***Секция: Human living environments during the COVID-19 pandemic: between home and office***

Validation of the Short Home Attachment scale on the Student Sample from Five Countries

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**The aim of this study, topicality, and novelty**

Our study was aimed at the development of a new instrument – a *Short Home Attachment Scale (SHAS).* Home attachment is important to study due to several long-term and ongoing changes in the lifestyles of humankind. For development and self-realization, people change their sedentary lifestyles, move around the world, settle in new places, and get used to them. Among various types of migration (climate or economic migration, “multiple dwellings”, like “dacha”, and tourism), student life is the most popular form of moving forcing young people to dwell new places, to break attachment to their parents' home and establish a new one, in temporary housing — a dormitory or a rented apartment. On the other hand, the unusual circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have made the home a particularly important habitat for everyone, increasing the need for its arrangement as a school and a workplace. Being in lockdown was easier for those who loved their homes. Taken together, these features of modern life require the development of a reliable, stable tool for measuring the strength of home attachment.

**Theoretical background**

We based our research on the ideas on place attachment developed in works by Scannell and Gifford (2010), Hidalgo (2014), Giuliani (2003), Hernández et al., (2007), Williams and Vaske (2003), Backlund and Williams (2003), Stokols and Shumaker (1981), Raymond et al. (2010), and other researchers investigated people’s connection to places. The basis of place attachment is a positive attitude to this place manifesting in the preference for this environment over others, the desire to return there, take care of it, and keep it in their memories (Manzo and Devine-Wright, 2020; Maricchiolo et al., 2021). Place attachment, like attachment to a person, can be considered as a unity of emotions and activities that modulate distance between a person and the object of attachment (Bretherton, 2013). Home attachment is a type of place attachment.

**Design/Methodology/Approach/Intervention**

We followed a cross-sectional cross-cultural design. A total of 1,343 university students (17–26 years; Meage = 19, Mage = 19.82, SDage = 2.14; 78% females) from Armenia, India, Indonesia, Russia, and Ukraine filled in a full version of the *Home Attachment Scale (HAS)* including 14 items (Reznichenko, 2016) and provided some demographic information. All students studied on university campuses away from home (Mdistance = 439 kilometers from home) and lived mostly in dormitories or with relatives; a few (~15%) lived in apartments rented for the duration of their studies.

**Results obtained or expected**

During the psychometrical examination of *HAS*, 7 items were eliminated which resulted in a new shortened version of *HAS* labeled a *Short Home Attachment Scale (SHAS).* It demonstrated measurement invariance across cultures participating and gender groups. The final uni-dimensional model had satisfactory fit indices: χ2 = 49.63, df=14, p>0.001; RMSEA=0.044 [95% CI, 0.033–0.055]; PCLOSE=0.797, SRMR=0.022, CFI=0.987, TLI=0.980. This model explained 61.14% of the variance. Internal consistency, as measured by McDonald’s *omega* and Cronbach’s *alpha*, was satisfactory for both the entire sample (*ω* = 0.87, *α =* 0.86)

**Limitations**

Some limitations of this study are caused by the lacking information regarding content, discriminant, and convergent validity of the new scale. It could be also interesting, to investigate the age variable in home attachment, and invite participants from individualistic cultures. These limitations might be overcome in future studies.

**Research/Practical Implications**

Despite these limitations of the current study, the new method can be recommended for cross-cultural research, especially for the topics of homelessness, homesickness, adaptation to a new - temporary or permanent - place of residence, and also used in applied research, such as motivation for mobility and tourism.

**Originality/Value**

The study represents an original standardized questionnaire examined in five countries.

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**Keywords**: home attachment, place attachment, questionnaire, reliability, measurement invariance, cross-cultural validation