

# Interpersonal Acceptance

International Society For Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection



Editor: Fauzia Naz, PhD  
Executive Editor: Ronald P. Rohner, PhD



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## Message from the Editor



### ***Dear Readers***

It is a privilege for me to present to you the May Issue of *Interpersonal Acceptance (IA)* as its new Editor. Before I begin, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Executive Council, Artemis Giotsa, and our experienced Executive Editor, *Ron Rohner* for entrusting me with the responsibility of editorship of the newsletter.

*IA* endeavors to provide a platform for academicians (i.e., students, researchers and clinicians) who are involved in innovative research and want to impart knowledge, to exchange and share research activities, and create new horizons of knowledge to be explored. In today's world of inquisitive scholars, it has become mandatory to provide them knowledge hubs for innovative research to help in the development of community service. Interpersonal relationship research is a subject for all communities, widespread and intertwined globally. *IA* aims to be informative as well as entertaining, and above all useful in imparting knowledge and promoting research. Inside *IA* there's a mixture of news, important announcements, and acknowledgement of positive contributions to literature as well as to society. I hope you enjoy this *May issue*. Please let us know if there are any topics you'd like to see included in the future.

**Love begets love**

***Dr. Fauzia Naz***  
***drfauzianaz19@gmail.com***

FIRST TEXTBOOK EVER TO FEATURE  
IPARTHEORY WINS TWO  
PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS



**Congratulations!**

**TO**

**ABDUL KHALEQUE**

FOR HIS BOOK,

*Intimate Relationships Across the Lifespan:*

*Formation, Development, Enrichment, and Maintenance*

**2019 INDEPENDENT PUBLISHER BOOK AWARDS**

SILVER MEDAL—PSYCHOLOGY/MENTAL HEALTH

BRONZE MEDAL—SEXUALITY/RELATIONSHIPS



FREE  
MEMBERSHIP



# Announcement for Undergraduate Students



The International Society for Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection gives one year free membership to all undergraduate students worldwide who are involved in research dealing with issues of interpersonal acceptance-rejection.

Please promote this research to your interested undergraduates—and graduate students too, though graduate students are not eligible for free membership. (But the student dues are very reasonable!) Direct students to [www.isipar.uconn.edu](http://www.isipar.uconn.edu).



Photo credit: Google Images



## **Review of IPARTheory in Pakistan: Special Features of a Collectivist Culture**

**Professor Dr. Rukhsana Kausar**

**Dean, School of Social Sciences and Humanities  
University of Management and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan**



IPARTheory is defined as an evidence-based theory of socialization and lifespan development that explains the consequences, causes, and other correlates of interpersonal acceptance and rejection worldwide (Rohner & Lansford, 2018). The seeds of IPARTheory were established almost six decades ago. Rohner asserts that human beings have a biologically-based emotional need for positive response from attachment figures or significant others throughout life. The theory suggests that children's feelings of emotional security depend on the quality of their relationship with their parents. That is why parental acceptance-rejection has been strongly associated with the development of children's personality over time. The quality of the emotional bond between parents and their children, as well as physical, verbal, and symbolic behaviors that parents use to express their feelings towards them, form a continuum. One end of this continuum is marked by parental acceptance and the other end is characterized by parental rejection.

Parental acceptance refers to expressions of positive feelings, love, and support toward children, whereas parental rejection includes perceiving or receiving hostility, aggression, indifference, emotional neglect, emotional coldness, and lack of affection toward offspring. IPARTheory's personality sub-theory inquires whether children in all sociocultural systems, racial or ethnic groups, and genders tend to respond in a similar manner when they perceive themselves to be accepted or rejected by their significant others and attachment figures.

