

COMPARISON OF INTERCORRELATIONS OF SCALE SCORES
FROM THE OPINIONS ABOUT MENTAL ILLNESS SCALE¹

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Summary.—Intercorrelations among scores on the 5 factorially derived dimensions of the Opinions About Mental Illness Scale (OMI) were computed for 77 female psychiatric attendants at a large state mental hospital. Four *r*s were significant. However, *r*s were smaller and, in some cases, directionally different from those in previous studies. Type of institution sampled, temporal factors, and changes in attitude were suggested as possible explanations for these differences in intercorrelations.

Intercorrelations of scores on the five scales of the Opinions About Mental Illness Scale (OMI) have yielded data which question the magnitude and direction of the scales' intercorrelations and, consequently, the independence of the factorially derived dimensions. Cohen and Struening (1962) reported such low correlations that predictability from one score to another was lacking. However, Lawton (1964), using a different sample from a prolonged care institution, obtained correlations in the .40 range among a number of scales that Cohen and Struening (1962) found correlated .20 or less. Allon and Graham (1970) studied OMI score relationships for personnel at a short-term urban psychiatric hospital and noted generally higher correlations among factors; these were, in some cases, different in direction from those reported by the previous investigators.

Allon and Graham (1970) suggest differences in hospital setting (short-term vs prolonged care) and a possible change in attitudes toward mental illness in the 8- to 10-yr. period since the original data were gathered as potential explanations for the disparate findings. The present study presents OMI data obtained from a sample of personnel serving on the continued treatment wards of a large state mental hospital. The setting then resembles that of the Cohen and Struening (1962) and Lawton (1964) studies, while the temporal factor is similar to that of the Allon and Graham (1970) study.

A modified form of the OMI Scale was administered to 77 female psychiatric attendants staffing a number of female continued treatment services operated under a unitization system at CISH. Modification made the reworded items more directly applicable to the respondents' experiences. The revised items were scored for the five factors, Authoritarianism (A), Benevolence (B), Mental Health Ideology (C), Social Restrictiveness (D), and Interpersonal Etiology (E), according to instructions distributed by Cohen and Struening (1962). Product-moment coefficients were calculated among the scores on factor scales.

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The mean scores of our sample on the five factors were compared with normative group data for attendants in an attempt to estimate the possible effects of rewording the items. The comparison indicated that differences were of a magnitude that might be expected on the basis of chance sampling variations.

Table 1 summarizes significant intercorrelations from the Lawton (1964), the Allon and Graham (1970) and the Cohen and Struening (1962) studies. In the present study three *r*s achieved significance at the .01 level, one at the .05 level. Their direction is consistent with those reported by the OMI authors (1962), but the magnitudes are greater. None of the significant *r*s are as large as those reported by Lawton (1964) or Allon and Graham (1970). These data suggest statistically significant interrelatedness among some OMI scales; but that the magnitude of the relationship is small. That is, the largest positive *r* between two factor scores accounts for little more than 10% of the variance.

TABLE 1
SIGNIFICANT PRODUCT-MOMENT CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS AMONG OMI
DIMENSIONS ACROSS THE FOUR STUDIES

Factors	Cohen & Struening, 1962	Lawton, 1964	Allon & Graham, 1970	Fracchia, et al., 1971
A-B	-.20	-.43†	NA	-.36†
A-D	.20	.44†	.54†	.32†
A-E	.08	-.43†	.32†	.31†
B-D	-.12	-.42†	NA	-.15
D-E	.08	-.09	.37†	.22*

NA—Not available. **p* = .05. †*p* = .01.

Examination of data from all the studies suggests a low to moderate positive relationship exists between authoritarianism and social restrictiveness regardless of the type of population sampled or the time of sampling; this accounted for up to 29% of the variance between the measures. Further, authoritarianism and benevolence scores have a low to moderate negative association for personnel from prolonged-care institutions that was not influenced by time. Since the earlier studies, the relationship between authoritarianism and interpersonal etiology and between social restrictiveness and interpersonal etiology may have become low and positive. Possibly, this reflects a change in attitudes toward acceptance of interpersonal difficulties as a cause of mental illness as was suggested by Allon and Graham (1970).

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Thanks are due the study.

DOGMATISM AND ATTITUDES¹

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Summary.—Dogmatism was related to several attitudes for male and female college students. Political conservatism and reported church attendance were positively related to dogmatism for both sexes. Attitude toward marijuana, characteristics attributed to a "good professor," reasons for attending college, and test anxiety were only partly related to dogmatism, or for only one sex. Hypotheses are offered about some of the unexpected data. The complexity of the data suggests that dogmatism should be related to several variables, rather than one or two, in future samples studied.

One way to try to understand what a scale measures is to relate scores on it to scores on other measures. Many investigators have done this with Rokeach's Dogmatism Scale (Rokeach, 1960; see reviews by Ehrlich & Lee, 1969, and Vacchiano, *et al.*, 1969). However, they have usually employed only one or two other measures in such research (e.g., learning in an experiment, or test anxiety); rarely has dogmatism been related to several variables in one study.

On theoretical grounds, one would expect dogmatism scores to be linearly correlated with many attitudes: toward the Vietnam War, presidential candidates, marijuana, etc. For example, Agnew should have less appeal to low dogmatic persons than high dogmatics, because of his stress on obedience, conformity-is-morality, law-and-order, etc. Furthermore, unless an authority like Agnew favored leniency toward users of marijuana, one would expect more low dogmatics to favor leniency than high dogmatics, since use of marijuana is illegal and associated with a non-conformist life-style. Thus, dogmatism scores in any particular sample should be related to attitudes chosen on theoretical grounds, since any given individual can be more or less "open-minded" about each attitude (Ehrlich & Lee, 1969). The purpose of this study was to investigate this hypothesis.

METHOD

Subjects

Usable data were obtained from 98 men and 79 women enrolled in an introductory psychology course. Two persons refused to participate, and 7 handed in incomplete questionnaires.

These students attend a commuter college which is part of the state university. According to their self-reports, 28.7% had Verbal SAT scores under 500, 50.3% between 500 and 599, and 21.0%, 600 or above; this does not include 22 persons who didn't answer this question or reported that they hadn't

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