



Conceptualization and Types of Forgiveness for Consacrated Life People in a Spanish Sample

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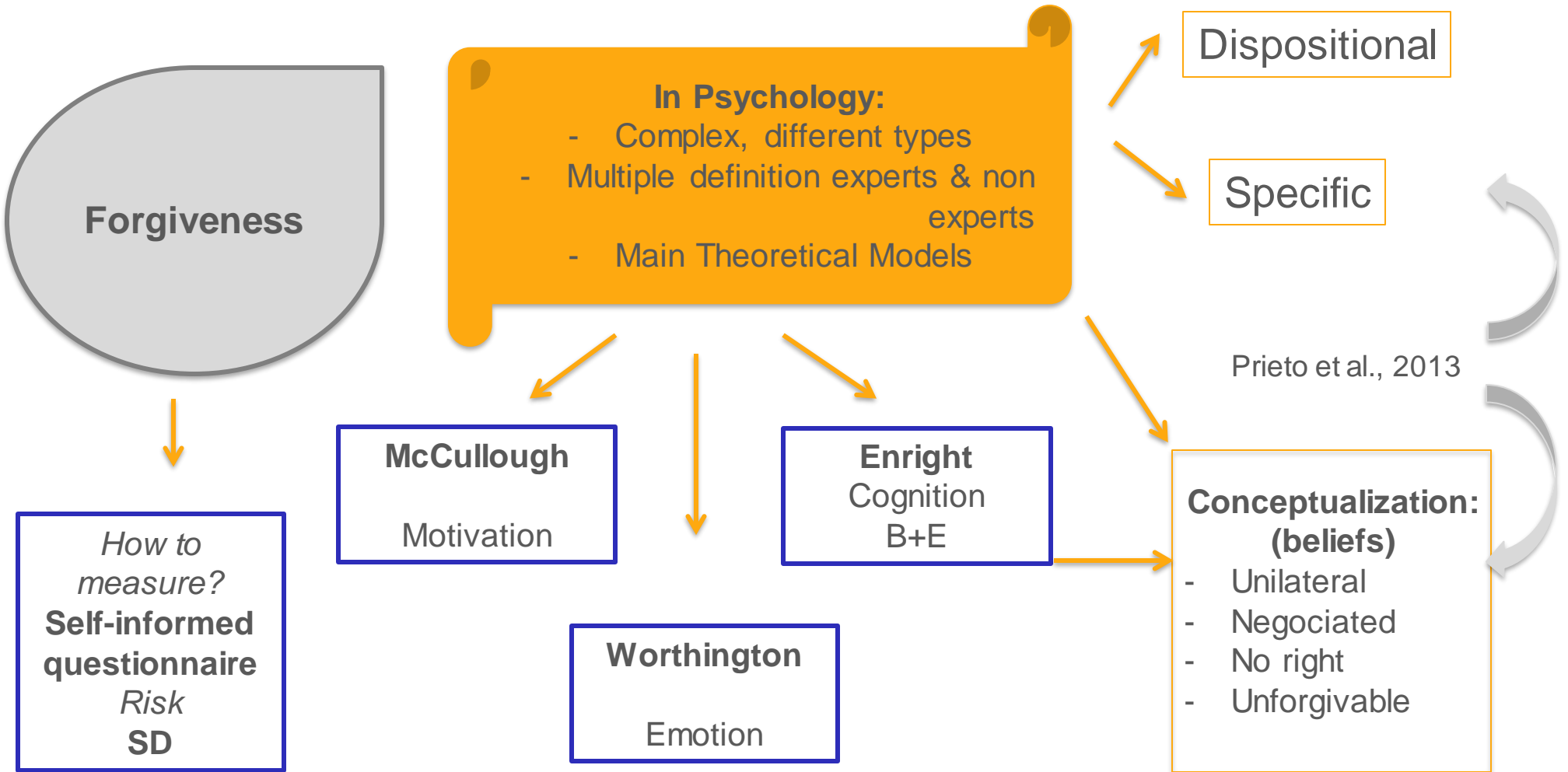
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1. Background: Forgiveness



1. Background: types of forgiveness

Specific: It is a prosocial change in cognition, emotions and behaviour

Dispositional: It is the willingness to forgive in a broad variety of interpersonal situations

Forgiveness as a response: specific

Forgiveness as a disposition

Forgiveness as a social quality

McCullough & Witvliet (2002)



1. Background:

What are the beliefs that conceptualize forgiveness?

