2005). The complexification of work-family conflict theory: A critical analysis. *Tamara Journal, 4*(4), 151-179.

Maxwell, J. (2013). *Qualitative research design: An interactive approach* (3rd ed.). Sage.

Merriam, S., & Tisdell, E. (2016). *Qualitative research: A guide to design and implementation* (4th ed). Jossey-Bass.

Miles, M. B., Huberman, A. M., & Saldaña, J. (2014). Qualitative data analysis: A methods sourcebook (4th ed.).: Sage

Moustakas, C. (1994). *Phenomenological research methods.* Sage.

Patton, M. (2014). *Qualitative research & evaluation methods.* Sage.

Peachman, R. R. (2013, September 10). 'I'm a football widow': Discover the silver lining of having a sports-obsessed spouse. *Woman's Day*. Retrieved from https://www.womansday.com/relationships/dating-marriage/advice/a7058/football-widow/

Polkinghorne, D. E. (1989). Phenomenological research methods. In R. S. Valle & S. Halling (Eds.). *Existential phenomenological perspectives in psychology* (pp. 41–60). Plenum.

Saldaña, J. (2013). *The coding manual for qualitative researchers.* Sage.

Saltz, G. (2007, March 15). Are you a sports widow? Here's help. *Today*. Retrieved from https://www.today.com/health/are-you-sports-widow-heres-help-wbna17629186

Samra, B., & Wos, A. (2014). Consumer in sports: Fan typology analysis. *Journal of Intercultural Management, 6*(4), 263-288.

Simmons, J., Grappendorf, H., & Hancock, M. (2018). Exploring perceptions of fan-family conflict: New insights into typologies, directionality, and contributors. *International Journal of Sport Management, 19*(2), 163-185.

Simmons, J. M., Grappendorf, H., & Hancock, M. (2020). How do sport fans cope with the consequences of fan-family conflict? *Journal of Sport Behavior, 43*(1), 120-143.

Simmons, J. M., & Greenwell, T. C. (2014). Differences in fan-family conflict based on an individual's level of identification with a team. *Journal of Sport Behavior 31*(1), 94-114.

Simmons, J. M., Greenwell, T. C., & Aicher, T. J. (2016). Assessing the effect of family structure on perceptions of fan-family conflict. *Global Sport Business Journal.*

Simmons, J. M., Mahoney, T. Q., & Hambrick, M. E. (2016). Leisure, work, and family: How IronMEN balance the demands of three resource intensive roles. *Leisure Sciences, 38*(3), 232-248.

Smalley, G. (2015, September 29). Get through this year's football season with your spouse. *Focus on the Family*. Retrieved from https://www.focusonthefamily.com/marriage/get-through-this-years-football-season-with-your-spouse/.

Smith, B. (2018). Generalizability in qualitative research: Misunderstandings, opportunities and recommendations for the sport and exercise sciences. *Qualitative Research in Sport, Exercise, and Health, 10*(1), 137-149.

Smith, G. J., Patterson, B., Williams, T., & Hogg, J. (1981). A profile of the deeply committed male sports fan. *Arena Review, 5*(2), 26-44.

Stewart, B. Smith, A. C. T., & Nicholson, M. (2003). Sport consumer typologies: A critical review. *Sport Marketing Quarterly, 12*(4), 206-216.

Such, E. (2006). Leisure and fatherhood in dual-earner families. *Leisure Studies, 25*(2), 185-199.

Sveinson, K., & Hoeber, L. (2016). Female sports fans' experiences of marginalization and empowerment. *Journal of Sport Management, 30*(1), 8-21.

Tade, O. (2017). 'He is Father Christmas when Man-U win': EUFA league and the dynamics of spousal relations in Nigeria. *Soccer & Society, 18*(1), 1-15.

Teherani, A., Martimianakis, T., Stenfors-Hayes, T., Wadhwa, A., & Varpio, L. (2015). Choosing a qualitative research approach. *Journal of Graduate Medical Education*, *7*(4), 669–670.

Thompson, S. (1999). *Mother's Taxi: Sport and Women's Labor*. State University of New York Press.

Tinson, J., Sinclair, G., & Kolyperas, D. (2017). Sport fandom and parenthood. *European Sport Management Quarterly, 17*(3), 370-391.

Vallerand, R. J., Ntoumanis, N., Philippe, F. L., Lavigne, G. L., Carbonneau, N., Bonneville, A., & Maliha, G. (2008). On passion and sports fans: A look at football. *Journal of Sports Sciences, 26*(12), 1279-1293.

van Manen, M. (2007). Phenomenology of practice. *Phenomenology in practice, 1,* 11-30.

Wakefield, K. L., & Wann, D. L. (2006). An examination of dysfunctional sport fans: Method of classification and relationships with problem behaviors. *Journal of Leisure Research, 38*(2), 168-186.

Wann, D. L., & Branscombe, N. R. (1993). Sports fans: Measuring degree of identification with their team. *International Journal of Psychology, 24*, 1-17.

Wann, D. L., Friedman, K., McHale, M., & Jaffe, A. (2003). The Norelco sports fanatics survey: Examining behaviors of sports fans. *Psychology Reports, 92*(3), 930-936.

Wann, D. L., Koch, K., Knoth, T., Fox, D., Aljubaily, H., & Lantz, C. D. (2006). The impact of team identification on biased predication of player performance. *The Psychological Record, 56*, 55-66.

Wann, D. L., Melnick, M. J., Russell, G. W., & Pease, D. G. (2001). *Sport fans: The psychology and social impact of spectators*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Wells, W. D., & Gubar, G. (1966). Life cycle concept in marketing research. *Journal of Marketing Research, 3*(4), 355-363.

Whitbourne, S. K. (2013, January 12). Five tips for living with an avid sports fan: Dating and relationship advice for the sports fan widow (or widower). *Psychology Today*. Retrieved from https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/fulfillment-any-age/201301/five-tips-living-avid-sports-fan