

# How do adolescents manage their own interpersonal relations: Attitudes toward friendship and interpersonal competence

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The present study examined (a) the factor structure of the attitudes toward same-sex friendship, and (b) the relationship between attitudes toward friendship and interpersonal competence. The Interpersonal Competence Questionnaire (ICQ; Buhrmester *et al.* 1988) and the Attitudes Toward Same-Sex Friendship scale (developed by the authors) were administered to adolescents ( $N= 427$ ). As predicted, principal-components analyses of ICQ yielded five components, labeled as follows: initiation, negative assertion, disclosure, emotional support, and conflict management. The analyses regarding the attitudes toward same-sex friendship indicated sex difference. For males, the following five components were found: conformity with others, mutual disclosure, getting along together with anyone, self-concealment, and desire for being liked. The components for females were somewhat different from those for males: conformity with others, self-concealment, getting along together with anyone, desire for being liked, and avoidance of conflict. Those components were categorized as a two-dimensional space, with intimacy on one axis and the number of friends on the other. According to a series of multiple regression analyses, the attitudes toward same-sex friendship were significantly accounted by interpersonal competence. “Social skill deficits underling cosmetic relations among adolescents” hypothesis (Osada, 1994) were discussed.

**Key words:** friendship, interpersonal competence, the Interpersonal Competence Questionnaire, intimacy