APSI

We first examined the factor structure of the 8 APSI items. Despite the fact that this scale is used widely to measure Sense of Identity in adolescence a review of the literature shows that this scale has never been analysed properly for it psychometric properties. Because it contains many of the ideas that are seen as contributing to a sense of purpose such as values and morals (Heine et al. 2006), understanding of self and fit in the world (Steger,20??, Wong, 20??), we see this as a scale that represents purpose in life. In any event based on the literature and how this measure is used in practice (Lounsbury et al., 2007, Lounsbury et al., 2004) we tested a one factor model using Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) the fit was very poor and the items clearly did not all load on one factor (see table 1).

Parallel analysis suggested that there were four factors. The first eigenvalue showed that the first factor explained 51% of the variance, the second 16% of the variance, and a third factor 10% of the variance. FIML was used for missing data. Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) using oblimin rotations was used to examine two, three and four, factor solutions. Only four factors resulted in an excellent fit based on REMSEA, TLI and CFI fit indices (see table 1).

During multiple steps, we were unable to get all the items to load so that they meet a minimum criterion of having a primary factor loading of .4 or above. Item six, “I don’t know where I fit in the world” either cross-loaded (four factor model) or loaded on its own factor (three factor model). Item three, “I have a set of basic beliefs and values that guide my actions and decisions” consistently loaded on its own factor. The other items seemed to load relatively well on one factor. Thus as table 1 shows, although there is a subset of items that seems to form coherent theme as one factor, the other items do not form a clear second factor.



**All Purpose Scales**

Given that in our samples, out of all the purpose measures tested only MLQ worked well as it was designed showing two clear factors: purpose and searching for purpose, we proceeded to test all the purpose measures together using EFA to see how many factors we were able to extract. We first examined the factor structure of the 33 items, Parallel Analysis suggested that there were six factors. Based on the amount of eigenvalues over .7 it showed there to be three factors. The first eigenvalue was 7.7 and explained 25% of the variance, the second was 5.0 and explained 17% of the variance, the third factor was 0.8 and explained 9% of the variance, the fourth factor explained 4% of the variance, whilst the fifth and six explained 3% of the variance each. EFA using oblimin rotations was therefore used to examine three and four, five and six factor solutions. However, we found that not even six factors resulted in an excellent fit based on all indices REMSEA, TLI and CFI fit indices. For six factors TLI was still <.95 (see table 2). During all the steps we were unable to get all the items to load on all the factors. Many of the items either did not load fully on one factor or cross-loaded (see table 2).

Given the amount of items that either did not properly load on any factor or cross-loaded on more than one factor we decided look at all the items and categorize them together based on common themes that appear throughout the items and use EFA TR to assess whether they are in fact common factors.

Based on an initial analysis of all the questions we were able to discern seven themes: 1. Present focused, 2. Understanding of Self and Life, 3. Making Plans, 4. Meaningful activities, 5. Values and Morals, 6. Explicit Sense of Purpose and 7. Searching for Purpose.

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Table 2

