

# Self-Transcendence

Your Name Here

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**Due by 23:59, Sunday, 3 May 2020**

## Description

The ASTI (Levenson et al., 2005) is a self-report scale measuring the complex target construct of wisdom. The items can be assigned to five dimensions: self-knowledge and integration (SI), peace of mind (PM), non-attachment (NA), self-transcendence (ST), and presence in the here-and-now and growth (PG). The data are provided in the *MPsychoR* package that accompanies the text book. I have provided it as a csv file

The data frame has 1215 individuals (rows), 25 ASTI items (3 or 4 categories per items), and 2 covariates (gender, group) in the columns. The wording of each item and to which of the five dimensions they supposedly belong are:

ASTI1: I often engage in quiet contemplation. (PM; reversed)  
ASTI2: I feel that my individual life is a part of a greater whole. (ST)  
ASTI3: I don't worry about other people's opinions of me. (NA)  
ASTI4: I feel a sense of belonging with both earlier and future generations. (ST)  
ASTI5: My peace of mind is not easily upset. (PM)  
ASTI6: My sense of well-being does not depend on a busy social life. (NA)  
ASTI7: I feel part of something greater than myself. (ST)  
ASTI8: My happiness is not dependent on other people and things. (NA; reversed)  
ASTI9: I do not become angry easily. (PM)  
ASTI10: I have a good sense of humor about myself. (SI; reversed)  
ASTI11: I find much joy in life. (PG; reversed)  
ASTI12: Material possessions don't mean much to me. (NA)  
ASTI13: I feel compassionate even toward people who have been unkind to me. (ST)  
ASTI14: I am not often fearful. (PG)  
ASTI15: I can learn a lot from others. (PG)  
ASTI16: I often have a sense of oneness with nature. (ST)  
ASTI17: I am able to accept my mortality. (PG)  
ASTI18: I often "lose myself" in what I am doing. (PG)  
ASTI19: I feel that I know myself. (SI; reversed)  
ASTI20: I am accepting of myself, including my faults. (SI; reversed)  
ASTI21: I am able to integrate the different aspects of my life. (SI; reversed)  
ASTI22: I can accept the impermanence of things. (PM; reversed)  
ASTI23: I have grown as a result of losses I have suffered. (PG; reversed)  
ASTI24: Whatever [good] I do for others, I do for myself. (ST; reversed)  
ASTI25: Whatever [bad] I do to others, I do to myself. (ST)  
gender: male, female  
group: students, non-students

## Load the original data

```
asti <- read.csv("ASTI_Original.csv")

# here are vectors that have the item number of the question in each category
# you can use them to select specific subsets of columns if you want to.
I_SI <- c(10, 19, 20, 21)
I_PM <- c(1, 5, 9, 22)
I_NA <- c(3, 6, 8, 12)
I_ST <- c(2, 4, 7, 13, 16, 24, 25)
I_PG <- c(11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 23)
```

## Task

Use an appropriate subset of the techniques presented by Patrick Mair in Chapters 2, 3, 4 and 8 (perhaps) to find structure and latent variables in the data set. Are the latent variables similar to those described in the journal articles? Can you find any relationship of the demographic variables (e.g, age, gender, etc.) to the latent variables you have discovered.

There is no single approach that is correct. The tools for dealing with these data are scattered throughout the above-cited chapters and Mair uses this data set in a variety of settings:

- Optimal Scaling
- Tetrachoric and polychoric correlations
- Exploratory Factor Analysis
- Confirmatory Factor Analysis
- Item Response Theory (IRT) Analysis

Follow some examples in the book and adapt them to this particular set of data. Above all ask questions and seek my advice and help.

## References

Koller, I., Levenson, M. R., & Glück, J. (2017). What Do You Think You Are Measuring? A Mixed-Methods Procedure for Assessing the Content Validity of Test Items and Theory-Based Scaling [10.3389/fpsyg.2017.00126]. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 8, 126. <https://www.frontiersin.org/article/10.3389/fpsyg.2017.00126>

Levenson, M. R., Jennings, P. A., Aldwin, C. M., & Shiraishi, R. W. (2005, 2005/03/01). Self-Transcendence: Conceptualization and Measurement. *The International Journal of Aging and Human Development*, 60(2), 127-143. <https://doi.org/10.2190/XXM-FYRA-7U0X-GRC0>