

# **9<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection**

**Hobart and William Smith Colleges,  
Geneva, New York, USA  
15-18 June 2022**



**[DRAFT]  
Conference Program and  
Book of Abstracts**

## ISIPAR President's Welcome

I am very excited to welcome you to Geneva, NY for the 9<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection. While I have recently moved for a new job, I spent ten years living in Geneva and working at Hobart & William Smith Colleges. During my decade at the Colleges and in the Finger Lakes region of New York, I loved the beautiful campus, the amazing lakes and gorges, the delicious local wine, and the fantastic early summer weather. I hope during your time here, you'll love these things too.

The program we have constructed for this conference is impressive, especially considering the lingering challenges of COVID-19. I want to specifically thank Dr. Nadia Koltcheva for her efforts in chairing the scientific committee. Nadia ensured all the submitted abstracts were reviewed by members of the scientific committee (a big thank you to the committee members!) and communicated decisions to each person who submitted abstracts. Because of the work of Nadia and her committee, we can offer a high-quality and engaging program of presentations, posters, workshops, and keynotes.

I also want to thank the events staff at HWS for their help in scheduling the meeting space and helping with re-arranging space between sessions to make sure the conference moves along smoothly. If you see some of the hard-working staff at the Colleges, please make sure to thank them for helping make the conference a success.

Finally, I hope you will take the time to enjoy not only the conference but also all that Geneva and the Finger Lakes region has to offer – the local food and drink scene in Geneva is deservedly famous. Take a few minutes to walk along Seneca Lake or to enjoy the historic buildings downtown. We are happy to have you here!

Sincerely,



Brien K. Ashdown  
President, ISIPAR

## Congress Venue Welcome

On behalf of Hobart and William Smith Colleges, welcome to campus and to Geneva, N.Y. We are thrilled to host the 9<sup>th</sup> International Congress for Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection that brings together so many exemplary scholars from around the nation and the world. Nestled within the vibrant landscape of the Finger Lakes, HWS is home to a thriving liberal arts community that is focused on providing students with the education they need to face the future with confidence.

In the midst of an ambitious schedule of presentations, poster sessions, workshops and symposia, we hope you get a chance to walk our campus and lakeshore, and to explore the Finger Lakes region, an area rich in natural resources and history. Seneca Lake, the largest and deepest, has its own macroclimate that is ideal to grow grapes, resulting in the creation of dozens of world-class wineries and restaurants. Just a few miles from campus, nearby Seneca Falls is the birthplace of the women's rights movement. Whether you are interested in natural beauty, great food and wine, and/or historical sites, there is a great deal to discover in our region.

We hope you enjoy your time with us and look forward to meeting many of you in the coming days.

Sincerely,  
Joyce P. Jacobsen  
President

Sarah Kirk  
Provost and Dean of Faculty



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**Chair of ICIAR 2022 and Conference Organizer:**

Brien K. Ashdown, American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

**Honorary Chair of ICIAR 2022**

Ronald Rohner, Professor Emeritus of Human Development and Family Sciences, University of Connecticut, Storrs, USA

## Scientific Committee

**Chair:**

Nadia Koltcheva, Department of Cognitive Science and Psychology, New Bulgarian University

**Members:**

Ramadan Ahmed

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Abdul Khaleque

Nadia Koltcheva

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Ronald Rohner

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Renata Glavak Tkalić

Muhammad Kamal Uddin

Nour Zaki

## Topics

- Academic and School issues (See also Teacher acceptance-rejection)
- Acculturation/Immigration
- Applied research/practice
- Attachment
- Benefits of giving affection & social support
- Biological correlates of perceived acceptance-rejection
- Bridging theories
- Child abuse and neglect
- Clinical practice
- Cognition/Social Cognition
- Corporal punishment
- Developmental problems
- Ethnicity
- Evolutionary perspective
- Family interaction (including parenting styles, marital relationships, etc.)
- Family violence (other than child abuse & neglect)
- Father love
- Fear of intimacy
- Forgiveness
- Gender/Gender differences
- Intimate partner acceptance-rejection
- Law/legal/courts
- Lifespan perspective
- Loneliness
- Methodological issues
- Normal growth and development
- Ostracism/Social exclusion
- Overview (summary of existing research)
- Parental Alienation
- Parenting education
- Peer and sibling acceptance-rejection
- Psychological and behavioral adjustment and maladjustment
- Psychological and behavioral control
- Rejection sensitivity
- Research (other)
- Resilience and coping with rejection
- Revenge
- Sexuality
- Substance abuse
- Teacher acceptance-rejection (See also Academic and School issues)

## Keynote Speakers

**Ronald P. Rohner, PhD**, is Professor Emeritus of Human Development and Family Sciences and of Anthropology at the University of Connecticut, USA. There he is also Director of the Rohner Center for the Study of Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection, and he is the Founding President and now Executive Director of the International Society for Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection (ISIPAR). Rohner is also the recipient of the American Psychological Association's Award for Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology, the Outstanding International Psychologist Award from the USA in 2008, and the Henry David International Mentoring Award. Beyond that, he is a former President of the Society for Cross-Cultural Research, from whom he received a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020. In addition, he is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and of the American Psychological Society, and he is a Fellow and Distinguished Member of the American Anthropological Association. He is also a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

**Abdul Khaleque, PhD**, is a senior scientist in the Ronald and Nancy Rohner Center for the Study of Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection, at the University of Connecticut. He obtained PhD in psychology from the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium, M. Sc. in applied psychology from the University of the Punjab in Pakistan, and M A in family studies from the University of Connecticut. He was an adjunct professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Sciences at the University of Connecticut, He was also a professor of psychology at the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh, and visiting faculty in the Department of Psychology at the University of Otago in New Zealand, visiting fellow in the Department of Psychology at the University of Delhi in India, and visiting scholar in the Department of Applied Psychology at the University of the Punjab in Pakistan. He is a past president of the International Society for Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection. He is a current member of the American Psychological Association, and a life member of the Human Factors Society of America. He has been serving as a member of the editorial board and as a reviewer of over a dozen of international journals. He has authored or coauthored about 120 research articles, 41 book chapters, and 14 books in psychology and human development. His book, *Intimate Relationship Across the Lifespan*, was published in 2018 by ABC-CLIO/Praeger Publications, Santa Barbara, California, and Denver, Colorado. The book has won two Independent Publisher Awards: 2019 IPPY Award---a Silver Medal in Psychology/Mental Health Category, and a Bronze Medal in Sexuality/Relationships Category. His most recent book, *Parenting and Child Development Across Ethnicity and Culture*, was published in 2021 by the same publisher.



## Keynote Abstracts

### **Longing for Belonging: Feeling Cared-About (Or not), and Why It Matters**

Ronald P. Rohner

Professor Emeritus of Human Development and Family Sciences, University of Connecticut,  
Storrs

Six decades of research with several hundred thousand children and adults on every continent except Antarctica have shown that people everywhere on our planet—regardless of differences in culture, race, language, or gender—understand themselves to be cared-about (accepted) or not (rejected) in the same four ways. Additionally, people everywhere tend to respond in the same 7-10 ways when they feel rejected by the people most important to them. These responses happen with such regularity across all populations that we have come to think that humans (1) have a biologically based need to feel cared about by their attachment figures, and (2) have a tendency to respond in the same negative ways when this need is not met. We think these response tendencies are probably hardwired into the human brain as a result of common biocultural evolution. If true, then we should be able to identify differences in brain structure and functioning of rejected versus accepted people. *fMRI* evidence shows that different regions of the brain *do* respond as expected in the context of experimentally-induced mild rejection among adults who felt seriously rejected in childhood versus adults who felt fully loved in childhood. This presentation amplifies on and provides evidence for these conclusions.

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### **Adult Intimate Relationships in the Context of Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection Theory (IPARTheory)**

Abdul Khaleque

Department of Human Development and Family Sciences  
University of Connecticut

Parental acceptance-rejection theory (PARTheory) based research, until 2000, has focused mainly on parent-child relationships (specifically, parental acceptance-rejection). But research only on parental acceptance-rejection could not provide comprehensive answers to the effects of all forms of interpersonal relationships on individuals' psycho-social development throughout the lifespan. This paper intends to explain how parental acceptance-rejection theory-based research has gradually expanded beyond its initial concerns with *parental* acceptance-rejection and started focusing on all aspects of *interpersonal* acceptance and rejection including, among others, intimate partner acceptance-rejection throughout the individual's lifespan. This paper also focuses on how adult intimate relationships research, eventually, led to the change of the theory's name from parental acceptance-rejection theory (PARTheory) to interpersonal acceptance-rejection theory (IPARTheory), and a major paradigm shift in the theory. First, the paper will focus on the basic concepts and fundamental components of intimate relationships. Second, it will present IPARTheory based research on adult intimate relationships and its effects on the transformation of the theory, including its paradigm shift.

## ICIAR 2022 Draft Program

# Wednesday, June 15, 2022

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### Pre-Conference Events

Pre-purchased box lunches available starting at 11:30am from TBD

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### Optional Local Event: Wine Tour and Tasting

(\$20 + cost of tastings; pre-registration required)

**3:00pm – 6:00pm**

**Meeting Place TBA**

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### Conference Events

Registration Table	4:00pm – 8:00pm	Scandling Center Lobby
Opening Social	6:00pm – 8:00pm	Vandervort Room, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Scandling Center
Open Bar (Beer & Wine)		
Light Appetizers		

# Thursday, June 16, 2022

Registration Table	9:00am – 4:00pm	Scandling Center Lobby
Continental Breakfast and <i>Poster Session I</i>	8:00am – 9:30am	Vandervort Room, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Scandling Center

<p><b>Morning Keynote Address</b></p> <p>Ronald P. Rohner</p> <p><b>Title: <i>Longing for Belonging: Feeling Cared About (Or not) and Why It Matters</i></b></p>	<p>9:30am – 10:30am</p>	<p>Sanford Room in the Library</p> <p>Zoom: <a href="https://ausharjah.zoom.us/j/99897526747">https://ausharjah.zoom.us/j/99897526747</a></p> <p>Passcode: 882854</p>
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<p><b>Breakout Sessions</b>  <b>10:45am – 12:15pm</b></p>	
<p>Coxe Hall Room 07</p> <p>Zoom: <a href="https://ausharjah.zoom.us/j/97751775649">https://ausharjah.zoom.us/j/97751775649</a></p> <p>Passcode: 185831</p>	<p>Coxe Hall Room 08</p> <p>Zoom: <a href="https://ausharjah.zoom.us/j/97453787481">https://ausharjah.zoom.us/j/97453787481</a></p> <p>Passcode: 479646</p>
<p><b>Roundtable Discussion: Clinical Application of IPARTheory: Recovery from Rejection</b></p> <p>Chair: David Rising  Co-Chair: Selenga Gurmen</p>	<p><b>Paper Presentations: Health and Wellbeing Part I</b></p> <p><u>Presentation One:</u> <i>Neural Correlates of Remembered Parental Acceptance-Rejection in Childhood</i>, Sumbleen Ali (Session Chair)</p> <p><u>Presentation Two:</u> <i>Personality Traits Mediates the Relationship between Remembrances of Childhood Parental Acceptance and Adulthood Mental Health</i>, Sadiq Hussain</p> <p><u>Presentation Three:</u> <i>Effects of Parental Acceptance-Rejection on Adolescents' Emotion Regulation: A Cross-National Study</i>, Sumbleen Ali</p> <p><u>Presentation Four:</u> <i>Parental Warmth, Parental involvement, and its effects on the development of children</i>, Parminder Parmar</p>