## Research in the Pakistani Sociocultural Context

Results of research on IPARTheory in Pakistan may be different from that in Western societies because Pakistani culture is a typical collectivist culture and is very different from individualistic cultures such as Europe and the USA. That is, Pakistani culture is a patriarchal society that is intertwined with cultural and religious values which support joint and extended family systems, teaching love and affection for children and respect for elders. In Pakistani society, interpersonal relationships hold immense importance in routine activities. Islam being the religion of the majority provides codes for dealing not only with close relatives but also with neighbors, teachers, friends, and the community at large. These values are transferred to new generations in a conducive and controlled environment. Because most families live in a joint family, values are directly or indirectly transferred to children. Being embedded with the joint as well as extended family structure, children are watched over not only by their parents but also by their grandparents and sometimes other members of the extended family.



**Joint family system  
in Pakistan**

***Brief overview of some of the research conducted on IPARTheory in Pakistan.***

Research on IPARTheory in Pakistan has been conducted with diverse populations and individuals of different ages. However, much of the research has focused on children and adolescents. Naz and Kausar (2012) conducted a study entitled “*Parental Acceptance-Rejection, Childhood Abuse, and Comorbid Disorders in Adolescents with Somatic Symptoms Disorders*”. Adolescence is a crucial period entailing psychosocial and physical changes that affect not only children’s physical growth but also influence personality development (Calkins, 2010). These changes play a significant role in the development of behavioral, emotional, and cognitive self-regulatory processing, which in turn may result in psychopathology (Casey, Getz, & Galvan, 2008). Psychopathology during adolescence becomes challenging for treatment compared to childhood or adulthood (Calkins, 2010). This study examined perceived parental rejection, psychological maladjustment, and emergence of comorbid symptoms of psychopathologies (i.e., depression and anxiety) in adolescents with somatic symptoms disorder. It also looked at the role of childhood abuse in the emergence of somatic symptoms disorders in adolescents

## **Review of IPARTheory in Pakistan: Special features of a collectivist culture**

The researchers postulated that: (i) adolescents with somatic symptom disorder are likely to report more parental rejection, child abuse, anxiety, and depression compared to normal controls and (ii) that parental rejection, childhood abuse, and personality dispositions are likely to predict somatic symptoms in adolescents. As part of this study, five questionnaires from IPARTheory were used, i.e., Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire (PARQ: Father, Mother; Rohner, 2005), Interpersonal Relationship Anxiety Questionnaire (IRAQ; Rohner, 2013), Personality Assessment Questionnaire (PAQ; Rohner & Khaleque, 2005), and Personal Information Form (PIF; Rohner, 2005). All these measures were translated into the Urdu language by the Urdu Translation Committee.

The sample included 150 adolescent girls who had been diagnosed with somatic symptoms disorder and were recruited from clinical settings. An equal number of adolescents comprised normal controls. Results showed that adolescent girls with somatic symptom disorder reported significantly more parental rejection, had experienced more childhood abuse, were psychologically maladjusted, and were experiencing more anxiety and depression compared to normal controls. There was a significant positive relationship between negative personality dispositions, childhood abuse, parental rejection, and severity of somatic symptoms. Mothers' rejection, fathers' hostility/aggression, childhood physical and sexual abuse, and demographic variables (i.e., broken family, family monthly income, nuclear family) emerged as significant predictors of psychological maladjustment. Psychological maladjustment (i.e., hostility, aggression, dependency, and negative worldview), parental rejection (i.e., hostility, aggression, coldness and lack of affection; childhood physical abuse, negligence) and demographic variables (i.e., nuclear family, discontinued education, and broken family) emerged as significant predictors of severity of somatic symptoms. Findings highlight the significance of IPARTheory in Pakistani adolescents' psychological health.



## **IPARTheory in Pakistan: Special features of a collectivist culture**

Tariq and Kausar (2015) conducted a study to investigate parental acceptance-rejection and interpersonal difficulties in 51 adult patients with conversion disorder in Pakistan, and those with minor general medical conditions. The researchers explored group differences in parental rejection and interpersonal difficulties. The study also explored the relation between parental rejection and interpersonal difficulties. Results suggested that patients with conversion disorder reported more maternal neglect and were significantly more vindictive/self-centered, non-assertive, overly-accommodating, and cold/distant compared to those with general medical conditions. Parental neglect and undifferentiated rejection showed a positive relation to dominating and self-sacrificing behavior in patients with conversion disorder.



