The 14-item RWA:ACS Scale

It is now clear that RWA should be analysed at the component level (aggression, conventionalism, and submission). Although new scales are being developed, many researchers have existing data sets using older versions of the RWA scale. We have developed a 14-item scale that captures the RWA components based on Altemeyer’s (1996) version of the scale. The total scale correlates well with the overall RWA scale. Aggression and Conventionalism are generally well differentiated. The 6 submission items here do a reasonable job of capturing the submission component. They are divided into two subsets (see the forthcoming paper) but can just be combined into a single scale for practical purposes.

Aggression

A1 What our country really needs is a strong, determined leader who will crush evil, and take us back to our true path.

A2 Once our government leaders give us the "go ahead" it will be the duty of every patriotic citizen to help stomp out the rot that is poisoning our country from within.

A3 The situation in our country is getting so serious, the strongest methods would be justified if they eliminated the troublemakers and got us back to our true path.

A4 The only way our country can get through the crisis ahead is to get back to our traditional values, put some tough leaders in power, and silence the troublemakers spreading bad ideas.

Conventionalism

C1 There is nothing wrong with premarital sexual intercourse.

C2 Everyone should have their own lifestyle, religious beliefs, and sexual preferences, even if it makes them different from everyone else.

C3 There is no "ONE right way" to live life; everybody has to create their own way.

C4 Gays and lesbians are just as healthy and moral as anybody else.
The real key to the "good life" is obedience, discipline, and sticking to the straight and narrow.

It may be considered old fashioned by some, but having a normal proper appearance is still the mark of a gentleman and, especially, a lady.

Obedience and respect for authority are the most important virtues children should learn.

Our country needs free thinkers who will have the courage to defy traditional ways, even if this upsets many people.

Some of the best people in our country are those who are challenging our government, criticising religion, and ignoring the "normal way" things are supposed to be done.

We should treat protestors and radicals with open arms and open minds, since new ideas are the lifeblood of progressive change.

The derivation of the RWA:ACS scale is reported in the unpublished manuscript below, but is consistent with the analysis reported in Mavor et al. (2010). Until the scale derivation article is published in some form, we ask that you cite both of the following references when using the scale in your own work.


We would also be pleased to hear from you if you use the scale in your analyses and in particular whether different DV’s show divergent patterns of correlation with the component scales. Contact Ken.Mavor@st-andrews.ac.uk.

Best wishes with your research.