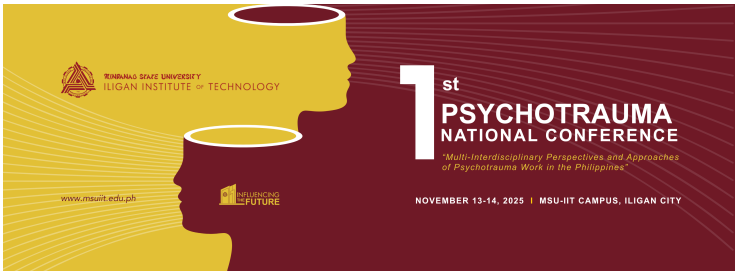

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Investigating the latent dimensions of posttraumatic stress disorder and the role of anxiety sensitivity in combat-exposed Filipino soldiers

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Identifying the optimal factor structure of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) has recently been reinvigorated in literature due to the substantial changes to its diagnostic criteria in the fifth revision of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5). Currently, six models of PTSD are supported in literature, but there is no consensus on the best-fitting factor structure. Additionally, the extant literature examining the relationship between PTSD symptom grouping and anxiety sensitivity (AS) in the latent level has been scarce. The present study's objectives are two-fold: first, we aimed to identify the best-fitted model of PTSD by comparing the six empirically supported models, and; second, we examined the relationship between the best-fitting model with AS. Utilizing a sample of 476 combat-exposed soldiers, the results suggest that both the anhedonia and hybrid models provide the best fit to the data, with the anhedonia model achieving slightly better fit indices. Further, the examination on the influence of AS to PTSD reveal that while there is a pattern of decreasing factor loadings and factor correlations when accounting for AS, the changes are not significant to alter the PTSD symptom structure. Based on these results, our findings suggest further investigation on the possible mediating or moderating mechanisms by which AS may influence PTSD.

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