The background features a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white dots. On the left side, there are several overlapping circular elements: a large scale with numerical markings from 140 to 260, and several smaller circles with dashed lines and arrows, suggesting a technical or scientific theme.

COMMUNICATION METHODS AND RELATIONSHIP SATISFACTION IN EMERGING ADULTS

ERIC GOODCASE, HEATHER LOVE, & DR. KRISTIN ANDERS
FAMILY STUDIES AND HUMAN SERVICES
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

INTRO

- Emerging Adulthood (ages 18-25) is a time of identity development including explorations of relationship identities (Arnett, 2015)
 - Technology as a tool for relationship explorations and development
- Digital Natives vs. Digital Immigrants
- Individuals may report technology having positive influence on relationship and intimacy development, but higher texting share (proportion of texting compared to face to face communication) is associated with lower relationship satisfaction.
- Much of research focuses on one means of communication at a time or each means of communication separately

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Are different methods of communication used in similar ways?
- Which profiles exist in terms of how emerging adults in college utilize different communication methods with their romantic partners over the course of the semester?
- If different profiles do exist, do these profiles differ in relationship satisfaction?

METHOD

- Longitudinal online survey distributed to potential participants enrolled in *Intro to Human Development* course
 - Three different time points over the course of the semester
- Total of $n = 261$ participants were in the same romantic relationship throughout semester
- 78.9% Female, 89.7% White, 98.9% in relationship with different gender partner
- Average age: 19.02 years old ($SD = 1.19$)
- Average length of relationship: 19.99 months ($SD = 17.88$).

