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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Culture and Partner Violence: Examining Loss of Face, Acculturation, Behavioral Intentions, and Risk Perception Among Asian American College Women

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Abstract

Purpose Partner violence (PV) among Asian American women is a significant problem, with a reported lifetime prevalence of 16–55% in this population. Sociocultural values, such as loss of face and acculturation, are associated with differences in how Asian American women respond to PV, such as being less likely to disclose their victimization and more likely to remain in an abusive relationship. The purpose of the present study was to examine the impact of cultural factors on in-the-moment behavioral intentions, risk perception, and perceived likelihood of staying in the abusive relationship among Asian American college women.

Method Participants ($N = 324$) were presented with a progressively threatening PV vignette. We tested three path models, each assessing the associations among loss of face, acculturation, current and future risk perception, perceived likelihood of staying in the relationship, and one of three behavioral intentions (soothe, escape, or escalate/resist).

Results Depending on time and context, loss of face may be a risk factor, whereas acculturation may be a protective factor impacting Asian American college women's behavioral intentions and risk perception of PV.

Conclusion This is the first study to examine impact of sociocultural variables on multiple in-the-moment behavioral intentions and risk perceptions of Asian American college women in response to PV. Our findings can inform campus-wide PV prevention and intervention efforts for Asian American college women.

Keywords Asian American · Woman · College students · Partner violence · Acculturation · Loss of face · Risk perception · Behavioral intentions

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Partner violence (PV)[1], defined as physical, sexual, or psychological aggression by a romantic partner or spouse (Saltzman et al., 2002), is a serious epidemic that significantly affects people of Asian descent in the U.S. (Kim & Schmuhl, 2020). Asian American women are particular at risk of experiencing PV. For instance, studies with random and community samples indicate that 16–55% Asian American women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetimes (e.g., Hicks et al., 2006; Yoshihama & Horrocks, 2003). A history of PV has been linked to increased risk of physical health problems, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depressive and anxiety symptoms, and suicidal ideation in Asian American women (Hurwitz et al., 2006; Yoshihama & Horrocks, 2003).

College-aged Asian American women may be particularly vulnerable to PV and its deleterious impact. Emerging adulthood is associated with high rates of PV across sociodemographic groups, including college students generally (Baker & Stith, 2008; Desmarais et al., 2012; Shorey et al., 2011; Smith et al., 2017). Further, women of color face increased risk of PV and sociocultural barriers to help-seeking (Barrios et al., 2021). Through the lens of intersectionality which captures the complexity of one's interacting social identities (e.g., race, culture, gender, age) and its influence on their lived experiences (Crenshaw, 1991), Asian American female college students may be vulnerable to PV due to their intersecting marginalized and at-risk identities. The few studies documenting the prevalence of PV among Asian American youth and college students supported this hypothesis. For example, Choi-Misailidis and colleagues (2008) reported that 57% of their Asian American youth sample reported experiencing emotional or psychological abuse in their relationships. In another study assessing PV prevalence among ethnic minority college students, psychological abuse was reported by 37% and sexual abuse was reported by 15% of Asian American students (Porter & Williams, 2011). These data indicate that additional work to identify mechanisms driving the association between intersecting at-risk identities (e.g., being Asian, a woman, and a college student) and PV are warranted.

Behavioral Intentions and Risk Perception in Response to PV

According to the Theory of Planned Behavior, thoughtful actions and decisions are immediately determined by behavioral intentions (TPS; Ajzen & Madden, 1986). In the context of PV, women's intention to remain in or leave an abusive relationship may be influenced by their general perception of the situation (Byrne & Arias, 2004). Further, the perception of personal risk regarding a PV situation can predict women's behavioral intention to leave a relationship (Harding & Helweg-Larsen, 2009). Findings support the behavioral motivation hypothesis, which states that in a negative event, risk perceptions can lead to actual behavioral change to minimize personal risk (Brewer et al., 2004). Thus, to fully understand how women will respond to an acute PV situation, it is important to assess both behavioral intentions and risk perception during moments of PV.

The Social-Ecological Model (SEM; Bronfenbrenner, 1979) proposes that experiences and responses to PV are influenced by individual, relationship, community, and societal level factors (Krug et al., 2002; CDC, 2009). The few published studies with Asian American samples have applied this model to identify sociocultural factors related to PV in this population. For example, Pinnewala (2009) tailored the SEM to investigate the importance of cultural contexts on Sri Lankan women's responses to PV. Examples of said contexts emphasized the importance of culturally-specific values regarding women's behavioral intentions and risk perception in response to PV. Thus, examining common sociocultural factors can provide a framework for understanding behavioral intentions and risk perception of PV among Asian American women in order to determine points of intervention to support their safety.

