

Causes of Escalation in High-Arousal Conflicts Among Newlyweds: A Qualitative Exploration

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R e v i e w e r s

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The article situates marriage challenges broadly but only later reveals the Mexican context. Suggest explicitly acknowledging cultural and sociological factors of Mexican newlyweds earlier to strengthen the contextual framing.

The text cites neuroscience but doesn't define what operationally counts as "high-arousal." Clarify if this refers to Since data collection was in Spanish but the report is in English, detail the translation and back-translation process to ensure semantic accuracy.

The demographic section is detailed but not linked back to theme variability (e.g., did urban vs. rural couples differ?). Adding brief comparative notes would increase interpretive depth.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The link to valence–arousal conflict theory is promising but brief. Expand on how this theory guided interview questions or coding; otherwise, it reads as post hoc.

The authors state “there is limited qualitative understanding...” but could strengthen the gap by referencing specific existing qualitative studies and why they are insufficient.

The table lists “Themes, Subthemes, and Concepts,” but some concepts overlap (e.g., “silent treatment” appears under both withdrawal and mood shifts). Clarify coding decision rules or consider merging to avoid redundancy.

Expand on how digital miscommunication differs from offline triggers; this could be a novel contribution if articulated more explicitly.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.