

Assessing Fear of Heterosexism: Spanish Adaptation and Validation of a Psychological Measure

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Poster

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Abstract

Heterosexism is a form of socioculturally located violence that affects gender and sexually diverse communities, resulting in widespread discrimination. The Fear of Heterosexism Scale (Fox & Asquit, 2015) is a self-report measure consisting of 15 items designed to assess the fear of heterosexism experienced by these communities. Although the scale has established psychometric properties in English, no Spanish version currently exists. This study performed the cross-cultural adaptation of the Fear of Heterosexism Scale for the Spanish population and examined its psychometric properties, including reliability, structural validity, and concurrent validity. The adaptation process followed the guidelines outlined by the International Test Commission, involving translation, back-translation, and expert review. The sample consisted of young adults from Spain who self-identify as non-heterosexist, with data collected at baseline, alongside measures of general fear of crime, anxiety, depression, stress, experiences of heterosexist violence, level of identity concealment, and connections to queer or general communities. The analysis focused on evaluating the internal consistency and factorial structure of the Spanish version, as well as its relationships with the other measures to assess concurrent validity. The results suggest that the Spanish version of the scale demonstrates adequate reliability and a factorial structure that aligns with expectations. Furthermore, significant correlations with the other measures support its concurrent validity. These findings indicate that the Spanish version of the Fear of Heterosexism Scale is a promising tool for measuring fear of heterosexism in Spanish-speaking populations. This adaptation fills a critical gap in the measurement of heterosexism within Spanish-speaking communities and contributes to a better understanding of its psychological impact. Furthermore, the refined scale offers valuable insights for research on the consequences of heterosexism and informs clinical interventions aimed at supporting gender and sexually diverse populations. By improving the scale's wording and validating its psychometric properties, this research advances the study and intervention of heterosexism in diverse cultural contexts.

Keywords

Heterosexism; Adaptation; Validation; Psychometric properties

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