Consider if forgiveness is a
unilateral process:

It is an unconditional gift offered to who caused the damage and it is a process exclusively contained in the offended person (Enright, 1994).

Or if it is **negotiated:**

It happens through dialog between the offender and the offended. In order to obtain it, the offender has to confess or admit the offense, take charge of the action committed, its consequences and regret (Andrews, 2000).

Believe that **not everyone has the right to forgive**, only the offended (Andrews, 2000)

Consider that **unforgivable offenses exist**, when the damage done is out of the forgivable limits and exceeds what a person can pardon (Cohen et al., 2006).

1. Background: Religiosity



Is it easier to forgive when you believe?

More disposition,
But, more specific?

Controversy
“religious- forgiveness
discrepancy”

NO

Hui et al., 2006
Macaskill, 2007
McCullough &
Worthington, 1999
Tsang et al., 2005

YES

Prieto et al., 2013
Freedman & Chang, 2010
Rye, 2005
Hart & Shapiro, 2002
Orathinkal &
Vansteenwegen, 2007
Toussaint & Williams, 2008

YES+++

Consacrated life

Mullet, 2003
Macaskill, 2005, 2007



1. Background

Dispositional

Specific

Prieto et al., 2013

Conceptualization:
(beliefs)

- Unilateral
- Negotiated
- No right
- Unforgivable



NO

Hui et al., 2006
Macaskill, 2007
McCullough & Worthington, 1999
Tsang et al., 2005

YES

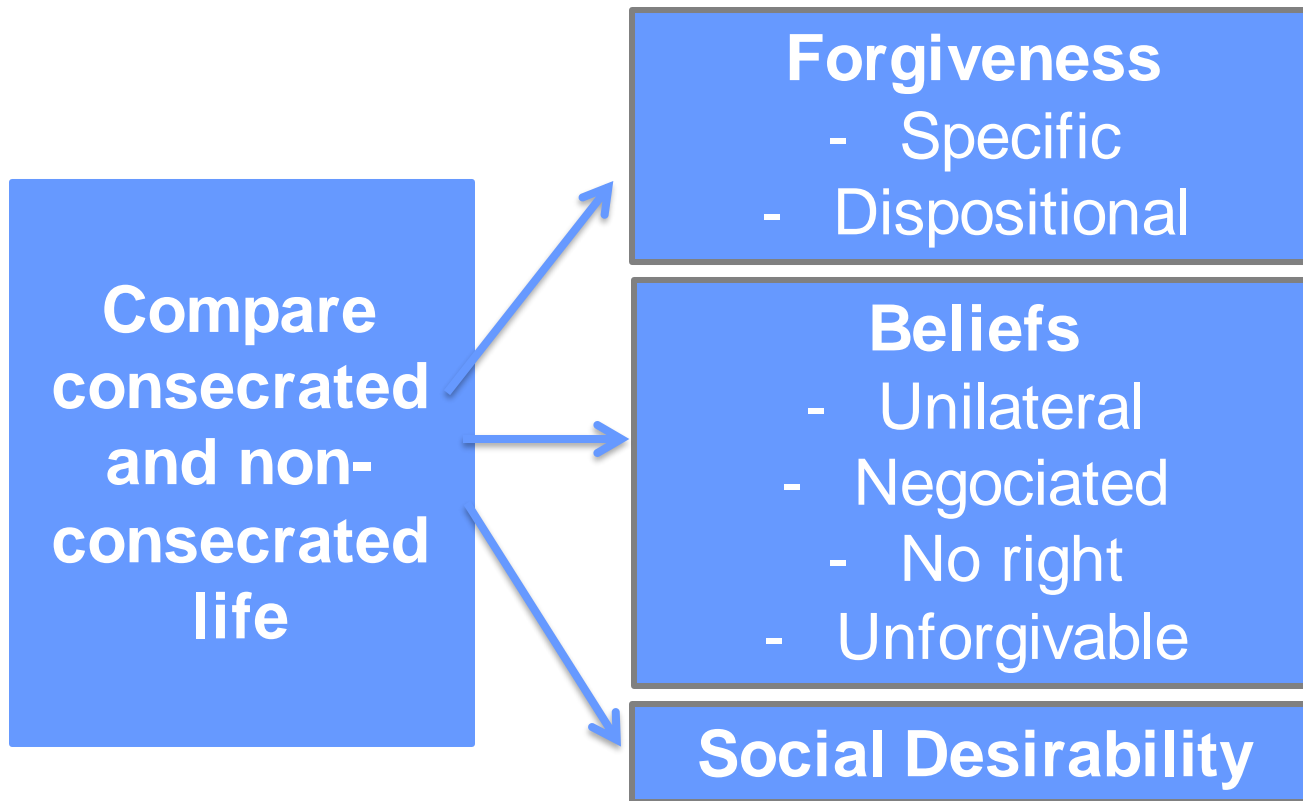
Prieto et al., 2013
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YES+++

