

Crim 860

Assignment 4: Indexes and Scales

We began by deciding that our Likert scale would focus on views about drug policies, particularly by contrasting harm reduction approaches versus more punitive ones that viewed addictions as a criminal problem rather than a health issue. For the first part of the assignment, each of you sent me potential items. These were all compiled in random order in a survey format and each of us was to send a survey link to friends and family – a convenience sample. We ended up with 126 respondents among the class and others.

You have a copy of the data that arose from that project ... ratings from 126 respondents on our preliminary pool of 83 items. Your job in this assignment is to send me a brief report explaining the choices you made along the way, a copy of your final scale, and an explanation of what you would do next, after you do the following:

- a. We started with an item pool of 83 statements. You can see the full list of items in [one of the files](#) I sent you. Let's say that we are hoping to end up with a scale that's 12-ish items long.
- b. Follow the steps we discussed in class, beginning with clean up, recodes, and decisions about missing data. What did you do to make sure your recodes did what you thought they would do?
- c. Perform the next steps with your partner where you do successive iterations of computing a tentative total, computing item-whole correlations, and using that information to successively whittle down the pool of items to put together a tentative scale, explaining why you chose the particular set of items that you did.
- d. Compute a split-half reliability (to pay homage to Likert) along with the [Spearman Brown Prophecy](#) and compute [Cronbach's alpha](#) for your scale.
- e. Question 84 asked respondents to self-report an overall attitude about drug policies. How might you use responses to that question as a preliminary validation measure? Feel free to do the analysis if you know how.
- f. Let's say that we decide that the scale you create in (b) is one we will go forward with and subject to further analysis. What would you be looking to do before you would feel comfortable actually using it in a research situation, e.g., if City Council asked you to evaluate Burnaby residents' views regarding different drug policies they might enact, or if you were now interested in looking at other correlates of those attitudes?

Please put your explanation in a file that follows the following naming convention:

<Crim860_firstname_firstname_Scale.format> (where the two firstname slots are the names of you and your partner and "format" is whatever format your document is in – docx or pdf)

Your assignment is due on 03 November.