Interpersonal Acceptance

International Society For Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection (ISIPAR)



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



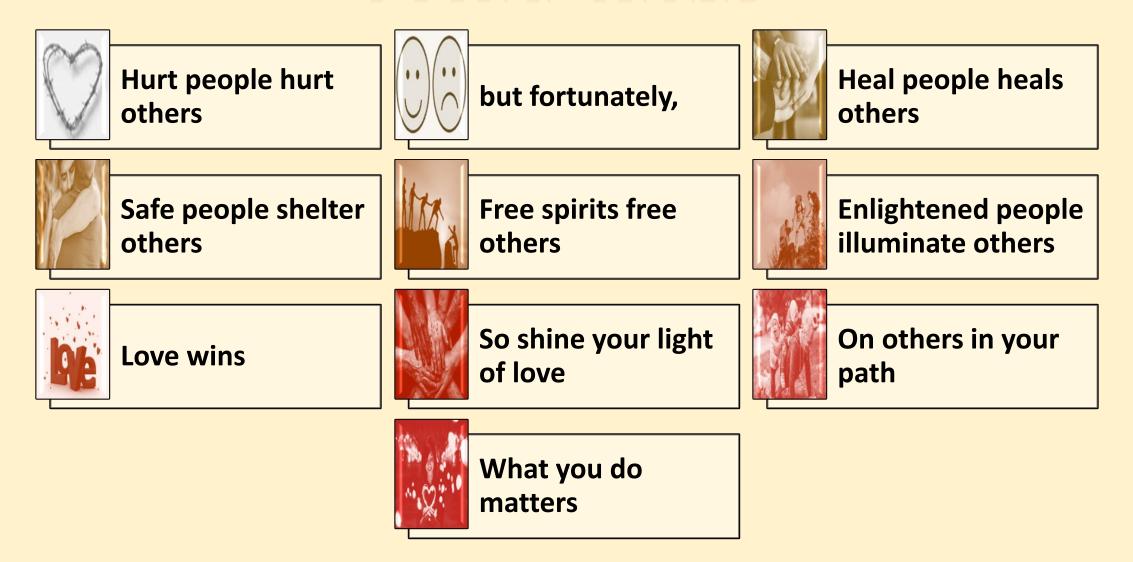
Inside this Issue

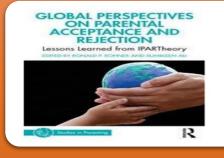
1.	Love Wins 2
2.	Global Perspectives on Parental Acceptance and Rejection: Lessons Learned from IPARTheory Reviewed by Vincenzo Paolo
	Senese
3.	IPARTheory's Global Readership 12
4.	11th ICIAR CONGRESS in the University of Campania, Napoli, ITALY13
5.	Call for Abstract Submissions for International Congress on Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection
6.	Join the 20-year anniversary of the Society in ITALY 16
7.	Message from Vincenzo Paolo Senese (President-Elect of ISIPAR) Chair and Organiser of the ICIAR 2026 17-19













The book *Global Perspectives on Parental Acceptance and Rejection: Lessons Learned from IPARTheory*, edited by Ronald P. Rohner and Sumbleen Ali (2025), and published by Routledge as part of the Studies in Parenting series, brings together contributions from leading scholars specializing in the study of interpersonal relationships. Rooted in interpersonal acceptance-rejection theory (IPARTheory; Rohner, 1986, 2004, 2021), this volume contains a collection of contributions that underscore the profound psychological, physical, and cognitive impact of acceptance and rejection experiences with primary caregivers in childhood: fathers and mothers. Emphasizing both short- and longterm consequences across developmental stages, the book provides a thorough exploration of the IPARTheory's basic postulates, its clinical relevance, and its practical applications. After six and one half decades of IPARTheory research with several hundred thousand children and adults around the world, and nearly twenty years after the founding of the International Society for Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection (ISIPAR), the book offers a thorough and integrative account of the IPARTheory's conceptual evolution and empirical consolidation research in a 3

scientifically rigorous and accessible format for students, scholars and clinicians interested in interpersonal acceptance-rejection theory (IPARTheory) and the extensive empirical literature it has generated. Serving as both a synthesis and an expansion of decades of rigorous scientific investigation, the book compellingly affirms the scientific robustness of IPARTheory, demonstrating how its central postulates have been repeatedly tested and validated across a wide array of methodologies and research settings. Indeed, by drawing on diverse methodological strategies, employing a broad spectrum of psychometrically sound instruments, and engaging culturally heterogeneous populations, researchers have consistently confirmed the cross-cultural universality and internal consistency of the theory's propositions.

