



7th Annual Student Event "Linking Research, Policy and Practice"

THEORIZING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GENDER ROLES AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS ABORTION



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GENDER ROLES AND ABORTION

Traditional view:



We are born male/female

but we also

learn how to be male/female:

Gender roles

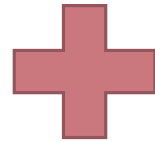
Abortion stigma is linked to the violation of traditional gender norms that it represents:

The inseparable conflation of 'women - mother'

What would be the relationship?



TRADITIONAL GENDER ROLES



NEGATIVE ATTITUDES TOWARDS ABORTION

Few studies

All of them considering
sex-binomial male/female

Focus on medical students

Not Dutch sample studies



- Would the relationship exist if we consider *how do people identify?*
- Would the relationship exist if we consider *what kind of studies do people attend?*

METHOD



University of Groningen



63 students between 18-26 years old



Online survey:

- Attitudes Toward Women Scale (ATWS): traditional gender roles
- Attitudes to Abortion Scale
- Information about:
 - How do they identify
 - Studies

Online survey

1 2 3 4 5
Strongly agree Strongly disagree

- **Traditional gender roles scale:**

“Parental authority and responsibility for discipline of the children should be equally divided between husband and wife.”

- **Attitudes to abortion scale:**

“Safe, voluntary abortion should be legal and accessible.”

