



*Modern social values in choosing a life partner among the education elite of university professors:
A field study at the faculty of social sciences. Laghouat*

Guedid Meriem

University of Djelfa, (Algeria)

meriem.guedid@univ-djelfa.dz

Abstract ;

This study explores life partner selection criteria among Algerian university lecturers amid rapid social and cultural change. Cultural level broadens lecturers' social networks and expands options, without restricting choice to the university environment. Results show a strong preference for personal autonomy in marital decision-making, especially among younger lecturers. However, most participants still require a partner's commitment to prevailing social morals, customs, and traditions. The majority also favor prior acquaintance before marriage to ensure psychological, social, and moral compatibility. Age appears not to be a decisive determinant in partner-selection aspirations. Overall, partner selection reflects a balanced mix of cultural openness and adherence to societal values.

Article info

Received

February 03.2026

Accepted

March 10.2026

Keywords

- ✓ Values; Social
- ✓ Values; Partner Selection;
- ✓ Marriage Choice; University Lecturers;

1. Introduction

Values are among the fundamental concepts across all fields of life and all aspects of human activity. They constitute a social necessity, as they represent standards and goals found in societies regardless of their level of civilisation. For this reason, instilling values in younger generations is one of the primary objectives that education must address, since an individual who loses their values loses their balance. Individuals acquire their values initially from the family and the school, then from peer groups, the media, the university, their profession and specialisation, as well as other subsidiary social institutions.

Modern social values have a significant influence on the choice of a life partner. Marital choice is an effective means of shaping thought and emotion, a cornerstone of stable family life, and a safeguard for the ability to exchange views, reach agreement between spouses on various issues, and experience happiness and psychological comfort. Successful marriage depends primarily on sound choice, as it is one of the most important foundations of marriage; its success leads to the success and stability of the family. Some researchers believe that most cases of marital failure are due to an unsuccessful choice of a life partner, indicating that this factor is among the principal causes of divorce.

The choice of marriage may be greatly influenced by the transformations occurring within society, particularly in the present era, in light of what the world in general—and our society in particular—is experiencing under the pressure of so-called “globalisation”. This system targets ideas and undermines individual identity and values. The development of media, in particular, contributes to shaping the cultural and intellectual climate by presenting diverse viewpoints, convictions and ideas. This, in turn, generates differentiation and divergence

in perspectives and beliefs regarding marriage and partner selection. Consequently, marital choice may change according to a new and unstable cultural conception, leaving many individuals—especially those intending to marry—confused and uncertain about the values they should adopt in the process of selection.

Given that choice is linked to values, which in turn determine what is desired and undesired in terms of objects, actions and attributes, and given that each society has rules governing the involvement of individuals other than those directly concerned in the process of partner selection, such involvement may be total—where, for example, parents or one of them have the final say without regard for the opinion of the future spouse—or partial, allowing for the participation of the two individuals concerned. Accordingly, identifying the marital values embraced by university lecturers and the importance attributed to each value may help predict the nature of their future lives and their choices of life partners. This, in turn, may contribute to correcting attitudes and guiding individuals towards what enables them to avoid disturbances and crises.

2. Research Problem:

The features of any society are fully formed through the establishment of relationships among its members, with the aim of preserving its cohesion and stability and promoting its development across various economic, political and social domains. Social

relationships linking individuals are diverse; however, family relationships are regarded as the first relationships established by God on earth, beginning with our master Adam (peace be upon him) and our mother Eve. These were the earliest bonds through which societies emerged in the form we know today. There is no dispute that marriage constitutes the first stage in the formation of the family, and it is

part of the innate nature with which God has endowed humankind.

Marriage is a social institution known to all human societies, both ancient and modern. It is one of the most important social systems and the sole legitimate means of forming families, regardless of its forms and manifestations. It represents a biological and social necessity that regulates sexual instinct, thereby ensuring social stability, continuity, and survival.

Algerian families have undergone numerous transformations that have led to changes in many beliefs that were firmly entrenched until the recent past. These changes have contributed to the liberation of individuals from the constraints of the traditional family. In light of the social and economic changes currently affecting Algerian families, individuals have attained greater material and intellectual independence and have moved away from reliance on others when determining the criteria guiding partner selection. Consequently, the choice of marriage has become an issue primarily concerning the individual.

The method of choosing a life partner constitutes a crucial step in marriage. The characteristics sought in a partner vary from one individual to another according to differences in social class, values, modes of thinking, cultural and material levels, and geographical contexts. The increasing pace of societal change has been reflected in various social structures, leading individuals to demand greater freedom in all their actions, perceiving themselves as the ultimate authority and decision-makers after their recent attempts to emancipate themselves from the authority of the traditional family.

Although the university is an educational institution, it also represents a fertile environment for interaction between adult men and women from diverse social and cultural backgrounds, in various settings such as libraries, lecture halls, cultural clubs, scientific conferences and workplaces. This interaction

has afforded greater freedom in choosing a life partner and has become a direct factor in the partner-selection process, given that individuals within the university context are adults from different social categories. University lecturers, who belong to the educated elite and enjoy greater material and intellectual independence within the academic environment, are thus even more autonomous in choosing their life partners according to their personal preferences. Typically, they decide whom to marry, when to marry, and the criteria and attributes upon which they base their choice of a life partner.

By focusing on the educated elite within the university context—namely, university lecturers—as research participants, this study examines the methods of choosing a life partner among this group. Marriage is not a random process; rather, it is associated with multiple influencing factors, as it constitutes a form of social behaviour shaped not solely by individual desire but also by societal norms and criteria.

