



# Facilitating the Study of Familism Across Racial/Ethnic Groups:

## Creation of the Short Attitudinal Familism Scale

N. Keita Christophe  
Gabriela L. Stein



Infographic created by  
Aymée Bray Le Métayer & Alice Zhang

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/fam0000954>

# Background

## WHAT ARE FAMILISM VALUES?

Collectivistic beliefs and cultural scripts placing familial needs above those of the individual. Individuals are expected to be helpful and respectful to family and to help maintain family connectedness and harmony. These values are highly endorsed by Black, Latinx, and Asian American populations.

## MEASUREMENTS OF FAMILISM & ITS PROBLEMS

There is a lack of consensus on the key features of familism values, making it difficult to measure.

The most used measures are multidimensional and have 14 to 24 items, which can be too long to always be practical, and reduce data quality.

They have not been tested for invariance across groups, so it is unknown whether existing measures work well across different racial/ethnic groups

# Study Aims

The goal is to create a **short, unidimensional, and psychometrically sound measure of familism values** that can be reliably used across racial/ethnic groups.

This was done by shortening the commonly used **18-ITEM ATTITUDINAL FAMILISM SCALE**

(Lugo Steidel & Contreras, 2003)

An additional aim is to **establish validity**. This is done by determining the relationship between the Short Attitudinal Familism Scale, depressive symptoms, and ethnic-racial identity (ERI).

# Sample

Most participants identified as...

**671** from  
**YOUTHS** racially &  
ethnically  
**13-25** minoritized  
**YEARS** groups  
**OLD** across the  
USA

**MIDDLE CLASS**  
**FEMALE**  
**BLACK**  
**MULTIRACIAL**  
**ASIAN AMERICAN**  
**LATINX AMERICAN**

# Study Findings

From the original 18-item measure, a 6-item unidimensional measure of familism values, the Short Attitudinal Familism scale, was created.

🔍 Find Items here: <https://christophelab.owlstown.net/pages/2480-published-measures>

Familism values were linked to **LOWER LEVELS OF DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS** in the overall sample.

However, when looking at multigroup models, this association was seen in Black, Latinx, and Multiracial youth **but not Asian youth.**

Generally, familism values, as measured by the Short Attitudinal Familism scale, was associated with

**GREATER LEVELS OF ERI.**

# What does this mean?

The authors **successfully created** **A SHORTER AND UNIDIMENSIONAL** measure of familism that demonstrated criterion-related validity through its associations with depressive symptoms and ERI.

Feelings of connectedness and support in one's family **promote the development of group membership.**

Negative associations between familism values and depressive symptoms in most groups (except Asian American) illustrates the **PROMOTIVE EFFECT** of familism on ethnic and racial minorities youth.

Variation in the effects of familism on depression among Asian Americans suggests that familism values may be more nuanced and should be studied further



# Important Implications

The 6-item Short Attitudinal Familism Scale is a short and practical measure that can facilitate the study of familism and its effects among youth of different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Wanting to explore more infographics?  
Follow the link below!

<https://christophelab.owlstown.net/pages/2534-infographics>

