

# EAM2025

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European  
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Methodology



### Sex-Based Differential Item Functioning in the Broad Autism Phenotype-International Test

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### IRT Analyses: Sex\*Country changes:

Winsteps → R (mirt package)

RSM → PCM

Added DTF assessment

## Broad Autism Phenotype (BAP)

### Autism Spectrum Disorder

#### **SOCIAL**

Persistent deficits in social communication and social interaction across multiple contexts

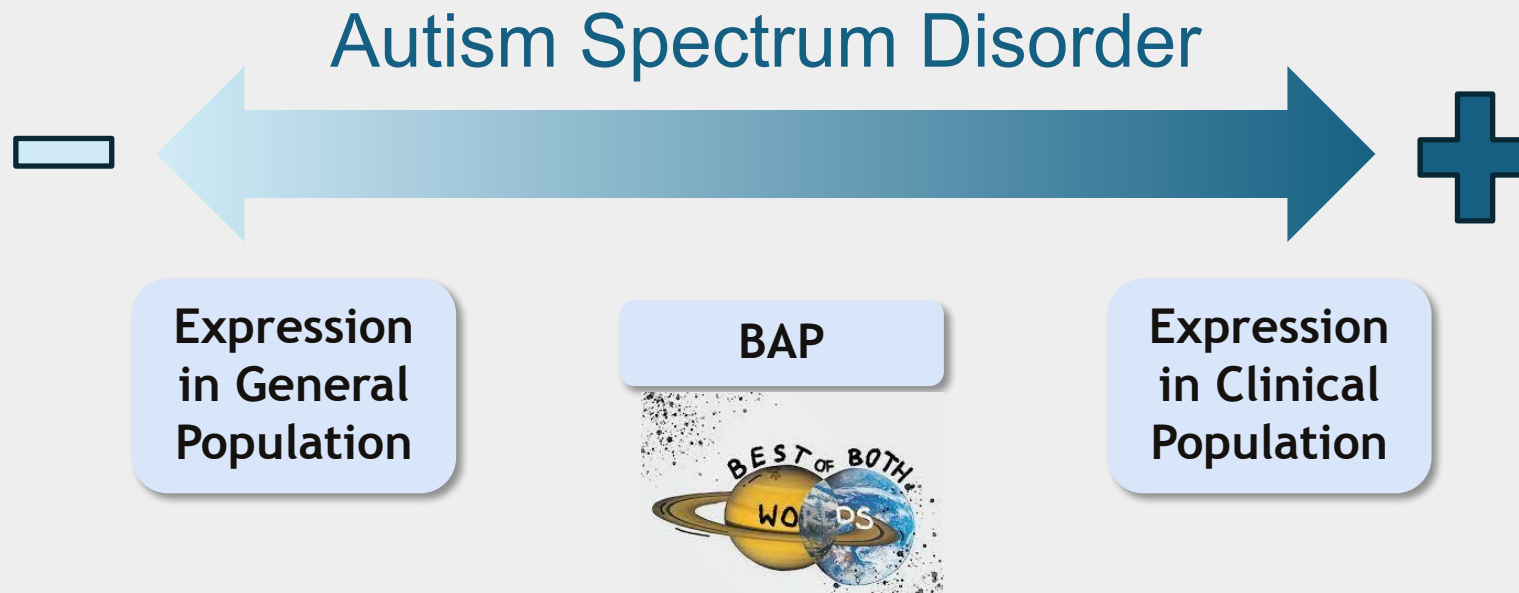
- A. Deficits in social-emotional reciprocity
- B. Deficits in non-verbal communicative behaviours used for social interaction
- C. Deficits in developing, maintaining, and understanding relationships

#### **RIRE**

Restricted and/or repetitive patterns of behaviours, interests, or activities

- A. Stereotyped or repetitive motor movements, use of objects, or speech
- B. Insistence on sameness, inflexible adherence to routines, or ritualized patterns of verbal or nonverbal behaviour
- C. Highly restricted, fixated interests
- D. Hyper- or hyporeactivity to sensory input or unusual interest in sensory aspects of the environment

## Broad Autism Phenotype (BAP)



## Broad Autism Phenotype (BAP)

### Similar to ASD, lower severity

- Lower comorbidity
- Greater accessibility → increased statistical power
- Greater flexibility in task design
- Greater variability in the co-occurrence of symptom expression across different dimensions

### Further Advantages

- ASD Study
  - ❑ Structure, Measurement Models
  - ❑ Cultural Effect
  - ❑ Parent-Child Patterns



## Cultural and Sex influence

### BAP/ADS Neurodevelopmental but...

Diagnosed based on culturally defined deviations from typical behaviour (Daley, 2002)

Culture

Reduced eye contact → Western vs East Asian Cultures

Culture\*Sex

Speech Delays → USA (early detection) vs India (boys' late speech more socially accepted)

Culture\*Sex

Social Difficulties → misinterpreted as mere shyness in Saudi girls

## Cultural and Sex influence

### BAP/ADS Neurodevelopmental but...

Societal Structure

Variability in social interactions

More structured and more predictable social environments are generally better suited for individuals with ASD, as they help navigate social interactions more effectively

Individualistic

Direct communications (clear goals and personal distance)

Collectivistic

More indirect communications (implicit communications, more contact)

## Cultural and Sex influence

**BAP/ADS Neurodevelopmental but...**

**Women** (vs men)

Adapt ASD behaviors in response to  
social pressures

Camouflaging strategies

Social Norms

Education

Differential ASD expression

Superior linguistic skills

Restricted interests that revolve  
around people or animals

Heightened awareness of social interaction



# Broad Autism Phenotype International Test (BAP-IT)

## Simultaneous construction in SP and UK

Partial metric invariance SP-UK

Simple factor structure

Validity evidence with other variables

7-subdomain representativity

SOCIAL - Domain A, 9 items

Includes the three subdomains

RIRE- Domain B, 11 items

Includes the four subdomains

## Objectives

**Multiple Group IRT Analyses**

**DIF and DTF Country\*Sex**

## Method

### Sample

#### SPAIN (n = 970):

- 557 **SP women** (57.4%; age M = 37.94 (0.51))
- 401 **SP men** (41.3%; age M = 37.43 (0.67))
- Convenience (n = 601; quota age and sex Spanish population) and snowball (n = 369)

#### UK (n = 533)

- 263 **UK women** (49.3%; age M = 45.44 (0.99))
- 270 **UK men** (50.7%; age M = 45.69 (0.96))
- Quota sampling (age and sex UK population) from an online panel