Consacrated life
Mullet, 2003
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2. Aims



3. Method: Cross sectional study

Participants (N= 492)

- 37 years old (mean)
- Women (63%)
- Don't have Childrens (63%)
- Single (49%)
- Graduates (50%)
- Non consecrated life (93.5%)

Procedure

- "Snow ball" sample
- Paper and online self-administered questionnaire
- Unpaid
- Anonymous

Data

- Descriptive analysis
- Mean differences between variables

Analysis

- Mean and Standard deviation
- T- student

3. Method

Variables	Instruments
Forgiveness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dispositional Forgiveness - Specific forgiveness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Motivation (B, A, R) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benevolence Avoidance Revenge - Answer(+/-) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of positive Absence of negative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heartland Forgiveness Scale, Thompson & Snyder (2003) - Transgressions- Related Interpersonal Motivations Inventory, McCullough et al. (2003) - Forgiveness Scale, Rye et al. (2001)
Beliefs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unilateral Forgiveness - Negotiated Forgiveness - No right - Unforgivable offences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unilateral/ Negotiated adapted Forgiveness Scale, Prieto et al., 2013) - No Right Scale, Cohen et al. (2006) - Unforgivable Offences Scale, Cohen et al. (2006)
Social Desirability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marlowe- Crowne Scale of Social Desirability, Reynolds (1982)

4. Results

	Group	N	M	DT	t (fd)	p
	C/ NC*					
Forgiveness:						
Dispositional HFS and other	NC	454	28.76	4.73	-.45 (482)	.65
	C	30	29.17	5.48		
Specific FS absence negative	NC	448	41.29	7.03	-.99 (475)	.32
	C	29	42.62	6.43		
Specific FS presence positive	NC	450	15.83	4.60	-3.30 (476)	.001
	C	28	18.79	4.66		
Specific TRIM avoidance	NC	396	18.97	8.57	1.57 (37.48)	.126
	C	30	17.03	6.35		
Specific TRIM revenge	NC	394	6.83	3.33	1.92 (41.52)	.062
	C	29	6.07	1.93		
Specific TRIM benevolence	NC	396	20.64	6.84	-2.79 (36.32)	.008
	C	29	23.38	4.95		
Beliefs:						
Unilateral	NC	453	13.02	3.51	-5.05 (482)	.001
	C	31	16.32	3.65		
Negotiated	NC	454	11.74	3.89	3.91 (481)	.001
	C	29	8.86	2.98		
No right	NC	454	12.22	4.28	1.38 (482)	.168
	C	30	11.10	4.31		
Unforgivable	NC	453	15.26	4.29	3.65 (481)	.001
	C	30	12.30	4.42		
Social desirability	NC	450	19.83	2.90	1.55 (477)	.121
	C	29	18.97	2.91		

Note: *C/NC= consecrated/non-consecrated life; M= Mean; SD= Standard Deviation; **p< .05; ***p< .001

5. Conclusions: two profiles

Consecrated Life

Conceptualize forgiveness as unilateral**

When they forgive:

- Presence of positive**
- Benevolence motivation**

Non consecrated life

Conceptualize forgiveness as negotiated**

Believe there are unforgivable offences**

No prevalent forgiveness

Note: * $p < 0,05$; ** $p < 0,01$

No difference in avoidance and revenge, what does it mean?