- **Which studies are you attending in Groningen?**

- **How do you identify?**

Male

Female

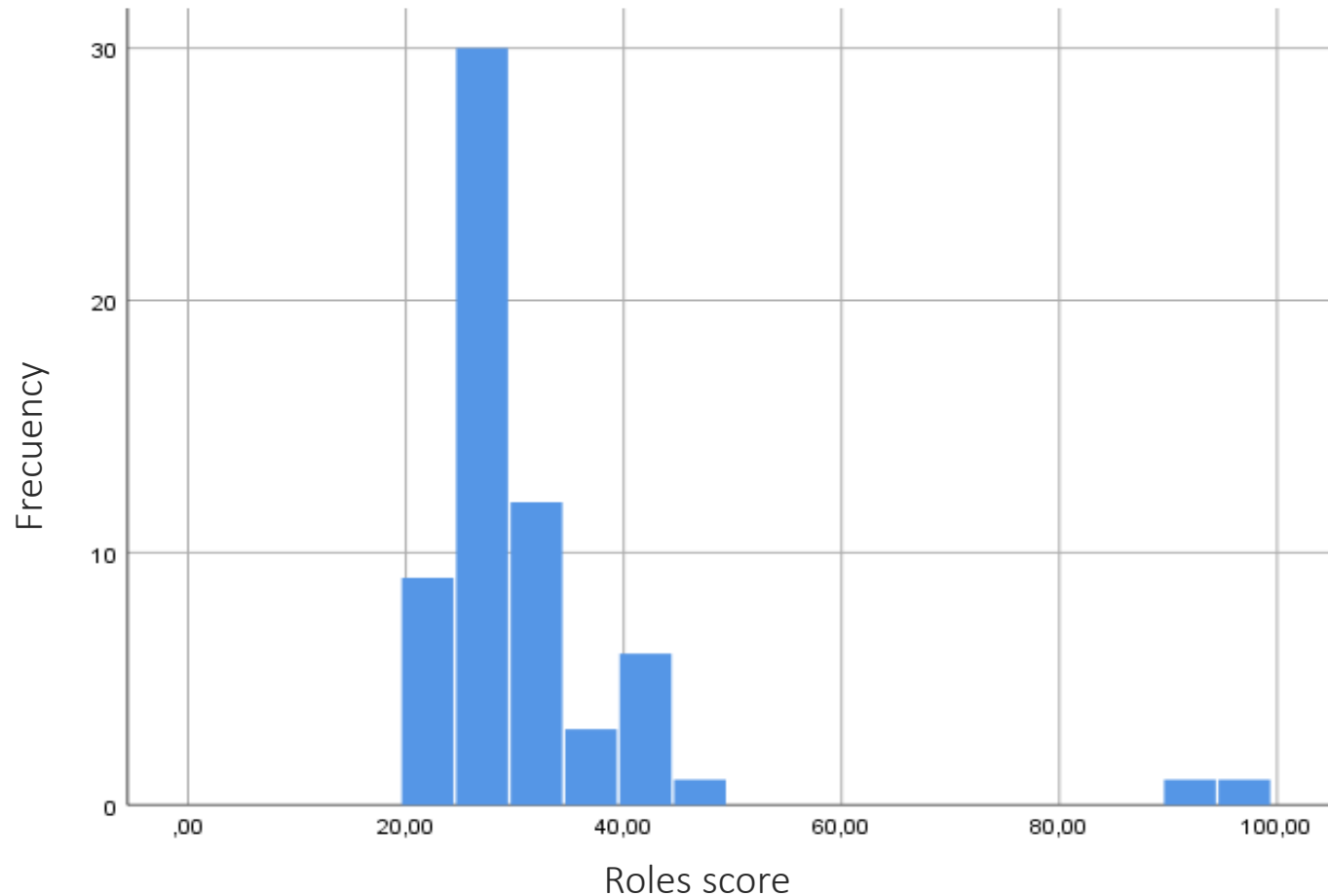
Transgender
male/female

Gender variant/
non-conforming

Not answer

Other

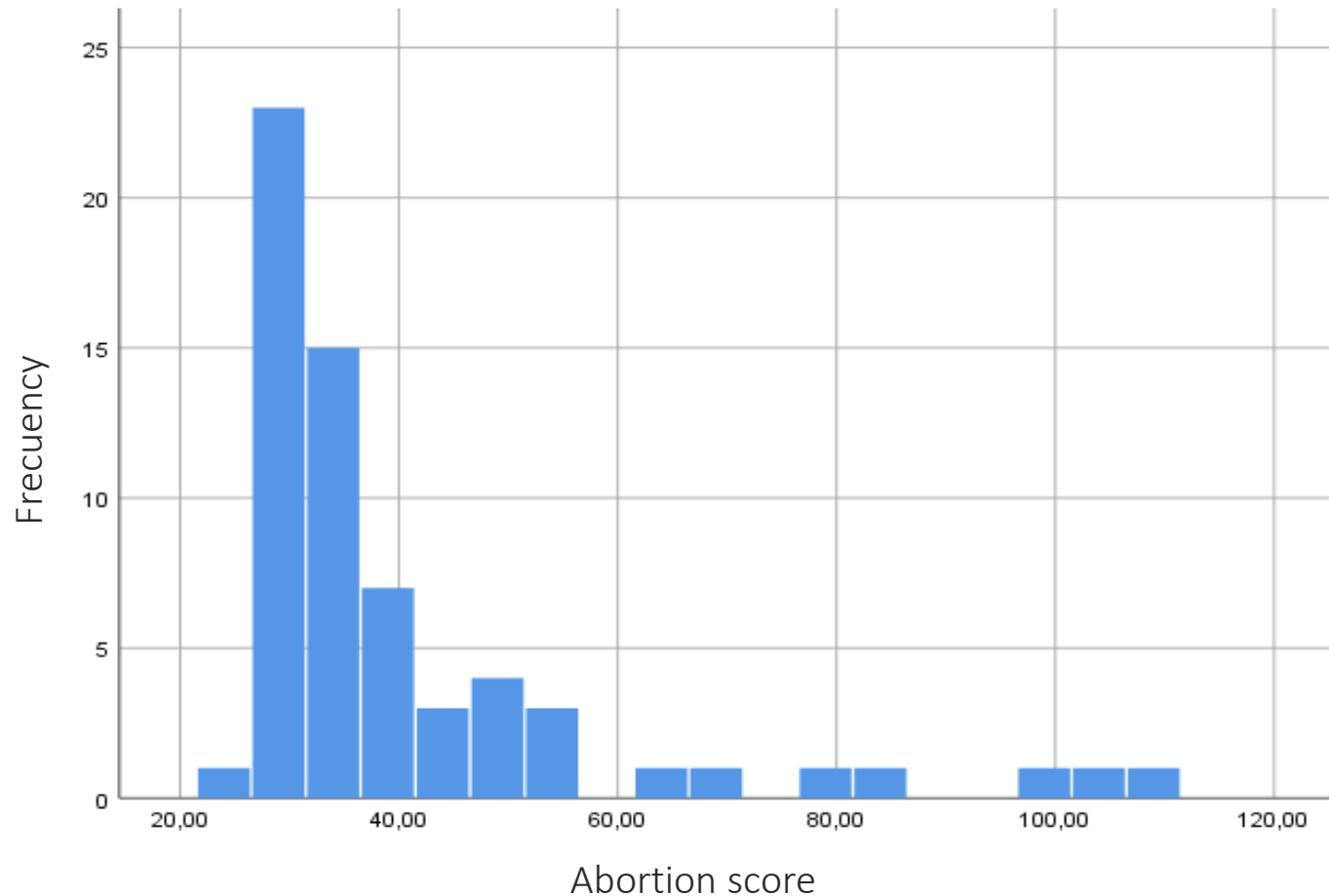
RESULTS. *Traditional Gender Roles Scale*



In general, the analysis shows there is not strong attachment to traditional gender roles.

