

Construct Validity of AAPI-2 with Latin American Populations

Kirsten Byrnes, Psy.D. and Katherine Lee, B.A.

Audrey Hepburn Children's House, Hackensack University Medical Center

Charles Secolsky, Ph.D.

Alternative Assessment Strategies, Inc.

Angela P. Vargas, Ph.D.

Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center

Introduction

- Adult Adolescent Parenting Inventory (AAPI; Bavolek, 1984; AAPI-2; Bavolek & Keene, 1991) developed to identify abusive attitudes of parents, contributing to risk
- Validity of the AAPI and the AAPI-2 rests with several studies demonstrating some utility in detecting risk
 - thus often used in parenting evaluations in CPS cases

Some Relevant Studies

- Bavolek (1984), Bavolek (1989)
- Bavolek & Keene, (1991)
- Bavolek and Keene's (2010)
 - AAPI-2 and factor structure and normative scores developed for relevant subscales
- Factors structure explored with Mexican parents (Meza-Lehman, 1983)

5 AAPI Constructs

- Construct A or Inappropriate Parental Expectations
- Construct B or Parental Lack of Empathic Awareness of Children's Needs
- Construct C or Strong Belief in the Use of Corporal Punishment-Physical Punishment
- Construct D or Parent Child Role Reversal
- Construct E or Oppressing Children's Power and Independence

Research Question Posed

- With advances in the application of statistical procedures to identify differences in the endorsement of items suggesting a differential deficit between cultural groups, can the validity of the AAPI's five constructs be improved and become culturally sensitive and context dependent in its use?

Methodology

The AAPI-2 was administered to 111 Latino and 75 non-Latino students.

From the results, we anecdotally questioned the applicability of a small number of the Likert statements for Latinos.

We performed DIF analysis followed by a Judgmental or Qualitative Review of the flagged items to determine if differences found with DIF represented bias.

What is Differential Item Functioning (DIF)?

- After matching groups on total scores or in this case deficits on the constructs, the question of whether a difference in mean endorsement exists for individual items becomes an issue.
- Differences in AAPI-2 item scores are conditioned on total construct scores.

Validity of the AAPI-2

- Based on research investigations but not whether the wording of items is potentially biased in favor of one or another group, in this case Latinos or non-Latinos.
- DIF identifies items that function differently for different subgroups, but there is no guarantee that the items are biased by unfairly indicating the presence of biasing words in the statements. To do so requires a judgmental review of the items (Likert statements) by experts and those of the cultural group in question.

Mantel-Haenszel Procedure Requires Large N

- DIF using the M-H statistic requires a sizable sample size for each construct total score. When the number of items is small it presents additional serious problems.
- Clauser and Hambleton (2011) describe a graphic procedure for small sample DIF by grouping total scores into ranges.
- In this study, we compare Exploratory Factor Analyses (EFA) and variance accounted for identifying DIF for our samples of Latinos and non-Latinos.

The Current Study

- We attempted to determine if there were cultural predispositions of Latino and non-Latino respondents which inflated construct total scores artificially and which were not expected.
- $N_1 = 111$ Latinos.
- $N_2 = 75$ non-Latinos.

