

# Item Response Theory in Scale Development Research: A Critical Analysis

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Tiffany A. Whittaker<sup>1</sup>  
and Roger L. Worthington<sup>2</sup>

## Abstract

As scale development researchers, we have followed Mallinckrodt and colleagues' work over recent years with significant interest. The scale development process can be challenging and typically demands a large investment of time. However, the end of the process is rewarding when the resulting scale is psychometrically sound. Mallinckrodt, Miles, and Recabarren's contribution in this volume of *The Counseling Psychologist* attempted to help integrate the use of item response theory in the scale development process. Although they are to be commended for this endeavor, there are some limitations inherent in their contribution. This reaction provides a critical evaluation of their work to augment their recommendations.

## Keywords

path analysis/SEM, quantitative, scale development

It is an honor to be invited to provide a commentary on Mallinckrodt, Miles, and Recabarren's (2016 [this issue]) work in this volume. In a broad sense, we are in agreement with Mallinckrodt et al. (2016) that scale development research in counseling psychology can be significantly enhanced by the

<sup>1</sup>University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, USA

<sup>2</sup>University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA

## Corresponding Author:

Tiffany A. Whittaker, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712, USA.

Email: twhittaker@austinutexas.edu

# Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research

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## **Table of Contents Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research**

1. Understanding the eBook Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research
  - The Rise of Digital Reading Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research
  - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research
  - Exploring Different Genres
  - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
  - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
  - Popular eBook Platforms
  - Features to Look for in an Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research
  - User-Friendly Interface

4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research
  - Personalized Recommendations
  - Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research User Reviews and Ratings
  - Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research Free and Paid eBooks
  - Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research Public Domain eBooks
  - Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research eBook Subscription Services
  - Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research Budget-Friendly Options
6. Navigating Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research eBook Formats
  - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
  - Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research Compatibility with Devices
  - Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research Enhanced eBook Features
7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
  - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research
  - Highlighting and Note-Taking Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research
  - Interactive Elements Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research
8. Staying Engaged with Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research
  - Joining Online Reading Communities
  - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
  - Following Authors and Publishers Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research
9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research
  - Benefits of a Digital Library
  - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research
10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
  - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
  - Minimizing Distractions
  - Managing Screen Time
11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research
  - Setting Reading Goals Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research
  - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time

12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research
  - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Item Response Theory In Scale Development Research
  - Distinguishing Credible Sources
13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
  - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
  - Exploring Educational eBooks
14. Embracing eBook Trends
  - Integration of Multimedia Elements
  - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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