

The Development and Validation of a Scale for Cultural Wealth Coping with Latina/os

Marlen Kanagui-Muñoz

Dr. Puncky P. Heppner, Ph.D., Dissertation Chair

Abstract

Recent coping research has called for a more expanded and diversified understanding of coping that is responsive to individuals' social and cultural context. The present study consists of 3 studies, with a sample of 688 Latina/o adults. The purpose of this study was to develop and validate a situation-specific Cultural Wealth Coping Scale with Latina/os (CWC-L). Results from the exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis supported a stable 7-factor structure for the CWC-L: Collective Capital coping (CSC), Distress Management Strategies (DMS), Spirituality Capital (SC), Linguistic Capital coping (LC), Cognitive Resilience Capital (CRC), Peer Capital (PC) and Cultural Legacy Capital (CLC). The identified factors reflected unique ways in which Latina/os cope with stressful situations and suggested a different approach to coping than current coping inventories developed in Western contexts. Correlations between the CWC-L and other established measures of coping and well-being suggest that the scale is associated with important life outcomes. Few studies have examined coping among the population from an asset or strength-based perspective. The results of this study also expand current coping knowledge by addressing the importance of the collective in coping among Latina/os, unique aspects of coping more specific to Latina/os and Communities of Color, and an example of culturally conscious scale construction. Broadening the discussion on coping by incorporating an asset-focused and culturally-based conceptualization may help us better understand the full spectrum of coping within Latina/o culture.