

Assessing the robustness of established construct associations across race/ethnic groups

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Research Question

- * What can evaluation of established variable associations tell us about measurement quality?
 - * Should findings replicate across groups?
 - * [IF NOT]: How do we interpret differences in variable associations across cultural groups?
- * Do differences represent:
 - * Group variability in meaning of questions?
 - * Group variability in social processes being examined?
 - * Group variability in the quality of data being obtained?
- * How can we discern which interpretation is most correct?

Data Sources

- * Political Attitudes and Ideology
 - * N=400 face-to-face interviews with equal numbers of African American, Korean American, Mexican American, and non-Hispanic white respondents in Chicago
- * Social Support and Mental Health
 - * N=603 face-to-face interviews with equal numbers of African American, Korean American, Mexican American, and non-Hispanic white respondents in Chicago
- * Interviews conducted in English, Spanish & Korean.

Previously Established Associations Between Measures of Political Attitudes

- * Partisanship and ideology
 - * (Campbell et al. 1960; Abramowitz and Saunders 1998; Jacobson 2000; Putz 2002)
- * Partisanship and support for government services
 - * (Page and Shapiro 1992; Stimson 2004; Carsey and Layman 2006)
- * Partisanship and feelings towards environmentalists
 - * (Page and Shapiro 1992; Stimson 2004; Coffey and Joseph 2013)

Political Attitude & Ideology Measures

Partisanship

- * “Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?”

Ideology

- * “We hear a lot of talk these days about liberals and conservatives. When it comes to politics, do you usually think of yourself as extremely liberal, liberal, slightly liberal, moderate or middle of the road, slightly conservative, conservative, extremely conservative, or haven't you thought much about this?”

Government Services

- * “Please look at CARD B4. Some people think the government should provide fewer services even in areas such as health and education in order to reduce spending. Suppose these people are at one end of a scale, at point 1. Other people feel it is important for the government to provide many more services even if it means an increase in spending. Suppose these people are at the other end, at point 7. And, of course, some other people have opinions somewhere in between, at points 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6. Where would you place yourself on this scale, or haven't you thought much about this?”

Feelings towards environmentalists

- * “How would you rate environmentalists? (0-100)”

Partial Correlations Between Partisanship and Measure of Ideology

	(n)	Partial r
African American	(87)	0.17
Korean American	(82)	0.14
Mexican American	(79)	0.05
White, non-Hispanic	(96)	0.77***
Total Sample	(344)	0.48***

Note: partial correlations control for age, education, gender, income & interview language.
*** $p < .001$

Partial Correlations Between Partisanship and Measure of Support for Government Services

	(n)	Partial r
African American	(68)	-0.01
Korean American	(81)	0.002
Mexican American	(69)	0.08
White, non-Hispanic	(91)	0.59***
Total Sample	(309)	0.31***

Note: partial correlations control for age, education, gender, income & interview language.
*** $p < .001$

Partial Correlations Between Partisanship and Measure of Feelings towards Environmentalists

	(n)	Partial r
African American	(83)	0.27**
Korean American	(84)	0.08
Mexican American	(76)	-0.03
White, non-Hispanic	(96)	0.59***
Total Sample	(347)	0.07

Note: partial correlations control for age, education, gender, income & interview language.
p<.01; *p<.001

Previously Established Associations Between Health & Demographic Measures

- * Social support and depression / mental health / stress
 - * Aneshensel & Frerichs (1982), Billings, Cronkite & Moss, 1983), Dean & Ensel (1982), Goldberg, Van Natta & Comstock (1985), Leine et al. (1983), Phillips & Fischer (1984), Schaefer, Coyne & Lazarus (1981)
- * Stress and depression
 - * Cohen & Hoberman (1983), Dean, Lin & Ensel (1981)

Social Support & Mental Health Measures

Depression – 4 item scale (alpha=0.71)

- * And how often have you felt downhearted and depressed during the past 4 weeks? Would you say all of the time, most of the time, some of the time, a little of the time, or none of the time?
- * During the past 4 weeks, how much of the time have you had any of the following problems with your work or other regular daily activities as a result of any emotional problems such as feeling depressed or anxious
- * Thinking again about your mental health, which includes stress, depression, and problems with emotions, for how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good?
- * How many times in the past 7 days have you felt down or depressed in general?

