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INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR INTERPERSONAL ACCEPTANCE AND REJECTION “Acceptance, Rejection, and Resilience Within Family, School, and Social-Emotional Contexts”

The International Society for Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection and the School of Primary Education, University of Crete, have the pleasure to officially announce that the Second International Congress on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection will be held in Rethymno town on the island of Crete (at the University of Crete), from the 3rd through the 6th of July 2008.

*Official language of the Congress: English
(with simultaneous translation in Greek)*

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Prospective participants are encouraged to submit proposals for papers, symposia, workshops, and poster presentations on any aspect of interpersonal acceptance-rejection. Relevant topics include:

- Parental acceptance-rejection and parenting education
- Psychological and emotional maltreatment
- Clinical and developmental implications of interpersonal acceptance-rejection
- Peer acceptance-rejection
- Educational implications of teacher, peer, and parental acceptance-rejection
- Acceptance-rejection of children with special needs
- Victimization and bullying in school age children
- Acceptance-rejection in intimate adult relationships
- Acceptance-rejection in the context of adult offspring’s caregiving of aging parents
- Methodological issues in the study of interpersonal acceptance-rejection

- Resilience promotion within school settings
- Psychotherapy and psycho-educational interventions
- And many others

CONGRESS PROGRAM

The Congress will include a rich scientific, clinical, and applied program, as well as stimulating social events. It will also provide an opportunity to meet like-minded colleagues and students from around the world. All this will take place in a setting of great historical interest and natural beauty. The detailed program will be available soon. For more information and updates see the congress website: www.isipar08.org

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We look forward to seeing you in Rethymno!

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THE PAIN OF SOCIAL OSTRACISM

By Kipling D. Williams, Purdue University
Naomi I. Eisenberger, UCLA



People report being ostracized, on average, once a day. Often these episodes appear to be trivial, yet research suggests that ostracism, even for a brief period of time by strangers, is distressing and can lead to some significant behavioral consequences. Ostracism leads to lower levels of belonging, self-esteem, control, and meaningful existence, as well as higher levels of sadness and anger. Much of this research relies on self-reports of distress as well as behavioral consequences of ostracism that are aimed at recovering thwarted needs. For instance, following brief episodes of ostracism, individuals are more likely to attend to social information and be more socially susceptible to others' influence. However, under certain circumstances, ostracism can lead to less helping and more aggression.

Immediate reactions to even the most minimal forms of ostracism appear to be distressing and hurtful. Being left out of an Internet ball-tossing game called Cyberball by strangers is sufficient to make people feel bad, detached, frustrated, sad, meaningless, and angry. These feelings occur even when objectively, the episode should be easily dismissed as unimportant or expected. For example, people feel just as badly when despised others (i.e., those belonging to the KKK) ostracize them as they do when they are ostracized by like-minded others. Individuals even feel hurt when being ostracized by a computer, or when inclusion in such a game incurs a monetary cost. It appears there is an automatic pain response that is quite quick and crude, responsive only to signs of exclusion rather than to their context.

To explore why ostracism "hurts," we used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to examine participants' neural activity while they played the Cyberball virtual ball-tossing game. In this game, participants were led to believe that they were playing an Internet game with two other individuals who were also in fMRI scanners; in reality, participants were playing with a preset computer program. In the

first round of the game, participants were "implicitly ostracized" when they were told that, due to some technical difficulties, they would not be able to play with the two other players. Following this, participants played one round in which they were included in the game and an additional round in which they were included for the first third of the game and then ostracized for the remainder of the game when the other players stopped throwing the ball to them.

