

**The Impact of Spousal Emotional Support on the Individual Performance of Married
Entrepreneurs in Nigeria.**

Adetutu Ibironke Afolabi

AAfolabi1@student.hult.edu

Hult International Business School

Abstract

Entrepreneurship is a demanding role that requires a balance between family and business responsibilities. Entrepreneurs often rely on support, particularly from their spouses, to achieve this balance. Our research examined the impact of spousal emotional support as a singular construct, using a multidimensional scale that includes trust, commitment, perceived understanding, relationship satisfaction, evoked jealousy, and attributional confidence. Our findings indicate that spousal emotional support as a singular construct has a linear, positive, not statistically significant impact on the individual performance of entrepreneurs ($\beta=0.086$, $p=0.195$). However, when social exchange was introduced as an intervening variable, the impact of spousal emotional support was amplified, resulting in a statistically significant relationship ($\beta=0.230$, $p=0.014$) and a 15% increase in individual entrepreneurial performance. The need to recognize and foster spousal emotional support is apparent, as it can help entrepreneurs navigate the challenges of balancing work and family roles that impact their entrepreneurial performance.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurial Performance, Spousal Emotional Support, Social Exchange theory.

Introduction

Entrepreneurship is crucial for economic development, poverty reduction, and job creation (Azamat et al., 2023). Hu et al. (2021) emphasized that entrepreneurship involves recognizing opportunities, assembling resources, and successful execution. Family support significantly impacts entrepreneurial success (Azamat et al., 2023). Entrepreneurial performance is vital for resource allocation and business survival (Caliendo et al., 2023). Work-family balance affects individual and business performance (Shelton et al., 2008) and diminishes entrepreneurs' overall well-being (Mohamad, 2018). While entrepreneurs need family support to achieve work-family balance (Neneh & Welsh, 2022), spousal support is critical for married entrepreneurs' work-family balance (Jaka & Mateja, 2013) because spousal support positively impacts career success, productivity, well-being, work-family balance, and marital satisfaction (Aryee & Luk, 1996). Wolf and Frese, 2018; Powell and Eddleston, 2017 suggested that the impact of spousal emotional support should be measured separately to investigate its effect on entrepreneurial success.

The study aims to measure the quality of the exchange of spousal emotional support and its impact on entrepreneurs' performance. It will also explore any gender differences in the impact of spousal emotional support. The research questions include the correlation between spousal emotional support and entrepreneurial performance, as well as the impact of the quality of exchange of spousal emotional support on the individual performance of entrepreneurs.

Entrepreneurs require support from their spouses to overcome challenges and succeed in their ventures (Fong et al., 2007). Spousal emotional support, includes understanding, care, and affection which significantly influences entrepreneurs' well-being and performance (Hafner et al., 2019). Our study aims to develop a multidimensional scale to measure spousal emotional support received by married entrepreneurs as a singular construct by incorporating variables such as trust, commitment, perceived understanding, attributional confidence, evocation of jealousy and relationship satisfaction which are alluded to be components of spousal emotional support by Weber et al., 1996. This study will contribute to the field of entrepreneurship and family studies.

Literature Review

According to Weber and Patterson (1996), spousal emotional support is correlated with relational solidarity, trust, commitment, relationship satisfaction, attributional confidence, and perceived understanding. Rittenour and Martin (2008) suggested measuring these components to understand emotional support. In this research, a multidimensional scale was created to measure spousal emotional support as a singular construct. Attributional confidence, defined by Clatterbuck (1979), plays a role in predicting behaviors and reducing uncertainty in a relationship. Florack et al. (2001) stated that increased confidence in predicting behaviors leads to higher relationship satisfaction. Perceived understanding, as described by Itzhakov et al (2022) and Hinnekens et al (2020), is fundamental in supporting and resolving conflict in a relationship. Commitment, according to Józefacka et al. (2023) and Buyukbayraktar & Kesici (2020), is an intentional decision to maintain a marital relationship in the present and future. Trust, as discussed by Sawai et al. (2020) and Gondal et al. (2020), has a positive effect on the quality of marital relationships, leading to autonomy and independence. Relationship satisfaction, according to Walker et al. (2023) and Magallares et al. (2023), is associated with meeting needs, expectations, and resolving conflicts in a relationship. Romantic jealousy, as explained by Zheng et al. (2021) and Arshad & Imran (2022), can have both positive and negative effects on a relationship.