Accordingly, the research problem addressed in this study seeks to explore and answer the central question:

What are the criteria adopted by university lecturers and taken into consideration when selecting a life partner who meets their aspirations?

From this main question, the following sub-questions arise:

- Does the cultural level of university lecturers constitute a criterion that facilitates their choice of a life partner?
- Does material or economic status play a role in the selection of a life partner among university lecturers?

3. Research Hypotheses:

In order to answer these questions, a set of hypotheses has been proposed as tentative responses to the above inquiries. These hypotheses will be tested and either confirmed or refuted through the field study:

- The cultural level of university lecturers is a criterion that facilitates their choice of a life partner.
- Material or economic status plays a significant role in the selection of a life partner among university lecturers.

4. Objectives of the Study:

The present study seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- To identify the level of criteria used by university lecturers in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Djelfa when selecting a life partner.
- To examine the extent to which cultural level influences the choice of a life partner among university lecturers.

5. Significance of the Study:

- To define the concept of marital culture among university lecturers as part of the culture of a society undergoing rapid change.
- To identify the most significant factors influencing the formation of marital culture among university lecturers and the methods by which they choose their life partners.
- To abstract social reality and provide a sociological analysis of lecturers' perceptions, considering them as members of the educated elite with a
- notable influence on society.

6.. Study concepts:

Values:

Linguistic meaning: It is mentioned in the Al-Mawrid dictionary that the value of something is its worth, and the value of an item is its price. It is said that someone has no

value if they lack stability and permanence in a matter¹.

The word "value" in Arabic is derived from "qiyam," which is the opposite of sitting. "Qama" means to stand, and "qiyam" can also mean determination.

Terminological meaning: The concept of value is one of the concepts that many researchers in various fields such as philosophy, education, sociology, psychology, and other fields have focused on. This has resulted in a kind of confusion and ambiguity in the use of the concept from one specialisation to another, and it is even used in multiple ways within the same specialisation.

Saad Abdel Rahman defines it as: "a set of dynamics that guide an individual's behaviour in their daily life, where they use it to judge events and things, whether material or moral, in situations of preference and choice²."

Social values:

They are a type of behavioural and ethical standards that are linked to other standards defined by the general framework of society, the civilisational and historical reference it undergoes, and the objective and subjective conditions surrounding its phenomena and social processes³.

In another definition of social values, they are goals such as success and happiness or standards that guide human behaviour, like ethics, determining what is desirable. They can be either eternal constants or relative and variable, depending on culture and time. They can be positive or negative, universally human or specific to a particular group, explicit or implicit, and can be observed or inferred from

¹ Ibrahim Anis and others, Al-Mu'jam Al-Wasat, 2nd edition, Arabic Language Academy, Cairo, 1979, p. 768.

² Hafez Nabil Abdel Fattah and others, Introduction to Social Psychology, Zahra Al-Sharq Library, Cairo, 1997, p. 21.

³ Ibrahim Yahyaoui and Nour El-Din Jbali, The Impact of Children's Channels on Their Social Values, Jordan, Dar Al-Ayyam for Publishing and Distribution, 2014, p. 94.

the verbal and non-verbal behaviour of individuals in various social situations⁴.

- The university professor:

The university professor is considered one of the most important pillars of university education, and the success or failure of this education depends on the competence of the professor. The achievement of the goals of this organization is contingent upon the suitability of this professor. The success of any university education relies on the availability of qualified faculty members. There is no entity for higher education institutions without the teaching staff, as they are the cornerstone of these institutions. The faculty member in these institutions represents the cornerstone of the educational process, as he constitutes the effective tool that enables the university to fulfil its responsibilities and carry out its mission aimed at educational advancement. While the university professor derives his status and justification for existence as a university professor from the university, the university, in turn, derives its status and justification for its existence and continuity from him. The professor is like the beating heart of the university institution, and the status of the university professor is a great one that must be preserved⁵.

The Intellectual Linguistic Meaning:

In *Lisan al-'Arab* by Ibn Manzur, the term *mutakaffif* is defined as an individual who is proficient and knowledgeable in a particular field, and as a person who is skilful and discerning. Accordingly, the explicit concept of the "intellectual" does not appear as an

independent term in classical Arabic dictionaries⁶.

Terminological, Meaning:

The *Dictionary of Social Sciences* (Egypt) defines intellectuals as members of society who exert efforts to produce original ideas related to productive cultural activities. They constitute a minority within society, distinguished by their cognitive contribution and engagement in intellectual production.

The Elite Linguistic Meaning:

The term elite is derived from the Arabic root *nakhb* and *intakhaba* which mean to choose or select. It is said, "He chose something" (*nakhaba al-rajul shay'an*) or "He selected him" (*intakhabahu*), meaning to elect or select. Ibn Manzur defines the term elite in *Lisan al-'Arab* as being derived from *nakhala* and *intakhaba*, denoting the act of selection and extraction.

Terminological Meaning:

Despite their differences, societies have universally recognised the phenomenon of the "elite." Whether traditional or complex in structure, no society lacks a small group of individuals who distinguish themselves from the general population by virtue of specific personal characteristics that qualify them to occupy positions of status, prestige, and influence. Since differentiation among individuals is a fundamental characteristic of societies regardless of their nature, scholars have differed in establishing precise and unified criteria for analysing and classifying social structures⁷.

