CHAPTER 8: Obsessive relational intrusion (ORI) and stalking

Defining ORI: "repeated and unwanted pursuit and invasion of one’s sense of physical or symbolic privacy by another person, either stranger or acquaintance, who desires and/or presumes an intimate relationship" (234-235)

Understanding ORI: Relational scripts, particularly those regarding the establishment of romantic/sexual relationships, often idealize and reward persistence. Thus, how do we determine the boundaries for acceptable relational persistence versus obsessive pursuit?

Crucial components: issue of consent; disagreement about relationship definition; issue of temporal pattern vs. isolated behaviors (i.e., severity, duration, frequency, etc.)

Article: Turning Points in the Progression of Obsessive Relational Intrusion and Stalking

Intention: help explain the patterns of communication between the pursuer and the pursued as temporal patterns comprised of specific ‘turning points’

Research questions:
  RQ1: What types of turning points characterize the progression of ORI/stalking?
  RQ2: What is the relationship between each turning point type and victims’ perceptions of changes in unwanted pursuit severity?
  RQ3: What patterns, or trajectories, of progression characterize ORI/stalking?

Method: rejects ‘stages approaches’ for Critical Incidents approach, which considers triggering events and the responses of the victim rather than set stages; allows for periods of de-escalation and regression to previous behaviors instead of assuming a linear pathway

Results: Derived 5 distinct patterns based on participant reports:
  1) One peak: hits highest point of ‘troublesomeness’, then declines
  2) Flare-up: repeated escalations and de-escalations over time
  3) Gradual escalation: becomes more severe over time; no declines
  4) Erratic progression: frequent increases and decreases
  5) Plateau: no marked peaks; consistently high levels