Results demonstrated that some of the same neural regions that show activity in response to physical pain also showed activity in response to this episode of ostracism. Specifically, in response to the ostracism, compared to the inclusion, episode, participants showed greater activity in the dorsal anterior cingulate cortex (dACC), a region associated with the "suffering" component of physical pain. Moreover, individuals who showed greater activity in this region also reported feeling more upset by the ostracism episode (e.g., "I felt invisible;" "I felt meaningless"). In addition, in response to ostracism, participants also showed increased activity in a region of the right ventral prefrontal cortex (RVPPFC), a region that has been shown to be involved in regulating the distress of physical pain or in regulating negative emotional experience more generally. Participants who showed greater activity in this neural region reported feeling less upset by the ostracism episode, suggesting that they may have been doing a better job at coping with the distress of ostracism. Finally, in response to the implicit ostracism episode, compared to inclusion, participants showed increased dACC activity but no activity in RVPPFC. This finding suggests that participants may have still been experiencing some kind of distress during this "non-inclusion" episode but that they were not likely to regulate this distress response, presumably because participants did not think that they were being outright rejected.

These findings fit with previous suggestions that there is an overlap in the neural systems that underlie physical pain and "social pain," the pain resulting from social devaluation or loss. Because mammals are born relatively immature without the capacity to feed or fend for themselves, it is critical that they maintain close physical contact with a caregiver to get the appropriate nourishment and protection. To the extent that separation from a caregiver feels "painful," it is likely to be avoided. Thus, the pain signal that normally signifies when there is danger that threatens survival may have been co-opted to prevent social separation, an equally dangerous survival threat. Indeed, some recent work

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affirms this notion that physical and social pain rely on some of the same underlying circuitry by showing that individuals who are more sensitive to physical pain are also more sensitive to or more distressed by social ostracism.

The behavioral consequences of ostracism can include susceptibility to social influence, aggression, social avoidance, and depression. For example, following brief episodes of ostracism, individuals have been shown to work harder on collective tasks, conform to incorrect perceptions, comply to monetary requests, attend more to social information, nonconsciously mimic people around them, and be overly concerned with being socially accepted. On the other hand, under conditions in which exclusion appears permanent or uncontrollable, individuals can become more aggressive, less helpful, and show signs of lashing out at others who were not involved in the original ostracism experience. School shooters' diaries often refer explicitly to being excluded, ostracized, or rejected just prior to their deadly responses. Interviews with individuals who have endured long-term ostracism in the work place, at church, in the community, or even in their homes indicate that they no longer possess the resources to fortify their thwarted needs, and thus are left to suffer physically and emotionally, often feeling depressed, unworthy, and suicidal.

Unlike physical pain, people have the ability to relive socially painful experiences with focused recollection. Thus, the pain and consequences of social ostracism can linger far after the original episode. We need to understand the psychology of exclusion from the perspective of the sources and of the targets. For sources, why is it done? What other options are there? What is gained? For targets, what are cognitive, emotional, and behavioral options? How can individuals best cope with being ostracized before it becomes a downward spiraling sequence of responses that are likely to either undermine the individual's integrity, or to perpetuate further ostracism? It is imperative that we devote more attention to these questions; because it may well be that this very basic phenomenon underlies many of our intrapersonal, relational, interpersonal, and societal problems.

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University of Connecticut Rohner Center Awards

Distinguished Contributions to Theory, Research, and Practice on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection

The Rohner Center is pleased to announce that the University of Connecticut has authorized the creation of the *University of Connecticut Rohner Center Awards for Distinguished Contributions to Theory, Research, and Practice on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection*. The awards are intended to encourage and recognize outstanding contributions in the field of interpersonal acceptance and rejection. Researchers, scholars, and practitioners worldwide are encouraged to submit theory, research, or practice-based manuscripts on any topic relevant to interpersonal acceptance and rejection. Such topics include but are not limited to issues dealing with parental acceptance-rejection, peer acceptance-rejection, teacher acceptance-rejection, acceptance-rejection among intimate adults, adult offspring's acceptance and rejection of their aging parents, and others.