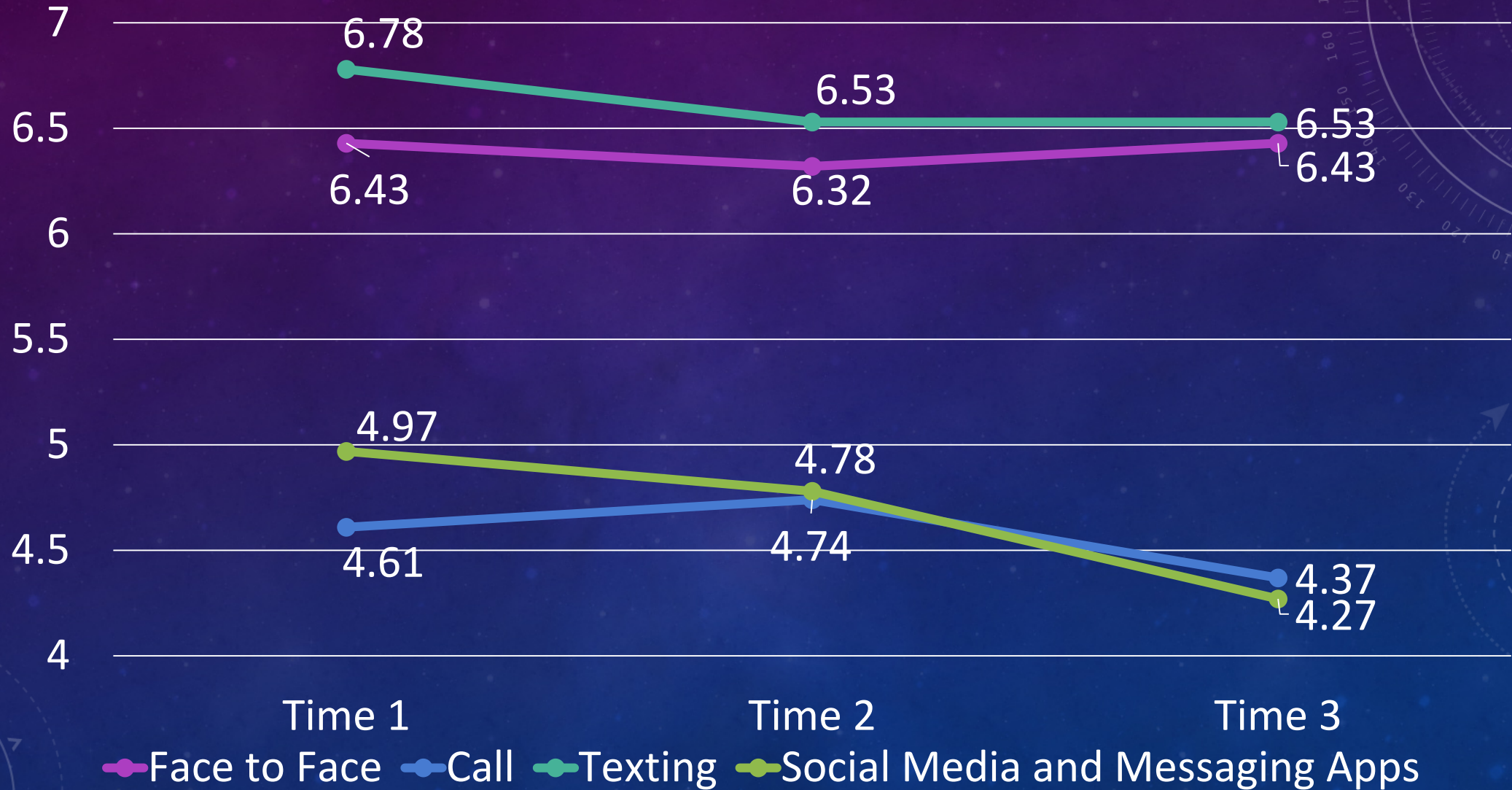
METHOD

- Measures
 - Relationship Satisfaction (Quality Marriage Index)
 - Frequency of use for multiple platforms on scale from never to frequently throughout the day
- Analysis Plan
 - Exploratory Factor Analysis to determine similar means of communication
 - Latent Profile Analysis to determine different profiles of how individuals communicate with their partner
 - ANOVA to determine if any of these profiles were significantly different in relationship satisfaction