## **Review of IPARTheory in Pakistan: Special Features of a Collectivist Culture**

In another study, Ali and Kausar (2011) investigated the relation between perceived parental and teacher acceptance-rejection and behavioral control in relation to psychological adjustment and academic achievement among 300 children from the 6<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> grades. Results revealed that on average, children perceived themselves to be accepted by their parents as well as teachers, and did not report conduct problems. Parental and teachers' acceptance were significant predictors of good psychological adjustment and appropriate school conduct of the children.

In a study in a Pakistani adolescent population, Najam and Kausar (2012) examined the relations between fathers' acceptance-rejection and fathers' involvement and socio-emotional adjustment of adolescents ( $N=100$ ; *Mean age = 15 years*). Results revealed significant negative relationships of paternal warmth with adolescent hostility, dependency, negative self-esteem, negative worldview and depressive symptoms. Fathers' hostility and rejection had significant positive relationships with hostility, depression, and conduct problems in adolescents. Father involvement had negative relationship with adolescent hostility, dependency, negative self-esteem, negative self-adequacy, emotional unresponsiveness, negative worldview and depression in adolescents. Father rejection, adolescent dependency and emotional instability emerged as significant predictors of depression in adolescents, whereas fathers' hostility and lack of involvement emerged as significant predictors of conduct problems in adolescents. In terms of gender-differences, boys were found to perceive their fathers as being significantly warmer and more involved compared to girls, whereas girls perceived more rejection from fathers. Boys were significantly more hostile than girls, whereas girls scored higher on dependency, negative self-esteem, and experienced more depressive symptoms than boys.

## **Review of IPARTheory in Pakistan: Special Features of a Collectivist Culture**

Similarly, in another study, Malik (2012) investigated parental acceptance-rejection and parental authoritarianism in abused children (N=200, age range 8-13 years). Results revealed that abused children overall perceived their parents (both fathers and mothers) to be rejecting, whereas *severely* abused children perceived even more rejection. The results also revealed a high authoritarian attitude of fathers, depicting a vital aspect typical of the Pakistani patriarchal familial context.

In a study on “*Parental Acceptance-Rejection and Social Adjustment of Children with Congenital Amputation*”, Najam and Ijaz (2012) found significant positive correlation between warmth and social adjustment and a significant negative correlation between aggression, neglect, and parental rejection in children with congenital amputation (N=40, ages 9-13 years).

It can be seen that most of the research reported here using IPARTheory in Pakistan has focused primarily on children and adolescents.\* The researchers have worked with respondents with a wide range of conditions (i.e., those with psychopathology, with amputation, abused children, and with conversion disorder). Most of the research is correlational in nature, but some studies have engaged control groups. However, as predicted in IPARTheory, overall findings have shown negative effects of parental rejection and positive effects of parental warmth and acceptance, acknowledging the significant role of parental behaviors in children’s psychological and emotional development.

\*Ed: In a future issue we will highlight studies where work was done primarily among adults.

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## Academic & Research

**Artemis Z. Giotsa, PhD.,** Associate Professor, University of Ioannina, Greece. Dr. Giotsa is coordinating research on early childhood acceptance-rejection. She is principal investigator for studies dealing with the application of interpersonal acceptance-rejection theory and measures throughout the lifespan (from young children to the elderly) in different systems (family, school, workplace, and community).





## Publications

- Giotsa, A.** and Kyriazos, T. (2019) Early Childhood Acceptance Rejection Questionnaire: Psychometric properties of the Greek version. *Psychology*, **10**, 722-741. doi: [10.4236/psych.2019.105047](https://doi.org/10.4236/psych.2019.105047).
- Rohner, R. P. (2017). *The Warmth Dimension*. Editor: **A. Giotsa**, Translation into Greek. Athens: Gutenberg Editions. ISBN:978-960-01-1806-3.
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- Giotsa, A.** & Touloumakos, A. (2014). "They accept me, they accept me not": Psychometric properties of the Greek version of Child Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire-Short Form. *Journal of Family Issues*. 1-18, DOI: 10.1177/0192513X14543851.

