




Validation of the Emotional Responses to Sexual Infidelity Scale in Individuals Affected by Sexual Infidelity

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The introduction provides an interesting overview of the research topic, but it would benefit from a clearer articulation of the study's research gap. Specifically, you mention the consequences of sexual infidelity but do not explicitly connect how the current study contributes to filling this gap. Please revise the introduction to clearly state what prior studies have missed and how your research addresses this issue.

The literature review briefly mentions studies on emotional responses to infidelity, but there is no clear connection between the studies cited. Please include more explicit references to how these studies informed the development of your own research. For instance, clarify how Seltzer et al. (2020) or Amir (2018) directly relate to the scale you are validating.

The section on emotional responses to infidelity could benefit from a deeper exploration of theoretical frameworks, such as attachment theory or cognitive appraisal theory, which may provide a more solid foundation for understanding emotional responses to infidelity. Please consider integrating these frameworks into the literature review to enhance the theoretical depth of your argument.

The choice of confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) for examining construct validity is appropriate, but the article does not mention which software or specific CFA model (e.g., maximum likelihood estimation) was used. Please specify the software (e.g., SPSS, AMOS, or Mplus) and the model parameters employed in your analysis to enhance the transparency of your statistical procedures.

The descriptive statistics provided in Table 1 are useful, but it would be beneficial to include more context for these values. For instance, what do the means and standard deviations of the emotional response subscales (e.g., sadness, anger, jealousy) tell us in relation to the population? Are these scores typical of individuals who have experienced sexual infidelity, or do they indicate unusually high or low levels of emotional distress? Please provide some interpretation of the descriptive statistics.

The results from the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) measure and Bartlett's test are presented, but further interpretation is needed. While $KMO = 0.770$ is adequate, what does this imply in terms of sampling adequacy for factor analysis? It would be beneficial to explain why these values suggest that exploratory factor analysis (EFA) or confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was appropriate for this study.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence "...this article with the aim of validating the scale..." lacks clarity regarding the specific contribution of your research. It would be helpful to provide a more detailed explanation of the methodology (e.g., sample size, research design) and what you aim to demonstrate through validation. Consider rephrasing to: "This article aims to assess the psychometric properties of the Emotional Responses to Sexual Infidelity Scale (ERSIS) by examining its reliability and validity in a Persian-speaking population."

The description of the sample (415 individuals) is somewhat vague. You mention that participants were selected using an "available sampling method," but you do not explain how this method was applied in more detail. For example, were participants recruited from specific locations (e.g., counseling centers)? Please clarify the inclusion criteria more thoroughly to ensure the representativeness of the sample.

The description of the scale (ERSIS) is helpful, but it would benefit from a more detailed explanation of the development process of the original scale. You mention that the scale was created by Torlick and Scutarò (2014), but you do not elaborate on their psychometric findings. Consider adding more background on the original scale's validation process to help contextualize the Persian version's validity.

The translation procedure is discussed briefly, but it lacks sufficient detail. The process of "back-translation" is mentioned, but how did you ensure equivalence between the original English items and the translated Persian items? Consider providing more detail on the back-translation procedure, such as the number of bilingual translators involved and whether any discrepancies between translations were resolved.

The factor loadings presented in Table 3 are helpful, but it would be beneficial to provide a brief discussion of these results. Specifically, how well do the factor loadings align with the expected dimensions of emotional responses to infidelity? Are any items of particular concern due to low loadings or cross-loadings? Please add a sentence or two to interpret these findings.

The discussion starts well but lacks a critical interpretation of the results. For example, while you mention the internal consistency of the scale, you do not address whether the subscales (e.g., sadness, anger) captured in the factor structure align with theoretical expectations or with other studies. Please expand on how your findings compare with previous research on emotional responses to infidelity.

You briefly mention the utility of the scale for professionals, but this section could be expanded. How might the findings be applied in real-world contexts, such as therapy or counseling for individuals experiencing infidelity? It would be helpful to provide more practical examples of how the scale might be used to intervene or assess the emotional responses of individuals undergoing marital infidelity.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.