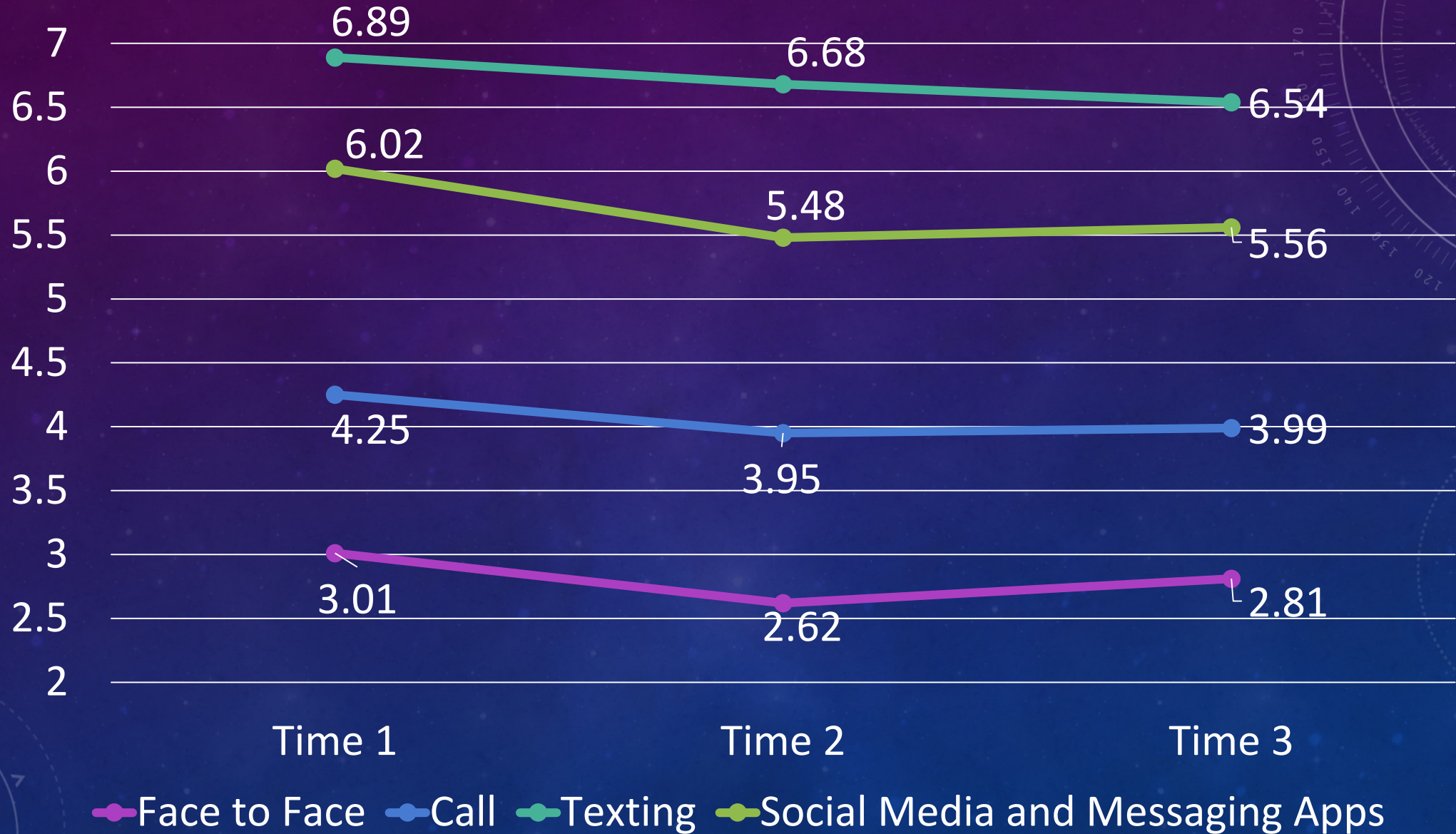
EFA

	Factor Loadings			
Item	Face to Face	Calls	Texting	Social Media & Message Apps
Face to Face	.88	.01	.07	.02
Phone Call (No video)	.33	.85	.05	.09
Video Call	-.24	.87	.12	.12
Text Messaging	< -.01	.13	.96	.06
Instant Messaging Mediums (AOL, Facebook messenger, etc.)	-.12	<.01	.04	.79
Messaging apps (Snapchat, kik, etc.)	-.49	-.03	.04	.42
Public social networking site interaction (tweeting at, posting on Facebook wall, etc.)	-.14	.28	-.08	.70
Private messaging on social networking sites	-.11	.05	.06	.83
Email	.24	.04	.10	.60