Average score: 40,43

RESULTS. *Attitudes towards Abortion Scale*



In general, the analysis shows there are positive attitudes towards abortion.

Average score: 31,59

RESULTS. CORRELATION ROLES-ABORTION

		abortion_total	roles_total
abortion_total	Pearson correlation	1	,619**
	Sig. (bilateral)		,000
	N	63	63

** . Significant correlation at 0,01 level.

IBM SPSS Statistics

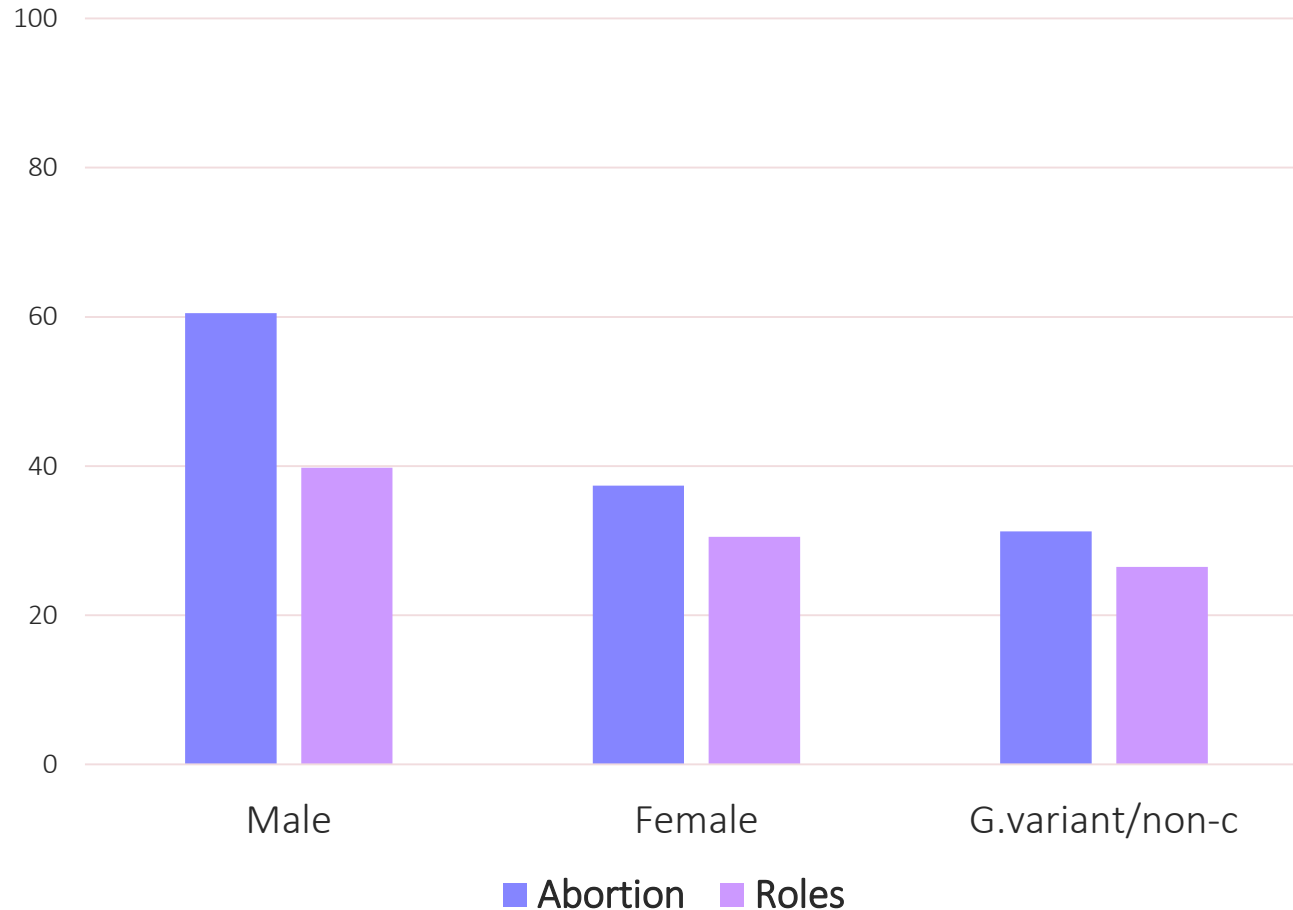
There is a strong relationship (0.62, close to 1) between gender roles and attitudes towards abortion:

