

PSYCHOMETRIC INTEGRITY OF
A MEASURE OF DYSFUNCTIONAL
SEPARATION-INDIVIDUATION
IN YOUNG ADOLESCENTS

A DISSERTATION
SUBMITTED TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
BY
Samuel M. Sabaka

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ABSTRACT

Separation-individuation has been consistently identified as a critical process in adolescent development. Dysfunction in the separation-individuation process has previously been linked to pathology among college students and adults. The purpose of this study was to validate the psychometric integrity of the Dysfunctional Separation-Individuation Scale in a population of young adolescents. A one factor structure of the 19-item scale was obtained. The scale correlated highly in the expected directions with other measures of separation-individuation, as well as with measures of depression and positive adaptation.