



The *Levenson Self-Report Psychopathy Scale* (LSRPS): translation and adaptation to European Portuguese

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# The *Levenson Self-Report Psychopathy Scale (LSRPS)*: translation and adaptation to European Portuguese

## Introduction

The LSRPS (Levenson, Kiehl, & Fitzpatrick, 1995) was developed to assess psychopathy in non-forensic samples. It consists of a short 26 item scale, which has shown to possess high internal consistency ( $\alpha$  ranging from = .63 to .85) and test-retest reliability ( $r = .83, p < .01$ ; Lynam, Whiteside, & Jones, 1999), and exhibits good construct and convergent validity (Levenson et al., 1995; Lynam et al., 1999). Scores for each item range from 1 (*strongly disagree*) to 4 (*strongly agree*) and higher scores represent higher values of psychopathy. Some items are reverse scored to control for response sets. The construct is measured in two domains: primary (selfish, callous, uncaring and manipulative) and secondary (impulsivity and behavioral control) psychopathy, which are roughly correspondent to Factors 1 and 2 of the Psychopathy Checklist – Revised (PCL-R – Brinkley, Schmitt, Smith, & Newman, 2001; Hare, 1991; Levenson et al., 1995; Lynam et al., 1999). The LSRPS exhibits a two factor-structure similar to the PCL-R, theoretical meaningful correlation with self-report traits associated with psychopathy, and association with laboratory measures of response modulation or passive avoidance in university and criminal populations (Brinkley et al., 2001; Levenson et al., 1995; Lynam et al., 1999).

## Method

The translation of the LSPRS was conducted according to established procedures destined to maximize the semantic (i.e., relative to the content and phrasing of the instrument items) and normative equivalence (i.e., relative to the conformity between the instrument and the cultural rules of the target culture) between the original English and the Portuguese versions of the scale (Behling & Law, 2000).

The translation and adaptation process underwent the following stages:

1. Translation: two independent Portuguese translations of the original English version of the LSRPS were carried out by researchers proficient in both languages and (PRA, SG). Joint translations were achieved and differences between versions were solved by a fourth element (FB).



2. Thinking aloud: The provisory versions were administered to 17 participants in thinking aloud format, in order to ensure that all items were properly understood.
3. Back-translation: the adapted Portuguese version of the LSRPS was back-translated to English by a fifth researcher (FFS), who is fluent in both languages and had no previous contact with the scales.
4. Comparison with the original version: The back-translated version of the LSRPS was compared with the original scale and minor changes were performed. The resulting version of the scale was approved by the author of the original LSRPS (Michael R. Levenson) and by our research team.

## Results

The resulting product of the present work consists of the European Portuguese version of the LSRPS, which is reproduced as an annex to the present report. An electronic version of the present report may be obtained at the website of the Laboratory of Neuropsychophysiology:

<http://www.fpce.up.pt/labpsi/index.php?page=12&level=2&lang=pt>.

Instructions for scoring the LSRPS are summarized below:

### *Step 1: Coding responses*

- Items are coded with a number from 1 (*strongly disagree*) to 4 (*strongly agree*), but some items are reversed, and their codes need to be corrected (4 becomes 1, 3 becomes 2, 2 becomes 3, and 1 becomes 4). Correct the following reverted items: 3, 7, 10, 13, 15, 21, and 26.

### *Step 2: Computing sub-scale scores and total score (after correcting for reverted items)*

- Primary psychopathy sub-scale: sum items 2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26.
- Secondary psychopathy sub-scale: sum items 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 14, 16, 18, 20.
- Total score: sum all items

## Discussion

We would like to point out that, at the time of publication of the present report, the Portuguese version of the LSRPS is not psychometrically validated for the Portuguese population. This means that the final scores obtained with this instrument are not suited for clinical interpretation or other practical applications. In this sense, the Portuguese version of LSRPS may only be used responsibly for research purposes, with due ethical precautions.



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## Annex

*Annex 1: LSRPS – European Portuguese version*



**CÓDIGO:****DATA NASCIMENTO:****DATA:**

*Abaixo vai encontrar um conjunto de afirmações. Cada uma representa opiniões que as pessoas muitas vezes têm. Provavelmente irá concordar com algumas afirmações e discordar com outras. Por favor leia cuidadosamente as afirmações e assinale com um círculo o algarismo que melhor traduz em que medida concorda ou discorda com cada uma delas, ou em que medida cada afirmação se aplica a si. Não há respostas certas ou erradas, apenas nos interessa saber a sua opinião.*

**1 = Discordo totalmente**  
**2 = Discordo parcialmente**

**3 = Concordo parcialmente**  
**4 = Concordo totalmente**

- |                                                                                                          |   |   |   |   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Estou frequentemente aborrecido.                                                                      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 2. No mundo de hoje, sinto-me autorizado a fazer tudo o que puder levar avante para ter sucesso na vida. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 3. Antes de fazer o que quer que seja considero cuidadosamente as consequências possíveis.               | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 4. O meu principal objetivo na vida é obter tantos benefícios quantos conseguir.                         | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5. Perco rapidamente o interesse nas tarefas que inicio.                                                 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 6. Já tive muitas discussões acasas com outras pessoas.                                                  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 7. Mesmo que quisesse muito vender algo, não mentiria sobre o que estava a tentar vender.                | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 8. Encontro-me repetidamente no mesmo tipo de problemas.                                                 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 9. Gosto de manipular os sentimentos das outras pessoas.                                                 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 10. Sinto que sou capaz de perseguir um objetivo durante muito tempo.                                    | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 11. Olhar por mim é a minha principal prioridade.                                                        | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 12. Digo às outras pessoas o que querem ouvir para que elas façam o que eu quero.                        | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 13. Fazer batota não é justificável, porque é injusto para os outros.                                    | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 14. O amor é sobrevalorizado.                                                                            | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 15. Ficaria aborrecido se o meu sucesso fosse obtido às custas de outra pessoa.                          | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 16. Quando fico frustrado(a) frequentemente "salta-me a tampa".                                          | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

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17. Para mim o que está correto é tudo aquilo com que consiga "safar-me". 1 2 3 4
18. A maioria dos meus problemas deve-se ao facto de as outras pessoas simplesmente não me compreenderem. 1 2 3 4
19. O sucesso baseia-se na lei dos mais fortes; não me preocupo com os perdedores. 1 2 3 4
20. Não planifico nada com muita antecedência. 1 2 3 4
21. Sinto-me mal se as minhas palavras ou ações causam sofrimento emocional a alguém. 1 2 3 4
22. O meu objetivo principal é ganhar muito dinheiro. 1 2 3 4
23. Deixo que os outros se preocupem com os valores morais mais elevados; a mim o que me interessa são os resultados. 1 2 3 4
24. Muitas vezes admiro um esquema de burla bem montado. 1 2 3 4
25. As pessoas que são estúpidas ao ponto de se deixarem burlar, normalmente merecem-no. 1 2 3 4
26. Faço questão de tentar não magoar os outros quando persigo os meus objetivos. 1 2 3 4