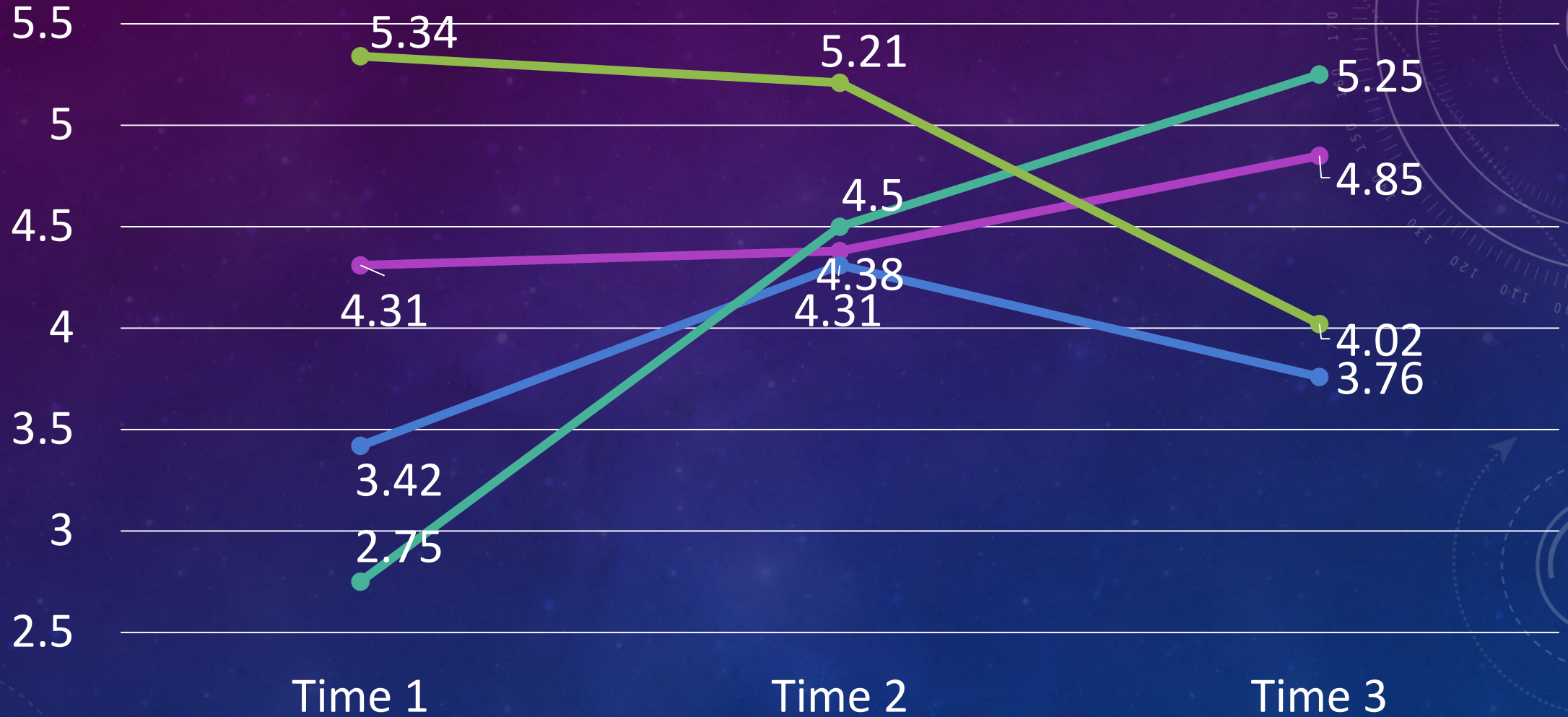
Profile 1: 48% of Sample



Profile 2: 44% of Sample



Profile 3: 8% of Sample

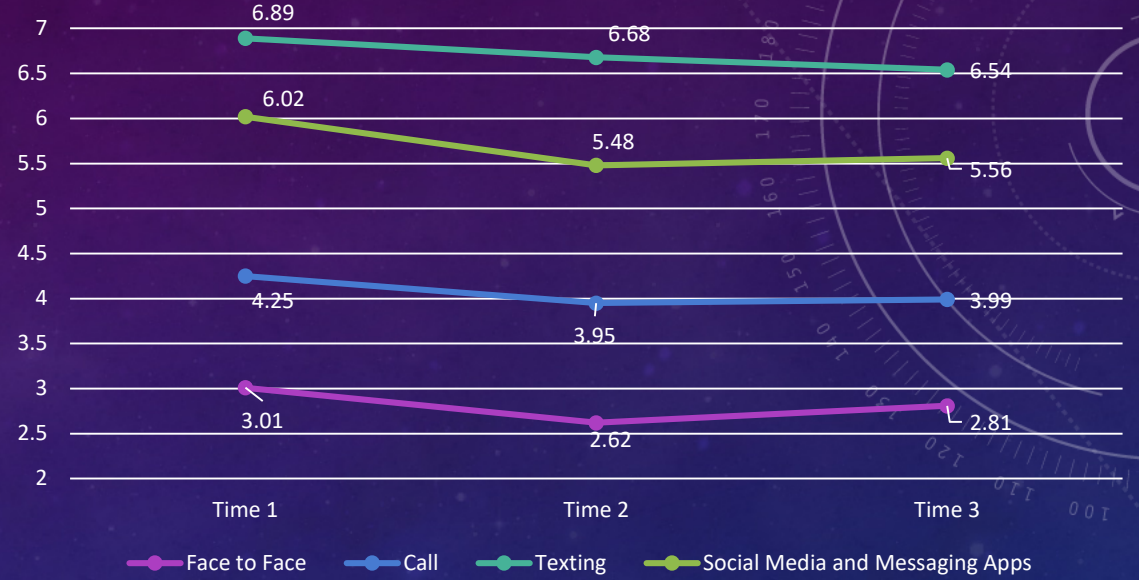


● Face to Face ● Call ● Texting ● Social Media and Messaging Apps

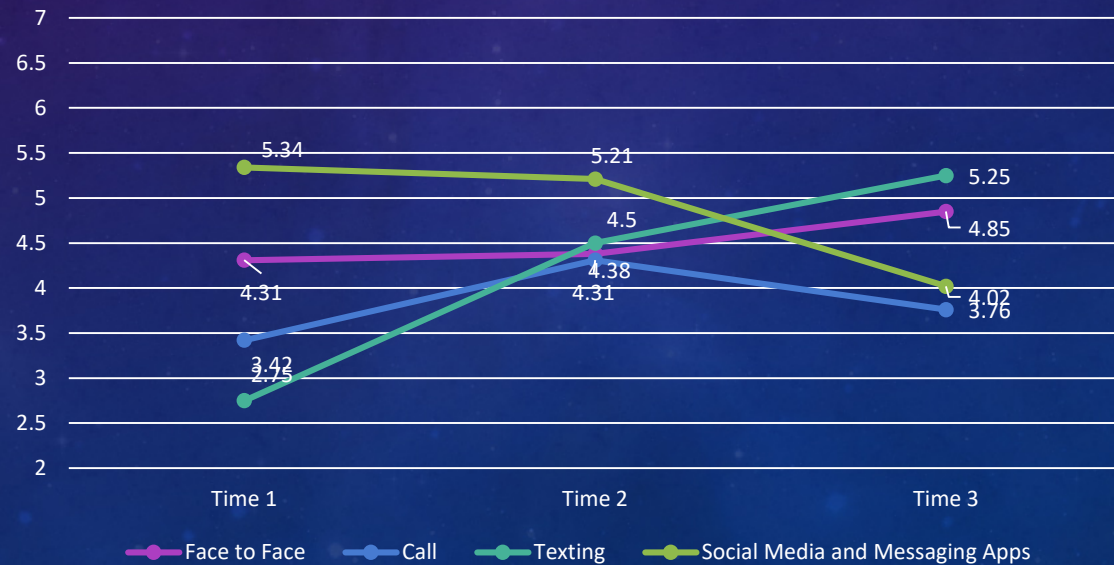
Profile 1: 48% of Sample



Profile 2: 44% of Sample



Profile 3: 8% of Sample



ANOVA:

RELATIONSHIP
SATISFACTION

	df	SS	MS	F	p
Between Groups	10.953	2	5.476	3.331	.037
Within Groups	424.126	258	1.644		
Total	435.079	260			

	n	M	SD	md P1	p	md P2	p	md P3	p
Profile 1	121	6.27	1.04	-	-	.41	< .05	.42	.48
Profile 2	117	5.86	1.48	-.41	< .05	-	-	.01	> .99
Profile 3	21	5.86	1.37	-.42	.48	-.01	> .99	-	-

DISCUSSION

- Technology based communication was consistently high and relied upon in Emerging Adult relationships
- Profile 1 had highest level of Face to Face communication and had highest relationship satisfaction supporting previous research.
- Texting was quantitatively different than other technology mediums and both Profiles 1 and 2 texted frequently throughout the day while Profile 3 saw parallel increases with texting and face to face.
- Seemed to be an inverse correlation between face to face and social media and messenger app use.
- Future research can start to analyze function of how these different communication profiles impact relationship satisfaction.

Questions

Eric Goodcase, goodcase@ksu.edu