



Testing the Central Postulates of Parental Acceptance-Rejection Theory: An Overview of Meta-Analyses

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This article is based on an overview of meta-analyses performed to test the pancultural generalizability of the central postulates within parental acceptance-rejection theory (PARTheory). In the article I give a brief description of PARTheory, as well as a description of major postulates in the theory's personality subtheory. I also describe concept and application of meta-analysis, advantages of meta-analytic reviews, and an overview of the nine meta-analytic reviews of PARTheory research.

PARTheory is an evidence based theory of lifespan development that aims to predict and explain major causes, consequences, and other correlates of interpersonal acceptance and rejection worldwide (Rohner, 1986; Rohner, Khaleque, & Cournoyer, 2012). The theory consists of three subtheories: Personality subtheory, coping subtheory, and sociocultural systems subtheory.

Meta-analyses mentioned above address four central postulates of personality subtheory. First, the subtheory postulates that children all over the world are likely to be affected in a specific way (described in the theory) when they perceive themselves to be accepted or rejected by their parents. Second, it postulates that adults' remembrances of parental acceptance in childhood are likely to be associated with the same form of psychological adjustment as found among children who perceive themselves to be accepted by their parents—though often to a lesser extent. Third, it postulates that the perception of acceptance by an intimate partner or other attachment figure at any point in the lifespan is likely to be associated with the same form of psychological adjustment as experienced by accepted children. Fourth, the subtheory postulates that variations in culture, ethnicity, race, gender, and other such factors do not override the apparently universal tendency for individuals who perceive themselves to be accepted or rejected by attachment figures to develop a specific form of psychological adjustment and personality dispositions called in PARTheory the acceptance-rejection syndrome (Rohner, 2004).



Meta-Analysis: Concept and Application

Meta-analysis is a quantitative method of reviewing, integrating, and synthesizing the findings of empirical studies. It is a kind of secondary analysis that is conducted to reaffirm answers to questions in primary analyses and to answer new questions, if there are any. Meta-analyses are generally used to empirically test the postulates of a model or theory.

Advantages of Meta-Analytic Reviews

Meta-analytic reviews are better than qualitative or narrative reviews for:

1. Greater precision,
2. Greater objectivity, and
3. Replicability—that is, repetition of a meta-analytic review generally leads to the same conclusion, if the same studies and the same methods are used.

Meta-Analyses in PARTheory Research

So far we have conducted nine meta-analyses to test the central postulates of PARTheory's personality subtheory. Seven of these meta-analyses are already published; two are yet to be published. These nine meta-analyses are based on a total of 322 (48% unpublished and 52% published) studies. These studies were conducted over a period of 37 years from 1975 through 2012. These studies represent an aggregated sample of 89,934 respondents taken from 25 countries on five continents, including Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and South America. Individual countries

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include: Bangladesh, Barbados, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, India, Iran, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Puerto Rico, Romania, South Korea, Spain, St. Kitts, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, and the USA. These meta-analyses have been completed over a period of 10 years (2002-2012).

The First Meta-Analysis (Khaleque & Rohner, 2002a). The first meta-analysis was based on 43 studies, representing 7,563 respondents in 15 nations and most major ethnic groups in the U.S. (e.g., African Americans, Asian Americans, European Americans, and Hispanic Americans). Results of that meta-analysis confirmed PARTheory's postulate about the pancultural association between perceived parental acceptance and the overall psychological adjustment of both children and adults.

The Second Meta-Analysis (Khaleque & Rohner, 2002b). This meta-analysis was done on 51 studies, representing 6,898 respondents in eight nations and most major American ethnic groups. The purpose of the meta-analysis was to assess the reliability (as measured by coefficient alpha) of the two major questionnaires used in all these studies, namely the Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire (PARQ; Rohner, 2005) and the Personality Assessment Questionnaire (PAQ; Rohner & Khaleque, 2005b). Results of the meta-analysis confirmed that both sets of measures are reliable for use in cross-cultural research globally.

The Third Meta-Analysis (Rohner & Khaleque, 2003). This meta-analysis was performed to test the reliability and validity of the Parental Control Scale (PCS; Rohner & Khaleque, 2005a). This meta-analysis was based on 11 studies representing 4,203 respondents from seven countries on four continents. The results of the analysis confirmed that the Parental Control Scale is a reliable and valid measure for cross-cultural research.

