

Acceptance: The Essence of Peace
Selected Papers from the First International Congress on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection

Clinical Adaptation of Parental Acceptance-Rejection Theory Questionnaires as Interactive Assessment and Treatment Tools in Relational Therapy

Sandra A. Rigazio-DiGilio
University of Connecticut, USA

Ronald P. Rohner

Abstract

This chapter introduces features of parental acceptance-rejection theory (PARTheory) that can enhance and inform clinical work with couples. The authors describe three questionnaires that clinicians can use to help partners examine their subjective perceptions of the quality of relationships they experienced with their mothers and fathers in childhood and that they now experience with one another. The authors explain the clinical adaptation of these questionnaires for use as interactive assessment and treatment tools in relational therapy. A brief case example illustrates one way in which these tools--in conjunction with micro-counseling listening and questioning skills--provide opportunities for partners to explore the relation between their subjective appraisals of childhood experiences and their current difficulties, broaden their understanding of the issues presented in treatment, identify treatment goals, and monitor therapeutic change.

Patients' Expectations, Perceptions of Their Therapists, and Attendance to Two or More Sessions

Raúl José Alcázar-Olán
Universidad Nacional Autonoma de México

Abstract

Patients frequently do not attend their therapist's appointments and this drop-out is more common especially after the first session. The objective of this study was to investigate the role of expectations and perceptions of patients about their therapists on returning after the first visit. Thirty nine patients were interviewed with open questions. Before the first appointment, patients expected the therapist to support them, listen to them, to be friendly and honest, to resolve their doubts, and get a solution to their problems. Patients who returned after the first visit were those whose expectations were met and perceived positive qualities in their therapists (kind, reliable, punctual, intelligent, and competent).

Parental Acceptance and Its Relation to Late Adolescents' Adjustment: The Role of Emotional Intelligence

Alberto Alegre
East Stroudsberg University
New Jersey, USA

Mark Benson

Abstract

The study examines the relationship between parental acceptance, late adolescents' emotional intelligence dimensions --attention to feelings, clarity of feelings, and emotional repair-- and their adjustment problems--internalizing and externalizing. It shows that parental acceptance correlates with both emotional intelligence dimensions and adjustment dimensions. It proposes a model of relationships where emotional intelligence would mediate between parental acceptance and late adolescents' adjustment. Regression analysis shows partial support for the model. Emotional intelligence dimensions relate to late adolescents' internalizing problems but not to their externalizing problems.

Neural Processes in Rejection Sensitivity: Differences in Emotional Appraisal or Control?

Ethan Kross

Peter Clasen

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA

Abstract

Rejection Sensitivity (RS) is the tendency to anxiously expect, readily perceive, and intensely react to rejection. This chapter summarizes recent work exploring the cognitive and neural processes underlying the more intense responses to rejection characterizing individuals who are high in this disposition (high RS). We begin by briefly reviewing prior research and theory on RS. We then discuss the role that emotional appraisal and cognitive control processes may play in distinguishing high and low RS individuals' responses to rejection, and describe the results of a recent fMRI study that was conducted to examine this issue. The chapter concludes with a discussion of important directions for future research.

Understanding Social Anxiety through Adolescents' Perceptions of Interparental Conflict and Parental Rejection

Basak Yilmaz

Fatoş Erkman

Boğaziçi University, Turkey

Abstract

The aim of the study was to understand the possible relation of social anxiety to adolescents' perception of intense, frequent and unresolved interparental conflict and parental rejection. The effect of gender on these relations and on social anxiety was also investigated. Additionally, the relationship between adolescents' perceptions of interparental conflict and parental rejection were examined. Results indicated that intense and frequent perception of interparental conflict and parental rejection were associated with social anxiety whereas unresolved interparental conflict was not related to social anxiety. Although no difference was found between females' and males' social anxiety levels, results showed the importance of parents' and children's gender in understanding social anxiety; it was found that perception of interparental conflict and parental rejection were predictive factors for only males' social anxiety levels. Perceived paternal rejection plays a more important role than perception of mother rejection in understanding social anxiety. Furthermore, there is a significant positive correlation between perception of interparental conflict and perception of paternal and maternal rejection for both males and females.

