



INTERPERSONAL ACCEPTANCE

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Review of Kourkoutas, E. & Erkman, F. (Eds.). (2011). *Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection: Social, Emotional, and Educational Contexts*. Boca Raton, FL: Brown Walker Press, (237 pages).

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Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection: Social, Emotional, and Educational Contexts introduces readers to the most up-to-date research on interpersonal acceptance and rejection from 50 contributors around the world. The research papers in

the volume were initially presented at the 2nd International Congress on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection in Rethymno, Crete, in 2008. Kourkoutas and

These papers represent a diversity of nations including Israel, the United States, Turkey, the Netherlands, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Italy. Papers in this section also represent a diversity of samples including twins and their mothers, children and adolescents, mother/father/child triads, and children in orphanages. Via methodological approaches including video observation and self-report questionnaires—and analyses including mediation and congruency testing—the authors provide further evidence in support of the significant role that interpersonal acceptance-rejection plays in the family.

One of the most intriguing papers in this section, written by Knafo, explores the role of child genetics in influencing parental behavior. Drawing from Plomin and colleagues' (1977) proposition of gene-environment correlations, Knafo's investigation of 100 pairs of Israeli twins and their mothers suggests that parenting is influenced in part by the genetic endowment of the child. Further, Knafo's results

suggest that child genetic effects on parental positive behaviors tend to be lower than child genetic effects on parental negative behaviors. These findings have important implications for parental acceptance-rejection theory (PARTheory) in that parental acceptance-rejection is shown to impact not only the child, but the child impacts parental acceptance-rejection. PARTheory will be further strengthened by future

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NEW FEATURE IN INTERPERSONAL ACCEPTANCE:

Activities and Accomplishments of ISIPAR Members

In this issue of *Interpersonal Acceptance*, we inaugurate a new feature highlighting the professional activities and accomplishments of ISIPAR members. Appropriate information includes: awards and honors pertinent to interpersonal acceptance-rejection; recent publications on some aspect of interpersonal acceptance-rejection; conference and other addresses on the topic, and related material. Please send this information (ideally with an electronic photo of yourself) to the Editor (Ronald P. Rohner) at rohner@uconn.edu.

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papers highlight the role of parental acceptance-rejection in family functioning, as well as in youth's adjustment, disordered eating, resilience, self-concept, and moral reasoning.

Erkman—the book Editors—divide the volume into three parts. Papers within each section (21 papers total) contribute to one of three major thematic areas: interpersonal acceptance and rejection in educational settings; interpersonal acceptance and rejection within the family; and interpersonal acceptance and rejection in adult intimate relationships. The intended audience includes academics, clinicians, teachers, and parents.

In the first section of the book—titled “Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection in Family Context”—seven empirical papers

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investigations that continue in the vein of Knafo's research.

In the second section of the book, titled "Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection in Special Educational and Clinical Contexts," eight papers underscore the role of interpersonal acceptance-rejection in the ecologies of both family and school. Six of the papers are empirical, highlighting the position of interpersonal acceptance-rejection in: adolescents' psychological adjustment, school conduct problems, academic failure, and resilience; children's beliefs and attitudes toward, and interactions with people with disabilities and special education needs; and, father absence and mental illness. One of the papers is theoretical, addressing interpersonal rejection, abused children with disabilities, and resilience. Additionally, one of the papers in this section is a case study of a 10-year-old boy with high functioning autism. In this paper, the authors describe how they found ways to promote the child's peer acceptance and peer inclusion.

As is true of the first section of the book, the second section represents a diversity of nations including Estonia, Portugal, Greece, and Moldova. It also includes a diversity of samples including children, adolescents, and patients with chronic mental illness. Via methodological approaches including quasi-experimental and semi-structured interviews, and analyses including logistic regression and content analysis, the authors in this section provide further evidence in support of the important role that interpersonal acceptance-rejection plays in the contexts of both family and school.

Two papers in this section are particularly fascinating, as they give promise to the possibility of modifying children's rejection beliefs through school programs. Specifically, Manolitsis and Kypriotaki describe a story-reading school program in Greece for preschoolers that—through a quasi-experimental design—demonstrated the experimental group shifting its beliefs and attitudes toward disabled children from less accepting to more accepting. In the other paper, Filippaki and Kalaitzidaki describe the success of a program in Greece called Environmental Education (Chatzifotiou, 2005). This program improves young students' acceptance of students with special educational needs. These two papers suggest that interpersonal rejection may be combated with proper planning and intervention.