⁴ Dahman Zireq, The Role of the Quranic School in Developing the Student's Social Values, Master's Thesis, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Mohamed Kheider University of Biskra, (2011/2012), p. 14.

⁵ Ahmed Flouh, Characteristics of University Professors from the Students' Perspective, Thesis for the Doctorate in Psychology, University of Oran, 2013, p. 47.

⁶ Dadi Mohamed, Determinants of the Social Status and Function of the Algerian Intellectual, Thesis for Obtaining a Doctorate in Social Sciences at the Doctoral School of Social and Human Sciences, Specialisation in Sociology Philosophy, Translation, Media and Communication, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Oran2, (2018/2019), p. 25.

⁷ Azeddine Hamza, The Uses of Algerian Elites of News Programs in Arab Judicial Matters, Master's

-Choosing a partner (marriage):

Linguistically: Marriage linguistically means the union of one thing with another to become a marriage. It also means duality, pairing, and connection. A man marries a woman, meaning he is qualified with her.

Terminologically: Marriage can be defined as a social and institutional system that causes psychological, emotional, and social stability for both men and women. It satisfies the human inclination to form a family, fulfils sexual desires, is considered a right for every individual, and entails rights and duties among family members⁸.

The concept of marital choice: Marital choice is the way in which an individual transitions from being single to married. It is a social behaviour that involves a person selecting from a number of available options. Traditionally, it is the man who initiates courtship with the woman for the purpose of marriage, but this does not negate the woman's role in developing this relationship.

7. Methodological Procedures:

Methodological procedures:

The methodology used in the study:

The methodology is "the realistic approach or method that the researcher uses to address research problems, that is, in studying the problem (or problems) subject to the research," and it is also "the method followed by the researcher to study the research problem⁹." Every study has a methodology or multiple methodologies that are considered an essential

necessity that cannot be dispensed with in research and studies, enabling the researcher to reach an accurate description of the results. Since problems are diverse and each type requires a different methodology¹⁰.

Different according to the requirements of the study topic, and anyone discussing research methodologies cannot overlook the social survey method because it is one of the most frequently used methods in the field of research.

Scientific and considered one of the most prominent types of descriptive studies¹¹. In this study, we used the descriptive method: The descriptive method is considered the scientific method that "studies the phenomenon as it exists in reality and focusses on describing it accurately, expressing it either qualitatively or quantitatively¹².

The qualitative expression describes the phenomenon and clarifies its characteristics, while the quantitative expression provides a numerical description that indicates the extent or size of the phenomenon and its degrees of correlation with other different phenomena¹³." Where the researcher relies on the descriptive method: "Describing the phenomenon by collecting, classifying, arranging, presenting, analysing, interpreting, justifying, and synthesising theoretical data and field data in order to reach scientific results that are employed in social policies, with the aim of reforming various societal conditions¹⁴."

Thesis in Media and Communication Sciences, University of Tebessa, 2016, p. 24.

⁸ Belkhir Hafiza, The Perception of Unmarried Youth Regarding the Marriage Selection Process in the City of Sidi Bel Abbes (Field Study), Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, Issue 9, Part 1, University of Mostaganem, December 2012, pp. 300, 301.

⁹ Abdul Wahab Ibrahim, Foundations of Social Research, 1st ed., Al-Nahda Al-Sharq Library, Cairo, 1985, p. 39.

¹⁰ Abdel Basset Mohamed Hassan, Fundamentals of Social Research, 3rd ed., Anglo-Egyptian Library, Cairo, 1971, p. 200.

¹¹ Ma'an Khalil Omar, Objectivity in Social Research, Dar Al-Afaq, Beirut, 1983, pp. 44, 45.

¹² Omar Mohamed Al-Toumi, Methods of Social Research, Dar Al-Thaqafa, Beirut, 1971, p. 112.

¹³ Rachida Zarouati, Research Methods and Tools in Social Sciences, Vol. 1, Dar Al-Huda for Printing, Publishing, and Distribution, Ain M'lila-Algeria, 2007, p. 87.

¹⁴ Amar Barhouche, Mohamed Mahmoud Al-Dhunaibat, Scientific Research Methodologies and

8. Determining the study population and sample:

The original community of the study:

Research community: In the language of the humanities, it is: "A finite or infinite set of predetermined elements on which observations are based¹⁵."

The research community is defined as: "all individuals, people, or objects that are the subject of the research problem¹⁶." This is what was taken into consideration in determining the original research community targeted by the study and research.

Thus, the "original study population" consists of members of the educated class represented by university professors in the city of Laghouat, "Amar Thliji."

Study Sample:

One of the most commonly used methods in descriptive research is selecting a sample from a large population and subjecting it to the research process. It is often difficult for researchers to conduct a comprehensive study of a community or group, meaning studying all its members, due to the time, effort, and financial costs required¹⁷. Therefore, researchers resort to taking a sample from the research population, subjecting it to study and analysis, and then generalising the results to the population from which the sample was taken. It becomes challenging for the researcher to conduct a comprehensive study covering all its components, so they take a

sample that represents the characteristics of the research population and targets its attributes within the limits of time and cost, extracting its results and generalising them.

The sample, in its precise definition, refers to: "a distinctive subset of the study population, distinguished by having the same characteristics as the population, and selected according to specific procedures and methods¹⁸."

