

## **Development and Validation of the Interpersonal Distrust Scale**

Hio Tong Kuan, Carolyn Rauti, Tanja Samardzic, Emma Bailey, Jann Macissac,  
and Catherine T. Kwantes

This study reports on the development and validation of the Interpersonal Distrust Scale. Interpersonal distrust is conceptualized as an expectation of harm or negative outcomes from another person's conduct, including words, behaviours, and decisions. Building off of existing research discussing the potential functionality of distrust, the proposed scale measures two dimensions: functional distrust and dysfunctional distrust. Functional distrust is considered to be an adaptive mechanism for preventing harm or negative outcomes, whereas dysfunctional distrust is considered to be the maladaptive alternative. Two studies were conducted to examine the underlying factor structure and psychometric properties of the proposed scale. In Study 1, theory and construct explication guided item generation, and findings from an exploratory factor analysis suggested a two-factor structure of a 23-item scale. In Study 2, the scale was refined and a nomological network of constructs related to distrust was established for validation purposes. Confirmatory factor analysis findings confirmed strong psychometric properties of the two-factor, 12-item scale and evidence for concurrent, convergent and divergent validity were demonstrated. Limitations and implications for the scale will be discussed.