In the third section of the book, titled "Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection and Intimate Relationships," six empirical papers emphasize the role of interpersonal acceptance-rejection in adults' apologies, attachment, fear of intimacy, narcissistic personality traits, relationships with in-laws, psychological adjustment, attitudes toward partner violence, and attribution of responsibility in domestic violence. As in the first two sections of the book, the third section represents a diversity of nations including Australia, Israel, Turkey, Bangladesh, and Spain. Via methodological approaches including mixed-methods and self-report questionnaires, and analyses including structural equation modeling and grounded theory, the authors provide further evidence of the important role that interpersonal acceptance-rejection plays

in adults' lives.

Erkman and Öztürk present one of the most interesting papers in this section. In this paper, the authors describe the development of their In-Law Acceptance-Rejection/Control Questionnaire (ILAR/CQ) which they adapted from Rohner's Parental Acceptance-Rejection/Control Questionnaire. In recent years, PARTheory has been extended to include all forms of interpersonal relationships, including teachers and romantic partners. In-laws represent another important form of interpersonal relationships (Bryant, Conger, & Meehan, 2001). Research using the ILAR/CQ takes PARTheory one step closer to being applicable to all forms of interpersonal relationships.

When reading an international book on interpersonal acceptance and rejection, one expects to see an assortment of represented nations. As Rohner wrote in the Foreword to the volume, more than 2,200 researchers and practitioners from 73 nations worldwide have shown an interest in interpersonal acceptance and rejection. Therefore, the diversity of nations represented in this volume is no surprise. The real treasure of the book is the methodological and statistical diversity represented. Methodology and statistics in the social sciences are continually progressing; it is evident that research on interpersonal acceptance and rejection is keeping pace.

The editors of the volume believe the book is relevant for a wide audience, and they are right. The diversity of papers presented will appeal to researchers, teachers, parents, and many others. For those of us who are already invested in the issue of interpersonal acceptance and rejection, the book will be both gratifying and intellectually stimulating. For those who are not yet familiar with interpersonal acceptance and rejection, the book will be a high-quality introduction.

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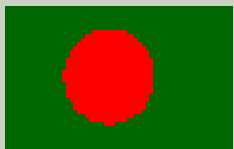
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SEMINAR ON PATERNAL LOVE AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ADJUSTMENT AT JAGANNATH UNIVERSITY (JNU) DHAKA, BANGLADESH



Md Kamal Uddin

Professor Md Kamal Uddin (ISIPAR member and former Regional Representative for South Asia) gave the keynote address at the seminar held on July 25, 2011. He focused his comments on the way in which paternal love affects the psychological adjustment of offspring. For more information contact Kamal at kamaluddin67@hotmail.com.



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IACCP REGIONAL CONFERENCE ISTANBUL, TURKEY

International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology

On July 3, 2011, the IACCP held its regional conference in Istanbul, Turkey. The conference comprised several symposia, including a session on Parental Control and its Correlates in Cross-Cultural Perspective. The aim of the symposium was to explore aspects of the impact of parental control, and to examine the relation between perceived control and perceived acceptance or warmth in parent-child relations. Another issue that was addressed was the effect of perceived control on children's behavior and psychological functioning. Topics were considered in cross-cultural perspectives through comparisons between Turkish and U.S. cultures.



ISIPAR members relaxing in Istanbul, Turkey after the IACCP conference
From left to right: Haldun Erkman; Fatos Erkman (President, ISIPAR), Lucie Kourkoutas, Elias Kourkoutas, & Tiia Tulviste (ISIPAR's Regional Representative for Europe)

Review of MacDonald, G. & Jensen-Campbell, L.A. (Eds.). (2011). *Social Pain: Neuropsychological and Health Implications of Loss and Exclusion*.

Washington, DC:APA Books

By Anne-Laura van Harmelen, Leiden University

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The experience of feeling excluded, low social support, unrequited love, a relationship breakup, or the death of a loved one can induce hurt feelings or social pain. In *Social Pain*, editors Geoff MacDonald and Laurie A. Jensen-Campbell provide an extensive overview of the neuro-sci-

entific, social, clinical, and health-related consequences of social pain. Taken together, the research described in this volume gives an overview of a dynamic, fast-paced field that has much to offer in terms of both scientific challenges and potential clinical benefits.