### Procedure

Online application

### Instrument

#### Broad Autism Phenotype- International Test (BAP-IT)

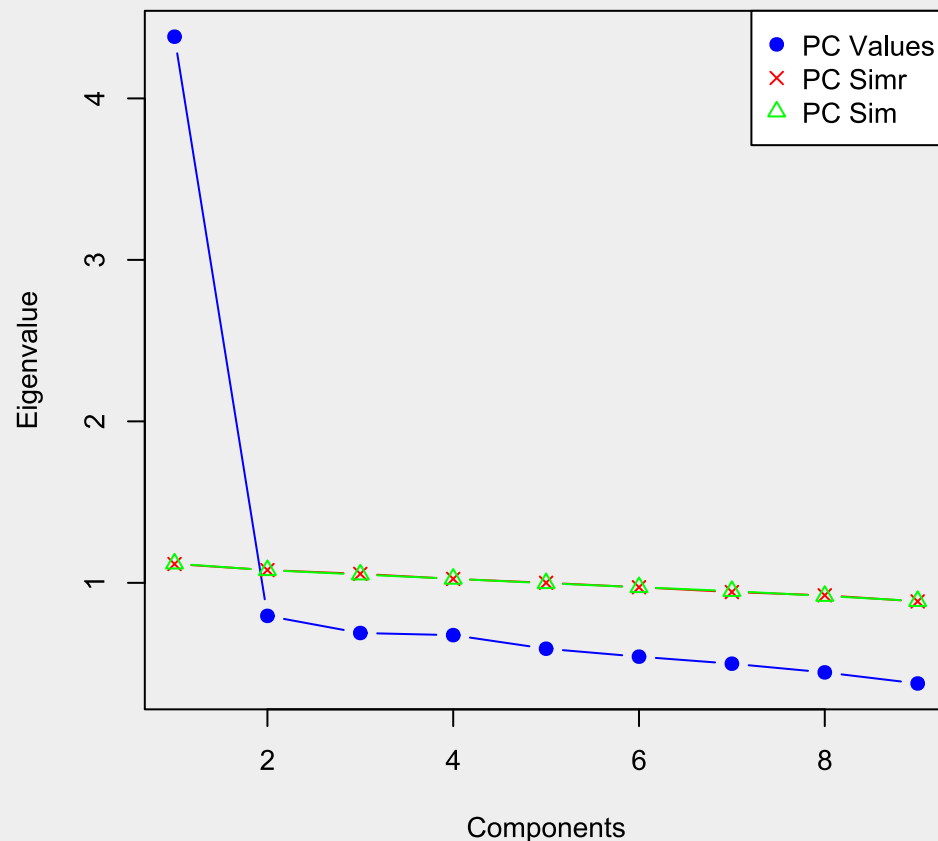
- 6 response alternatives
- 2 dimensions
- SOCIAL (9 items); 54 points
- RIRE (11 items): 66 points

### Data Analysis

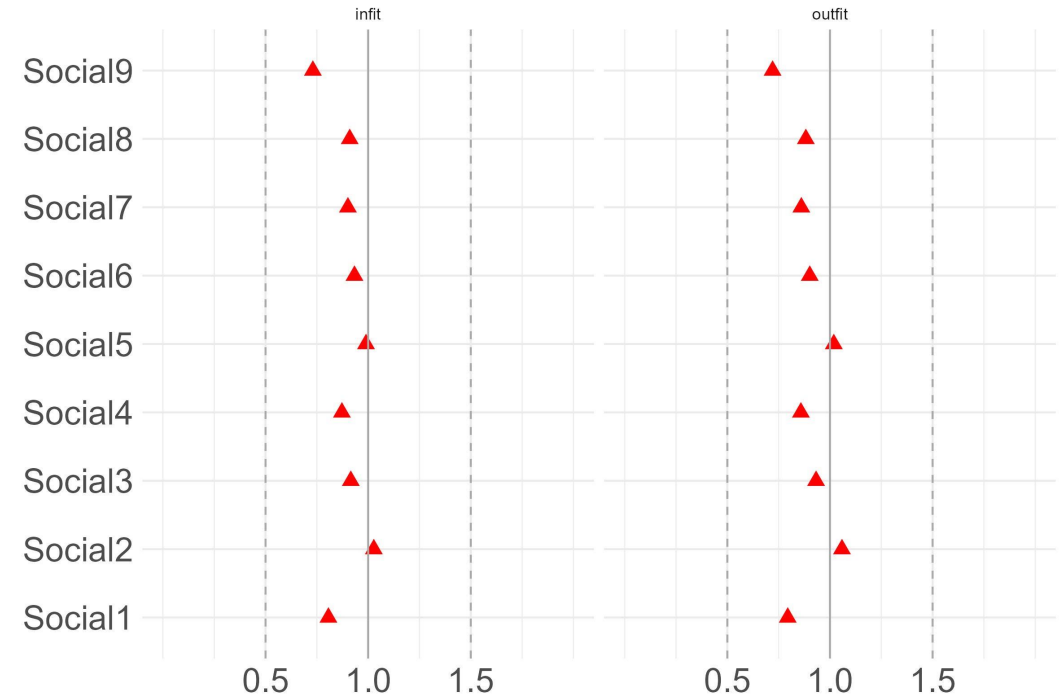
- Dimensionality
- Partial Credit model
- Expectation maximization algorithm
- Fit
- DIF: likelihood ratio test with forward sequential anchor selection (AIC/SABIC), and Expected Score Standardized Difference (ESSD) as effect size
- DTF: signed and unsigned Differential Test Functioning

# Global Results: Social Dimensionality and Fit

**Social Scree Plot**



**SOCIAL Item Infit and Outfit Statistics**



Note: Items with values within 0.5 and 1.5 are considered to be productive for measurement.