Two Awards of \$1,000 each will be given every two years at the biennial meetings of the *International Society for Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection* (ISIPAR). These cash awards are intended to both acknowledge outstanding contributions to the field of interpersonal acceptance and rejection and to help cover expenses associated with attending and giving an Awards Address at the international meeting. Two categories of awards are given, as follows:

- **Distinguished Contributions to Theory, Research, and Practice on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection:**
Outstanding Paper of the Biennium

Eligibility Requirements

- The sole author or first author must be a member of the *International Society for Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection* (ISIPAR).
 - An unpublished manuscript must represent work completed within the two year period prior to the ISIPAR conference at which it will be presented.
 - Unpublished manuscripts may not exceed 30 double spaced, typed pages (including references, tables, figures, and other end-matter).
 - A published article must have appeared in print within the two year period prior to the ISIPAR conference at which it will be presented. No page restriction is applied to published articles.
- **Distinguished Contributions to Theory, Research, and Practice on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection:**
Outstanding Paper by an Early Career Professional

Eligibility Requirements

- The sole author or first author must be a member of the *International Society for Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection* (ISIPAR).
- The sole author or first author may not be more than five years beyond his or her highest earned degree (e.g., Bachelors, Masters, or Doctorate) at the time the manuscript is submitted.
- An unpublished manuscript must represent work completed within the two year period prior to the ISIPAR conference at which it will be presented.
- Unpublished manuscripts may not exceed 30 double spaced, typed pages (including references, tables, figures, and other end matter).
- A published article must have appeared in print within the two year period prior to the ISIPAR conference at which it will be presented. No page restriction is applied to published articles.

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Evaluation Criteria

Manuscripts will be considered on the basis of their empirical, theoretical, and/or applied merit. The following criteria will serve as the basis of evaluation for contributions made within one or a combination of the following three domains:

Research Contributions

- Importance of hypotheses tested or questions asked.
- Methodological rigor and appropriateness.
- Potential for results to advance understanding of the human condition in sociocultural context.

Theoretical Contributions

- Incorporation of conceptual or theoretical foundations within the field of interpersonal acceptance and rejection.
- Potential for the theoretical perspective(s) to advance understanding of the human condition in sociocultural context.

Applied Contributions

- Directly links theory or research within the field of interpersonal acceptance and rejection to issues of applied practice.
- Potential for applications to advance professional practices that promote the health and well-being of individuals, couples, families, or the broader sociocultural community.

Submission Process

All members of ISIPAR who are interested in entering the competition for these Awards are invited to submit manuscripts electronically to the Rohner Center (rohner@uconn.edu) no later than March 1, 2008. Further details about the Awards will be announced on the Society's website at www.isiparweb.org and in *Interpersonal Acceptance: Newsletter of the International Society for Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection*.

- Insofar as applicable all submissions should follow guidelines laid out in the *Publication Manual (5th edition)* of the American Psychological Association (2001).
- Unpublished manuscripts must be in a common word processing file (e.g., *doc*, *rtf*, *pdf*).
- Applicants must fill-out and submit the [Submission Cover Page](#) along with the article to be reviewed.

Deadlines

<i>Congress year</i>	<i>Manuscript must be Completed Between</i>	<i>Submission Deadline</i>	<i>Decision Deadline</i>
2008	January 1, 2007-March 1, 2008	March 1, 2008	April 1, 2008
2010	Ending date of 2008 Congress-March 1, 2010	March 1, 2010	April 1, 2010
2012	Ending date of 2010 Congress-March 1, 2012	March 1, 2012	April 1, 2012

Presentation of Awards Address

Awardees are expected to give an oral presentation based on their award-winning paper at the biennial meeting of ISIPAR where the Award is presented.

Awards Committee

Selection of winning manuscripts will be made by the Awards Review Committee composed of three senior faculty at the University of Connecticut (Preston A. Britner, David E. Cournoyer, and Sandra A. Rigazio-DiGilio) and by two senior international scholars (Abdul Khaleque and Fatoş Erkman). Ronald P. Rohner serves as *ex officio* member of the Committee. Sandra Rigazio-DiGilio serves as chairperson of the Committee.