Determining the Sample Size:

By determining the sample size, we mean selecting a group of individuals from the entire research community, and these individuals constitute the sample that the researcher is interested in examining and studying. The sample size depends on several factors¹⁹, the most important of which are the degree of homogeneity or variability of the research community units in their characteristics and traits, the accuracy of the information the researcher aims to know, in addition to the available or accessible material, human, and temporal resources for the researcher²⁰. We mean by determining the sample size the selection of a group of individuals from the entire research community, and these individuals constitute the sample that the researcher is interested in examining and studying. The sample size depends on several factors, the most important of which are the degree of homogeneity or variation of the research community units in their

Research Preparation Methods, University Publications Bureau, Ben Aknoun, Algeria, 1995, p. 129.

¹⁵ Maurice Angers, Research Methodology in the Humanities and Practical Exercises, translated by Bouzid Sahraoui, Kamal Bercherif, Said Sebaoun, Dar El-Kassaba Publishing, Algeria, 2004, p. 298.

¹⁶ Obaidat Dhufan, Abdul Haq Kaid, et al., Scientific Research: Its Concept, Tools, and Methods, 7th ed., Dar Al-Fikr for Printing, Publishing, and Distribution, Amman, Jordan, 2001, p. 99.

¹⁷ Jabr Majid Al-Atabi, Social Research Methods, previous reference, p. 75.

¹⁸ Mohammad Walid Al-Batsh, Farid Kamel Abu Zeina, Scientific Research Methods – Research Design and Statistical Analysis, 1st ed., Dar Al-Maseera for Publishing, Distribution, and Printing, Amman, Jordan, 2007, pp. 96, 97.

¹⁹ Ihsan Muhammad Al-Hassan, The Scientific Foundations of Social Research Methods, previous reference, p. 167.

²⁰ Ihsan Muhammad Al-Hassan, The Scientific Foundations of Social Research Methods, 2nd ed., Dar Al-Tali'a for Publishing, Beirut, 1986, p. 19.

characteristics and traits, the accuracy of the information the researcher seeks to know, in addition to the available or accessible material, human, and temporal resources for the researcher. In this study, we relied on a field survey of the professors of the Department of Social Sciences at Amar Telidji University in Laghouat to represent the study community. The sample was intentionally selected and consisted of university professors in this department across all its specialisations. The sample size taken was 150 individuals (university professors). In this study, we relied on a field survey of the professors in the Department of Social Sciences at Amar Telidji University in Laghouat to represent the study population. The sample was purposive and consisted of university professors in this department across all its specialisations. The sample size taken was 150 individuals (university professors)

9. Data collection tools:

-Form (Questionnaire):

The questionnaire is considered one of the most widely used and prevalent tools in social research. The questionnaire is: "a direct technique for asking questions to individuals in a directed manner, as the response formats are predetermined, which allows for quantitative processing aimed at discovering mathematical relationships and making quantitative comparisons²¹."

The concept of the questionnaire: The form is defined as: "a tool of scientific research to obtain facts, reach conclusions, understand conditions and circumstances, study attitudes, trends, and opinions. It complements and is sometimes the only practical tool for conducting field studies²²." And the questionnaire in its essence: "It is a set

of questions posed to members of the research sample, which provide us with answers to interpret the research topic²³."

10.Fields of study:

Temporal Scope:

This study took place over a period that began with the selection of the research topic and familiarisation with the field, followed by an exploratory pilot study as an important preliminary phase, paving the way for the main phase. The distribution and collection of the main study tool started from October 23, 2025, to December 1, 2025.

11. Spatial domain:

The spatial scope of the study represents the departments affiliated with the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Amar Telidji University in Laghouat. The university was established in 1986 as a higher school for teachers in technical education, then transformed into a university centre in 1997, before being upgraded to a university in 2001 after being restructured into several faculties. This transformation was accompanied by the introduction of various scientific and humanistic specializations in different fields. And with the adoption of the L. M. system. L.M.D. Starting from the 2006–2007 academic year, the training offerings expanded at the bachelor's and master's levels, in addition to doctoral projects. The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was officially established in 2010 as part of higher education reforms, benefiting from the expertise of its professors and administrative staff. The college seeks to ensure quality in training, research, and pedagogical and social services.

- The human domain:

The human field is defined by the individuals of the research sample targeted in the field

²¹ Maurice Angers, *Research Methodology in the Humanities and Practical Training*, translated by Bouzid Sahraoui, Kamal Bercherif, Said Sebaoun, Dar El-Kassaba Publishing, Algeria, 2004, p. 204

²² Rachid Zarouani, *Methodologies and Tools of Scientific Research in Social Sciences*, previous reference, p. 220.

²³ Same reference, p.219

study, (the educated class in society, specifically the professors of the Department of Social Sciences with its various specialisations at Amar Telidji University in the city of Laghouat, with their number being determined at 150 professors).

12. Statistical processing methods:

After the application phase, the data was processed using the tools employed (interview questionnaire) for the purpose of analysing and statistically processing it using the SPSS program, which is the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences. Based on this, we processed the respondents' data and measured the research hypotheses, calculated the data, and then read and analysed it to reach results upon which the study's conclusions are based²⁴.

And this was done through a set of operations that were relied upon, which are: Percentage formula: $\text{Number of occurrences} \times 100 / \text{Total sample size}$ ²⁵.

13. Presentation and analysis of the general data results:

In this regard, the presentation and analysis of the general data results of the study will be provided, and some demographic characteristics that distinguish the study sample and the composition of the community we studied will be presented in terms of: (gender, age, academic degree, specialisation, marital status, duration of marriage, place of residence, professional experience, and type of housing).

