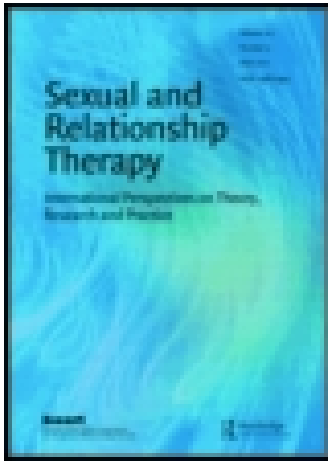


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## The Golombok Rust inventory of marital state: a reflection

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Following the publication of the original article in this journal, the Golombok Rust Inventory of Marital Satisfaction (GRIMS)<sup>1</sup> itself was first published by NFER-Nelson in 1988 (Golombok, Rust, Bennun, & Crowe). Since 2007 it has been revised and published by Pearson Assessment (Golombok & Rust, 2007). The GRIMS has been translated into numerous languages and used in countries as far apart as Malaysia (Quek, Low, Razack, Chua, & Loh, 2002) and Brazil (Falcke, Wagner, & Pereira Mosmann, 2008). It has provided items for several important social surveys, including the UK Millennium Cohort Study, and has contributed to research throughout the social and medical sciences.

Looking back at the original article we are struck by the differences and similarities between psychometric<sup>2</sup> test development then and now. In the 1980s, Classical Test Theory (CTT)<sup>3</sup> was still in its heyday and Item Response Theory (IRT)<sup>4</sup> was largely seen as the plaything of eggheads who produced obscure articles in journals such as *Psychometrika*. Today far more attention is paid to the purpose of the questionnaire, with a focus on the “threshold” or cut-off points on the scale around which decisions are made (e.g. whether to prescribe, refer or statement). Fortunately the GRIMS was developed on a clinical sample, so that the CTT custom of throwing away extreme items did not result in the exclusion of important diagnostic criteria. Also, at that time it was not customary to apply Confirmatory Factor Analysis during test development, which could well have resulted in the exclusion of items with multiple loadings on related factors. So, for whatever the reasons, the GRIMS is a survivor. Its only anachronism is its name. Many have asked whether we could replace the word “Marital” by “Relationship” in its title – but then “GRIMS” is so much a better name than “GRIRS”!

### Notes

1. The Golombok Rust Inventory of Marital State (GRIMS) is a 28-item questionnaire designed to assess the quality of the relationship between a married or cohabiting couple. It produces an overall score of relationship quality for the male and female partner separately. The GRIMS is used by relationship counsellors, marriage guidance counsellors and other relationship professionals as a pre-session assessment instrument and for research. The Golombok Rust Inventory of Marital State is a companion questionnaire to the Golombok Rust Inventory of Sexual Satisfaction (Rust & Golombok, 2007).
2. Psychometrics is the field of study concerned with the theory and technique of psychological measurement, which includes the measurement of knowledge, abilities,

attitudes and personality traits. The field is primarily concerned with the study of differences between individuals. It involves two major research tasks, namely: (1) the construction of instruments and procedures for measurement; and (2) the development and refinement of theoretical approaches to measurement.

3. Classical Test Theory (CTT) is a body of related psychometric theory that predict outcomes of psychological testing such as the difficulty of items or the ability of test-takers. Generally speaking, the aim of classical test theory is to understand and improve the reliability of psychological tests.
4. Item Response Theory (IRT) is a body of theory describing the application of mathematical models to data from questionnaires and tests as a basis for measuring abilities, attitudes or other variables. It is used for statistical analysis and development of assessments.

### Notes on contributors

John Rust is Director of The Psychometrics Centre at the University of Cambridge and Director of Research in the Department of Social and Developmental Psychology, and also a Senior Member of Darwin College. John combines a huge academic and intellectual reputation in the field of testing and assessment with practical applications experience in a range of blue chips. John has a very broad interest in all aspects of both pure and applied psychometrics, whether it be academic research or challenging business applications. His work ranges from the investigation of advanced statistical and computational techniques for use in test development, to the UK standardisations of widely used psychometric tests such as:

- the Watson-Glaser Critical Thinking Appraisal (WG-CTA)
- the NEO PI-R and the BIP personality tests
- the Wechsler scales of childrens' intelligence (WISC-IV, WPPSI-III, WIAT-II)
- the Movement Assessment Battery for Children (MABC-II)
- the Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals (CELF-IV and CELF Preschool-II)
- the Ravens Progressive Matrices (CPM and SPM+)
- the Mill Hill and the Crichton Vocabulary Scales (MVS and CVS).

He has authored several well known tests, including:

- Orpheus, a work-based personality test
- Giotto, an integrity test
- RANRA, a test of numerical reasoning ability
- GRIMS and GRISS, assessments of personal relationships
- RISC, an assessment of clinical state.

His interests range from the assessment of special educational needs in children to the assessment of personal integrity and team effectiveness in the workplace. John has also been actively involved in professional and ethical aspects of testing and applied psychology through his work in the British Psychological Society. He is a Fellow of the British Psychological Society, the Royal Statistical Society and the Royal Society of Arts. He has delivered assessment consultancy to a number of organisations, including Natwest Bank, the Cabinet Office and the DES, as well as major city institutions and pharmaceutical companies.

Susan Golombok is Professor of Family Research and Director of The Centre for Family Research at the University of Cambridge and also Professorial Fellow at Newnham College. She graduated in psychology from the University of Glasgow in 1976 and then moved to London University Institute of Education where she took an MSc in Child Development in 1977. Her PhD research, completed in 1982, was carried out at the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at The Institute of Psychiatry, London and focused on the development of children in lesbian mother families. Susan spent the first 10 years of her working life at the Institute of Psychiatry. Her first position, in the Department of Psychiatry, involved a series of studies of the efficacy of different therapeutic approaches for the treatment of sexual dysfunction, as well as the development of two questionnaires; the Golombok Rust Inventory

of Sexual Satisfaction (GRISS) and the Golombok Rust Inventory of Marital State (GRIMS). In 1987 she moved to the Department of Psychology at City University, London, first as a lecturer and later as a Reader and then Professor. Susan established the Family and Child Psychology Research Centre there in 1989 to carry out research on parenting and child development in new family forms and was Director from 1989 until she moved to the University of Cambridge as Professor of Family Research and Director of the Centre for Family Research in January 2006. Her research focuses on new family forms with an emphasis on parent-child relationships and children's social, emotional and gender development in lesbian mother families, solo mother families and families with children conceived by assisted reproduction. Current projects include a longitudinal study of surrogacy, donor insemination and egg donation families; a comparison between donor insemination families where parents have disclosed the donor conception to the child and families where parents have not disclosed this information; and a study of young adults who have been raised in lesbian mother families from birth. Susan is also involved in a collaborative project with Professor Melissa Hines on the gender development of children in a large population sample (the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children).

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