

IRT Analysis of the Ethics Position Questionnaire

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1 Analysis

In Arceneaux (2019), the Ethics Position Questionnaire is used to measure the concept of **absolutism**. It is a 20 statement measure of which 10 tap into ‘idealism’ and 10 relate to ‘relativism’.

To estimate the extent to which each item contributes to the latent construct of idealism and relativism, as well as absolutism, we have conducted an IRT analysis. Figures 1-3 show the Item Information Functions for each latent construct.

1.1 Idealism

Figure 1 shows that not all items are necessary for the measurement of idealism as a latent construct. We are both interested in the level of information a variable contributes and the spread of theta. The following variables contribute significantly to the construct:

- mabs_1,
- mabs_2,
- mabs_3,
- mabs_4,
- mabs_5,
- mabs_6

If we retain these items, the overall informational levels remains similarly high (see 2). The correlation between the 6-item idealism scale and the original scale is $r = 0.96$. The Cronbach’s alpha of the 6-item scale is 0.89.

1.2 Relativism

Turning to relativism, we see in Figure 3 that the following items contribute significantly to the construct:

- mabs_15,
- mabs_16,
- mabs_12,
- mabs_14,
- mabs_20,
- mabs_11

In Figure 4 we compare the information curves of the original and 6-item scale. The correlation between the 6-item relativism scale and the original scale is also $r = 0.96$. The Cronbach's alpha of the 6-item scale is 0.81.