**Lunch**  
**12:15pm – 1:30pm**

<b>Breakout Sessions</b> <b>1:30pm – 2:45pm</b>		
<p>Coxe Hall Room 01</p> <p>Zoom: <a href="https://ausharjah.zoom.us/j/98455512689">https://ausharjah.zoom.us/j/98455512689</a></p> <p>Passcode: 529752</p>	<p>Coxe Hall Room 07</p> <p>Zoom: <a href="https://ausharjah.zoom.us/j/95261516314">https://ausharjah.zoom.us/j/95261516314</a></p> <p>Passcode: 797494</p>	<p>Coxe Hall Room 08</p> <p>Zoom: <a href="https://ausharjah.zoom.us/j/93862564704">https://ausharjah.zoom.us/j/93862564704</a></p> <p>Passcode: 298290</p>
<p><b>Symposium: Research Regarding the Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire and Parental Alienation: A Panoply of Proposals</b></p> <p>Chair: William Bernet</p>	<p><b>Paper Presentations: IPARTheory Measures and Assessment</b></p> <p><i>Presentation One: The development of a self-report scale for the assessment of the subjective perception of community acceptance/rejection and control, Nunzia Matascioli</i></p> <p><i>Presentation Two: Organizational Acceptance-Rejection/Control Questionnaire (OARQ/C): A Validation Study, Nadia Koltcheva (Session Chair)</i></p> <p><i>Presentation Three: Psychometric properties of the Croatian version of Interpersonal Rejection Sensitivity Scale, Renata Glavak-Tkalic</i></p>	<p><b>Paper Presentations: Correlates of IPARTheory</b></p> <p><i>Presentation One: Effects of Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection Experiences in the Life Cycle on Psychological Adjustment and Loneliness: A Retrospective Study, Vincenzo Paolo Senese</i></p> <p><i>Presentation Two: Body Image Satisfaction: The role of Parental Acceptance-Rejection and Psychological Adjustment, Dora Trgovec</i></p> <p><i>Presentation Three: Phubbing, Rejection Sensitivity, and Parental Acceptance/Rejection: Examining the Effects of Parental Phone Usage on Child Perceptions of Acceptance and Rejection, Ryan Allred</i></p> <p><i>Presentation Four: Relations between Psychological Adjustment and Perceived Parental, Teacher and Best Friend Acceptance among Bangladeshi Adolescents, Tariqul Islam</i></p>

**ISIPAR Business Meeting and Afternoon Coffee**

**3:00pm – 4:00pm**

**Common Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Scandling Center**

Sponsored by Office of Academic and Faculty Affairs, Hobart & William Smith Colleges

# Friday, June 17, 2022

Registration Table	9:00am – 4:00pm	Scandling Center Lobby
Continental Breakfast and <i>Poster Session II</i>	8:00am – 9:30am	Vandervort Room, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Scandling Center
<b>Morning Workshop</b>  Speaker: Donna Tetreault, Independent Scholar  <b>Title: <i>Teaching Children to Manage Their Emotions Toward Better Mental Health</i></b>	9:30am – 10:30am	Sanford Room in Library  Zoom: <a href="https://ausharjah.zoom.us/j/94816706652">https://ausharjah.zoom.us/j/94816706652</a>  Passcode: 050141
<b>Morning Workshop</b>  Speaker: Ken Lewis, Child Custody Evaluation Services of Philadelphia, Inc  <b>Title: <i>Using the PARQ in Custody Evaluations</i></b>	9:30am-10:30am	Geneva Room in Library  Zoom: <a href="https://ausharjah.zoom.us/j/93232571090">https://ausharjah.zoom.us/j/93232571090</a>  Passcode: 413171

Coxe Hall Room 01  Zoom: <a href="https://ausharjah.zoom.us/j/96514054706">https://ausharjah.zoom.us/j/96514054706</a>  Passcode: 54115	Coxe Hall Room 08  Zoom: <a href="https://ausharjah.zoom.us/j/98229753779">https://ausharjah.zoom.us/j/98229753779</a>  Passcode: 87259
<b>Symposium: Parental Acceptance-Rejection and Child Development: Similarities and Differences across Cultures</b>  Chair: Jennifer E. Lansford	<b>Paper Presentations: Health and Wellbeing Part II</b>  <u>Presentation One:</u> <i>Father's accepting or rejecting parenting and impact on adult children's mental health and parenting styles</i> , Vikki OConnor (Session Chair)  <u>Presentation Two:</u> <i>Parental acceptance rejection, emotion regulation and mental wellbeing in adolescents</i> , Mamoona Mushtaq  <u>Presentation Three:</u> <i>The Relation Between Adults' Remembrances of Parental Rejection in</i>

	<p><i>Childhood and Adults' Current Level of Rejection Sensitivity as Mediated by Adults' Psychological Maladjustment</i>, Behire Kuyumcu</p> <p><u>Presentation Four: Recollections of Parental Rejection and Fear of Intimacy: The Role of Psychological Maladjustment, Interpersonal Anxiety, and Rejection by an Intimate Partner</u>, Parisa Sadat Seyed Mousavi</p>
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**Lunch**  
**12:00pm – 1:15pm**

<p><b>Breakout Session</b>  <b>1:15pm – 2:45pm</b></p>	
<p>Coxe Hall Room 07                  Zoom: <a href="https://ausharjah.zoom.us/j/96577769886">https://ausharjah.zoom.us/j/96577769886</a>                  Passcode: 213589</p>	<p>Coxe Hall Room 08                  Zoom: <a href="https://ausharjah.zoom.us/j/96425790861">https://ausharjah.zoom.us/j/96425790861</a>                  Passcode: 836231</p>
<p><b>Symposium: Interpersonal Rejection Sensitivity in IPARTheory</b>                  Chair: Sumbleen Ali</p>	<p><b>Paper Presentations: Intimate Relationships and Attachment</b></p> <p><u>Presentation One: The Relationship between Mentalization, Fear of Intimacy and Interpersonal Anxiety</u>, Saeed Ghanbari</p> <p><u>Presentation Two: Examination of the role of personality dispositions in prediction perceived intimate partners' acceptance/rejection using binary logistic regression</u>, Orhideja Shurbanovska</p> <p><u>Presentation Three: What are the Determinants of Partner Attachment Orientation in Married Individuals?</u>, Eda Bayrakci Selcuk</p> <p><u>Presentation Four: Intensity of Attachment, Perceived Acceptance-Rejection, and Adults' Psychological Adjustment</u>, Nour Zaki</p>

## **Keynote and Afternoon Coffee**

Speaker: Abdul Khaleque, University of Connecticut

**Title: *Adult Intimate Relationships in the Context of Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection***

**3:00pm – 4:00pm**

**Sanford Room in the Library**

Zoom: <https://ausharjah.zoom.us/j/94190804820>

Passcode: 470493

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## **Optional Local Event: Watkins Glen Gorge Hike**

(\$30 includes transport and entrance fee; pre-registration required)

**4:00pm – 8:00pm**

**Scandling Center Lobby**

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## **Optional Local Event: Walking Tour of Geneva**

(FREE; pre-registration required)

**4:15pm – 6:15pm**

**Scandling Center Lobby**

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## **Conference Gala Dinner**

(\$35; Ticket Required)

**7:00pm – 9:00pm**

**Vandervort Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Scandling Center**

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# Saturday, June 18, 2022

## **Farewell Continental Breakfast**

**8:00am – 10:00am**

**Common Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Scandling Center**

**And collect pre-purchased box lunches**

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## **Optional Local Event: Niagara Falls**

**(\$60 includes transport only; pre-registration required)**

**8:30am-4:00pm**

**Scandling Center Lobby**

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## **Optional Local Event: Ganondagan**

**(\$20 includes transport and entrance fee; pre-registration required)**

**10:30am – 2:30pm**

**Scandling Center Lobby**

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## Paper Presentation Abstracts

(Alphabetical Order by First Author's Last Name)

### **Young Adults' Medical Problems as a Function of Remembered Parental Rejection in Childhood**

Sumbleen Ali, University of Connecticut; State University of New York, Oneonta  
[sumbleen.ali@oneonta.edu](mailto:sumbleen.ali@oneonta.edu)

Ronald P. Rohner

Fumiko Hoeft

Preston A. Britner

**Background:** Research has shown that early life experiences often have a lifelong impact on children's and adults' development and well-being. **Objective:** This article examined associations between adults' recollections of maternal and paternal acceptance-rejection in childhood and their current medical problems. **Participants and Settings:** Data were collected from 1,268 young adults (53% White; 71% female; Mean age = 20 years) from two-parent homes in northeastern U.S. **Methods:** Participants self-reported experiences of parental acceptance-rejection in childhood and their current physical medical problems. **Results:** Young adults' medical problems correlated robustly with their remembrances of the level of maternal ( $r = .77, p < .01$ ) and paternal ( $r = .70, p < .01$ ) acceptance they experienced in childhood. Multiple regression analysis showed that 80% of the variance in the number of medical problems reported by the young adults can be explained by maternal and paternal acceptance-rejection. Further, results showed that the less parental acceptance young adults recalled having experienced in childhood from their mothers and/or their fathers, the greater the number of medical problems they reported in young adulthood (e.g., allergies, asthma, blood pressure problems, cancer, cardiovascular problems, irritable bowel syndrome, metabolic abnormality, periodontal disease, and ulcers). **Conclusion:** Interventions directed at enabling warm, loving (i.e., accepting) parenting in childhood appear to be one promising avenue or protective factor for promoting better physical health in adulthood.

**Keywords:** parental acceptance-rejection, physical health, medical problems

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### **Neural Correlates of Remembered Parental Acceptance-Rejection in Childhood**

Sumbleen Ali, University of Connecticut, SUNY-Oneonta

[sumbleen.ali@uconn.edu](mailto:sumbleen.ali@uconn.edu)

Preston A. Britner

Ronald P. Rohner

Neuroimaging studies have examined the neural correlates of young adults' perceptions of social rejection. However, it is unknown at this point how neural correlates of young adults' current perceptions of social rejection are influenced by their remembrances of childhood rejection. This issue is significant because the effects of acceptance and rejection during childhood are long lived. In fact, the effects of social rejection typically extend into adulthood, and influence individuals' physical and psychological well-being throughout life. The current study used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to investigate neural correlates of experimentally manipulated rejection during a computer-based ball-toss game (Cyberball). The study investigated neural activity among 40 (N=40) young adults. One group reported having

been loved (accepted) by both parents in childhood, and self-reported being psychologically well-adjusted (Accepted Adjusted, n=20). The other group reported having been rejected by both parents in childhood, and self-reported being psychologically maladjusted (Rejected Maladjusted, n=20). Findings showed that during social rejection (i.e., Exclusion conditions) in the Cyberball game, members of the Rejected Maladjusted group--as compared to members of the Accepted Adjusted group--had increased activation of brain regions that critically support emotion processing and social pain. These regions include the posterior cingulate cortex (PCC) and anterior cingulate cortex (ACC), dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (dlPFC), medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC), insula, cuneus, precuneus, and amygdala. This study provides a foundation for understanding the neural mechanisms underlying emotion processing, as influenced by remembered parental acceptance-rejection in childhood. Findings such as these may help researchers, clinicians, and other practitioners better understand the negative developmental and psychological consequences of perceived interpersonal rejection.