THE MOST TRADITIONAL GENDER ROLES, THE MOST NEGATIVE ATTITUDES TOWARDS ABORTION



As it is shown and according to the previous studies, the hypotesis has been fulfilled.

Correlation Roles-Abortion/Identity

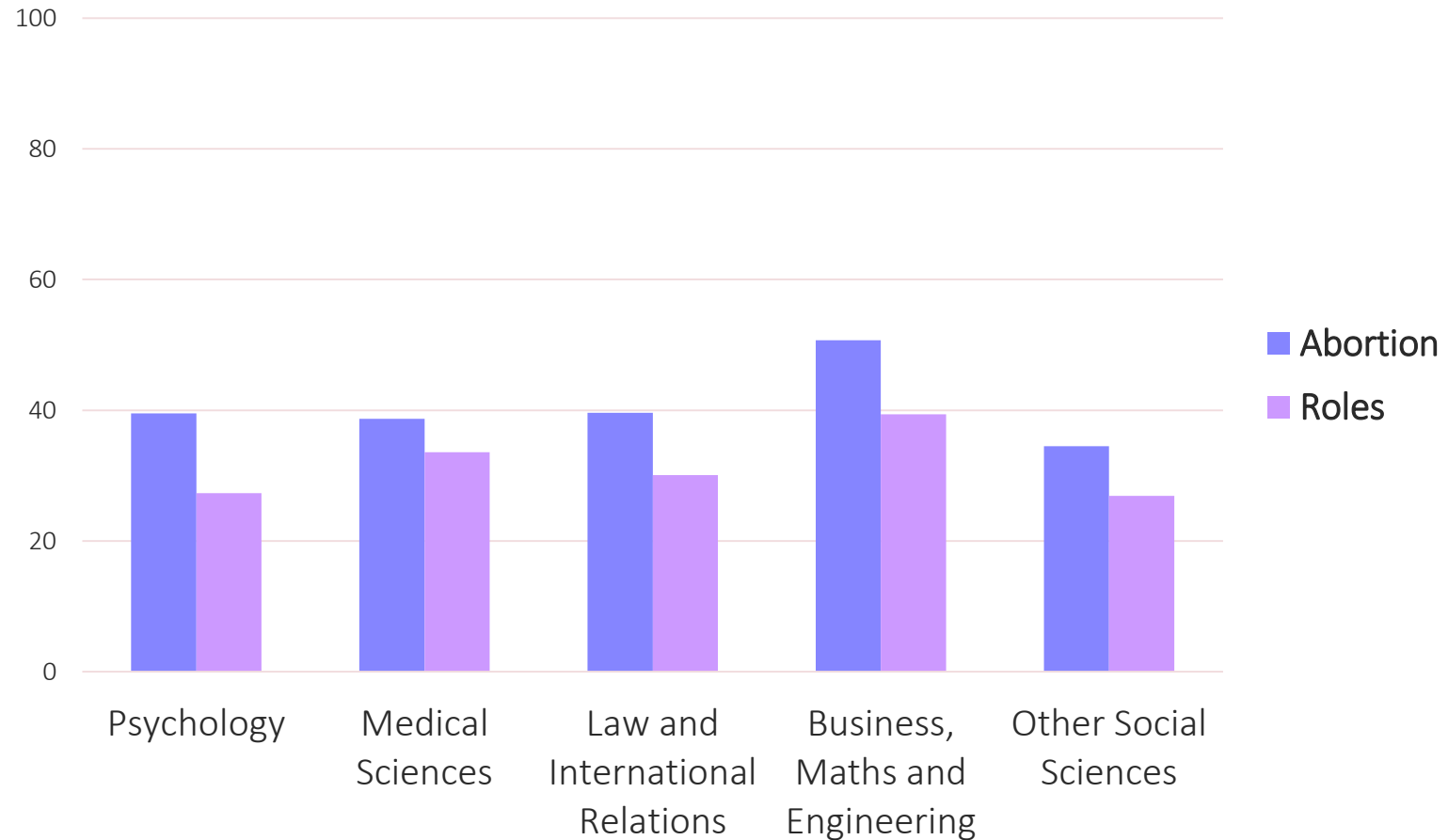


- There is not significant correlation in students identified as “male”.
- There are significant correlations in students identified as “female” ($p = 0,51$) and “gender variant/non-conforming” ($p = 0,96$).



