

# Interpersonal Acceptance



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8th ICIAR Porto, Portugal (Save the Date).....8

Editor: Ronald P. Rohner, PhD

Editorial Assistant: Sumbleen Ali



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## International Society for Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection

### Call for New Editor of Interpersonal Acceptance

ISIPAR's Officers request nominations (including self-nominations) for a new Editor of Interpersonal Acceptance (IA; Newsletter of the International Society for Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection). Ron Rohner has been Editor of the Newsletter for 10 years. He feels it's time now for a change of editorship. So ISIPAR's Officers are looking for someone to replace him.

If you are interested (or can suggest someone who might be), please send me a (1) short biographical statement about yourself, (2) a brief statement about your vision for the future of the Newsletter, (3) a statement about any prior experience you may have had as an Editor, and (4) your current CV. Please send this information as soon as possible because the officers hope to make their selection for a new Editor by **Monday, April 29, 2019**.

Just as a reminder, I should mention that the Newsletter is scheduled to come out three times a year, in January, May, and September. The Rohner Center for the study of Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection has a distribution list of over 5,000 people worldwide who receive the Newsletter. This number continues to grow monthly.

The new Editor will be responsible for the production of each issue, but the Rohner Center's Staff will be responsible for its worldwide dissemination. Editorship of the Newsletter gives you the opportunity to express your own personal vision about ISIPAR's future growth and development from a science and application's perspective.

If you're interested in exploring the possibility of becoming Editor of IA, please e-mail me at [agiotsa@gmail.com](mailto:agiotsa@gmail.com)

Warm regards,

Artemis Giotsa, PhD  
Past President ISIPAR



## Call for Collaboration in International Research on Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection

If you are now doing, planning to do, or hoping to develop an international research project on some aspect of interpersonal acceptance-rejection—and if you want to identify possible collaborators in that project—please let Ron Rohner know about it ([r.rohner@uconn.edu](mailto:r.rohner@uconn.edu)). He will then try to help you identify appropriate international collaborators.

Following are eight international comparative studies now underway or nearing completion in the Rohner Center for the Study of Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection at the University of Connecticut. If you are interested in pursuing any of this research yourself—or if you simply want more information about any project—please let Rohner know:

**Affective Coping.** Interpersonal acceptance-rejection theory (IPARTheory) recognizes that the mental health status (i.e., psychological adjustment) of some individuals who have experienced serious parental rejection in childhood is not as seriously affected as is the adjustment of most seriously rejected individuals. These people are called “affective copers” in IPARTheory. This research project attempts to identify the number (and percent) of rejected people who are affective copers in a multiplicity of countries internationally. The project also attempts to identify significant factors in the lives of affective copers that help to give them the resilience to deal more affectively than most rejected people with the damaging effects of parental rejection. With this information researchers and clinicians hope to be able to help people who struggle with the long-term effects of parental rejection. For more information about the Affective Coping project contact Ron Rohner ([r.rohner@uconn.edu](mailto:r.rohner@uconn.edu)), Tatiana Melendez-Rhodes ([tmelendezm@hotmail.com](mailto:tmelendezm@hotmail.com)), or Ppudah Ki ([ppudahki@gmail.com](mailto:ppudahki@gmail.com)).

## Call for Collaboration

**Clinical Applications of Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection Theory (IPARTheory).** Parental rejection in childhood, rejection by intimate partners in adulthood, and rejection by other attachment figures throughout the lifespan is known to have a specific set of effects on humans everywhere—regardless of differences in culture, gender, ethnicity, and other such defining conditions (see Rohner, 2019, Rohner & Lansford, 2017). Practitioners internationally are developing clinical approaches to help clients deal with the known effects of rejection. For more information contact Tatiana Melendez-Rhodes ([tmelendezm@hotmail.com](mailto:tmelendezm@hotmail.com)), Artemis Giotsa ([agiotsa@gmail.com](mailto:agiotsa@gmail.com)), David Rising ([dgrising@windstream.net](mailto:dgrising@windstream.net)), or Ron Rohner ([r.rohner@uconn.edu](mailto:r.rohner@uconn.edu)).

**Forgiveness.** In this international comparative study, forgiveness is defined in terms of an individual's dispositional forgiveness (i.e., the generalized tendency to be forgiving). It does not deal with forgiveness of a particular person or event. Drawing stimulus from IPARTheory, this research asks four basic questions: (1) Do adults' (men's & women's) remembrances of a parental (maternal & paternal) rejection in childhood predict their current disposition to be forgiving? (2) Are there gender differences in the disposition to be forgiving? (3) Does psychological adjustment mediate the association between remembered childhood acceptance-rejection and current dispositional forgiveness? And, (4) Are there any significant interactions between gender of parent by gender of offspring? For more information about the Forgiveness project contact Ron Rohner ([r.rohner@uconn.edu](mailto:r.rohner@uconn.edu)).

(Note. For a parallel study to this one see the International Study of Vengeance, below)

**LGBT+.** IPARTheory-research dealing with LGBT+ persons tends to focus on issues of perceived or remembered acceptance-rejection in childhood, and respondents' current psychological (mal)adjustment. Special attention at this time is given to international research with members of the transgender community. For more information about the LGBT+ project contact Ryan Watson ([ryan.watson@uconn.edu](mailto:ryan.watson@uconn.edu)) or Ron Rohner ([r.rohner@uconn.edu](mailto:r.rohner@uconn.edu)).

