



# Seminar

## Issue of Response Styles in Cross Cultural Measurement of Psychopathic Personality

by

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**Date** : 31 March 2017 (Friday)  
**Time** : 10:00 am- 12:00 pm  
**Venue** : Room Y7302, SS Multi-function Room  
Academic 1, City University of Hong Kong  
**Language** : English

### *Abstract*

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Psychopathy is typically perceived as a constellation of maladaptive personality traits, including egocentricity, callousness, remorselessness, fearlessness, thrill-seeking and low impulse control. Established and conceptualized in Western contexts, psychopathy has not been widely endorsed in East Asian countries, and there is a lack of research on psychopathy among East Asian populations. This is partly due to a deficit of established and valid measures adapted into East Asian languages and cultures. The cultural differences in response styles, however, can create obstacles in measurement invariance analyses, thus produce difficulty in cross-cultural comparisons in understanding psychopathological constructs. Response styles can influence responses as a second dimension that is independent from the psychopathological constructs measured by the instrument. This can in turn confound the interpretations of any differences in the scores across cultures.

In the present project, we examined measurement invariance of several popular self-report measures of psychopathy, including Triarchic Psychopathy Measure, Hare's Self Report Psychopathy Measure and the Levenson Self-report Psychopathy Scale, across Chinese speaking samples and North American Samples. Our findings revealed that scalar (intercepts/threshold) invariance can be hardly achieved across the two cultures. Differences in intercepts and thresholds between groups imply that the latent means of the factors may not be comparable across the groups. We further found that the endorsement of extreme response style, acquiescence response style and social desirability response style can be substantially different between the two cultural groups. We suggest, and present evidence that cultural specific thinking modes may explain the differences in response styles. We will discuss implications for cross-cultural measurement of psychopathology and for developing psychometric models to mitigate issues relating to response styles.

### *Biographical Sketch*

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Dr. Yuyin Shou received her PhD in Psychology from the Australian National University. Dr. Shou has strong research interests in judgment and decision making, cross-cultural measurement of psychopathic personality, and generalized linear models. She has published 17 journal papers and book chapters in the fields of decision making, mental disorders, methodology, and cross-culture studies. She also developed `cdfquantreg`: Quantile Regression for Random Variables on the Unit Interval for R users.

***All Are Welcome***