**Keywords:** parental acceptance, parental rejection, social rejection, Cyberball, neuroimaging

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### **Phubbing, Rejection Sensitivity, and Parental Acceptance/Rejection: Examining the Effects of Parental Phone Usage on Child Perceptions of Acceptance and Rejection**

Ryan Allred, University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh

[allredr@uwosh.edu](mailto:allredr@uwosh.edu)

Ross Buck, University of Connecticut

Ronald P. Rohner, University of Connecticut

Amanda Denes, University of Connecticut

John L. Christensen, University of Connecticut

Parents, and primary caregivers, play a crucial role in child development because such relationships create a foundation from which individuals compare and create future relationships. Yet parent-child relationships are not immune to the influence new technologies have had on relational development. Phubbing, the act of snubbing a conversation partner by focusing on one's phone rather than the partner, has been particularly impactful on the development of new relationships. Utilizing interpersonal acceptance-rejection theory (Rohner, 2016), the present study therefore examined the impact of phubbing on perceptions of acceptance and rejection within parent-child relationships. Findings from the present study confirm research suggesting that parental phone usage influences not only the child's own phone usage, but also the degree to which they feel accepted or rejected by their parents. Findings also confirm important proponents of interpersonal acceptance-rejection theory, indicating that parental phubbing indirectly reduces remembrances of parental acceptance. In turn findings suggest that increases in parental acceptance are likely to lead to decreases in reports of rejection sensitivity, at least in father/son relationships. Additionally, findings demonstrate that both rejection sensitivity and parental phone usage are predictive of phone addiction and phubbing among adult children. Altogether, findings highlight the negative effects of cell phone usage during face-to-face communication between children and primary caregivers.

**Keywords:** phubbing, rejection sensitivity, parental acceptance/rejection, phone addiction

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### **What are the Determinants of Partner Attachment Orientation in Married Individuals?**

Eda Bayrakcı, Selcuk University Turkey  
edabayrakci@selcuk.edu.tr  
Hatice Deveci Sirin, Selçuk University Turkey  
H. Merve Eris Hasırcı, Duzce University Turkey

The aim of this research is to identify the relationship between married individuals' spousal attachment styles and their adjustment with their spouses and the burnout they experience within the relationship. In this research, relational design was used to determine the relationships between dependent (anxious and avoidant attachment styles) and independent (dyadic satisfaction, dyadic commitment, dyadic consensus, affective expression, and partner burnout) variables. The study group of the research includes 186 married individuals, 138 women and 48 men, whose marriage duration ranges from 1 to 30 years, aged between 25 and 55. Whereas 20% of the participants are childless married individuals, 80% of them are individuals with 1 to 4 children. In the study, the data was collected via the Partner Burnout Scale (ETS), the Dynasty Scale (CIS), and the Experiences in Close Relationships Inventory-Relationship structure (ECR-RS) partner form. In the research, hierarchical regression analysis was carried out to determine the explanatory power of the independent variables to the dependent variable. The research findings illustrate that dyadic satisfaction, dyadic cohesion, dyadic consensus, affective expression and spousal burnout (dyadic cohesion, dyadic satisfaction, dyadic consensus, affectional expression and the couple burnout) together explain 14% of the variance of individuals' anxious attachment to their spouses ( $Adj R^2 = .14$ ,  $F(5;180)=7.14$ ,  $p=.00$ ). Dyadic satisfaction, dyadic commitment, dyadic consensus, affective expression and spousal burnout (dyadic cohesion, dyadic satisfaction, dyadic consensus, affectional expression and the couple burnout) together explain 11% of the variance of individuals' avoidant attachment to their spouses ( $Adj R^2 = .11$ ,  $F(5;180)=5.82$ ,  $p=.00$ ). According to the results of this study, the evaluations of married individuals regarding adjustment in their relationships and their perceptions of burnout in their relationships are important determinants of the attachment orientation they develop in their relationships with their partners.

**Keywords:** married individuals, spousal burnout, attachment

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### **Psychometric properties of the Croatian version of Interpersonal Rejection Sensitivity Scale**

Renata Glavak-Tkalic, Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar  
[renata.glavak.tkalic@pilar.hr](mailto:renata.glavak.tkalic@pilar.hr)  
Dora Trgovec, Social Welfare Center Varaždin

The aim of the study was to examine the psychometric properties of the Croatian version of the Interpersonal Rejection Sensitivity Scale (IRSS). Interpersonal rejection sensitivity pertains to a disposition to perceive negative intent in the behavior of others, even when no such intent is objectively present (Rohner, 2019). IRSS is a 13-item self-report scale which measures interpersonal rejection sensitivity. The data were collected among 344 graduate students (59.3% female) of the University of Zagreb from different study fields, aged between 21 and 33 years ( $M=23.62$ ;  $sd=2.095$ ). IRSS was adapted to Croatian using back-translation procedure. Students also completed Personality Assessment Questionnaire (PAQ), mother and father version of Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire (PARQ), and Fear of Intimacy Scale (FIS). Exploratory factor analysis provided support for the unidimensionality of the IRSS. Internal

consistency reliability was found to be highly acceptable since Cronbach's alpha for the IRSS was 0.84. Gender comparisons did not reveal significant difference in the total IRSS score between female and male students. IRSS had low positive correlation with both father and mother version of PARQ, and moderate positive correlation with PAQ, while no correlation was found with FIS. The results of this research provide support that Croatian version of IRSS is a valid, reliable instrument for the use in national and international research.

**Keywords:** interpersonal rejection sensitivity, psychometric properties, Croatia

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### **Personality Traits Mediates the Relationship between Remembrances of Childhood Parental Acceptance and Adulthood Mental Health**

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Guided by IPARTheory, this study examined whether remembrances of parental acceptance in childhood influenced adults' mental health through its effect on personality traits. A total of 500 participants (49.8% women), among them 178 (49.4% women) young adults, 183 (49.7% women) middle adults, and 139 older adults (50.3% women) responded to four measures: Adult Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire for mothers and for fathers, Big Five Inventory (BFI-10), and Mental Health Inventory (MHI-38). Sex differences were found in the personality trait of neuroticism and mental health index where men tend to be less neurotic and reported better mental health as compared to women. Remembrances of maternal acceptance were significantly correlated with agreeableness and conscientiousness while remembrances of paternal acceptance were significantly correlated with agreeableness, conscientiousness, and neuroticism. Both, maternal and paternal remembrances of acceptance significantly correlated with mental health. Among personality traits: extraversion, neuroticism and openness were significantly correlated with mental health. Simple mediation analysis revealed that only neuroticism as a personality trait was found a significant mediator, i.e., remembrances of maternal and paternal acceptance in childhood indirectly influenced adults' mental health through their effects on personality trait of neuroticism. Other personality traits: extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, and openness were found to be insignificant mediators in the relationship between remembrances of parental acceptance in childhood and adulthood mental health.

**Keywords:** IPARTheory, parental acceptance, personality traits, mental health

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### **Relations between Psychological Adjustment and Perceived Parental, Teacher and Best Friend Acceptance among Bangladeshi Adolescents**

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The study's main objective is to assess the relationship between psychological adjustment and parental acceptance-rejection, teacher acceptance-rejection, and best friend acceptance-rejection among secondary school students. This study was conducted on a sample of 300 (6th

through 10th-grade students) recruited from over ten schools in Dhaka. While the schools were selected purposely, the respondents within each school were selected conveniently. The collected data were analyzed by using Pearson product-moment correlation, hierarchical regression, and simultaneous regression analysis. The results showed that psychological adjustment is positively correlated with paternal, maternal, teacher, and best friend acceptance. The paternal acceptance was significantly connected with maternal acceptance. The teacher and best friend acceptance are correlated substantially both with paternal and maternal acceptance. The hierarchical multiple regressions indicated that maternal, paternal, teacher, and best friend acceptance-rejection made significant contributions to students' psychological adjustment. The results revealed substantial independent contributions of maternal, paternal, teacher, and best friend acceptance on the students' psychological adjustment. The simultaneous regression analysis indicates that the maternal and best friend acceptances (but not paternal acceptance) were significant predictors of psychological adjustments. It showed that 41.7% variability in psychological adjustment could be explained by paternal, maternal, and best friend acceptance. The findings of the present study are exciting. They may contribute to developing insight in parents and best friends for behaving properly with their offspring and friend, respectively, for better psychological adjustment.

**Keywords:** adjustment, acceptance, rejection

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### **Organizational Acceptance-Rejection/Control Questionnaire (OARQ/C): A Validation Study**

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The Organizational Acceptance-Rejection/Control Questionnaire (OARQ/C) was developed in 2018 (Rohner, Koltcheva, Machado, & Varan, 2018). It is designed to assess the acceptance-rejection relationship in an organizational context, between employees at different levels in the hierarchy of an organization, i.e. managers and subordinates. Its initial psychometric properties were first tested in Bulgaria. The initial analyses showed three-factor structure ("Acceptance", "Rejection", "Control") and very good reliability coefficients ("Acceptance" -  $\alpha = 0.98$ , "Rejection" -  $\alpha = 0.97$ , and "Control" -  $\alpha = 0.89$ ). The aim of this study is to explore further the validity of the newly developed measure. The sample consists of 106 adults, 44 males (41.51%) and 56 females (52.83%), 6 missing (5.66%). The age of the subjects varies from 21 to 67 years. They are representatives of 8 business companies in Bulgaria. All of them a full-time employed. Most of them are with university degree and married. The measures used are Organizational Acceptance-Rejection/Control Questionnaire, revised Bulgarian version (OARQ/C) (Rohner et al, 2018); Commitment to Organization (CO) (Radoslavova & Velichkov, 2005), Satisfaction from the line manager (SM) (Radoslavova & Velichkov, 2005); Satisfaction from the job (SJ) (Radoslavova & Velichkov, 2005). Commitment to Organization questionnaire consists of several scales - Personal importance, Emotional empathy, Identification, Positive exchange and Commitment. Not all scales between OARQ/C and CO correlate. There are significant correlations between Acceptance and Emotional empathy and Positive exchange; Rejection and Control and Personal importance; OARQ/C Total score and Emotional empathy. Satisfaction from the manager (SM) has two subscales - Satisfaction from the tasks and Satisfaction from the relationships. All the subscales and total scores of OARQ/C and SM correlate significantly between each other. The same applies for OARQ/C and Satisfaction from the job. This is the first OARQ/C validity study but

our results show that the questionnaire is a valid measure and can be used for both research and applied purposes.

**Keywords:** OARQ/C, acceptance, rejection, control, validity, IPARTheory

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### **The Relation Between Adults' Remembrances of Parental Rejection in Childhood and Adults' Current Level of Rejection Sensitivity as Mediated by Adults' Psychological Maladjustment**

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This study examined interpersonal acceptance-rejection theory's (IPARTheory's) prediction that adults' (both men's and women's) remembrances of parental (both maternal and paternal) rejection in childhood are likely to be associated with adults' interpersonal rejection sensitivity, as mediated by adults' psychological maladjustment. To test these predictions a sample of 324 adults (177 women, 147 men; age range 18-60 and Sd: 11) in Turkey responded to the mother and father versions of the Adult Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire (short forms), Adult Personality Assessment Questionnaire (short form), Interpersonal Rejection Sensitivity Scale, and the Revised Personal Information Form. Correlation analyses showed that both maternal and paternal rejection in childhood were positively related to their current levels of rejection sensitivity. The more maternal rejection men and women experienced in childhood, the more sensitive they reported themselves to be to the possible threat of rejection. However, remembrance of paternal rejection had a significant correlation with the rejection sensitivity of women and not of men. Regression analysis showed that adults' remembrances of paternal rejection (not maternal rejection) in childhood independently predicted women's (not men's) interpersonal rejection sensitivity. Results also showed that adults' remembrances of maternal rejection in childhood independently predicted men's and women's interpersonal rejection sensitivity. Mediation analyses showed that men's and women's psychological maladjustment mediated the relationship between their own remembrances of paternal rejection in childhood and interpersonal rejection sensitivity. These findings provide evidence in support of the relationships between childhood memory of parental rejection with adults' current psychological maladjustment and rejection sensitivity.