Sociocultural Factors and Asian American Women's Response to PV[2]

A sociocultural factor that may shape Asian American women's behavioral intentions and risk perception of PV is the loss of social face (i.e., threat to social integrity that is linked to one's and/or their family honor). Although this construct may manifest differently across Asian cultures, preservation of social face is an important traditional value for many Asian families (Yee et al., 2007). Such preservation may be protective against PV in some contexts because perpetration of PV may pose a potential threat to one's social face (Hall et al., 2005). However, fear for loss of face might also motivate secrecy regarding relationship conflict or violence, thereby discouraging those who experience it from reporting, escaping, or seeking help (Shim & Hwang, 2005). For example, Shiu-Thorton et al. (2005) found that Vietnamese American women felt shame for experiencing PV and believed that it was a private matter not to be disclosed to others. Further, participants reported a preference for

[1] Although the term "intimate partner violence" is commonly seen in literature, the authors recognized the lack of genuine intimacy in abusive relationships (Bornstein, 2006), and thereby used "partner violence" to refer to violence between romantic partners in this paper.

[2] It is Important to note that the Influence of Cultural Factors may vary Across Asian Cultures due to the Diversity of Sociohistorical Contexts in These Cultures (Ozaki & Otis, 2017)

remaining in the relationship due to fear of bringing shame to their family. Another qualitative study with Cambodian American women found that PV is often viewed as the woman's fault; thus, disclosure of PV to outsiders (e.g., the police) would bring shame to their family and could result in ostracization by the community (Bhuyan et al., 2005). Similarly, findings from a quantitative study with Asian Indian women implicated that avoidance of social stigma that may be placed upon oneself and/or family may prevent Asian Indian women from seeking help for PV (Kim & Hogge, 2015).

In addition to loss of face, acculturation is another sociocultural construct that may impact women's behavioral intentions and risk perception of PV. Acculturation is a complex and multidimensional process that is fluid over time. However, fundamentally, acculturation refers to the extent to which traditional culture is maintained versus relinquished in order to adopt the host culture (Leong et al., 2011). Among Asian American women, more acculturation to American values has been associated with more willingness to seek professional help in the hypothetical contexts of PV (Kim & Hogge, 2015). Asian American women's responses to lived experiences of PV may also be affected by their level of acculturation. Higher acculturation may indicate higher likelihood of behaviors that are more encouraged in American host culture (e.g., escaping the relationship and seeking external help), whereas less acculturation may be associated with more traditional cultural behaviors (e.g., remaining in the relationship; Kim & Hogge, 2015).

Taken together, these studies suggest that sociocultural factors may significantly impact Asian American women's behavioral intentions and risk perception of PV. In particular, Asian American women may be at risk for remaining in harmful PV situations due to a culturally-congruent concern for loss of face. Within the SEM framework, level of acculturation and loss of face may operate on individual, relational, community, and societal levels, to influence the women's PV experiences (Krug et al., 2002).

The Current Study

To this date, there remains a dearth of empirical investigation on how sociocultural factors are linked to Asian American women's responses to PV. The present study is the first to examine associations among sociocultural factors (i.e., loss of face and acculturation) and in-the-moment behavioral intentions and risk perception during an experimental PV scenario presented to a sample of Asian American college women. We used an experimental paradigm based on a vignette of a hypothetical PV scenario to activate acute visceral states to assess in-the-moment behavioral intentions and risk perception of PV. Extant research with non-Asian samples has shown strong associations between vignette paradigms and real-world behaviors (e.g., Messman-Moore & Brown, 2006), reflecting the significant contributions of this methodologic paradigm.

In the present study, we aim to address these knowledge gaps by testing three path models. Each path examines the associations among loss of face, acculturation, current and future risk perception, potential likelihood of staying in a violent relationship, and three potential behavioral intentions (soothe, escape, escalate/resist) in response to escalating intensity of PV. We chose these potential behavioral intentions based on qualitative PV responses from a separate sample of Asian American college women. Soothing the perpetrator, escaping the situation, and escalating/resisting against the perpetrator emerged as the most common behavioral intentions (Nguyen et al., 2016). Results informed the use of these behavioral intentions in the current study.

Following the literature on Asian American women's coping strategies in PV situations, we categorized behavioral intentions into active and passive coping (Yoshihama, 2002). Specifically, we conceptualized "escaping the situation" as an active coping strategy, and "soothing the perpetrator" and "escalating the situation/resisting the perpetrator"—in which the individual maintains direct contact with the PV perpetrator—as passive coping strategies. Research has linked active coping strategies to lower psychological distress among U.S.-born Japanese women (Yoshihama, 2002). These prior findings warrant consideration of coping strategies and associated outcomes in PV situations among Asian American women.

Hypotheses for Behavioral Intentions

For the model examining soothe behavioral intentions (passive coping), we hypothesized that stronger endorsement of loss of face would be associated with stronger soothe behavioral intentions, given concerns about keeping the situation private which may increase motivation to de-escalate via soothing the partner (Bhuyan et al., 2005).

For the model examining escape behavioral intentions (active coping), we hypothesized that higher loss of face would be associated with weaker escape behavioral intentions because of a desire to minimize chances of causing a scene with the perpetrator. Further, leaving may require help from another person, which may threaten privacy and result in losing face (Bhuyan et al., 2005).

For the model examining escalate/resist behavioral intentions (passive coping), we hypothesized that higher loss of face would be associated with weaker escalate/resist behavioral intentions, since actions that escalate the situation are likely to bring public attention (Hall et al., 1998). Thus, a high threat of losing face may inhibit intentions to resist in order to keep the situation contained (Shiu-Thorton et al., 2005).