The Neurological and Physiological Bases of Social Pain

In the first chapter, Panksepp provides a theoretical and empirical basis of the neurobiology of social pain. Animal studies have shown that social pain engages very similar neurobiological and neurophysiological mechanisms as physical pain does. Panksepp advocates the view that the Separation-Distress/Panic/Grief brain system was designed over the course of evolution to monitor social loss by engendering psychological pain. This brain system may lead people to attempt to alleviate the pain by searching for social support. Furthermore, Panksepp shows that endogenous opioids inhibit conventional pain systems by dampening the cortical and subcortical substrates of pain processing. He also notes that social support produces opioid release in the brain. This may explain why individuals that feel lonely may resort to substance abuse, in that both alcohol and other drugs activate the opioid system. This perspective provides clear implications for therapeutic interventions.

In the next chapter, Eisenberger examines the brain mechanisms underlying social pain. For instance, she shows that the dorsal anterior cingulate cortex (dACC) responds differentially in relation to social distress following social pain through ostracism. Furthermore, dACC response to social exclusion is found to be modulated by a variety of individual differences. These include (lack of) social support, genetic make-up, whether the person has experienced recent negative life events, whether the person is especially sensitive to rejection, or even how that person perceives the intention of the ostracism. This chapter provides corroboration for hypotheses that there are shared brain mechanisms of social and physical pain, and it provides evidence for the

important role of social support in moderating the impact of social pain.

In chapter 3, Dickerson shows that prolonged social pain alters physiological systems, ultimately leading to negative health outcomes. Social stressors can elicit a cascade of physiological stress responses that increase arousal, and prepare the body for a fight or flight state. These responses include elevated heart rate, elevated systolic and diastolic blood pressure, and elevated hormone response such as the cortisol response (the 'stress hormone' in humans). What is more, cortisol response appears to be specific to social evaluative threat (the feeling of being judged by others), and is associated with strong negative emotional feelings. Thus, persistent social threats may lead to chronically elevated cortisol levels, which in turn may lead to allostatic load (i.e. wear and tear of physiological stress pathways). Ultimately, these processes may lead to strong negative feelings about oneself. These first three chapters provide evidence that social pain can have a variety of short-term and longer-term impacts on both cognitive processes and neurobiology. However, a clinically relevant open- question is the extent to which individual differences play a moderating role. That is, given the same situation or circumstance, do most individuals respond similarly to social pain, or are there substantial individual differences?

That individual differences are indeed important is supported by Way and Taylor in Chapter 4. They show that genetic factors play an important role in increasing individuals' vulnerability to the impact of social pain. For instance, individuals with a certain polymorphism (the G allele) of a gene that is responsible for endogenous opioid signaling (the mu-opioid receptor gene) report higher levels of rejection sensitivity. Furthermore, and in line with the findings of Eisenberger in chapter 2, these individuals show increased dACC activity in response to social exclusion. Way and Taylor discuss several other genetic polymorphisms, gene by gene, and gene by environment interactions (e.g. social support, or maltreatment) that play a role in increasing individuals' sensitivity to social pain.

Social Pain in Interpersonal Relationships

The previous chapters offer insights into the nature and underlying biological mechanisms of social pain. Ultimately, the hope is that such investigations will lead to novel, specific, and effective treatment methods. Chapter 5 offers just

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"The experience of feeling excluded, low social support, unrequited love, a relationship breakup, or the death of a loved one can induce hurt feelings or social pain."



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Newly Published Book by ISIPAR Member

SAVE THE DATE!

SCCR 2012
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Las Vegas, NV (held jointly with
SASci & AAACIG)



Society for Cross-Cultural
Research

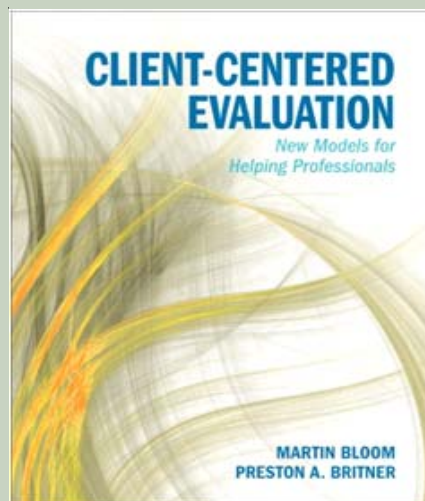
February 22-25, 2012

at the Riviera Hotel

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We are pleased to announce a new 2012 textbook, **Client-Centered Evaluation: New Models for Helping Professionals**, by Martin Bloom & Preston A. Britner. The book should be a valuable resource for practitioners and students who work with clients on issues of perceived acceptance-rejection. The authors coin the term “client validity,” and they focus on a non-statistical approach to single-system design evaluation of the client’s and practitioner’s assessment of the client’s change—and maintenance of that change beyond the intervention. Britner is an ISIPAR member, a Rohner Center Awards Committee-member, and a researcher on matters of family relationships and interventions. For more information see <http://tinyurl.com/ClientCenteredEvaluation>, or contact Dr. Britner at preston.britner@uconn.edu.