See Submission Cover Page on page 7



University of Connecticut
Rohner Center Awards

**Distinguished Contributions to Theory, Research, and Practice on
Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection**

SUBMISSION COVER PAGE

Complete this form in English using Microsoft Word, and submit it with your manuscript.

Category of Award for which you are applying (select one)

- a. Distinguished Contributions to Theory, Research, and Practice on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection: **Outstanding Paper of the Biennium**
- b. Distinguished Contributions to Theory, Research, and Practice on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection : **Outstanding Paper by an Early Career Professional**

Paper Title

Sole or First Author

▪ **E-mail Address**

▪ **Work Address**

▪ **Highest Degree Earned**

▪ **Date Degree was Conferred**

Name(s) of Coauthor(s)

**If presented, published, or
submitted elsewhere, please
list where and when:**

DEADLINE: March 1, 2008

E-mail this [Submission Cover Page](#) and your [Manuscript](#) or [Article](#) to the Rohner Center (rohner@uconn.edu).

Manuscripts that are incomplete, do not meet the eligibility requirements, or are submitted after the deadline will not be considered for the competition.

REVIEW OF SPECIAL ISSUE OF *CROSS-CULTURAL RESEARCH ON CORPORAL PUNISHMENT, PARENTAL ACCEPTANCE-REJECTION, AND YOUTHS' PSYCHOLOGICAL ADJUSTMENT*

By Shaila Khan, Tougaloo College



This special issue (Volume 40, Number 3, August 2006) contains articles that provide readers with a synopsis of leading research on corporal punishment and its effect on psychological maladjustment of youths in a wide variety of cultural settings.

Results from previous studies suggested differing conclusions and are difficult to compare due to the fact that there were a lack of uniformity in definitions used and/or in methodologies adopted by various studies. This issue of *Cross-Cultural Research* provides a well-documented list of such difficulties and a list of possible remedies to overcome these.

In the preface of this Special Issue Ronald P. Rohner points out that all studies included in this issue: (a) followed the same conceptual definition of corporal punishment, (b) used the same measures of corporal punishment, (c) used perception of punishment from either the child or the parents, and (d) accounted for the mediating effect of perceived parental acceptance/rejection on youths' psychological maladjustment. Thus, the conclusions arrived by these studies are comparable, and the adopted methodologies are free from controversies.

The study of the effects of corporal punishment on measures of psychological adjustment is not a straightforward one. The difficulty begins with the definition of corporal punishment as perceived by different societies, cultures and religions. Even within the same society, communities differ in their perceptions of punishment and effective parenting. While some consider corporal punishment to be a valuable component in raising children with a desired behavioral character base, others completely disagree to the effectiveness of such punishments in having the desired effect on children's behavior. Even when "abusive" punishment is set aside, there remains disagreement on the definition of so-called "mild" or "normative" punishment. This variation in perception is reflected by the existence of a wide variety of laws against corporal punishment that are mainly derived from conclusions of various studies designed to reflect the cultural perception of the society. Some of the observed differences in conclusion in the existing literature may have been caused by the inclusion of abusive punishment together with the normative punishment.

In the first paper, Ripoll-Núñez and Rohner (2006) provide an organized description of observed variations in the perception of corporal punishment and variations in existing laws against punishment in different societies. They also provide a comprehensive conceptual definition of corporal punishment that include all direct and indirect infliction of pain or discomfort on a youth. All articles in this issue followed this conceptual definition.

Even with the adoption of the same definition the question still remains, "how severe is normative punishment, and how severe is *severe* punishment?" The answer to this question is somewhat subjective and understandably will vary between cultures.

Moreover, the perceived answer believed to exist in a culture will influence a child's view of punishment. As a result, perception of parental acceptance/rejection and the effect of punishment on psychological adjustment will be influenced.