Table No. 1: Distribution of the Sample According to Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	88	58.7%
Female	62	41.3%
Total	150	100%

Source: Prepared by the researchers based on the outputs of SPSS, version 22.

Based on the data presented in the table above, which illustrates the distribution of the sample according to the gender variable, the highest proportion was recorded among males, accounting for 58.7% of the sample, while the proportion of females was lower, reaching 41.3%.

From these results, it can be concluded that research conducted on sound scientific and methodological foundations benefits from including samples drawn from both genders, as this allows for the exploration of diverse attitudes and viewpoints. Such representativeness contributes to obtaining a more accurate and realistic depiction of the original study population.

The findings further indicate that male lecturers outnumber their female counterparts within the Department of Social Sciences and in teaching positions. This may be attributed to the nature of daily life and the prevailing socio-cultural context of Laghouat society, which is influenced by dominant cultural norms that traditionally assign external and professional roles primarily to men. This, however, does not negate the significant role played by women, particularly given that the difference in proportions between the two groups is not substantial.

Table No. 2: Distribution of the Sample According to Age

Age Group	Frequency	Percentage
Under 35 years	52	34.7%
35-45 years	50	33.3%
46-56 years	30	20%
56 years and above	18	12%
Total	150	100%

Source: Prepared by the researchers based on the outputs of SPSS, version 22.

²⁴ Said Aichour, Nadia, Scientific Research Methodology in Social Sciences: A Student's Guide to Conducting Sociological Research, Algeria, Hussein Ras Al-Jabal Publishing and Distribution, 2017, p. 427.

²⁵ Dominique Salvatore, Schaum's Outline of Theory and Problems of Econometrics, 4th ed., International Publishing and Distribution House, Cairo, Egypt, 1997, p. 102.

Based on the data presented in the table above, which illustrates the distribution of the sample according to the age variable, it is evident that the largest proportion of respondents falls within the age group of 35 years and under, accounting for 34.7% of the sample. This is followed closely by the age group ranging from 35 to 45 years, which represents 33.3%. The proportion then decreases among respondents aged between 46 and 56 years, reaching 20%, while the lowest proportion is recorded among those aged 56 years and above, at 12%.

Age is considered one of the key variables in social research, as it allows for the identification of the study's orientations and the exploration of the views and attitudes of different age groups towards the research topic. The analysis of these field data indicates that the research sample is predominantly concentrated among individuals aged 35 years and below. Moreover, the percentages for the two age groups under 35 years and between 35 and 45 years are relatively close, which enhances the analytical value of the study.

This age diversity contributes to enriching the analysis, as the sample includes respondents from various age groups, thereby allowing for a more comprehensive understanding of the ideas, orientations, and perspectives related to the issue of life partner selection.

Table No. 3: Distribution of the Sample According to Academic Rank

Academic Rank	Frequency	Percentage
Temporary Lecturer	51	34%
Lecturer	76	50.7%
Professor	23	15.3%
Total	150	100%

Source: Prepared by the researchers based on the outputs of SPSS, version 22.

Based on the data presented in the table above, which illustrates the distribution of the sample according to academic rank, it is evident that the largest proportion of respondents—accounting for 50.7% of the total sample—reported holding the rank of Lecturer in the

Department of Social Sciences at Amar Telidji University. This is followed by Temporary Lecturers, who represent 34% of the sample. The lowest proportion is observed among Professors, who account for 15.3% of the respondents within the same department.

Academic rank is considered one of the most important variables in field studies, as it reflects the level of academic experience and awareness among participants. It is also regarded as a factor influencing the seriousness with which individuals engage with and address research topics. The findings indicate a clear variation in academic ranks among respondents in the Department of Social Sciences at Amar Telidji University, which contributes positively to the analytical depth of the study.

This diversity in academic ranks is particularly beneficial for analysing the research topic related to life partner selection among the educated elite in the city of Laghouat, represented in this study by university lecturers in the Department of Social Sciences at Amar Telidji University. The variation in academic positions among the sample is therefore considered an added strength of the present study.

14. Presentation and Discussion of the Results of the First Hypothesis

First Hypothesis:

"The compatibility of the cultural level of Algerian university lecturers plays an important role in the process of life partner selection."

This section addresses the presentation and analysis of the variables related to the first hypothesis, which focuses on the role of cultural level. Simple tables and cross-tabulation tables are examined in order to measure the dimensions of association, using the Chi-square (χ^2) correlation coefficient, as well as to determine the statistical significance of the strength or weakness of the relationship through the contingency coefficient.

The section concludes with a presentation and discussion of the results related to the first hypothesis.

Table No. 04: Distribution of the Sample According to the Social Environment in Which Respondents' Relationships Are Centred

Social Environment of Respondents' Relationships	Frequency	Percentage
Within the university environment	15	9.3%
Within and outside the university environment	119	79.3%
Outside the university environment	17	11.3%
Total	150	100%

Source: Prepared by the researchers based on the outputs of SPSS, version 22.

Based on the data presented in the table above, which illustrates the environment in which the social relationships of the sample are centred, the highest proportion of respondents (79.3%) reported that their relationships extend both within and outside the university environment. This is followed by those whose relationships are centred outside the university environment, accounting for 11.3%, while the lowest proportion (9.3%) consists of respondents whose relationships are confined to the university environment.

