

Rasch-Based Unidimensional Integration of the Most Widely Used Scales for Assessing Belief in a Just World

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Oral presentation

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Abstract

The Belief in a Just World has traditionally been approached from a multidimensional perspective, distinguishing between the recipient of justice and the type of justice involved. However, recent research suggests exploring a unidimensional conceptualization. After confirming a bifactor structure capable of integrating the three most widely recognized scales in the literature (Dalbert, 1999; Lipkus et al., 1996; Lucas et al., 2011), Rasch models were applied to examine the psychometric properties of the items along a single dimension. This study was conducted with a sample of 515 individuals (59.8% women). Unidimensionality was confirmed through a principal component analysis of the residuals, complemented by a simulation based on the same parameters for items and respondents, with replacement, to ensure the stability of the results. The psychometric properties were adequate. All items showed good fit indices. The item separation index was [10.07, 10.69] and the person separation index was [4.40, 4.99] ([4.31, 4.80] including extreme scores). The item characteristic curves were also adequate. Moreover, due to high redundancy in severity and content, factor loadings from a bifactor model were used to propose a parsimonious evaluation of global BJW without compromising content representativeness. The psychometric properties of the short version and person scores were compared with those of the initial set of items to ensure that the reduction of redundant items did not affect either the psychometric properties or the estimation of the scores.

Keywords

Rasch, belief in just world

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