

**Reliability and Validity of the General Ethnicity Questionnaire  
Across Cultures**

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Reference: Haboush, A., Guttman, J.S., Linares, V., Brehman, B., & Barchard, K.A. (in prep).  
Reliability and Validity of the General Ethnicity Questionnaire Across Cultures. Poster to be  
submitted for presentation at the 2009 Western Psychological Association Annual Convention,  
Portland, OR.

## Abstract

Acculturation is the social and psychological adaptations a person makes due to continuous interaction with individuals from different cultures. Acculturation is important because it has been linked to several psychological disorders. To compare cultures in terms of the effect of acculturation on psychological health, researchers need a measure that can be used across cultures. The General Ethnicity Questionnaire (GEQ; Levenson, 1994) was developed to assess several domains (e.g., language and food) within the context of acculturation and can be used across cultures. Because this measure has only been validated with a Chinese population, the current study examined the reliability and validity of the GEQ in African American, Asian, and Hispanic populations. Undergraduate students completed the GEQ along with other measures of acculturation. Reliability was acceptable. However, the validity results based upon the preliminary data are mixed. Some groups had moderate positive correlations between the GEQ and other acculturation measures, but for some groups, the correlations were low. These mixed results may be because different measures focus on different domains. Future research should focus on the domains that are most important to the acculturation process so that researchers can ensure that the same construct is being addressed in different studies.