

CONFLICT RESOLUTION AMONG LATINO COUPLES

by

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This dissertation is dedicated to my husband, Stanley Bermúdez.

Thank you for loving and always being there for me.

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## ABSTRACT

Conflict resolution style was examined with 191 married Latino couples residing in Houston and Dallas, Texas, representing 21 different nationalities. The purpose of this research study was to examine conflict resolution styles most predominant among the Latino couples in the sample and to examine if various demographic data correlated with the couples conflict resolution style. The dependent variables were conflict resolution style (avoidance, volatile, and validator) using Gottman's MSI (Marital Conflict Scale, 1994). Using the same items on the MSI, and direct statements about Latino's communication from the MFT literature, other dependent variables were identified (unity, harmony, autonomy, conservatism and passion) with factor analysis and content analysis. The statistically significant independent variables were religion, language, education, and country of birth. The majority of this sample identified them selves as having a validating style of conflict resolution. Clinical implications for family therapists are discussed.

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