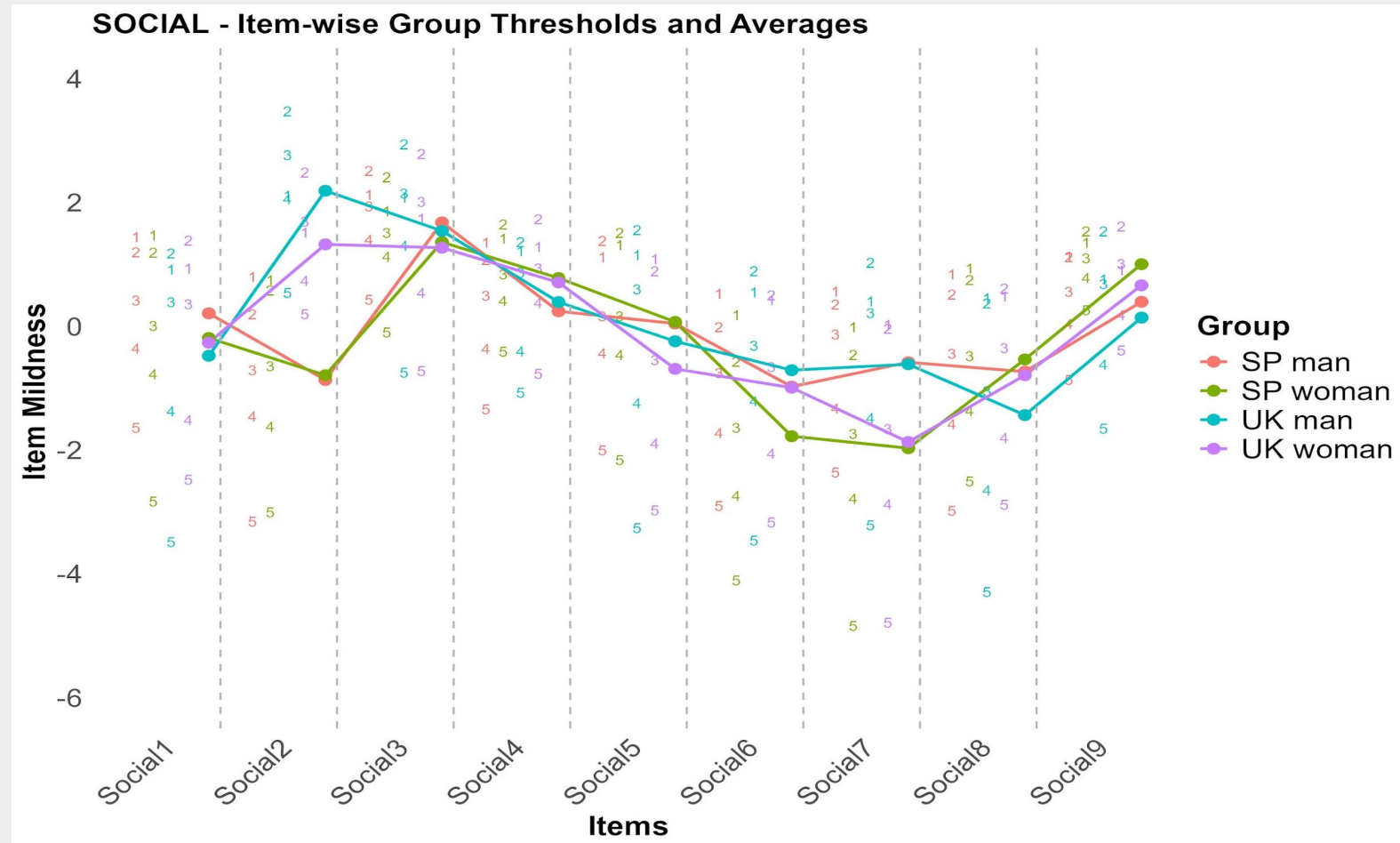
## Multigroup Results: Social Item Fit



	Infit				Outfit			
	SP MAN	SP WOMAN	UK MAN	UK WOMAN	SP MAN	SP WOMAN	UK MAN	UK WOMAN
<b>Social1</b>	0.70	0.85	0.86	0.89	0.73	0.85	0.85	0.86
<b>Social2</b>	0.97	0.95	1.17	1.13	1.05	0.98	1.19	1.13
<b>Social3</b>	0.93	0.95	0.92	0.92	0.98	1.00	0.91	0.91
<b>Social4</b>	0.86	0.85	1.04	0.92	0.87	0.84	1.14	0.94
<b>Social5</b>	1.08	1.03	0.92	1.03	1.20	1.11	0.91	1.04
<b>Social6</b>	1.14	1.02	0.73	0.76	1.16	1.03	0.74	0.71
<b>Social7</b>	0.85	1.01	0.81	0.86	0.84	0.98	0.86	0.76
<b>Social8</b>	0.97	0.91	0.93	0.90	0.95	0.92	0.86	0.89
<b>Social9</b>	0.73	0.65	0.78	0.81	0.73	0.64	0.75	0.76

