

# Interpersonal Acceptance

International Society For Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection



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## Book Review

### *Intimate Relationships Across the Lifespan: Formation, Development, Enrichment and Maintenance*

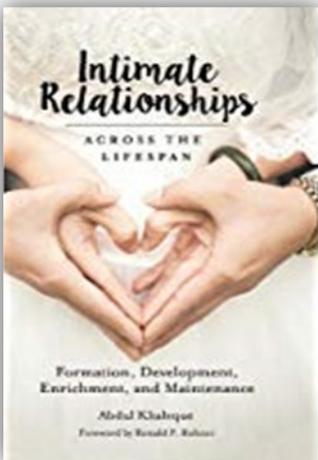
(by Abdul Khaleque, PhD)

Reviewer: **Márcia Machado**, PhD  
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*Intimate Relationships Across the Lifespan: Formation, Development, Enrichment and Maintenance* is the first general textbook to focus on issues surrounding interpersonal acceptance and rejection. Written by Abdul Khaleque, who has extensively researched the topic, it was expected that the book would be exceptional—and it more than lives up to that promise. Conceived primarily for undergraduate students, the book is an invaluable resource not only for them but also for graduate students, faculties, practitioners, and general audiences. With the extraordinary development and international diffusion of interpersonal acceptance rejection theory (IPARTheory) the book comes at a much-needed time, supplying an outstanding compilation of information that fulfills the existing gap.

As IPARTheory has enjoyed a steady growth over time, the need for a systematic collection of texts has become apparent. While Khaleque's book is not limited to IPARTheory--nor does it encompass the whole of the theory--it is essential reading for anyone interested in furthering their knowledge about the subject, in addition to using it as an aide in their daily work as practitioners or as researchers. The book is innovative not only in being the first of its kind to present these topics, but also in engaging in cross-cultural and life-span perspectives—in addition to including a great variety of topics about life experiences and intimate events. The book's primary focus is on intimacy and intimate relationships. The conjunction of the study of intimacy and IPARtheory, however, has been consolidated into the concept of intimate partner acceptance-rejection.



This is well-documented (e.g., Rohner & Melendez, 2008), and its effects have been shown to be related to psychological adjustment (Khaleque, 2012), subjective well-being (Geitsidou & Giovazolias, 2016), and depressive symptomatology (Henry, Thornberry, & Lee, 2015), among others.

The book's structure is clear and well-ordered. The reader is led into the topic of intimate relationships by an introduction to the topic of intimacy, and then it begins a journey into its various facets. Each chapter ends with a summary of special importance for students. These synopses are followed by a collection of short definitions and conceptual clarifications that provide consolidation on key concepts. At the end of each chapter is a set of reflective questions that provide students with the opportunity to strengthen and build knowledge. The book is well-written in a clear, straightforward, unambiguous style that is ideal for learners.

Chapter 1 is an “Introduction” to intimacy. It explores the topic, and elaborates on intimate relationships, dynamics, dimensions of intimacy, and culminates in a discussion of the fear of intimacy.

A useful and practical guide for understanding and conducting research is presented in Chapter 2 on “Research Methods”. It discusses topics such as research objectives, hypotheses, research designs, sampling, and others.

Chapter 3 analyzes “Intimate Relationships Across the Lifespan” including attachment relationships, romantic relationships and sexual behavior in adolescence, as well as teen pregnancy and abortion, and adult intimate relationships. An interesting overview of friendship and peer relationships is provided on the topic of attachment relationships in adolescence. But the topic of sexual behavior goes beyond usual approaches to discuss gender differences, sexual values, and sexual aggression. A final point worth emphasizing about adult intimate relationships is the author’s overview of intimacy styles, as well as the influence of ethnicity, gender, and cultural differences on intimate relationships.

Chapter 4 focuses on “Historical and Theoretical Perspectives”, namely psychosocial, humanistic and bioecological systems theories. In Chapter 5 the reader is introduced to “Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection Theory”. An outline of the theory and the core of its main concepts is provided, in addition to an explanation of its paradigm shift from parental acceptance-rejection theory (PARTheory) to interpersonal acceptance-rejection theory (IPARTheory). Chapter 6, entitled “Theory-Based Research on Intimate Relationships”, brings an overview of the main theories that provide the basis for the study of intimacy, such as IPARTheory and attachment theory.

