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Marianismo beliefs and attitudes toward dating violence

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Marianismo beliefs and attitudes toward dating violence

Background

- **Cultural norms:** may support a climate where violence is accepted or norms that facilitate the creation of tensions between genders or groups of people
 - Dating violence attitudes
 - Traditional gender role ideology
- Young adults (18-25) most at risk for violence from an intimate partner (Black et al., 2011)
- Latinos are fastest growing and largest ethnic minority group in U.S. and rates of college enrollment among this group are increasing

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Background

- **Attitudes:** predictors of behavior
 - Previous experiences
 - Societal norms
- **Best prediction outcome:** attitudes towards single behaviors rather than broad behavioral domains
 - Across variety of behavioral targets (exercise, smoking, drug use, newborn feeding practices, condom use), attitude-behavior correlations range from .45 to .67 (Ajzen & Fishbein, 2005)

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Background

- Evidence linking dating violence attitudes to risk of DV victimization and perpetration (Dardis, Edwards, Kelley, & Gidycz, 2013; Edwards, Desai, Gidycz, & VanWynsberghe, 2009; Gover, Kaukinen, & Fox, 2008; Murnen, Wright, & Kaluzny, 2002)
- **Gender:** associated with endorsement of tolerant DV attitudes
 - Males tend to be more tolerant of DV than females (Bryant & Spencer, 2003; Dardis et al., 2013)
 - Male-to-Female violence (MTF) more acceptable than Female-to-Male violence (FTM) (Nabors, Dietz, & Jasinski, 2006; Price et al., 1999)

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Background

- Gender socialization shaped by culturally relevant values (Raffaelli & Ontai, 2004).
- **Marianismo** - Gender role emphasizes:
 - Virtue
 - Humility
 - Spirituality
 - Self-sacrifice
 - Non-sexuality
 - Being family pillar
 - Exert power through mother role (Castillo & Cano, 2007)

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Background

- Endorsement of marianismo carries expectation that women should:
 - manage and control interpersonal relationships
 - be obedient and subordinate to their fathers and husbands
 - be forgiving and non-critical (Castillo et al., 2010).
- Gender socialization focusing on maintaining family unity is a factor keeping women in abusive marriages (Godoy-Ruiz, Toner, Mason, Vidal, & McKenzie, 2015; Kelly, 2009).

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Research Question

- Do Latino males and females with different marianismo endorsement levels (high, low) differ in terms of MTF and FTM DV attitudes?

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Hypothesis

- There are significant differences in endorsement of tolerant dating violence attitudes across gender and marianismo beliefs (high, low) controlling for acculturation level and age.

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Sample and Procedures

- **Sample:** 180 college students attending Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI)
- University located in U.S.-Mexico border
- Community population: 96% Latinos
- 84 (47%) males and 96 (53%) females
- 151 (83.8%) born in U.S. and 27 (15%) born in Latin American countries (Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil)
- Participants were recruited from undergraduate and graduate courses and signed up to participate in group survey administration sessions

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Measures

- Attitudes Towards Dating Violence Scales (Price et al., 1999)
- Marianismo Beliefs Scale (Castillo et al., 2010)
- Acculturation Rating Scale for Mexican Americans-II (Cuellar, Arnold, & Maldonado, 1995)

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Results: Descriptive Statistics

Variable	Mean	Standard Deviation
Age	23.35	3.83
MTF DV Attitudes	45.75	11.97
FTM DV Attitudes	42	14.02
Acculturation	-.04	.92
Marianismo Beliefs Scale	53.45	10.77

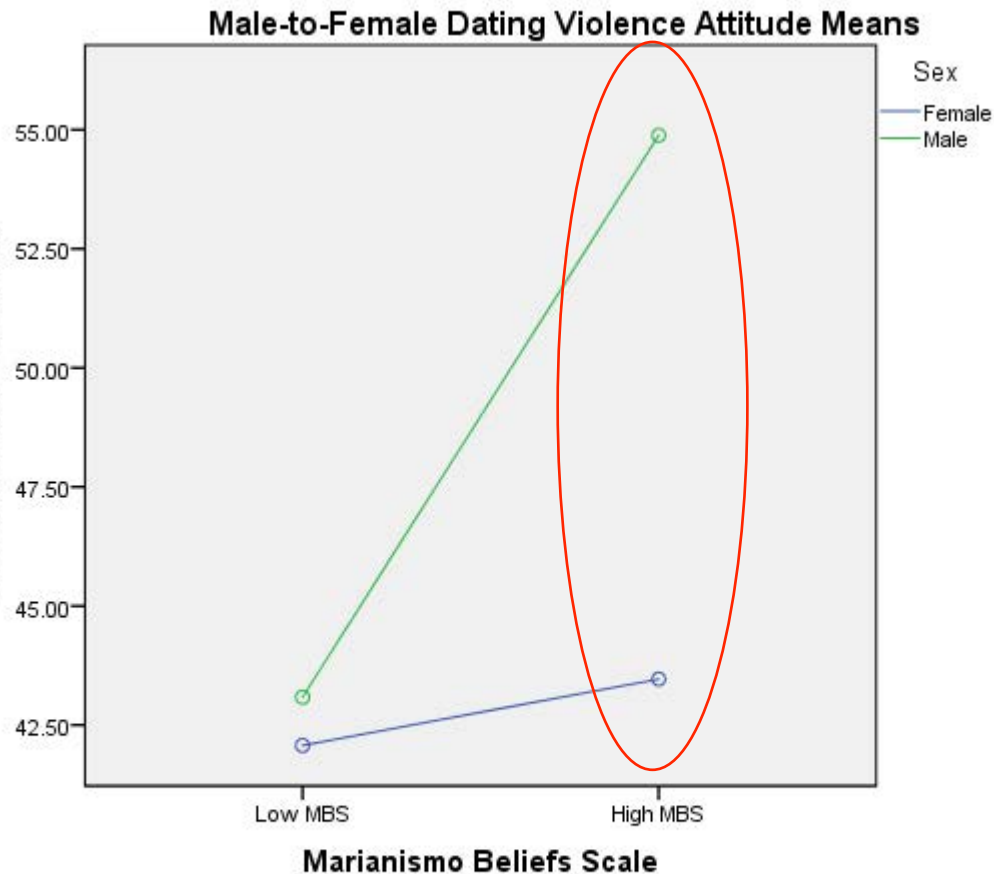
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Results: MANCOVA