## Call for Collaboration

**Loneliness.** As construed in IPARTheory, loneliness involves feelings of insecurity and unhappiness that individuals are likely to experience when their needs for interpersonal connectedness are unmet. This multicultural study examines relations between men's versus women's remembrances of maternal and paternal rejection in childhood and their current level of loneliness, as mediated by adults' self-reported psychological maladjustment. The expectation is that the experience of parental rejection in childhood will tend to lead to a form of psychological maladjustment that makes it difficult for rejected persons to establish warm, trusting, close relationships with others. As a result, these individuals are likely to become lonelier in adulthood than are those adults who felt loved (accepted) in childhood. For more information about the Loneliness project contact Ron Rohner ([r.rohner@uconn.edu](mailto:r.rohner@uconn.edu)), Alex Molaver ([alex.molaver@uconn.edu](mailto:alex.molaver@uconn.edu)), or Sumbleen Ali ([sumbleen.ali@uconn.edu](mailto:sumbleen.ali@uconn.edu)).

**Parental Alienation.** Parental alienation (PA) is a form of behavior where one parent (the alienating parent) sets the child against the other parent (the alienated parent) without any authentic justification for this behavior. Typically this behavior occurs in the context of high conflict separation or divorce. Parental alienation should be distinguished from parental estrangement, where there is justification for the child refusing to have contact with the offending parent. For example, estrangement might occur as a result of demonstrable child abuse or other forms of child maltreatment. IPARTheory research in this context deals a great deal with helping forensic psychologists, attorneys, judges, social workers, and other professionals evaluate claims about parental alienation—by using IPARTheory's Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire (PARQ). Some researchers and clinicians are also beginning to evaluate the psychological damage that parental alienation tends to be associated with—to both parents and the child—by using IPARTheory's Personality Assessment Questionnaire (PAQ) as a reliable and valid measure of overall psychological (mal)adjustment. For more information about the PA project contact William Bernet ([William.Bernet@Vanderbilt.edu](mailto:William.Bernet@Vanderbilt.edu)) or Ron Rohner ([r.rohner@uconn.edu](mailto:r.rohner@uconn.edu)).



## Call for Collaboration

**Validation of the Interpersonal Rejection Sensitivity Scale (IRSS).** The IRSS is a newly developed and simplified rejection sensitivity measure. It is an easy-to-use and easy-to-score self-report 13-item measure of interpersonal rejection sensitivity. As construed in IPARTheory, interpersonal rejection sensitivity (IRS) refers to a heightened readiness or disposition to perceive negative or hurtful intent in the behavior of others, even when no such intent is objectively present. IRS also includes a readiness to interpret the ambiguous behavior of others as being intentionally hurtful in some way. As such, it tends to involve hypervigilance or watchfulness for the possibility of being criticized, ridiculed, slighted, disrespected, minimized, ignored, excluded, or rejected in some other way. The American-English version of the measure has excellent reliability (coefficient alpha = .91) and validity (see Rohner, Ali, & Molaver, 2018). The task now is to translate, back-translate, and assess the reliability and validity of the measure in as many nations cross-culturally as possible in order to assure that it is psychometrically sound for widespread international use. For more information about the IRSS and its use contact Ron Rohner ([r.rohner@uconn.edu](mailto:r.rohner@uconn.edu)), Alex Molaver ([alex.molaver@uconn.edu](mailto:alex.molaver@uconn.edu)), or Sumbleen Ali ([sumbleen.ali@uconn.edu](mailto:sumbleen.ali@uconn.edu)).

**Vengeance Project.** Vengeance is defined in IPARTheory in terms of people's disposition to take revenge when they feel that someone has wronged them in some way. The same questions are asked in the Vengeance study as are asked in the Forgiveness study (discussed above). That is: (1) Do adults' (men's & women's) remembrances of a parental (maternal & paternal) rejection in childhood predict their current disposition to be vengeful? (2) Are there gender differences in the disposition to be vengeful? (3) To what extent does psychological (mal)adjustment mediate the association between remembered childhood acceptance-rejection and current dispositions toward vengefulness? And finally, (4) Are there significant interactions between gender of parent by gender of offspring? In general we expect that both forgiveness and vengeance are likely to be associated with adults' remembrances of parental acceptance-rejection in childhood, probably as mediated through psychological (mal)adjustment. More specifically, in the context of IPARTheory, we expect the disposition toward forgiveness to be associated with remembrances of parental acceptance in childhood, and therefore more positive psychological adjustment. In contrast, we expect the disposition toward vengeance to be associated with remembrances of parental rejection (lower levels of remembered parental acceptance) in childhood, and therefore more psychological maladjustment. We also expect forgiveness and vengeance to be negatively correlated with each other. For more information about the Vengeance project contact Ron Rohner ([r.rohner@uconn.edu](mailto:r.rohner@uconn.edu))

(Note. For a parallel study to this one see the Forgiveness Project, above).



# 8th International Congress on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection

## ICIAR

TIME TO PLAN !

**SAVE THE DATE!**



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

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President, ISIPAR

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

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