WISDOM QUOTES

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"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

-John Wesley

Social Pain Continued

that: de Wall, Pond, and Deckman describe an elegant intervention aimed to reduce the cognitive sting of social pain. They show that conventional painkillers such as acetaminophen (the active ingredient in Tylenol) not only decrease headaches, but also reduce emotional distress linked to social pain. Furthermore, the authors show that acetaminophen not only enhances self-esteem, it also reduces emotional instability, and even alleviates the effects of social disconnectedness. These findings illustrate that understanding the shared neurobiological mechanisms of physical and social pain can provide important insights for new clinical interventions.

MacDonald, Borsook, and Spielman explore individual differences on the impact of social pain in Chapter 6. Perceptions of possible social reward, and perceptions of social threat, separately influence behavioral responses to social pain. Furthermore, perceptions of social reward and social rejection interact with individuals' attachment styles to further impact social behavior. Also, social behavior impacts the chances of being rejected. For instance, anxiously attached individuals evaluate social interactions as potentially threatening, subsequently leading to increased behavioral vigilance, which, paradoxically further increases their chances of being rejected. On the other hand, individuals who perceive high potential for social reward act more prosocially in response to social pain, and this behavior actually reduces their chances of being rejected. Finally, the authors show that withholding social reward (e.g., being ignored) can be as injurious as social rejection, providing evidence that social pain is activated by both neglect and active rejection.

In chapter 7, Chen and Williams provide evidence showing that whereas physical pain is typically short-lived, social pain can last a lifetime because it can be easily relived over time. Remembering social pain induces similar negative feelings associated with the original event, whereas the memory of physical pain does not result in the vivid reliving of that pain—at least not to the same extent as social rejection. Furthermore, reliving past experiences of social pain has a negative impact on a variety of cognitive processes, but this does not seem to be the case for reliving past experiences of physical pain. This conclusion appears to be true even for events that have not actually taken place. That is, pre-living (imagining) social pain has detrimental effects on cognitive functioning even when it is only imagined, whereas imagining physical pain has no such impact. These findings illustrate the importance of adequately recognizing and treating instances of social pain because the adverse consequences may last a lifetime. This is especially important because there are a variety of health risks associated with social pain, a topic discussed in detail in the last four chapters.

Health Consequences of Social Pain

An important conceptual model for the impact of social stress on health is the biopsychosocial model, discussed in detail in chapter 8 by Catchel and Kishino. This model integrates interactions between psychological, social, and biological factors. It can be used to study how certain processes may affect overall health. Previous findings have shown, for instance, high comorbidity between negative emotional states (i.e. anger, anxiety, and depression) with health issues. Catchel and Kishino argue that social pain may trigger the interaction of biopsychosocial reactions when compared to physical pain. If correct, this position offers insight into certain interventions. For instance, interdisciplinary treatment options that have previously been found to be clinically effective for chronic pain patients may also be of interest for the treatment of individuals reporting social pain.

Physical pain and social pain are both stressful experiences. In Chapter 9, Baum, Lee, and Dougall show that this shared association with stress may provide insight into the nature of social pain, and may suggest effective interventions. That is, stress and pain induce similar neuroendocrine responses, which may lead to predictions for the consequences of social pain on health. These authors discuss evidence showing that social stressors are more persistent and intense than nonsocial stressors, and are therefore more likely to impact an individuals' health. This conclusion is consistent with previously mentioned work by Chen and Williams on the longevity of social pain. Baum, Lee, and Dougall also show that major forms of social stressors such as loneliness, rejection, loss, and bereavement all have negative health effects. However, the authors also show that social support seems to buffer the negative consequences that stress may have, emphasizing the importance of social support for long-term health.

Finally, in chapter 10, Knack, Gomez, and Janssen-Campbell conclude that chronic social pain increases allostatic load. That is, increases the physiological consequences of chronic exposure to neuroendocrine responses resulting from stress. This increase leads to greater physical illness and pain symptomatology. For instance, bullying impacts neurobiological functioning. Subsequently—and depending on individual differences—some bullied children may become hypersensitive to pain and stress. Others may habituate their response to pain and stress in a process of emotional numbing. The authors conclude that studying the mechanisms by which chronic social pain can lead to hypersensitivity or to emotional numbing is essential to better understand the detrimental impact that social stress may have.

