

INITIAL VALIDATION OF A MEASURE OF CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED EXISTENTIAL ANXIETY

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BACKGROUND

- Climate Change (CC) is a significant threat to human wellbeing; "Climate Doomerism" (sense of hopelessness about CC) is on the rise
- Few scales measure existential anxiety (EA), none measure EA related to CC
- The Existential Concerns Questionnaire (ECQ) was chosen for modification because it was based on several theoretical frameworks and has preliminary validation

RESEARCH GOALS

1. Develop a measure that addresses EA related to CC by modifying an existing measure (the ECQ)
2. Establish internal consistency, construct validity, and incremental validity

METHOD

- 14 ECQ items were changed to reference CC
- All measures taken at Time 1 (See Materials)
 - Only the modified ECQ was taken at Time 2 (2 weeks after Time 1)

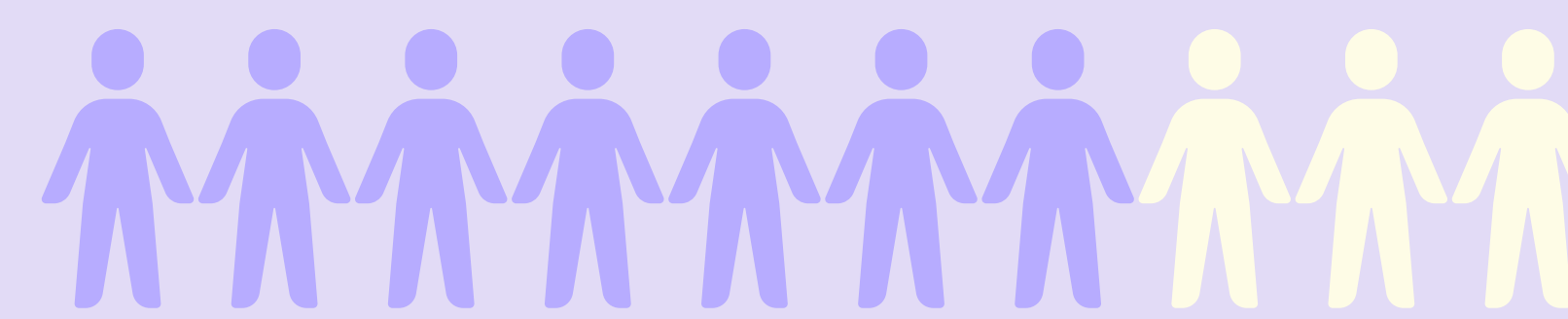
MATERIALS, APPENDICES, & REFERENCES



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Factor Analysis

- Exploratory principal axis factoring with oblimin rotation
- Factors: **Climate Existential Anxiety (CEA) and Isolation/Avoidance (IA)**



66.7% of participants identified as women

Validity

- Pearson's r calculated along with 2 forward stepwise linear regressions
- CEA and IA were strongly correlated; IA was not temporally stable; Both had at least acceptable internal consistency
 - Could be because IA is a state emotion, not a stable trait
- Both CEA and IA predicted by fear of death and psychological distress

Predictors

Climate Existential Anxiety

Fear of death; Depression, anxiety, and stress; Belief in CC; Negative life events in past year

Isolation/Avoidance

Depression, anxiety, and stress; Fear of death; Presence of meaning; Intolerance of Uncertainty

LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Limitations: Small, WEIRD sample; Lack of counterbalancing (no evidence of abnormal responding)

Future Directions: More data; Use in studies of emotion cognition related to CC; Use in cultures with different approaches to environmentalism