

# Associations Between Openness in Adoption and Adoptee Life Satisfaction

## A Comparison of Transracial and Same-Race Adoptions

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### Introduction

- Research has confirmed the benefits of openness (the level of communication between adoptive and biological families) for all parties involved in an adoption. (Berge, 2006)
- Adoption loss can include the loss of birth family and a potential disconnection from birth culture and people of same race.
- This research aims to gain an understanding of the intersection between adoption openness and familial racial differences, and the potential implications on adoptee adolescents.

### Research Aims

- Determine whether transracial and same race adoptees show differences in level of openness, level of satisfaction with their level of openness, life satisfaction, or family relationships.
- Determine if the association between level of openness and life satisfaction or between level of openness and satisfaction with openness, differ for transracial and same-race adoptees.

### Participants

- Participants include adoptee adolescents at age 15 from The Early Growth & Development Study (EGDS), a long-term adoption study supported by the NIH (Leve, 2019)
- Participants were adopted domestically across the US and placed within 3 months of birth
- The current study looks at adoptees from Cohort 1 and is inclusive of transracial and same race adoptions
- Transracial Adoption = when neither parent matches the race of their adopted child

### Results

- No significant difference found between transracial and same race adoptees for: level of openness, satisfaction with openness, life satisfaction, or family relationships
- No significance found between level of openness and life satisfaction for transracial and same race adoptees
- No significance found between level of openness and satisfaction with adoption openness for transracial and same race adoptees

### Future Directions

- A larger sample size and a more complete data set from the EGDS may increase the statistical power of the results.
- Future research may benefit by reframing research questions and participant surveys to directly uncover feelings about adoption related loss and racial relationships.
- Research may include qualitative interviews to gather deeper understandings of the complex and numerous consequences that varying level of openness can have on adoptees.

### Conclusions

- Despite lacking statistical strength, trends suggest there exists differences between transracial and same race adoptees, particularly in the way level of openness impacts their satisfaction with the life and openness arrangements.

Figure 1: Positive Association between Openness & LS negatively moderated by same-race adoption