# Multigroup Results: Social Parameters

-Severity

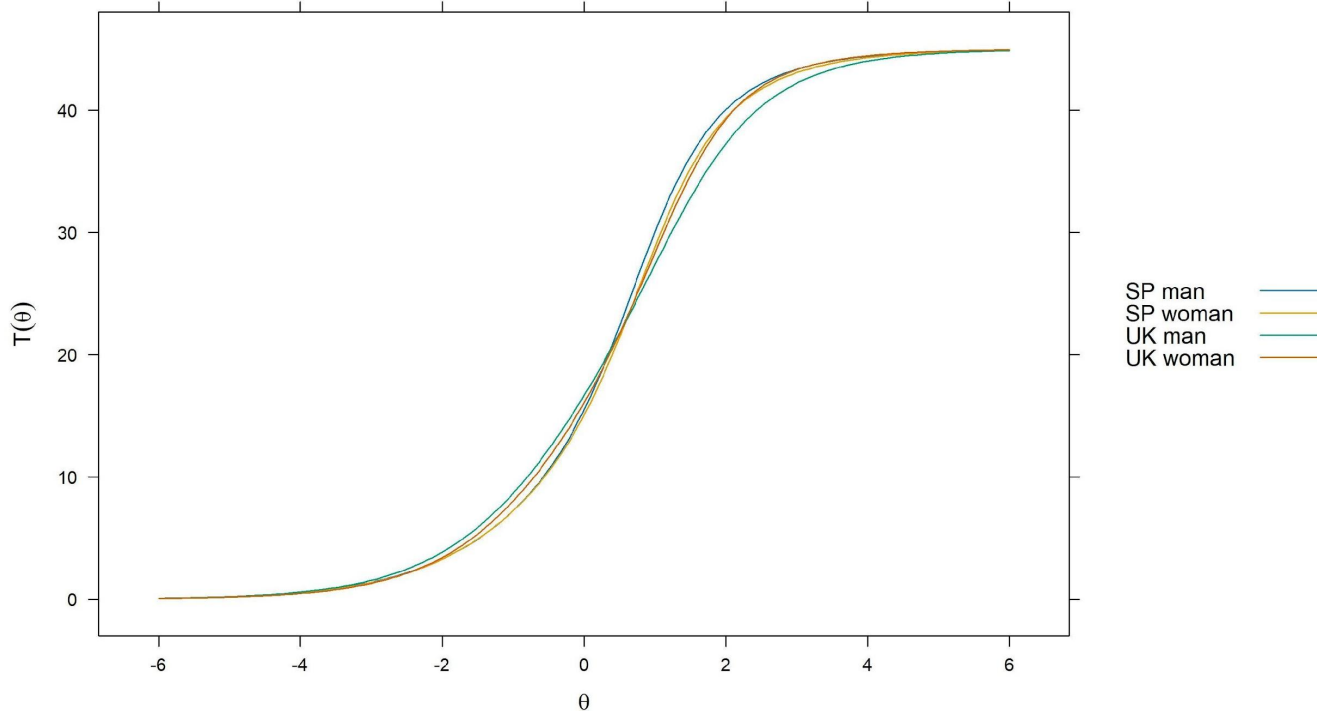


+Severity



## Multigroup Results: Social DTF

SOCIAL Expected Total Score



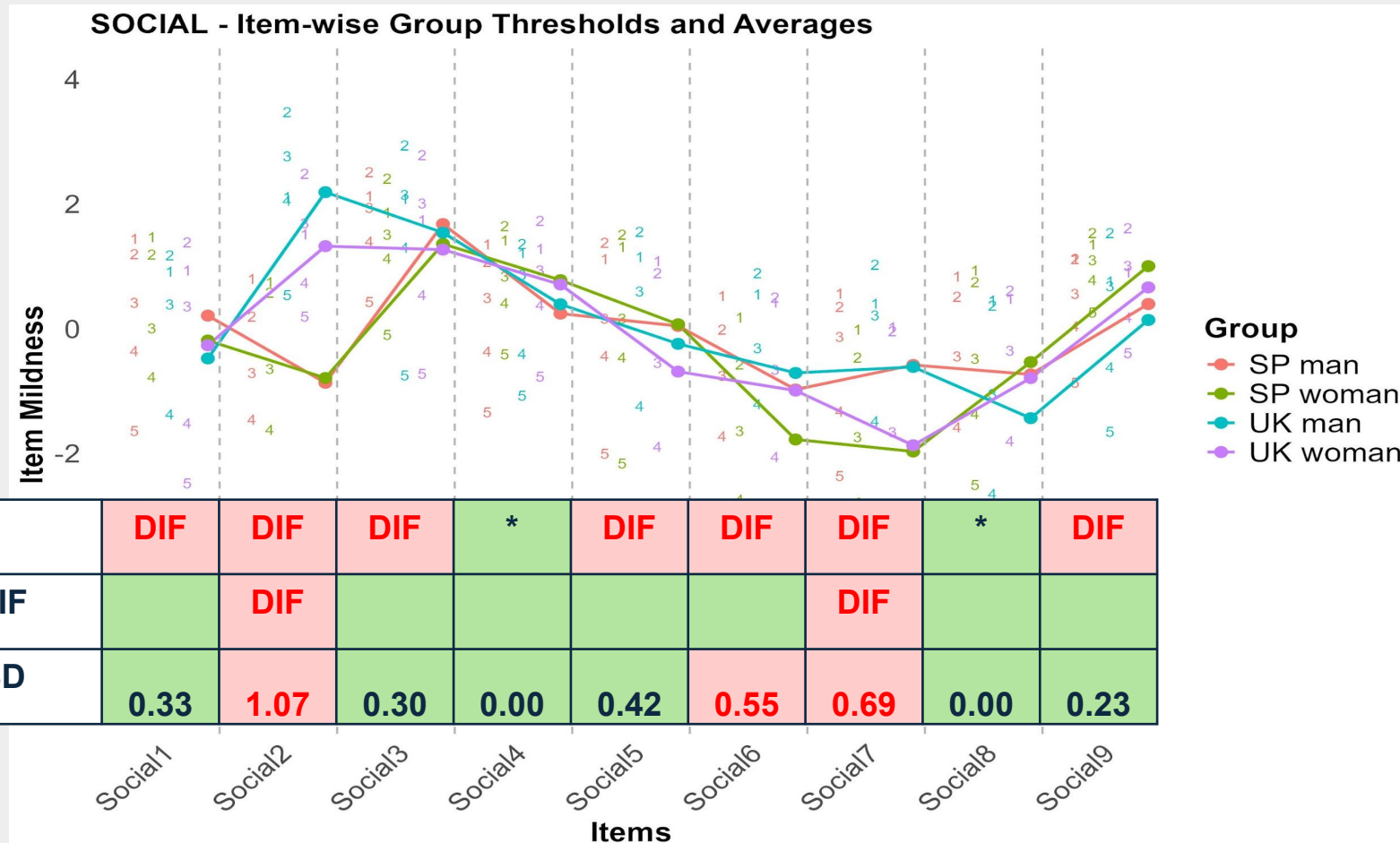
**Social Total Raw Score = 54**

	sDTF	sDTF(%)	uDTF	uDTF(%)
SP M - SP W	0.24	0.53	0.24	0.53
