


[Home](#) > [Journal](#) > [Social Sciences & Humanities](#) > [PSYCH](#)
[Indexing](#) | [View Papers](#) | [Aims & Scope](#) | [Editorial Board](#) | [Guideline](#) | [Article Processing Charges](#)
[PSYCH](#) > Vol.2 No.9, December 2011



Ethnocultural versus Basic Empathy: Same or Different?

PDF (Size: 115KB) PP. 925-930 DOI: 10.4236/psych.2011.29139

Author(s)

Chato Rasool, Tomas Jungert, Stephan Hau, Gerhard Andersson

ABSTRACT

The concept of ethnocultural empathy has been put forward as a variable that could explain tolerance between individuals and groups of different ethnic and cultural background. However, it is not clear if ethnocultural empathy is distinct from basic empathy. In this study we investigated the association between basic empathy, as measured by the Interpersonal Reactivity Index (Davis, 1983) and ethnocultural empathy, as measured by the Scale of Ethnocultural Empathy (Wang et al., 2003). We also explored the question of whether a set of background variables would predict the two forms of empathy. We investigated if there were different predictors of ethnocultural and basic empathy, and if the two constructs are distinct. Results showed that the two forms of empathy were correlated and that largely similar predictors were found for the two constructs. A confirmatory factor analysis failed to confirm two separate constructs. Implications of the findings for the measurement of empathy are discussed.

KEYWORDS

Empathy, Ethnocultural Empathy, Culture, Contact Hypothesis

Cite this paper

 Rasool, C. , Jungert, T. , Hau, S. & Andersson, G. (2011). Ethnocultural versus Basic Empathy: Same or Different?. *Psychology*, 2, 925-930. doi: 10.4236/psych.2011.29139.

References

- [1] Alligood, M. R. (2007). Rethinking empathy in nursing education: Shifting to a developmental view. In S. Leibold, & F. Maureen, (Eds.), *Middle range theory development using King' s conceptual system* (pp.287-296). New York, NY: Springer Publishing Co.
- [2] Alterman, A. I., McDermott, P. A., Cacciola, J. S., & Rutherford M. J. (2003). Latent structure of the Davis interpersonal reactivity index in methadone maintenance patients. *Journal of Psychopathology and Behavioral Assessment*, 25, 257-265. doi:10.1023/A:1025936213110
- [3] Batson, C. D., Polycarpou, M. P., Harmon-Jones, E., Imhoff, H. J., & Mitchener, E. C. (1997). Empathy and attitudes: Can feeling for a member of a stigmatized group improve feelings toward the group? *Journal of Personality and Social psychology*, 72, 105-118. doi:10.1037/0022-3514.72.1.105
- [4] Bentler, P. M. (2006). EQS 6 structural equations program manual. Encino: Multivariate Software, Inc.
- [5] Cunidiff, L. N., & Komaraju, M. (2008). Gender differences in ethnocultural empathy and attitudes toward men and women in authority. *Journal of Leadership & Organizational Studies*, 15, 5-15. doi:10.1177/1548051808318000
- [6] D' Ambrosio, F., Olivier, M., Didon, D., & Besche, C. (2009). The basic empathy scale: A French validation of a measure of empathy in youth. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 46, 160-165. doi:10.1016/j.paid.2008.09.020
- [7] Davis, M. H. (1983). Measuring individual differences in empathy: Evidence for a multidimensional approach. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 44, 113-126. doi:10.1037/0022-3514.44.1.113
- [8] Davis, M. H. (1996). *Empathy: A social psychological approach*. Madison, WI: Brown & Benchmark.

- [Open Special Issues](#)
- [Published Special Issues](#)
- [Special Issues Guideline](#)

[PSYCH Subscription](#)
[Most popular papers in PSYCH](#)
[About PSYCH News](#)
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)
[Recommend to Peers](#)
[Recommend to Library](#)
[Contact Us](#)

Downloads:	257,727
Visits:	568,088

[Sponsors, Associates, and Links >>](#)

