Introduction
Previous research shows that motives and beliefs can influence our visual attention. For example, a study done by Isaacowitz showed that individuals who were more optimistic tended to avoid negative stimuli (2006). Thus, individuals attended to stimuli which reinforced and avoided stimuli which contradicted their personal beliefs about their environment.

Research has also shown that relationship satisfaction biased memories towards those that supported individuals belief about their relationship (Halford et al., 2002). Due to the influence that beliefs and motives have on our cognitive processes, we suggest that relationship satisfaction influences our visual attention, specifically in the male population who have been shown to be more visually inclined (Hyde, 2005).

Methods
Participants
- Twenty-two individuals participated
- Currently were in a relationship (2+ months)
- Ran both male and female subjects (17 males, 5 females)

Materials: Visual Attention
- All subjects eye-movements were monitored via an eye-tracker
- Viewed 36 image sets composed of four images (5 seconds)

Materials: Relationship Satisfaction (RSS)
- Rated on a 6-point likert scale
  - 0 = Very dissatisfied, 6 = Very Satisfied
  - High values indicate more satisfaction in the relationship
  - Also included an Optimism scale

Relationship Satisfaction Questions:
1. Communication and openness
2. Resolving conflicts and arguments
3. Degree of affection and caring
4. Intimacy and closeness
5. Satisfaction with your role in the relationship
6. Satisfaction with the other person’s role in the relationship
7. Overall satisfaction with your relationship

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Results
Relationship Satisfaction & Positive Images
Analysis indicated that there was a positive correlation between the satisfaction of males in their relationship and the amount of time spent on positive images. Using 2-tailed Pearson test, $r = 0.576, \alpha < 0.05$.

Results Cont.
Optimism and Visual Attention
Optimism scale was included to verify that correlations seen were not due to general optimistic outlook, but rather specifically due to the current satisfaction in the relationship.

Discussion
Optimism and Visual Attention
The optimism scale was included to verify (a word that is less definite) that correlations seen were not due to general optimistic outlook, but rather specifically due to the current satisfaction in their romantic relationship.

The results suggest that although visual attention can be under conscious control, the beliefs and motives of an individual can help determine the subconscious movements and targets of the visual system.

We also suggest that rather than this simply being a casual relationship in which one variable helps to define the second, that there is a cyclical relationship in which both variables influence each other leading to stability in thought or vicious cycles.

References