Entrepreneurial performance is crucial for business success, representing the achievement of set goals through the utilization of available opportunities and resources (Subedi, 2021). It is measured by factors such as production increase, business development, sales, and profitability (Sariwulan et al., 2020). Haber and Reichel (2005) define entrepreneurial performance as the amalgamation of short- and long-term profits, creating an efficient operational process. Venkataraman (2004) attributes it to the economic benefits derived from entrepreneurial activities. Individual traits and social relationships also significantly impact entrepreneurial performance (Mu et al., 2020). Our research focuses on individual entrepreneurial performance, measuring it through market share, profitability, return on investment, and sales growth (Sariwulan et al., 2020). Additionally, we explore the correlation between spousal emotional support and individual entrepreneurial performance using the theoretical lens of social exchange.

According to social exchange theory (Thibaut & Kelley, 1959), individuals aim to maximize rewards and minimize costs in social interactions. Social exchange theory suggests that spousal

emotional support can lead to improved entrepreneurial performance and wellbeing (Aycan & Eskin, 2005; Dickson, 2020; Shetty, & Hans, 2019).

Hypothesis Formulation

Spousal Emotional Support and Entrepreneurship Performance Emotions and emotional support are essential for entrepreneurs starting and developing their new ventures (Arregle et al., 2015). High-quality emotional support decreases negative emotions related to helplessness, anxiety, depression, and rejection, and increases positive emotions such as hope, love, gratitude, forgiveness, relief, and security (Erel et al., 2021). Health research shows that emotional support can provide potential recipients a safe space to feel, be heard, express feelings, and voice fear, reducing distress and loneliness (Cohen, 2004). We will investigate the impact of spousal emotional support as a singular construct on the individual performance of entrepreneurs, we will also investigate the impact of the individual components of the spousal emotional support on the individual performance of entrepreneurs.

H1: Spousal emotional support positively impacts entrepreneurial performance.

H2a: Spousal Trust positively impacts entrepreneurial performance.

H2b: Spousal Confidence in entrepreneurs positively impacts entrepreneurial performance.

H2c: Spousal Perceived Understanding positively impacts entrepreneurial performance.

H2d: Spousal Relationship satisfaction positively impacts entrepreneurial performance.

H2e: Spousal Commitment positively impacts entrepreneurial performance.

H2f: Spousal Jealousy evocation positively impacts entrepreneurial performance.

entrepreneurs.

Entrepreneurial performance is influenced by various factors, including the quality of socioeconomic and emotional exchanges between married entrepreneurs and their spouses (Blau, 1964). Our study aims to investigate the impact of spousal emotional support on entrepreneurs' individual performance, with a focus on the quality of reciprocity and exchanges as an intervening variable.

Hypothesis 3: Socioeconomic and emotional exchanges fully mediate the impact of spousal emotional support on entrepreneurs' individual performance.

Spousal emotional support is crucial for helping entrepreneurs overcome the fear of failure (Turulja et al., 2020). Cultural expectations influence how men and women entrepreneurs react to

perceived emotional support, particularly in the context of entrepreneurship (Klyver et al., 2020). Additionally, (Tagliabue and Lanz, 2009) alluded that there is a gender difference in the perception of spousal support within marital relationships, with women perceiving more support

Hypothesis 4: Our hypothesis posits no statistically significant distinction in the impact of spousal emotional support between male and female entrepreneurs.

Proposed Model

In the literature review of this research, four hypotheses were derived based on the theoretical backgrounds of spousal emotional support and entrepreneurial performance. We integrated the hypotheses to develop a conceptual model (figure 1).