Correlation between traditional gender roles and negative attitudes towards abortion in students identified as “female” or “gender-variant/non-conforming”.

Correlation Abortion-Roles/Studies



CONCLUSION



- Positive attitudes towards abortion
- Not strong attachment to traditional gender roles



The less attachment to traditional gender roles, the most positive attitudes towards abortion.

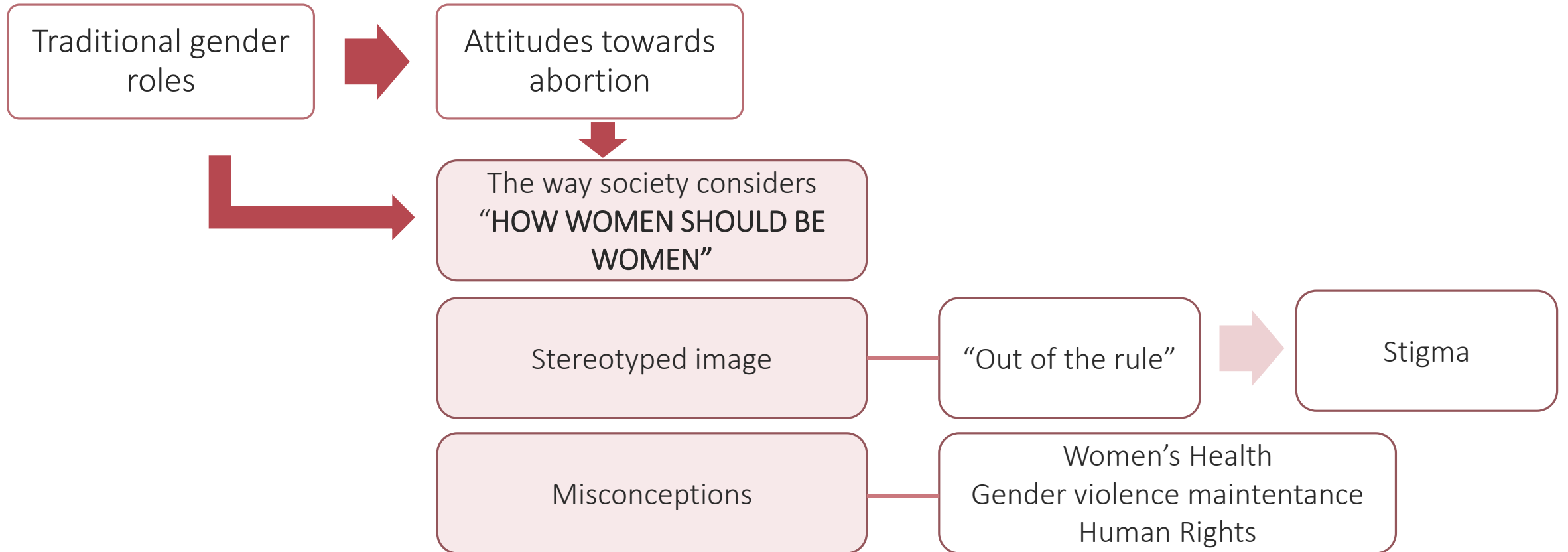


- **Male:** higher scores. The biggest differences between scales → **No correlation**
- **Female/gender variant-non conforming:** less scores. Less differences between scales → **Correlation**



- **Similar scores in different studies.**
- Correlation between scales except in “Business, Maths and Engineering” and “Psychology” studies.

DISCUSSION



Policy considerations

This research shows that we have to *re-think* about our education, culture and social values.

Future researchs

Increase the sample

Include identity/studies

- Research the way stricter attachment to gender roles impact in patient-doctor relationship:
What would be the Reproductive Health implications?
- Revise regulations on access to abortion:
Do they reproduce stereotypes?

Training

- Gender/reproductive violence
- Human rights
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Gender perspective



Studies/courses related to human rights, medical, social and behavioural sciences.

**SOCIAL
AWARENESS**



“Culture does not make people. People make culture. If it is true that the full humanity of women is not our culture, then we can and must make it our culture.”

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie