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CONTENTS

INVARIANCE OF THE COV19 - IMPACT ON QUALITY OF LIFE (COV19-QOL) MEASUREMENT IN PEOPLE WHO LOST A LOVED ONE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC FROM FOUR SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES
Tomás Caycho-Rodríguez, Daniel E. Yupanqui-Lorenzo, Hector Hugo Sánchez Carlessi3, Carlos Reyes Romero, Patricia Matos Ramírez, Carlos Carbajal-León, Lindsey W. Vilca, Pablo D. Valencia, José Ventura-León, Mario Reyes-Bossio, Mariel Delgado-Campusano, Miguel Gallegos, Rodrigo Moreta-Herrera, Diana Ximena Puerta-Cortés, Andrés Camargo, Julio Torales, Daniela Ferrufino-Borja, Agueda Muñoz-del-Carpio-Toia, Marion K. Schulmeyer Jesús Ayala-Colqui, Nicol A. Barria-Asenjo, Luis Hualparuca-Olivera, & Iván Barrios 357

PSYCHOMETRIC EVALUATION OF THE DIMENSIONS OF IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT SCALE IN SERBIAN ADOLESCENTS
Vladimir Džinović & Nikoleta Gutvajn 379

DEVELOPMENT AND INITIAL TESTING OF THE COMPASSION SCALE FOR CHINESE (CSC)
Xinyu Gu, Feifei Li, & Myoung-Ho Hyun 399

GENDER-SPECIFIC NETWORK STRUCTURES IN ADOLESCENT EATING BEHAVIOUR AND BODY IMAGE: A NETWORK PSYCHOMETRIC APPROACH
Ergün Kara, Halil Aslan & Aman Sado Elemo 417

CAN TRAIT-LIKE CREATIVE SELF-EFFICACY EXPLAIN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OPENNESS AND CREATIVITY IN A CAPPELLA SINGERS?
Matea Kramarić, Matej Pavlić, & Ana Butković 447

THE EFFECT OF WEIGHT STEREOTYPE THREAT ON THE MOTOR SKILL LEARNING AND INTRINSIC MOTIVATION OF CHILDREN
Mohammad Hossein Zamani, Ayoub Hashemi, Rasool Abedanzadeh, & Hamideh Abdolzadeh 465

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Invariance of the COV19 - Impact on Quality of Life (COV19-QoL) Measurement in People who Lost a Loved One During the COVID-19 Pandemic from Four South American Countries*

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The COV19 - Impact on Quality of Life (COV19-QoL) has been used as a measure of the perceived impact of COVID-19 on quality of life; however, little is known about its cross-cultural utility. The present study evaluated the measurement invariance of COV19-QoL in adult samples (N = 1034; M_{age} = 35.7 years; SD = 13.3 years; 68.3% women) from four South America countries (Ecuador, Colombia, Perú y Bolivia). The COV19-QoL unidimensional model fit indices were adequate in all the countries (CFI = 1.00, TLI = 0.99, SRMR = 0.02, RMSEA = 0.10). Both the alpha and omega indices had acceptable values ranging from 0.91 to 0.94 in all countries. Factorial invariance was evaluated using the alignment method, and invariance was obtained for the factorial weights (R^2 = 1.00) and intercepts (R^2 = 1.00), admitting the approximate invariance of COV19-QoL. The COV19-QoL can be recommended to meaningfully compare relationships between variables between groups and to compare latent means in four South American populations.

Keywords: alignment, invariance, death, quality of life, South America

Highlights:

- This study provides the first analysis of COV19-QoL in samples from South American countries using a novel statistical method, the alignment method.
- This study contributes significantly to the literature on the perceived impact of COVID-19 on quality of life, especially on the measurement of the quality of life construct.
- These findings are useful for conducting cross-cultural comparisons in both basic research and transnational epidemiological research on the effects of COVID-19 on quality of life.