**Keywords:** maternal rejection, paternal rejection, rejection sensitivity, Turkey

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### **The Development of a Self-Report Scale for the Assessment of the Subjective Perception of Community Acceptance/Rejection and Control**

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Studies conducted according to Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection Theory (IPARTheory) have shown that the degree of acceptance or rejection experienced in the relationship with important persons panculturally significantly and strongly influence the psychological well-being of children and adults. In line with this evidence, it is possible to assume that also the perception of the quality of interpersonal relationships that a person has with the community in which he/she lives can affect individual psychological adjustment. This

may be particularly true for immigrants, who due to their displacement have become distanced from important people and therefore are more dependent on the community. Based on these considerations, the aim of the present work was to develop according to IPARTheory a new scale to measure the perception of the quality of relationships established with the social community. For each of the dimensions considered (warmth, hostility, indifference, undifferentiated rejection, control), 15 items were formulated for a total of 75 items. The generated items were subjected to a content validity analysis from three experts and then administered to a sample of 18 immigrants (10 F; 20-55 years) to assess face validity and the reliability. The preliminary results seem to indicate that the scale could be used to measure the construct ( $\alpha > .73$ ). However, it will be necessary to administer it to a larger and more representative sample to test its psychometric properties more extensively.

**Keywords:** acceptance, rejection, psychological adjustment, community

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### **Recollections of Parental Rejection and Fear of Intimacy: The Role of Psychological Maladjustment, Interpersonal Anxiety, and Rejection by an Intimate Partner**

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**Purpose:** Grounded in interpersonal acceptance-rejection theory (IPARTheory), this study examines the relationship between recollections of parental rejection during childhood and fear of intimacy during adulthood, as mediated by psychological maladjustment and interpersonal anxiety, and as moderated by intimate partner rejection. **Methods:** A sample of 253 Iranians completed the Persian translations of the measures of paternal, maternal, and intimate partner acceptance-rejection, fear of intimacy, interpersonal anxiety, and psychological maladjustment. Mediation and moderation analyses were performed using PROCESS Macro. **Results:** The sample consisted of 146 females (57.5%) and 107 males (42.5%) with a mean age of 27.98, (range = 18-40; SD = 4.6). Psychological maladjustment mediated the relationship between recollections of maternal and paternal rejection and fear of intimacy. Interpersonal anxiety only mediated the relationship between recollections of maternal rejection and fear of intimacy. Lastly, intimate partner's rejection only moderated the direct effect of maternal rejection on fear of intimacy. **Conclusions:** The unique finding of this study is the moderating effect of intimate partner rejection in the relationship between maternal rejection and fear of intimacy. Results of this study tell us that the relation between maternal rejection and FOI appears mostly in people with average or greater than average experiences of intimate partner rejection. These findings build onto the existing IPARTheory literature and provide valuable insights for clinical application.

**Keywords:** Fear of intimacy, intimate partner rejection, parental rejection

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### **The Relationship Between Mentalization, Fear of Intimacy and Interpersonal Anxiety**

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**Purpose:** Mentalization refers to the capacity to view behaviors of oneself and others considering underlying mental states. Due to the role of mentalization in interpersonal relationships, the purpose of this study was examining the relationship between dimensions of mentalization, fear of intimacy and interpersonal anxiety. **Methods:** A sample of 253 Iranians completed the Persian translations of short forms of the Fear of Intimacy Scale, Intimate Adult Relationship Questionnaire, the Mentalization Scale, and the Reflective Functioning Questionnaire. **Results:** The sample consisted of 146 females (57.5%) and 107 males (42.5%) with a mean age of 27.98, (range = 18-40; SD = 4.6). Fear of intimacy and interpersonal anxiety were negatively and significantly correlated with self-related mentalization, other-related mentalization and certainty, and positively and significantly correlated with uncertainty. **Conclusions:** This correlational study allows conclusion on the relationship of the variables of interpersonal anxiety and fear of intimacy and provide valuable insights for clinical application based on mentalization-based interventions.

**Keywords:** Fear of intimacy, interpersonal anxiety, mentalization

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### **Parental Acceptance Rejection, Emotion Regulation and Mental Wellbeing in Adolescents**

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The current study was conducted to explore the relationship of parental acceptance and rejection with the emotion regulation and social adjustment in adolescents. Correlation research design and purposive sampling strategy were used in the current research. Participants were 350 adolescents (M age=15.6.43, SD=2.96 years; 58% girls. They were assessed on the Parental Acceptance Rejection Questionnaire (Rohner, 2005), Cognitive Emotion Regulation Questionnaire (Garnefski & Kraaij, 2007) and The Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale (Tennant et al., 2007). The study used two strategies namely self-blaming and positive reappraisal emotion regulation. Correlation analysis revealed a negative correlation of parental acceptance with self-blaming, and positive correlation with positive re-appraisal emotion regulation strategy and mental well-being. Furthermore, a significant positive correlation of parental rejection appeared with self-blaming and negative correlation with positive reappraisal and mental well-being. Results from moderated mediation model showed that parental acceptance positively predicted positive reappraisal and mental well-being mediated this association. Also, gender and physical health status moderated these mediational associations with stronger positive indirect effects of positive reappraisal for boys with better physical health status compared to women and those with poor physical health status. However, parental rejection did not predict mental well-being but significantly and positively predicted self-blame, a negative emotion regulation strategy. Results suggest that parental acceptance positively regulate emotions may enhance mental wellbeing of adolescents and particularly boys. The findings suggest future implications of parental acceptance for enhancing the positive emotion regulation strategies and mental wellbeing in adolescents.

**Keywords:** parental acceptance and rejection, emotion regulation, self-blaming, positive reappraisal, mental well-being

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## **Father's Accepting or Rejecting Parenting and Impact on Adult Children's Mental Health and Parenting Styles**

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Original study examined parental developmental history and the mediating role of parental depression and parenting behaviors in the relationship between parental acceptance/rejection and social peer relatedness in emerging adulthood. Sample consisted of (n=227) undergraduate students along with their mothers (n=202) and fathers (n=156). Fathers and mothers reported on their perceptions of the quality of parenting they received from their fathers (family of origin), their perceptions of their acceptance/rejection of their children in parenting behaviors and levels of depressive symptomatology. Parental Acceptance and Rejection scale (Rohner, 2004) was used to measure variables as follows: The adult PARQ scale was used to measure fathers/mothers developmental history. The PARQ (parent) scale was used to assess fathers/mothers perceptions of their own parenting behaviors with their son/daughter (at emerging adulthood developmental period). Depressive symptomatology was assessed through Center for Epidemiological Depression (CES-D) Scale (Radloff, 1977). Peer relatedness was measured by Inventory of Parent and Peer Attachment (IPPA). This was a mediating model which utilized Structural Equation Modeling/Path analysis to test the strength and nature of indirect/direct relationship between variables. Analysis found direct relationships between mothers developmental history, depression, parenting behavior and quality of peer relatedness in their children. Indirect relationships were found between fathers developmental history, depression, parenting behaviors and peer relatedness in their children. In conclusion study found that Fathers (family of origin) harsh and rejecting parenting behaviors have negative and long term consequences on the emotional and social development of their children with parents who reported more depressive symptoms also reporting more negative interactions with their own father. This influences their own parenting behaviors and acceptance/rejection of their children and quality of children's peer relatedness at emerging adulthood.

**Keywords:** Father acceptance/rejection, parenting behaviors and psychopathology, father-child relations

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## **Parental Warmth, Parental Involvement, and its Effects on the Development of Children**

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Parents often arrange children's activities for their children either by providing them opportunities or restricting their participation. The way children spend their time affects their cognitive and social development. The purpose of this study is to examine how Indian Children between the ages 10-14 years spend their time, variation in their time use and its relationship to school achievement and behavior. One hundred school age children (50% male) and their parents constituted the sample. Results are discussed in terms of factors affecting with children's time use and its effect on their school performance both in academics and social behavior. Children were asked to maintain weekly diaries of the activities and their parents' focus groups were used to document parents' beliefs in relation to children's development. Parents were asked what was most important for the development of their children. Themes were coded for analysis as what parents' thought was most important for children's

development. Role of parent involvement and parental warmth/acceptance is discussed in relation to children's academic achievement and behavior at school.

**Keywords:** Parental warmth, parent involvement, children, development

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### **Effects of Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection Experiences in the Life Cycle on Psychological Adjustment and Loneliness: A Retrospective Study**

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In the scientific literature, it is widely assumed and accepted that individuals have a need to create interpersonal bonds characterized by positive responses and that if this need is not met, this leads to a series of negative effects that undermine the individual's well-being and adaptation. According to the Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection Theory (IPARTheory), in particular, all the important interpersonal relationships developed in the life cycle are able to influence the individual's well-being by contributing to the development of personality. Although many studies in different cultures and contexts have highlighted the relevance of important relationships on the development of individuals, there are still few studies that have verified to what extent the consecutive and repeated interpersonal relationships articulated in the life cycle influence individual well-being. Based on these considerations, in this study a sample of 205 adults (49% females) aged between 20 and 69 years ( $M = 44.8$  years;  $SD = 14.2$ ) and selected by means of quota convenience sampling were administered a personal information form, and some standardized self-report scales developed within the IPARTheory approach and useful for assessing the perception of the quality of interpersonal relationships with important person or groups in different moments of life (e.g. mother, father, teachers, friends and family members) and the psychological adaptation (e.g. a measure of personality, a measure of anxiety and a measure of loneliness). To test the hypotheses, the data were analyzed by means of bivariate correlation analyses and a path analysis model with the aim of assessing the specific weight of each interpersonal relationship considered on the observed self-adjustment. Results showed that the important relationships experienced at different stages of life contribute in a specific and additive way to personality formation, thus confirming the main IPARTheory postulates that assume that A-R from important figures throughout one's life is associated with psychological adjustment. These preliminary results, if confirmed by longitudinal studies, could provide useful indications both from a theoretical point of view of the IPARtheory and from the point of view of the clinical practice.

