Psychometric properties of the Spanish Reinforcement Sensitivity Theory of Personality Questionnaire (RST-PQ)

d
a Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychobiology, Institute of Neuroscience, University of Barcelona, Spain
b Personality Disorder Unit, Institute of Neuroscience, Clinic Hospital of Barcelona, Spain
c Department of Psychiatry and Legal Medicine, Institute of Neuroscience, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain
d City, University of London, United Kingdom

Introduction The revised Reinforcement Sensitivity Theory of Personality (rRST; Gray & McNaughton, 2000) postulates three major neuropsychological motivational systems underlying individual differences in reaction to aversive, appetitive, or conflicting stimuli: The Fight-Flight-Freeze System (FFFS, related to fear and defensive responses), the Behavioral Approach System (BAS, related to pleasure and approach responses), and the Behavioral Inhibition System (BIS, related to anxiety and cautious approach). The most recent instrument to assess the rRST (RST-PQ; Corr & Cooper, 2016) views the BAS as a multidimensional system composed of four distinct but related facets: Reward Interest (BAS-RI), Goal-Drive Persistence (BAS-GDP), Reward Reactivity (BAS-RR), and Impulsivity (BAS-I). The RST-PQ comprises 65 items distributed in a six-factor structure: FFFS (10 items), BAS-RI (7), BAS-GDP (7), BAS-RR (10), BAS-I (8), and BIS (23). A separate scale for measuring Defensive Fighting (DF, 8) is also included.

Objectives Analyze the psychometric properties of the Spanish RST-PQ through the Factorial Analysis of items (Ferrando et al., 2022).

Methods Participants: N = 1,095 volunteers of the community (60.5% women) between 17-87 years (M = 44.7, SD = 20.1).

Results In the Spanish version of the RST-PQ, the separate but related FFFS and BIS systems were replicated, as well as the BAS integrated by its four subsystems, with acceptable fit indices, although with fewer items. The basic six-factor structure just fit mildly, as in the English original scale.

Single CFA 6-Factor Model of the Spanish RST-PQ
(24 items were removed from the original RST-PQ 65 items)
Only significant standardized estimates are shown

Descriptive statistics, Internal consistency, and Sex Differences for Facets and Motivational Systems of the Spanish RST-PQ (41 items)

Note: M: Mean. SD: Standard Deviation. α: Cronbach’s a. rII: Inter-item average correlation. t: Student’s t-test. g: Hedges’ g effect size. * CI: Confidence Interval (95%) for Hedges’ g effect size.

Taken together, these estimates suggest that the items of the Spanish RST-PQ are relatively homogeneous, while avoiding unnecessary redundancy. Women scored significantly higher than men in FFFS (large effect size), BIS (medium effect size), and BAS-RR (small effect size).

Conclusions The Spanish version of the RST-PQ is comparable to the original English scale, although with roughly one-third fewer items.
Psychometric properties of the Spanish Reinforcement Sensitivity Theory of Personality Questionnaire (RST-PQ)

Ruiz, J. a, Fusté, A. a, Gutiérrez-Maldonado, J. a, Gutiérrez, F. b, Torrubia, R. c & Corr, P.J. d

a Dep. of Clinical Psychology and Psychobiology, Institute of Neuroscience, University of Barcelona, Spain
b Personality Disorder Unit, Institute of Neuroscience, Clinic Hospital of Barcelona, Spain
c Dep. of Psychiatry and Legal Medicine, Institute of Neuroscience, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain
d City, University of London, United Kingdom

Keywords: RST-PQ, Psychometric properties, Spanish version, Reinforcement Sensitivity Theory of Personality

Topic: Personality Assessment, Methods, and Statistics

Email: a jruizro@ub.edu

References:


Suggested citation: