



# EuroSciCon Conference on VALIDATION OF GREEK VERSION OF “HOMOPHOBIA SCALE” QUESTIONNAIRE

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## Abstract

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the validity and reliability of the “Homophobia Scale” of Wright, Adams, and Bernat (1999) in a dance context, in Greece. Additionally, to also examine if age is a decisive factor on differentiating the sample. Participants were consisted of 167 Greek dancers of Traditional, Latin, and Classic, dances. The sample was randomly selected, and all participants had to be over the age of 17. Furthermore, the sample was divided into 4 age groups: a) 17-25, b) 26-35, c) 36-50, and d) 51->. The data statistical analyses included: Descriptive statistics, Exploratory Factor analysis, Reliability Analysis and One-way Anova Analysis. Results indicated: 1) that the Greek version of the “Homophobia Scale” is a reliable instrument for the measurement of homophobia in Greek environment, and b) that as the individuals get older, the more homophobic they become. That results comes into identification with the attitude of the biggest part of society generally, and the researchers assume that it is due to the generation gap.

## Introduction

Homophobia involves a series of negative attitudes and feelings towards homosexuality or people who have been identified or considered as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual (LGBT) (Schuiling & Likis, 2011). It may be expressed as antipathy, contempt, bias, aversion or hate, may be based on absurd fear, and sometimes related to religious beliefs (McCormack, 2012).

Already from school, as in the wider society, heterosexuality is often taken for granted and is usually imposed institutionally through rituals, daily interaction between students and teachers (Chesir-Teran, 2003). This heterogeneity can be explicit, including homophobic attitudes or verbal and physical harassment of students who deviate from normative forms of racial sexuality (Kosciw, Diaz, & Greytak, 2007). It is also related to the constant admonition of children on heterosexuality and the promotion of appropriate gender and sexual relations in classes, peer groups and extracurricular activities (Eder & Parker, 1987; Nayak & Kehily, 1996). These demonstrations of heterosexuality stigmatize people attracted to the same sex and create negative consequences for their well-being (D'Augelli, Pilkington, Hershberger, 2002).

As far as dancing is concerned, one of the reasons for referring to boys for not participating in clubs where Greek traditional dance is taught is that dance is a kinetic activity that concerns women rather than men (Filippou, 2015). Also, the view of the parents is the same: "I'm afraid to send my son to the dance. Gay are engaged in dancing" (Filippou et al., 2006, p.116). In Greek traditional society dance was a criterion of masculinity and lewdness. In many areas, Aridea - Syrrako, the dance hall was a showroom for masculinity. At the same time, the dance hall was the place where girls' parents chose their future grooms (Pitsi & Filippou, 2014).

Gay young people may suffer from internalized homophobia, as they have learned from their childhood to hate themselves, to have low self-esteem, to have self-destructive tendencies, and their attitude is characterized by total confusion. In addition, there are many gays who try to hide it by committing homophobic insults and attacks against other gays. In this way they try to portray a heterosexual personality (Risner, 2002).

## Methods and Materials

### SAMPLE:

Participants were consisted of 167 Greek dancers of Traditional, Latin, and Classic, dances. The sample was randomly selected, and all participants had to be over the age of 17. Furthermore, the sample was divided into 4 age groups: a) 17-25, b) 26-35, c) 36-50, and d) 51->. In Greece, as reported by the Greek Statistical Office, the population is measured every decade. That's why, the age categories were shaped accordingly (Hellenic Statistical Authority, 2011).

### MEASURING INSTRUMENTS:

The questionnaire that was used, was the “Homophobia Scale” of Wright, Adams, and Bernat (1999). A committee of four professional translators translated the questionnaire into the Greek language by adopting the proposal proposed by Banville, Desrosiers and Genet-Volet (2000) to transfer a questionnaire to a different language and cultural field with the use of the “back to back” translation process.

### METHODS:

The data statistical analyses included: 1) Exploratory Factor analysis, 2) Reliability Analysis and 3) One-way Anova Analyses, with the use of S.P.S.S. statistical package.