For all three models, we hypothesized that acculturation would be negatively correlated with the loss of face, as stronger acculturation reflects more endorsement of American values and less endorsement of traditional values (Leong et al., 2011).

Hypotheses for Risk Perceptions

Due to cognitive dissonance, people prefer consistency across their beliefs and behaviors, thus, may change their beliefs to be more consistent with their behaviors (Festinger & Carlsmith, 1959). In other words, behavioral intentions may be salient cues influencing women's risk perception. Thus, we hypothesized that using the passive strategy of continuing to engage with the perpetrator—either in a soothing or escalating/resisting manner—would be associated with an increased likelihood that participants perceive a lower risk of PV. In contrast, using the active strategy of escaping the situation would be significantly associated with higher risk perception. In all three models, we hypothesized that current and future risk perception would negatively predict perceived likelihood of staying in the relationship.

Methods

Participants and Recruitment

A convenience sample of Asian American college women was recruited through an undergraduate subject pool at a large, selective state university in an urban setting. The study was described as an examination of college students' perspectives on dating relationships and was part of a larger study to assess partner violence experiences and attitudes among college students of all genders ($N = 1{,}442$). Given the higher rates of male-perpetrated PV compared to female-perpetrated PV against women (Tjaden & Thoennes, 2000), we examined data only from the Asian American subsample of college women who reported that they had ever had a male sexual partner for the current study ($n = 324$). The mean age of this sample was 19.20 years old ($SD = 2.36$). 60% reported not dating anyone exclusively, and 40% reported being in an exclusive relationship at the time of data collection. The majority of participants had completed some college (63% freshmen, 18% sophomores, and 19% third year or above).

Procedure

All procedures were conducted online. Data were collected using [redacted], a proprietary, university-based survey software that offers encrypted data transmission using SSL (https) and the ability to disable IP logging to increase confidentiality. The software also prevents any individual from completing the survey more than once. Participation took 1–2 hours, and participants received two hours of credit towards a course's research requirement. Participants provided consent, completed background questionnaires, and responded to a PV scenario. Participants were then given a debriefing form with investigators' contact information and referral information for mental health assessment and treatment.

Measures

Demographics We assessed participants' age, gender, racial identification, year in school, and relationship status.

Acculturation We used the Suinn-Lew Asian Self-Identity Acculturation Scale (SL-ASIA; Suinn et al., 1987) to assess participants' level of acculturation to U.S./American culture. SL-ASIA is a linear, unidimensional scale that includes 25 multiple choice items covering language, identity, friendship, behaviors, generation, geographic history, and attitudes. Answer choices range from 1 (low acculturation) to 5 (high acculturation). An example item includes, "*What is your movie preference?*" with response options, (1) Asian-language movies only, (2) Asian-language movies mostly, (3) Equally Asian/English movies, (4) English-language movies mostly, and (5) English-language movies only. The scale demonstrated high reliability in previous research with Asian American college students ($\alpha = 0.88$; Suinn et al., 1987).

Loss of Face We used the Loss of Face Scale (LOF; Zane & Yeh, 2002) to assess the extent to which participants avoid situations or behaviors related to loss of face. The scale includes 21 items ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) with higher scores representing higher loss of face ratings. An example item includes, "*I am more affected when someone criticizes me in public than when someone criticizes me in private.*" The scale demonstrated high reliability in previous research with college student samples ($\alpha = 0.83$; Zane & Yeh, 2002).

Behavioral Intentions and Risk Perception of PV To examine these variables, we created a hypothetical PV situation that progresses over time in various settings ranging from very public to very private. Participants were asked to project themselves into the story as the protagonist and respond to questions as though events were actually happening to them. We wrote the scenario in the second person ("*You and Eric have been going out*") to maximize the likelihood of eliciting real-life responses. We presented four segments of the vignette, each followed by a Question Break to assess the participant's reactions. Vignettes

and questions in this format have been used in prior studies (e.g., Davis et al., 2009; Schacht et al., 2010).

PV Scenario and Responses

The scenario depicted a situation between the protagonist and a hypothetical male partner (Eric) whom she has been dating for over two months. Eric's race was not specified so participants could project their usual dating partner's race onto him. The scenario started with the protagonist and Eric going to a party together. Upon arrival, Eric poured drinks for both of them. To allow participants to project their typical drinking behavior into the story, the content of the drinks was not specified, and drinking was not mentioned again in the scenario (although, given the context, it is likely that some participants inferred a role of alcohol in the narrative). Drinking was included in the scenario to reflect the common alcohol use among Asian American college students, whose drinking rates are comparable to or higher than those of a national sample of American college students of different ethnic backgrounds (So & Wong, 2006).

During the party, Eric became jealous and angry that the protagonist was exchanging phone numbers with a male classmate (Shaun), ostensibly to borrow his notes from a class that she had missed. Eric pushed Shaun, who stumbled and fell (Question Break 1). The protagonist and Eric left the party and went to Eric's house. Eric's behavior escalated to yelling and name-calling (Question Break 2). Then Eric shoved the protagonist against a wall, pinning her there while shouting at her (Question Break 3). The story ended with the protagonist feeling scared of Eric. She asked him to calm down and let her go, and he did (Question Break 4).

