

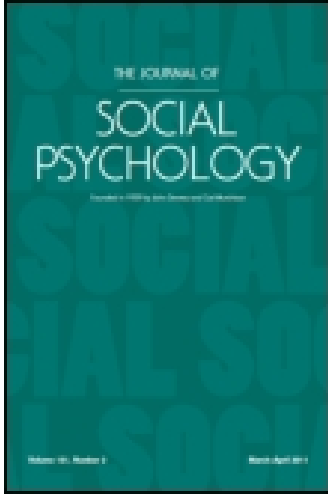
This article was downloaded by: [Central Michigan University]

On: 22 December 2014, At: 21:30

Publisher: Routledge

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number: 1072954

Registered office: Mortimer House, 37-41 Mortimer Street, London W1T 3JH, UK



The Journal of Social Psychology

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/vsoc20>

Perceived Locus of Control Among Chilean University Students

Juan F. Manso-Pinto^a & Enrique A. Ruggieri-Vega^b

^a Faculty of Social Sciences , University of Concepción , Chile

^b Faculty of Humanities , Arts University of Concepción , Chile

Published online: 01 Jul 2010.

To cite this article: Juan F. Manso-Pinto & Enrique A. Ruggieri-Vega (1985) Perceived Locus of Control Among Chilean University Students, The Journal of Social Psychology, 125:6, 783-785, DOI: [10.1080/00224545.1985.9713556](https://doi.org/10.1080/00224545.1985.9713556)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00224545.1985.9713556>

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR ARTICLE

Taylor & Francis makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of all the information (the "Content") contained in the publications on our platform. However, Taylor & Francis, our agents, and our licensors make no representations or warranties whatsoever as to the accuracy, completeness, or suitability for any purpose of the Content. Any opinions and views expressed in this publication are the opinions and views of the authors, and are not the views of or endorsed by Taylor & Francis. The accuracy of the Content should not be relied upon and should be independently verified with primary sources of information. Taylor and Francis shall not be liable for any losses, actions, claims, proceedings, demands, costs, expenses, damages, and other liabilities whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or

indirectly in connection with, in relation to or arising out of the use of the Content.

This article may be used for research, teaching, and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, redistribution, reselling, loan, sub-licensing, systematic supply, or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden. Terms & Conditions of access and use can be found at <http://www.tandfonline.com/page/terms-and-conditions>

Cross-Cultural Notes



Under this heading appear summaries of studies which, in 500 words or less, provide comparable data from two or more societies through the use of a standard measuring instrument. Additional details concerning the results can be obtained by communicating directly with the investigator or, when indicated, by requesting supplementary material from Microfiche Publications.

Perceived Locus of Control Among Chilean University Students

JUAN F. MANSO-PINTO

*Faculty of Social Sciences
University of Concepción, Chile*

ENRIQUE A. RUGGIERI-VEGA

*Faculty of Humanities and Arts
University of Concepción, Chile*

MOST CROSS-CULTURAL STUDIES (Garza & Russel, 1974; Hsieh, Shybut, & Lotsof, 1969; Krampen & Wieberg, 1981; Mahler, 1974; Malikosi & Ryckman, 1977; McGinnies, Nordholm, Ward, & Bhanthumnavin, 1974; Parsons & Schneider, 1974; Ryckman, Posen, & Kulberg, 1978) have shown that perceived locus of control is influenced by the cultural and social background. To gain a clearer understanding of the nature

Partial support for preparing this article was provided by the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Concepción, Chile (D.I.84-517).

We express our gratitude to H. Beck for assistance in the design of the computer program.

Requests for reprints should be sent to Juan F. Manso-Pinto, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Concepción, Casilla 650, Concepción, Chile.

of beliefs regarding locus of control, some researchers (Barling, 1980; Furnham & Henry, 1980) have emphasized the importance of obtaining factor analyses for different societies. The present study examined the factor structure of locus of control beliefs in a sample of Chilean university students.