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Psychometric Evaluation of the Dimensions of Identity Development Scale in Serbian Adolescents*

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We examined whether the dual-cycle model of six dimensions of identity development is supported by the data, and whether there are specific characteristics in identity processes and typologies among adolescents living in a combination of Central European and Balkan cultural contexts. On a sample of 823 Serbian adolescents (M_{age} = 18.34; SD = 2.43), who completed self-report questionnaires at a single time point, CFA was conducted to test the factorial structure of the Dimensions of Identity Development Scale (DIDS). In addition, the associations between the obtained identity dimensions and various psychological outcome variables were examined using correlational analyses, and cluster analysis was performed to identify identity statuses based on the DIDS dimensions. The results supported a six-factor structure. The dimension of Exploration in Breadth did not correlate with the commitment dimensions, suggesting that the exploration of new life options does not play an adaptive role in successful identity formation among our adolescents. This finding differs from those reported in Western countries but is similar to results from (Southeastern) Eastern European contexts, indicating the influence of a constraining socioeconomic environment. The Undifferentiated, Achievement, Carefree Diffusion, Diffused Diffusion, and Ruminative Moratorium identity statuses are confirmed. However, there is no Foreclosure, and a status emerges that we have called FOMO (Unfulfilled Achievement). The main implication is that the DIDS is a reliable instrument for assessing identity formation processes in Serbian adolescents.

Keywords: DIDS, identity, adolescence, Serbia, identity status.

Highlights

- The six-factor structure was confirmed on a sample of Serbian adolescents.
- DIDS dimensions are related to psychological outcomes in the predicted direction.
- Foreclosure and Moratorium identity statuses have not been confirmed.
- A unique FOMO status has been identified, which needs confirmation.

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Development and Initial Testing of the Compassion Scale for Chinese (CSC)*

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Due to limited data and a lack of appropriate measures on compassion for the Chinese, our study was aimed at developing a Compassion Scale for Chinese (CSC) and examining its validity and reliability. We took the core of compassion in Chinese culture, kindness to suffering, into account in the development of the CSC. A total of 540 Chinese participants were recruited for this study. Sample 1 (n = 331) was required to finish the preliminary scale of CSC. Sample 2 (n=209) was asked to complete a battery of questionnaires, including the CSC, Self-Compassion Scale, Lovingkindness-Compassion Scale, Santa Clara Brief Compassion Scale, Center for Epidemiologic Studies-Depression Scale, Depressive Experiences Questionnaire, and Undergraduates' Self-Compassion Questionnaire. Results of factor analyses suggested a 25-item compassion scale covers self and others, with four correlated factors (sensitivity to others, kindness to self, kindness to others, and tolerance of uncomfortable feelings), and a higher-order factor with a good fit in both the initial sample and the validation sample. Further, validity tests and internal consistency tests also showed a good level of validity and reliability. The CSC could benefit from further studies on individual well-being and compassion-related interventions in the Chinese context.

Keywords: compassion, factor analysis, kindness, Chinese, validity

Highlights:

- The CCS is rooted in Chinese culture and the core element of compassion: kindness.
- The CCS covers both self and others, comprising four factors and 25 items.
- Factors are kindness to oneself, kindness to others, sensitivity to others, and tolerance of uncomfortable feelings. *Tolerance of uncomfortable feelings* is bidirectional for oneself and others.
- The CSS provided adequate validity and reliability in our study.

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Gender-Specific Network Structures in Adolescent Eating Behaviour and Body Image: A Network Psychometric Approach*

