

## CROSS-CULTURAL NOTES

*Under this heading appear summaries of studies which, in 500 words or less, provide comparable data from two or more societies through the use of a standard measuring instrument; additional details concerning the results can be obtained by communicating directly with the investigator or, when indicated, by requesting supplementary material from Microfiche Publications.*

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### MULTIDIMENSIONAL LOCUS OF CONTROL BELIEFS AMONG ENGLISH-SPEAKING SOUTH AFRICAN MOTHERS\*

*University of the Witwatersrand*

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JULIAN BARLING

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Considerable evidence attests to the multidimensional nature of locus of control (LOC) beliefs.<sup>1</sup> This phenomenon has been confirmed cross-culturally. As may be expected, the factor structure that emerges is culture-specific. It would appear essential when investigating the issue, therefore, that separate factor analyses for specific cultures be conducted. The importance of performing such analyses is further indicated as it has been shown that utilizing raw rather than standardized factor scores results in the emergence of less accurate predictor variables.<sup>2</sup> For this reason, the factor structure of LOC beliefs in a South African population has been investigated.

As part of a larger study, 147 English-speaking mothers were adminis-

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<sup>1</sup> Collins, B. E. Four separate components of the Rotter I-E Scale: Belief in a difficult world, a just world, a predictable world and a politically responsive world. *J. Personal. & Soc. Psychol.*, 1974, 29, 382-391. Duffy, P. J., Shiflett, S., & Downey, R. G. Locus of control: Dimensionality and predictability of Likert Scales. *J. Appl. Psychol.*, 1977, 62, 214-219. Mirels, H. L. Dimensions of internal versus external control. *J. Consult. & Clin. Psychol.*, 1971, 34, 226-228. Nagelschmidt, A. M., & Jakob, R. Dimensionality of Rotter's I-E scale in a society in the process of modernization. *J. Cross-Cult. Psychol.*, 1977, 8, 101-112. Ryckman, R. M. Posen, C. F., & Kulberg, G. E. Locus of control among American and Rhodesian students. *J. Soc. Psychol.*, 1978, 104, 165-173.

<sup>2</sup> Gorsuch, R. L. *Factor Analysis*. Philadelphia: Saunders, 1974.

tered Collins' LOC scale.<sup>3</sup> No biographical inquiries were made as this would have constituted an unnecessary invasion of their privacy. All Ss were white, middle- to upper-middle-class mothers with at least one child over the age of seven. This scale consists of Rotter's 23 forced-choice items reformulated into Likert format, thus comprising 46 items.

A principal components factor analysis with varimax rotation was computed; and five factors with eigenvalues equal or greater than unity emerged. They were labelled (with the item numbers that loaded significantly presented in descending order): Belief in Predictable-Unpredictable World, 24, 28, 25, 16, 27, 23, 26, 12, 29, 3, 1; Belief in a Difficult-Easy World, 6, 10, 5, 2, 4, 3, 7, 1, 46, 14, 9, 39, 42; Belief in a Politically Responsive-Unresponsive World, 33, 37, 32, 30, 34; Belief in a Just-Unjust World, 40, 31, 34, 43, 18, 41, 30, 9; and finally Belief in a Controllable-Uncontrollable World, 17, 15, 13, 21, 20, 19, 44, 11, 18, 5, 12. Eigenvalue and percent of variance (in parentheses) for each factor was as follows: Factor I, 4.2 (30.5%), Factor II, 3.9 (28.4%); Factor III, 2.44 (17.7%); Factor IV, 1.72 (12.5%); and Factor V, 1.49 (10.9%).

The first four factors that emerged in the present study replicated the factor structure of earlier studies.<sup>4</sup> That a fifth factor, labelled Belief in a Controllable-Uncontrollable World, seemed present, is consistent with the cultural context in which the study was conducted, and may reflect the experiences of the Ss involved (i.e., White, South African mothers). Three conclusions can be drawn: First, the multidimensional nature of LOC beliefs has again been replicated. Second, the culture-specific nature of LOC beliefs has been replicated. Third, the need for computing factor analyses for each specific culture is further emphasized.

*Department of Psychology  
University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg  
1 Jan Smuts Avenue  
Johannesburg, 2001, South Africa*

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<sup>3</sup> Barling, J. I. Children's self-regulation of academic behaviour. Unpublished Doctoral dissertation, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, 1978.

<sup>4</sup> Zuckerman, M., & Gerbasi, K. C. Dimensions of the I-E scale and their relationship to other personality measures. *Educ. & Psychol. Meas.*, 1977, 37, 159-175.

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