

Religious Affiliation, Religiosity and Intimate Partner Violence in Latin America.

Galindo-Leguizamón, Rafael^a. Arias-Pacheco, Andrea^b. Calvete-Labouz, Michelle^c,
Morales-Mora, Martha.^d, Gutierrez-Martínez Luis^e. Gaona-Cardona, Miguel^f Salazar-
Arango, Andres^g

a Universidad de la Sabana , Chía, Colombia

b Universidad de la Sabana, Chía, Colombia

c Universidad de la Sabana, Chía, Colombia

d Universidad de la Sabana, Chía, Colombia

e Universidad de la Sabana, Chía, Colombia

f. Universidad de la Sabana, Chía, Colombia

g. Universidad de la Sabana, Chía, Colombia

rafaelgale@unisabana.edu.co

ABSTRACT

This quantitative research seeks to show the association between intimate partner violence (IPV) and affiliation to religion and religiosity in Latin America; using data from the 2018 Global Faith and Gender Survey. Different studies have suggested that adherence to certain religious affiliations perpetuates intimate partner violence, while others decrease it. On the other hand, couples who do not develop any adherence to any religious affiliation, or are nominal, that is, they call themselves religious but are not practicing, are prone to developing more violent behaviors towards their partner. Research carried out so far has suggested an association between IPV and religiosity, however, in Latin America there is a knowledge gap on this issue. This research hopes to contribute to the generation of knowledge that addresses these complex family dynamics.

Key words: Sustainable Development Goals (Gender equality), Intimate partner violence, religion, religiosity, Latin America.

SUMMARY

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) defined as any attempt or act of physical, sexual or psychological violence committed by a current or former husband, ex-husband, partner, or ex-partner, boyfriend or girlfriend (Saltzman, Fanslow , McMahon & Shelley 1999), has been studied from different disciplines, contexts and cultures as a human problem, and addressed in Sustainable Development Goals of gender equality. However, few studies, and even fewer in Latin America, have looked at the association between affiliation to a religion and religious practices and IPV, most research has focused primarily on physical abuse, including sexual abuse, or emotional abuse and controlling behavior, without associating them with religion and religiosity.

Theoretical focus, data, research methods, and expected findings.

We know there is a positive association between norms, networks, and nomos of religion and family functioning, therefore religion can prevent IPV (Bartkowski, Xu, & Levin 2008, Ellison & Xu 2014). And if the two people in the couple share the same religion and religiosity, the effect can be even greater. Men in these couples are less likely to commit IPV, and women are less likely to be victims (Ellison & Anderson 2001; Ellison, Bartkowski & Anderson 1999; Ellison et al. 2007). Also, higher religiosity, in general, is associated with a lower probability of believing that wife beating is acceptable (Jung & Olson 2007). In the same manner, religiosity influences these observed behaviors more than religious affiliation.

On the other hand, a negative association between religious affiliation without a commitment to religious experience seems to present the highest risk of perpetrating IPV, since men with these characteristics have authoritarian patriarchal attitudes towards religious women, who assume a submissive role to the abuse of their partner (DeRose 2012 ; Ellison, Bartkowski & Anderson 1999; Wilcox 2004). Other research has also suggested that there is no association between IPV, religion and religiosity (Sierra et al., 2009).

The present research, with a quantitative approach, of an exploratory nature, seeks to evaluate the association between intimate partner violence, religion and religiosity in Latin America. And in this way contribute evidence to a subject little studied in the region. The hypothesis is that religious affiliation without practice (nominally religious), favors IPV. And the alternative hypothesis, is that religious affiliation accompanied by religious practice, (practicing religious), does not increase IPV. It will use the data from the Global Faith and Gender Survey for 2018, which surveyed eleven countries in the world of which five are from Latin America: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru.

The dependent variable will be obtained from section E of the survey named "infidelity and domestic violence", where respondents were asked if they were a victim or perpetrator in the couple relationship: physical, psychological harm, intention of physical or psychological harm, verbal violence, sexual violence and monetary control. Categorical variables of religiosity will also be used, they measured the frequency with which the person performed religious practices: attendance at religious services excluding funerals and marriages, personal piety and family piety, talking about religion and faith with the family, reading the holy scripture, and frequency with which the fear of God and the love of God were experienced.

Control variables include gender, age, maximum level of education attained, perceived level of economic comfort, union and country to which the respondent belongs. Multiple logistic regressions will be made to evaluate the association between the variables of intimate partner violence and those of religious affiliation and religiosity, taking into account the possible biases of the research, such as the fact that the data comes from self-reporting, which leads to possible underreporting of IPV.

The research will contribute to the theoretical corpus of academic knowledge on the subject. This results may also help guide IPV prevention policies in Latin America.

Note: The researchers are young researchers from the World Family Map hotbed that is part of the Family Institute of the Universidad De La Sabana, Colombia.

References

Bartkowski, J. P., Xu, X., & Levin, M. L. (2008). Religion and child development: Evidence from the early childhood longitudinal study. *Social science research, 37*(1), 18-36.

DeRose, L., Johnson, B., Wang, W. (2019). Religion, Intimate Partner Violence, and Infidelity (Chapter 3, pp. 31-39) en Wilcox, W. B., DeRose, L., & Carroll, J. (Eds.), Mapping Family Change and Child Well-Being Outcomes, World Family Map 2019, An International Report. Institute for Family Studies and Wheatley Institution. New York.

Ellison and X. Xu, "Religion and Families," in The Wiley Blackwell Companion to the Sociology of Families, edited by Judith Treas, Jacqueline Scott, and Martin Richards (John Wiley and Sons, 2014).

Ellison, C. G., & Anderson, K. L. (2001). Religious involvement and domestic violence among US couples. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, 40*(2), 269-286.

Ellison, C. G., Bartkowski, J. P., & Anderson, K. L. (1999). Are there religious variations in domestic violence?. *Journal of family issues, 20*(1), 87-113.

JAMA patient page. Partner violence. (2002). *Journal of the American Medical Association, 288*(5), 662. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.288.5.662>.

Jung, J. H., & Olson, D. V. (2017). Where Does Religion Matter Most? Personal Religiosity and the Acceptability of Wife-beating in Cross-National Perspective. *Sociological inquiry, 87*(4), 608-633.

Mathias, A. K. R., Bedone, A., Osis, M. J. D., & Fernandes, A. M. (2013). Perception of intimate partner violence among women seeking care in the primary healthcare network in São Paulo state, Brazil. *International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics*, 121(3), 214-217.

Sierra, J. C., Ortega, V., Gutiérrez-Quintanilla, J. R., Bermúdez, M. P., & Buela-Casal, G. (2009). Violencia de Pareja en Mujeres Salvadoreñas: Prevalencia y factores sociodemográficos de riesgo. *Revista Argentina de Clínica Psicológica*, 18(2), 115-123.

Wilcox, W. B. (2004). *Soft patriarchs, new men: How Christianity shapes fathers and husbands* (Vol. 880). University of Chicago Press.

Wilcox, W. B., & Wolfinger, N. H. (2008). Living and loving “decent”: Religion and relationship quality among urban parents. *Social Science Research*, 37(3), 828-843.