These findings not only reinforce the theoretical coherence of IPARTheory but also emphasize its utility as a framework for understanding the the impact of interpersonal acceptance and rejection across the lifespan. As such, this volume not only consolidates existing knowledge but also charters on new directions for future research, reaffirming the IPARTheory's enduring significance within contemporary psychological science and its applicability in global contexts.

Through the reading of this volume, it is possible to identify at least three major lessons that—as the authors themselves highlight—summarize the six and a one half decades of research on which it is based. These forms include:

(1) Humans universally perceive interpersonal acceptance or rejection through four core dimensions (Warmth/Affection; Hostility/Aggression Indifference/Neglect; Undifferentiated Rejection), with no known cultural exceptions.

(2) When individuals perceive rejection by significant others—particularly by parents in childhood and intimate partners in adulthood—they tend to exhibit a consistent pattern of ten psychological and behavioural responses including anxiety, emotional insecurity, hostility/aggression, dependency, impaired self-esteem, impaired self-adequacy, emotional unresponsiveness, emotional instability, negative worldview, and cognitive distortions (Acceptance-Rejection Syndrome; Rohner 2004). However, some individuals, referred to as *affective copers*, show greater resilience than most individuals.

(3) The effects of perceived rejection are both highly concrete and biologically grounded. Empirical evidence

has demonstrated that individuals who experience interpersonal rejection exhibit distinct neural, hormonal, and autonomic alterations compared to those who feel accepted. These findings strongly suggest that the psychological responses to rejection are mediated by specific neurobiological processes, thereby reinforcing the IPARTheory's biopsychosocial foundations.

The volume is organized into three main sections comprising fourteen chapters. The first section, "Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection Theory (IPARTheory) and Complementary Theories", offers a comprehensive introduction to IPARTheory and examines its intersections with two complementary theoretical models. Specifically,

Chapter 1 "Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection Theory (IPARTheory): From Conception Through Maturity" by Ronald P. Rohner and Sumbleen Ali traces the evolution of IPARTheory from its origins to contemporary developments, emphasizing its principal empirical contributions.

Chapter 2 "A Systematic Review of IPARTheory's Constructs and Measures" by Abdul Khaleque delineates the theory's central constructs and their operational definitions, drawing on evidence from thirteen meta-analyses aligned with its universalist framework.

Chapter 3 "Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection Theory (IPARTheory) and Attachment Theory" by Nour Zaki analyses points of convergence and divergence between IPARTheory and Attachment Theory.

Chapter 4 "Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection Theory (IPARTheory) and Affection Exchange Theory" by Ryan J. Allred extends the comparative analysis to the Affection Exchange Theory, underscoring theoretical parallels and distinctions. The second section, *"Long-Term Effects of Parental Acceptance-Rejection in Childhood"*, addresses empirical research on the enduring impact of early parental acceptance or rejection on adult psychosocial functioning.

Chapter 5 "Influence of Parental Acceptance-Rejection on Adult Intimate Relationships" by Abdul Khaleque examines implications for romantic relationships in adulthood.

Chapter 6 "As You Sow, So Shall You Reap: Memories of Parental Acceptance-Rejection in Childhood Predict Caregivers' Treatment of Aging Parents" by Sumbleen Ali and Ronald P. Rohner considers the impact of childhood experiences of acceptance and rejection on attitudes and behaviours related to caregiving for one's own elderly parents. Chapter 7 "Developmental Correlates of Parental Acceptance-Rejection from Childhood to Adulthood in Nine Countries" by Jennifer E. Lansford reports findings from a longitudinal study tracking the impact of early parental acceptance or rejection between ages 8 and 14 in nine countries.

