

Preliminary steps for the validation of a multidimensional scale for assessing perceived value of citizens on public spaces

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In Italy, there is a growing need for scientifically validated tools capable of investigating the complex relationship between citizens and public spaces. Such instruments can provide public institutions with valuable approaches and strategies into how valorization processes of places and accessibility to them can impact individual well-being, social cohesion, and community identity.

This study presents the preliminary steps for the validation of a multidimensional scale designed to measure perceived value and some other key constructs about the relationship between citizens and places on the environmental psychology field. The scale was created and implemented on a case study on Poveglia Island, an abandoned island with a relevant historical-cultural value in the Venice Lagoon.

A mixed-methods approach was employed in the construction of the scale, starting with qualitative focus groups conducted in 2024 to generate relevant keywords, then used to select the constructs. The participants involved were 90 (53% women; 29% 19-30 years old, 28% 31-50 years old).

Afterwards, a quantitative pilot survey was administered to a sample of 223 citizens and visitor of the island (59% women; 33% 19-30 years old, 32% 31-50 years old). The reliability of the scale on perceived value was excellent ($\omega = .95$), as well for its dimensions (ω from .78 to .94). Also, Confirmatory Factor Analysis confirmed the goodness of the scale.

To verify the criterion validity other constructs referred to the public space were measured, as perceived restorativeness, place attachment, nature connectedness, participation, motivation to visit, and pro-environmental behavior.

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Primary author: DAMIAN, Ottavia (Università di Verona)

Co-author: BRONDINO, Margherita (Università degli Studi di Verona)

Presenter: DAMIAN, Ottavia (Università di Verona)

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