



## BACKGROUND

- Early life exposures such as *attachment* styles hard wire one's *appraisal of stressors*, determining an outcome of psychological distress and chosen coping strategies.
- Knowledge of the interplay of these mechanisms for groups of emerging adults is therefore of great importance.
- Of note, these group differences are often reported according to race/ethnicity and gender.

## OBJECTIVES

- However, most of these group comparisons assume equal psychometric functioning of measures, negating *tests for measurement invariance* prior to making inferences about minoritized populations.

## METHODS

- **Multigroup confirmatory factor analysis** (CFA): Black Women, Black Men, Latino Men, Latina Women, White Men and White Women.
- **Latent mean level differences** were also examined on an online **sample** of n=1,187 (33% Black, 35% Latino/a, 32% White; 50% Women)
- Participants responded to a measure of *adult attachment* and *perceived stress*

## MEASUREMENT INVARIANCE

**Table 1 – Summary of Tests of Measurement Invariance**

MODEL: Attachment		Model comp	$\Delta\chi^2 (\Delta df)$	$\Delta CFI$	$\Delta RMSEA$	$\Delta SRMR$	Model Decision
M1	Configural	---	---	---	---	---	---
M2	Metric	M1	-58.313 (-65)	-0.001	.006	-.013	Accept
M3	Scalar	M2	-438.701 (-1)	0.065	-.026	-.159	Reject
M4	Partial Scalar	M2	2.857 (5)	0.000	-.001	.001	Accept
MODEL: Perceived Stress		Model comp	$\Delta\chi^2 (\Delta df)$	$\Delta CFI$	$\Delta RMSEA$	$\Delta SRMR$	Model Decision
M1	Configural	---	---	---	---	---	---
M2	Metric	M1	- 41.269 (-20)	0.02	-.015	-.071	Reject
M3	Partial Metric	M1	-15.074 (-15)	0.000	.014	-.034	Accept
M4	Scalar	M3	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	Accept

Note.  $\chi^2$  = chi-square; *df* = degrees of freedom; CFI = Comparative Fit Index; RMSEA= Root Mean Square Error of Approximation; SRMR= Standardized Root Mean-square Residual; CI= confidence interval;  $\Delta$  = difference between fit statistics for the two models; Decision “Accept” = accepting the assumption of invariance, decision “Reject” = rejecting the assumption of invariance.

## MAJOR FINDINGS

- Bias in measurement was found for both measures, corrected using partial metric and scalar invariance for perceived stress and attachment respectively.
- For mean differences the two highest and least scores according to intersectional groups were as follows: distress: White Women, Latina Women, White Men; coping: Latino Men, Latina Women, White Men; avoidance: White Men, Latino Men, Latina Women; anxiety: White Men, Black Men, White Women.

## CONCLUSION

• Moving the literature towards a better understanding of intersectional group differences may necessitate models that can test for bias in measurement.