SP M - UK M	0.32	0.70	0.85	1.89
SP M - UK W	0.10	0.22	0.34	0.76
SP W - UK M	0.08	0.17	0.70	1.56
SP W - UK W	-0.14	-0.31	0.26	0.57
UK M - UK W	-0.22	-0.49	0.55	1.23



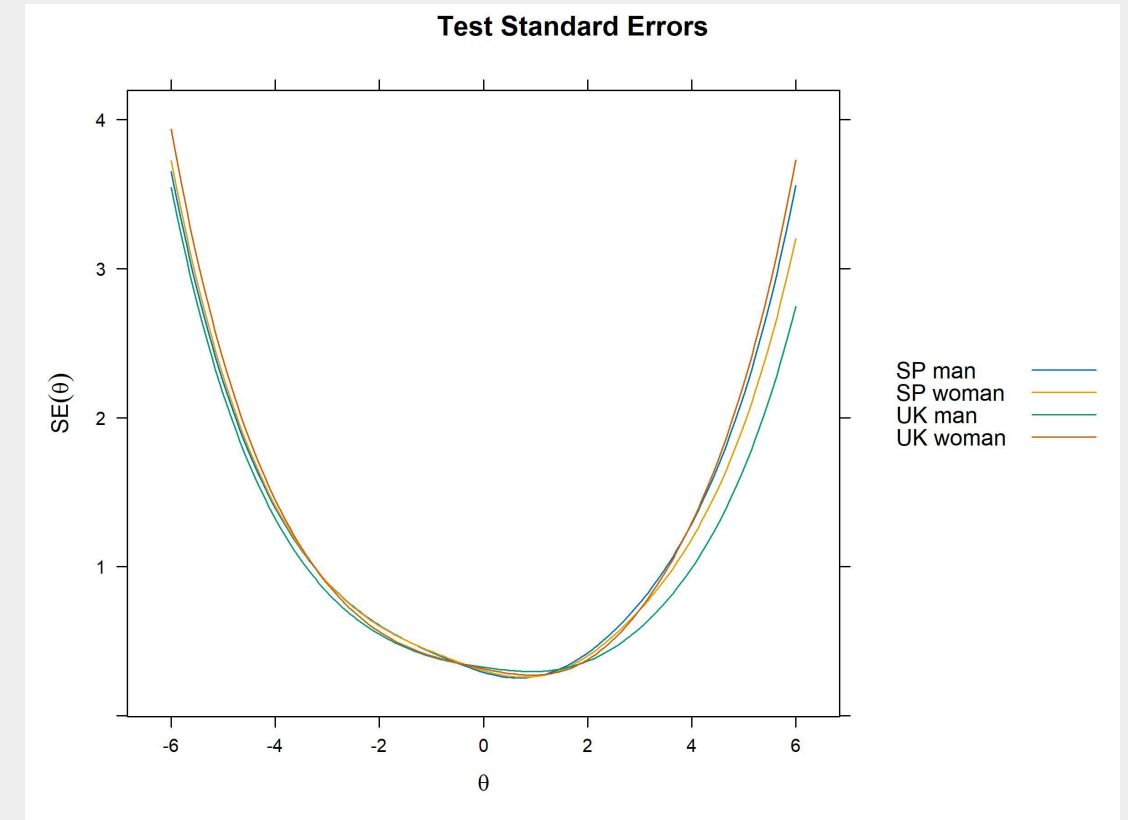
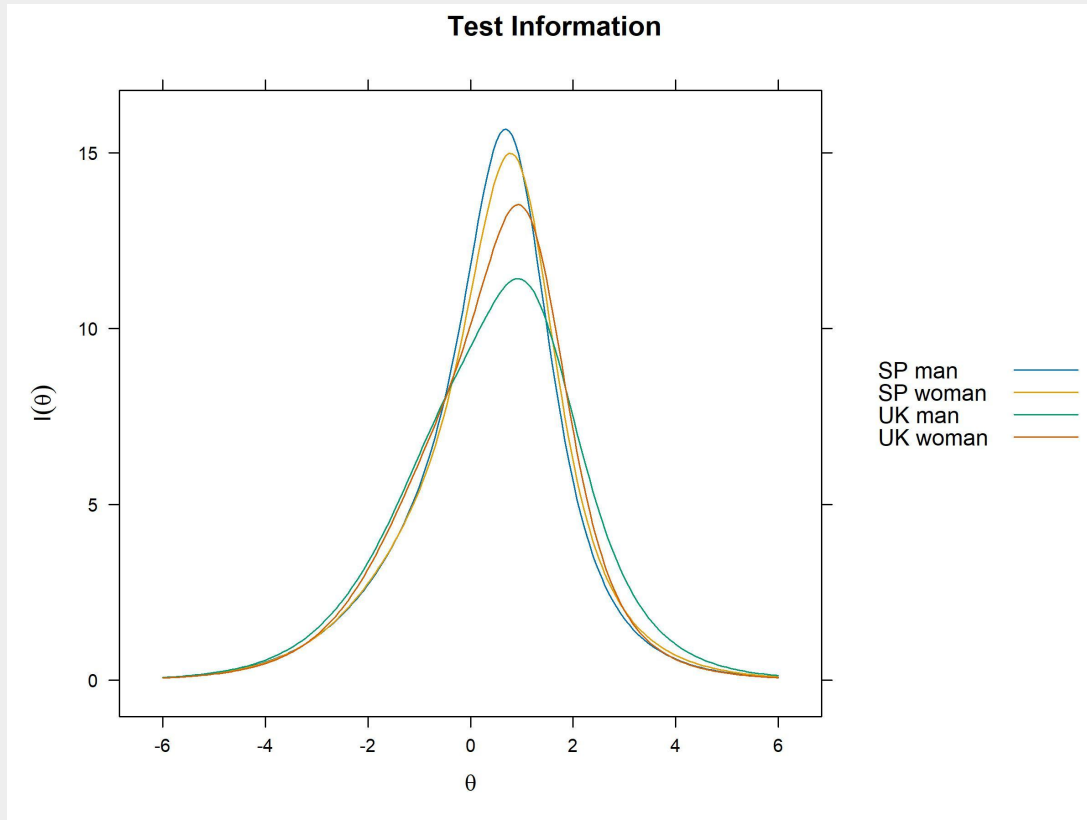
# Multigroup Results: Social DIF