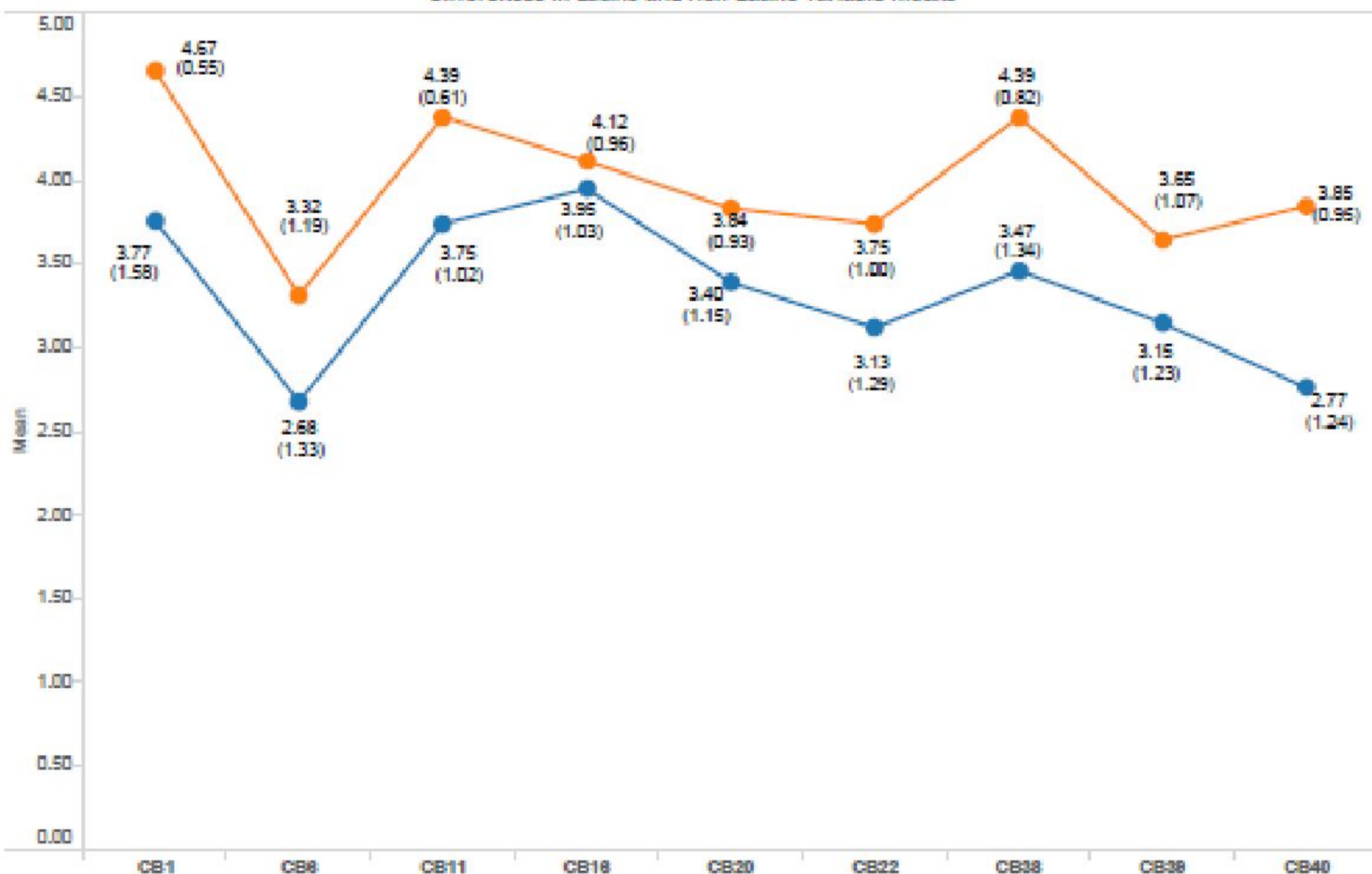
Results

- 8 items of 40 demonstrated DIF in the Latino population
- Items then submitted to judgmental review to determine if cultural themes or values may be contributing
- Familismo or familialism appears to contribute to at least 4 items
 - CB39 Letting a child sleep in the parent's bed every now and then is a bad idea

Eight Items

Item Number	Latino 1 st Factor	Non-Latino - 1 st Factor	Difference (*)
CB16	0.625	0.343	0.282
CB39	0.413	0.116	0.297
CC5	0.620	0.850	-0.23
CC24	0.193	0.616	-0.423
CC26	0.048	0.447	-0.399
CD3	0.322	0.578	-0.256
CD7	0.569	0.320	0.249
CE14	0.003	0.298	-0.295

Differences in Latino and Non-Latino variable means



Standard deviations are shown in parentheses. Subgroup Ns: Latino = 111, Non-Latino = 75.

Subgroup

Latino

Non-Latino

Differences in Latino and Non-Latino variable loadings on Factor 1



Possible Impact of Familismo

- CB16 “‘Because I said so!’ is the only reason parents need to give.”
- CB39 “Letting a child sleep in the parent’s bed every now and then is a bad idea.”
- CD3 “Parents should be able to confide in their children.”
- CD7 “Children who are one year old should be able to stay away from things that could harm them.”

Limitations

- Small n
- Did not compare known offenders of PA to non-offenders
- Requires replication
- Possible impact of geography

Implications

- Implications
 - non-negligible proportion of questions demonstrate DIF in our sample
 - interpretation would require culturally informed adjustment
 - need to collect context-dependent validity results
 - validity claims made for the AAPI-2 are potentially suspect

Conclusion

- Refinement of the measure, eliminating items that exert this DIF
- DIF should be considered and explored in other ethnic and cultural groups with similar values
 - e.g. familialism
- Changes will allow for more refined assessments of risk and more nuanced treatment recommendations

Questions

- Contact Information:
 - Dr. Kirsten Byrnes
 - byrnes.kirsten@gmail.com
 - Katherine Lee
 - katherinelee66@aol.com