During the Question Breaks, participants answered questions about three possible behavioral intentions they might have (soothe, escape, escalate/resist) in response to the PV situation on a scale of 1 (not at all likely) to 5 (very likely). Soothe behavioral intentions consisted of seven items, such as, "*At this point, how likely are you to keep trying to reassure Eric?*" Escape intentions consisted of 10 items, such as, "*At this point, how likely are you to leave?*" Escalate/resist intentions consisted of six items, such as, "*At this point, how likely are you to stay and fight with him?*"

At Question Break 4, participants also answered questions about perceptions of current and future risk that Eric would physically hurt them. Current risk perception was measured with one item, "*How likely is Eric to physically hurt you tonight?*" Future risk perception was measured with two items, "*How likely is Eric to physically hurt you at another time?*" and "*How likely is Eric to get angry like this again?*" Risk perception was assessed at Question Break 4, as this was when Eric's behavior had escalated to include physical aggression, indicating a clear risk of physical harm to the protagonist. Thus, accurate risk perception at this time was important for her safety.

Participants also answered one question regarding the likelihood of staying in the relationship in the face of physical assault, "*How likely would you be to stay in a relationship with Eric if he hit you?*" (1 = not at all likely to 5 = very likely). Finally, we asked participants questions about their evaluation of the story (1 = not at all to 5 = very realistic). Participants evaluated the story as realistic ($M = 3.81$, $SD = 1.07$) and found it relatively easy to project themselves into it as the protagonist ($M = 3.49$, $SD = 1.25$).

Data Analytic Approach

We conducted three path analysis models, one for each behavioral intention (soothe, escape, escalate/resist; see Figs. 1 and 2, and 3), using Mplus 6. All measures were assessed for skew and kurtosis, missing data, and outliers (West et al., 1995). Missing data accounted for 1–10% of a given measure, and we used maximum likelihood estimation for missing data.

Current practice emphasizes the importance of using multiple fit indices to assess model fit; thus, we selected the following: chi-square test of independence (X^2; a significant X^2 indicates that the specified model does not fit the data); root-mean-squared error of approximation ($RMSEA < 0.05$ indicates very good fit, 0.05–0.08 indicates adequate fit, and > 0.1 indicates poor fit); standardized root mean square residual ($SRMR$; < 0.06 indicates good fit, 0.06–0.10 indicates adequate fit, and > 0.1 indicates poor fit); and the comparative fit index ($CFI; \geq 0.95$ indicates good fit). Since the X^2 test has been shown to be highly sensitive to sample size—which could lead either to rejecting adequate models or retaining inadequate models—we also used the normed X^2 index ($NC; < 3.0$ indicates good fit) to assess model fit (Hu & Bentler, 1999; Kline, 2005). In assessing model fit, when the hypothesized model did not have good fit, we examined modification indices to consider alternative models or paths that were theoretically sound.

Results

Path Analysis

We present means, standard deviations, and range of participants' responses for each variable included in the three models in Table 1. We present covariance matrices for variables included in the final soothe, escape, and escalation/resistance models in Table 2. We present standardized coefficients in the final path models (Figs. 1 and 2, and 3); all paths depicted are significant.

Table 1 Descriptive statistics for all variables used in models

Variable	*M (SD)*	Range	*n*
Loss of Face	3.20 (0.56)	1.00–5.00	320
Acculturation	3.10 (0.51)	1.77–4.40	315
Escalate Time 1	3.96 (0.87)	1.00–5.00	285
Soothe Time 1	2.10 (0.82)	1.00–4.50	285
Escape Time 1	2.37 (0.94)	1.00–5.00	284
Escalate Time 2	3.27 (1.38)	1.00–5.00	284
Soothe Time 2	2.13 (1.23)	1.00–5.00	285
Escape Time 2	4.25 (0.98)	1.00–5.00	285
Escalate Time 3	3.51 (1.41)	1.00–5.00	285
Soothe Time 3	2.72 (0.92)	1.00–5.00	285
Escape Time 3	4.43 (1.09)	1.00–5.00	284
Escalate Time 4	1.37 (0.76)	1.00–5.00	284
Soothe Time 4	2.05 (1.10)	1.00–5.00	284
Escape Time 4	3.30 (0.84)	1.00–5.00	285
Current Risk Perception	3.66 (1.23)	1.00–5.00	282
Future Risk Perception	4.20 (1.04)	1.00–5.00	284
Stay in Relationship	1.18 (0.59)	1.00–5.00	282

Soothe Model The hypothesized soothe model (Fig. 1) did not adequately fit the data, $X^2(23) = 142.52$, $p < .01$, $RMSEA = 0.13$, $CFI = 0.68$, and $SRMR = 0.11$. We added paths based on modification indices and theoretical considerations; the final model fit the data well (Fig. 1). The X^2 index remained significant, $X^2(16) = 33.14$, $p = .01$, suggesting that the model may be a poor fit. However, given that the X^2 test may be overpowered to reject adequate models, it is standard practice to use *NC* (X^2 / *df*) and other fit indices to determine fit. The *NC (2.07), RMSEA* (0.06), *CFI* (0.95), and *SRMR* (0.04) indicated a good fit (Hu & Bentler, 1999; Kline, 2005).