2 Conclusion

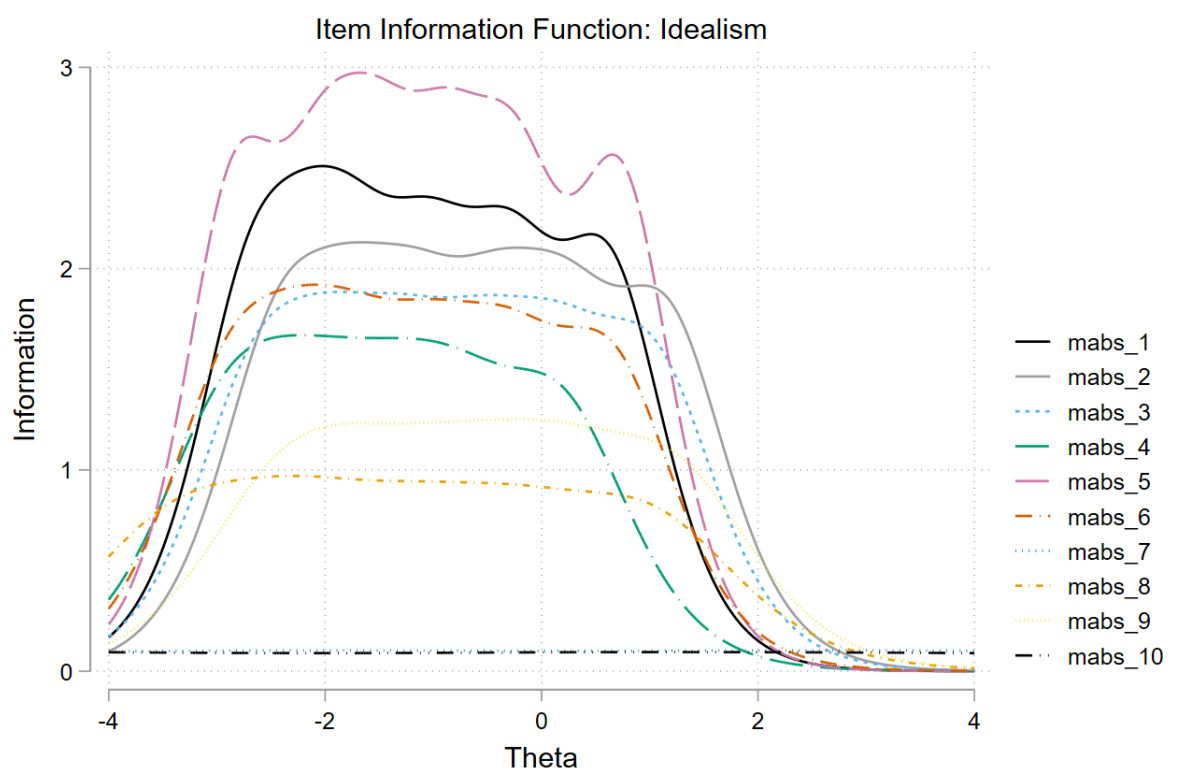


Figure 1: IRT Analysis of the Idealism Construct

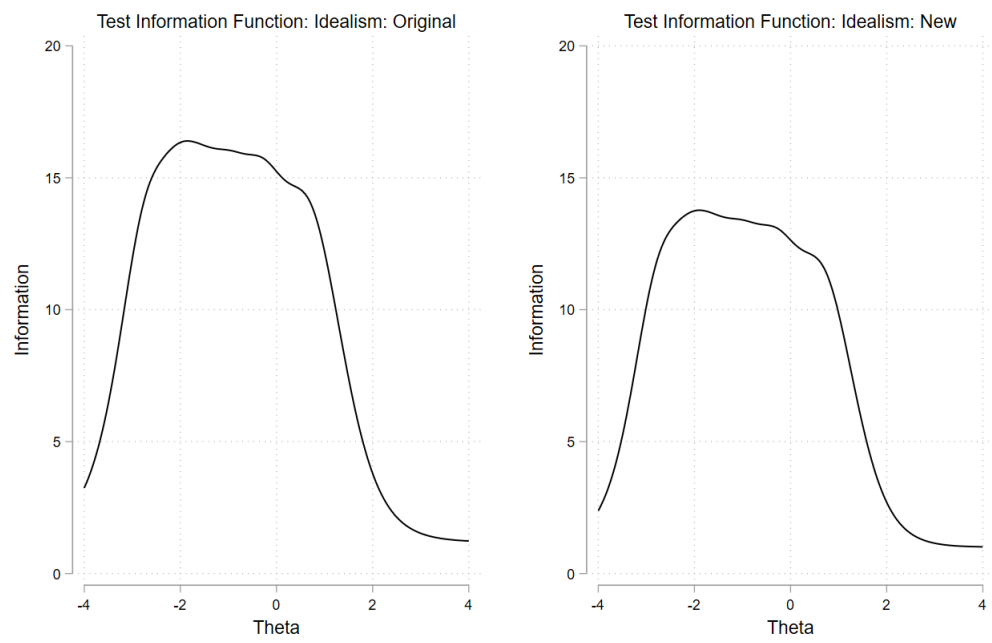


Figure 2: Test Information Functions for the Original and New Idealism Scale