At this point, a second part of the book emerges. From Chapter 7 forward the book covers various aspects of intimacy. Chapter 7, for example, takes us to “Communication in Intimate Relationships”, analyzing categories of communication in conjunction with effective communication, including communicational barriers. “Attraction and Intimate Relationships” are discussed in Chapter 8. In this compelling chapter Khaleque covers the subject of attraction and gender stereotypes as well as attraction and gender-atypical traits, among other topics.

Chapter 9 focuses on “Friendship”, opening with a delineation of the basis and the components of friendship. Also included are the characteristics of a good friend, differences between friendship and love, rules and quality of friendship, friendship expectations and its dimensions, differences in friendship, cross-sex friendships, managing sexual attraction in friendship, obstacles to friendship, friendship across the lifespan, and developmental outcomes of friendship.

“Love” is the focus of Chapter 10. That chapter discusses the components and patterns of love, as well as individual differences, and different perspectives on love. Sexuality is debated in Chapter 11. This is an exemplarily researched chapter. It begins with attitudes and behaviors, with a specific focus on older adults, and continues with pertinent themes on the subject—such as the sexual double-standard, sexual orientation, sexual orientation and gender identity, and sexual desire and gender. In addition to these topics, Khaleque also introduces an approach to cultural aspects of sexuality, sex in marital and non-marital relationships, safe and healthy sex, sexual ethics, morality, and religion, and sexual satisfaction. The chapter ends by covering sexual coercion and aggression in intimate relationships.

“Intimate Relationships in Married Life” is the theme of Chapter 12. Among other topics, this chapter focuses on the effects of social change on marriage, marital satisfaction, and predictors of and steps to happiness. It concludes with an approach to divorce and remarriage, a topic continued later in the book.

Chapter 13 is on “Intimate Relationships in Alternative Lifestyles”. It begins with an analysis of cohabitation, encompassing relationship quality, effects of cohabitation, and determinants of stability in cohabitation. These topics are followed by an approach to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender relationships.

“Conflict, Abuse, and Violence in Intimate Relationships” is the focus of Chapter 14. In addition to factors related to conflict, it overviews sources, areas, and effects of conflict besides conflict management. The chapter also looks at partner abuse and violence in intimate relationships.

Chapter 15 focuses on the “Deterioration and Loss of Intimate Relationships”. Here, Khaleque discusses several pertinent aspects of the topic such as characteristics of relationship deterioration and the loss of intimate relationships. Of special interest is the presentation of models for explaining the deterioration and loss of intimate relationships. Also covered are stages of dissolution, post-breakup relationships, and coping with relationships breakups.

Finally chapter 16 deals with the “Reconstruction and Enhancement of Intimate Relationships”. In the conjunction of theoretical models, recent research, and clear indications of practical techniques, the reader can find theories and models of relationship enrichment, as well as programs for relationship enrichment, among other such topics.

*Intimate Relationships Across the Lifespan* is rare in its quality. The book is essential reading for everyone interested in the study of intimate relationships, and it is even more important to those who study interpersonal acceptance and rejection.

## References

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**8th International Congress on  
Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection  
ICIAR**

TIME TO PLAN !



**Plan now for the 2020, 8th ICIAR in Porto, Portugal.**

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Congress venue: Instituto Universitário da Maia,  
Porto (ISMAI), Maia, Portugal

More details will be provided at a later time....

# IPARTheory Travels to Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Greece

## Bulgaria

Beginning in Sofia, Bulgaria, the invitation from Prof. Dr. Nadia Koltcheva to present two lectures led to well-attended presentations at the New Bulgarian University and at a public venue. The lectures were translated into Bulgarian, and were followed by lively question and answer sessions, especially on the part of parents interested in parental alienation.



Rohners with Vice Rector of New Bulgarian University

The Rohners' also toured an Early Childhood Education Center with a representative of UNICEF.



The President of the Bulgarian Psychological Association greets Rohner

# IPARTheory Travels to Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Greece

## Macedonia

The time spent in Skopje, Macedonia with the Rohners' host, Prof. Dr. Orhideja Shurbanovska from the St. Cyril and Methodius University - Skopje, led to a presentation by Rohner in which he was very touched by the standing ovation given at the conclusion of his talk. He said in all his years of lecturing on IPAR-Theory this had never happened!



A lively and appreciative audience asked questions and greeted Rohner with applause

Luncheon hosted by the Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy



# Athens

## Highlights from the 7th ICIAR (Athens, Greece)



Our Keynote Speaker, **Amanda Denes**, presented a stimulating address on "Exploring the Benefits of Affectionate Communication: Implications for IPARTheory".