From these findings, it can be concluded that the majority of respondents maintain social relationships both within and beyond the university setting, largely due to the nature of their professional duties and personal lives. At the same time, the proportions vary among individuals whose relationships are centred exclusively within the university environment or outside it, reflecting diversity in social interaction patterns among the respondents.

Table No. 05: Distribution of the Sample According to Respondents' Aspirations to Select a Partner from the University Environment

Respondents' Aspirations in Partner Selection	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	45	30%
No	85	56.7%
No, I do not have aspirations yet	20	13.3%
Total	150	100%

Source: Prepared by the researchers based on the outputs of SPSS, version 22.

Based on the data presented in the table above, which illustrates respondents' aspirations regarding partner selection and the preferred social environment from which to choose, the largest proportion (56.7%) selected "No," indicating that choosing a life partner does not necessarily have to be from within the university environment. This is followed by 30% of respondents who answered "Yes," expressing a preference for selecting a partner from the university environment. The lowest proportion (13.3%) consists of respondents who reported that they do not yet have any aspirations regarding partner selection or the appropriate environment for such a choice.

These findings indicate the existence of diverse aspirations and differing views concerning the preferred environment for partner selection, whether within the university (the workplace) or outside it. A minority of respondents reported having no aspirations at present, which may be explained by the absence of current intentions to enter into a marital relationship.

Table No. 06: Relationship Between Age and Respondents' Aspirations to Select a Partner from the University Environment

Age Group	Yes	No	No Aspirations	Total
Under 35 years	9 (6%)	30 (20.01%)	13 (8.67%)	52 (34.7%)
35-45 years	17 (11.33%)	27 (17.98%)	6 (3.99%)	50 (33.3%)
46-56 years	9 (6%)	20 (13.33%)	1 (0.66%)	30 (20%)
56 years and above	10 (6.66%)	8 (5.33%)	–	18 (12%)
Total	45 (30%)	85 (56.66%)	20 (13.33%)	150 (100%)

Source: Prepared by the researchers based on the outputs of SPSS, version 22.

The data presented in Table No. 06 illustrate the relationship between age and its influence

on respondents' aspirations to select a life partner from the university environment. The highest proportion is observed among respondents aged under 35 years (34.7%). Within this group, the largest share (20.01%) corresponds to those who answered "No," indicating that although age is an important variable, it does not significantly alter their views regarding partner selection from the university environment. This is followed by 8.67% of respondents who reported having no aspirations for entering into a relationship at this stage, while the smallest proportion (6%) consists of those who answered "Yes," suggesting that they consider age as a relevant factor in partner selection.

The second-largest age group comprises respondents aged between 35 and 45 years (33.3%). Within this group, the highest proportion (17.98%) consists of individuals who do not consider age to be an important factor in choosing a life partner. This is followed by 11.33% who believe that age plays a role in determining partner selection, while the lowest proportion (3.99%) represents those who reported having no aspirations for marriage.

Respondents aged between 46 and 56 years account for 20% of the sample. The majority within this group (13.33%) indicated that age does not influence their partner selection, followed by 6% who consider age to be important. Finally, respondents aged 56 years and above represent 12% of the sample, with 6.66% indicating that age plays a role in choosing a life partner.

Overall, these findings suggest that most respondents perceive age as not playing a decisive role in the selection of a life partner. This perception appears to stem from individual preferences and personal timing, as each respondent views marriage as appropriate at a particular stage of life according to their own circumstances and aspirations.

Presentation and Discussion of the Results of the Second Hypothesis Second Hypothesis:

"Open values with a Western orientation, which characterise contemporary Algerian society, constitute a fundamental background influencing Algerian university lecturers in the process of life partner selection."

This section addresses the presentation and analysis of the variables related to the second hypothesis, which focuses on the role of open values among the educated class. Simple tables and cross-tabulation tables are examined in order to measure the dimensions of association using the Chi-square (χ^2) correlation coefficient, as well as to determine the statistical significance of the strength or weakness of the relationship through the contingency coefficient.

The section concludes with a presentation and discussion of the results related to the second hypothesis.

Table No. 07: Selection of a Life Partner for Marriage Without the Intervention of Others

Personal Selection of a Life Partner	Under 35 years	35-45 years	46-56 years	56 years and above	Total
Yes	29 (19.33%)	30 (20%)	21 (14%)	15 (10%)	95 (63.33%)
No	11 (7.33%)	9 (6%)	2 (1.33%)	–	22 (14.66%)
The assistance of others helps me choose	12 (8%)	11 (7.33%)	7 (4.66%)	3 (2%)	33 (22%)
Total	52 (34.66%)	50 (33.33%)	30 (20%)	18 (12%)	150 (100%)

Source: Prepared by the researchers based on the outputs of SPSS, version 22.

Based on the data presented in the table above, which illustrates whether the selection of a life partner for marriage occurs without the intervention of others, the highest proportion of respondents (63.3%) answered "Yes," indicating that partner selection is a personal decision. This is followed by 22% of respondents who reported that the assistance of others helps them in making their choice. The lowest proportion (14.7%) consists of respondents who answered "No."

These findings indicate that the vast majority of respondents—who belong to the educated

class—prefer their choice of a life partner to be a personal decision made without the intervention of others. This preference reflects their desire for autonomy in determining the characteristics and qualities they seek in a spouse. At the same time, the results show that some individuals rely on others for guidance and support during the selection process; however, the final decision ultimately remains theirs.

