

Perceived Sexual Risk and Its Implications for Paternalistic and Hostile Social Support among Low-SES Women in Spanish-Speaking Countries

1. What is the hypothesis that will be investigated?

Provide a brief description of the relevant theory and formulize the hypothesis as precisely as possible

The aim of this study is to examine the existing social perception of low-SES women as individuals who, over the course of their lives, engage in risky sexual behaviours, and to assess the effect of this perception on support for social assistance policies specifically targeted at this group. Specifically, the study will analyse:

- a) the existence of stereotypes concerning the sexual behaviour of low-SES women in comparison to high-SES women, assessing the extent to which people believe that low-SES women are more promiscuous, engage in riskier sexual practices, and are more likely to experience unplanned pregnancies;
- b) the extent to which there is a perception that low-SES women use pregnancy as a strategy to access and exploit the welfare system; and
- c) the degree to which people are willing to support paternalistic and hostile social policies directed at low-SES women.

Although this is an exploratory study, we expect to find that:

Hypothesis 1:

Low-SES women will be perceived as:

- 1.1 having higher levels of promiscuity,
- 1.2 engaging in more risky sexual behaviours, and
- 1.3 being more likely to experience unplanned pregnancies compared to high-SES women.

Hypothesis 2:

The perceived sexual risk associated with low-SES women will:

- 2.1 positively predict the perception that these women exploit social assistance,
- 2.2 positively predict support for paternalistic policies, and
- 2.3 positively predict support for hostile policies targeting them.

Hypothesis H3:

We will also explore a mediation model in which the relationship between perceived sexual misconduct (comprising promiscuity, risky behaviours, and unplanned pregnancies) and support for paternalistic and hostile policies is mediated by the belief that low-SES women abuse the welfare system.

2. How will the crucial variables be operationalized?

State exactly how the variables specified in the hypothesis will be measured.

We will draw on the SOGEDI dataset, which surveys attitudes toward inequality in several Spanish-speaking countries. From this dataset we extract the following variables:

Perceived sexual misconduct among low-income women. Three items capture stereotypes about poor women's sexual behaviour:

1. *Perceived promiscuity* ("To what extent do you consider low-income women to be sexually promiscuous—for example, having multiple partners, casual sex, or sex on the first date?"; 1 = "not at all promiscuous", 7 = "very promiscuous").
2. *Risky sexual behaviour* ("To what extent do you consider that low-income women engage in risky sexual practices—for example, unprotected sex, exposure to STDs, or sex under the influence of drugs/alcohol?"; 1 = "very unlikely", 7 = "very likely").
3. *Unplanned pregnancy* ("To what extent do you consider that low-income women are likely to be teenage mothers or experience unplanned pregnancies?"; 1 = "very unlikely", 7 = "very likely").

Perceived abuse of social assistance by poor mothers. Two items assess the belief that low-income mothers exploit welfare benefits:

1. "Poor women have children in order to receive more social benefits."
2. "Poor women use their pregnancy to live on welfare benefits."
Responses range from 1 ("not at all") to 7 ("completely").

Support for paternalistic and hostile social policies toward poor mothers.

Paternalistic support is measured with:

1. "Poor women should receive counseling to avoid unwanted pregnancies."
2. "Poor women should be counselled to avoid risky sexual behaviours."

Hostile support is measured with:

3. "Poor women should undergo procedures to reduce their fertility."
4. "Poor women should receive treatment to prevent them from becoming pregnant."
All four items use a 1 ("not at all") to 7 ("completely") scale.

Participant characteristics. We include age, gender, nationality, and both objective and subjective socioeconomic status, along with any additional individual-level covariates identified during data exploration. Country fixed effects are also entered to account for cross-national differences.

For the present study we analyse the subsamples from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Spain.

3. What is the source of the data included in the analyses?

Specify the source of the obtained data. Also provide information about the context of the data source and clarify whether the data has been previously published. In case of simulated data, provide information on how the data was generated.

The data analysed in this study come from the SOGEDI Survey, conducted under the project *Socioeconomic and Gender Disparities: A Multi-Country Study*. The survey gathers responses on a wide range of attitudes toward economic and gender inequalities from participants drawn from the general populations of several Spanish-speaking countries. For the present analysis, we use the subsamples from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Spain.

4. How will this data be obtained?

Specify how the data will be requested or accessed. Clarify whether the data were already available and whether the dataset has been previously explored or analyzed.

The SOGEDI survey data are publicly available. To date, they have been used only for descriptive analyses and for evaluating the embedded experiment; no other studies have yet drawn on these data. The research team involved in this project has not explored the variables mentioned in this preregistration, nor have they tested the hypotheses. The preregistration is carried out prior to accessing the data and conducting any exploratory analyses.

5. Are there any exclusion criteria for the data?

Specify whether there were any criteria for the exclusions of certain datasets, observations or time points.

Countries with too few respondents to support inferential statistical analysis are excluded from the analytic sample. Consequently, only cases from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Spain are retained. To do so, we will use the `natio_recoded` variable available in the SOGEDI dataset to identify subjects residing in the country of which they claim to have the nationality. In addition, we will only work with subjects of legal age (18 years or older).

