

# Interpersonal Acceptance

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## NEWSLETTER



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International Congress  
on Interpersonal  
Acceptance and  
Rejection

June, 15 – 18, 2022

# 9<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection

Geneva, New York  
USA



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# 8th International Congress on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection



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**Covid-19 or No-Covid-19, IPARTheory’s global reach continues to expand.**

**Readership report from ScholarWorks shows more than 14,000 downloads of one article on IPARTheory**



# IN MEMORIAM

**William T. Divale**

**February 18, 1942 - April 24, 2020**



Sadly, I must inform you of the passing of Dr. William (Bill) Tulio Divale, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology for 43 years at York College of the City University of New York (CUNY). He died at the age of 78 on Friday, April 24, 2020 at the Good Samaritan Hospital in West Palm Beach, Florida. His wife, Dr. Victoria Cardona-Divale, survives him.

Bill was an enthusiastic champion of interpersonal acceptance-rejection theory (IPARTheory) and research. He also served as ISIPAR's Regional Representative for North America, and he was Co-organizer in 2014 of the 5<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection in the Republic of Moldova. He was also a Participating Member in the Rohner Center for the Study of Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection.

Bill was an exceptional colleague, a wonderful friend, and a mentor to many. His demise is a huge loss for his family, friends, and his colleagues the world over. Bill will be missed, but **NEVER FORGOTTEN!**

# Review of IPARTheory Research in Pakistan

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This article reviews applications of IPARTheory in Pakistan that empirically support the theory's postulates regarding the relation between perceived parental acceptance-rejection and children's and adults' psychological (mal)adjustment. Pakistan is a paternalistic, collectivist society that follows the "bread-winner model", usually a male who heads the family and makes major decisions for the family. Obedience to and compliance with the decisions of the male head of household is a societal norm. Conformity to social norms and adherence to religious and moral values is considered to be more important in Pakistan than are an individual's personal desires, particularly those of women and children.

IPARTheory research in Pakistan deals primarily with perceived acceptance-rejection from parents, teachers, peers, in-laws, and other important relationships as covariates of individuals' psychological, emotional, and behavioral well-being. Most IPARTheory research in Pakistan is derived from clinical populations; at-risk populations; children, adolescents, and young adults at home; the school environment; and, hospital settings.

Results of research for this article came from national and international journals as well as from unpublished sources noted in social media and published proceedings and books of abstracts from various local and national conferences. Eighty-six articles (56 published and 30 unpublished) spanning a 20-year time period from 1999 through 2019 were evaluated for the review. Respondents in these sources ranged in age from 7-50 years, and resided in many cities throughout Pakistan. Research was conducted mostly by regular faculty members from public and private universities/colleges, with full-time students mostly from MPhil or PhD programs.

Most of the research focuses on correlational or comparison studies. Some researchers, for example, explored relationships between parental acceptance rejection, self-perception, and coping styles among adults as well as among children diagnosed with depression (Azhar & Arshad<sup>U</sup>, 2016; Khalid & Naz<sup>U</sup>, 2013; Asghar & Naz<sup>U</sup>, 2015).

## **Review of IPARTheory Research in Pakistan...Continued**

These researchers found significant positive correlations between parental rejection, negative self-perception (hostility/aggression, negative self-esteem, and negative self-adequacy), and severity of depressive disorders, as well as internalizing/externalizing behavior—especially among females. Parental indifference emerged as a significant predictor of both internalizing and externalizing behaviors (reported by parents as well as teachers) and negative affect among children. Additionally, mean differences showed that children who lived in nuclear families had significantly more internalizing and externalizing behavior problems than did children who lived in joint families.

Perceived parental rejection was also found to be significantly correlated with depressive symptoms and low self-esteem in patients diagnosed with substance-related addictive disorders (Tofail, Majeed & Khan, 2015; Malik, Butt, Kausar, Najam & Rasool, 2014; Salahuddin & Gul<sup>U</sup>, 2007). Some researchers also reported that fathers' hostility and indifference were major predictors of conduct problems among adolescents, whereas father involvement was inversely correlated with hostility, dependency, and psychological maladjustment (Shujjah & Malik, 2015), well-being and academic achievement in adolescents (Mujahid & Tufail<sup>U</sup>, 2012; Majeed & Mushtaq<sup>U</sup>, 2017; Hussain & Munaaf, 2012; Khaleque, Hussain, Gul & Zahra, 2018; Walayat & Butt, 2017). Similarly, perceived parental psychological control was found to be a risk factor for developing behavior problems in young women (Naz & Aslam<sup>U</sup>, 2016; Shujjah & Malik, 2015; Riaz & Qasmi, 2012).

