Within marital relationships, gender roles refer to wives’ and husbands’ beliefs about their own and their spouses’ gender role attitudes. For most couples, both spouses were born in Mexico (89%). Marital Status: 69% legally married, 31% living as married (consensual unions). 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Wives</th>
<th>Husbands</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>28.13</td>
<td>30.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>21.87</td>
<td>20.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>15.64</td>
<td>13.86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interview questions focused on family roles and marriage in the context of immigration. Interviews were conducted in Spanish and translated into English. We found a significant effect between cultural orientation and gender role attitudes for wives only. More specifically, wives’ cultural orientation was linked to wives’ gender role attitudes such that the more Anglo oriented, the less traditional wives’ attitudes. Cultural orientation, the less traditional wives’ gender role attitudes. This finding suggests that when husbands endorse familial values, the more Anglo-oriented they are, the less traditional their wives’ attitudes about gendered marital roles. Among husbands reporting low levels of familial values, the association between husbands’ cultural orientation and wives’ gender role attitudes was non-significant.

CONCLUSIONS & IMPLICATIONS

Understanding factors that contribute to spouses’ gender role attitudes are important because previous literature has shown that the most resilient couples are likely to embrace role flexibility in the context of immigration (Glick, 2010; Helms, et al., 2018). This study advances a more complex depiction of the historically prevailing, and relatively simplistic depictions of Latinos as “traditional” in their gender role attitudes. Our findings demonstrate within-group variability among a low-income sample of Mexican-origin couples and suggest that spouses’ gender role attitudes vary as part of a complex interaction between spouse’s own and—in some cases—their partner’s cultural orientations and familial values.

REFERENCES


