




## Fear of Abandonment as a Mediator Between Attachment Trauma and Conflict Sensitivity in Romantic Relationships among Women

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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Parvaneh Mohammadkhani <sup>1</sup>  Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Welfare and Rehabilitation Sciences, Tehran, Iran <a href="mailto:p.mohammadkhani@uswr.ac.ir">p.mohammadkhani@uswr.ac.ir</a>	<b>Reviewer 1:</b> Mohsen Kachooei <sup>1</sup>  Assistant Professor of Health Psychology, Department of Psychology, Humanities Faculty, University of Science and Culture, Tehran, Iran. <a href="mailto:kachooei.m@usc.ac.ir">kachooei.m@usc.ac.ir</a> <b>Reviewer 2:</b> Nadereh Saadati <sup>1</sup>  Department of Couple and Family therapy, Alliant International University, California, United States of America. <a href="mailto:mdaneshpour@alliant.edu">mdaneshpour@alliant.edu</a>

### 1. Round 1

#### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the paragraph beginning “One central mechanism through which attachment trauma appears to influence conflict sensitivity...”, consider integrating Bowlby’s attachment theory more explicitly to ground fear of abandonment within established theoretical constructs.

While the paragraph beginning “Moreover, the sociocultural context in which these dynamics unfold...” introduces cultural elements, it lacks integration with Polish-specific relational norms. Adding localized context would enhance ecological validity.

While the psychometric properties of the FOAS, ATS, and CSS are cited, it’s unclear whether these scales were validated or adapted for the Polish population. Please specify the linguistic validation process or cite local validation studies.

In the paragraph referencing Helms et al. (2016), the discussion of HIV stigma seems too contextually distant from romantic conflict. Clarify the relevance or replace with a closer relational analog.

Throughout the discussion, attachment trauma is used broadly. The model would benefit from distinguishing between anxious and avoidant attachment styles, especially in relation to how abandonment fears manifest behaviorally.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence, “Despite the well-documented links between attachment trauma, fear of abandonment, and relational instability, few studies have examined how these factors interact...” should be supported with a citation quantifying this gap (e.g., systematic review findings or lack of mediation models).

In the sentence “Fear of abandonment becomes a lens through which adult relational experiences are interpreted...”, clarify whether this refers to a cognitive schema, a personality trait, or a state-like emotional response.

The sentence “The highest mean was observed for conflict sensitivity...” may overstate its significance without statistical comparison. Consider rephrasing or testing this difference using paired t-tests or confidence intervals.

In the sentence “Fear-based cognitions and emotional schemas are key mechanisms in translating past trauma into present relational challenges...”, replace “translating” with “associating” to avoid causal inference in a cross-sectional study.

The discussion does not explore potential moderators (e.g., current relationship quality, mental health history) that could influence the mediation. Consider discussing these as directions for future research.

The sentence “For women in modern romantic contexts, especially in cultures undergoing shifts in relational norms...” is too vague. Please specify which aspects of Polish culture might interact with fear of abandonment (e.g., Catholic values, traditional gender roles).

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.