## Research Projects in process\*

Giotsa, A. Translations of IPARTheory-related measures into Greek. Adaptation and validation of the Early Childhood Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire in the Greek population.

Giotsa coordinates the following research projects with Masters and PhD. students:

- A. Vengeance scale and acceptance-rejection: A study among elderly people.
- B. Early childhood acceptance-rejection: A study in Greece and Portugal (Giotsa & Machado).
- C. Greek family in crisis: Parental acceptance-rejection in early childhood (Giotsa, & Mitrogiorgou).
- D. Social networks and acceptance-rejection (Giotsa, Spiropoulou, & Kyriazos).
- E. Teachers' acceptance-rejection and psychological adjustment of students in primary education (Giotsa, Stefanopoulou & Kyriazos).
- F. Interpersonal acceptance-rejection and emotional focused therapy: A pilot study with couples (Giotsa & Tyraki).
- G. Jobless people and perceived acceptance-rejection behavior of their parents during childhood (Giotsa & Styliaras).
- H. Grandparents and grandchildren: Trans-generational behavior patterns or not? (Giotsa & Mitrogiorgou).
- I. Intimate relationships and intimate acceptance-rejection (Giotsa & Kyriazos).
- J. Parents' evaluation of children's conduct: A Panhellenic study (Giotsa & Poulianou).

\*Ed: In future issues of IA the research of other Greek members of ISIPAR will be featured, as will the work of ISIPAR members from Bulgaria, China, the Philippines, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, and elsewhere. We encourage members worldwide to submit a synopsis of their research—and to present a paper at the upcoming 2020 International Congress on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection in Porto, Portugal.

# International Symposia on IPARTheory in an International Conference Lahore, Pakistan, 2019

The Institute of Applied Psychology, University of the Punjab, Lahore organized an International Conference of Applied Psychology: Practices and Interventions (ICAP-2019) in Lahore, February 6-8, 2019.

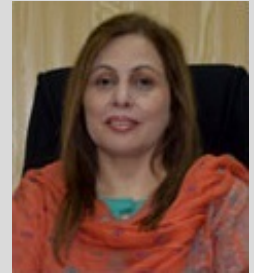
## Two symposia were on “IPARTheory”

**Symposium 1: Keynote Address: “A decade of interpersonal acceptance-rejection theory (IPARTheory) in a Spanish population: Empirical results and new challenges ”** by **Miguel A. Carrasco**

The session was about rejection sensitivity in interpersonal relationships.

**Symposium 2: “Giving and receiving affection in different human systems ”** by **Artemis Giotsa**

The session was about interpersonal acceptance-rejection and psychological maladjustment.



Dr. Farah Malik,  
Chief Organizer



Prof. Miguel A. Carrasco



Prof. Artemis Giotsa

# 8th International Congress on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection

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Interpersonal Relations**



**30 June through 3 July, 2020**



**Chair of local Arrangements:  
Francisco Machado, PhD  
President, ISIPAR  
[flbsmachado@gmail.com](mailto:flbsmachado@gmail.com)**

## CONGRESS VENUE

**Instituto Universitário da Maia,  
(ISMAI), Maia, Porto,  
Portugal**



**Program Chair:  
Brien Ashdown, PhD  
President-Elect, ISIPAR  
[ashdown@hws.edu](mailto:ashdown@hws.edu)**

# A TED Talk

They Love Me, They Love Me Not-  
And Why it Matters

<https://youtu.be/6ePXxeGrfvQ>



Ronald P. Rohner

*Executive Editor*

Acceptance begins in  
the family  
Home should be a  
place where you can  
dare to bare;

To Just be Yourself,  
without worrying  
about being  
**REJECTED**

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