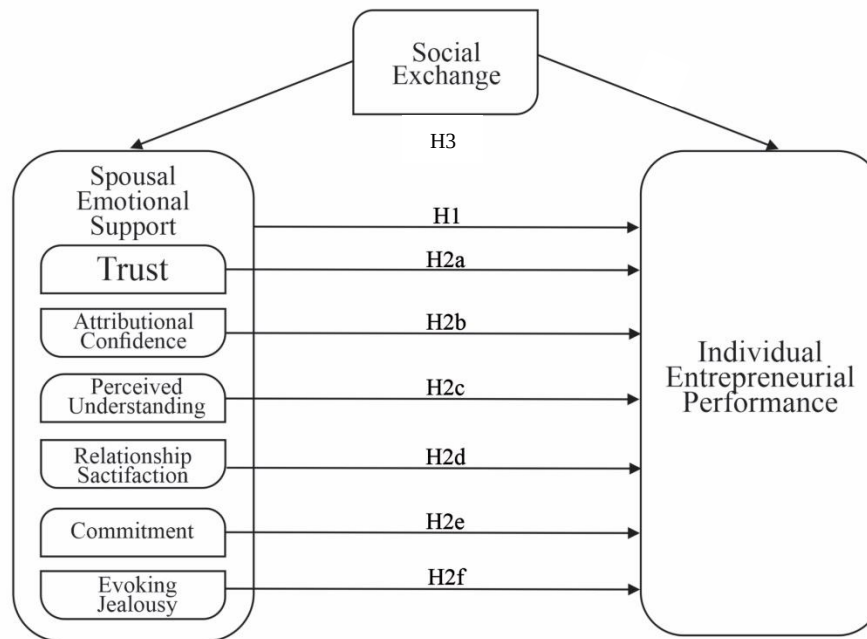


Figure 1: Conceptual Model

Study Methodology

The study employs a quantitative research design focusing on the relationship between spousal emotional support, social exchange, and entrepreneurial performance. The population sample consists of married entrepreneurs in Nigeria. The questionnaire measures both variables and demographic information. The study adopted eight existing validated scientific scales, we

distributed the survey via WhatsApp Messenger and emails. The results show that the participants are well-educated and mainly medium enterprises in terms of turnover and number of employees.

Demographic Information Sheet

The demographic information sheet contains questions to assess and understand the participants' characteristics, groupings, and commonalities and how these characteristics are affected by the different variables in the research. The demographic information in the questionnaire included age, ethnicity, gender, education, employment status before entrepreneurship, use of technology, spouse employment status, turnover and business sector. We conducted our analysis using IBM SPSS and AMOS software version 28.

Table 1: Demographic result

Demographics	Number of Respondent	Percentage
Gender		
Male	140	62.5
Female	84	37.5
Type of Entrepreneur		
Full-Time	210	93.8
Part-Time	14	6.2
Age		
25-34	15	6.7
35-44	59	26.3
45-54	102	45.5
55-64	47	21.0
Above 65	1	0.4
Education		
College Graduate	5	2.2
Diploma	8	3.6
First Degree	80	35.7
Masters	123	54.9
PhD	8	3.6
Work Experience		

Common Method Bias

Our analysis also controlled for common method bias, especially because all the indicators were self-reported. We determined if common method bias significantly influenced the model by conducting Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA), according to Harman's single factor test, we do not have problems with common method bias because the total variance extracted by one factor is 33.572% which is less than the recommended threshold of 50%. Therefore, the common method bias does not substantially impact our research.

Invariance across groups

We evaluated the metric invariance to establish the equivalence of the basic meaning of the constructs through factor loadings across male and female entrepreneurs. We have measurement invariance because of the non-significant of the measurement weights of $p=0.077$. meaning our constructs is the same across the male and female entrepreneurs.

