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from the Staff of the Rohner Center for the Study of
Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection

“Not Everything is Cancelled”

Not everything is cancelled...

Sun is not cancelled

Spring is not cancelled

Relationships are not cancelled

Love is not cancelled

Reading is not cancelled

Devotion is not cancelled

Music is not cancelled

Imagination is not cancelled

Kindness is not cancelled

Conversations are not cancelled

Hope is not cancelled

(Anonymous)



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fp6UZ_I4zj0&feature=emb_logo

Parental Acceptance-Rejection Research in the Arab World: An Overview

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Recent reviews of Arab literature related to children's perceptions of parents' behavior (Ahmed, 2007b, 2008; Ahmed & Gielen, 2006b; Ahmed et al., 2011; Ahmed et al., 2016) reveal that Arab psychologists showed an early interest in investigating parental behavior as perceived by children. More than 700 Arab studies have been completed on children's perceptions of parental behavior. Approximately 300 (or 43%) of these studies (mostly master's theses and doctoral dissertations) employed Arabic versions of Rohner's measures. These included the standard and short forms of the Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire (PARQ), the Parental Acceptance-Rejection/Control Questionnaire (PARQ/Control), the Personality Assessment Questionnaire (PAQ), the Physical Punishment Questionnaire (PPQ), the Parental Power-Prestige Questionnaire (3PQ), the Interpersonal Rejection Sensitivity Scale (IRSS), and recently, the Interpersonal Relationship Scale (IPARLS), as well as the Interpersonal Relationship Anxiety Questionnaire (IRAQ). Researchers in 52 universities in 17 Arab countries are known to have drawn from Rohner's interpersonal acceptance-rejection theory (IPARTheory) and measures. Those countries include Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Gaza Strip-Palestine, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. Approximately 150 (50%) of the studies employing Rohner's measures were conducted by Egyptian psychologists working in Egyptian universities, or universities located in the other Arab countries.

A similar number of studies have been published in Egyptian scientific periodicals, mostly in Arabic. Most Arab studies using the PARQ have employed the Adult form with adolescents reflecting back on their experiences of parental (maternal and/or paternal) acceptance-rejection in childhood. Other Arab studies administered the adult version to emerging adults, mainly university students. A third group of Arab researchers employed samples of both adolescents and emerging adults. Finally, a fourth group of studies employed children and/or adolescents only, or females only, or males only, or blind or deaf children only, or chronically ill children, and adolescents only, or psychologically disturbed or mentally ill children, adolescents and emerging adults, or juvenile delinquent children, or adult prisoners. The majority of these studies assessed respondents' perceptions of both paternal and maternal acceptance-rejection, whereas a few investigated respondents' perceptions of maternal acceptance-rejection only, or paternal acceptance-rejection only. One unique study assessed intercorrelations among perceptions of adolescents' and emerging adults' acceptance-rejection by parents, siblings, best friends, and teachers in relation to respondents' psychological adjustment (Ahmed, Rohner, & Carrasco, 2012).

Topics Investigated in Arab Research

Arab psychologists have investigated the relation between perceptions of parental acceptance-rejection and a large number of related topics. These include:

- (1) **Personality traits** such as self-esteem, self-confidence, self-efficacy, self-assertiveness, perfectionism, passionate personality, hopefulness, single-mindedness, forgiveness versus vengeance, flexibility versus rigidity, stubbornness, feelings of shame, feelings of guilt, aggressive and antisocial behavior, dependency, impulsivity/reflectivity, and emotional stability.
- (2) **Psychological problems** such as phobias, anxiety, future anxiety, depression, neuroticism, schizophrenia, bullying behavior, psychological needs, loneliness, and feelings of alienation.

- (3) **Positive feelings or behaviors** such as psychological hardiness, altruistic behavior, aesthetic feelings, social responsibility, level of aspiration, romantic relationships, resilience and social skills, social and emotional intelligence, moral development, identity development, psychological security, coping, and overall psychological adjustment.
- (4) **Cognition and cognitive style** such as irrational beliefs, dogmatism, self-criticism, creative and critical thinking, locus of control, cognitive distortions, prejudicial attitudes, and attitudes toward modernity/future/time.
- (5) **Academic issues** such as academic adjustment, scholastic achievement, and gifted students.
- (6) **Family interaction** such as family climate, family conflict, family size, fathers’/mothers’ image, parents’ pressures and pressure-strategies, corporal punishment, secret marriages, and loyalty to home.
- (7) **Socio-contextual** factors such as economic hardship, and pressures of daily hassles.
- (8) **Cross-cultural** and cross-national comparisons such as studies comparing perceptions of parental acceptance-rejection and/or psychological adjustment (as measured by the PAQ) among respondents from two or more Arab countries. A few studies compared respondents in Arab and non-Arab countries. Moreover, some studies compared perceptions of parental acceptance-rejection (and/or psychological adjustment) in samples of urban and rural respondents or among Bedouin respondents.

A rich and growing body of research drawing from IPARTheory and associated measures explores the reliability and validity of Arabic adaptations of measures of parental acceptance-rejection and associated personality dispositions. These are described next, especially the PARQ and to a lesser extent the PAQ.

Reliability of the Arabic Version of the PARQ

A large number of Arab studies, using either the standard adult form of the PARQ (with 60 items) or the short form (with 24 items), included an item analysis of responses. Item-total correlations were computed as were correlations of the total score of each scale with the

total PARQ score. Typically, all items were found to be significantly correlated with the total score ($p < .01$), and no item was rejected.

Item-total correlations tended to be robust (between .62 and .81). A few Arab studies used the test-retest method to assess the reliability of the PARQ in adolescents and emerging adults.

These studies uniformly reported strong correlation coefficients. A few studies employed the PARQ/Control. All showed strong alphas and significant correlations between the score of each subscale and the total PARQ/Control score. Some Arab studies assessed the PARQ's reliability by using the split-half method. Virtually all of these studies show the PARQ and measures derived from it to be reliable for use throughout the Arab world.

Validity of the Arabic Version of the PARQ and the PAQ

Several Arab studies established the concurrent and factorial validity of the PARQ (and to a lesser extent, the PAQ). Some, for example, correlated PARQ (and/or PAQ) scale-scores with scale-scores from other measures. Results revealed strong correlations for all four PARQ scales (i.e., warmth/affection, hostility/aggression, indifference/neglect, and undifferentiated rejection). Results also revealed acceptable correlations between the seven PAQ scales and scores from other measures.

Overall, results of these studies suggest that IPAR Theory and associated measures can be used with confidence throughout the Arab world in research, clinical practice, and other applied settings.

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NOTE. The full text on which this summary is will soon be available in Ahmed, R. A., Rohner, R. P., Khaleque, A., & Gielen, U. P. (2021). Interpersonal acceptance-rejection in the Arab world: How do they influence children's development? Manuscript in preparation, In R.A. Ahmed & U.P Gielen [Eds.], Psychology in the Arab Countries, 2nd edition, Menoufia, Egypt: Menoufia University Press.a



9th

International Congress
on Interpersonal
Acceptance and
Rejection

June, 15 – 18, 2022

9th International Congress on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection

**Geneva, New York
USA**



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Covid-19 or No-Covid-19, IPARTheory's global reach continues to expand



Readership report from ScholarWorks shows more than 16,512 downloads of

“Introduction to IPARTheory” from 1,163 institutions in 147 countries

Rohner, R. P. (2016). Introduction to Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection Theory (IPARTheory) and Evidence. *Online Readings in Psychology and Culture*, 6(1).

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