The Fourth Meta-Analysis (Rohner & Khaleque, 2010). This meta-analysis was performed to test the expanded (i.e., from parent-child acceptance-rejection to adult interpersonal acceptance-rejection) and reformulated postulate of PARTheory. PARTheory's reformulated postulate states that perceived rejection by an *attachment figure at any point in life* is associated with the same cluster of personality dispositions found among children and adults rejected by parents in childhood. In this context, the fourth meta-analysis tested the relationship between perceived acceptance-rejection

by adult intimate partners and adults' psychological adjustment. The meta-analysis was based on 17 studies involving 3,568 adults in 10 nations. Results showed that perceived partner acceptance in adulthood and both remembered paternal as well as maternal acceptance in childhood tend to correlate highly with the current psychological adjustment of both adult men and women across cultures and ethnicities.

The Fifth Meta-Analysis (Khaleque & Rohner, 2011). This meta-analysis was based on 66 studies involving 19,511 respondents from 22 countries on five continents. Results of analysis showed that the effect sizes of correlations between perceived maternal and paternal acceptance and offspring's psychological adjustment were significant for both children and adults across all countries studied. Importantly, the results also showed that father love has a significantly stronger relationship with children's psychological adjustment than does the relationship between mother love and children's psychological adjustment cross-culturally.

The Sixth Meta-Analysis (Khaleque & Rohner, 2012). This meta-analysis addressed the question whether children's and adults' perceptions of parental acceptance are transculturally associated with the personality dispositions most central to PARTheory's personality subtheory. These dispositions include: (1) hostility, aggression, passive aggression, and problems with the management of hostility and aggression; (2) dependence, independence, or defensive independence depending on the form, severity, duration, timing, and frequency of perceived acceptance or rejection; (3) self-esteem; (4) self-adequacy; (5) emotional responsiveness; (6) emotional stability; and, (7) worldview. This meta-analysis was based on 36 studies involving 10,943 respondents (8,573 children and 1,370 adults) from 18 countries. Results showed that both maternal and paternal acceptance in childhood correlated significantly in all countries with almost all of the seven personality dispositions of children and adults. The one exception was adults' remembrance of feelings of dependence in childhood.

The Seventh Meta-Analysis (Khaleque, 2013c). This meta-analysis addressed the pancultural relationship between parental warmth/affection and children's overall psychological adjustment, as well as individual personality dispositions. The meta-analysis was based on 30 studies from 16 countries on five continents involving 12,087 children. Results showed that perceived parental warmth/affection

Continued on page 3

correlated significantly with psychological adjustment and with all seven of the postulated personality dispositions of the children across ethnicities, cultures, genders, and geographical boundaries.

The Eighth Meta-Analysis (Khaleque, 2013a). This meta-analysis explored the pancultural relationship between perceived parental indifference/neglect, and children's overall psychological maladjustment, as well as individual personality dispositions. The meta-analysis was based on 33 studies from 15 countries on four continents involving 11,755 children. Results showed that perceived maternal and paternal indifference and neglect correlated significantly with overall psychological maladjustment and negative personality dispositions (for example, *negative self-esteem* and emotional *unresponsiveness*) of children across cultures.

The Ninth Meta-Analysis (Khaleque, 2013b). This meta-analysis explored the cross-cultural relationship between perceived parental hostility/aggression, and children's overall psychological maladjustment, as well as individual personality dispositions. The meta-analysis was based on 35 studies from 16 countries on four continents involving 13,406 children. Results showed that both maternal and paternal hostility/aggression correlated significantly with overall psychological maladjustment and with all seven negative personality dispositions of children across cultures.

Concluding Comments

The results of these meta-analyses confirm that the central postulates of PARTheory's personality subtheory are true for children and adults regardless of differences in race, ethnicity, culture, language, gender, or geographical boundary. A recent online search (through October, 2012) showed that these meta-analytic studies have been cited in about 300 published studies globally. Thus these meta-analyses have helped to globalize PARTheory and strengthen its scientific foundation.

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Rohner's Rules To Live By

A hug
for my all time friend!



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RULE 1.
WORK WELL,
LOVE WELL,
PLAY WELL,
AND
KEEP THEM IN BALANCE.

RULE 2.
IF IT FEELS RIGHT, AND
IF IT THINKS RIGHT,
IT PROBABLY IS RIGHT
(GET YOUR HEAD AND YOUR HEART TOGETHER)



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RULE 3.
SATISFACTION COMES FROM...
WORKING WITH LOVE
AND
LOVING YOUR WORK

JULY, 2007

Benefits of Affection Given and Affection Received

- . Improved mental health
- . Improved physical health
- . Improved interpersonal relationships
 - . Improved cognitive performance
- . Buffer against depression and depressed affect
 - . And many other benefits

HAVE YOU HUGGED A FRIEND TODAY?