6. What are the planned statistical analyses?

Specify the statistical model that will be used to analyze the data and describe the data pre-processing steps. Be as specific as possible and avoid ambiguity

Before analysis, the focal variables will be recoded and all cases with missing data or atypical/problematic response patterns will be removed. The analytic strategy proceeds in three steps: (1) univariate descriptive statistics, (2) bivariate (correlational) analyses and comparisons between variables (i.e., variables comparing low- versus high-SES women), and

(3) structural-equation modelling with mediation analysis. We will also conduct an exploratory analysis to assess whether the score differences on the three target-comparison variables (poor vs. rich) are moderated by the three sub-dimensions of classism.

7. What are the criteria for confirming and disconfirming the hypotheses?

Specify exactly how the hypothesis will be evaluated. Give specific criteria relevant to the used analytical model and framework (e.g., alpha-values, Bayes Factor, RMSEA).

The values that will be used as evaluation criteria for the goodness of the adjustment of the model were taken from the proposal of Brown (2008) and are the following:

- Chi-square: greater than 0.05
- Chi-square ratio: greater than 3
- Comparative adjustment goodness index (CFI): greater than 0.95
- Tucker-Lewis Index (TLI): greater than 0.95
- Root of the mean squared residual approximation (RMSEA): less than 0.06.
- Statistically significant effects at alpha level: 0.05 ($p < 0.05$).

8. Have the analyses been validated on a subset of the data? If yes, please specify and provide the relevant files.

Indicate whether the proposed data-analyses have previously been validated on a subset of the data or a simulated dataset. If so, provide the data files and data syntax.

The analyses have not been validated.

9. What is known about the data that could be relevant for the tested hypotheses?

Please describe any prior knowledge that you have about the data set (e.g., the known mean of a variable) that is relevant for your research question.

The basic descriptive statistics of the variables to be used are known (mean, mode and frequencies).

Although the research team has not tested the hypotheses or explored the specific variables mentioned in this preregistration, basic descriptive statistics (e.g., mean, mode, and frequencies) for the relevant variables are known. This is because descriptive analyses were conducted during the initial data cleaning and preparation process when the original dataset was developed. These analyses were carried out to examine the distribution of the variables and to check statistical assumptions (e.g., normality), but they were not used to test any specific hypotheses or to address research questions that could bias the confirmatory analyses.

10. Please provide a brief timeline for the different steps in the preregistration.

Provide the (foreseen) dates for the different steps in this preregistration form.

Preregistration drafting and submission: May 2025. The preregistration document was drafted and finalised during this period, prior to accessing or analysing the relevant variables for hypothesis testing.

Data preparation and cleaning: May 2025. Descriptive analyses and data preparation (e.g., checking for missing values, verifying assumptions of normality) will be conducted using the publicly available SOGEDI dataset.

Main analyses (hypothesis testing and modelling): June 2025. Bivariate correlations, comparisons, structural equation modelling, and mediation analyses will be performed to test the preregistered hypotheses.

Appendix

Preregistration template for the preregistration of analyses of preexisting data

This template is based on the following article:

Mertens, G., & Krypotos, A. M. (2019). Preregistration of analyses of preexisting data. *Psychologica Belgica*, 59(1), 338-352. <http://doi.org/10.5334/pb.493>

Note that this template is distributed under the Creative Commons-By Attribution license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), stipulating that the (re-)use of this template is free under the condition that appropriate credit is given and it is indicated if changes were made.

Table 1. Template questions for the preregistration of analyses of preexisting data.

Question	Description
1. What is the hypothesis that will be investigated?	<i>Provide a brief description of the relevant theory and formulize the hypothesis as precisely as possible.</i>
2. How will the crucial variables be operationalized?	<i>State exactly how the variables specified in the hypothesis will be measured.</i>
3. What is the source of the data included in the analyses?	<i>Specify the source of the obtained data. Also provide information about the context of the data source and clarify whether the data has been previously published. In case of simulated data, provide information on how the data was generated.</i>
4. How will this data be obtained?	<i>Specify how the data will be requested or accessed. Clarify whether the data were already available and whether the dataset has been previously explored or analyzed.</i>
5. Are there any exclusion criteria for the data?	<i>Specify whether there were any criteria for the exclusions of certain datasets, observations or time points.</i>

6. What are the planned statistical analyses?

Specify the statistical model that will be used to analyze the data and describe the data pre-processing steps. Be as specific as possible and avoid ambiguity.

7. What are the criteria for confirming and disconfirming the hypotheses?

Specify exactly how the hypothesis will be evaluated. Give specific criteria relevant to the used analytical model and framework (e.g., alpha-values, Bayes Factor, RMSEA).

8. Have the analyses been validated on a subset of the data? If yes, please specify and provide the relevant files.

Indicate whether the proposed data-analyses have previously been validated on a subset of the data or a simulated dataset. If so, provide the data files and data syntax.

9. What is known about the data that could be relevant for the tested hypotheses?

Please describe any prior knowledge that you have about the data set (e.g., the known mean of a variable) that is relevant for your research question.

10. Please provide a brief timeline for the different steps in the preregistration.

Provide the (foreseen) dates for the different steps in this preregistration form.