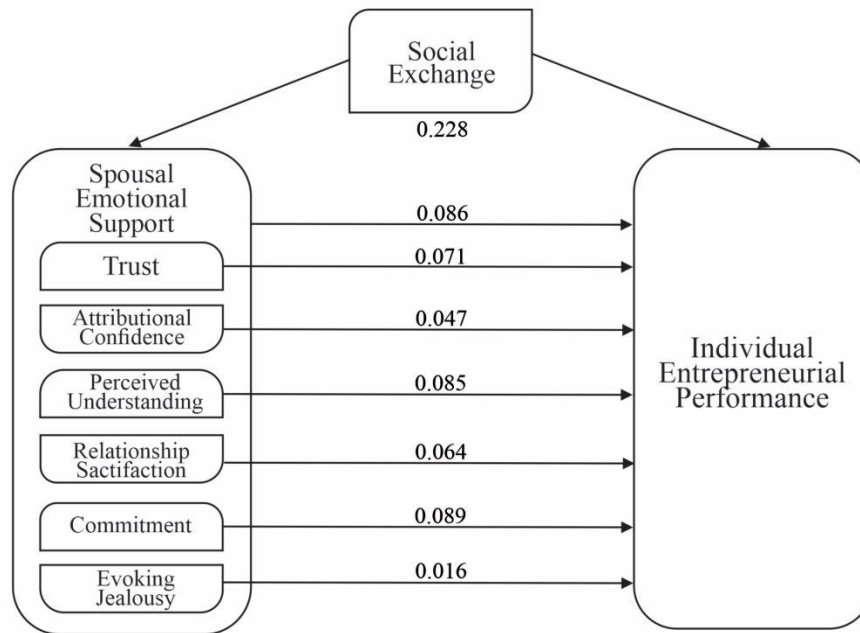
Structural Model

We created a model of our conceptual model on AMOS using variables from our pattern matrix data. The multidimensional emotional scale was the independent variable mediated by social exchange and the dependent variable was entrepreneurial performance. We examined the structural model for a good fit. The result of the structural model shows an acceptable fit $\chi^2(0) = 0$, CFI = 1, TLI=1, IFI=1, RMSEA = .489, PCLOSE = 0 as alluded by the recommended value on the summary of goodness of fit indices Henseler, and Sarstedt, (2013).

Table 4: Table showing Structural Equation Modelling Result.

Hypothesized Relationships	Standardize d Estimates	P- value	t-values	Hypothesis Supported
H1: Spousal emotional support received by entrepreneurs from their spouses positively impacts their entrepreneurial performance.	.086	0.195	-0.102	Not Supported
H2a: Spousal Trust positively impacts entrepreneurial performance.	-0.092	0.477	-0.712	Not supported

H2b:	Spousal Confidence	-0.034	0.707	-0.376	Not supported
positively impacts entrepreneurial performance.					
H2c:	Spousal perceived	0.02	0.864	0.171	Supported
understanding positively impacts entrepreneurial performance.					
H2d:	Spousal Relationship	-0.078	0.497	0.119	Not supported
satisfaction positively impacts entrepreneurial performance.					
H2e:	Spousal Commitment	0.064	0.578	0.556	Supported
positively impacts entrepreneurial performance.					
H2f:	Spousal Jealousy evocation	0.009	0.895	0.131	Supported
positively impacts entrepreneurial performance.					
Model Statistics: $\chi^2(0) = 0$, CFI = 1.00, TLI=.1.00, IFI=1.00, RMSEA = 0.489, PCLOSE = 0.					

Figure 3: Structural model fit

Mediation

We examined whether spousal emotional support received by entrepreneurs impacts their entrepreneurial performance through an intervening variable of socioeconomic and emotional exchanges that exist between entrepreneurs and their spouses by conducting mediation using 5000 bias-corrected bootstrapping resamples at a 95% bias-corrected confidence interval in Amos. We analyzed the relationship's direct and indirect effects and p values for mediating effects. The results of the hypotheses are summarized in the table below.

Table 5: Table showing the mediating effect of social exchange.

Relationship	Direct Effect	Indirect Effect	Conclusion
H3: Social exchange mediates the relationship between spousal emotional support and entrepreneurial performance.	-0.107	0.228***	Full mediation, hypothesis supported

Note: Estimates used for the indirect effects are unstandardized results.

*** indicates significance level of $p < .005$

Multiple Group Analysis

We conducted a two-group analysis to know if there are differences in the structural model relationship proposed across male and female entrepreneurs. The constrain 1 model across the male and female group shows the chi-square difference of impact of spousal emotional support on entrepreneurial performance); the result is $\chi^2(1) = .901$ with a p-value of 0.342. For group invariance, the standard is the significance of $\chi^2(1) = 3.84$ at the $p < .05$ level. The chi-square difference between the unconstrained and constrained models for spousal emotional support on the entrepreneurial performance of male and female entrepreneurs is below 3.84, which means there is no significant difference between the groups.

Although, the result of the standardized estimates weights from the multigroup analysis shows that spousal emotional support impacts entrepreneurial performance of female entrepreneurs more than male entrepreneurs but the result is not statistically significant.

