Group Identifications Scale (GIS)

The Group Identification Scale (GIS) taps *one's sense of belonging to an in-group, coupled with one's sense of commonality with other in-group members*. As such, group identification concerns the *subjective* dimension of being part of a group, rather than a more behavioral dimension such as frequency of contact with in-group members, or intensity of participation in group-related activities.

GIS is a global scale including four items, each one rated on a 1 to 7-point Lickert-type scale. Therefore, ones' total score on the scale may range from 4 to 28. Although it is normally used as a continuous scale, GIS can also be used as a binary scale distinguishing between those who are and those who are not identified with a group. The cut-off score for group identification (vs. lack of group identification) is 20, or 5 if the average score of the four items forming the scale is used.

A number of studies, reported in Sani, Madhok, Norbury, Dugard, & Wakefield (2014), have confirmed that GIS has a good internal reliability (α normally ranges from .85 to .92). These studies have also confirmed that GIS has convergent validity (i.e., it correlates strongly with other group identification scales), divergent validity (i.e., it correlates only moderately with scales measuring other perceptual/evaluative aspects of an in-group, such as its distinctiveness from other groups), and temporal stability (e.g., in a test-retest study with a three-week lag between test 1 and test 2, the Pearson's correlation coefficient for the GIS scale adapted for the family group was .91).

The typical format of GIS can be found below.

Please specify how much you disagree or agree with each statement concerning YOU AND YOUR GROUP. Please tick ✓ ONE box on each line below.

	I strongly disagree	I disagree	I slightly disagree	I neither agree nor disagree	I slightly agree	I agree	I strongly agree
I feel a bond with my [group].	☐1	☐2	☐3	☐4	☐5	☐6	☐7
I feel similar to the other members of my [group].	☐1	☐2	☐3	☐4	☐5	☐6	☐7
I have a sense of belonging to my [group].	☐1	☐2	☐3	☐4	☐5	☐6	☐7
I have a lot in common with the members of my [group].	☐1	☐2	☐3	☐4	☐5	☐6	☐7

GIS can be easily adapted to virtually any type of group. Below we report two examples, concerning the family group and the local community respectively.

Please specify how much you disagree or agree with each statement concerning YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. <u>You may define *family* in any way you wish (e.g., immediate family or extended family, etc.).</u> Please tick ✓ ONE box on each line below.

	I strongly disagree	I disagree	I slightly disagree	I neither agree nor disagree	I slightly agree	I agree	I strongly agree
I feel a bond with my family.	☐1	☐2	☐3	☐4	☐5	☐6	☐7
I feel similar to the other members of my family.	☐1	☐2	☐3	☐4	☐5	☐6	☐7
I have a sense of belonging to my family.	☐1	☐2	☐3	☐4	☐5	☐6	☐7
I have a lot in common with the members of my family.	☐1	☐2	☐3	☐4	☐5	☐6	☐7

Please specify how much you disagree or agree with each statement concerning YOU AND YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY. *<u>Local community means your neighbourhood, village, city area, or any other way you may define it.</u>* Please tick ✓ ONE box on each line below.

	I strongly disagree	I disagree	I slightly disagree	I neither agree nor disagree	I slightly agree	I agree	I strongly agree
I feel a bond with my local community.	☐1	☐2	☐3	☐4	☐5	☐6	☐7
I feel similar to the other members of my local community.	☐1	☐2	☐3	☐4	☐5	☐6	☐7
I have a sense of belonging to my local community.	☐1	☐2	☐3	☐4	☐5	☐6	☐7
I have a lot in common with the members of my local community.	☐1	☐2	☐3	☐4	☐5	☐6	☐7

GIS can also be used in studies assessing identification with a group selected by the participant him/herself. In this case, we suggest the following format.

Please choose a SOCIAL GROUP to which you belong, using the list of groups below. Please place a tick ✓ in the box beside your chosen group. Please only select ONE group. If none of the listed groups correspond to the group you want to choose, please select *Other* and specify what type of group that is.

Sport team/class/club	☐	Hobby/interest group	☐	Support group	☐
Voluntary/charity group	☐	Workplace group	☐	Reading/study group	☐
Group of friends	☐	Religious group/institution	☐	Other ☐ *Please specify:*................................

Please specify how much you disagree or agree with each statement concerning YOU AND YOUR CHOSEN GROUP. Please tick ✓ ONE box on each line below.

	I strongly disagree	I disagree	I slightly disagree	I neither agree nor disagree	I slightly agree	I agree	I strongly agree
I feel a bond with my chosen group.	☐1	☐2	☐3	☐4	☐5	☐6	☐7
I feel similar to the other members of my chosen group.	☐1	☐2	☐3	☐4	☐5	☐6	☐7
I have a sense of belonging to my chosen group.	☐1	☐2	☐3	☐4	☐5	☐6	☐7
I have a lot in common with the members of my chosen group.	☐1	☐2	☐3	☐4	☐5	☐6	☐7

If you wish to use the scale, you do not need to ask for permission. In any publication or public talk where the scale is used, please refer to the following paper:

Sani, F., Madhok, V., Norbury, M., Dugard, P., & Wakefield, J. R. H. (2014). Greater number of group identifications is associated with healthier behaviour: Evidence from a Scottish community sample. *British Journal of Health Psychology*, DOI: 10.1111/bjhp.12119.

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