Table No. 08: Relationship Between Age and the Selection of a Life Partner for Marriage

Personal Choice of a Life Partner	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	95	63.3%
No	22	14.7%
The assistance of others helps me choose	33	22%
Total	150	100%

Source: Prepared by the researchers based on the outputs of SPSS, version 22.

The data presented in Table No. 08 illustrate the relationship between age and the manner in which respondents select a life partner for marriage. The majority of respondents, accounting for 63.33% of the total sample, indicated that they prefer to choose their life partner independently without the intervention of others. This preference is most prominent among respondents aged between 35 and 45 years (20%), followed closely by those under 35 years of age (19.33%), and then by those aged between 46 and 56 years (14%). The lowest proportion of respondents who favour personal selection is observed among those aged 56 years and above (10%).

A further 22% of respondents reported that they rely on the assistance of others in the partner-selection process. This tendency is most common among respondents under 35 years of age (8%), followed by those aged between 35 and 45 years (7.33%), then those aged between 46 and 56 years (4.66%), and finally those aged 56 years and above (2%).

Finally, 14.66% of the total sample indicated that they do not prefer to choose their life partner independently. Within this group, the

highest proportion consists of respondents under 35 years of age (7.33%), followed by those aged between 35 and 45 years (6%), and then those aged between 46 and 56 years (1.33%). No respondents aged 56 years and above selected this option.

These findings suggest that age plays a role in shaping partner-selection preferences among members of the educated class. The majority of respondents, particularly those who are younger and at the beginning of their adult lives (under 35 years), express a strong desire to choose their life partner independently. This reflects their enthusiasm and aspiration to determine their own marital choices and to actively seek the characteristics and qualities they value in a future spouse.

Table No. 09: Relationship Between Gender and Preference for a Partner Committed to the Prevailing Moral Values of Society

Preference for a Partner Committed to Prevailing Social Morals	Male	Female	Total
Yes	82 (55.32%)	57 (37.34%)	139 (92.66%)
No	6 (4%)	5 (3.33%)	11 (7.33%)
Total	88 (59.32%)	62 (40.67%)	150 (100%)

Source: Prepared by the researchers based on the outputs of SPSS, version 22.

The data presented in Table No. 09 illustrate the relationship between gender and the preference for a life partner who adheres to the prevailing moral values of the society to which they belong. The vast majority of respondents, accounting for 92.66% of the total sample, indicated that they prefer a partner who is committed to the dominant moral values of their society. This preference is most pronounced among male respondents (55.32%), while a slightly lower proportion is observed among female respondents (37.34%). Conversely, only 7.33% of the total sample reported that they do not consider adherence to prevailing social morals to be important when selecting a life partner. Within this group, males account for 4%, whereas females represent 3.33%.

These findings suggest that the majority of respondents belonging to the educated class—

specifically university lecturers at Amar Telidji University in Laghouat—prefer their life partner to be an individual who adheres to the customs, traditions, and moral values prevailing within their society. This reflects the conservative nature of the local social context, in which individuals continue to uphold and preserve traditional moral principles.

Table No. 10: Respondents' Preference for Having a Close Relationship with the Person They Intend to Marry

Preference for a Close Relationship Prior to Marriage	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	129	86%
No	21	14%
Total	150	100%

Source: Prepared by the researchers based on the outputs of SPSS, version 22.

The data presented in Table No. 10 indicate respondents' preferences regarding the establishment of a close relationship with the person they intend to marry. The highest proportion of respondents (86%) expressed a preference for having a close relationship prior to marriage, while only 14% indicated that they do not prefer such a relationship.

These results suggest that the majority of respondents prefer to become acquainted with their future life partner before marriage. This preference stems from the belief that outward appearance alone may not accurately reflect an individual's true character or personality. Therefore, respondents emphasise the importance of close interaction in order to assess mutual compatibility and alignment with prevailing social norms and values. Such interaction enables individuals to identify personal qualities that can only be discerned through close contact, such as trust, patience, a sense of responsibility, respect for others, and other positive personal attributes.

General Conclusion of the Study:

Based on the analysis of the statistical tables related to the first and second hypotheses, it becomes evident that the process of partner

selection among Algerian university lecturers is a complex one, influenced by intertwined cultural, value-based, and social factors.

The results of Table No. (04) indicate that the majority of respondents' social relationships extend both within and beyond the university environment. This reflects the expansion of the university lecturer's social sphere as a result of their cultural and professional status. However, the findings of Table No. (05) reveal that this expansion does not necessarily imply restricting partner selection to the university environment. Most respondents preferred not to confine their choice to this context, suggesting that cultural level broadens the scope of choice without imposing a specific social framework.

Furthermore, the results of Table No. (06) demonstrate that age does not constitute a primary determinant in aspirations to select a partner from the university environment. Most age groups agreed that partner selection is less related to age and more closely linked to individual desire and personal timing for marriage. This indicates a decline in the influence of demographic factors in favour of subjective and cultural considerations, thereby partially supporting the first hypothesis.

With regard to the second hypothesis, the findings of Table No. (07) show that the majority of respondents prefer the selection of a life partner to be a personal decision made without the intervention of others. This reflects the presence of open values among the educated class. Table No. (08) further supports this trend, as younger age groups were found to be more inclined towards independence in partner selection compared to older groups, highlighting the impact of generational value transformations.