Symposia topics at the 7th International Congress on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection (ICIAR) were rich and varied:

**Topics**

- Adolescence & Youth
- Early Childhood
- Emerging Adults' Mental Health
- Family & Social Interaction
- Fear of Intimacy
- Loneliness
- Mental Health and Illness
- Ostracism
- Teachers, Schools, & Academic Issues
- Portugal
- Turkey
- And others



Book signing ceremony of the Greek translation of the Rohner's "The Warmth Dimension"



Meeting with the Rector of the University of Ioannina, Greece



This is a post-lecture picture of the audience exchanging hugs!



University of Ioannina Rector presents Rohner with medallion

The University of Ioannina in Greece hosted a presentation by Ronald Rohner. Students gave evaluations of the meaningfulness of Dr. Rohner's presentation. This lecture was arranged by Prof. Dr. Artemis Giotsa, who is a faculty member at University of Ioannina.

118 Delegates from 16 countries participated in the 7th International Congress on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection, Athens, Greece.



**118 Delegates from 16 countries:**

- Bangladesh
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Greece
- Israel
- Italy
- Kuwait
- Pakistan
- Portugal
- Romania
- South Africa
- Spain
- the UK
- Turkey
- USA

## Book Review

*Grandparents in Cultural Context*  
by Shwalb, D. W. & Hossain, Z. (Eds.) (2018).

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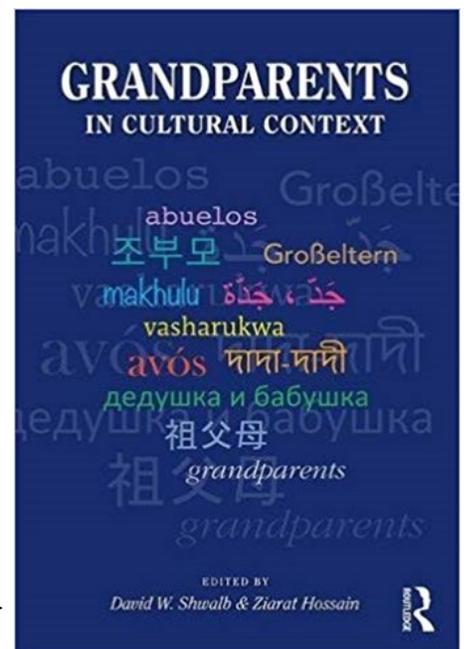


This edited book by Shwalb and Hossain describes changing roles of grandparents in 16 countries/regions from six geographic locations: The Americas, Europe, South Asia, East Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, and South Africa. The book does not focus on grandparents' accepting-rejecting behaviors per se, but it does focus on the effects of sociocultural contexts on grandparents' roles in families. Thus the effective use of information in the book contributes to the application of interpersonal acceptance-rejection theory (IPARTheory), especially to IPARTheory's sociocultural subtheory. In this review I point out trends and issues of grandparents that particularly caught my attentions in each geographic location.

### The Americas

The section on the Americas covers current issues of grand parenting in Mexico as well as Central America, Brazil, and the United States. The role of grandparents in these regions (except for the U.S.) is dominated by the value of familismo, which emphasizes family obligation and family interconnectedness. Many grandparents become primary caregivers of their grandchildren to practice the value of familismo when their adult children cannot perform parenting roles because of labor migration or teenage pregnancy.

The chapter on the U.S. highlights three grand parenting topics. The first topic is caregiving-related distress of grandparents who raise their grandchildren in the absence of parents because of substance abuse and/or incarceration of the parents. Dysfunctional grand parenting practice mediate the association of grandparents' caregiving-related distress and grandchildren's psychological adjustment. The second topic is lesbian, gay, bisexual (LGB) grandparents' experiences. The strength of LGB grandparent-grandchild connection tends to be moderated by the grandchildren's parents' acceptance of the grandparents' sexual orientation. The third topic deals with variations in grandparents' experiences in the U.S. that results from major demographic factors such as grandparents' age, gender, marital status, and the number of grandchildren.



