

Development and Validation of the Transprejudiced Attitudes Scale

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Introduction

Transprejudice

- Transgender prejudice, or transprejudice, is the negative valuing or biased treatment of transgender or other gender-variant individuals (King et al., 2009).

Construct 1: Essentialism

- Essentialism has been linked to denial of rights to transgender (TG) individuals (Tee & Hegarty, 2006), and to increased TG bias (Davidson & Czopp, 2014).
- Essentialist items drew mainly upon the conflation of gender and sex, as well as the discreteness of gender as a two-category construct.

Construct 2: Gender Role Beliefs

- When individuals violate assumptions of gender roles, they are punished (Gaunt, 2012), that may lead to bias towards TG individuals.
- Gender role belief items drew upon the idea that TG individuals are problematic because they do not conform to these social norms.

Construct 3: Social Distance (Comfort)

- The ways in which TG individuals are discriminated against (e.g. denial of restroom usage, healthcare, employment, and social circles, Grant et al., 2011) is representative of social distance, the idea that if you do not like an individual, you will not want that individual in your personal space (Bogardus, 1925).
- Social distance items were based upon the ways in which TG individuals are denied access to certain spaces or employment opportunities.

Study 1: Focus group

- 16 participants (8 men) participated in focus groups to determine the best definitions to describe transgender individuals, as well as clarity of items on the scale.
- As transgender individuals are not as widely discussed in the media as other groups, it could be that some participants may not know what “transgender” means, necessitating the use of definitions.

Study 2: Exploratory factor analysis

- A total of 92 items were created for the initial item pool.
- Items were evenly split across the three constructs, as well as evenly split between specifically targeting transmen, transwomen, and generally targeting transgender individuals.
- Exploratory factor analysis revealed a two-factor solution and 25 items; see Table 1 for final factor loadings.

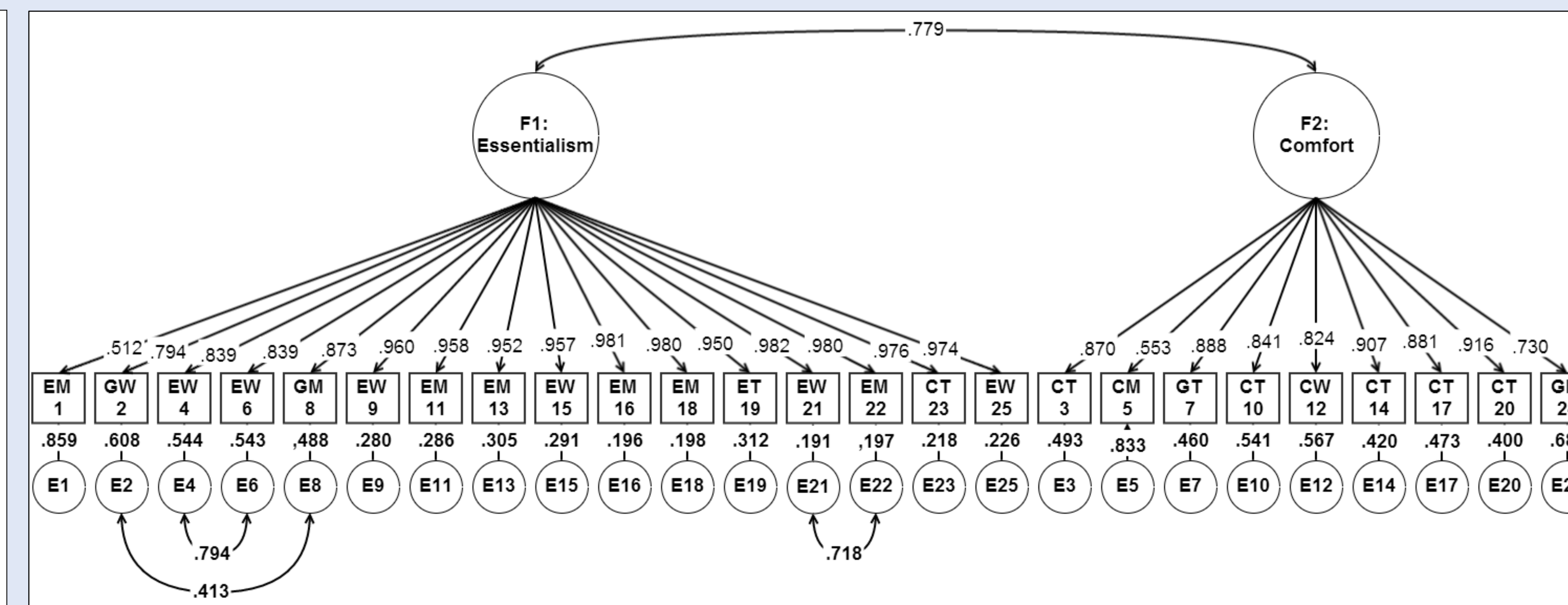


Figure 1. Structural model of the Transprejudiced Attitudes Scale. Standardized path coefficients are given. All paths are significant.

Study 3: Validity Testing

- Internal validity was assessed through a confirmatory factor analysis using EQS 6.1. See Figure 1 for the completed model and standardized path weights.
- Construct, criterion, and discriminate validity were assessed by correlating responses on the Transprejudiced Attitudes Scale (TAS) with participant responses from other related or non-related measures. See Table 2 for correlations.

