Marianismo beliefs and attitudes toward dating violence

Elizabeth Terrazas-Carrillo, Ph.D.
Texas A&M International University

Chiara Sabina, Ph.D.
Penn State Harrisburg
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
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)
Marianismo beliefs and attitudes toward dating violence

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)
Marianismo beliefs and attitudes toward dating violence

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)
Marianismo beliefs and attitudes toward dating violence

**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).
Marianismo beliefs and attitudes toward dating violence

Research Question

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

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.
Marianismo beliefs and attitudes toward dating violence

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
Marianismo beliefs and attitudes toward dating violence

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)
Marianismo beliefs and attitudes toward dating violence

Results: Descriptive Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Standard Deviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>23.35</td>
<td>3.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTF DV Attitudes</td>
<td>45.75</td>
<td>11.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTM DV Attitudes</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>14.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acculturation</td>
<td>-.04</td>
<td>.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marianismo Beliefs Scale</td>
<td>53.45</td>
<td>10.77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Marianismo beliefs and attitudes toward dating violence

### Results: MANCOVA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Wilk's λ</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marianismo Beliefs</td>
<td>.87</td>
<td>9.88</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>&lt;.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>.86</td>
<td>11.09</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>&lt;.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBS X Gender</td>
<td>.94</td>
<td>4.30</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>.015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>.98</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>.289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acculturation</td>
<td>.98</td>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>.249</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Marianismo beliefs and attitudes toward dating violence

Results: MANCOVA

- Male-to-Female Dating Violence Attitude Means
- Sex: Female, Male
- Marianismo Beliefs Scale: Low MBS, High MBS
Marianismo beliefs and attitudes toward dating violence

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 ($M=43.68$, $SD=2.02$).
At high levels of marianism 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).
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:
Elizabeth Terrazas-Carrillo, Ph.D.
elizabeth.terrazas@tamiu.edu
Chiara Sabina, Ph.D.