




Predictive Indicators of Psychological Inflexibility in Women Engaged in High-Risk Romantic Relationships

Luis. Morales¹, Grace. Mwangi^{2*}

¹ Department of Psychology, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, Lima, Peru

² Department of Educational Psychology, University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya

* Corresponding author email address: grace.mwangi@uonbi.ac.ke

E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Mohsen Joshanloo  Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Keimyung University, 1095 Dalgubeol Boulevard, Dalseo-Gu, Daegu 42601, South Korea mohsen.joshanloo@unimelb.edu.au	Reviewer 1: Zahra Yousefi  Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Isfahan Branch (Khorasgan), Islamic Azad University, Isfahan, Iran. Email: Z.yousefi1393@khuif.ac.ir Reviewer 2: Nadereh Saadati  Department of Couple and Family therapy, Alliant International University, California, United States of America. mdaneshpour@alliant.edu

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The reference to “psychological inflexibility as a transdiagnostic mechanism” is compelling but remains underdeveloped. Please integrate a more detailed theoretical framing that distinguishes it from other transdiagnostic constructs such as experiential avoidance or cognitive fusion.

The phrase “idealization of toxic love” is powerful, but could you clarify whether participants framed this consciously or whether it was a latent theme extracted by researchers? Differentiating between emic and etic interpretations here would enhance analytical clarity.

The section on “cultural expectations” (e.g., “endurance is virtue”) is compelling. Consider integrating a brief discussion of gender role ideology or feminist psychology to enrich this dimension.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The phrase “re-authoring their traumatic relational scripts” is rich but underdefined. Consider explaining how Narrative Exposure Therapy specifically operationalizes this process for IPV survivors.

The paragraph notes that both inductive and deductive approaches were used. Please explain which deductive codes were informed by theory and how these were integrated with emergent codes. Otherwise, the approach may appear too loosely defined.

The quote “I keep choosing the same type” under "Repetition Compulsion" may suggest a trauma-bond pattern. Consider referencing relevant literature on trauma bonding or attachment-based repetition to enhance this subtheme's conceptual richness.

The statement “Emotional rigidity in the current sample was compounded by over-attunement to the partner’s emotional states...” deserves further elaboration. Are these findings consistent with theories of codependency or emotional fusion?

The concept of “trauma as a current organizing force” is excellent. However, this could be deepened by engaging more with psychodynamic literature on object-relations or internal working models of attachment.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.