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**FROM THE INTERPERSONAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL:
UNDERSTANDING COMMITMENT TO THE “WAR ON TERROR”
RESEARCH PUBLISHED IN *PERSONALITY AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY BULLETIN* BY SAGE**

Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, and Singapore – (November 6, 2007) Why are some Americans personally committed to continuing the war on terror, while others are not? Research published by SAGE in the November issue of *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* provides novel insight into psychological factors, beyond political conservatism and liberalism that can help clarify commitment to the war on terror.

The two studies in the article, authored by Purdue University’s Christopher R. Agnew, Aaron M. Hoffman, Justin J. Lehmiller, and Natasha T. Duncan, were based on the idea that the psychological factors underlying commitment to the war on terror may be fundamentally the same as the factors underlying commitment to interpersonal relationships:

- 1) the personal *satisfaction* one derives from the relationship
- 2) the quality of *alternatives* available (i.e., alternative relationship partners)
- 3) *investment size* (the amount of time, effort, and resources that one has invested in the relationship and that would be lost if it ended).

Extending those previous findings on relationships to the question of commitment to the war on terror, the new studies explored American’s satisfaction with, alternatives to, and investments in the war on terror. The authors found that, in many ways, the same factors underlying relationship commitment also are true for commitment to public policies.

“We see the current results as a step toward understanding antecedents of commitment toward an international policy using concepts traditionally offered to understand interpersonal relations,” write the authors. “The results support the feasibility of applying relational models to understanding broader social concerns.”

The article, “From the Interpersonal to the International: Understanding Commitment to the “War on Terror,” published by SAGE in the November issue of *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, an official publication of The Society for Personality and Social Psychology, is available at no charge for a limited time at <http://pspb.sagepub.com/cqi/content/abstract/33/11/1559>.

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