- [9] De Corte, K., Buysse, A., Verhofstadt, L. L., Roeyers, H., Ponnet, K., & Davis, M. H. (2007). Measuring empathic tendencies: Reliability and validity of the Dutch version of the interpersonal reactivity index. *Psychologica Belgica*, 47, 235-260.
- [10] DiLalla, L. F., Hull, S. K., & Dorsey, J. K. (2004). Effect of gender, age, and relevant course work on attitudes toward empathy, patient spirituality, and physician wellness. *Teaching and Learning in Medicine*, 16, 165-170. doi:10.1207/s15328015tlm1602_8
- [11] Duan, C., & Hill, C. (1996). The current state of empathy research. *Journal of Counselling Psychology*, 3, 261-274. doi:10.1037/0022-0167.43.3.261
- [12] Dyche, L., & Zayas, L. H. (2001). Cross-cultural empathy and training the contemporary psychotherapist. *Clinical Social Work Journal*, 29, 245-258. doi:10.1023/A:1010407728614
- [13] Eisenberg, N., & Lennon, R. (1983). Sex differences in empathy and related capacities. *Psychological Bulletin*, 94, 100-131. doi:10.1037/0033-2909.94.1.100
- [14] Enberg, J., K?lvemark, S., & Ohlander, A.-S. (1998). *The best generation*. Falun: AiT Scandbook.
- [15] Endresen, I. M., & Olweus, D. (2001) Self-reported empathy in Norwegian adolescents: Sex differences, age trends, and relationship to bullying. In A. C. Bohart, & D. J. Stipek (Eds.), *Constructive & destructive behavior: Implications for family, school, & society* (pp. 147-165). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- [16] Hojat, M., Mangione, S., Kane, G. C., & Gonnella, J. S. (2005). Relationships between scores of the Jefferson scale of physician empathy (JSPE) and the interpersonal reactivity index (IRI). *Medical Teacher*, 27, 625-628. doi:10.1080/01421590500069744
- [17] Hu, L., & Bentler, P. M. (1999). Cutoff criteria for fit indexes in covariance structure analysis: Conventional criteria versus new alternatives. *Structural Equation Modeling*, 6, 1, 55.
- [18] Kim, S. S., Kaplowitz, S., & Johnston, M.V. (2004). The effects of physician empathy on patient satisfaction and compliance. *Journal of Evaluation and the Health Professions*, 27, 237-251. doi:10.1177/0163278704267037
- [19] Mercer, S.W., & Reynolds, W. J. (2002). Empathy and quality of care. *The British Journal of General Practice*, 52, 9-12.
- [20] Pastor, A. R. (2004). Differences in empathy in gender and age. *Apuntes de Psicologia*, 22, 323-339.
- [21] Paulhus, D. L. (1988). *Assessing self-deception and impression management in self-report: The balanced inventory of desirable responding*. Vancouver: Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia.
- [22] Pettigrew, T. F. (1998). Intergroup contact theory. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 49, 65-85. doi:10.1146/annurev.psych.49.1.65
- [23] Rasoal, C., Jungert, T., Hau, S., & Andersson, A. (Accepted). Development of a Swedish version of the Scale of Ethnocultural Empathy. *Psychology*, 2, 568-573.
- [24] Rasoal, C., Eklund, J., & Hansen, E. (2011). Toward conceptualization of ethnocultural empathy. *Journal of Social, Evolutionary, and Cultural Psychology*, 5, 1-13.
- [25] Rasoal, C., Jungert, T., Hau, S., Edvardsson-Stiwne, E., & Andersson, A. (2009). Ethnocultural and basic empathy among students in health education. *Evaluation & the Health Profession*, 3, 300-313. doi:10.1177/0163278709338569
- [26] Ridley, C. R., & Lingle, D. W. (1996). Cultural empathy in multicultural counselling: A multidimensional process model. In P. B. Pedersen, & J. G. Draguns (Eds.), *Counselling across culture* (4th ed., pp. 21-46). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- [27] Schieman, S., & Van Gundy, K. V. (2000). The personal and social links between age and self-reported empathy. *Social Psychology Quarterly*, 63, 152-174. doi:10.2307/2695889
- [28] Siu, M. H. A., & Shek, T. L. D. (2005). Validation of the interpersonal reactivity index in a Chinese context. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 15, 118-126. doi:10.1177/1049731504270384
- [29] Spencer, J. (2004). Decline in empathy in medical education: How can we stop the rot? *Medical Education*, 38, 916-918. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2929.2004.01965.x

- [30] Wang, Y.-W., Bleier, J., Davidson, M., Savoy, H., Tan, J., & Yakushko, O. (2003). The scale of ethnocultural empathy. Development, validation, and reliability. *Journal of Counselling Psychology*, 2, 221-234. doi:10.1037/0022-0167.50.2.221