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# The Portrait Values Questionnaire: A bibliographic and bibliometric review of the instrument

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## The Portrait Values Questionnaire: A bibliographic and bibliometric review of the instrument

**Summary.** This paper contains a bibliographic and a bibliometric review of the Portrait Values Questionnaire (PVQ), the instrument proposed by Schwartz to assess human values. Schwartz's theory of human values is one of the most popular of its kind in the social sciences. To set out the framework of the PVQ, we shall briefly present the underlying theory, followed by a discussion of the different instruments developed by Schwartz to assess human values. Finally, we have performed a detailed review to analyse how the PVQ has been used in the scholarly literature. A total of 58 articles were reviewed to obtain a picture of how the scientific community uses this instrument and to explore the variables most commonly related to human values. Several conclusions are briefly discussed.

**Keywords:** values; Portrait Values Questionnaire; bibliographic review

## El Portrait Values Questionnaire: una revisió bibliogràfica i bibliomètrica de l'instrument

**Resum.** El Portrait Values Questionari (PVQ), és l'instrument proposat per Schwartz per avaluar els valors personals. La teoria dels valors personals de Schwartz és una dels més difoses en estudis sobre valors en les ciències socials. En aquest article es presenta una revisió bibliogràfica i bibliomètrica del Portrait Values Questionnaire (PVQ). En primer lloc presentem breument la teoria i els diferents instruments desenvolupats per Schwartz per avaluar els valors personals. Seguidament s'exposa la revisió descriptiva d'un total de 58 articles que ens ha permès analitzar com el PVQ s'ha utilitzat en la literatura acadèmica. Els resultats de la recerca ens permeten obtenir una imatge de com la comunitat científica utilitza aquest instrument i per explorar les variables més comunament relacionats amb els valors personals. Al final de l'article es discuteixen i presenten diferents conclusions com per exemple la transversalitat de l'ús d'aquest instrument.

**Paraules clau:** valors; Portrait Values Questionnaire; revisió bibliogràfica

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## Introduction

The concept of values has been studied by many different disciplines, including psychology, sociology, philosophy and even economics, and these fields have proposed a range of definitions of this term. Inquiry into human values is therefore not limited solely to the field of psychosocial research. In fact, all these disciplines believe that knowledge of human values allows us to better understand other important variables, such as human behaviours, decisions and attitudes.

This article is divided into three different parts. In Part I, we present a brief overview of Schwartz's theory of human values. In Part II, we explain the two most important instruments used to assess human values: the Schwartz Value Survey and the Portrait Values Questionnaire. In Part III we examine how the Portrait Values Questionnaire (Schwartz, Melech, Lehmann, Burgess, & Harris, 2001) has been used in the scholarly literature. Our goal is to highlight the studies that have analysed the role of human values in different life situations and their relationships with various outcomes. More specifically, our purpose is to analyse studies with a variety of research aims that have used the Portrait Values Questionnaire to assess human values. Finally, we briefly discuss several general conclusions about how the instrument has been used.

### PART I

#### The concept of value: Schwartz's Theory of Basic Values

Shalom Schwartz founded his theory of values on Milton Rokeach's conceptual framework (1973). The latter author defined a value as '*an enduring belief that a specific mode of conduct or end state of existence is personally or socially preferable to an opposite or converse mode of conduct or end state of existence*' (p. 5) and explained that every human being's values continually change over time, as opposed to enduring as stable personality traits. Values derive from three needs of human existence: needs of individuals as biological organisms, coordinated social interaction, and group efficacy and survival. Basing his theory on this main idea, Schwartz (1992; 1994) defined values as desirable, abstract, trans-situational goals with varying degrees of importance that serve as guiding principles in people's lives. The author therefore developed one of the most recognised theories of this notion in the social sciences. There is agreement in the literature that all human values share five common features: '*Values: a) are concepts or beliefs, b) pertain to desirable end states or behaviours, c) transcend specific situations, d) guide selection or evaluation of behaviours and events, and e) are ordered in relative importance*' (Schwartz & Bilsky, 1990, p. 878). Therefore, every value is distinct from others because of the motivational goal that underlies it. Schwartz identified the existence of ten basic values which encapsulate all possible values (see Table 1).