Salahuddin and Gul<sup>U</sup> (2007) found that girls experience more maternal rejection than do boys, whereas boys experience more depression than do girls (Najam & Majeed, 2012; Hussain, Alvi, Zeeshan & Nadeem, 2013). Studies have also found that perceived parental rejection has a strong association with conduct disorder and criminal behavior in adolescents (Yaqoob & Khawar<sup>U</sup>, 2016; Sajid & Riaz, 2016; Qasmi & Sadiq<sup>U</sup>, 2011; Rafail & Haque, 1999).

In the context of parental and teacher acceptance-rejection, researchers have found that the students who reported parental rejection tended toward significantly lower academic performance than those who reported accepting parenting styles (Najam & Batool, 2012). Researchers have also found perceived teacher rejection to be a significant correlate of poor academic grades (Sarfranz<sup>U</sup>, 2019; Hussain, & Hussain, 2013; Yousaf, 2012); behavior problems (Shoab, Faran & Bilal<sup>U</sup>, 2016; Rafique & Rizvi<sup>U</sup>, 2011); cognitive disturbances, interpersonal relationship anxiety, and disruptive behavior in school children (Chaudhary & Pervaiz<sup>U</sup>, 2016; Ali & Sheraz<sup>U</sup>, 2018; Habib & Naz, 2015; Shabbir & Khalid<sup>U</sup>, 2015; Hussain & Ahmad, 2014; Mujahid & Rizvi<sup>U</sup>, 2012).



In other work, Khan, Hassan, Hussain & Gull, (2011) highlighted the fact that perceived maternal rejection, neglect, and hostility had significant associations with poor self-concept and low self-efficacy in students (Kausar & Kazmi, 2011) and young adults (Najam, Hussain, Kanwal, Malik & Kausar, 2014). Several studies (Zonash & Iqbal, 2017; Ansari & Qureshi, 2013; Misbah & Zubair, 2011) also show that positive parental attachment and parental acceptance are negatively correlated with aggressive behavior, interpersonal relationship anxiety, and even suicidal behavior in young adults (Shahid & Afzal, 2018; Saeed, Jamil & Khalid<sup>U</sup>, 2018; Amama & Naz<sup>U</sup>, 2018; Bhatti & Khoso, 2013; Ghani & Shah, 2010).

Interpersonal relationships have also been studied as covariates between spousal/in-law acceptance-rejection and psychological well-being in spouses and daughters-in-law. Noreen and Sadiq (2018), for example, studied relationships between in-laws' acceptance-rejection and the psychological well-being of daughters-in-law living with their parents-in-law. Results revealed that parent-in-law warmth/affection significantly predicted psychological well-being and adjustment in daughters-in-law. Bhatti and Mustafa (2018) found a significant negative correlation between in-law warmth/affection and rejection sensitivity, social anxiety, and negative self-esteem among daughters-in-law. Maryam and Gulzar<sup>U</sup> (2017) found among married women that severe levels of rejection by husbands resulted in traumatic stress disorder and maladjustment among wives. Tofail and Naz<sup>U</sup> (2012) drew the same conclusion. These studies also concluded that long-term spousal rejection and indifference can have a devastating impact on women's self-esteem.

Overall, findings from Pakistani research is in agreement with empirical research in other parts of the world, supporting IPARTheory's postulates, and highlighting the importance of positive interpersonal relationships with significant others. The damaging impact of parental or social rejection should not be overlooked. Perceived rejection from significant others distorts individuals' ability to cope with their surroundings (Harb, Heimberg, Fresco, Schneier, & Leibowitz, 2002). Whether intentional or unintentional, parental rejection and rejection by significant others shapes the thoughts, ideas, feelings, and perceptions of children and others who then tend to interpret life experiences with distorted mental perceptions.

## Review of IPARTheory Research in Pakistan...Continued

Note. Conclusions about much of the research with children in Pakistan was published in *Interpersonal Acceptance* (May, 2019, Vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 4-11). This article features research among both children and adults, with an emphasis on studies among adults.

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## The Bumblebee and Me



The bumblebee is aerodynamically unsuited for flying.

BUT,

The bumblebee doesn't know it.

SO,

It flies anyway.

Lesson learned:

**JUST DO IT!**

Ronald P. Rohner, Ph.D.  
(February, 2020)