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Eating disorders represent a significant public health concern among adolescents, yet traditional symptom-based approaches may overlook the complex interrelationships among psychological constructs. This study employed Latent Variable Network Modeling (LVNM) to examine the network structure of eating disorder symptoms, self-related constructs, emotional eating patterns, and social appearance anxiety in 455 Turkish adolescents (61.3% female; *M*age = 15.6 years). LVNM extends traditional network analysis by correcting for measurement error, providing more accurate estimates of relationships among latent constructs. Following confirmatory factor analysis to validate measurement models, latent factor scores were extracted and subjected to network estimation using the Extended Bayesian Information Criterion graphical least absolute shrinkage and selection operator (EBICglasso). Centrality analysis identified emotional eating as the most central node (strength z = 1.50), suggesting it plays a pivotal role in activating and maintaining eating disorder symptomatology. Guilt demonstrated highest betweenness centrality (18), positioning it as a key bridge connecting different symptom domains. Bridge centrality analysis revealed that social appearance anxiety (bridge strength = 0.767) served as the primary connector between social-evaluative concerns and eating pathology. Self-compassion occupied a peripheral position with predominantly protective connections (r = –.132 with social anxiety). Gender-specific networks showed similar overall structure (global strength: female = 4.144, male = 4.136), but emotional eating demonstrated higher centrality in males (1.309 vs. 1.031). The network approach reveals that addressing emotional eating may have cascading effects throughout the eating disorder symptom network, offering insights for prevention and intervention strategies among adolescents.

Keywords: latent variable network modeling, eating disorders, emotional eating, self-compassion, social appearance anxiety, adolescents

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Highlights

- Emotional eating is the central factor in the network of eating disorders among adolescents and is therefore the most critical target for clinical intervention.
- Social appearance anxiety links social anxieties to eating pathology and serves as the primary bridge between external social pressures and internal disordered eating behaviors.
- Self-compassion functions as a protective factor against social anxiety

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Can Trait-Like Creative Self-Efficacy Explain the Relationship Between Openness and Creativity in A Cappella Singers?*

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Previous studies have consistently shown the relationship between openness and creativity. The aim of this study was to investigate whether this relationship is mediated by creative self-efficacy beliefs in a cappella singers. A total of 128 individuals from 18 traditional Croatian a cappella groups (cro. *klape*) participated in the study (mean age $M = 37.93$, $SD = 10.08$). Openness was measured as an average of self-report and two peer-reports on the Open-Mindedness subscale of the BFI-2 questionnaire, trait-like creative self-efficacy with the self-report on the Creative Self-efficacy subscale of the Short Scale of Creative Self, while assessments of the overall creativity level and creative behavior were also obtained as an average of self-report and two peer-reports. The results of the mediation analysis showed that openness was significantly positively related to creative self-efficacy and both measures of creativity. Only the relationship between openness and overall creativity was mediated by creative self-efficacy.

Keywords: creative self-efficacy, openness, Pro-C creativity, self- and peer-reports, singers

Highlights:

- Openness, trait-like creative self-efficacy (tCSE) and creativity association was studied.
- Self- and peer-reports were used to assess investigated constructs.
- Openness was related to tCSE and both measures of creativity.
- Overall creativity level, but not creative behavior in a cappella singing, was related to tCSE.
- Future studies should examine the role of domain-specific creative self-efficacy.

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The Effect of Weight Stereotype Threat on the Motor Skill Learning and Intrinsic Motivation of Children*

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The present study aimed to investigate the effect of weight stereotypes on the motor skill learning and intrinsic motivation of children. Twenty-four boys aged 8 to 10 years old (M = 8.34 ± .72) with self-perceptions of being overweight (BMI ≥ 25) were randomly divided into two equal groups: one comprising overweight children with overweight self-perceptions (Stereotype [ST]) and the other comprising normal weight children with overweight self-perceptions (Reduced stereotype [RST]). Dribbling a futsal ball between obstacles was assessed through pre-test, post-test, and retention stages. A modified Intrinsic Motivation Inventory (IMI) was completed by the participants. Results revealed significant differences between the ST and RST in both the acquisition and retention phases in favor of RST. Additionally, before the retention test, the RST achieved significantly higher IMI scores compared to the ST. Therefore, the findings indicate that weight stereotypes have a significant effect on motor skill acquisition for boys.

Keywords: dribbling skill, futsal, stereotype, motivation

Highlights:

- This study was the first research that was conducted on weight stereotypes? (*8-10* y).
- The weight stereotypes can affect the motor skill learning of children.
- The weight stereotypes can affect the intrinsic motivation of children.
- Intrinsic motivation can be improved by positive stereotypes.

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