**Keywords:** interpersonal acceptance-rejection, psychological adjustment, life cycle, important person

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### **Examination of the Role of Personality Dispositions in Prediction Perceived Intimate Partners' Acceptance/Rejection Using Binary Logistic Regression**

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The relationship of acceptance/rejection between intimate partners has a big impact on one's emotional life. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to explore the role of personality dispositions in prediction of perceived acceptance/rejection from intimate partner, while controlling the length of the romantic relationship. The research was conducted on a sample of 57 participants (female=30, male=27; aged between 19 and 48 years,  $M=23.79$ ,  $SD=6.18$ ) who are currently or have been in romantic relationship. Two measures were administered: Intimate partner acceptance/rejection - IPAR/CQ by Rohner, 2001; and Personality assessment questionnaire - PAQ by Rohner, 1976. Binary logistic regression was applied to investigate how personality dispositions of intimate partner predict perceived acceptance/rejection from the partner. It was found that, when length of romantic relationship was controlled for, emotional unresponsiveness as personality disposition, predicted perceived warmth of intimate partner ( $B= -.23$ ,  $Wald=3.83$ ,  $p<.05$ ,  $Exp(B)=0.80$ ,  $R^2(Nagelkerke)=.22$ ); perceived hostility/aggression as a rejection style was predicted by hostility/aggression as a personal disposition ( $B=.15$ ,  $Wald=3.81$ ,  $p<.05$ ,  $Exp(B)=1.16$ ,  $R^2(Nagelkerke)=.23$ ), and emotional unresponsiveness ( $B=-.03$ ,  $Wald=4.29$ ,  $p<.05$ ,  $Exp(B)=1.28$ ); while dependency was registered to be significant predictor of perceived indifference/neglect ( $B=-.30$ ,  $Wald=6.74$ ,  $p<.01$ ,  $Exp(B)=0.74$ ,  $R^2(Nagelkerke)=.25$ ). The results indicate that personality dispositions should be considered in order to understand romantic relationship styles. However, more in depth research is needed to gain fuller insight in the mechanisms that underlie the impact of personality dispositions on intimate partner's acceptance/rejection.

**Keywords:** perceived acceptance/rejection, personality dispositions, intimate partner

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### **Body Image Satisfaction: The Role of Parental Acceptance-Rejection and Psychological Adjustment**

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The aim of this research was to examine the relationship between body image satisfaction, perceived parental acceptance-rejection and psychological adjustment among young adults. The sample consisted of 344 graduate students (59.3% female) from the University of Zagreb, aged between 21 and 33 years ( $M=23.62$ ,  $SD=2.095$ ). Students completed Body-esteem Scale for Adolescents and Adults (BESAA), Personality Assessment Questionnaire (PAQ), and mother and father version of Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire (PARQ). Results showed significant gender differences in perceived paternal and maternal rejection and appearance satisfaction, but no significant differences in weight satisfaction, attributions, and psychological adjustment. Paternal rejection was negatively correlated with appearance satisfaction and weight satisfaction among both males and females. Maternal rejection was negatively correlated with both appearance satisfaction and weight satisfaction among females and attributions among males. Psychological adjustment was negatively correlated with appearance satisfaction and weight satisfaction among both males and females, and with attributions among males. Results of hierarchical multiple regression analyses showed that psychological adjustment was a significant predictor of appearance satisfaction and weight satisfaction among both males and females. Perceived maternal acceptance-rejection was a significant predictor of appearance satisfaction among females and attributions among males.

The results of this research provide better understanding of gender differences among young adults, and the contribution of perceived parental acceptance-rejection, and psychological adjustment in comprehending the complex construct of body image satisfaction.

**Keywords:** body image, parental acceptance-rejection, psychological adjustment, Croatia

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### **Intensity of Attachment, Perceived Acceptance-Rejection, and Adults' Psychological Adjustment**

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Perceived acceptance-rejection from attachment figures influences a great many areas of life. This study focused on relations among adults' psychological adjustment and their memories of parental acceptance in childhood along with their current perceptions of partner acceptance, as possibly moderated by gender and the level (intensity) of attachment the adults felt towards these significant others. The study highlighted differences between adults who report being intensely attached to their parents/partners versus those who report being only minimally attached. Data were collected from a sample of 260 adults in Egypt. Participants responded to the Adult Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire: Mother and Father versions, the Intimate Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire, the Personality Adjustment Questionnaire, and the Intensity of Attachment Scale. Results of analyses showed that maternal, paternal, and partner acceptance were all independently associated with adults' psychological adjustment. Additionally, the intensity of adults' attachment to their fathers (but not mothers or partners) was also significantly associated with the level of adults' psychological adjustment. The more intensely adults were attached to the fathers, the greater impact it had on their adjustment. Intensity of attachment, however, did not significantly moderate associations between adults' psychological adjustment and their perceptions of partner acceptance or memories of parental acceptance in childhood.

**Keywords:** Intensity of attachment, interpersonal acceptance-rejection, psychological adjustment

## Poster Session I Abstracts

### **The Effect of Social and Emotional Isolation on Psychological Well-Being on Young Adults: A Study During the Acute Phase of Covid-19 in South Italy**

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During the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, governments had to impose social distancing and isolation measures to safeguard the health of their citizens. However, these measures had detrimental effects on psychological well-being that are getting more and more studied. Based on these considerations, the aim of the present study was to investigate within the Interpersonal Acceptance Rejection framework the psychological effects of social and emotional isolation during the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic in Italy (April-May 2020). To this end, a sample of 395 young adults (18-30 years old; 57% women) with different degrees of isolation and from different Italian cities was recruited by quota sampling. Participants were administered (through an online system) measures of the degree of isolation (social and emotional) and the presence of psychological problems (externalising and internalizing). The correlation and regression analysis confirmed the relevant association between social and emotional isolation and psychological wellbeing, in both internalizing and externalizing dimensions. In particular, the emotional component (loneliness) showed the strongest effect. Moreover, in line with some surveys carried out during the COVID-19-era, data highlighted that men were more vulnerable to isolation than women. These results underline the importance of ensuring adequate interpersonal support during moments of isolation to prevent negative effects on psychological well-being.

**Keywords:** Social isolation, emotional isolation, COVID-19, psychological well-being

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### **Teacher's Empathy, Student-Teacher Relationship and Acceptance-Rejection in the Primary School**

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Recent research has focused on the affective dimension of teaching and its effects on student overall development. A crucial factor in interpersonal relationships is empathy. The aim of the present study was to investigate the links between teachers' empathy and quality of student-teacher relationship as perceived by teachers and students in primary school. An additional purpose was to investigate the impact of gender and age to the above variables. Method and Data Analysis: Participants included 283 students (149 boys and 134 girls) who attended primary schools in Athens (Greece), and 29 teachers (11 men and 18 women).

Teachers completed the Interpersonal Reactivity Index (Davis, 1980) and the Student-Teacher Relationship Scale (Pianta, 2001). Teachers' empathy was measured using the four subscales of the Interpersonal Reactivity Index. Teacher Acceptance- Rejection/Control Questionnaire (TARQ/Control for children 8-12 years old, Rohner, 2014) was used to measure the teacher's acceptance or rejection of children, as they perceive it themselves. Data were analyzed using the statistical package SPSS v.25. Initially, the reliability and validity of the measures were examined with Cronbach's alpha coefficients and confirmatory factor analyses and normality tests (Kolmogorov-Smirnov) were conducted. Next, t-tests, Mann-Whitney tests, One-way ANOVAs and Spearman rho were used. Results: Results indicated no significant relationship between teachers' empathy and quality of student-teacher relationship as well as between teachers' empathy and acceptance-rejection by teachers as perceived by students. However, the cognitive dimension of teachers' empathy had a significant negative association with rejection by teachers as perceived by students. More specifically it means that the higher the levels of cognitive empathy, the less students will be rejected, which is linked to previous research. Generally, students (of the study) have positive perceptions for their teachers but they feel more Control. There were no statistically significant or age differences in any subscale among educators. There were significant gender and age differences in several variables among students for the Student-Teacher Relationship Scale and the TARQ like the fact that girls are closer to their teachers and perceive less Hostility/Aggression and Indifference/Neglect and teachers of E' class perceive more Dependence (from their students) and less Conflict. Discussion: Cognitive empathy appears to facilitate understanding of the desires, beliefs and feelings of others and is called 'mentalizing' and could therefore contribute more to acceptance rather than rejection. Generally, in accordance with previous research the student-teacher relationship appears to be affected by multiple factors (apart from empathy per se) such as personality traits of teachers and students, curriculums, experience of the primary bonding, environmental factors (e.g., equipment facilities), gender and age of students and teachers, emotional intelligence (according to "Social Intelligence" of Thorndike). The present study contributes to highlighting age differences concerning student-teacher relationships and on whether they perceive acceptance or rejection on the part of their teachers. These factors have not been adequately investigated in Greece, neither in the existing literature. Moreover, it is one of the few studies which have focused on the "empathy" factor in school environment and few researchers have investigated its role in the educational process (Tettegah & Anderson, 2007) and also few have investigated its correlation with student-teacher relationship (Swan & Riley, 2012). Also, studies have mostly focused on students' gender. The present study therefore can contribute to a better understanding of factors that can improve students' cognitive, social and emotional development.

**Keywords:** Empathy, student-teacher relationship, acceptance, rejection, primary school

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### **Couple Relationship Satisfaction: The Role of Recollection of Parental Acceptance, Self-Differentiation, and Spousal Caregiving**

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The actor-partner interdependence model (APIM) was employed in this study to investigate the mediating effect self-differentiation and spousal caregiving have on the relationship between recollection of parental care and acceptance and couple satisfaction. One hundred and forty-four non-clinical couples (N=288) in enduring relationships were recruited. Results for actor effects revealed two mediating paths whereby, among both partners,

recollection of maternal (but not paternal) acceptance was associated with their self-differentiation and responsive spousal caregiving, which, in turn, were linked to their spousal relationship satisfaction. Partner effects revealed three mediating paths: for both partners, recollection of childhood maternal acceptance was associated with responsive caregiving, which, in turn, was linked with their partner's relationship satisfaction. Interestingly, the husbands' recollection of maternal acceptance was associated with their partners' responsive spousal caregiving, which was linked to both spouses' relationship satisfaction. Our results may support the theoretical assumptions regarding intergenerational continuity from perceptions of childhood via self-differentiation effecting couple caregiving to couple relationship, but only on the mother's part.

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### **Adverse Childhood Experiences and Complex PTSD: A Theoretical Model Exploring Psychedelic Drugs as a Therapeutic Treatment**

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Complex posttraumatic stress disorder (cPTSD) has several detrimental consequences, including severe anxiety, emotional detachment, mood irregularities, and vivid flashbacks to trauma. In many cases, cPTSD can be linked back to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Treatments for cPTSD that involve psychedelic drugs are potentially beneficial, but unfortunately, they are understudied in psychology labs due to their classification as a Schedule I substance. Thus, theoretical work is needed to explain potential mechanisms involved in treatment programs. In this new theoretical model, I clarify the mechanistic links between ACEs and cPTSD and then examine why psychedelic drugs may be an ideal therapeutic tool for the treatment of cPTSD. Toxic stress theory posits that exposure to extreme, frequent, and persistent ACEs without the presence of a supportive caretaker chronically activates the stress response system (Jones et al., 2021). Toxic stress results in dysregulation of the limbic-hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (LHPA) axis, elevating levels of catecholamines, cortisol, and proinflammatory cytokines (Thermo Fisher Scientific, n.d.). The toxic stress induced by ACEs causes cPTSD due to the persistent exposure to multiple adverse events leading to re-experience of the traumatic events, avoidance behaviors, and paranoia. Psychedelic drugs unlock repressed memories, engaging positively with negative self-concept and dysregulated emotions, which are both characteristic of the Disturbances of Self-Organization symptom cluster of cPTSD. Presentation of this theoretical model would allow for public recognition of the potential benefits of this treatment and further exploration into this topic.