Ronald P. Rohner

Director, Center for the Study of Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection

For more information go to www.csiar.uconn.edu

Fifth International Congress on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection



International Society for Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection
Biennial Meeting

Location:
Chisinau
Republic of Moldova

Dates:
July 5 – July 9
2014



The Republic of Moldova is the smallest of 15 independent countries that have appeared from the ashes of the former Soviet Union. This quiescent region is saturated with diverse cultures, historical richness, and natural beauty. Chisinau, the capital of Moldova, combines the dynamism of a post-modern metropolis with the charm of pre-World War II parks, shady streets, and open markets. The countryside is lush with fields and pastures on rolling hills with villages where the time has stopped and many resplendent churches and monasteries. The denizens of Moldova are sophisticated, multi-cultural, multi-lingual, and friendly to the foreigners as the country is innocent of mass tourism. (Vadim Moldovan, Chair Local Organizing Committee)



COMMENTARY ON THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON INTERPERSONAL ACCEPTANCE AND REJECTION CHANDIGARH, INDIA, JANUARY, 2013

By Ronald P. Rohner, Ph.D., Executive Director, ISIPAR, USA
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Despite the fact that a number of potential delegates were unable to get visas in time to participate in the Congress, and despite international financial problems and weather (dense fog) problems in Delhi and Chandigarh, delegates from 17 countries contributed papers and posters to the Congress. The ten most popular topics, in rank order, included: Psychological and behavioral adjustment and maladjustment; the importance of father love; family interaction; peer and sibling acceptance-rejection; ostracism and social exclusion; methodological issues; intimate partner acceptance-rejection in adulthood; psychological maltreatment of children; sociocultural correlates of perceived acceptance-rejection; and, teacher acceptance-rejection. This wide array of topics shows how the field of interpersonal acceptance-rejection has expanded from its historical roots in perceived parental (especially maternal) acceptance-rejection to include issues of acceptance-rejection in all important interpersonal relationships throughout the lifespan. Additionally, increasing attention is being paid to methodological issues, especially to the reliability and validity of measures used in international research. Overall, as shown in the following table, delegates thought the Congress was a great success:

Ratings (on a scale of 1 through 6)

	<u>Item</u>
5.4	The Congress made me want to learn more about the causes and effects of interpersonal acceptance and rejection.
5.3	The Congress raised my awareness about the significance of interpersonal acceptance and rejection.

- 4.7 The Congress presenters communicated their ideas effectively.
- 5.1 The Congress Scientific Program was well developed.
- 5.0 The Congress Organizing Committee did a good job putting the Program together.
- 5.1 Overall, I feel the Congress was a success.
- 5.4 I would definitely like to attend a future Congress on interpersonal acceptance and rejection.
- 5.4 I am (or will become) a member of the International Society for Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection (ISIPAR).

Great News for the 6th International Congress on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection in 2016



Madrid, Spain

The 6th International Congress on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection will be held in Madrid, Spain during the summer of 2016. Dr. Miguel Carrasco (macarrasco@psi.uned.es) will be the Local Organizer. More details are forthcoming. Please plan to attend.



A Delegate's Feedback About the Congress in India

“How did I come to learn about the conference?” I only knew about the conference on the platform of [the] American Psychological Association. I'm a frequent user of the platform. I was just going through the conferences on [the] platform when I stumbled on the Society's conference. As a student of psychology, a social worker, a victim of rejection, having an NGO that is dealing with THE REJECTED in the society, seeing that kind of conference tempted me to apply instantly. I'm confiding in you that the conference is a boost to me, my career, and ambition.

Not attending the conference would have done me great harm. I'm confidently telling you that the conference has done me a great deal, and has prepared me to take the next step in my career as well as in my ambition.



Big thanks to the conference.

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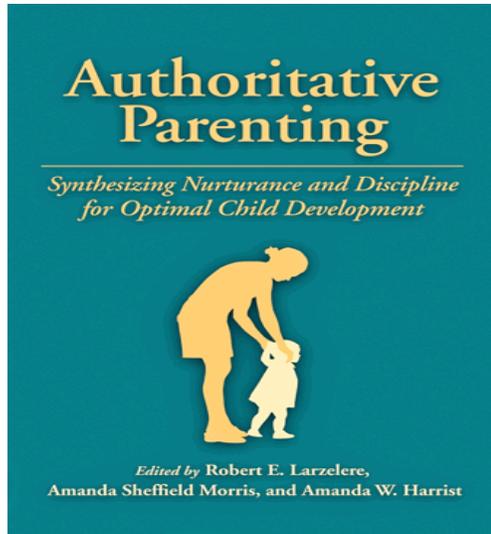
Some of the Delegates at the Closing Ceremony of the 4th International Congress on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection



*Photos from the 4th International Congress
in Chandigarh, India*



New Books Relevant to Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection



Authoritative Parenting

Synthesizing Nurturance and Discipline for Optimal Child Development

Edited by Robert E. Larzelere, Amanda Sheffield Morris and Amanda W. Harrist
Washington, DC: APA Books.