However, this openness does not imply a departure from social reference frameworks. The results of Table No. (09) reveal a strong adherence among the majority of respondents, of both genders, to the necessity that a life

partner be committed to the prevailing moral values and customs of society. This underscores the continued presence of traditional values within the partner-selection process. Moreover, the findings of Table No. (10) indicate that most respondents prefer the existence of a prior acquaintance or relationship before marriage, aimed at ensuring psychological, social, and moral compatibility, without considering such familiarity as a deviation from societal norms. Accordingly, it can be concluded that Algerian university lecturers combine cultural openness and decision-making autonomy on the one hand, with adherence to social and moral values on the other. This demonstrates that partner selection operates within a balanced framework that reconciles individual aspirations with societal constraints, thereby confirming the study's hypotheses to varying degrees within the applied research context.

15. Conclusion:

In conclusion, this study demonstrates that the issue of partner selection among Algerian university lecturers reflects a complex interaction between cultural, value-based, and social variables. The field results indicate that cultural level contributes to expanding social networks and opening broader horizons for choice, without necessarily leading to a rupture with the prevailing values and norms of society.

The study also reveals that open values have become increasingly present among members of the sample, particularly with regard to preferring personal autonomy in selecting a life partner and relying on oneself in decision-making. Nevertheless, this orientation does not negate the role of the family and society as guiding reference frameworks. Most respondents maintained the importance of their future partner's adherence to social morals and traditions, reflecting the enduring conservative character of Algerian society despite contemporary social transformations.

Accordingly, it may be argued that partner selection among Algerian university lecturers follows a balanced logic that combines cultural openness and individual autonomy on the one hand, with commitment to social and moral values on the other. This confirms that the transformations experienced by Algerian society have not eliminated its value system, but rather have reshaped it within a more flexible and adaptive framework in response to contemporary realities.

16. Bibliography List :

1. Flouh, Ahmed (2013). *Characteristics of University Lecturers from Students' Perspectives*. Doctoral dissertation in Psychology, University of Oran.
2. Al-Hassan, Ihsan Mohammed (1986). *Scientific Foundations of Social Research Methodology* (2nd ed.). Beirut: Dar Al-Tali'a for Publishing.
3. Anis, Ibrahim et al. (1979). *Al-Mu'jam Al-Wasit* (2nd ed.). Cairo: Arabic Language Academy.
4. Yahyaw, Ibrahim & Jabbali, Nour Al-Din (2014). *The Impact of Children's Satellite Channels on Their Social Values*. Jordan: Dar Al-Ayyam for Publishing and Distribution.
5. Ibrahim, Abdel Wahab (1985). *Foundations of Social Research* (1st ed.). Cairo: Nahdat Al-Sharq Bookshop.
6. Hassan, Abdel Basit Mohammed (1971). *Principles of Social Research* (3rd ed.). Cairo: Anglo-Egyptian Bookshop.
7. Obeitat, Dhoufan; Kaid, Abdel-Haq et al. (2001). *Scientific Research: Concept, Tools and Methods* (7th ed.). Amman, Jordan: Dar Al-Fikr for Printing, Publishing and Distribution.
8. Barhoush, Ammar & Al-Dhribat, Mohammed Mahmoud (1995). *Scientific Research Methods and Techniques for*

Preparing Research. Algiers: National Office of University Publications.

9. Hamza, Ezzedine (2016). *Use of News Programmes on Arab Satellite Channels by the Algerian Elite*. Master's thesis in Media and Communication Sciences, University of Tebessa.

10. Al-Toumi, Omar Mohammed (1971). *Social Research Methodologies*. Beirut: Dar Al-Thaqafa.

11. Omar, Ma'an Khalil (1983). *Objectivity in Social Research*. Beirut: Dar Al-Afaq.

12. Angers, Maurice (2004). *Research Methodology in the Human Sciences: Practical Applications*. Translated by Bouzid Sahraoui, Kamal Barcherf & Said Saboun. Algiers: Dar Al-Qasbah for Publishing.

13. Al-Batsh, Mohammed Walid & Abu Zeina, Farid Kamel (2007). *Scientific Research Methods: Research Design and Statistical Analysis* (1st ed.). Amman, Jordan: Dar Al-Masira for Publishing, Distribution and Printing.

14. Abdel Fattah, Hafez Nabil et al. (1997). *Introduction to Social Psychology*. Cairo: Zahraa Al-Sharq Bookshop.

15. Belkheir, Hafidha (2012). "Unmarried Youth's Perceptions of the Marriage Selection

Process in the City of Sidi Bel Abbès (A Field Study)." *Journal of Human and Social Sciences*, Issue 9, Part I, University of Mostaganem.

16. Zerouati, Rachida (2007). *Research Methods and Tools in the Social Sciences* (1st ed.). Ain M'lila, Algeria: Dar Al-Huda for Printing, Publishing and Distribution.

17. Aichour, Said & Nadia (2017). *Scientific Research Methodology in the Social Sciences: A Student's Guide to Conducting Sociological Research*. Algeria: Hussein Ras Al-Jabal Foundation for Publishing and Distribution.

18. Salvatore, Dominic (1997). *Schaum's Outline Series: Theory and Problems of Statistics and Econometrics* (4th ed.). Cairo, Egypt: International Publishing House.

19. Zerga, Dahmane (2011–2012). *The Role of Qur'anic Schools in Developing Pupils' Social Values*. Master's thesis, Faculty of Human and Social Sciences, Mohamed Khider University of Biskra.

20. Dadi, Mohammed (2018–2019). *Determinants of the Social Status and Function of the Algerian Intellectual*. Doctoral dissertation in Social and Human Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Oran