**Keywords:** cPTSD, ACEs, psychedelics, toxic stress, pharmacotherapy

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### **Association between Perceived Acceptance-Rejection and the Fear of Posting: A Preliminary Study**

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All human beings feel the need to belong to social groups to maintain lasting, positive and meaningful interpersonal relationships. Studies showed that people who are not able to satisfy in real life this need can use social network to build and maintain social ties. Although virtual social interactions can have positive psychological effects, it has also been observed that some people are worried about using social media and interacting with others. Grounded in Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection Theory (IPARTheory), this study examined the relation between recollections of parental rejection during childhood, current perceived peers rejection and the fear of posting on social network. To this aim, in Study 1, a new scale to measure the fear of posting (Fear of Posting Scale; FOP) was developed and administered to a sample of 389 adults (62.2% women; 18-68 years) to evaluate its psychometric properties. Results showed that the FOP is a unidimensional, reliable, and valid scale; in Study 2, the FOP in combination with scales that measure remembrances of maternal and paternal rejection in childhood, and the perception of current peers rejection were administered to a sample of 50 Italian adults (50% women; 18-30 years) to evaluate the associations between perceived rejection and fear of posting. Results showed that paternal rejection is positively associated with fear of posting, and that this effect of rejection is moderated by the relationship with an intimate partner. Results are in line with the IPARTheory and confirm the importance of rejection experiences with significant figures in the life cycle.

**Keywords:** parental rejection, peers rejection, fear of posting, social network, intimate partner.

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### **Paternal Rejection and Overprotection Shapes Sexual Maturation**

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Early sexual maturation has been linked to negative developmental outcomes reflecting genetic and environmental influences (1). Parent-child relationships has been among the factors shaping pubertal development (2; 3). More specifically, father absence predicted earlier puberty in girls (4; 5), much less in known on the role of father-child relationship in pubertal development. The current study focused on early adolescence and addressed sex-specific pathways to sexual maturation at 10 (T1) and 13 (T2) years. At T1, 67 medium SES mothers and their children participated; The sample included T1 participants and additional 48 early adolescents and their parents (N = 115; 58 girls). Adolescents' representations of parenting were assessed using the Mother-Father-Peer Scale (6); puberty was measured using the Sexual Maturation Scale (7). Perceived paternal acceptance and independence at 10 years were negatively correlated with sexual maturation in 13-year-old girls ( $p = .05$ ), but not boys. Mother idealization at 10 and 13 ( $r = -.50, p = .005$ ;  $r = -.40, p = .003$ ) and father idealization at 13 ( $r = -.34, p = .01$ ) were negatively associated with girls' development. Maternal idealization at T2 predicted slower pace of puberty in girls ( $r = -.40, p = .03$ ). Paternal rejection and overprotection were associated with earlier puberty in girls. Both paternal and maternal idealization were related to delayed puberty. Together, these findings highlight sex-specific developmental trajectories and suggest that relational aspects with parents contribute differentially to boys' and girls' sexual maturation. Our findings are discussed in light of theoretical framework reproductive development and behavior. timing, tempo, sexual development.



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## Poster Session II Abstracts

### **Gender Differences in the Intergenerational Transmission of Parental Bonding and Perceptions of Parental and Spousal Criticism**

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Criticism is a form of interpersonal social rejection and destructive conflict behaviour which has been associated with poor relationship outcomes in both parent-child and marital relationships. According to Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection Theory, interpersonal rejection in the parent-child relationship, including verbal aggression such as criticism, can result in greater rejection sensitivity - a tendency to perceive criticism when none is intended. However, the role of an individual's parental bonding in influencing their own perceptions of parental and spousal criticism, as well as their child's parental bonding and perception of criticism of them have not been examined. 80 married parent-dyads (G2) and one child (G3) of each dyad were recruited. G2 parent participants completed the Perceived Criticism measure for their parents (G1) and spouses, the Parental Bonding Instrument and Quality of Marriage Index. G3 children participants completed the Perceived Criticism measure for their parents (G2). Path analysis found that G2's ratings of G1 maternal care significantly predicted G2's perceptions of G1 maternal criticism in G2 female participants. G2's perceptions of G1 maternal criticism significantly predicted (i) G2's perceptions of spousal criticism ( $p < .001$ ) for both male and female G2 participants but (ii) only significantly predicted G3's perceptions of G2 criticism ( $p < .001$ ) for G2 female participants. Findings highlight the intergenerational transmission of perceptions of criticism across relationships in the family unit. Future studies can look to replicate the findings in other cultures and include further investigations into sibling relationships.

**Keywords:** criticism, rejection, parent-child relationship, parental bonding, intergenerational transmission

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### **Growing Up with an Autistic Parent: The Offspring's Perceived Parental Rejection, Social Anxiety, and Differentiation Of Self**

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The main purpose of this study was to explore if the experience of growing up with an autistic parent may impact the offspring's perceived parental rejection, differentiation of self, social anxiety, and identity style in adulthood. Another purpose was to ascertain if a mismatch in autism status between parent and offspring influences the level of perceived parental rejection, retrospectively reported by the offspring in adulthood. The study sample consisted of 110 voluntary respondents, of whom 48 are autistic adults and 62 are non-autistic adults, which reported either being raised by (at least one) autistic parent/parents or being raised by non-

autistic parents. Data were collected over social networks, using self-reporting online questionnaires in English, German, and Hebrew. Results supported the following conclusions: (1) For the non-autistic participants, a mismatch in autism status resulted in higher perceived parental rejection, suggesting that non-autistic offspring perceive higher levels of parental rejection by an autistic parent than by a non-autistic parent. (2) Offspring raised by an autistic parent/parents exhibit increased social anxiety and lower self-differentiation than offspring raised by non-autistic parents. (3) Among all participants, differentiation of self was the most important predictor of social anxiety, above and beyond parental rejection and the other correlated constructs, suggesting that low levels of differentiation accompany high social anxiety levels. The current findings may add to a broader understanding of autism in parenting realms and have relevant implications for clinical treatments.

**Keywords:** Autism, parental-acceptance-rejection, social-anxiety, differentiation-of-self

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### **Additive Effects of Parental Rejection and Community Violence Exposure on Adolescent Externalizing Behavior**

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Community violence exposure (CVE; victimization and witnessing) during adolescence is a public health issue associated with deleterious behavioral outcomes (Yule et al., 2019). CVE disproportionately impacts youth from low-income and racial-ethnic minoritized communities and predicts aggressive and delinquent behaviors (Stein et al., 2003; Gorman-Smith & Tolan, 1998). Thus, many studies aim to identify potential buffering factors of CVE (Chen et al., 2016; Hardaway et al., 2016; Löfving-Gupta et al., 2015). However, few studies have examined how parental acceptance-rejection may moderate the behavioral outcomes of CVE. Thus, in the present study, we tested the hypothesis that greater exposure to CVE and parental rejection would predict more externalizing problems (i.e., additive effects), and that parental rejection would most strongly predict externalizing problems among youth exposed to CVE (i.e., interactive effect). The sample included 311 mothers and fathers of 15-year-olds (35.4% European American, 32.8% African American, and 31.8% Hispanic) who reported on youth's CVE, acceptance-rejection, and externalizing behaviors. Multiple regression was used to test the hypothesis, with race/ethnicity included as a covariate. Overall, we found evidence for additive but not interactive effects of CVE and parental rejection predicting adolescent externalizing behaviors across reporters. Findings suggest that CVE and parental rejection independently predict adolescents' externalizing behaviors. These findings highlight the need for researchers and clinicians to simultaneously assess home- and community-based adverse experiences that might increase adolescents' risks for developing externalizing problems. By doing so, interventions could be informed by more comprehensive systemic assessments and thus target multiple potential risk factors.

**Keywords:** Parental rejection, community violence exposure (cve), externalizing behaviors

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## **The Conceptualization of Social Support and the Subsequent Association with Depression and Suicidal Behavior**

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Interpersonal relationships play a central role in happiness, health, and well-being throughout the lifespan. However, social support can have a strong impact on depression and suicidality. Social support has been conceptualized in numerous ways. Structural measures focus on quantitative aspects like number of confidants, contact frequency, and living situations. Functional measures capture qualitative aspects like perceived quality of support; often captured through Likert scale averages and yes/no answers. An integrative review was conducted to examine the various ways to measure social support and how those conceptualizations relate to depression and suicidality. Heterogeneous findings of the impact of social support on depression and suicidality may be driven by varied operational definitions of social support in research. The literature revealed that social support is related to depression and suicide. However, structural measures of social support produce weaker and more heterogeneous relationships. The relationship of social support with depression and suicidality is clearer when functional measures are used, suggesting qualitative measures better capture the underlying relationship. Findings are also inconsistent when compared across relational classification of the support (i.e. family versus friends). Overall, research supports a correlation between depression, suicidal behavior, and social support but the mixed results point to the varied types, sources, and measurements of support. A better conceptualization and focused measurements will allow for a richer understanding of social support's influence on depression and suicidality. Improved qualitative and subjective measurement may be necessary to further our understanding of the importance of social connections.

**Keywords:** Social support, isolation, depression, suicide

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## **Parental and Family Support Linked to Mental Health of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Youth: A Systematic Review**

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Despite the growing acceptance of the LGB community, unique stressors such as concealment of sexual orientation and homophobic attitudes of rejection still remain. Family is a central source of social support in adolescence and LGB youth experience a higher probability of parental rejection. The consequences of such rejection could be especially detrimental to well-being of LGB youth. Several studies have observed different results regarding mental health of lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) youth. We aimed at summarizing the research on parental and family acceptance/rejection on LGB adolescents and young adults' mental health. For that purpose, a systematic review was conducted. Three databases were searched for: APA PsycInfo, ProQuest Central, and APA PsycArticles. Out of the initial 457 registers located, a total of 22 met the inclusion and exclusion criteria, and were eventually analyzed. Inclusion criteria were as follow: peer-reviewed empirical articles published after 2010, written in English or Spanish, targeting adolescents or young adults, and assessing parental/family acceptance in

relation to mental health. The following exclusion criteria were considered: research using qualitative analysis, and studies not distinguishing between LGB (or sexual minority) and transgender (or gender minority) individuals when linking the target variables. Results show that lack of family support may be a key variable to explain poor mental health of LGB youth in different cultures. Suicidal ideation, depressive, and anxious symptoms are some of the mediating and associated factors. We conclude by pointing out practical implications and future lines of research.

**Keywords:** LGB, parental acceptance/rejection, mental health, systematic review

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## Symposiums, Roundtable, and Workshop Abstracts

### **Workshop: Using the PARQ in Custody Evaluations**

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I am a full-time child custody evaluator with court appointments from 26 States, Canada and Belize. This presentation will describe how I use the Child PARQ (copyright by Rohner) in my custody evaluations; and in particular how I have administered it to single children and to siblings simultaneously. The PARQ provides relevant information for evaluating some of the statutory "best interests" custody factors in many jurisdictions. When the PARQ scores are combined with parent/child structured observations, the resultant data provide the foundation for meaningful expert opinions. A fun-like and colorful dimension for the administration of the PARQ to young children will be demonstrated in a short video presentation.

**Keywords:** Custody, evaluation, PARQ, children, video

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### **Workshop: Teaching Children to Manage Their Emotions Toward Better Mental Health**

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Over the past few years, mental health problems have become increasingly common, even in young children. Although most mental health disorders are identified between the ages of 15 and 24,(1) the behaviors and thought patterns that exacerbate their effects are often learned much earlier in life. As such, if children are to learn and maintain healthy mental habits, parents and instructors must be proactive, not reactive, in teaching children necessary skills and vocabulary. One preventative measure parents and teachers may take is to teach children emotional literacy. Teaching emotional literacy early in children's development will help them build life skills such as communication, empathy, self-esteem, self-love, and social literacy. I wrote "Dear Me: Letters to Myself for All of My Emotions" to help parents and teachers do just that. It is a research-based social-emotional learning tool designed to better children's long-term mental health by helping them to identify, understand, and manage all their emotions. While parents may also make use of this book at home, the Dear Me curriculum is primarily designed for instructors to use in the classroom. Learning outcomes for each lesson were taken from the Common Core State Standards Initiative (among others) (2) for grade 2, though children in other grades can also benefit.

