



جامعة الإمارات العربية المتحدة  
United Arab Emirates University

The College of Graduate Studies and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Cordially Invite You to a

**Master Thesis Defense**

Entitled

*Evaluating the effect of exposure to challenging fat talk scenarios on body disparaging conversations*

by

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Abstract

Disparaging conversations about body shape and weight has become increasingly common among peers. Fat-talk engagement and its predictors are still unclear. The study examined women's reactions to fat-talk versus feminist-theory inspired challenging fat-talk scenarios via experimental vignettes. Ninety-two undergraduate female students from United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) completed baseline questionnaires that assessed their levels of body dissatisfaction (Eating Disorder Inventory-2- Body Dissatisfaction subscale), fat talk engagement (Negative Body Talk Scale) and mood (Positive and Negative Affect Schedule). One week later, they were randomized to view one of the two scenarios, followed by assessment of their fat talk engagement (Negative Body Talk Scale- Body Concerns scale), mood, and social likeability (Interpersonal Attraction Scale- Social Attraction subscale). Results indicated no significant impact of experimental condition on subsequent fat talk. Social likeability of the target character was reported higher in the challenge condition. Finally, baseline fat talk significantly predicted post-exposure engagement in fat talk. The current findings offer insights into women's perceptions of and predictors for engaging in fat talk.

**Keywords:** Fat-talk Engagement, Body Dissatisfaction, Social Likeability, Challenging Fat-talk