As part of a larger study, Levenson's (1972) Locus of Control Scale was administered to a sample of 129 (63 women and 66 men, age ranging from 18 through 22 years) undergraduates enrolled in an introductory social psychology course at the University of Concepción, Chile. The Levenson scale comprises three separated subscales designed to measure the belief in general internality, powerful others, and chance. Each subscale consists of eight items in a 6-point Likert format. The 24 items of the scale were translated into Spanish; apart from some slight changes in wording, special care was taken to ensure that the psychological meaning intended by Levenson was not lost. The Cronbach alpha coefficients were .67 for internality, .65 for powerful others, and .74 for chance.

The responses to the 24 items of the scale were subjected to a principal-component analysis with varimax criterion. The analysis revealed three main factors accounting for 36% of the variance. Factor 1, accounting for 19% and based on 7 items, describes control by external forces such as fate, luck, or chance. Factor 2, accounting for 10% and based on 4 items, describes control by internality. Factor 3, accounting for 7% and based on 5 items, describes control by powerful others.

In relation to the aim of assessing differences in beliefs regarding locus of control beliefs cross-culturally, two major findings emerged from this study. First, the factor structures differ from those obtained in other studies that employed Levenson's Locus of Control Scale. In a study by Lao (1977) on Chinese students, factor internality, powerful others, and chance accounted for 46.2%, 20.1%, and 9.7% of the variance, respectively. A study by Levenson (1974) found that for American students, factor structure accounted for 9.7% of the variance for internality, 16.8% of the variance for powerful others, and 6.47% of the variance for chance. Second, the belief in control by external forces was the most dominant dimension of locus of control for this sample of Chilean students. The findings can be attributed to the cultural characteristics of the Chilean population, but the subjects' being university students suggests further studies directed toward an understanding of motivational variables linked to the development of locus of control beliefs, with particular reference to the academic environment.

REFERENCES

- Barling, J. (1980). Multidimensional locus of control beliefs among English-speaking South African mothers. *Journal of Social Psychology, 111*, 139-140.
- Furnham, A., & Henry, J. (1980). Cross-cultural locus of control studies: Experiment and critique. *Psychological Reports, 47*, 23-29.

- Garza, R., & Ames, R. (1974). A comparison of Anglo and Mexican American college students on locus of control. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 42(6), 919.
- Hsieh, T. T., Shybut, J., & Lotsof, E. J. (1969). Internal vs. external control and ethnic group membership: A cross-cultural comparison. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 33, 122-124.
- Krampen, G., & Wieberg, W. H-G. (1981). Three aspects of locus of control in German, American, and Japanese university students. *Journal of Social Psychology*, 113, 133-134.
- Lao, R. C. (1977). Levenson's IPC (Internal-External-Control) Scale: A comparison of Chinese and American students. *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, 9(1), 113-123.
- Levenson, H. (1972). Distinctions within the concept of internal-external control: Development of a new scale. *Proceedings of the 80th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association*, 7, 261-262.
- Levenson, H. (1974). Activism and powerful others: Distinctions within the concept of internal external control. *Journal of Personality Assessment*, 38, 377-383.
- Mahler, I. (1974). A comparative study of locus of control. *Psychologia*, 17, 135-139.
- Malikosi, M. X., & Ryckman, R. M. (1977). Differences in perceived locus of control among men and women adults and university students in America and Greece. *Journal of Social Psychology*, 103, 177-183.
- McGinnies, E., Nordholm, L. A., Ward, C. D., & Bhanthumnavin, D. L. (1974). Sex and cultural differences in perceived locus of control among students in five countries. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 42, 451-455.
- Parsons, O. A., & Schneider, J. M. (1974). Locus of control in university students from eastern and western societies. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 42, 456-461.
- Ryckman, R. M., Posen, C. F., & Kulberg, G. G. (1978). Locus of control among American and Rhodesian students. *Journal of Social Psychology*, 104, 165-173.

Received March 28, 1985