Table 6: Multiple Group Difference Test

Hypothesized Relationship	Male	Female	Group difference
	Male	Female	$\Delta\chi^2/1DF$
			$\chi^2(1) = .901$
H4. Spousal Emotional Support impacts the Entrepreneurial of male and female entrepreneurs differently.	0.09(1.379)	0.1(1.379)	Not statistically significant

Model fit across groups: fit $\chi^2(0) = 0$, CFI = 1, GFI=1, IFI=1, RMSEA = 0, PCLOSE = 0.464.

Table 7: Hypothesis Summary Table.

<i>Direct Relationship</i>	<i>Evidence</i>	<i>Supported?</i>
H1: Spousal emotional support received by entrepreneurs from their spouses positively impacts their entrepreneurial performance.	Direct: 0.086	Yes

H2a: Spousal Trust positively impacts entrepreneurial performance.	Direct: 0.071	Yes	
H2b: Spousal Confidence positively impacts entrepreneurial performance.	Direct: 0.047	Yes	
H2c: Spousal perceived understanding positively impacts entrepreneurial performance.	Direct: 0.085	Yes	
H2d: Spousal Relationship satisfaction positively impacts entrepreneurial performance.	Direct: 0.064	Yes	
H2e: Spousal Commitment positively impacts entrepreneurial performance.	Direct: 0.089	Yes	
H2f: Spousal Jealousy evocation positively impacts entrepreneurial performance.	Direct: 0.016	Yes	
<i>Mediation</i>			
H3: Social exchange mediates the relationship between spousal emotional support and entrepreneurial performance.	Direct: -0.107 Indirect: 0.228***	Yes	(full mediation)
<i>Multi-group hypothesis</i>			
H4: The relationship between Spousal emotional support and Entrepreneurial performance will be stronger for females than males.	Males: 0.09 Females: 0.1 $\chi^2(1) = .901$	Yes	Slightly higher for female entrepreneurs by 0.01% but not at a statistically significant level.

Note: *** indicates a significance level of $p < .005$

Discussion

The study explores the impact of spousal emotional support as a singular construct on the entrepreneurial performance of married entrepreneurs. While the study shows a positive but not statistically significant relationship in the direct relationship, the quality of socio-emotional exchanges between entrepreneurs and their spouses shows a more pronounced and statistically significant impact on entrepreneurial performance. The study also highlights no gender disparity, indicating that spousal emotional support does not significantly impact on the entrepreneurial performance of female entrepreneurs compared to their male counterparts.

Study limitation and conclusion.

The study explores the impact of spousal emotional support on entrepreneurial performance and suggests future research to include entrepreneurs from other countries and non-married entrepreneurs. It also recommends using third-party assessments, conducting longitudinal research, and interviewing entrepreneurs and their spouses to understand the dynamics of spousal emotional support over time. The study concludes that spousal emotional support positively impacts entrepreneurial performance and suggests that organizations and policymakers should consider the importance of quality of spousal emotional support exchanges in married entrepreneurs.

References

- Arregle, J. L., Batjargal, B., Hitt, M. A., Webb, J. W., Miller, T., & Tsui, A. S. (2015). Family ties in entrepreneurs' social networks and new venture growth. *Entrepreneurship theory and Practice*, 39(2), 313-344. <https://doi.org/10.1111/etap.12044>
- Aryee, S., & Luk, V. (1996). Work and nonwork influences on the career satisfaction of dual earner couples. *Journal of vocational Behavior*, 49(1), 38-52. <https://doi.org/10.1006/jvbe.1996.0032>
- Arshad, A., & Imran, H. (2022). Partner phubbing, romantic jealousy and marital satisfaction among married individuals. *Applied Psychology Review*, 1(2). <https://doi.org/10.32350/apr.12.01>
- Aycan, Z., & Eskin, M. (2005). Relative contributions of childcare, spousal support, and organizational support in reducing work–family conflict for men and women: The case of Turkey. *Sex roles*, 53, 453-471. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11199-005-7134-8>
- Azamat, O., Fayzullokh, S., & Nilufar, A. (2023). The Impact of Entrepreneurship on Poverty Reduction. *International Journal of Professional Business Review: Int. J. Prof. Bus. Rev.*, 8(3), 9. <https://doi.org/10.26668/businessreview/2023.v8i3.1012>
- Büyükbayraktar, Ç. G., & Kesici, Ş. (2020). Commitment of married couples in marriage and dyadic adjustment prediction of commitment styles. *Research on Education and Psychology*, 4(2), 133-152. https://dergipark.org.tr/en/pub/rep/issue/57721/656697#article_cite
- Blau, P. M. (1964). Justice in social exchange. *Sociological inquiry*, 34(2). <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1475-682X.1964.tb00583.x>

