

## 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

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