The second difficulty arises from the adopted measures of corporal punishment. Various studies have used various measures, most of which account for a partial list of punishment. The Physical Punishment Questionnaire (PPQ) of Rohner, Ripoll-Núñez, Moody, and Ruan (2005) as adopted by all of the studies in this issue appears to include all major variables thought to be important in the study of corporal punishment. This questionnaire includes items that reflect the perception of justness and harshness of punishment received. Responses to these items may not be totally free from cultural variations. It is important to note that the perception of punishment existing in the society not only affects the behavior of parents or caregivers implementing punishment, but it also affects the view of children who receive the punishment. This effect may pose a difficulty in comparing results of studies conducted with children in different cultural settings. Children's view of "normative" punishment in one culture may be perceived as "severe" punishment in another. Thus, it is possible to observe psychological maladjustment for children who perceive the punishment they receive as "normative" in a certain culture. The third difficulty arises from the assumption that the effect of corporal punishment on psychological adjustment is direct and linear. A significant portion of previous research failed to recognize the mediating effect of other variables such as perceived parental acceptance/rejection on psychological adjustment. An argument is made that if the effect of parental acceptance/rejection is taken out, the effect of corporal punishment on psychological adjustment will often be nonsignificant. Studies included in this special issue follow this approach.

Conclusions drawn in the studies of this special issue are as follows: Erkman and Rohner (2006), in a sample of 427 Turkish youth, reported that there was no significant effect of either maternal or paternal punishment on psychological adjustment when the effect of perceived maternal and paternal acceptance was controlled. Steely and Rohner (2006) also found nonsignificant effects of harshness and justness of punishment on psychological adjustment in a sample of 97 Jamaican youth when the mediating effect of parental acceptance/rejection was taken into account.

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...“how severe is normative punishment, and how severe is *severe* punishment?” The answer to this question is somewhat subjective and understandably will vary between cultures.

However, Mathurin, Gielen and Lancaster (2006), in a sample of 115 youths of St. Croix, Virgin Islands, found corporal punishment to affect males' psychological maladjustment while no such effect was observed for females. Also, in a sample of 138 college students from the rural south of the United States, Smith, Lindsey, and Hansen (2006) found justness of corporal punishment to affect empathy for men but not for women. Harshness of punishment and parental acceptance/rejection were found to be unrelated to empathy for all youths. The following discussion on the assumptions and methodology used in these and other studies are relevant.

Is it likely that psychological maladjustment occurs simply because of perceived parental rejection? If the effect of parental rejection is removed, will the effect of punishment on psychological adjustment be nonsignificant? Most of the studies in this special issue employ simple or multiple linear regression analysis to answer this question. Use of regression analysis can remove the effect of parental rejection, and examine the effect of corporal punishment by itself on psychological adjustment. However, these studies do not report results from tests showing that the underlying assumptions (normality, homoscedasticity, etc.) of linear regression are satisfied. Observed data may or may not be normally distributed in their natural space, and transformation of data may be required. Perhaps a distribution-free estimation of parameters in structural equation models can establish a causal (statistical) relationship.

More focus is needed to explore the relationship between corporal punishment and parental rejection as viewed by the child. Although researchers have found punishment and perceived rejection to be correlated, no significant and unique relationship between children's views of punishment and psychological maladjustment was found. These variables may be interdependent and their relationship may not be linear. A child perceived to be subjected to more (frequency, severity or total) punishment (normative or severe) compared to other children in the family or in the neighborhood will most likely start viewing his/her parents to be rejecting. Also, children who believe their parents are rejecting are likely to start viewing any disciplinary action imposed by the parents as unjust punishment. This feedback process will eventually affect psychological adjustment. If this interdependence is not accounted for, different results may be observed in different cultures. One possible way to account for this in a cross-sectional

study is to allow covariation between constructs of corporal punishment and parental acceptance/rejection, preferably in a structural equation modeling approach. To fully account for the interdependence, longitudinal studies are required. Follow-up observations on the same sample over extended periods of time may reveal a unique relationship between corporal punishment and parental acceptance/rejection. It is possible to observe that even with the same level of punishment, the level of perception of parental rejection to be elevated for the same or raised level of psychological maladjustment over a period of time.

