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MailOnline

It's true after all: Women DO get more upset during rows - but only because men always start them in the first place

By [Daily Mail Reporter](#)

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It is the age-old complaint of long-suffering menfolk everywhere - that women take rows too much to heart.

Now research has confirmed the male suspicion is true, as women apparently do get more upset than their partners when couples squabble.

But husbands and boyfriends shouldn't feel too pleased with themselves; the same study showed that men cause most relationship rows in the first place.



The study found men expressed more 'powerful undermining emotions' than women in rows

According to research, women feel emotions more intensely than men when conflicts arise within a relationship.

However, it is men who are behind most rows between couples because they are more likely to express 'powerful undermining emotions' such as wrath or contempt.

The findings came from researchers at the University of Granada in Spain, who analysed the type of interpersonal emotions men and women feel when they face different conflicts within their relationship.

A total of 142 people - 75 women and 67 men - were exposed to five different situations in which a couple might experience an argument.

Researchers analysed the type of interpersonal emotions men and women feel, and the effect emotions have on the recurrence of conflict.

In situations where one partner offends the other or treats them disrespectfully, women felt miserable, while the situation in which one partner was physically aggressive during an argument, women felt more disappointed than men.

In another scenario where one partner distorted an argument to be right, research showed that women felt sadness, while men merely felt embarrassed.



Women were said to feel more intense emotions during arguments

During an argument with a partner, men were said to have more domineering or powerful emotions such as wrath, anger or contempt, while women would experience more submissive attitudes, like guilt, sadness or fear.

However, the research proved that women feel more intense emotions.

Researchers think that 'the socio-cultural context and gender-based roles assigned to men and women respectively might have a relevant influence on the generation of expectations concerning their role in relationships and in conflicts within the couple'.

They added: 'Thus, as society establishes certain rules on the composition of men-women relations, it also establishes some rules on how both are expected to act in certain conflictive situations.'

The research is published in the science journal Psychosocial Intervention.

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So an argument upsets a woman more because a man always starts them. NO THEY DON'T.

- Andy-Roo, Herts, 17/4/2011 09:51

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Most relationships I have been in, including my marriage, have very rarely seen an argument, and if there is an argument, it's 99.9% of the time, about money. But I dated two women, who would argue about anything, and both could start a fight in an empty house, if they saw you were really watching a TV program, they would turn the channel, they would both do anything to try to provoke an argument, even lie to get an argument going, one even took a chicken that I thawed out, and was going to cook that night, and put it back in the freezer while I was at work, just to get an argument going, in which this woman (who worked in catering all her life) denied knowing you couldn't re-freeze a chicken. Both these women were from broken homes, where their parents just argued argued argued, then split up, and my theory is, that they didn't feel loved if they were sitting with you just watching TV, they had to get attention all the time, and if the only attention was a fight, then good enough.

- Stuart, Glasgow, 16/4/2011 00:46

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