-Severity



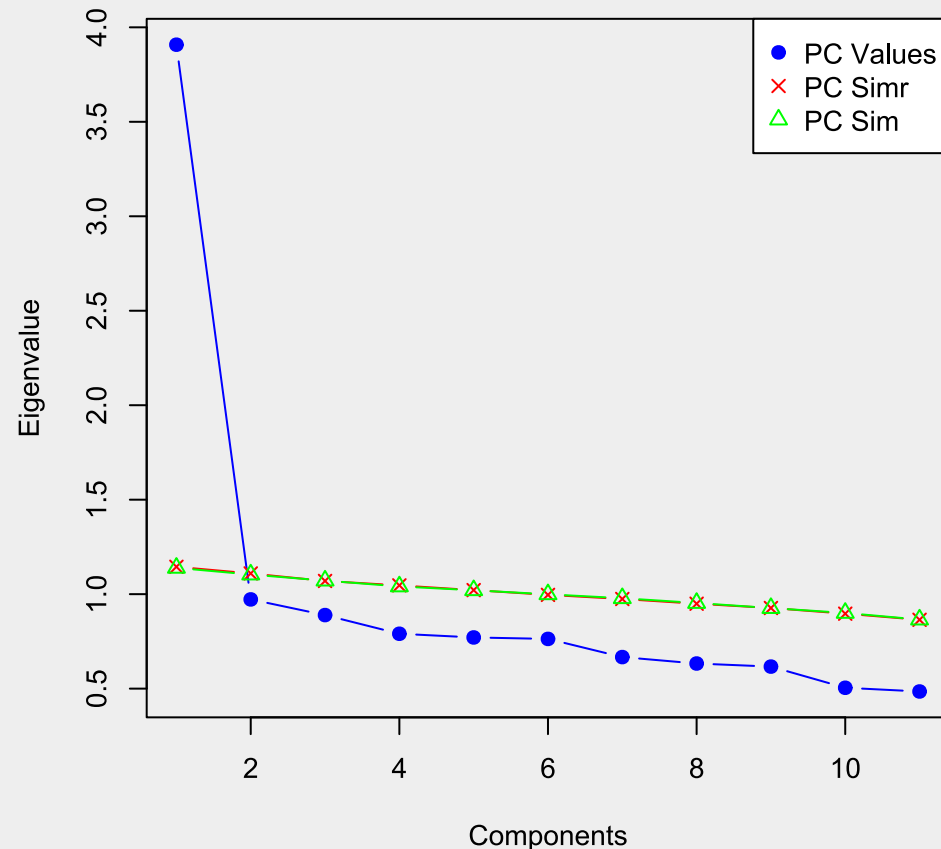
+Severity

## Multigroup Results: Social Information and SE

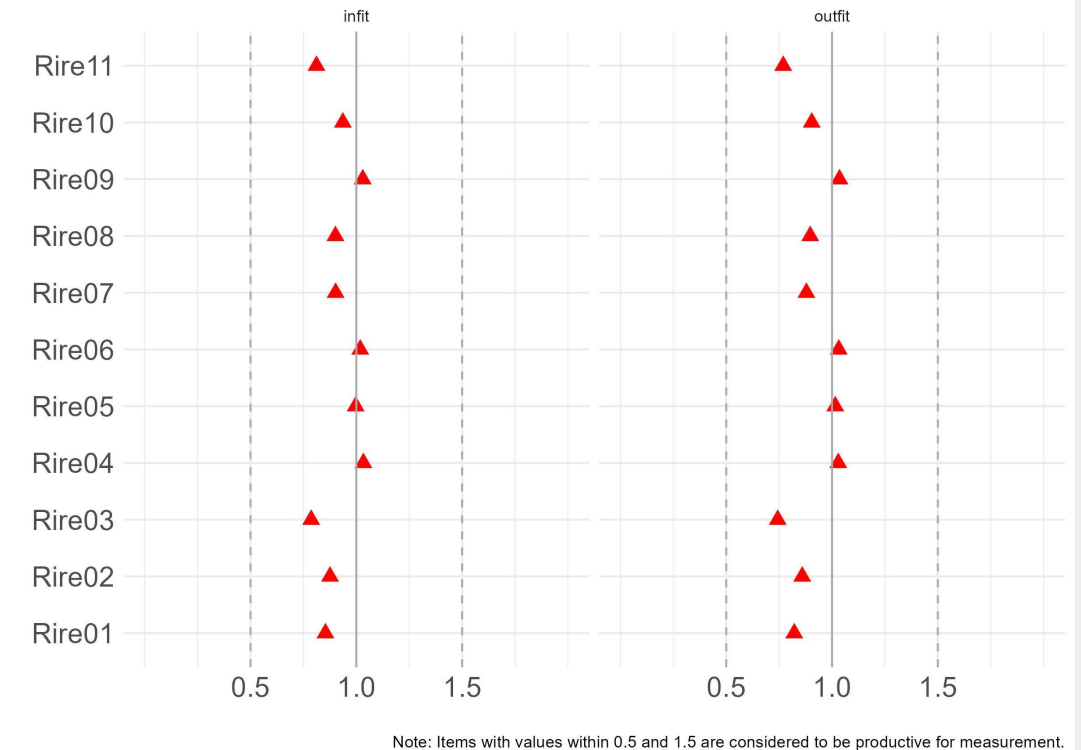


# Global Results: Rire Dimensionality and Fit

**RIRE Scree Plot**



**RIRE Item Infit and Outfit Statistics**



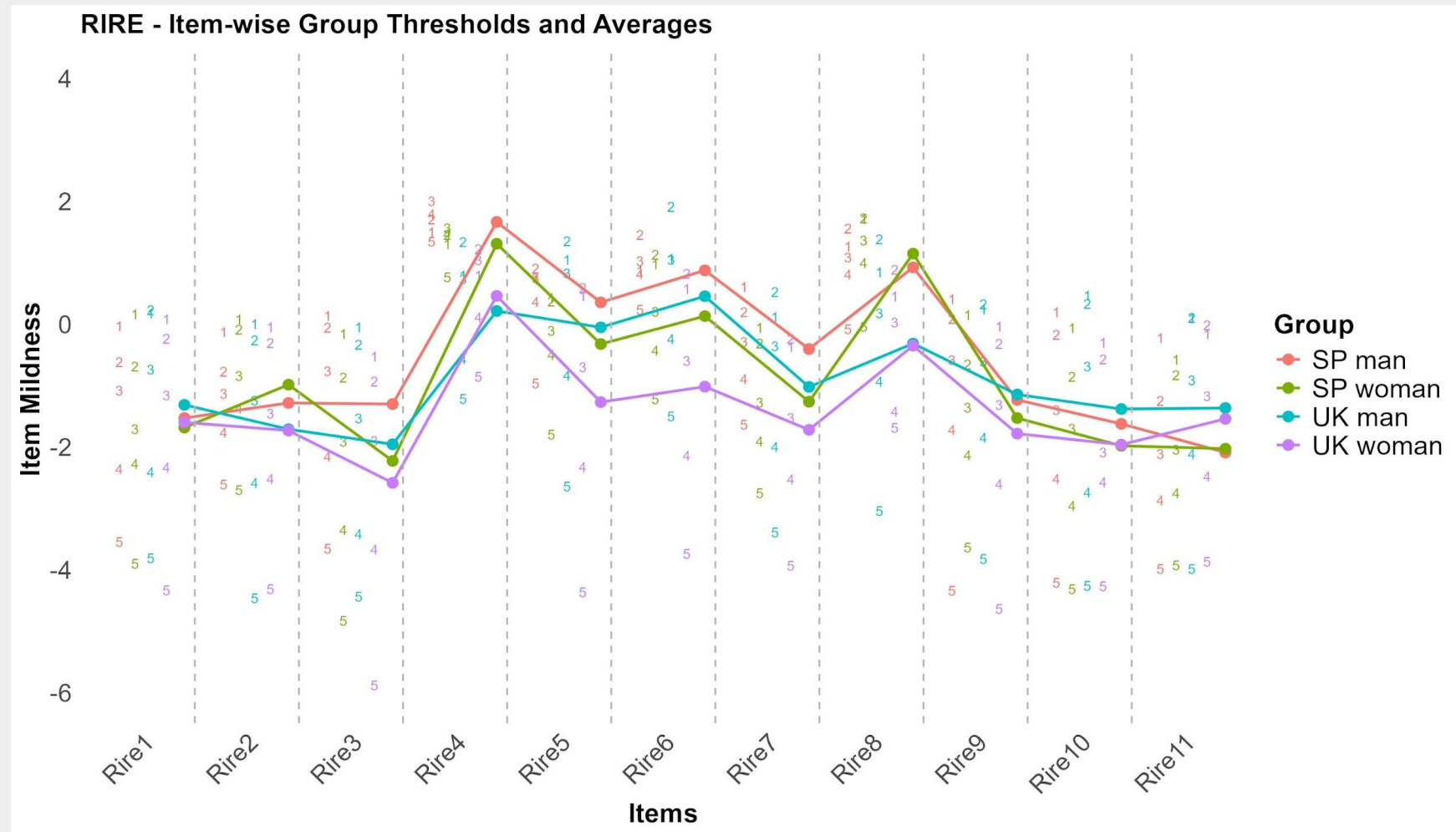
## Multigroup Results: Rire Item Fit



	Infit				Outfit			
	SP MAN	SP WOMAN	UK MAN	UK WOMAN	SP MAN	SP WOMAN	UK MAN	UK WOMAN
Rire1	0.87	0.80	0.78	0.92	0.80	0.82	0.71	0.99
Rire2	0.92	0.94	0.74	0.79	0.99	0.94	0.73	0.82
Rire3	0.86	0.77	0.70	0.67	0.88	0.72	0.64	0.61
Rire4	1.09	1.07	1.21	1.05	1.13	1.10	1.26	1.03
Rire5	1.17	1.05	0.91	0.88	1.28	1.09	0.95	0.91
Rire6	1.04	0.97	1.27	1.13	1.07	1.01	1.37	1.17
Rire7	0.85	0.93	1.03	0.93	0.87	0.92	0.99	0.93
Rire8	0.86	0.85	0.86	1.18	0.89	0.85	0.87	1.13
Rire9	0.94	1.18	1.03	1.06	0.96	1.31	0.99	1.09
Rire10	0.92	0.96	1.00	0.80	0.92	0.98	0.99	0.82
Rire11	0.77	0.74	0.75	0.81	0.79	0.70	0.74	0.74

