

Adam, A., & Sizemore, B. (2013). Parasocial romance: A social exchange perspective. *Interpersona: An International Journal on Personal Relationships*, 7(1), 12-25.

<https://doi.org/10.5964/ijpr.v7i1.106>

This article talks about parasocial romances and exploring those attachments as they haven't been well-studied prior. It defines parasocial relationships and goes on to conduct a study that examined why people formed parasocial romances from a social exchange perspective. The researchers issued a survey to their participants. They found that participants who reported stronger PSROMs also reported greater perceived benefits of PSROMs and that they were similar to those received from real-life relationships.

Ingram, J., & Lockett, Z. (2019). My friend Harry's a wizard: Predicting parasocial interaction with characters from fiction. *Psychology of Popular Media Culture*, 8(2), 148.

<https://doi.org/10.1037/ppm0000169>

In this article, parasocial relationships are observed with a narrow range of characters from books and movies, most notably the character "Harry Potter." The researchers follow previous studies suggesting that parasocial interactions are multi-dimensional. They investigated which personality, reading, and viewing motives predicted 4 dimensions of parasocial interaction with characters in the "Harry Potter" series. Results support the suggestion that parasocial interaction is multidimensional and demonstrate that factors predicting these dimensions may vary depending on the medium in which the favored persona is presented, or on the identity of the favored persona.

Karhulahti, V. M., & Välisalo, T. (2021). Fictosexuality, fictoromance, and fictophilia: A qualitative study of love and desire for fictional characters. *Frontiers in Psychology*,

11,3693. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2020.575427>

The article starts out by defining the terms Fictosexuality, Fictoromance, and Fictophilia. It then goes on to examine the phenomenon of experiencing strong and lasting feelings of love, desire, and infatuation for fictional characters. The study is a qualitative thematic analysis of 71 relevant online discussions. The findings are further discussed and ultimately compared to the long-term debates on human sexuality in relation to fictional characters.

Liebers, N., & Schramm, H. (2017). Friends in books: The influence of character attributes and the reading experience on parasocial relationships and romances. *Poetics*, 65, 12-23.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.poetic.2017.10.001>

In the article, the researchers mention that research on PSR with book characters has been largely neglected in the 60 years or so that parasocial interactions have been studied. To close this gap, this study aims to investigate the fundamental connections between different dimensions of the reading experience and the constitution of PSROMs. A survey was distributed to 493 adults. The results show that the perceived similarity between a reader and a book character, and the attractiveness of his or her physical and mental character influence the development of a PSR, whereas only physical attractiveness influences a PSROM.

Rain, M., & Mar, R. A. (2021). Adult attachment and engagement with fictional characters. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 38(9), 2792-2813.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/02654075211018513>

This article takes a look at the adult attachment and how it influences how people engage with stories. The first study involved an online questionnaire distributed to a total of 232 participants, but only 150 were used in the final sample. Results showed that attachment

avoidance was a positive predictor of the tendency to identify with favorite characters, whereas attachment anxiety was unrelated. In contrast, both anxiety and avoidance were positive predictors of parasocial interaction. Lastly, higher levels of anxiety predicted stronger parasocial bonds, whereas attachment avoidance was unrelated. Study 2 assumes that if avoidant individuals use character identification to self-enhance as a coping strategy, then their favorite characters should be independent and self-reliant, with little need for intimate relationships. Similarly, suppose anxious individuals use parasocial relationships as a proxy for emotional support from an intimate partner. In that case, the characters they choose should demonstrate qualities consistent with providing undivided attention and support. An online questionnaire was issued to 414 participants. The findings are that viewer avoidance was a predictor of character avoidance and autonomy. Unexpectedly, however, viewer avoidance was unrelated to character competence.