**Keywords:** children, mental health, emotions, education

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**Roundtable: Clinical Application of IPARTheory: Recovery from Rejection**

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Ronald P. Rohner

Tatiana Melendez-Rhodes

Marjolijn Blom

Vincenzo Paolo Senese

Parisa Mousavi

Miguel Angel Carrasco

Farah Malik

Lena Hellblom Sjögren

The objective of the roundtable discussion is to discuss different ways that Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection Theory can be applied in clinical contexts. In addition to theoretical formulations and the potential uses of IPARTheory scales, the IPARTheory's clinical manual: Recovery from Rejection will be discussed in detail. The Clinic Manual includes the client handouts that mainly focus on personality dispositions which are known to be associated worldwide with perceived rejection. The roundtable aims to facilitate a dialogue among clinicians and researchers. The dialogue will focus on the following: (1) the usefulness of the Manual in different clinical (e.g., MFT, psychodynamic contexts, etc.) and cultural contexts (2) ways to measure its effectiveness (3) constructive criticisms of the Manual and ideas for improving its clinical value.

**Keywords:** IPARTheory, clinical practice, applied research/practice

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**Symposium: Research Regarding the Parental Acceptance-Rejection  
Questionnaire and Parental Alienation: A Panoply of Proposals**

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Interpersonal parental acceptance–rejection theory (IPARTheory) and parental alienation (PA) theory overlap in several important ways. They both involve the relationships between children and their parents. More specifically they both pertain to the child's perception of their relationship to their parents. Both IPARTheory and PA theory address various manifestations of healthy, mutually satisfying relationships and also disturbed, maladaptive, and pathological relationships. The Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire (PARQ) has been used in research regarding PA. The PARQ helps to identify and quantify the psychological mechanism of splitting, which occurs to an unusually high degree in severely alienated children. Thus, the PARQ can be used to help diagnose PA in both clinical and forensic settings. Also, it is likely that serial administrations of the PARQ will show improvement in the mental condition of children after participating successfully in intervention programs. This symposium will summarize several research projects that involve the PARQ and parental alienation, which may be: already published; completed, but not published; planned, but not completed; and simply hypothetical.

**Keywords:** IPARTheory, parental alienation theory, splitting, diagnosis

### **Symposium Paper Abstracts:**

#### **Overview of Completed and Proposed Research Projects that Involve the Parental Acceptance–Rejection Questionnaire and Parental Alienation**

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The presenter will summarize several completed, planned, and simply hypothetical research projects that use the Parental Acceptance–Rejection Questionnaire (PARQ) to study some aspect of parental alienation (PA) theory:

- Bernet, W., et al.: The researchers created a measure, the PARQ-Gap, which was 99% accurate in distinguishing severely alienated children from nonalienated children.
- Alvarez, M., et al.: The researchers designed an intervention for families experiencing mild or moderate levels of PA. They administered the PARQ to the children and they calculated the PARQ-Gap for those participants.
- Bartoszewski, J.: The researcher constructed an “Adjective Test,” based on the 8 criteria or features of PA. He will administer the Adjective Test and the PARQ together, to see if the results of the two tests correspond with each other.
- Reay, K.: Severely alienated children and adolescents participated in the Family Reflections program in British Columbia, Canada. The PARQ was administered to the participants at the onset of the Family Reflections intervention and at periodic intervals during the following 12 months.
- Kloth-Zanard, J.: The researcher developed a program, “Three Strikes – You’re Out!,” which family courts can implement in cases of custodial interference. She proposes to incorporate the PARQ and PARQ-Gap into this program—e.g., by administering the PARQ to involved children at the beginning and end of the 12-week program.
- Lewis, K.: The author administered the PARQ to numerous children as part of child custody evaluations. He will compare the PARQ-Gap for younger and older siblings in the same family.

**Keywords:** IPARTheory, parental alienation theory, splitting, interventions, diagnosis

#### **The Relation between Perceived Parental Acceptance-rejection and Resilience in Children Aged 9-12**

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Hsin-Hui Lu, Chung Shan Medical University

**Objective:** Resilience is one of the important facets of children's social development, and it refers to an individual's ability to manage stress and resources in the face of adversity, trauma, or difficulty. What is the relationship between children's perceived parental acceptance-rejection and their resilience? This study will examine the connection between perceived parental acceptance-rejection and resilience in children aged 9-12 and address three research questions. **Methods:** A total of 250 children aged 9-12 participated in the study (Mage= 10.70, SD=0.96; Male=111, Mage = 10.69, SD=0.92; Female=139, Mage=10.71, SD=1.00). The subjects were asked to complete the child version of Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire (PARQ) and the Connor-Davidson resilience scale (CD-RISC) to collect perceived parental acceptance-rejection and resilience. The marital satisfaction, parent-child



relationship, and gender were gathered from parents. Results: Three hierarchical regression analysis models were carried out. The three models were first added with the perceived acceptance-rejection of the father ( $p < .001$ ) and the mother ( $p < .001$ ) and the difference of perceived parental acceptance-rejection ( $p = .019$ ), respectively, and child gender, parent gender, parent-child relationship, and marital satisfaction were then added. The perception of father's acceptance-rejection ( $p = .001$ ), mother's acceptance-rejection ( $p < .001$ ) and the difference of parental acceptance-rejection ( $p = .019$ ) were still significant. Moreover, the parent-child relationship in these three models also show significance ( $ps = .004, .006, .020$ ). Conclusion: In this study, we found that children's perceived differences in parental acceptance-rejection are one of the risk factors interfering with their resilience development.

**Keywords:** Perceived parental acceptance-rejection, resilience

### **PARQ-GAP With Siblings**

Ken Lewis

A recent article, "Measuring the Difference between Alienation and Estrangement: The PARQ-GAP" by Bernet, Rhoner, and Reay raises an interesting question. Can the PARQ be a useful tool to explain differences in siblings' levels of acceptance/rejection of their parents? In my custody work, I have noticed significant gap in the PARQ scores of siblings living in the same family. Explaining the gap in scores to the judge would be useful in forging an effective court order. Custody evaluators might explore hypotheses to explain this phenomenon. Some possible hypotheses might be parentification, the vulnerable child syndrome, or others.

**Keywords:** Siblings, PARQ-GAP, Parental Alienation

### **Parenting, Social Attitudes, and Alienated Children**

Luke Saunders

Research has yet to investigate the attitudes of alienated children other than that of the valences towards their parents. This study investigated the relationship between parental alienating behaviors (PABs), authoritarian parenting style, and their possible effects on attitudes in children who have been alienated from a parent by another. Participants (656 college students) completed an online, self-report survey that measured indicators of PA (Baker Alienation Questionnaire), need for closure (Need for Closure Scale), splitting (PARQ-Gap), retrospective ratings of parenting styles (Parental Authority Questionnaire-Short), and PABs (Baker Strategy Questionnaire). Results indicated that alienated children did not score significantly higher than children who were not alienated on authoritarian attitudes, and that splitting was not a significant mediator in this relationship. However, results showed a significant relationship between PABs and authoritarian parenting, and a significant correlation between splitting and need for closure. It was hypothesized that the characteristics of authoritarian parenting style (e.g., controlling, punitive, and coercive behaviors) would coincide with the behaviors commonly perpetrated by alienating parents, and results supported this prediction. This study offers a deeper understanding of the parenting behaviors of alienating parents (especially as viewed by their children) and the effects that authoritarian parenting and parental alienating behaviors might have on attitudes later in life.

**Keywords:** personality, acceptance-rejection, attitudes, parenting styles, alienation

### **3 Strikes You're Out! Program Using PARQ to support Assess Acceptance-Rejection of a Parent due to Domestic Violence by Proxy**

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Phillip Hendrick

Domestic Violence by Proxy (DVP) uses the coercive control of psychological abuse in relation to parental alienating behaviors such as:

- Rejecting (spurning),
- Terrorizing,
- Corrupting,
- Denying essential stimulation,
- Emotional responsiveness, or availability,
- Unreliable and inconsistent parenting,
- Mental health, medical, or educational neglect,
- Degrading/devaluing (spurning),
- Isolating
- Exploiting.

Coercive control has been recognized as domestic violence in Hawaii, California and Connecticut, USA as well as law in the UK. Frequently a precursor to physical violence, it is considered psychological violence against an intimate partner. This form of coercively controlling abuse is what happens when a parent perpetrates psychological abuse using a child against the other parent. When a person uses someone such as a child to continue to harass or abuse a person, this is DVP. When a person files false allegations of abuse and neglect, this is DVP using an agency. When the agency unsubstantiates all allegations, but the person files a criminal case for abuse/neglect anyways, this is DVP using the courts. Coercive Control is the use of psychological abuse through coercive control, which is DVP. Psychological abuse includes the list of behaviors mentioned above. Parental Alienation includes all of those behaviors. The three Strikes – You're Out! is a program that family courts can implement in cases of custodial interference where there is coercive control and domestic violence by proxy. The program, which runs for 12 weeks, allows only 3 chances for parents to comply with the court's orders. Each strike results in a penalty, such as a monetary fine and days of community service. If a parent gets 3 strikes, they lose custody and must pay for intensive reunification therapy. PARQ As one of the 14 available assessment tools, is one of the top-tools to use because of it's extensive in-depth evaluation for parental child relationship issues. As the PARQ has been used in hundreds of studies within the U.S. and globally, along with translated into 53 languages and dialects worldwide, with empirical data to support it's effectiveness, it can easily pair with the 3 Strikes You're Out by administering it to children assigned at the start and end of the 12-week program.

**Keywords:** 3 Strikes You're Out, Domestic Violence by Proxy, Coercive Control, Parental Alienation, Child Abuse

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### **Symposium: Parental Acceptance-Rejection and Child Development: Similarities and Differences across Cultures**

Jennifer E. Lansford (Chair), Duke University

This symposium presents three empirical papers stemming from the Parenting Across Cultures longitudinal study that began in 2008 with recruitment of a sample of 1,417 8-year-old children and their mothers and fathers from 9 countries (China, Colombia, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand, and the United States). These children and their parents

have been interviewed annually since then about the parent-child relationship and the child's adjustment. Mothers, fathers, and children have reported on parental acceptance-rejection in their current relationship, and mothers and fathers reported recollections of acceptance-rejection in childhood relationships with their own mothers and fathers. The symposium will begin with an overview of the study of parental acceptance-rejection in the Parenting Across Cultures project to set the stage for the presentation of the three empirical papers that will follow. Paper 1 examines perceptions of maternal and paternal acceptance-rejection in relation to subsequent emotion regulation. Paper 2 examines intra-individual variability in parental acceptance-rejection across six time points in relation to children's internalizing and externalizing symptoms. Paper 3 examines whether remembered Generation 1 parent rejecting behaviors were passed to Generation 2 parents, whether such intergenerational transmission led to higher Generation 3 child externalizing and internalizing behavior, and whether such intergenerational transmission could be interrupted by participation in parenting programs or family income increases. The Discussant will lead a discussion of the implications of the findings for understanding parent-child relationships and child development internationally and will encourage questions and discussion with the audience.