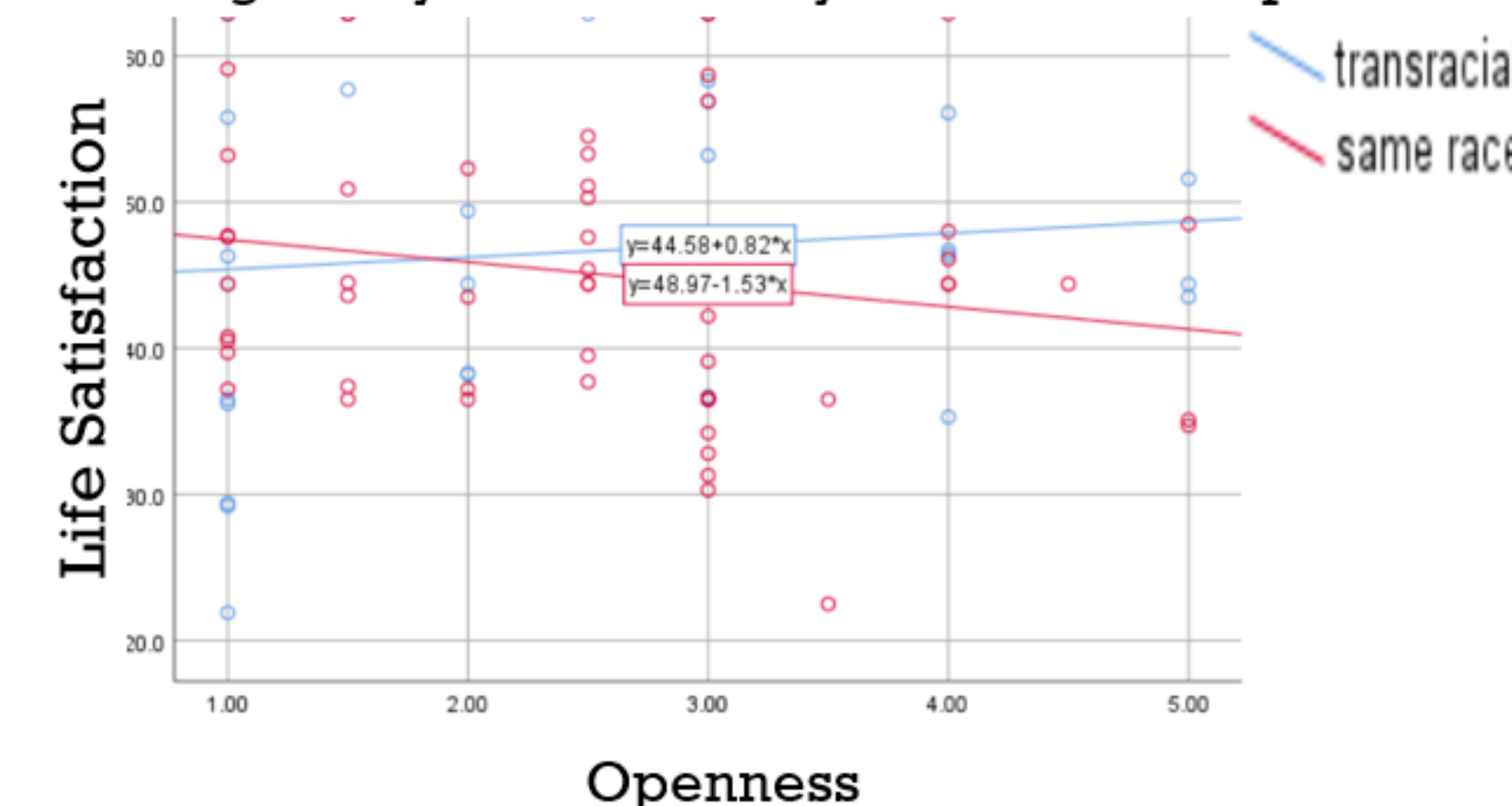
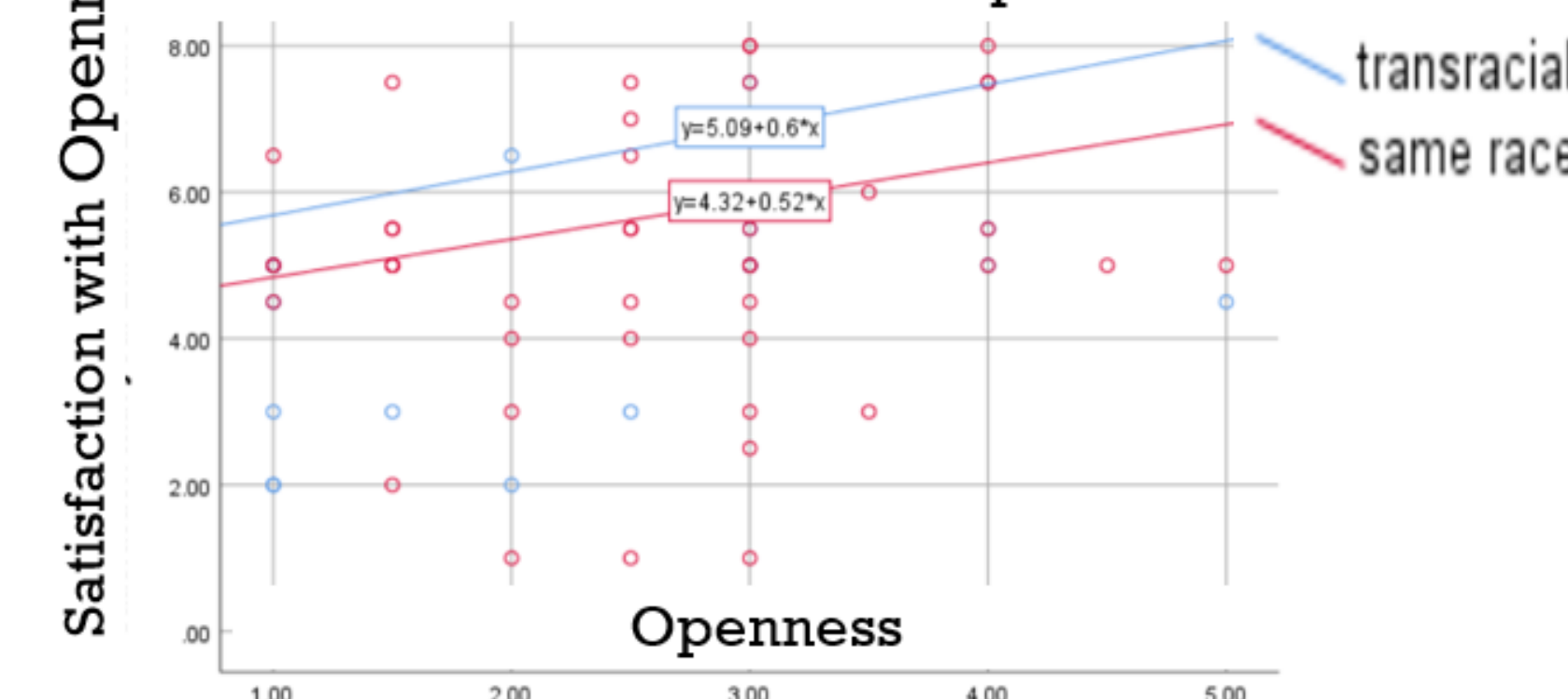


Figure 2: Positive Association between Openness & Satisfaction w/ Openness negatively moderated by same-race adoption



### Selected References

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