Variance in this model was accounted for by soothe intentions at Time 1 ($R^2 = 0.03$), Time 2 ($R^2 = 0.03$), Time 3 ($R^2 = 0.01$), Time 4 ($R^2 = 0.31$), current risk perception ($R^2 = 0.05$), future risk perception ($R^2 = 0.09$), and a perceived likelihood of remaining in the relationship ($R^2 = 0.07$). The squared multiple correlations indicate that a moderate amount of variance was accounted for in this model.

In the final path model (Fig. 1), significant indirect effects emerged for loss of face predicting current and future risk perceptions through soothe intentions at Time 4, such that higher loss of face predicted lower current ($\beta = -0.03$, $SE = 0.01$) and future risk perception ($\beta = -0.04$, $SE = 0.02$). Further, soothe intentions at Time 1 predicted the perceived likelihood of staying in the relationship through soothe intentions at Time 2, such that stronger soothe intentions at Time 1 predicted a greater perceived likelihood of staying in the relationship ($\beta = 0.03$, $SE = 0.01$).

Escape Model The hypothesized escape model (Fig. 2) did not adequately fit the data, X^2 (23) = 164.57, $p < .01$, $RMSEA = 0.14$, $CFI = 0.70$, and $SRMR = 0.12$. We added paths based on modification indices and theoretical considerations. The final model (Fig. 2) fit the data well, $X^2(19) = 27.86$, $p = .09$, $NC = 1.47$, $RMSEA = 0.04$, $CFI = 0.98$, and $SRMR = 0.04$. A large amount of variance was accounted for in this model by escape intentions at Time 1 ($R^2 = 0.01$), Time 2 ($R^2 = 0.09$), Time 3 ($R^2 = 0.10$), Time 4 ($R^2 = 0.37$), current risk perception ($R^2 = 0.21$), future risk perception ($R^2 = 0.21$), and perceived likelihood to remain in the relationship ($R^2 = 0.02$).

In the final path model (Fig. 2), significant indirect effects emerged for acculturation predicting current and future risk perception through escape intentions at times 2 and 4, such that higher acculturation predicted greater current ($\beta = 0.05$, $SE = 0.02$) and future risk perception ($\beta = 0.04$, $SE = 0.01$). Acculturation also predicted future risk perception through escape intentions at times 2 and 3, such that higher acculturation predicted more future risk perception ($\beta = 0.01$, $SE = 0.004$). Escape intention at Time 1 predicted perceived likelihood of staying in the relationship through its effects on escape intentions at Time 4 and future risk perception, such that stronger escape intentions were associated with lower perceived likelihood of remaining in the relationship ($\beta = -0.01$, $SE = 0.007$). Finally, indirect effects of acculturation on the perceived likelihood of staying in the relationship through escape intentions at times 2 and 4 and future risk perception were significant ($\beta = -0.01$, $SE = 0.005$, $p = .05$), such that higher acculturation was associated with lower perceived likelihood of remaining in the relationship.

Escalate/Resist Model The hypothesized escalate/resist model (Fig. 3) did not adequately fit the data, $X^2(23) = 69.89$, $p < .01$, $RMSEA = 0.08$, $CFI = 0.89$, and $SRMR = 0.07$. We added paths based on modification indices and theoretical considerations; the final model (Fig. 3) fits the data well. The X^2 index was significant, $X^2(16) = 26.65$, $p = .05$; however, the *NC* (1.67), *RMSEA* (0.05), *CFI* (0.98), and *SRMR* (0.05) indices indicated good fit. A moderate amount of variance was accounted for in this model by escalate/resistance intentions at Time 1 ($R^2 = 0.05$), Time 2 ($R^2 = 0.10$), Time 3 ($R^2 = 0.38$), Time 4 ($R^2 = 0.09$), current risk perception ($R^2 = 0.02$), future risk perception ($R^2 = 0.04$), and perceived likelihood to remain in the relationship ($R^2 = 0.05$).

In the final path model (Fig. 3), significant indirect effects were found for acculturation predicting escalation/resistance intentions at Time 3 through escalation/resistance intentions at Times 1 and 2 ($\beta = 0.03$, $SE = 0.01$), such

