Benevolent Sexism and Caballerismo Predicting Rape Myth Acceptance, and Mediation by Beleif in a Just World.

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Abstract

Previous research has indicated that Benevolent Sexism (BS) is positively associated with the increased Rape Myth Acceptance (RMA), and that this relationship changes situationally, suggesting an intervening, additional factor, which may be Beleif in a Just World. Caballerismo (CAB) may also predict RMA due to its common ground with BS, anf its role in other research areas. The objective of this study was to investigate the relationship between BS and CAB, the predictive value of each for RMA, and possible mediation by BJW in each relationship. Participants took scale assessments of each variable, and scores were analyzed using multiple regression analysis and the Sobel test. Correlation analysis revealed a positive relationship between CAB and RMA, BS was found to be a mild positive RMA predictor, CAB negatively predicted RMA, and BJW was a mediator in each relationship. The correlation between CAB and RMA and the different predictive value of each with BJW may be explained by the different components of BS, and how they are related to components of CAB. This study was unique in that it examined females exclusively, and was conducted in a cultural context.

Introduction

Benevolent Sexism (BS): Stereotypes about women. May initially seem positive, & Include prosocial & intimacy seeking behavior (Glick & Fiske, 1996).

Common features: Emphasize that men should assist & protect women. Connection & intimacy with women.

Caballerismo (CAB): A component of hispanic masculinity. Emphasizes chivalry, nurturance, honor, and emotional connection toward females (Arciniega, Anderson, Tovar- Blank, & Tracey, 2008).

Among College Students, a positive association was found between RMA and BS, specifically with one of the three BS components: complementary gender differentiation between males & females (Chapleau, Oswald, & Russel, 2007).

Participants high in BS placed more blame on acquaintance rape victims after reading about a married mother than on control victims, and more blame on victims of acquaintance rape than those of stranger rape (Viki & Abrams, 2002; Abrams, Viki, Masser, & Bohner, 2003).

Mediation?

Situational change suggests an additional factor in BS & RMA relationship: Belief in a Just World (BJW) → Degree to which one thinks the world is fair & trustworthy (Burt, 1980).

Machismo, counterpart to CAB, positively associated with aggression, antisocial behavior, & using wishful thinking as a coping mechanism (Arciniega, Anderson, Tovar- Blank, & Tracey, 2008).

Prosocial & positive traits associated with CAB may guard against some effects of Machismo beliefs: Mexican laborers high in both had higher self-esteem than those high only in Machismo (Ojeda & Pina-watson, 2015).

Objective: Investigate whether BS and CAB each seperately predict RMA, if RMA and CAB are correlated, and whether BJW is a mediator in either of these relationships.

Rape Myth Acceptance (RMA): Extent to which one agrees with Generally false, pervasive, beliefs, serving to justify sexual aggression at the expense of the victim (Lonsway & Fitzgerald, 1994).

If antisocial beliefs associated with Machismo extend to increased RMA, coexisting prosocial CAB traits may help guard against increased RMA, as they have with other negative Machismo consequences, & could negatively predict RMA.

Method

Participants
- 445 predominantly hispanic female participants ages 18 to over 32 years (M= 23.2; SD= 5.0) volunteered for participation. Median household income: 30,000$ (IQR= 40,000).

Materials
- Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale (IRMA-SF; Burt, 1980). 19 items (1-7; Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree). Chronbach's alpha in this study= .875.
- Beleif in a Just World Scale (BJW; Lipkus, 1991). 7 items (1-6; Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree). Chronbachs alpha in this study= .872.
- Ambivalent Sexism Inveltory -Benevolent (ASI-B; Glick & Fiske, 1996). 11 items (0-5; Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree).
- Traditional Machismo and Caballerismo Scale- Caballerismo subscale (MC-CAB; Arciniega, Anderson, Tovar- Blank, & Tracey, 2008). 10 items (1-7; Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agreee). Cronbachs alpha in this study= .80.

Procedure
- Participants completed the ASI-B, IRMA-SF, MC-CAB, and BJW scales. Multiple regression and mediation analyses were used to separately determine the predictive value of BS, CAB, and BJW for RMA, and to evaluate possible mediation by BJW in the relationship between BS and RMA, as well between CAB and RMA. Correlation analysis was used to determine the relationship between BS and CAB.