Social Support & Mental Health Measures

Social Support – 4 item scale (alpha=0.70)

- * “How many close friends did R do social networking with through e-mail in the past 7 days?”
- * “Excluding social networking, how many close friends did R spend time with in the past 7 days?”
- * “In general, how many close friends does R have?”
- * “Would R say has more friends as most people R knows?”

Perceived Stress

- * “Thinking about the past year, and using this scale, how would you rate the total amount of stress you have experienced?”

Self Mental Health Rating

- * “How would R rate overall mental health? [Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair or Poor]”

Partial Correlations Between Perceived Stress & Depression

	(n)	Partial r
African American	(138)	0.37***
Korean American	(134)	0.49***
Mexican American	(133)	0.44***
White, non-Hispanic	(144)	0.45***
Total Sample	(549)	0.42***

Note: partial correlations control for age, education, gender, income & interview language;
***p<.001

Partial Correlations Between Perceived Stress & Depression: Comparisons Across Data Sets

	2009-2010 Chicago Data		2011-12 California Health Interview Survey Data	
	(n)	Partial r	(n)	Partial r
African American	(138)	0.37***	(7,462)	0.63***
Korean American	(134)	0.49***	(739)	0.61***
Mexican American	(133)	0.44***	(2,235)	0.63***
White, non-Hispanic	(144)	0.45***	(27,234)	0.60***
Total Sample	(549)	0.42***	(42,714)	0.61***

Note: partial correlations control for age, education, gender, income & interview language;
 ***p<.001

CHIS Social Support & Mental Health & Stress Measures

Depression – 5 item scale (alpha=0.79)

- * About how often during the past 30 days did you feel nervous—Would you say all of the time, most of the time, some of the time, a little of the time, or none of the time?
- * During the past 30 days, about how often did you feel hopeless—all of the time, most of the time, some of the time, a little of the time, or none of the time?
- * During the past 30 days, about how often did you feel restless or fidgety?
- * How often did you feel so depressed that nothing could cheer you up?
- * During the past 30 days, about how often did you feel that everything was an effort?

Perceived Stress

- * EXPERIENCED SERIOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS IN THE PAST MONTH

Partial Correlations Between Social Support & Depression Scales

	(n)	Partial r
African American	(130)	-0.15
Korean American	(132)	-0.08
Mexican American	(127)	-0.25**
White, non-Hispanic	(144)	-0.01
Total Sample	(533)	-0.08

Note: partial correlations control for age, education, income & interview language;
**p<.01

Partial Correlations Between Social Support & Self Mental Health Ratings

	(n)	Partial r
African American	(134)	0.15
Korean American	(132)	0.15
Mexican American	(128)	0.21**
White, non-Hispanic	(146)	0.10
Total Sample	(540)	0.15***

Note: partial correlations control for age, education, gender, income & interview language;
p<.01; *p<.001

Partial Correlations Between Social Support and Perceived Stress

	(n)	Partial r
African American	(134)	-0.05
Korean American	(132)	-0.10
Mexican American	(128)	-0.19*
White, non-Hispanic	(146)	-0.05
Total Sample	(540)	-.11*

Note: partial correlations control for age, education, gender, income & interview language;
*p<.05

Discussion

- * Comparing associations across groups can help identify:
 - * Potential measurement problems
 - * Which can be confirmed with CFA, IRT and other measurement models
 - * Potentially useful substantive findings
 - * Which can be confirmed with multi-group SEM, multi-level and other models
 - * The key issue is to determine if one, both, or neither are correct.

Questions?

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