Humor Measurement

- A conceptual/definitional approach has been taken to measure humor (Martin, 1996; Thronson & Powell, 1999)
- Trait/Style → Humor Styles Questionnaire
- Behavior → Situational Humor Response Questionnaire
- Coping Mechanism → Coping Humor Scale
- Different measures assess different domains:
  - Emotional
  - Social
  - Coping
- The many definitions and functions of humor make it difficult for any single measure to comprehensively and economically capture all of the dimensions (Scheel, 2017)

Humor Measures

- **Humor Styles Questionnaire (HSQ; Martin et al., 2003):**
  - Assesses adaptive and maladaptive humor styles
  - Aggressive, Self-Enhancing, Self-Defeating, & Affiliative
  - 32 items, 7-point Likert-type scale

- **Situational Humor Response Questionnaire (SHRQ; Martin & Lefcourt, 2012a):**
  - Assesses frequency and extent to which individuals display humor in daily lives
  - 21 items, 5-Guttman-type ratings

- **Coping Humor Scale (CHS; Martin & Lefcourt, 2012b):**
  - Assesses how people use humor to cope with stress
  - 7 items, 4-point Likert-type scale

Study Objectives

1. To identify the underlying dimensions of humor as defined by the three most prominent measures:
   - HSQ, SHRQ, & CHS
2. To produce a more economical composite measure
3. To assess the convergent and discriminant validity of the composite measure
4. To assess the concurrent validity of the composite measure using psychological outcomes:
   - Emotional → +/- Affect, Self-Esteem
   - Social → Social Support, Interpersonal Style
   - Coping → Coping Style, Satisfaction With Life

Research Design

- Quantitative and cross-sectional study design
- N = 300 undergraduate students
- Eligibility based on:
  - Age: 18 or older
  - Undergraduate student status
  - Ability to provide informed consent
- Measures:
  - Humor: HSQ, SHRQ, CHS
  - Emotion: PANAS, SIES
  - Social: PSSM, BIC, IIP-C-IRT
  - Coping: MAX, SWLS

Data Analyses

- Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA)
  - To identify factors underlying dimensions of a large set of items
- Composite Scale Construction (Martin et al., 2003)
  - Items selected to form new composite scale based on substantive and empirical criteria (e.g., high factor loadings, high corrected item-total correlations, etc.)
- Correlational Analyses
  - To assess for convergent and discriminant validity
  - To assess for criterion validity

Expected Results

- Adapted Emotional
  - Maladaptive Emotional
  - Adaptive Social/IP
  - Maladaptive Social/IP
  - Coping

References (full list available upon request)