

Abstract

In this paper we developed a scale to measure relational mobility, or the general amount of opportunities there are to form new relationships, when necessary, in a given society or social context. Depending on the nature of the particular society, network, or organization into which one is embedded, the number of opportunities individuals have to form new relationships can vary drastically. For example, while individuals living in North American societies are frequently faced with chances to form new relationships, this is not true in many Asian societies where interpersonal relationships tend to be pre-determined and stable. In order to capture variation in relational mobility between societies on a micro- and macro-level, we developed a scale to assess individuals' perceptions of relational mobility in their immediate social environment. Through two studies, we demonstrate the Relational Mobility Scale's reliability, structural validity, and construct validity in two cultures: Japan and the United States. We hope that the existence of a scale to measure relational mobility will promote further research investigating the influence of social structure on psychology and behavior.