Table 2 Covariance matrix for final fit models

Variable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Final model for soothe behavioral intentions									
1. Soothe 1	0.67	-							
2. Soothe 2	0.17	1.51	-						
3. Soothe 3	0.06	0.13	0.84	-					
4. Soothe 4	0.19	0.64	0.30	1.20	-				
5. Current Risk Perception	-0.17	-0.24	0.02	-0.24	1.51	-			
6. Future Risk Perception	-0.12	-0.29	0.02	-0.30	0.89	1.07	-		
7. Stay in Relationship	0.08	0.15	0.07	0.11	-0.03	-0.08	0.35	-	
8. Loss of Face	0.06	0.07	0.04	0.13	0.04	-0.02	0.01	0.32	-
9. Acculturation	-0.06	0.04	0.02	-0.05	0.07	0.11	-0.05	-0.07	0.26
Final model for escape behavioral intentions									
1. Escape 1	0.87	-							
2. Escape 2	0.20	0.95	-						
3. Escape 3	0.12	0.30	1.17	-					
4. Escape 4	0.23	0.48	0.19	0.70	-				
5. Current Risk Perception	0.21	0.38	0.19	0.47	1.51	-			
6. Future Risk Perception	0.13	0.37	0.29	0.37	0.89	1.07	-		
7. Stay in Relationship	0.02	-0.09	-0.07	-0.04	-0.03	-0.08	0.35	-	
8. Loss of Face	-0.02	-0.07	-0.02	-0.04	0.04	-0.01	0.01	0.32	-
9. Acculturation	0.04	0.11	0.12	0.06	0.07	0.11	-0.04	-0.07	0.26
Final model for escalation/resistance behavioral intentions									
1. Escalation/Resistance 1	0.75	-							
2. Escalation/Resistance 2	0.33	1.91	-						
3. Escalation/Resistance 3	0.32	1.19	1.99	-					
4. Escalation/Resistance 4	-0.06	0.21	0.20	0.58	-				
5. Current Risk Perception	0.11	0.30	0.24	0.04	1.52	-			
6. Future Risk Perception	0.15	0.20	0.17	-0.08	0.89	1.07	-		
7. Stay in Relationship	-0.07	-0.04	-0.04	0.09	-0.03	-0.08	0.35	-	
8. Loss of Face	-0.02	-0.05	-0.09	0.04	0.04	-0.02	0.01	0.32	-
9. Acculturation	0.10	0.15	0.09	-0.06	0.07	0.11	-0.05	-0.07	0.26

The size of each covariance estimate indicates the degree of predictability of the association between two variables, while the sign indicates the direction of such association

that higher acculturation predicted stronger escalation/resistance intentions later. Acculturation also predicted escalation/resistance intentions at Time 4 through escalation/resistance intentions at Time 1 ($\beta = -0.04$, $SE = 0.02$), such that higher acculturation predicted weaker escalation/resistance intentions later. Finally, escalation/resistance intentions at Time 1 predicted perceived likelihood of staying in relationship through its effects on escalation/resistance intentions later, such that stronger escalation/resistance intentions were associated with lower perceived likelihood of remaining in the relationship ($\beta = -0.03$, $SE = 0.02$).

Discussion

To examine cultural predictors of Asian American college women's in-the-moment behavioral intentions and risk perception of PV, we examined the associations among loss of face, acculturation, current and future PV risk perception, the perceived likelihood of remaining in the hypothetical relationship, and three behavioral intentions—soothe, escape, and escalation/resistance—when confronted with an aggressive dating partner in a written PV vignette. In each of the three final path models, a moderate to large amount of variance was accounted for by the included variables

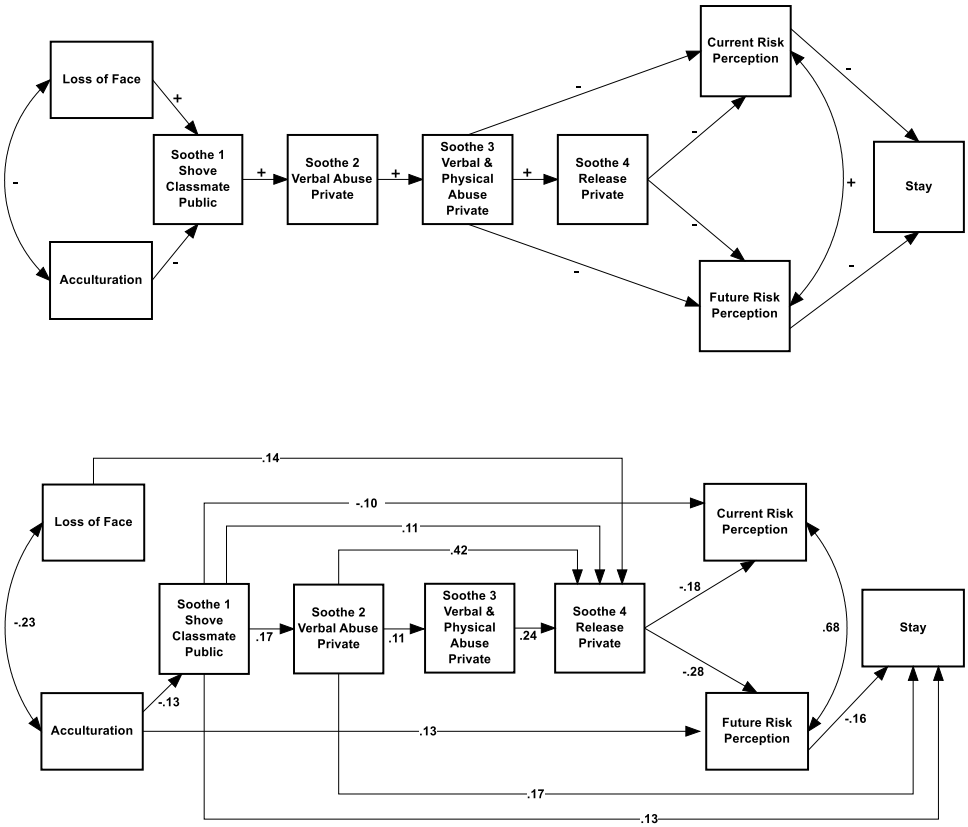

Fig. 1 Hypothesized and final model of the relations among loss of face, acculturation, soothe behavioral intentions, current and future risk perception, and likelihood of staying in the relationship. *Note*. All paths shown are significant ($p < .05$). Standardized coefficients are presented. Each number next to the behavioral intention variable indicates the time label (e.g., "Soothe 1" corresponds to Time 1)

