

ACADEMIC WEEKLY DIGEST

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THE ABBREVIATED PLACE ATTACHMENT SCALE

Researchers have measured people's attachment to places in different ways, but **Dr Alector Ribeiro** and his colleagues believe that a standard measure will be useful to better understand people-place relationships across broad cultural and political spectrums. They have developed and validated a reduced scale that provides researchers with a standard nimble tool that they can confidently employ for this purpose.



MEASURING PLACE ATTACHMENT WITH THE ABBREVIATED PLACE ATTACHMENT SCALE (APAS)

DR ALECTOR RIBEIRO

The discrepancies on place attachment measurement hamper the ability of researchers to directly compare findings across communities and conduct metanalyses on the antecedents and outcomes of place attachment. Furthermore, scales consisting of more than three items may unnecessarily burden respondents, thus impeding opportunities to add new constructs to surveys so that the precursors and outcomes of place attachment can be better understood. With this in mind, the purpose of this study is to present and test the cross-cultural reliability and validity of an

Abbreviated Place Attachment Scale (APAS) (i.e., three items for place identity and three items for place dependence) across seven samples spanning five data collections and four countries (United States, Cape Verde, Nigeria and Poland) involving residents and visitors. Confirmatory factor analysis reveals that the abbreviated scales perform just as well as their extended parents, and the multi-group confirmatory factor analysis reveals full measurement invariance demonstrating that the APAS is equivalent across cultures.



FURTHER READING:
 Boley, B. B., Strzelecka, M., Yeager, E. P., Ribeiro, M. A., Aleshinloye, K. D., Woosnam, K. M., & Mimbs, B. P. (2021). Measuring place attachment with the Abbreviated Place Attachment Scale (APAS). *Journal of Environmental Psychology*
 Link: bit.ly/2TT3Qkn

The APAS should be given full attention by place attachment researchers seeking to expand the literature on the understanding of how people connect to places and the implications that these connections have on other important constructs such as quality of life, support for tourism, and place-based conservation efforts or individual environmental behaviours.