

Activism Measures

Klar & Kasser (2009, *Political Psychology*) used two measures to assess different aspects of activism. The measures were used in two studies; below I report what we used in Study 2.

The first measure was the *Activist Identity & Commitment Scales*. We adapted items from the Social Identity Specific Collectivism Scale (Reid, 2004, *Self & Identity*) for the four identity items but wrote the four commitment items ourselves.

Here's the scale:

To help you understand the next questions, **please read the following broad definition of activism:**

"The goal of activism is to advocate a social or political cause (e.g., protecting the environment, human-rights issues, opposing abortion or preventing wars). The means of activism can vary greatly, e.g., from institutionalized acts like starting a petition to unconventional acts like civil disobedience."

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

- 1 = Strongly Disagree
- 2 = Disagree
- 3 = Slightly Disagree
- 4 = Neither Agree or disagree
- 5 = Slightly Agree
- 6 = Agree
- 7 = Strongly Agree.

1. Being an activist is central to who I am.
2. I am truly committed to engage in activism.
3. I identify myself as an activist.
4. I make time for activism, even when I'm busy.
5. People who know me well would call me an activist.
6. I go out of my way to engage in activism.
7. Being an activist is an important reflection of who I am.
8. I take the time I need to engage in activism.

Scoring: Odd numbers are activist identity questions; even numbers are activist commitment questions. You can make two scores, or you can average the two scores together for one score measuring both commitment and identity.

The second measure was the *Activism Orientation Scale*. We adapted and shortened a scale used by Corning & Myers (2002, *Political Psychology*). Our scale has 22 items: 15 of the items assess conventional activism (e.g., “Send a letter or email about a political issue to a public official”) and 7 items assess high-risk activism (e.g., “Engage in a political activity in which you suspect there would be a confrontation with the police or possible arrest”). We created versions of this scale to assess both past and anticipated (future) activism. Here are the scales:

Instructions - AOS-past:

Please indicate to what extent you engaged in each of the following activities in the past year

Scale:

- 0 – Not At All
- 1 – A Little
- 2 – Moderately
- 3 – A Lot

Instructions - AOS-future:

Please indicate how likely it is that you will engage in each of the following activities in the future.

Scale:

- 0 – Extremely Unlikely
- 1 – Unlikely
- 2 – Likely
- 3 – Extremely Likely

Items:

1. Invite a friend to attend a meeting of a political organization or event?
2. Serve as an officer in a political organization?
3. Engage in a political activity in which you knew you will be arrested?
4. Organize a political event (e.g. talk, support group, march)?
5. Give a lecture or talk about a social or political issue?
6. Engage in a physical confrontation at a political rally?
7. Send a letter or e-mail expressing a political opinion to the editor of a periodical or television show?
8. Boycott a product for political reasons?
9. Engage in a political activity in which you feared that some of your possessions would be damaged?
10. Distribute information representing a particular social or political group’s cause?
11. Engage in a political activity in which you suspect there would be a confrontation with the police or possible arrest?
12. Send a letter or email about a political issue to a public official?

13. Attend a political organization's regular planning meeting?
14. Sign a petition for a political cause?
15. Engage in an illegal act as part of a political protest?
16. Encourage a friend to join a political organization?
17. Donate money to a political organization?
18. Block access to a building or public area with your body?
19. Wear a t-shirt or button with a political message?
20. Engage in any political activity in which you fear for your personal safety?
21. Participate in a protest march or demonstration?
22. Help organizing a campaign on a social or political topic?

Conventional Activism: Average of 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21, & 22

High Risk Activism: Average of 3, 6, 9, 11, 15, 18, & 20