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

- Few studies
- All of them considering sex-binomial male/female

NEGATIVE ATTITUDES TOWARDS ABORTION

- 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

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<th>abortion_total</th>
<th>roles_total</th>
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<tr>
<td>abortion_total</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sig. (bilateral)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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**. Significative correlation at 0,01 level.

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.
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 Abortion-Roles/Studies

- Psychology
- Medical Sciences
- Law and International Relations
- Business, Maths and Engineering
- Other Social Sciences

[Bar chart showing correlation between Abortion and Roles/Studies across different fields]
CONCLUSION

• Possitive 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

Traditional gender roles

Attitudes towards abortion

The way society considers "HOW WOMEN SHOULD BE WOMEN"

Stereotyped image

Misconceptions

"Out of the rule"

Women’s Health
Gender violence maintenance
Human Rights

Stigma
Policy considerations

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

Future researches

- 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?*

Increase the sample

Include identity/studies

Training

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

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