

## MEASUREMENT OF CONSTRUCTS USING SELF-REPORT AND BEHAVIORAL LAB TASKS: IS THERE OVERLAP IN NOMOTHETIC SPAN AND CONSTRUCT REPRESENTATION FOR IMPULSIVITY?

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Although highly emphasized in psychological research, there has been little empirical evidence examining the overlap in meaning for self-report measures and construct representation for behavioral lab tasks in most psychological constructs. Using the personality trait of impulsivity as an example, the authors completed a meta-analysis of 27 published research studies examining the relationship between these methods. In general, although there is a statistically significant relationship between multidimensional self-report and lab task impulsivity ( $r = 0.097$ ), practically, the relationship is small. Examining relationships among unidimensional impulsivity self-report and lab task conceptualizations indicated very little overlap in self-report and behavioral lab task constructs. Significant relationships were found between lack of perseverance and prepotent response inhibition ( $r = 0.099$ ); between lack of planning and prepotent response inhibition ( $r = 0.106$ ), delay response ( $r = 0.134$ ), and distortions in elapsed time ( $r = 0.104$ ); between negative urgency and prepotent response inhibition ( $r = 0.106$ ); and between sensation seeking and delay response ( $r = 0.131$ ). This little convergent validity evidence for impulsivity as measured by self-report and behavioral lab tasks could indicate that these two measures are assessing different constructs. If these are different constructs, referring to them in the literature as “impulsivity” influences one to think of them as representing a unitary underlying construct, when, in fact, we may be measuring disparate constructs. When disparate measures are described using the same multidimensional moniker, little forward progress can be made in figuring out how a trait relates to a criterion of interest. Researchers should take care to specify which particular unidimensional constructs are operationalized with not only impulsivity, but with all traits. If self-report and lab task conceptualizations measure disparate aspects of impulsivity, we, as a field, should not expect large conceptual overlap between these methods.