Maternal Responsiveness and Child Victimization at School

Stelios N. Georgiou, Charis Constantinides & Thalia Mouskounti

University of Cyprus

Abstract

This study developed a theory-driven model describing the effects of parental style, and specifically maternal responsiveness, on child involvement in peer violence incidents at school. The participants were 252 Greek Cypriot elementary school students (mean age 10 years) and their mothers. It was found that having a responsive mother predicts negatively (i.e. predicts low scores of) the child's bullying behaviour at school. However, responsiveness can easily transform into an overprotective tendency. The tested model showed that maternal overprotectiveness was significantly and positively related to physical victimization at school. That is, maternal responsiveness could place the child at risk for victimization at school if interpreted as overprotection.

What Is Best for Your Children? Authoritative vs. Indulgent Parenting Styles and Psychological Adjustment of Spanish Adolescents

Enrique Gracia, Fernando García, and Marisol Lila
University of Valencia, Spain

Abstract

A growing body of research suggests that the authoritative style of parenting is not always necessarily associated with optimum psychological and social outcomes among adolescents. This paper analyzed the relationships between parenting styles and adolescents' psychological adjustment using a two-dimension four-typology model of parenting styles, with the aim to determine which style of parenting Authoritative vs. indulgent was associated with optimum psychological adjustment outcomes among Spanish adolescents. Parenting styles were measured with the Parental Acceptance-Rejection/Control Questionnaire (Rohner, 1990). The outcome measures were six indicators of psychological adjustment measured with the Personality Assessment Questionnaire (Rohner, 1990). Multivariate Analyses of Variance (MANOVAs) were conducted with a sample of 489 Spanish children. Results suggest that adolescents of indulgent families do perform equal or even better in measures of psychological adjustment than adolescents from authoritative households. Authoritarian and neglectful parenting was associated, in general, with the minimum adjustment of adolescents.

Parental Warmth, Parental Control, and Children's Resilience: Cross-Cultural Aspects

Iris Lavi

Michelle Slone

Tel Aviv University, Israel

Abstract

Parental warmth and parental control are two of the most significant parental practices, and have been described as being of crucial impact on children's well being in theoretical and empirical literature alike. Parental warmth has been found to have a positive impact on children's development, while the impact of parental control has been described as varied and dependent on culture and on specific control type. The relation between parental warmth and control and children's resilience was examined in the presented study, with reference to children's self-esteem and self-control. Participants were 219 Jewish and Arab Israeli families in which both parents and children responded to questionnaires. Results show that parental warmth had a direct ethnically-independent and religion-independent relation with self-esteem. The relation between parental warmth and self-control, as well as the relations between parental control, self-esteem and self-control were dependent on ethnic group and religiosity level. The results are discussed with reference to characteristics and features of Jewish and Arab Israeli families, and to the transition phase of the Israeli Arab family that appears to be moving from a traditional to a modern culture. Conclusions are drawn with regards to the relative importance of the two parental practices and to the crucial role of culture in the understanding of parental practices.

Cognitive Inhibitory Control as a Buffer Against Rejection Sensitivity

Özlem Ayduk

University of California, Berkeley, USA

Anett Gyurak

Abstract

People high in Rejection Sensitivity (RS) anxiously expect, readily perceive and react to perceived rejection with hostility. Previous research indicates, however, that self-control ability may serve as a protective factor against RS. Drawing from this research, this study ($N=40$) hypothesized that cognitive inhibitory control— operationalized as resistance to interference in the Color Stroop paradigm—would moderate high RS individuals' attentional capture by rejection cues and their negative behavior towards partners. The hypothesized interaction between RS and cognitive inhibitory control was found such that high RS individuals with high cognitive inhibitory control showed less attentional capture by rejection and less hostile conflict behavior than high RS participants with low cognitive inhibitory control. The implications of these findings for protective mechanisms in RS dynamics are discussed.

