Women’s Irrational Beliefs about Traditional Female Stereotypes as a Function of Intergenerational Influences

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Abstract

This study demonstrates the interactive influence of generation of immigration and social/cultural milieu within the United States on women’s irrational sex role beliefs as measured by the O’Kelly Women’s Belief Scales (OWBS). Participants (N = 388) were two groups of women of the same age range but different immigration generations (first and third generations) who were born and are living in the United States. Factor analysis revealed that first generation women’s factor profile adhered closely to three of the four areas of irrational beliefs towards female sex roles assessed by the OWBS whereas the third generation’s profile reflects a more heterogeneous, less traditionally stereotyped set of irrationally based beliefs. The findings demonstrate the need to investigate generation of immigration differences when studying cultural diversity and the importance of a contextualist perspective in studies designed to capture the construct of acculturation.

Key Words

Acculturation, generation of immigration, multidimensionality perspective, women’s irrational sex role beliefs

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