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**Sharing experiences of infidelity through Computer Mediated Communication:  
The case of online support groups.**

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The ubiquity of internet has transformed aspects of close interpersonal relationships, including relational transgressions, such as infidelity; it has affected how people redefine the subjective connotations of living such experiences and how they cope with them. This is reflected in the appeal of the environment of online support groups, where millions of members narrate about experiences of infidelity. Based on the notion that "we construct our objects and our objects construct us", the aim of the present study is to examine (a) how identities about infidelity are constructed, through the process of self-presentation and self-disclosure in online support groups and (b) which are the components of the "matrix of interaction", which facilitate the environment of "support" in these groups. This is a pilot study of a larger-scale research which will be conducted. The study examined -through interpretive phenomenological analysis - the content of 150 postings and their responses, published during two weeks to three popular online support groups about infidelity. Taking into account the ethical considerations of online psychological research, the selected open forums need no registration and include at least 1000 members, so they can be defined as a public domain. The results reflect the social character of new technologies, which "feed" our sense of self. The humans' need of belonging and being contained in times of relational hardship is looking for sources of gratification and the Internet comes to partially satisfy this need. This research offers implications

about how mediated identities are constructed on online support groups and how group processes of support appear in online spaces.