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An Examination of Two Types of Identity Achievement

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An Examination of Two Types of Identity Achievement

Emily Kuehn, Maggie Schauff, Oscar Baldelomar, PhD
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Motivation

- “Even the Rat Was White”
- Marcia does not consider the role of culture in society
- Measures are biased towards individualistic societies
  - Individualistic: unconventional behavior, individuality and self-reliance
Definitions

● Domain: “areas that individuals or cultures consider important to identity, such as occupation, religion, ethnicity, and gender” (Phinney & Baldelomar, 2011).

● Identity Achievement
  ○ Defined “by the role others play in the process of identity formation” (Phinney & Baldelomar, 2011).
    ■ **Interdependent achievement**
      ● “To adopt or internalize the identity commitments of the cultural community” (Phinney & Baldelomar, 2011).
    ■ **Independent achievement**

● Independent Self:
  ○ Focuses on autonomy, the right to self-government: the self=unique personality: affects how someone views their place and relationship in the world
Introduction

● Marcia’s 1966 identity status approach
  ○ Offers a “snapshot of identity”
  ○ “Identity achievement” as the most advanced status
  ○ Exclusively independent self
    ■ both high exploration and commitment.
  ○ Exploration
    ■ Searching and examining in order to learn about something new
  ○ Commitment
    ■ Choosing to stay with something specific
    ■ Dedication to something
Measures

- MEIM-R: Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure - Revised (Phinney & Ong, 2007) identity status approach presents “identity achievement (high exploration and commitment)” as the most advanced status.
  - Three items for exploration and three for commitment
MEIM-R

- Identity Achievement
  - High exploration and high commitment
- Moratorium
  - High exploration and low commitment
- Foreclosure
  - Low exploration and high commitment
- Diffusion
  - Low exploration and low commitment

Figure 1. MEIM-R (Marcia, 1966)
AMIS

  - Culturally sensitive
Figures 3 & 4. The flowchart followed by the AMIS (Phinney & Baldelomar, 2011).
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Measure

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Outline

● Introduction
  ○ Definitions
  ○ Measures
    ■ MEIM-R
    ■ AMIS
● Our Questions
● Hypotheses
● Methods
● Results
● Conclusion
Outline

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Our Questions

- **Question 1: Convergent Validity:**
  - Is the AMIS convergent with the MEIM-R and therefore valid?
  - Convergence validity: The extent to which two measures that should be related are actually related

- **Question 2: Status Distribution:**
  - Does a modified status model for ethnic identity which includes interdependent and independent identity achievements, categorize emerging adults in a more culturally sensitive way?

- Compared Marcia’s model (1966) and the modified AMIS (Baldelomar & Phinney, 2011).
Hypotheses

- **Hypothesis 1: convergent validity**
  - Individuals with high-commitment statuses on the AMIS will have higher commitment scores on the MEIM-R than individuals with low-commitment statuses.
  - High exploration statuses on the AMIS have higher exploration scores on the MEIM-R compared to those with the low-exploration status.

- **Hypothesis 2: Status distribution**
  - The interdependent identity achievement will become the normative outcome.
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Methods

- Online survey
- 316 college students
  - Liberal arts college in rural Western Minnesota and California

*Figures 5 & 6. Demographics of the participants.*
Methods

- AMIS
- MEIM-R
  - Exploration ($\alpha = .76$): “I have often talked to other people in order to learn more about my ethnic group”
  - Commitment ($\alpha = .82$): “I feel a strong attachment towards my own ethnic group”
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Results

- **Hypothesis 1: Convergence Validity**
  - Participants with high exploration scores on the MEIM-R were classified into high exploration categories on the AMIS.
  - Those high on commitment for MEIM-R fell into high commitment categories on the AMIS.

*Figure 7. Average scores on exploration and commitment and AMIS categories.*
Results

- $F(2,14)=10.36, \ p<0.001, \ partial \ \eta^2=0.19$
Results

- **Hypothesis 2: Distribution of Statuses**
  - An interdependent identity achievement dominated the distribution of AMIS classifications for the ethnic identity domain

*Figure 8. Distribution of identity statuses*
Conclusions

- The AMIS had convergence validity with the original MEIM-R.
- The AMIS distinguishes between ethnic identity categories while remaining culturally sensitive to a group oriented identity commitment.
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Family and friends of the researchers


Any Questions?