Chapter 8 "Parental Rejection in Childhood Leads to Interpersonal Rejection Sensitivity in Adulthood" by Sumbleen Ali and Ronald P. Rohner discusses the emergence of rejection sensitivity as a long-term consequence of childhood rejection.

Chapter 9 "Gender Inconsistencies in Parental Acceptance-Rejection" by Ebru Akün investigates the moderating role of both parent and child gender in shaping developmental outcomes.

Chapter 10 "Parental Rejection in Childhood Predicts Medical Problems in Adulthood" by Sumbleen Ali, Ronald P. Rohner, Preston A. Britner, and Fumiko Hoeft explores the association between early rejection and vulnerability to physical health issues in adulthood.

The third section, "*Clinical Implications and Practical Applications of IPARTheory*", explores the application of IPARTheory within clinical and applied contexts.

Chapter 11 "Clinical Applications of Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection Theory (IPARTheory)" by M. Selenga Gürmen addresses the integration of its constructs and assessment tools into therapeutic practice, independent of specific theoretical orientations.

Chapter 12 "Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection and Neurobiological Development" by Jonas G. Miller and Sumbleen Ali examines how interpersonal acceptance-rejection experiences may influence neurodevelopmental trajectories in youth.

Chapter 13 "Understanding the Current Status of Parental Acceptance-Rejection for LGBTQ+ Youth Across the Globe" by Kimberly Fuller discusses the relevance of IPARTheory in clinical interventions with LGBTQIA+ populations.

Chapter 14 "From Normal to Lethal: The Continuum from Parental Denigration to Parental Alienation" by William Bernet and Mary Alvarez focuses on the use of the Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire (PARQ) for evaluating suspected cases of parental alienation, and distinguishing alienation from situations involving abuse, neglect, or justified estrangement.

The volume concludes with two highly valuable appendices. Appendix A presents a glossary of key IPARTheory concepts, offering readers a useful tool to further deepen their understanding of the theory's core elements. Appendix B provides a comprehensive list of standardized scales developed to assess interpersonal acceptance-rejection and its psychological effects. This section is particularly beneficial for readers, as it offers an overview of the measurement tools available for both research and clinical purposes.

In summary, this book delivers a masterful synthesis and innovative expansion of IPARTheory, powerfully affirming its empirical rigor, cross-cultural validity, and biopsychosocial significance. Far from merely consolidating decades of interdisciplinary research, this pivotal volume propels the field into new frontiers, offering captivating insights into how interpersonal acceptance and rejection profoundly shape human development across the lifespan. This volume stands as a landmark contribution, an essential and must-read resource for scholars, clinicians, and professionals committed to unravelling the profound impact of interpersonal relationships on individuals. References

- Rohner, R. P. (1986). *The warmth dimension: Foundations of parental acceptance-rejection theory*. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.
- Rohner, R. P. (2004). The Parental "Acceptance-Rejection Syndrome": Universal Correlates of Perceived Rejection. *American Psychologist*, 59(8), 830–840. https://doi.org/10.1037/0003-066X.59.8.830
- Rohner, R. P. (2021). Introduction to interpersonal acceptance-rejection theory (IPARTheory) and evidence. Retrieved from https://csiar.uconn.edu/introduction-to-partheory/



IPARTheory's Global Readership

As of May, 2025, Introduction to Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection Theory (IPARTheory) and Evidence has been downloaded 34,502 times by 2,158 institutions in 172 countries!



Rohner, R. P. (2016. 2021, revised). Introduction to Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection Theory (IPARTheory) and Evidence. Online Readings in Psychology and Culture, 6(1). https://doi.org/10.9707/2307-0919.1055

XI International Congress on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli" Napoli, Italy 17-19 June 2026

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS







11th International Congress on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection



University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli" Napoli, Italy, 2026



Welcome in 17-19 JUNE 2026 to Italy for the 11th ICIAR!

