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MEASURING RELIGIOSITY IN PORTUGUESE CONTEXT: ADAPTATION OF FOUR SELF-RATED QUESTIONNAIRES

Ângela Leite, Bruno Nobre & Paulo Dias

Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences, Centre for Philosophical and Humanistic Studies, Portugal

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Background: In the context of studying the neurocorrelates of religiosity, it was necessary to use instruments that assess religiosity. In Portugal, there is a shortage of established tools that researchers can use to study religiosity. A pressing task for social scientists is to develop new instruments or adapt existing ones to validate and measure religious or spiritual concepts within a wide range of belief systems.

Aims: This research sought to validate the bidimensional structure of the Hoge Intrinsic Motivation Religiosity Scale (HIMRS), the four-dimensional structure of the Rohrbaugh and Jessor Religiosity Scale (RJRS), the Post-Critical Belief Scale (PCBS) with its four-dimensional structure, and the five-dimensional structure of the Centrality of Religiosity Scale (CRS) for the Portuguese population.

Method: Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) using a polychoric matrix for handling ordinal data, and Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) employing Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE) were conducted. In addition to evaluating reliability, convergent and discriminant validity through Cronbach's alpha coefficient, composite reliability (CR), average variance extracted (AVE), and the square root of AVE were assessed.

Preliminary results: The Portuguese adaptations of HIMRS, RJRS, PCBS, and CRS exhibited commendable model fit. These instruments demonstrated significant correlations among themselves and with religious identity. The research unveiled nuanced variations in the dimensions of HIMRS, RJRS, PCBS, and CRS based on sociodemographic variables. Specifically, women, divorced individuals, and older participants tended to define themselves as more spiritual or religious compared to their counterparts - men, single or married individuals, and younger participants. Furthermore, educational attainment and marital status showed associations with the variables under examination.

Conclusions: This study introduces validated instruments for evaluating religiosity within the Portuguese population, adding valuable tools to the field of research.

Keywords: Centrality of religiosity scale, Hoge intrinsic motivation religiosity scale, Post-critical belief scale, Religiosity, Rohrbaugh and Jessor religiosity scale

E-mail contact: aleite@ucp.pt