Author’s response to reviews

Title: Relationship Satisfaction and Interpartner Agreement about Acts of Physical and Psychological Aggression: A Multilevel Analysis

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Author’s response to reviews:

1. During our editorial assessment it has come to our attention that your manuscript contains a large amount of text overlap with previous publications.

In particular there is a large amount of overlap with text from the following articles:

• Prevalence of psychological and physical intimate partner aggression in Madrid (Spain): A dyadic analysis

• Can You Be Hit by Your Partner and Be Intensely in Love?

• A Multilevel Examination of Interpartner Intimate Partner Violence and Psychological Aggression Reporting Concordance

• A Multilevel Examination of Interpartner Intimate Partner Violence and Psychological Aggression Reporting Concordance

We do not condone any level of plagiarism, even when the source article is one that an author has previously written, as this is a clear violation of publication ethics. Since previously published text cannot be included in an original article unless it is clearly presented as quotations, we would like to offer you an opportunity to revise your manuscript in order to remove all areas where full sentences and paragraphs have been taken from other publications. Please find attached a file containing the iThenticate report for your manuscript. This highlights sections of text which overlap with previous publications. Please understand that we cannot continue with processing your manuscript until this has been completed.

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Background Section

Line 15-24, Page 3 and Line 1-2, Page 4: We have rewritten and revised this section and the corresponding quotations has been included in the paragraph. Then, we detail the changes made in the lines of text and the corresponding page in the manuscript revised:

- Line 15-16, Page 3: “The research in this area argues that it is quite apparent that both men and women use physically aggressive tactics during disagreements6 (p480)”

- Line 16-18, Page 3: “Authors such as Capaldi and Langhinrichsen-Rohling (2012) considered this aspect "a critical dimension of intimate partner violence (IPV).”7 (p323)

- Line 18-21, Page 3: “Kelly and Johnson (2008) conceptualized this type of IPV as situational violence, a pattern of aggressive behavior that “is not based on relationship dynamics of coercion and control, is less severe, and mostly arises from conflicts and arguments between the partners.”6 (p481)”

- Line 21-24, Page 3: “From the point of view of gender theory, these authors argue that some types of IPV have greater gender symmetry (i.e., situational couple violence) than others (i.e., coercive controlling violence)6 (p487) and, for this reason, some authors emphasize that “IPV is not a unitary phenomenon.”8 (p187)”

- Line 1-4, Page 4: “This aspect has been systematically…. initiation and perpetration by men and women of IPV”6 (p 481)”

- Line 11-12, Page 4: We have included the correspondent quotations.

- Line 13-16, Page 4: “Examples of such bias are: “social desirability, the perception that acts of aggression have fewer consequences in the partner than in oneself” 14(p13)15, 16…”

Method Section

Participants: Line 11-24, Page 6: We have included the corresponding quotation in the paragraph with the correct format:

- Line 17-27, Page 6: “The participants of the study consisted of 2.988…. and 2.3 percent were students.29 (p4)”

Instruments and Variables

Sociodemographic Questionnaire:
Line 2-4, Page 7: The corresponding quotation has been included in the paragraph with the correct format:

- Line 2-4, Page 7: “Sociodemographic Questionnaire. Diverse items were included to assess participants' characteristics in the following sociodemographic and personal variables: age, sex, civil status, nationality, professional activity, and current partner's sex and age.14 (p4), 30 (p2)”

Line 5-24, Page 7 to Line 1-2, Page 8: The paragraph is presented including the corresponding citations with the correct format:

- Line 5-26, Page 7: “CTS-2. Revised Conflict Tactics Scale….. and Injuries (α = .75 and α = .69). 14 (pp4,5), 29(pp5,6), 30 (pp2,3)”

Procedure

Line 13-21, Page 8; Line 4-22, Page 9 and Line 1-12, Page 10: We have eliminated Tables 1 and 2 because they appear in previous articles from the authors and we have included the corresponding quotations in the correct format where the reader can consult:

- Line 8-29, Page 8 and Line 1-9, Page 9: “The study used a quota sampling method….and as no differences were obtained then, they were replaced with imputed values). 14 (pp5,6), 29 (pp6-8), 30 (p3)”

Data Analysis

Measures of Agreement

Line 2-25, Page 11 and 12 Line 1-8, Page: We have reviewed this section and the reference study is indicated with the corresponding quotation:

- Line 16-27, Page 9:…”In accordance with Marshall et al. (2011)17……(i.e., .20 = small, .50 = medium, .80 = large)”.

