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Title: The Reliability, Validity, and Scalability of Indicators of Gender Role Beliefs and Feminism in the 1992 American National Election Study: A Report to the ANES Board of Overseers

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Abstract

Abstract: Examining data from the 1992 NES, the authors assess the performance of the items measuring attitudes towards feminism and beliefs about men's and women's roles. They find that responses to the traditional gender equality item have converged over time to the egalitarian position of the scale. However, that item covaries in predictable ways with the new gender items, introduced in the 1992 NES. Thus, the traditional item continues to retain both face and substantive validity if researchers regard it as a measure of simple liberal feminist egalitarianism only. For measurement of feminist and gender role beliefs, the new battery of items is more appropriate. The authors also find that all the new gender items, except the empirical assessment questions, are satisfactorily related to one another. At the same time, a factor analysis performed by the authors indicates that the items load onto three factors: (1) feminist identity and, for women alone, gender consciousness, (2) attentiveness to women's position in society, and (3) normative egalitarianism. A regression analysis of the determinants of these three factors indicates that the feminist and gender items are correlated with, but distinct from political attitudes and demographic characteristics. The authors conclude by