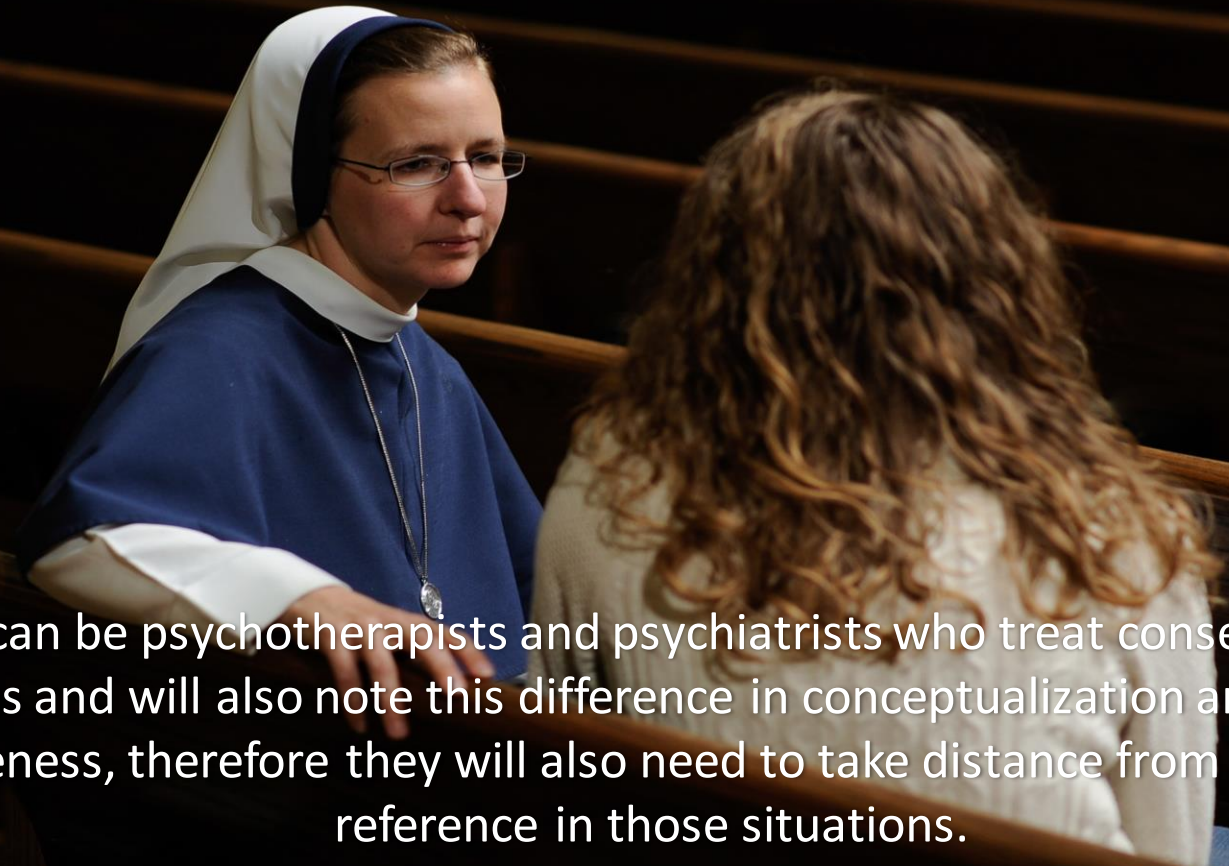


6. Limitations

- Cross sectional study- if longitudinal, would it be a “previous step” of negotiated for consacrated?
- Dispositional forgiveness and specific forgiveness FS absence of negative measures has to be taken with caution because did not prove acceptable internal consistency
- Only Catholic confession

7. Practical implications

There can be spiritual guides, priests or nuns, involved in growing the faith of secular persons which conceptualize and have a different level of forgiveness for which taking distance from their own reference will be needed.



There can be psychotherapists and psychiatrists who treat consecrated life persons and will also note this difference in conceptualization and level of forgiveness, therefore they will also need to take distance from their own reference in those situations.



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THANK YOU