Request #: 457 - PSY - Thesis

Associations between Latinx Parenting Dimensions and Performance on Measures of Self-Regulation: The potential role of culture

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Background

1) The broad construct of self-regulation can be understood through the examination of executive functions (e.g., working memory, inhibitory control, and the flexible shifting of the focus of attention).

2) To the author's awareness, no study has measured executive functioning aspects of self-regulation among Latinx adolescents using the Flanker Task and Monetary Choice Questionnaire.

3) Self-regulation is a malleable construct that is significantly influenced by the environment.

4) Specific "poor" parenting dimensions (e.g., harsh parenting, overcontrol, etc.) have been found to be associated with lower levels of self-regulation.

5) Endorsing the cultural value of "familism" has been found to be associated with less risky decisions and lower sensitivity to increasing rewards.

The flanker task is a computerized task that measures inhibitory control, while the monetary choice questionnaire is a measure task that measures delayed discounting and reward sensitivity.

The study extends off of previous work that has measured how the endorsement of family obligation alters activation in neural regions involved in reward sensitivity and executive control in a sample of Latinx adolescents.

Sample

All data has been collected (i.e., self-report questionnaires and performance on the flanker task and monetary choice questionnaire)

Sample size obtained = 92

Latinx youth between ages 13 and 18

Hypothesis

1) This study aims to explore how performance on the two self-regulation tasks associate with unique dimensions of parenting as measured via adolescent self-report. (e.g., Is adolescent self-reported "harsh parenting" associated with "more reward sensitivity" on a monetary choice questionnaire task? Do adolescents who report parents to be more over-controlling perform worse on a flanker task?)

2) This study also aims to explore how self-reported endorsement of familism values associate with performance on the two self-regulation tasks.

3) We are looking to explore within group differences among these variables of interest.

Progress

1) The majority of the data, if not all, is already clean.

2) Due to Monetary Choice Questionnaire values being notably skewed, we transformed the variable using log-transformation and took the absolute value, such that higher values indicated greater discounting of future reward.

3) Zero-order correlations were computed to understand links between different parenting dimensions and performance on the monetary choice questionnaire

Request

1) Help in planning analysis using R

Timeline

Analytic plan section of my proposal is due March 22.