

Abstract

The discriminant validity of Cognitive Need for Closure (NFC) relative to Personal Fear of Invalidity (PFI) and Personal Need for Structure (PNS) has been disputed. We investigated the inter-scales relationships and the effects that the dispositions have on subjective experience in general and flow-conducive situations characterized by a high-challenges/high-skills perception. 193 Hong Kong college students were administered the scales and the Experience Sampling Method (ESM). NFC strongly correlated with PNS, and was uncorrelated with PFI. Unexpectedly, PFI and PNS were strongly correlated, suggesting that the fear in PFI for Chinese is that of lacking structure or incorporating an invalid structure. Regression modeling of experiential variables on the dispositions indicated that PFI hinders cognitive efficiency in general but has no additional effects in flow. PNS and NFC have mixed facilitating/hindering effects on the engagement of flow and minor effects in general. The three cognitive dispositions have different functional significance in Chinese.