Correlates of Agreement

Line 10-25, Page 12 and Pages: 13-14: We have rewrote and revised this section and the corresponding quotations has been included in the paragraph:
Page 10 and Line 1-19, Page 11: “To examine the impact of relationship satisfaction….
We used Cohen's (1988) [42] guidelines for interpretation of effect size d “

Results Section

Descriptive Statistics

Line 3-14, Page 15: We have included the corresponding quotation in the paragraph with the correct format:

- Line 23-26, Page 11 and Line 1-7, Page 12: “In the past year, at least 1 partner… aggression (Mdn = 8.0, M = 16.3, SD = 20.2).29 (pp9,10)”

Multilevel Modeling of Agreement

Line 2-12, Page 16: We have rewrote and revised this section and we indicate the corresponding quotation:

- Line 3-10, Page 13: ..“The residual terms for each Level 1…. the presence of fewer acts of psychological aggression than their partners”.

Relationship Satisfaction and Physical Aggression

Line 14-16, Page 16 – Page 17 Line 1-15: We have rewrote and revised this section:

- Line 13-22, Page 13: ..”In physical aggression…. medium effect size (d = 0.32).”

Relationship Satisfaction and Psychological Aggression

Line 4-13, Page 18 and Line 5- 8, Page 19: We have rewrote and revised this section and we have deleted the sentences and paragraphs that appear in previous study.

- Line 2-4, Page 15: ..”In psychological aggression…. it was .15 and .10, respectively”.
- Line 5-11, Page 15:..”couples who reported the presence… than reported by their partners”

Discussion Section
Line 8-13, Page 20 and Line 1-12, Page 21: We have rewrote and revised this section:

- Line 8-15, Page 15: “...” In previous investigations... a more accurate view of this phenomenon”

- Line 23-25, Page 22 and Line 1, Page 23: We have rewrote and revised this section:

- Line 4-8, Page 19: “...” In addition, tolerance has been considered to play a role in the couple's satisfaction... This aspect could influence conflict-resolution through psychological aggression”...

- Line 6-10, Page 23: The corresponding quotation has been included in the paragraph that appears in previous article from the authors:

- Line 13-17, Page 19: “Previous research has considered other possible interpretations “such as the perception that acts of psychological aggression have less impact on one’s partner than on oneself, social desirability, certain motivations or attributions of responsibility and blame, or how partners remember relationship conflicts and how they resolve them, among other aspects.”29(p14)”

Ethics approval and consent to participate:

Line 23, Page 25 and Line 1-7, Page 26: The corresponding quotation has been included in the paragraph with the correct format:

- Line 2-10, Page 22: “The study was approved by the Bioethics Committee... and independently of their couple to a PO Box. 29(p4)”

- The references have been adjusted in the manuscript and in the final section of references.

- We have eliminated Tables 1 and 2 from the original manuscript and we have renumbered the tables in manuscript (3).
2. Due to the level of similarity we ask that you please provide a justification for the difference between this study and the ones that you have previously published.

In Spain, the comprehensive law on violence against women came into force on 1 January 2005, as a way of responding to the deaths caused by aggression and violence in intimate relationships. This research was developed over three years in this context, collecting a representative sample of the Region Madrid (Spain). The goal was to determine the real situation of heterosexual couples’ functioning in all age ranges, regarding levels of aggression and violence and satisfaction with the relationship. Personality variables and psychopathological variables were also considered in order to provide more operational knowledge to develop assessment and intervention protocols for marital therapy, forensic evaluations and, even, policy guidelines for the study of risk factors to help the security forces to develop protocols for the evaluation of the risk of recidivism.

Although part of an analysis of the nature of the aggression and violence in intimate relationships similar to other published studies, this manuscript analyzes new variables such as satisfaction with the couple relationship and its association with aggression and violence in intimate relationships, both for the couple and for each of its members, using a multilevel methodology.