

RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY OF THE SPANISH VERSION OF THE FEAR OF SPIDERS QUESTIONNAIRE

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Introduction

The Fear of Spiders Questionnaire (FSQ) is a self-report instrument which assesses fear and avoidance of spiders by means of 18 items, each rated on a 0-6 scale.

The FSQ has been adapted into several languages, but no psychometric properties are available for the Spanish version of the instrument.

Goal

To assess the reliability and validity of the Spanish version of the FSQ.

Method

Sample:

740 undergraduates (72.3% women, mean age 21.09, standard deviation 2.51) that completed the questionnaires online.

Measures

Spanish version of the FSQ (Szymanski & O'Donohue, 1995).

Spanish version of the trait scale of the State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI-T), (Spielberger et al., 1982).

Spanish version (Diez-Quevedo et al., 2001) of the Patient Health Questionnaire for depression (PHQ-9), (Kroenke, Spitzer & Williams, 2001).

Statistical analyses:

To calculate the internal consistency the Cronbach's Alpha was used.

Divergent validity was assessed with Pearson correlation coefficients between the FSQ, STAI-T and PHQ-9.

Results

Internal consistency	$\alpha = 0.97$	
Divergent validity with the STAI-T	$r=0.108$	$p < 0.05$
Divergent validity with the PHQ-9	$r=0.081$	$p < 0.01$

Conclusions

These results are similar to previous analyses on the original English version of the FSQ and previous adaptations to other languages (Rinck et al., 2002; Delroisse & Philippot, 2007).

The Spanish version of the FSQ has excellent internal consistency. Other types of reliability (e.g. test-retest) should be assessed in the future.

The instrument has adequate divergent validity. Convergent validity should be assessed in future investigations.

The Spanish version of FSQ is a reliable and valid instrument to assess fear and avoidance of spiders in non-clinical populations.