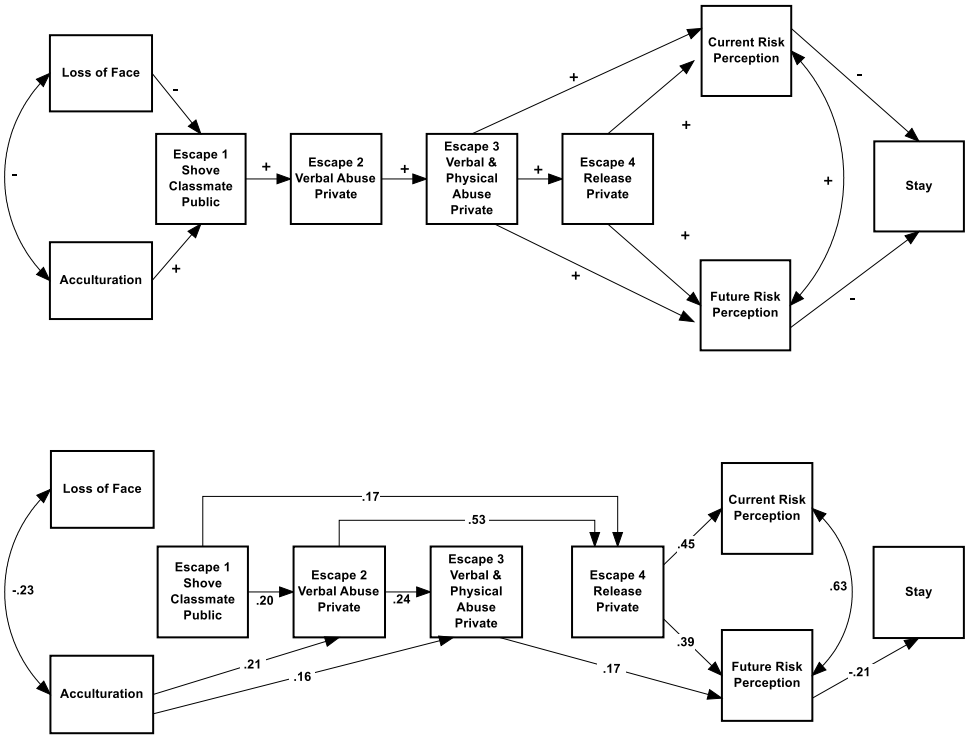

Fig. 2 Hypothesized and final models of the relations among loss of face, acculturation, escape behavioral intentions, current and future risk perception, and likelihood of staying in the relationship. *Note*. All paths shown are significant ($p < .05$). Standardized coefficients are presented. Each number next to the behavioral intention variable indicates the time label (e.g., "Escape 1" corresponds to Time 1)