**Keywords:** child development, international, parental acceptance-rejection

### **Symposium Paper Abstracts:**

#### **Effects of Parental Acceptance-Rejection on Adolescents' Emotion Regulation: A Cross-National Study**

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Jennifer E. Lansford, Duke University  
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The study examined associations between parental acceptance and adolescents' emotion regulation of anger/sadness, distress, positive affect, and empathy. Participants included 515 adolescents (range = 8–13 years, Mage = 11 years, SD = 0.67; 50% girls) at Wave 1. Adolescents were recruited from Colombia (n = 100), Italy (n = 104), the United States (n = 311). Follow-up data were assessed one year later (Wave 2). At Wave 1, adolescents' perceptions of maternal and paternal acceptance-rejection were examined. At Wave 2, adolescents' reports of emotion regulation were assessed. Using path analysis, findings revealed that both maternal and paternal acceptance significantly predicts adolescents' positive emotion regulation. More specifically, findings revealed maternal acceptance, as compared to paternal acceptance, significantly predicted better anger management and higher empathy among adolescents. Whereas paternal acceptance significantly predicted better distress regulation and higher positive affect among adolescents one year later. This study provides a foundation for understanding emotion regulation as influenced by parental acceptance-rejection in childhood. Findings such as these may help researchers, clinicians, and other practitioners better understand the negative developmental and psychological consequences of perceived interpersonal rejection.

**Keywords:** Emotion regulation, parental acceptance-rejection, distress, positive affect, empathy, positive affect, anger

#### **The Intergenerational Transmission of Maladaptive Parenting and its Impact on Child Mental Health: Examining Cross Cultural Mediating Pathways and Moderating Protective Factors**

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Using a sample of 1338 families from 12 cultural groups in 9 nations, we examined whether retrospectively remembered Generation 1 (G1) parent rejecting behaviors were passed to Generation 2 (G2 parents), whether such intergenerational transmission led to higher Generation 3 (G3 child) externalizing and internalizing behavior at age 13, and whether such intergenerational transmission could be interrupted by parent participation in parenting programs or family income increases of > 5%. Utilizing structural equation modeling, we found that the intergenerational transmission of parent rejection that is linked with higher child externalizing and internalizing problems occurs across cultural contexts. However, the magnitude of transmission is greater in cultures with higher normative levels of parent rejection. Parenting program participation broke this intergenerational cycle in fathers from cultures high in normative parent rejection. Income increases appear to break this intergenerational cycle in mothers from most cultures, regardless of normative levels of parent rejection. These results tentatively suggest that bolstering protective factors such as parenting program participation, income supplementation, and (in cultures high in normative parent rejection) legislative changes and other population-wide positive parenting information campaigns aimed at changing cultural parenting norms may be effective in breaking intergenerational cycles of maladaptive parenting and improving child mental health across multiple generations.

**Keywords:** child development, externalizing, internalizing, international, parental acceptance-rejection

**Intra-Individual Variability in Parental Acceptance/Rejection Across Six Years of  
Childhood/Adolescence: Prediction of Externalizing and Internalizing Symptoms in a  
Diverse International Sample**

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Parenting that is low in acceptance and high in rejection (i.e., acceptance/rejection) has been shown to predict internalizing (i.e., depression, anxiety) and externalizing (i.e., aggression, conduct problems) symptoms from childhood through adulthood. These symptoms develop and can increase in severity across adolescence to negatively impact social, academic, and emotional functioning. However, there are two major gaps in the prior literature: 1) nearly all prior research has focused on between-person differences in acceptance/rejection at the expense of examining intra-individual variability (IIV) across time in acceptance/rejection; and 2) there are no prior studies examining IIV in acceptance/rejection in diverse international samples of participants. The current study utilized six waves of data with 1,199 adolescents' families living in nine countries, from the Parenting Across Cultures (PAC) study. We tested the hypothesis that higher amounts of youth IIV in parental acceptance/rejection will predict higher internalizing and externalizing symptoms even while controlling for average levels of acceptance/rejection. Using estimates of each adolescent's coefficient of variation, multiple regression analysis did not indicate any significant effects of IIV in acceptance/rejection on adolescent internalizing or externalizing symptoms. However, Residual Dynamic Structural Equation Modeling (RDSEM) analyses revealed a significant, positive effect of IIV in parental acceptance/rejection on internalizing and externalizing symptoms. These results were evident in the total sample, and in 6 of the 9 countries, suggesting a stable and replicable effect in the global sample. Results indicate that it is important to consider IIV in acceptance/rejection in the etiology of externalizing and internalizing problems.

**Keywords:** child development, externalizing, internalizing, international, parental acceptance-rejection

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**Symposium: Interpersonal Rejection Sensitivity in IPARTheory**  
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An important gap in rejection sensitivity research is the fact is the lack of a valid and a reliable instrument that could be used cross-culturally. To help correct that deficiency, the collection of presentations in this symposium tests the reliability and validity of the newly constructed interpersonal rejection sensitivity scale (IRSS). This is an 11-item self-report measure that measures the level of individuals' sensitivity to rejection in interpersonal relationships. Results of analyses showed excellent reliability, convergent validity, and discriminant validity of the measure in the USA, Bulgaria, Spain, and Pakistan. The findings from the collection of these papers also represents additional evidence for the likely universality of central postulates in interpersonal acceptance-rejection theory (IPARTheory) on which this research is based.

**Keywords:** IPARTheory, rejection sensitivity, IRSS, reliability, validity

### **Symposium Paper Abstracts:**

#### **Construction, Reliability, Validity of the Interpersonal Rejection Sensitivity Scale**

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Ronald P. Rohner, University of Connecticut

An important gap in rejection sensitivity research is the fact that almost no recent study has focused on interpersonal rejection sensitivity. Current studies focus almost exclusively on personal rejection sensitivity. To help correct that deficiency, Rohner, Molaver, and Ali (2020) created the Interpersonal Rejection Sensitivity Scale (IRSS). The IRSS is an 11-item self-report questionnaire designed (a) to measure the level of individuals' sensitivity to rejection in interpersonal relationships, and (b) to help researchers and practitioners identify interpersonal rejection sensitivity in individuals to better inform theory and practice. We will explain the construction, reliability, and validity of the IRSS in a sample of 300 students, staff, and faculty from a public research university in northeastern U.S.A. (71% female; Mage = 23 years, SD = 4.8). Results of analyses showed excellent reliability, convergent validity, and discriminant validity of the measure.

**Keywords:** rejection sensitivity, IRSS, reliability, validity

#### **Perceived Parental Rejection in Childhood and Rejection Sensitivity and Psychological Adjustment in Adulthood in Bulgarian Adults**

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According to Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection theory (IPARTheory) (Rohner, 2021), perceived rejection by parents might lead to numerous negative developmental consequences in children's personality development and mental and physical health outcomes. Further, many of these negative developmental outcomes have long-term effects on children's development that continues into their adult life. The aim of our study is to explore if remembrances of parental acceptance-rejection during childhood is associated with interpersonal rejection sensitivity and psychological adjustment in adulthood. The sample consists of 479 adults (Mage = 37.65; 79.3% females). Majority of the participants were university graduates, married or cohabiting, and working full time. Measures used were Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire/Control (Adult PARQ/C, short form Rohner, 2005): Mother Version and Father

Version; Interpersonal Rejection Sensitivity Scale (IRSS, Rohner, et al., 2018), and Personality Assessment Questionnaire, (PAQ, Adult; Rohner & Khaleque, 2005). The results showed that there are significant positive correlations between rejection sensitivity and perceived parental rejection by both mother ( $r=.243$ ,  $p<0.000$ ) and father ( $r=.276$ ,  $p<0.000$ ). As expected, the analyses show negative correlations between rejection sensitivity and psychological adjustment ( $r=-.755$ ,  $p<0.000$ ). Different regression analyses models will be presented.

**Keywords:** Rejection Sensitivity, IPARTheory, Parental Rejection, Psychological Adjustment

### **Psychometric Properties of the Bulgarian Version of Interpersonal Rejection Sensitivity Scale**

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The aim of our study is to examine the psychometric properties of the Bulgarian version of IRSS. The sample consists of 1248 adults (M age=35,33; 82.04% females). Majority of the participants were university graduates, married or cohabiting, and working full time. The IRSS was translated into Bulgarian. Forth translations and review by an expert were done according to the requirements for psychometric instruments translation. Data were collected online via online Google Form. Our analyses showed clear one-factor structure of the IRSS. The reliability of the Bulgarian translation was found to be  $\alpha=0.919$ . Our analyses show decline of the level of rejection sensitivity with the age of the participants. Our analyses confirm very good psychometric properties of the translated version. It can be used successfully for research and applied purposes in Bulgaria.

**Keywords:** Rejection Sensitivity, IRSS, IPARTheory, factor analysis, reliability

### **Urdu Version of Interpersonal Rejection Sensitivity Scale**

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The aim of the study was to translate, adapt and validate the original English version of Interpersonal Rejection Sensitivity Scale (IRSS; Rohner, Molaver, & Ali, 2018) into Urdu language so as to easily administer on adults of Pakistani culture. The sample comprised of 100 adults (N=100) having age-range above 18 years (M=21 years; SD= .94), including both males and females, selected using convenience sampling technique. The study followed three stages: 1) Translation and adaptation, 2) Linguistic equivalence/cross validation, and 3) Establishing psychometric properties of translated Urdu version of IRSS. The collected data was statistically analysed using Pearson product moment coefficient of correlation and Chronbach's Alpha through SPSS. The results showed significant correlation ( $r = .84$ ) between both English and Urdu versions of the IRSS. Item to item significant correlation of English items and Urdu items are also evident from the findings but only items 3 and 12 did not show significant correlation. Moreover, significant value of Cronbach's alpha ( $\alpha = .72$ ) illustrated the internal consistency of Urdu version of IRSS, whereas Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) proved it as a standardized measure like the original English IRSS as all the items were significantly loaded with the exception of items number 3 and 12 that did not load on the scale. Therefore, after excluding items number 3 and 12 with the permission of Rohner Research Publications, it is concluded that the 11-item Urdu translation of IRSS is a valid and reliable scale to measure interpersonal rejection-sensitivity among Pakistani population.

**Keywords:** adaptation, translation, standardization, IRSS

### **Validation of the Interpersonal Rejection Sensitivity Scale in Spanish Population**

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Interpersonal rejection sensitivity refers to a heightened readiness or disposition to perceive negative or hurtful intent in the behavior of others, even when no such intent is objectively present. Although the Rejection Sensitivity Questionnaire (RSQ) by Downey and Feldman has been widely used to measure rejection sensitivity, it lacks an appropriate transcultural approach. However, there is a gap in the rejection sensitivity research as the RSQ and other measures on rejection sensitivity do not measure interpersonal rejection sensitivity. To overcome this gap, the validation in different cultural settings of a newly developed and simplified rejection sensitivity measure, the Interpersonal Rejection Sensitivity Scale (IRSS), is essential. The aim of the present study was to analyze the psychometric properties of the Spanish adaptation of the IRSS. First, the English version of the scale was translated by a committee approach. Then, 388 Spanish adults filled in the Spanish version (Mean age: 38.28 years; SD 10.81; 69% females). The results showed the Spanish version of the IRSS has similar internal consistency values to the English version. Moreover, exploratory factor analysis showed that a one-factor structure best fit the data in the Spanish version of the IRSS (Cronbach's alpha = 0.92; McDonald's omega = 0.93). It can be concluded that the IRSS-11 is a useful and valid instrument to assess interpersonal rejection sensitivity in Spanish adults.

**Keywords:** Assessment, Spanish Adults, Rejection Sensitivity, IPARTheory, Validation