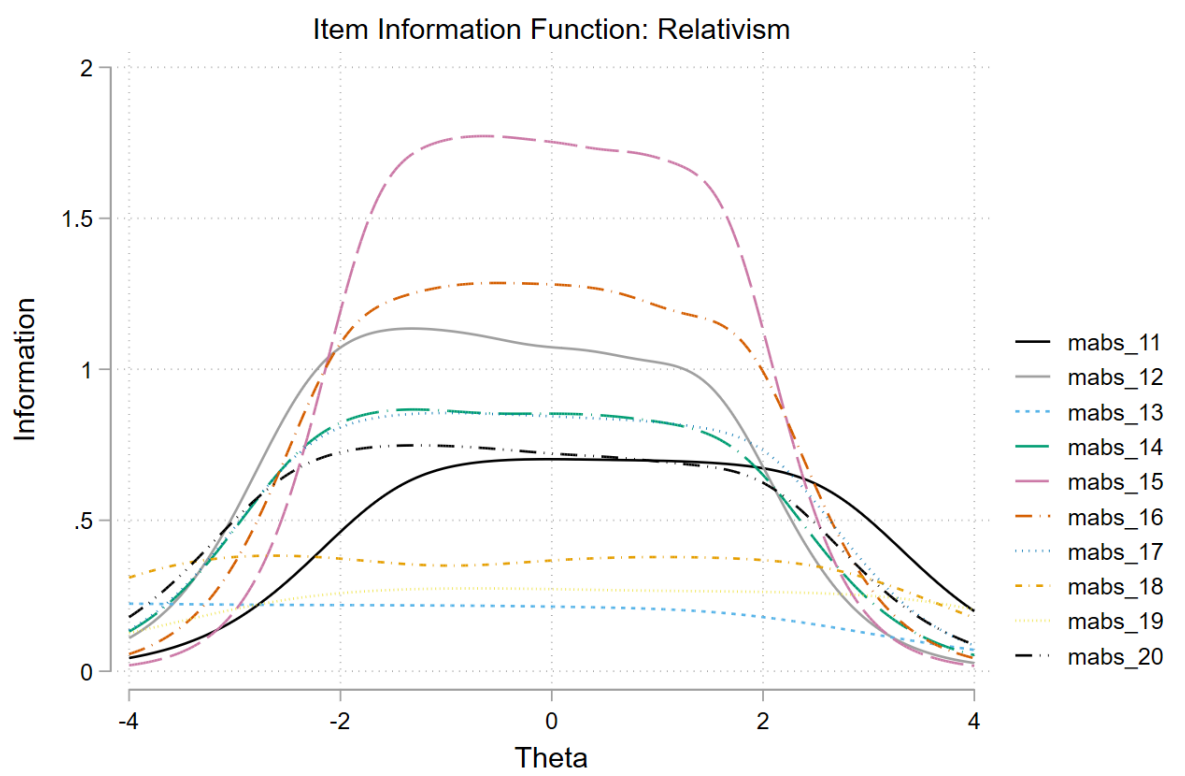


Figure 3: IRT Analysis of the Relativism Construct

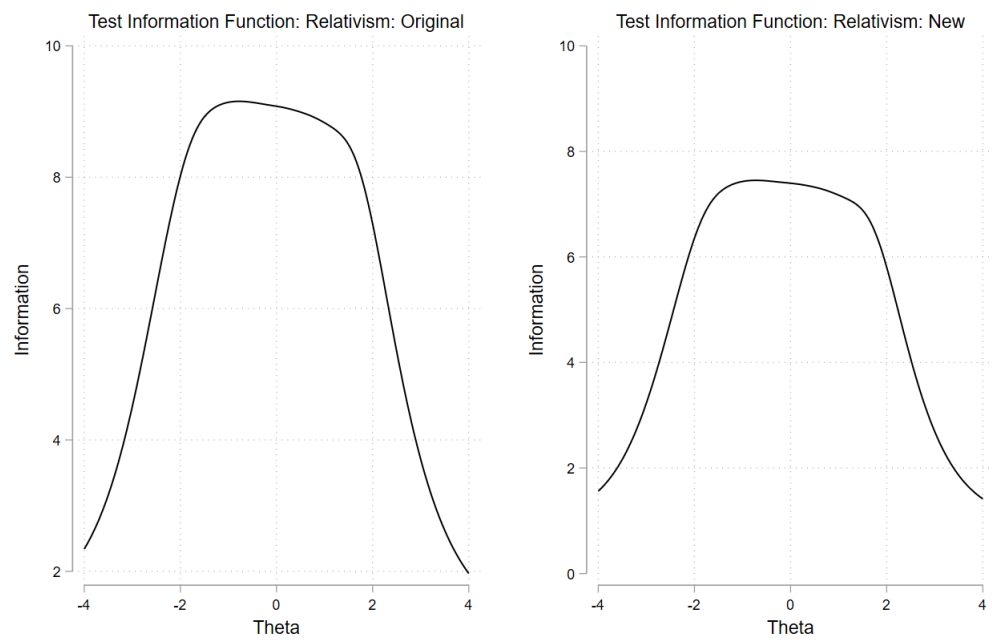


Figure 4: Test Information Functions for the Original and New Relativism Scale