## **Europe**

The European section of the book contains three chapters: Germany, the UK, and Russia. In Germany and the UK, grand parenting is traditionally a role for grandmothers. These days, however, grandfathers with higher levels of education actively engage in activities with their grandchildren. The phrase “the new grandfather” refers to this emerging trend among grandfathers. In contrast, in Russia, the absence of fathers and grandfathers in childrearing practice has become normative because of the high volume of men’s alcohol consumption. Childrearing, including financial support for children in the family, is a role mainly for mothers and maternal grandmothers.

## **South Asia**

The section on South Asia covers grandparents’ experiences in Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Two issues are addressed in this section. One deals with the challenge that grandparents face trying to practice traditional grandparent roles because of their offspring’s emigration to foreign countries. The other issue is a significant diversity in grandparental roles depending on religion, caste, and socioeconomic status. For example the teachings of Hinduism state that marriage is sacred, so daughters should not divorce for any reasons. The children of divorced daughters’ should not be openly taken care of by their grandparents. In contrast, the teachings of Islam state that children should be protected, and no child abuse should be tolerated. Therefore, grandparents are expected to take care of the children of divorced daughters. In the last few decades governments in much of South Asia have been adopting social policies to support these grand parenting practices.

## **East Asia**

The section on grandparents in East Asia includes chapters on Japan, Korea, and China. Because of a serious decline in the Japanese birth rate, the Japanese government through the provision of tax benefits now encourages its elderly citizens to support their adult offspring who have children. Educational expenses for children, for example are exempt up to ¥15, 000, 000 (US\$130,000) not only for parents but also for grandparents. In South Korea, the number of multigenerational families—called “2.5 generation families”—is increasing. Grandmothers move in with their divorced daughters to provide care for their grandchildren. In rural China, most aging parents take care of their grandchildren because of a lack of daycare services, and because of their adult children’s labor migration to metropolitan areas.

## **The Middle East and North Africa (MENA)**

This section focuses on issues of grand parenting in Islamic families in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Children in this region are often taken care of by grandparents because of parents’ death in wars, separation from parents due to the parents’ labor migration, and because of parental divorce. Abiding by Islamic law—which ensures full protection for minor children— many grandparents take-over their adult children’s parenting responsibilities when their grandchildren need care from non-parental figures.

## **Southern Africa**

This section covers Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, South Africa, and other countries in the Sub-Saharan area. Two grand parenting issues are highlighted. One deals with the large number of grandparents who become primary caregivers of grandchildren because their adult children are infected with HIV/AIDS.

In many cases, grandparents and grandchildren are also infected, or struggle with their own poor health. The other issue pertains to grandparents' loss of connection with their grandchildren after their grandchildren accompany their parents for labor migration. Many grandparents who are left behind experience loneliness and lack of support.

These descriptions and analyses of grandparents' changing roles from a global perspective are informative for two reasons for researchers who deal with the relation between interpersonal acceptance-rejection and grandchildren's psychological development. First, a wide range of information on sociocultural factors in the global economic system is useful for planning future research that attempts to further validate IPARTheory in countries/regions where the theory has been less well studied. As Putnick (2018) pointed out, compared to IPARTheory's personality subtheory and coping subtheory, IPARTheory's sociocultural subtheory is significantly underdeveloped. Information on a variety of sociocultural issues regarding changing roles of grandparents addressed in this book is a valuable resource that informs researchers about possible new research directions to generate further evidence validating sociocultural subtheory. Second, the book provides an opportunity for researchers to consider the significance of sociocultural predictors for changes in the role of grandparents beyond the US context. For example, diversity in grand parenting practices because of labor immigration from other countries is prominent in the US. Many chapters in the book discuss the consequences of labor emigration for grandparent-grandchild relations. It is imperative for researchers to observe grandparents' experiences from a perspective of other countries/regions in the global economic system. In this sense, this edited book is particularly recommended to researchers who plan to conduct studies on grandparent-grandchild interactions in politically and economically unstable countries/regions.

The book has limitations that should be noted. For example, some sections contain relatively unclear connections among ethnographic studies conducted in multiple sites or countries. Furthermore—although direct comparisons of grandparents' experiences across countries/regions was not the major goal of the book—differences in theoretical and methodical approaches in the chapters, and the lack of full discussion of the conceptual equivalence of grandparents, grand parenting, and grand-parenthood across chapters make it difficult for the reader to fully understand similarities and differences in grand parenting across countries. Nevertheless, the book does provide a number of new references that have not heretofore been available in English (Shwalb & Hossain, 2018). These new reference contribute importantly to our understanding of significant issues related to grand parenting in various countries/regions.

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