Results

Regression analysis 1- BS & BJW as RMA predictors:

	Model 1			Model 2		
	B	Std. Error	Beta	B	Std. Error	Beta
ASI-B	1.53*	0.70	0.11*	0.58	0.73	0.04
bjw				2.54***	0.58	0.21***
R^2=	0.01 *			= 0.06***		

(Model 1): BS is a weak but significant positve RMA predictor (beta=.11, $p<.05$).
(Model 2): Controlling for BJW, ASI-B scores did not significantly predict IRMA-SF scores (beta=.04, $p<.05$).
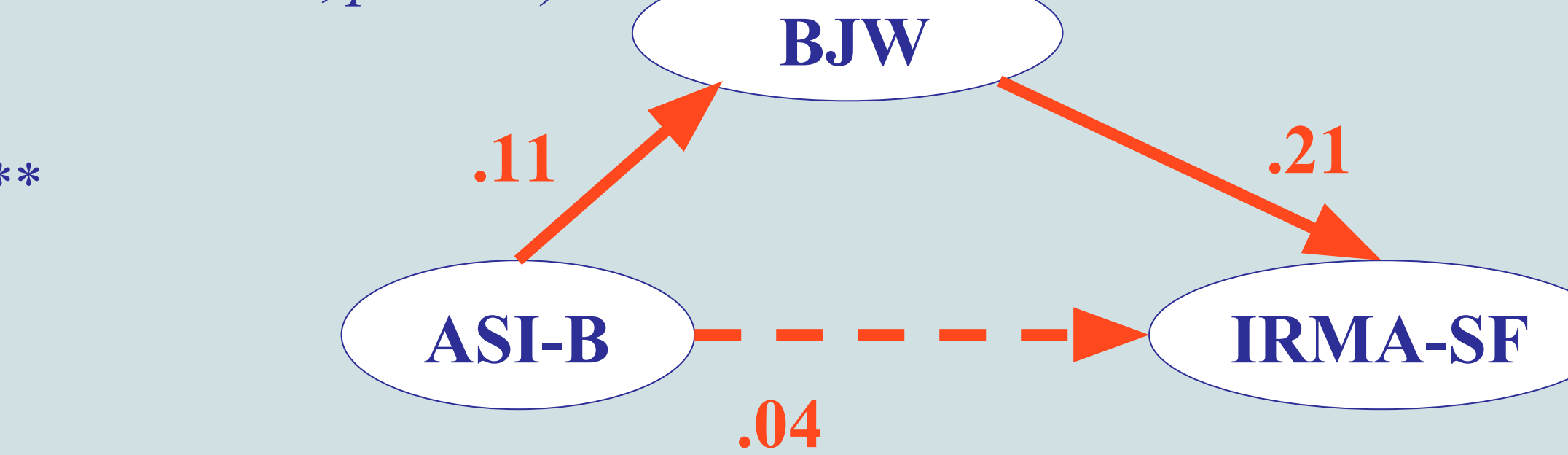
Regression analysis 2- MC-CAB & BJW as RMA predictors:

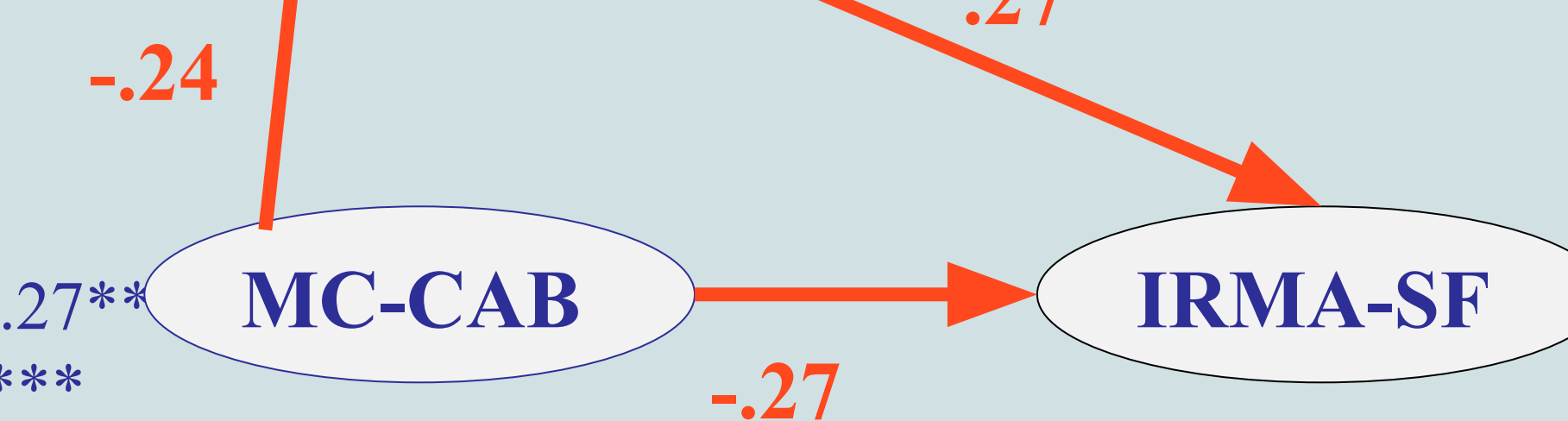|	Model 1			Model 2		
	B	Std. Error	Beta	B	Std. Error	Beta
mc-cab	-3.45 *	0.68	-0.24*	-4.06***	0.69	-0.27**
bjw				3.11***	0.53	0.27***
R^2=	0.06*			= 0.12***		

