**Point 1: Issues with methodology**

The majority of studies that support that the internal working model can be used to predict future relationships rely on retrospective data

The studies ask adults for information on their childhood attachments so are asking them to recall their early life.

These recollections are likely to be flawed as our memories of the past are not always that accurate due to poor recall.

They are also likely to be biased as adults who currently have a positive internal working model are more likely to process attachment related info with a positive bias and a negative bias is likely from those with negative internal working models

This means that the evidence supporting the link between childhood and adult relationships may be flawed and inaccurate and makes us question whether there really is a link at all.

**Point 2: Correlational evidence**

The research linking the internal working model to relationships is correlational with only relatively weak correlation coefficients**.**

We can’t therefore claim that the reason for the later relationship style is definitely the earlier attachment; there may be other reasons such as the child’s temperament or personality which remains relatively stable over time.

Also the correlations are weak; Steele (1998) found only a small correlation of **0.17** between having a secure attachment type in childhood and early adulthood.

Fraley (2002) conducted a review of 27 samples where infants were assessed in infancy and reassessed up to 20 years later and found correlations ranging from **0.50** to as low as **0.10**.

Such weak correlations suggest that attachment type is not very stable and also means fortunately that if you have had a poor relationship as a child you can still have good, healthy and secure relationships as an adult.

**Point 3: The theory is too simplistic**

It is too simplistic to say that only childhood internal working models have an impact on future relationships there are other factors that also play a part.

Cohn (1992) found that the quality of relationships in adult couples where one partner was securely attached but the other was not did not differ from ones where both partners were securely attached

Alexandrov (2005) found insecurely attached wives married to securely attached men had much greater relationship satisfaction than those married to insecurely attached men

This suggests that a person can have a negative internal working model but this only translates into an insecure relationship if they don’t have a secure partner to help them stabilise.

Also it is thought that other factors such as changes produced by the transition to parenthood, the number and nature of life events experiences and in some case counselling or treatment for mental disorders can also have an impact on adult attachment style

This means that if you have had a poor relationship as a child you can still have good, healthy and secure relationships as an adult and with your own children if these other factors are present.