Table 2. Correlations and coefficients between the TAS and other scales.

	GRBS	EI	TS	GTS	ATTIS	MR	ATLG	S2	S3
TAS	-.55**	-.39**	.73**	.84**	-.90**	.43**	.79**	.98	.98
Essentialism	-.26**†	-.13*†	.38**†	.45**†	-.53**†	.15*†	.35**†	.98	.98
Comfort	-.19**†	-.16*†	.30**†	.53**†	-.76**†	.17*†	.51**†	.95	.95

* $p < .05$ ** $p < .001$ † Partial correlation controlling for the other subscale.

Note TAS = Transprejudiced Attitudes Scale; GRBS = Gender Role Beliefs Scale; EI = Essentialism Index; TS = Transphobia Scale; GTS = Genderism and Transphobia Scale; ATTIS = Attitudes Toward Trans-gendered Individuals Scale; MR = Modern Racism scale; ATLG = Attitudes toward Lesbians and Gay Men; S2 = Study 2; S3 = Study 3.

Summary & Discussion

- Focus group discussions revealed that some people do not understand who a transgender individual is; inclusion of a brief definition of what transgender means allows for reliable responses by ensuring all participants have a working model of a transgender individual in mind.
- Two factors emerged, with none of the gender role items loading on their own factor. Possible reasons include the items not being representative enough of gender role beliefs, or that the essentialism items may have explained the same variance that the gender role items did.
- The TAS exhibited strong reliability, as well as good internal and external validity.
- The TAS was created by listening to transgender individuals describe the ways in which they are affected by discrimination. By creating items at the intersection of this qualitative information and quantitative constructs, the TAS is able to tap into the underlying constructs that inform transprejudice through cognitive (essentialist) and affective (social distance) means.

INSTRUCTIONS

Please indicate the extent to which you *personally* agree with the following statements using the provided 6-point scale (1 = strongly disagree, 6 = strongly agree). Please consider each question individually and respond honestly. If you do not know how you feel about any given question, please make your best guess based upon your “gut” feeling.

While answering the survey, please keep the following definitions in mind:

Transgender person: someone who feels as though they were born with the “wrong” gender and now lives life as the opposite gender. This has no connection with a person’s sexual orientation; some transgender people are gay, while others are straight. Furthermore, while some transgender people choose to undergo a “sex change” operation, many do not.

Transwoman: Someone born male but has a deep-seated psychological self-concept of a woman, and who is now living life as a woman.

Transman: Someone born female but has a psychological self-concept of a man, and who is now living life as a man.

Table 1. Transprejudiced Attitudes Scale with pattern (and structure) coefficients.

	Essentialism	Comfort
Essentialism		
A transman cannot “become” a man because biology says they are a woman.	.997 (.941)	-.072 (.701)
Transwomen may think they are women but because they were born with a penis they will never really be women.	.949 (.945)	-.006 (.729)
Transmen can never really be men because they were not born as men with male genitalia.	.904 (.942)	.049 (.750)
Because there can only be men or women, transwomen are still just men, regardless of what they may think.	.903 (.941)	.049 (.748)
You are either a man or a woman, and you cannot change that.	.891 (.917)	.035 (.725)
Transmen cannot change the fact that they were born as women and will therefore always be women	.888 (.915)	.034 (.722)
A transman cannot be a real man because they were born with a vagina and will always be a woman.	.875 (.943)	.088 (.766)
Because a person’s gender is the same thing as a person’s sex, which is biological, it is impossible for transpeople to change their gender, no matter what they think.	.856 (.897)	.052 (.715)
Even with a surgically created vagina, transwomen will never truly be women.	.838 (.885)	.060 (.710)
Transmen are not really men because you can never change your gender.	.830 (.922)	.119 (.762)
Transmen are just women who claim to be men, but they are still just women.	.823 (.908)	.110 (.747)
Transwomen were born as men and will therefore always be men.	.813 (.896)	.108 (.737)
I think that transmen are just women acting like men.	.749 (.871)	.158 (.738)
Transwomen cannot go against their biology; they will always be men.	.739 (.841)	.131 (.704)
It does not matter how they think of themselves, I will always consider transwomen to be men because you cannot change your gender.	.723 (.833)	.142 (.702)
Transwomen are just men who feel feminine.	.693 (.718)	.032 (.569)
Comfort		
I don’t think I could maintain a relationship with a friend who came out to me as transgender.	-.008 (.679)	.887 (.881)
I don’t think it is safe for the children to let transwomen have unsupervised access to children.	.081 (.719)	.823 (.886)
Transgender people shouldn’t become doctors because their patients would never feel comfortable around them.	.061 (.695)	.818 (.866)
If I found out my brother was serving in the army with a transman, I would be concerned with my brother’s safety.	-.078 (.540)	.798 (.737)
If a family member of mine came out as transgender, I don’t think I would be comfortable being around them anymore.	.027 (.631)	.780 (.801)
I would be uncomfortable around a transgender individual because they cannot decide if they are a man or a woman.	.140 (.724)	.753 (.862)
Transmen are just not manly enough to serve along-side real men on the front lines in the military.	.162 (.672)	.658 (.784)
I would feel violated if I had to use the same locker room that I knew a transgender individual was also using.	.219 (.721)	.649 (.818)
I wouldn’t feel comfortable sharing such close, intimate space with a transgender roommate.	.229 (.693)	.600 (.777)

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