(Model 1): MC-CAB is a significant, negative RMA predictor (beta= -.24, $p<.05$)
(Model 2): Controlling for BJW, MC-CAB scores predicted RMA with greater significance than in model 1 (beta= -.27, $p<.05$).

Figure 1: The weak relationship between ASI-B and IRMA-SF was significantly mediated by BJW. (Sobel test= 3.67; $p<.001$)

Figure 2: BJW mediated the relationship between MC-CAB & RMA. (Sobel test = 3.02, $p<.005$)

	irmaSF	asi.b	mc.cab
asi.b	0.11*		
mc.cab	-0.24**	0.38**	
bjw	.227**	.313**	0.14**

Table 1: Correlations between ASI-B, MC-CAB, & BJW.

Discussion

⭐ **Regression and mediation analyses were conducted to assess the predictive values of both BS and CAB for RMA, and to determine whether each relationship still presented with the addition of BJW.**

- In <u>regression 1</u>, Model 1 indicates that BS is a weak predictor of RMA. The addition of BJW in Model 2 suggests BJW mediation, because BS no longer predicted RMA with BJW inclusion.
  → Weak BS predictive value consistent with Chapleau, Oswald, & Russel (2007) research showing positive association for only one of three BS components with RMA.

- In <u>regression 2</u>, Model 1 showed CAB to negatively predict RMA. BJW mediation in model 2 increased BS predictive value. Higher CAB = lower RMA.
  → CAB may be a negative predictor, because it counteracts factors leading to increased RMA, as in machismo and self esteem in the Mexican day laborers. (Ojeda & Pina-watson, 2015).

⭐ **Mediation analysis revealed that BJW accounted for the relationship between BS and RMA:** Predictive value of BS for RMA is a result of BJW, supporting the likelihood that BS is part of a larger belief system. Individuals high in BS are also likely high in RMA, but only if they are also high in BJW.
  → Individuals high in both may carry notions of how females should act in a fair world, and higher RMA may be an attempt to resolve dissonance between their expectations, and reality. Highlights danger of stereotypes.

⭐ **BS, mediated by BJW, is a <u>positive</u> RMA predictor, and CAB is a <u>negative</u> RMA predictor, but BS and CAB are positively correlated (table 1).**
  WHY? BS is made up of three components: Complementary gender differentiation, sexual intimacy, and protective paternalism. Complementary gender differentiation is the only component that does not parallel CAB, and is the only BS component that is positively associated with RMA. The two common ideas between BS and CAB may explain why they are positively associated, and also why CAB is a negative predictor. The component unique to BS may explain why BS is a positive predictor, and also why it is only mildly significant. Additionally, BS focuses on others, while CAB focuses more on the self (Arciniega, Anderson, Tovar- Blank, & Tracey, 2008; Chapleau, Oswald, & Russel, 2007).

⭐ **Using a predominantly hispanic, all female sample allowed us to exclusively examine one gender, and to look at caballerismo in a culturally relevant context. This also creates more opportunity for future cross-cultural research. Future research should also aim at breaking down the BS scale into its three individual components, comparing each with different components of BJS, CAB, an RMA, and see if complementary gender differences relates to confusion about the opposite**

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