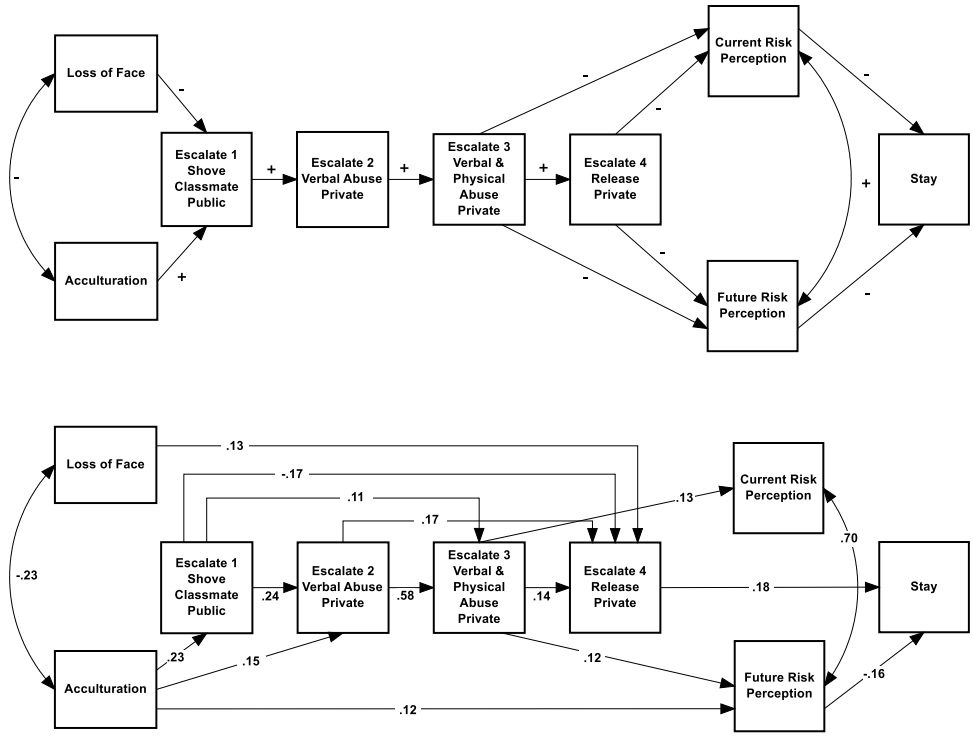

Fig. 3 Hypothesized and final models of the relations among loss of face, acculturation, escalation/resistance behavioral intentions, current and future risk perception, and likelihood of staying in the relationship. *Note.* All paths shown are significant ($p < .05$). Standardized coefficients are presented. Each number next to the behavioral intention variable indicates the time label (e.g., "Escalate 1" corresponds to Time 1)

(Foster et al., 2018). Our findings indicate that loss of face and acculturation was associated with Asian American college women's in-the-moment behavioral intentions and risk perception of a hypothetical PV situation.

Findings suggest that individuals with higher loss of face concerns may be at increased PV risk, due to their higher perceived likelihood to soothe and escalate/resist an aggressive dating partner, reflecting low risk perception and increased likelihood of staying in the relationship. On the other hand, acculturation may be a protective factor. Participants high in acculturation (vs. those low in acculturation) reported fewer intentions to soothe, more intentions to escape, higher risk perception, and reported a lower perceived likelihood of remaining in the relationship. It is important to note that acculturation was positively and negatively linked to these variables depending on the context of the situation (i.e., level of violence). These findings suggest that the associations among cultural variables, behavioral intentions, risk perception, and perceived likelihood of staying in the relationship are not static across time and context.

Limitations

A limitation of our study relates to our variables and their measures. For instance, we did not use race as a proxy for culture to predict the outcomes; instead, we included cultural variables such as acculturation and loss of face as predictors. Our measures reflect the state of the field when the data were collected. Given that acculturation is a complex and multi-faceted process that may not be fully captured by the SL-ASIA, future research on this topic may benefit from using more nuanced measures for acculturation as well as other constructs (Schumann et al., 2020).

Another study limitation relates to the complex intersecting identities of participants and the hypothetical partner. For instance, the categorization of Asian American female college students into a single group obscures within-group differences in this highly heterogeneous population (Nguyen et al., 2018). In addition, study data were collected from a sample of English-speaking college students, thus may not account for non-English-speaking students who are likely on the lower end in acculturation level. Therefore, future scholars may consider expanding their research to non-English speaking Asian college students and/or community samples. Along the same lines, data on demographic factors (e.g., age, college level, immigrant generation status, and marriage status) can be collected and controlled in future analyses to investigate whether these nuanced identities influence Asian American female college students' loss of face, acculturation, risk perception and behavioral response to PV. Regarding the hypothetical partner, although the unspecified race of the perpetrator gave participants the freedom to project their usual dating partner's race onto the character in the story, race of the partner in real life may play a role on the impact of cultural factors and PV. Future research may benefit from further

examining perpetrator factors, such as race, to inform interventions that address PV intentions against one's partner among Asian American college students.

Another study limitation is the use of a hypothetical PV scenario. Due to ethical limitations, researchers cannot study actual in-the-moment intentions, risk perception, or behaviors occurring during a real-life PV scenario. Nevertheless, the behavioral intentions and risk perception as measured in the vignette may not be accurate indicators of an individual's real-life behavioral intentions or risk perception. The current study design can serve only as a proxy for participants' real-life responses in such high-conflict, high-affect situations.

Research and Clinical Implications

This study makes several contributions to PV research. This is the first study of which we are aware to examine multiple potential in-the-moment behavioral intentions and risk perception. Further, this was the first study that examined the impact of sociocultural variables on Asian American college women's in-the-moment behavioral intentions and risk perception of PV. Finally, our study is unique in that our sample is non-clinical, suggesting the potential for broader generalizability to Asian American college women who have experienced less severe forms of PV, those who have not labeled their experience as PV, and those who have not accessed help.

Given that Asian American college students are at particular risk of PV (Choi-Misailidis et al., 2008), our findings may inform the design and implementation of campus-wide violence intervention programs specific to Asian American college students. For example, these programs can aim to increase awareness of how sociocultural factors (e.g., acculturation, loss of face) may influence students' PV risk perception and behavioral intentions. Such awareness can inform safety planning during clinical interventions. Specifically, clinical assessment for loss of face and acculturation may inform risk evaluations. For example, students with high loss of face and low acculturation may be more vulnerable to PV, due to their low PV risk perception, perceived likelihood to engage in passive coping, and likelihood to remain in the relationship. Safety planning may include culturally-sensitive workshops to educate students on the associations between said sociocultural factors and potential PV responses. These workshops can provide appropriate risk assessment tools for students to assess their risk and design an individualized action plan for potential PV situations, in a way that maximizes their safety while honoring their cultural values. Considering students' varied coping strategies across PV stages, information from the workshops can also help students recognize early signs of current and future PV risk across different situations with an intimate partner.

Data Availability The data that support the findings of this study are available on request from the corresponding author, [HVN].

Declarations

Conflict of Interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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