Relationship Science Online

Assessing Negative Reciprocity

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- **Because negative reciprocity is such a broad pattern comprising a number of cluster indicators, no one self-report measure can assess it entirely.**
- **Rather, its usually assessed using behavioural observation coding schemes** (e.g., Marital Interaction Coding System [MICS], Heyman et al., 1995; Specific Affective Coding Scheme [SPAFF], Gottman & Krokoff, 1989).
- **However, there is a measure that does a decent job of capturing many aspects [but not all] of negative hostility…**
- **But its not Gottman's measure of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.**
- **Rather, it's the Test of Negative Social Exchange – Revised** (Finch et al., 1999).

Why not Gottman's Measure?

- **Why not Gottman's of the *Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*?**
- **True or False Statements**
  - "I feel attacked or criticized when we talk"
- **The "devil is in the detail"** (Lute, 2015 – Dissertation)

> As the process of computing total and subscale scores began, research on the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse Questionnaire was consulted in an effort to identify which items should be scored on each of the four subscales. It was then realized that although many publications analyzed the subscales in this manner, none of them published the methods used to score each subscale. What follows is a discussion of the various methods used to determine how items would be assigned to the individual subscales of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse Questionnaire.
>
> First, the Gottman Institute was contacted regarding this issue. In an email response (8/4/14), the institute indicated that they could not provide an answer as to which items belonged on each subscale, stating, "This particular research was conducted many years ago and our office does not have the original data."

Why not Gottman's Measure?

- **The "devil is in the detail"** (Lute, 2015 – Dissertation) **(Cont…)**

> Next, an effort was made to contact committee members from other dissertations in which the Four Horsemen subscales were scored and analyzed. Committee members from two dissertations, Walker (2005) and Boska (2005) were contacted, and both provided the ways in which the subscales were scored. However, neither provided the rationale for which items were scored on each subscale, and inquiries concerning this matter went unanswered.

- **Conduct own factor analysis (needing to adjust for T/F response format), but this reveals:**
  - 10 factors
  - When run using a different method (parallel analysis) - produces 2 factors.
- **Asked independent raters to group the items into the four responses:**
  - The reliability analysis shows stonewalling to be unreliable (internal consistency <.66)



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Test of Negative Social Exchange - Revised

- **Test of Negative Social Exchange – Revised** (TENSE-Revised, Finch et al., 1999) **consists of 24 items with three subscales:**
  - — Anger (4 items)
  - — Indifference/hindrance (6 items)
  - — Insensitivity (14 items)
- **But… The measure was designed to assess a person's perceptions of their partner's negative behavior.**
- **We have modified the measure to assess a person's own engagement in anger, indifference/hindrance, and insensitivity.**