# Multigroup Results: Rire Parameters

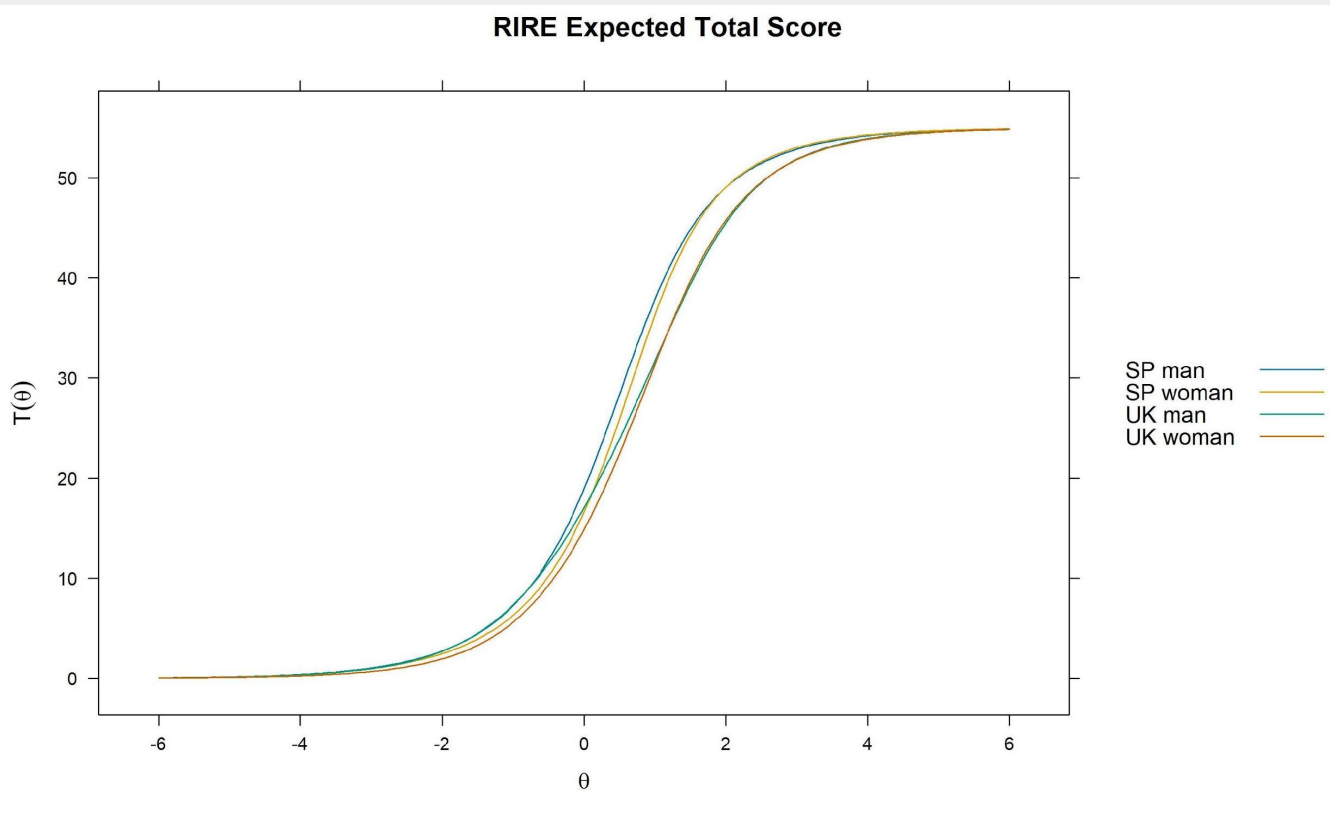
-Severity



+Severity



## Multigroup Results: Rire DTF

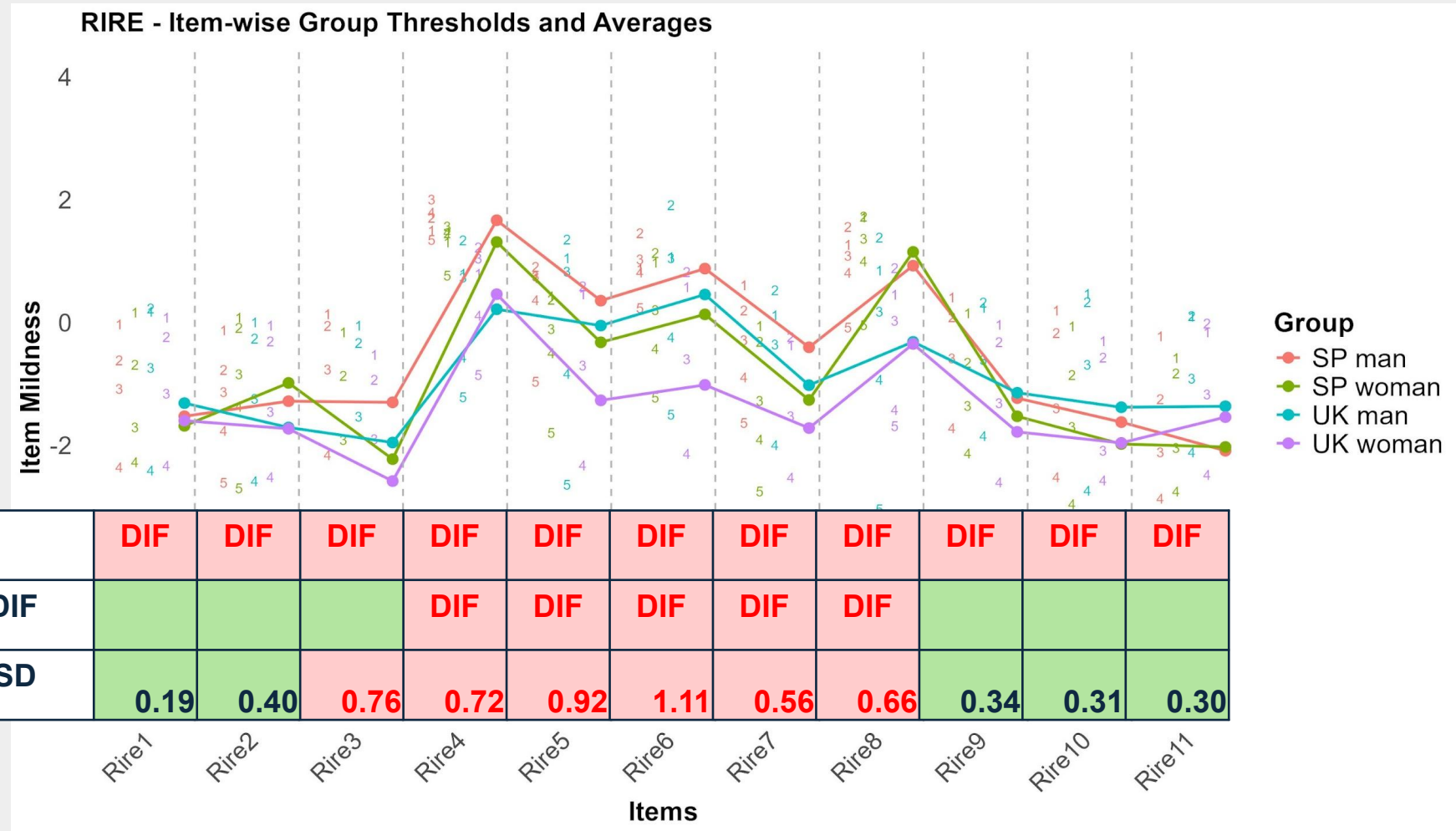


**Rire Total Raw Score = 54**

	sDTF	sDTF(%)	uDTF	uDTF(%)
SP M - SP W	0.41	0.74	0.46	0.84
SP M - UK M	1.09	<b>1.98</b>	1.10	2.00
SP M - UK W	1.53	<b>2.78</b>	1.53	2.78
SP W - UK M	0.68	1.23	0.98	1.78
SP W - UK W	1.12	<b>2.04</b>	1.12	2.04
UK M - UK W	0.44	0.80	0.49	0.90