Agreement Between Children's and Mothers' Perceptions of Maternal Acceptance-Rejection: A Comparative Study of Mothers and Children in Bangladesh and Bangladeshi Immigrant Families in the United States

Abdul Khaleque and Ronald P. Rohner
University of Connecticut, USA

Ziaun Nahar
Viqarunnisa Noon College, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Abstract

This study explored the relative level of agreement and disagreement between mothers' perceptions and children's perceptions of maternal acceptance-rejection among Bangladeshi mothers and children living in Bangladesh and among Bangladeshi immigrant mothers and children living in the United States. In addition, we explored whether the level of agreement varied between loving families and less than loving families, as perceived by children. The study included 42 mother/child dyads in Bangladesh and 33 Bangladeshi immigrant mother/child dyads in the United States. The Child version of the Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire and the Parent version of the Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire for Mothers were used for this study. Results showed that, overall, both Bangladeshi immigrant children in the United States as well as children in Bangladesh experienced considerable maternal acceptance. However, among Bangladeshi families, the correlation between mothers' and children's perceptions of maternal acceptance was significant only in the loving families and not in the less than loving families. Mother-child agreement also tended to be stronger in loving families than less than loving families among Bangladeshi immigrants.

Six Cultural Customs Associated with Gentle Affection for Children

Herbert Barry III
University of Pittsburgh, USA

Abstract

A measure of gentle affection for children was obtained by subtracting frequency of corporal punishment from display of affection. This measure prevents spuriously high scores because of high affection accompanied by frequent punishment or because of infrequent punishment accompanied by low affection. Quantitative ratings of affection and corporal punishment for children were reported by Barry, Josephson, Lauer, and Marshall (1977). A world sample of 186 diverse societies (Murdock & White, 1969) contains 78 rated on gentle affection for children and on each of six other cultural customs that are associated with a high score on gentle affection. Three of the six customs measure treatment of children: young children indulged, children highly valued, and adult rather than child caretakers of infants. The other three customs are community structures: minimal government above the community, monogamous marriage, and early marriage of boys. The combination of the six customs has a multiple correlation of .79 with gentle affection for children. Previous studies of parental acceptance or rejection are consistent with the association of gentle affection with young children indulged, children highly valued, minimal government above the community, and monogamous marriage. The statistically significant association of gentle affection with monogamous marriage requires a partial correlation, controlling for the association of monogamous marriage with the other five cultural customs. New findings are the association of gentle affection with adult rather than child caretakers of infants and early marriage of boys.

Review of Arab Research on Parental Acceptance–Rejection

Ramadan A. Ahmed
Kuwait University

Arab countries—Egypt in particular—started in the early 1960s to show an interest in investigating the effects of the parental treatment, care, attitudes, styles, and practices on children's personality (Nagaty, 1962; 1963), in Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, and the USA. The first wave of this research used primarily Schaefer's Children's Report of Parental Behavior Inventory (CRPBI) (Torki, 1975), in Kuwait. The majority of Arab researchers used Schaefer's measures until the mid 1980s. Others employed such measures as Baumrind's scale (El-Feky, 1991), the Maryland Questionnaire (Abou-Nahia, 2000), Gaza Strip, Palestine; or Perris' et al. 1980 scale, the EMBU (Abdel-Rahman, 1998), in Egypt; R. Moss' Family Relation Questionnaire and Howells' and Likorich's Index of Family Interactions (1963) (Al-Nafie, 1997), in Saudi Arabia; (Meomen, 2002), in Egypt; Eddin's scale (Hamaza, 2004), in Egypt; and A Becker's questionnaire (Abdel-Ghaffar & Ismail, 1983), in Egypt. Buri's 1991 scale (Achoui, Dewiary, & Al-Ali, 2006), in Saudi Arabia; R. Abidin's 1983 scale (El-Qamah, 1994), in Egypt; R. Rigio's Scale for Parents' Social Skills (El-Samadouny, 1994), in Egypt; and Schludmann's Youth Questionnaire (Gaber & Abdel-Rahim, 1993) in Qatar.