Psychologist Diana Baumrind's revolutionary prototype of parenting called authoritative parenting combines the best of various parenting styles. In contrast to previously advocated parenting styles involving high responsiveness and low demandingness (i.e. permissive parenting) or low responsiveness and high demandingness (i.e. authoritarian parenting), authoritative parenting involves high levels of both responsiveness and demandingness. The result is an appropriate mix of warm nurturance and firm discipline.

In this book, leading scholars update our thinking about authoritative parenting and address three unresolved issues: mechanisms of the style's effectiveness, variations of effectiveness across cultures, and untangling how parents influence children from how children influence them. By integrating perspectives from developmental and clinical psychology, the book will inform prevention and intervention efforts to help parents maximize their children's potential.

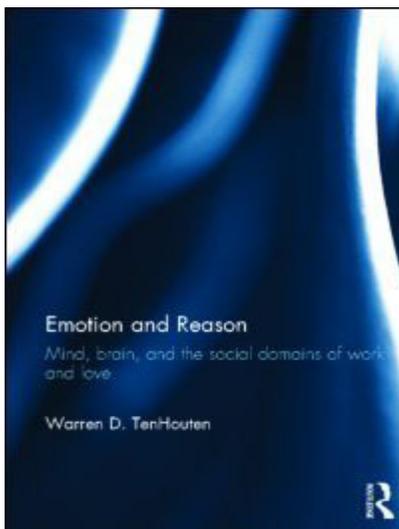
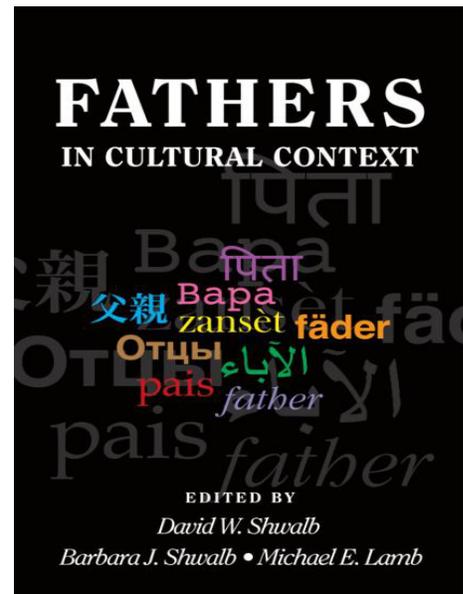
Fathers in Cultural Context

Edited by David W. Shwalb, Barbara J. Shwalb, Michael E. Lamb

Routledge, NY:

This new volume reviews the latest research on fathering from every continent, from cultures representing over 50% of the world's population. International experts on 14 societies/regions discuss cultural and historical influences, variations between and within cultures, and socio economic conditions and policies that impact fathering. Contributors from several disciplines provide thought-provoking reviews of the empirical data to help us gain an understanding of fathering worldwide. Over 1,000 studies on fathering published in languages other than English are made accessible to readers around the world. The cultures were selected based on availability of substantial research on fathering; representation of worldwide geography; a balance between large, middle, and small populations; and significance for a global understanding of fathering

Each chapter features personal case stories, photos, and maps to help readers create an engaging pictures for each culture. Empirical evidence is blended with the authors' expert opinions providing a comprehensive view of what it is like to be a father in each culture. The book opens by explaining theoretical and methodological underpinnings of research on fathers. The main chapters are then organized by world regions-Asia and the Middle East, Africa, North and South America, Europe, and Australia. The conclusions chapter integrates and compares all the chapters, and makes suggestions for future research.



Emotion and Reason: Mind, Brain, and the Social Domains of Work and Love

By Warren TenHouten

Routledge, NY:

Although much academic work has been done on the areas of mind, brain, and society, a theoretical synthesis of the three levels of analysis – the biological, the mental, and the social – has not until now been put forward. In *Emotion and Reason*, Warren TenHouten presents a truly comprehensive classification of the emotions.

The book analyzes six key emotions: anger, acceptance, aggressiveness, love, joy and happiness, and anticipation. It places them in historical context, relates them to situations of work and intimacy, and explains their functioning within an individuated, autonomous character structure. Divided into four parts, the book presents a socioevolutionary theory of the emotions – Affect-spectrum Theory (AST), which is based on a synthesis of three models, of the emotions, of social relationships, and of cognition.

This book will be of value to undergraduate and postgraduate students, as well as researchers, with an interest in the sociology of emotions, anthropology of emotions, social psychology, affective neuroscience, political science, behavioral neuroeconomics and philosophy.