# Multigroup Results: Rire DIF

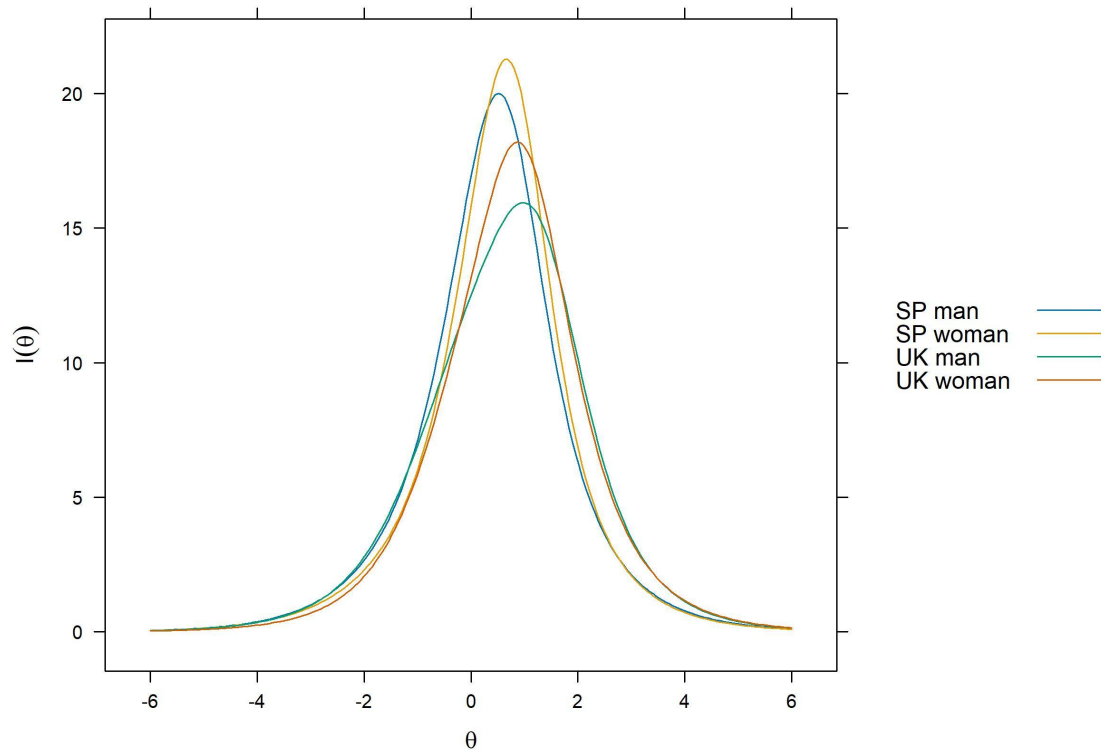
-Severity



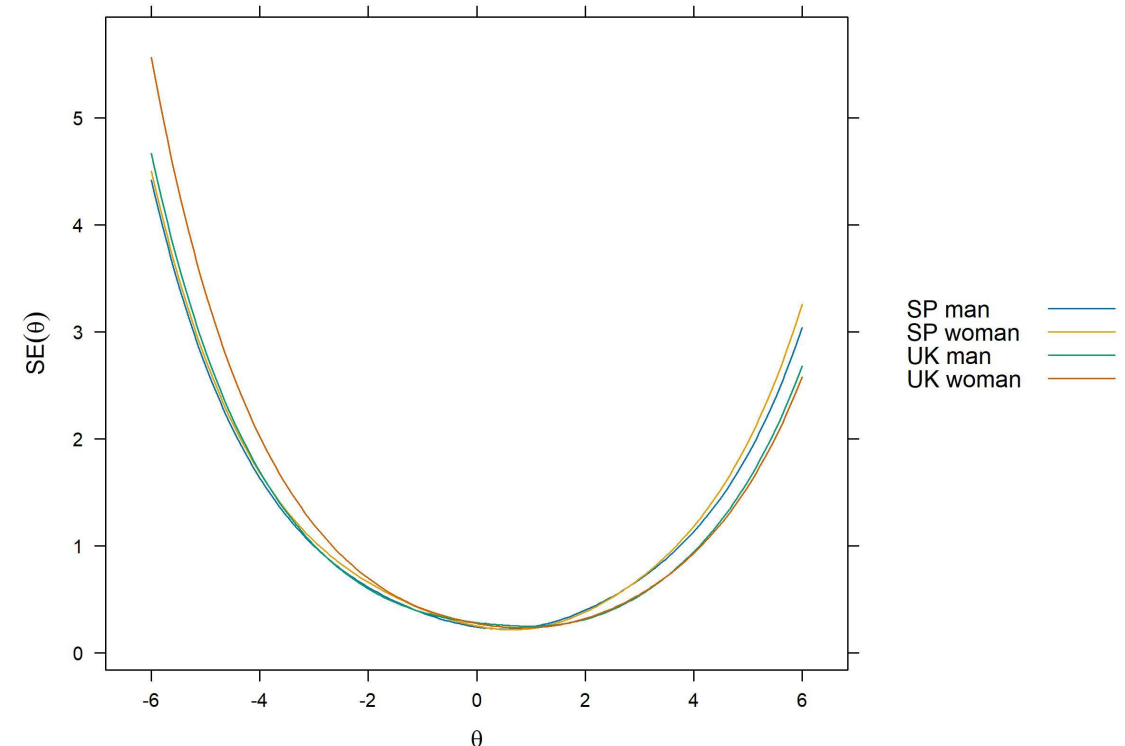
+Severity

## Multigroup Results: Final Rire (free means) DTF

Test Information



Test Standard Errors



## Discussion

**Social**

DTF negligible

DIF in items 2, 6, and 7

**Social 2:** During breaks in group activities (e.g., work, class, etc.), I prefer to do my own thing (e.g., get a head-start on work, read, etc.) to speaking to the other people in the group

**Culture**

Higher BAP severity required for endorsement in Spanish people

**Social 6:** When I am talking to someone, I am **not** sure where I should look

**Culture\*sex?**

Higher BAP severity required for endorsement in SP Women, lower in UK Men

**Social 7:** Other people think I am emotionally distant and do **not** show my feelings

**Sex**

Higher BAP severity required for endorsement in Women

Camouflaging in  
Mediterranean cultures?

## Discussion

### Rire

DTF Spanish vs English (use theta instead raw scores)

DIF in items 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8

**Rire 3:** When I hear a phrase that I like, I repeat it verbatim on other occasions even though it does **not** fit the context

Culture\*sex???

Lower BAP severity required for endorsement SP Men

**Rire 4:** Before leaving home, I have a specific way of preparing to avoid leaving with the feeling I have forgotten something

?

Higher BAP severity required for endorsement in British people

**Rire 5:** Regardless of the context, I use my own ways of greeting (e.g., sayings, set phrases) instead of conventional greetings

Culture\*sex?

Higher BAP severity required for endorsement in UK Women, lower to SP Men

## Discussion

**Rire**

DTF Spanish vs English (use theta instead raw scores)

DIF in items 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8

**Rire 6:** I love objects and mechanical games in which the movement of certain parts affects others (e.g., trains, cars, balance toys, pendulum balls, etc.)

Culture\*sex???

Higher BAP severity required for endorsement in UK Women, lower to SP Men

**Rire 7:** I pay close attention to all the numbers I come across (e.g., number plates on cars, dates, identity card numbers, etc.)

Culture\*sex???

Higher BAP severity required for endorsement in UK Women, lower to SP Men

**Rire 8:** I have a hard time getting rid of objects which other people usually attach no importance to

Culture???

Higher BAP severity required for endorsement in British people



# Thanks!