Other difficulties arise from unusual observations in some studies. For example, the existence of a threshold level of punishment beyond which psychological maladjustment starts to occur as found in some studies may make sense. However, accounting for such a threshold becomes very difficult in analysis. Again, the threshold, if it can be accounted for, will most likely differ with cultures. It appears that any attempt to eliminate cultural differences in order to obtain a unique relationship that is universally applicable will encompass consideration of such a large number of variables and latent constructs that the related complications in analysis and interpretation may prove fruitless.

Even with the observed variations in different cultural settings and with all the difficulties encountered by researchers, it is apparent that the study of the effects of corporal punishment on psychological adjustment is converging on the conclusion that the perception of parental rejection and not corporal punishment *per se* is most responsible for observed psychological maladjustment. This area of study has advanced substantially from its inception. With ongoing studies in this area it is likely that researchers will be able to account for all these difficulties, perhaps very soon.

This special issue provides the reader more than the results of different studies. It highlights in a concise and organized manner the steps that future researchers should adopt to avoid controversies and difficulties on methodological issues. Reading this issue is a must for all who are interested in working in the area of corporal punishment and psychological adjustment.

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Reference

- Rohner, R. P., Ripoll-Núñez, K. J., Moodie, N. A., & Ruan, C. C. (2005). Physical Punishment Questionnaire (PPQ): Test manual. In R. P. Rohner & A. Khaleque (Eds.), *Handbook for the study of parental acceptance and rejection* (4th ed.), (pp. 251-299). Storrs, CT: Rohner Research Publications.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES



San Diego, California, USA

International Council of Psychologists
The 65th Convention of ICP will be held in San Diego, California, USA, August 11-14, 2007. The theme of the conference is "Peace, Hope, and Well-Being Across the Cultures." www.icpweb.org/conference.html.



San Francisco, California, USA

American Psychological Association
The next APA Convention is being held in San Francisco, California, USA, August 17-20, 2007
www.apa.org/convention



Florence, Italy

ESCAP - European Society of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry August 25-29, 2007, 13th International Congress: Bridging the Gaps: Integrating Perspectives in Child and Adolescent Mental Health
Florence, Italy
www.escap-net.org



New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Society for Cross-Cultural Research
Annual Conference February 20-23, 2008 New Orleans, Louisiana, USA
<http://www.sccr.org>



Rethymno, Crete

Second International Congress on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection
To be held July 3-6, 2008 in Rethymno, at the University of Crete, Crete. The theme of the Congress is "Acceptance, Rejection, and Resilience Within Family, School, and Social-Emotional Contexts". For more information please visit the website <http://www.isipar08.org>

HOST NEEDED FOR 2010 MEETING

Soon we will convene the 2nd International Congress on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection. So it is not too early to begin thinking ahead to 2010 to request a volunteer (or volunteers) to host that Congress. Here are some things to keep in mind as we consider the 2010 location. The Conference site should be:

- Reasonably priced
- Easily accessible
- Interesting and comfortable
- Preferably associated with a university community

Also, the chairperson of the local arrangement committee should, ideally, live in the area where the conference will be convened. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer to host the 2010 Congress please contact Ronald P. Rohner, President, International Society for Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection at rohner@uconn.edu.



Where in the world will we be in 2010?

Deadline for submission of material for publication in the September issue of *Interpersonal Acceptance* is **August 1, 2007**. Please direct correspondence to Zafar A. Ansari, Editor zafaq@yahoo.com