- Caliendo, M., Kritikos, A. S., & Stier, C. (2023). The influence of start-up motivation on entrepreneurial performance. *Small Business Economics*, 61(3), 869-889. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11187-022-00722-6>
- Clatterbuck, G. W. (1979). Attributional confidence and uncertainty in initial interaction. *Human communication research*, 5(2), 147-157. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2958.1979.tb00630.x>
- Cohen, S. (2004). Social relationships and health. *American psychologist*, 59(8), 676. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0003-066x.59.8.676>
- Dickson, M. (2020). “He’s not good at sensing that look that says, I’m drowning here!” Academic mothers’ perceptions of spousal support. *Marriage & Family Review*, 56(3), 241-263. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01494929.2020.1712302>
- Erel, H., Trayman, D., Levy, C., Manor, A., Mikulincer, M., & Zuckerman, O. (2022). Enhancing emotional support: The effect of a robotic object on human–human support quality. *International Journal of Social Robotics*, 14(1), 257-276. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12369-021-00779-5>
- Florack, A., Scarabis, M., & Bless, H. (2001). When do associations matter? The use of automatic associations toward ethnic groups in person judgments. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 37(6), 518-524. <https://doi.org/10.1006/jesp.2001.1477>
- Fong, R., Busch, N. B., Armour, M., Heffron, L. C., & Chanmugam, A. (2007). Pathways to self sufficiency: Successful entrepreneurship for refugees. *Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work*, 16(1-2), 127-159. https://doi.org/10.1300/J051v16n01_05

- Gondal, M. U., Makhdoom, I. F., & Malik, N. I. (2020). Moderating role of trust within the relationship between machiavellianism and marital Satisfaction. *FWU Journal of Social Sciences*, 14(1), 28-36.
- Haber, S., & Reichel, A. (2005). Identifying performance measures of small ventures—the case of the tourism industry. *Journal of small business management*, 43(3), 257-286.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1540-627X.2005.00137.x>
- Hafner, N., Pepping, C. A., & Wertheim, E. H. (2019). Dispositional mindfulness, rejection sensitivity, and behavioural responses to rejection: The role of emotion regulation. *Australian Journal of Psychology*, 71(2), 163-170. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajpy.12224>
- Hu, M., Su, Y., & Zhang, H. (2021). Migrant entrepreneurship: The family as emotional support, social capital and human capital. *Emerging Markets Finance and Trade*, 57(12), 3367-3386.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/1540496X.2019.1693364>
- Itzchakov, G., Reis, H. T., & Weinstein, N. (2022). How to foster perceived partner responsiveness: High - quality listening is key. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, 16(1), e12648.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/spc3.12648>
- Vadnjal, J., & Vadnjal, M. (2013). The role of husbands: Support or barrier to women's entrepreneurial start-ups?. *African Journal of Business Management*, 7(36), 3730.
<https://doi.org/10.5897/ajbm11.3040>
- Józefacka, N. M., Szpakiewicz, E., Lech, D., Guzowski, K., & Kania, G. (2023). What Matters in a Relationship—Age, Sexual Satisfaction, Relationship Length, and Interpersonal Closeness as Predictors of Relationship Satisfaction in Young Adults. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 20(5), 4103.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph20054103>

