ABSTRACT

DISSERTATION: Cross-Cultural Study of Calling Between the U.S. and Korea

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Three studies were conducted to investigate the cross-cultural validity of the construct of career calling among Korean college students using the Calling and Vocation Questionnaire (CVQ). In Pilot Study 1, three Korean faculty members and three graduate students in counseling psychology concluded the CVQ had face validity and item relevance for Korean college students. In Pilot Study 2, further support was found for the factor and item relevancy of the CVQ among Korean participants based on responses of fifteen Korean counseling psychologists and twenty-three Korean college students. In the main study, 551 Korean and 994 U.S. undergraduate students completed the CVQ and five other instruments. Results of factor analyses revealed that the Korean and English versions of the CVQ were not quite equivalent in terms of items and factor structure. A separate dimension for “searching for” and “presence of” calling in the factor structure of the Korean versions of the CVQ was not discovered. The convergent validity of the Korean versions of the CVQ, however, was somewhat supported by the findings, while the divergent validity was strongly supported. Additional analyses were conducted on responses to sixteen new items for Korean college students that were generated in Pilot Study 2. Overall, in the main study, results indicated that Korean as compared to U.S.
students defined calling with an emphasis on destiny and unchangeable fate. Findings also suggested a need for a specific counseling approach to career calling for undergraduates that may be unique to the Korean culture. Results are discussed in light of prior research on the definition and assessment of calling in the Korean and U.S. culture. Implications for career theory, research, and practice also are presented.

*Keywords:* calling, vocation, cross-cultural study, calling measure, Korea