

Contents

<i>List of Tables</i>	xi
<i>Foreword</i>	xii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xvi
1 Cyber-Relationships, the Story so Far	1
A brief history of the internet: From the defence force to human relationships	2
Online relationships: Cueless, shallow, and hostile or close and friendly?	6
Cyberspace: A place for the lonely to hang out?	8
Too much too soon: Boom or bust phenomena	10
Real relationships in cyberspace	10
Cyberspace: More radical opportunities for relationship development	12
More cues than meet the eye	14
SIDE model	15
SIP: Social information processing theory	16
Hyperpersonal communication	18
Cyberspace: A place to be more liberated	19
Sex in cyberspace	21
More self-disclosure online	22
True self versus actual self	23
Moving it offline successfully	25
Keeping up with the times	28
Developing a theory towards explaining cyber-relating	28
2 From Courtly Love to Cyber-Flirting	30
Vacillating from the home to the outside world	31
Romantic love in the postmodern era: How different is it?	33

Offline signals: The crucial place of non-verbal signals	38
Conceptualising cyberspace	41
Cyber-flirting: New rules	45
Cyber-flirting: Old rules	52
Bodies on internet dating sites	52
3 Playing at Love: Winnicott and Potential Space	56
The psychodynamics of play: The work of Donald Woods Winnicott	57
Winnicott and cyberspace	61
Cyberspace as a potential space for psychological growth and 'liberation'?	65
Object-relations theories: Regressive behaviour and splitting	66
Object-relations theories and the circulation of quasi-objects: A 'ball' in play	71
Identity	73
4 Object Engagement and Dysfunctional Aspects of Relating Online	79
Psychodynamics of object engagement: The work of Christopher Bollas	79
Object engagement and attachment: Dysfunctional and unhealthy outcomes	82
The generational character of objects	87
5 Cyber-Cheating: Can We Really be Liberated in Cyberspace?	88
Not all teddy bears are transitional	88
Internet infidelity	90
Splitting the good from the bad in cyberspace	104
Other problematic online relationships	107
6 Deviance and Cyberspace	109
The Numa Numa dance	109
Internet addiction	111
Cyber-harassment	115
Rape in cyberspace	120
Paedophilia	120
Misrepresentation of self online	122

Online Dating: Shopping for Love on the internet	124
Motivations for using an online dating site	125
Different paces for different spaces: Progression	
from online to offline	127
Online and offline attraction: Is it all that different?	130
All based on the first meeting	135
A numbers game	137
Filtering through the lies	139
Clichéd self: Too many people strolling on the beach	142
sipping red wine	144
Seeking out the 'true' self online	146
Strategies used to compose one's own profile:	
Which 'self' to present?	146
Online dating strategies: How to play the game	150
Conclusions about online dating	152
Characters and Archetypes in Cyberspace	153
Character type: The psychodynamic entrée	153
Character type, change, and cyberspace	155
Character type and cyberspace: Research findings	156
Jung on archetypes	166
Visions of the Future	171
The future of online dating: Waxing or waning?	171
Bluetoothing and blogging for love	174
Like kids in a lolly shop	176
Writing as therapy	177
Online psychotherapy	178
The future of sex in cyberspace	180
Ethical considerations for future online research	182
On a 'concluding note'	190
Notes	191
References	193
Author Index	212
Subject Index	215