

UCI School of Education

The Interplay of Parenting, Values, and Culture-Specific Mechanisms on Prosocial Development

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Abstract: Cultural scholars have long noted the need for greater attention to understanding strengths and positive youth outcomes in ethnic/racial minority populations. One potential avenue to address this gap is the study of prosocial and moral development in ethnic/racial minority youth. Based on culturally-integrated frameworks, Carlo's research focuses on understanding the development, and correlates of prosocial development in U.S. Latinx populations. His approach is founded on the notion that culture-related mechanisms (cultural values, ethnic identity, enculturative practices, discrimination) help to account for individual and group variations in U.S. Latinx youth prosocial development. Findings from studies on U.S. Latinx populations are presented to demonstrate how cultural values are transmitted from caregivers (parents) to offspring, how culture-specific mechanisms are linked to prosocial and moral behaviors, and how culture-specific and prosocial mechanisms can protect/enhance positive adjustment. Implications for culturally-nuanced models of U.S. Latinx youth prosocial development, strength- and asset-based notions of culture and prosociality, and for effective intervention efforts are briefly discussed.



Bio: Gustavo Carlo is the Millsap Endowed Professor of Diversity and Multicultural Psychology at the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Missouri. He also is Founder and Co-Director of the Center for Children and Families Across Cultures. Carlo's research focuses on the sociocultural, socialization, and personality processes associated with helping behaviors in children and adolescents. His interests include prosocial and moral development among children and adolescents, parent-child and sibling relationships, and positive health and adjustment among Latino families and youth. In 2018, the Society for Research on Adolescence awarded Carlo the Outstanding Mentor Award. Carlo received his Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from Arizona State University in 1994.