CONGRESS DATES & VENUE WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON

- Program Chair: Vincenzo Paolo Senese, PhD E-mail: <u>vincenzopaolo.senese@unicampania.it</u>
- For symposia proposals, please contact Vincenzo Paolo Senses at the above email address.







11th International Congress on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli" Napoli, Italy, 2026





We hope to see you at ICIAR 2026! Submit your abstracts for posters, presentations, roundtables, and symposia on the ICIAR <u>website</u>. Also see the website for guidelines about <u>abstracts</u> and <u>presentations</u>.





Join the 20-year anniversary of the Society in ITALY

Join Us for the XI ICIAR International Congress in Naples

A Celebration of 20 Years of ISIPAR & the Future of Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection Research

VINCENZO PAOLO SENESE (*PRESIDENT-ELECT OF ISIPAR*) *CHAIR AND ORGANISER OF THE ICIAR 2026*

Dear colleagues and friends,

It is with great enthusiasm and honour that I invite you to participate in the XI International Congress on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection (ICIAR), which will be held in Naples, Italy, from 17 to 19 June 2026. This event will be of particular importance and significance, as it will also serve as the occasion to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the International Society for Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection (ISIPAR), founded by our esteemed colleague and scientific guide, Professor Ronald Rohner.

This congress will be a scientific gathering and a celebratory moment for our community. Over the past two decades, ISIPAR has brought together scholars, researchers, and practitioners from across the globe who share a common passion for advancing knowledge on interpersonal acceptance and rejection in different cultural, developmental, and clinical contexts. 17

The 2026 congress will be a unique opportunity to discuss our collective achievements, reflect on the progress made, and envision new directions for future research.

As the **President-Elect of ISIPAR**, the **Chair and Organizer of the ICIAR 2026**, I warmly invite all members, as well as scholars, researchers, and practitioners engaged in ISIPAR-related topics to take an active role in this congress by participating, submitting proposals, and/or organizing thematic symposia or workshops. All these initiatives will provide opportunities to showcase consolidated and emerging research, foster scholarly dialogue, and promote collaborative and multicentric initiatives. **Your contributions are essential**: *the vitality of our scientific community depends on our shared efforts to connect, exchange ideas, methods, measures and practices, and develop innovative research projects*.

Participation in the congress will be much more than attending a scientific meeting. It will be a moment of encounter and belonging, a chance to deepen academic relationships and friendship, build new collaborations, and strengthen the identity and future of our association. Especially now, as we commemorate **twenty years of ISIPAR's history**, your presence and engagement are more meaningful than ever.

The city of Naples, which will host the event, is an **extraordinary setting** for such a celebration. Known worldwide for its breathtaking natural landscape – with its iconic bay, the imposing Vesuvius volcano, and the nearby magical islands of Capri, Ischia, and Procida. **18** *Naples offers unparalleled cultural and historical richness*. From the UNESCO-listed historic city centre to the Royal Palace, the San Carlo Theatre, the National Archaeological Museum, the Certosa of San Martino, the Cappella Sansevero, and the other cultural heritage, the city is a living testament to centuries of art, history, and human creativity.

But beyond its scenery and monuments, Naples is also admired for its people – known for their warmth, generosity, and genuine spirit of interpersonal acceptance. *This makes it the ideal place to reflect on and promote the core values of our association*.

For those who can extend their stay, we will also suggest and facilitate **excursions to nearby sites** of exceptional beauty and interest, including Pompei, the Sorrento Coast, the Amalfi Coast, etc. We believe these experiences could enrich not only your scientific journey but also your personal one.

A dedicated **website** for the conference with detailed information on the programme, registration, accommodations, and travel suggestions will be launched shortly. Moreover, the **Call for Abstracts** will be officially released in **September 2025**. We strongly encourage all colleagues *save the date*, start thinking the proposals to submit, and to disseminate the event among researchers, practitioners, and students who work on topics related to interpersonal acceptance and rejection.

I look forward to your active participation and hope that this congress will be a memorable moment of scientific growth, shared celebration, and human connection for our entire community.

With warm regards,