## Results

Results indicated:

1) Twenty-four questions relating to homophobia were analyzed by exploratory factor using principal component analysis solution with direct obliging rotation. The analysis yielded three factors explaining a total of 83.73% of the variance for the entire set of variables. The 1<sup>st</sup> factor “Behavior/Negative Affect”, explained 35.19% of the variance and contained 10 items which were evaluated the negative attitudes and behaviors to Homophobia, and yielded a subscale score  $M=20.02$  ( $SD=3.18$ ). The 2<sup>nd</sup> Factor “Affect/Behavioral Aggression”, accounted for 32.54% of the scale variance and contained 9 items which evaluated the aggressive attitudes/behaviors that someone adopts against the homosexual individuals, and yielded a subscale score  $M=18.08$  ( $SD=13.35$ ). The 3<sup>rd</sup> factor “Cognitive Negativism”, explained 16.0% of the variance and contained 5 items that investigated *negative attitudes and cognition with the higher scores indicating more negative attitudes regarding homosexual individuals* (Wright et al., 1999), and yielded a subscale score  $M=10.08$  ( $SD=5.82$ ).

2) Questionnaire's and factors' reliability analysis was carried out by calculating the Cronbach's a, separately for each factor as well as for entire scale (Total Homophobia) (Wright, Adams, & Bernat, 1999). More specifically: a) Behavior/Negative Affect=.92, b) Affect/Behavioral Aggression=.93, c) Cognitive Negativism=.95, and d) Total Homophobia=.93. As it is obvious, factors' values were very satisfactory ( $a>.90$ ).

3) To check whether there were statistically significant differences on age groups, One-Way Anova Analyses was performed. The results indicated statistically significant differences on:

- “Behavior/Negative Affect” [ $F(3,166)=8.065$ ,  $p<.05$ ]. More specifically, the differences were indicated between the 1<sup>st</sup> age group (youngest) ( $M=18,52$   $SD=2.96$ ), and the 4<sup>th</sup> (oldest group) ( $M=21,48$   $SD=2.90$ ).
- “Affect/Behavioral Aggression” [ $F(3,166)=14.697$   $p<.05$ ]. More specifically, the differences were indicated between the 1<sup>st</sup> age group (youngest) ( $M=10,09$   $SD=11.48$ ), and the 4<sup>th</sup> (oldest group) ( $M=26,97$   $SD=8.33$ ).
- “Cognitive Negativism” [ $F(3,166)=14.293$ ,  $p<.05$ ]. More specifically, the differences were indicated between the 1<sup>st</sup> age group (youngest) ( $M=6,48$   $SD=5.05$ ), and the 4<sup>th</sup> (oldest group) ( $M=13,35$   $SD=4.62$ ).
- “Total Homophobia” [ $F(3,166)=14.963$ ,  $p<.05$ ]. More specifically, the differences were indicated between the 1<sup>st</sup> age group (youngest) ( $M=35,09$   $SD=18.51$ ), and the 4<sup>th</sup> (oldest group) ( $M=61,81$   $SD=14.65$ ).

## Discussion

The existence of homophobia at any kind of dance, is a global phenomenon, which prevents mainly men, from participating in dancing events either as dancers or as viewers (Ridley et al., 2008; Losiak, 2009).

The present research has demonstrated the suitability of the “Homophobia Scale” for Greek population.

Additionally, results indicated significant statistical differences between the youngest and oldest age groups. Because no similar researches have been previously performed, researchers assume and believe that while people getting older, become more conservative, especially in Greece. It is commonly accepted that younger people are more open-minded and more receptive to diversity, while older people have more obsolete opinions and do not accept modernity. It must be noted, that also worldwide no researches has been found dealing with the age gap on homophobia.

## Conclusions

According to the results of the present study it becomes obvious that the Greek version of the “Homophobia Scale” constitutes a reliable system for measuring homophobia in the Greek context, and age is an major indicator of group differentiation.

## Future Directions

It is suggested to conduct similar researches at a larger sample and on a sample of different composition, different educational level and social and cultural origin.

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