Variable	Wilk's λ	<i>F</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>p</i>
Marianismo Beliefs	.87	9.88	2	<.001
Gender	.86	11.09	2	<.001
MBS X Gender	.94	4.30	2	.015
Age	.98	1.25	2	.289
Acculturation	.98	1.40	2	.249

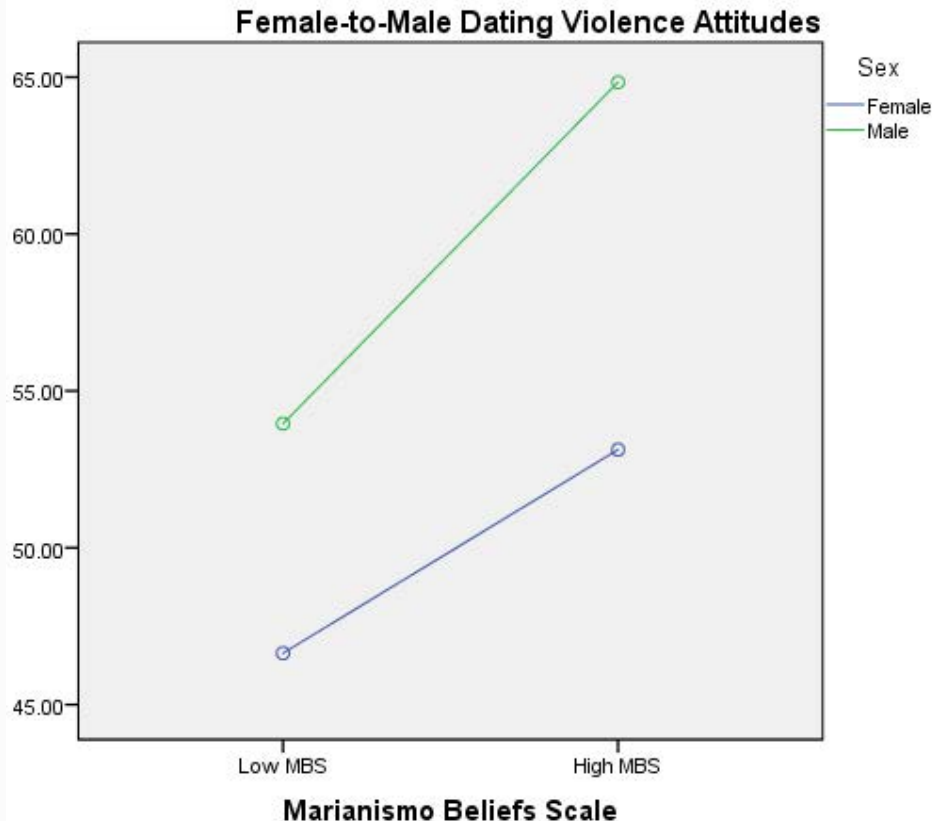
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Results: MANCOVA



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Results: MANCOVA



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Results: MANCOVA

- There are significant differences on MTF and FTM DV attitudes across Gender and Marianismo Beliefs endorsement levels
- Considered separately, the only difference to reach statistical significance across gender was MTF DV attitudes among those who endorse high marianismo levels, $F(1,65)=15.40$, $p<.001$).
- Close examination of the means suggests males who endorsed higher levels of Marianismo values also endorsed higher levels of tolerant MTF DV attitudes ($M=55.50$, $SD=2.18$) compared to males who endorsed low levels of Marianismo values ($M=43.68$, $SD=2.02$)

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Discussion & Implications

- At high levels of marianismo values, males and females exhibited significant differences in endorsement of tolerant MTF DV attitudes
- Males with stricter gender role expectations towards females endorsed more tolerant DV attitudes
- Finding is consistent with previous research with non-Latino populations
- Possible explanations for findings:
 - Tolerant FTM DV attitudes are less socially acceptable within the sample of Latino college students
 - Gender differences associated with motivations for using DV toward a partner (e.g. self-defense, protection)

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Discussion & Implications

- It is possible that college experiences for males shape DV attitudes in a different way than for females (e.g. athletic, fraternal organizations).
- For this specific sample in a community with strong ties to Latino culture, it is possible stricter gender role expectations toward women continue to be reinforced for males in college, which in turn impacts DV attitudes
- However, the Latinas in this study are attending college, which may impact their endorsement of marianismo, and therefore their DV attitudes.
- Based on these results, it seems important to assess level of marianismo values endorsement among males and females when designing DV prevention programs.



Thanks! Contact us with any questions:

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