- Klyver, K., Schenkel, M. T., & Nielsen, M. S. (2020). Can't always get what I want: Cultural expectations of emotional support in entrepreneurship. *International Small Business Journal*, 38(7), 677-690. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0266242620915>
- Magallares, A., Matera, C., Recio, P., & Molero, F. (2024). Psychometric properties of the Spanish version of the dyadic-familial relationship satisfaction scale. *Current Psychology*, 43(4), 3368-3380. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-023-04603-3>
- Mohamad, M. (2018). Alertness, Self-Efficacy, Social Networking and Malay Women Entrepreneurs' Success: The Moderating Effect of Work-Family Conflict.
- Mu, K., Shi, Q., Ma, Y., & Tan, J. (2020). Exploration of entrepreneurship education by linear regression and psychological factor analysis. *Frontiers in psychology*, 11, 2045. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2020.02045>
- Neneh, B. N., & Welsh, D. H. (2022). Family support and business performance of South African female technology entrepreneurs. *International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behavior & Research*, 28(6), 1631-1652. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJEBr-05-2021-0402>
- Powell, G. N., & Eddleston, K. A. (2017). Family involvement in the firm, family-to-business support, and entrepreneurial outcomes: An exploration. *Journal of Small Business Management*, 55(4), 614-631. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jsbm.12252>
- Praskova, A., Creed, P. A., & Hood, M. (2015). The development and initial validation of a career calling scale for emerging adults. *Journal of Career Assessment*, 23(1), 91-106. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1069072714523089>
- Rittenour, C. E., & Martin, M. M. (2008). Convergent validity of the communication based emotional support scale. *Communication Studies*, 59(3), 235-241. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10510970802257671>

- Sariwulan, T., Suparno, S., Disman, D., Ahman, E., & Suwatno, S. (2020). Entrepreneurial performance: The role of literacy and skills. *The Journal of Asian Finance, Economics and Business*, 7(11), 269-280.
- Sawai, J. P., Masdin, M., Sawai, R. P., Rathakrishnan, B., & Zahrin, S. N. A. (2020). Trust and commitment in maintaining marriage among teachers in commuting marriage in Kota Kinabalu Sabah. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 10(12), 745-754. <http://dx.doi.org/10.6007/IJARBS/v10-i12/8162>
- Shelton, L. M., Danes, S. M., & Eisenman, M. (2008). Role demands, difficulty in managing work family conflict, and minority entrepreneurs. *Journal of Developmental Entrepreneurship*, 13(03), 315-342. <https://doi.org/10.1142/S1084946708000983>
- Shetty, S. S., & Hans, V. (2019). Women Entrepreneurship in India-Issues and Challenges. *Research Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 10(4), 987-992. <https://doi.org/10.5958/2321-5828.2019.00162.1>
- Subedi, R. (2021). Entrepreneurial performance construct, its dimensions, measures and issues. *Interdisciplinary Journal of Management and Social Sciences*, 2(1), 172-179.
- Tagliabue, S., & Lanz, M. (2009). Perceived emotional support in family triads: Generation and gender differences. *TPM—Testing, Psychometrics, Methodology in Applied Psychology*, 16(2), 95-106.
- Thibaut, J. W. (2017). *The social psychology of groups*. Routledge.
- Turulja, L., Veselinovic, L., Agic, E., & Pasic-Mesihovic, A. (2020). Entrepreneurial intention of students in Bosnia and Herzegovina: what type of support matters?. *Economic research-Ekonomska istraživanja*, 33(1), 2713-2732.

- Tundui, H. P., & Tundui, C. S. (2021). Marriage and business performance: the case of women owned micro and small businesses in Tanzania. *Journal of Entrepreneurship in Emerging Economies*, 13(5), 1287-1308. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JEEE-06-2020-0202>
- Venkataraman, S. (2004). Regional transformation through technological entrepreneurship. *Journal of Business venturing*, 19(1), 153-167. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbusvent.2003.04.001>
- Walker, S. A., Pinkus, R. T., Olderbak, S., & MacCann, C. (2024). People with higher relationship satisfaction use more humor, valuing, and receptive listening to regulate their partners' emotions. *Current Psychology*, 43(3), 2348-2356. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-023-04432-4>
- Weber, K. D., & Patterson, B. R. (1996). Construction and validation of a communication based emotional support scale. *Communication Research Reports*, 13(1), 68-76. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08824099609362072>
- Wolf, K., & Frese, M. (2018). Why husbands matter: Review of spousal influence on women entrepreneurship in sub-Saharan Africa. *Africa Journal of Management*, 4(1), 1-32. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23322373.2018.1428019>
- Zheng, X., Xu, X., Xu, L., Kou, J., Luo, L., Ma, X., & Kendrick, K. M. (2021). Intranasal oxytocin may help maintain romantic bonds by decreasing jealousy evoked by either imagined or real partner infidelity. *Journal of Psychopharmacology*, 35(6), 668-680. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0269881121991576>