Acculturation and Perceived Parental Acceptance-Rejection and Control of Bangladeshi Immigrant Children and Parents in America

Abdul Khaleque

University of Connecticut, USA

Ronald P. Rohner

Ziaun Nahar

Viqarunnisa Noon College, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Abdul H. Sharif

Columbus, OH, USA

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to explore relations among acculturation and children's and parents' perceptions of parental acceptance-rejection and behavioral control. The study was conducted on a sample of 99 Bangladeshi immigrants in the United States (33 fathers, 33 mothers, and 33 children). Measures included the Bicultural Attitudes Scale and the Child versions of the Parental Acceptance-Rejection/Control Questionnaire for Mothers and Fathers. Results showed that significantly more mothers than fathers were uniculturally (i.e., Bangladeshi) oriented. Children perceived biculturally oriented parents—especially mothers—to be more loving and less controlling than uniculturally oriented parents, though both sets of parents were perceived to be quite loving and moderate to firm in their behavioral control.

Cognitive Styles in Relation to Perceived Parental Rejection and Warmth Across Patrilineal and Matrilineal Cultures

H.K. Laldinpui Fente

Mizoram University, Mizoram, India

L.N. Singh

Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidhyapith, Varanasi, Utter Pradesh, India

Abstract

The study aimed to elucidate the effects and interplay of culture, gender, and parental rejection and warmth on field-dependent and field-independent cognitive styles across a patrilineal Mizo and a matrilineal Khasi cultural group of adolescents. The psychometric correspondence of the perceived parental rearing style questionnaire for adolescents (EMBU-A) was first established across the two cultural groups for comparability of the test scores. Results revealed (i) parallel pattern of greater perceived warmth from mothers as compared to fathers among the two lineally contrasting Mizo and Khasi cultural groups, (ii) greater field-dependence in patrilineal Mizo than in matrilineal Khasi cultural groups, and greater field-dependence in girls than in boys, (iii) greater field-dependence in Mizo girls as compared to counter boys, and no difference between the Khasi boys and girls as moderator of 'Culture x Gender' interaction on field-dependence/independence; and (iv) significantly greater field-dependence in 'Mizo Warmth Group' than in their counter 'Mizo Rejected Group', and a reverse, but non-significant trend of greater field-dependence in 'Khasi Rejected Group' than in 'Khasi Warmth Group'. The universal nature of greater emotional warmth in mothers, and parental warmth as an important mechanism of cultural value transmission, were implicated in differentiating cognitive styles across cultures.

**Validity, Reliability, and Partial Norm Study of the Turkish
Teacher's Acceptance-Rejection/Control Questionnaire
Child Short Form**

Semra Keskin

Fatoş Erkman

Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey

Abstract

The purpose of the present study was to establish the validity, reliability, and partial norms of the Turkish Teacher Acceptance-Rejection/Control Questionnaire Child short form (Turkish Child TARQ/Control) that was developed by Rohner (2002) and revised by him (2004) to assess the perceived teacher acceptance-rejection and behavioral control. The instrument consists of four subscales, namely; Warmth/Affection, Hostility/Aggression, Indifference/Neglect, and Undifferentiated Rejection, and a separate Control scale. It has 29 items. The sample of the study was composed of 503, 4th and 5th grade students coming from six different primary schools and three different SES levels in Istanbul. Internal consistency, temporal stability, concurrent validity, and construct validity of the instrument were computed using the appropriate statistical analysis techniques. The partial norms of the instrument were established on age, gender, school SES, self-reported semester point average, teacher gender, mother and father education, mother and father employment status, and number of children in the family. Overall, the results of the present study indicated that the Turkish Child TARQ is a highly reliable and valid instrument to be used with children for assessing their perceptions in terms of teacher acceptance-rejection while the Control scale assessing perception of behavioral control by teachers needs some revision.