Conclusion

Taken together, chapters in this book offer a thorough overview of the wide array of processes, mechanisms, and pos-

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Social Pain Continued

sible consequences of social pain. Social Pain provides substantial evidence that social pain acts on similar neurobiological and neurophysiological mechanisms as physical pain does. Focusing on a variety of phenomena, ranging from opioid receptors to schoolyard bullying, the authors delve into the processes, vulnerabilities, and consequences underlying social pain. In doing so, they not only further our understanding of the impact of social pain, but offer a variety of possibilities for novel intervention strategies as well. For instance, the importance of individual differences in the impact of social pain is discussed in detail. A range of studies show that genetic makeup, environmental factors, and neurobiological responses interact in response to social pain. These interactions offer both insight and promise for treatment. Given the wealth of evidence that social pain may have profound adverse health effects, the benefits for effective clinical interventions are great.

There is however one topic that should be further investigated. Most studies in this collection focus on the impact of social pain in adults. But it is largely unknown what the impact of social pain is on children and adolescents. The studies described by Knack, Gomez, and Jentsen-Campbell provide evidence that social pain caused by peers may have a profound impact on neuroendocrine responses in adolescents. This is especially important given the fact that in childhood and adolescence the brain undergoes major developmental changes. The impact of social pain in childhood on the developing brain, and its related mechanisms may be of great importance. In this regard, Social Pain not only provides a wealth of information concerning vulnerabilities and consequences of social pain, it also begs for a sequel.

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“My school has a zero-tolerance weapons policy. I was sent home for having a sharp mind!”

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AMAZING FACTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

- ~ Istanbul, Turkey is the only city in the world located on two continents.
- ~ Americans eat 45,000 burgers per minute.
- ~ Brazil is the only country to have placed in every World Cup soccer tournament.
- ~ The largest employer in the world is the Indian Railways, employing over one million people.
- ~ Vatican City is the smallest city in the world, and the only country within a country.
- ~ King Louis XIX ruled France for a total of 15 minutes.
- ~ The Great Wall of China is 1,500 miles long and can be seen from outer space.
- ~ Two million stone blocks were used to build a pyramid, and each weighed more than a school bus.
- ~ Ancient Egyptians slept on pillows made of stone.

DID YOU KNOW???? World Population

~ In 1801, when the first complete world census was carried out, the world's population was 1 billion. China had 295 million people, India 131 million, Russia 33 million, France 27 million, Ottoman Empire 21 million, Germany 14 million, Spain 11 million, Britain 10 million, Ireland and the USA 5 million.

Sources: www.greatfacts.com
www.didyounow.org

Activities and Accomplishments of ISIPAR Members: A New Feature in Interpersonal Acceptance

In this issue of Interpersonal Acceptance we inaugurate a new feature highlighting the professional activities and accomplishments of ISIPAR members. Appropriate information includes: awards and honors pertinent to interpersonal acceptance-rejection, recent and in-press publications on some aspect of interpersonal acceptance-rejection; conference and other addresses on the topic, and related material. Please send this information (ideally with an electronic photo of yourself) to the Editor (Ronald P. Rohner) at rohner@uconn.edu.

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Uddin, Md. K. Bengali (Bangla) translation of PARTheory-related measures for research use in Bangladesh.

ROHNER CENTER ACTIVITIES

As part of its research and outreach mission, staff of the Rohner Center for the Study of Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection often make international presentations about interpersonal acceptance-rejection. Apropos of that, Ronald and Nancy Rohner were hosted by the Department of Psychology at the University of the Andes in Bogotá, Colombia. There Ronald Rohner gave lectures on the “Benefits of Affection Given and Affection Received: Cross-Cultural Evidence,” “Parental Power-Prestige and the Influence of Father Love,” and “Essentials of Parenting.” Hosting the Rohners were Profs. **Karen Ripoll** (ISIPAR’s Regional Representative for South America) and **Sonia Carrillo**, shown below with their research group on *Affective Relationships Across the Lifespan*. Ronald Rohner serves as an international research colleague to this group, which is registered with the Colombian Department of Education Office for the Advancement of Research. Thesis and dissertation topics discussed at the meeting of the research group included “Rejection Sensitivity in Relation to Intimate Adult Relationships and Marital Conflict;” participation in the International Father Acceptance-Rejection Project; and, a presentation by Sonia Carrillo on her research spanning the last six years’ activities of the research group.



Lower left: Karen Ripoll, Ronald P. Rohner, Nancy Rohner
Upper Left: Milton Bermudez, Karen Martinez, Victoria Cabrera, Carolina Botero, Sonia Carrillo