

Author(s): Bartels, Larry

Title: Humanitarianism Items on 1995 Pilot Study

Date: January 15, 1996

Dataset(s): 1995 Pilot Study

Abstract

In this report, Bartels assesses the new 1995 Pilot Study humanitarianism items. He finds that all the items -- both the eight agree/disagree questions and the three forced choice questions -- are strongly biased in a pro-humanitarianism direction. Bartels then performs an exploratory factor analysis of both sets of items. In the case of the agree/disagree items, Bartels finds a strong first dimension, tapping humanitarianism, and a weaker second dimension, reflecting a response set. In the case of the forced choice items, Bartels finds only one weak dimension. Finally, Bartels performs a correlation analysis against demographic and political background variables. He argues that the low correlation of the humanitarianism items with these variables reflects the unreliability of both humanitarianism scales. Bartels concludes that the response set of the agree/disagree items and the unreliability of the forced choice format indicates that a better question format must be developed to measure humanitarianism and other "value and predisposition" scales before such instrumentation is carried through to future survey efforts.