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Authors

Pérez Cano, Maria de Guadalupe

Hermida, Maria Julia

Speranza, Trinidad Belén

et al.

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Family Configuration and Parenting Style in Vulnerable Migrant Adolescents

Pérez Cano, María d.G. (guadalupeperezcano@uca.edu.ar)

National Scientific and Technical Research Council; Godoy Cruz 2290, C1425 CABA, Argentina
Centro de Investigaciones en Psicología y Psicopedagogía, Universidad Católica Argentina; Alicia
Moreau de Justo 1800, C1107 CABA, Argentina

Hermida, María J. (juliahermida@gmail.com)

National Scientific and Technical Research Council; Godoy Cruz 2290, C1425 CABA, Argentina
Instituto de Educación, Universidad Nacional de Hurlingham; Tte. Manuel Origone 151, C1688
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Speranza, Trinidad B. (trinidadsperanza@uca.edu.ar)

National Scientific and Technical Research Council; Godoy Cruz 2290, C1425 CABA, Argentina
Centro de Investigaciones en Psicología y Psicopedagogía, Universidad Católica Argentina; Alicia
Moreau de Justo 1800, C1107 CABA, Argentina

Ramenzoni, Verónica C. (veronicaramenzoni@uca.edu.ar)

National Scientific and Technical Research Council; Godoy Cruz 2290, C1425 CABA, Argentina
Centro de Investigaciones en Psicología y Psicopedagogía, Universidad Católica Argentina; Alicia
Moreau de Justo 1800, C1107 CABA, Argentina

Abstract

Family Configuration (FC) is a key contextual factor in adolescence, yet its relationship with Parenting Styles (PS) in low-socioeconomic migrant families in Latin America remains underexamined. Building on the Family Stress Model (FSM; Conger et al., 2010), this study tests whether FC differences are associated with variations of PS affecting adolescents' cognitive and socio-emotional regulation through stress-related and social learning pathways. Ninety adolescents (ages 13–17) with migrant parents in economically vulnerable contexts in Argentina completed the Perceived Parenthood Scale (de la Iglesia, 2020). Chi-square analyses revealed a significant association between FC and PS ($\chi^2(6, 89) = 14.29, p = .002, V = .20$), with authoritarian parenting more frequent in single-parent families (marginal trend, $p = .063$). Stress-related demands in single-parent households may drive more rigid and control-oriented practices parenting, shaping adolescent self-regulation via modeling and reduced autonomy. This extends the FSM by highlighting cognitive pathways to an understudied population.