**Table 1.** Motivational Values Type (Schwartz, 1992)

Value types	Motivational Goal
Universalism	Understanding, appreciation, tolerance and protection for the welfare of all people and nature
Benevolence	Preservation and enhancement of the welfare of people with whom one is in frequent and personal contact
Tradition	Respect, commitment and acceptance the customs and ideas that traditional culture or religion provide
Conformity	Restraints of actions, inclinations and impulses likely to upset or harms others and violate social expectations or norms
Security	Safety, harmony and stability of society, of relationships and of self
Power	Social status and prestige, control or dominance over people and resources
Achievement	Personal success through demonstrating competence according to social standards
Hedonism	Pleasure and sense of gratification for oneself
Stimulation	Excitement, novelty, and challenge in life
Self-direction	Independent thought and action – choosing, creating, exploring

Schwartz then organised these ten values in a circular structure based on the possibility that two values can be compatible or incompatible: this arrangement of values also represents a motivational continuum. Values characterised by similar motivational goals appear next to each other in the circle, while those whose motivational goals are different are in opposite positions. For example, the pursuit of Benevolence values (e.g., helping others and caring for their wellbeing) is compatible with the pursuit of Universalism values (e.g., tolerating and protecting other people and nature), but it conflicts with the pursuit of Power values (e.g., dominating other people, being rich).

It is also possible to fit the ten basic human values into four higher-order value types that create two orthogonal bipolar dimensions. On the one hand, we can observe the opposition between *Self-transcendence* (Universalism and Benevolence values) and *Self-enhancement* (Power and Achievement values). On the other hand, the second bipolar dimension contrasts the poles *Openness to change* (Hedonism, Stimulation and Self-direction) and *Conservation* (Tradition, Conformity and Security) (Schwartz, 1992). In 2012, Schwartz and his colleagues, proposed a refined version of this theory, with the aim of providing greater heuristic and explanatory power than the original theory. Specifically, in this recent work they offered narrower definitions founded upon their empirical findings of a few of the ten basic values, resulting in an expanded list of 19 values and in a finer distinction of the previously theorised values.

Another relevant feature of values is their universality. Schwartz's model has, in fact, been confirmed by more than 200 studies in 60 countries that used samples from different geographic regions, languages, religions, ages, sexes and occupations (Schwartz et al., 2001). In light of the results of these cross-cultural studies, Schwartz has changed a few aspects of his theory, mainly by fine-tuning some of the material regarding the content of the values, but he has in the end con-

firmed that the ten basic human values are universal guiding principles in everyday life (Schwartz, 1992; Schwartz et al., 2001).

## PART II

### Instruments to assess values

Psychosocial researchers have long expressed a great deal of interest in seeking ways to assess human values. Schwartz and his colleagues have developed several instruments to achieve this ambitious goal. The most important are the Schwartz Value Survey (SVS) (Schwartz, 1992) and the Portrait Values Questionnaire (Schwartz et al., 2001), both of which Schwartz developed himself.

#### Schwartz Value Survey

At first, Schwartz maintained Rokeach's distinction between Terminal and Instrumental Values. The former are desirable end-states of existence, the goals that a person wishes to achieve in his/her lifetime, whereas the latter are preferable ways of behaving or means of achieving terminal values (Rokeach, 1973). This distinction is evident in the first instrument Schwartz developed to assess the ten basic human values he theorised, namely the Schwartz Value Survey (SVS) (Schwartz & Bilsky 1987; Schwartz & Bilsky 1990; Schwartz 1994). The SVS presents two different lists (one for Instrumental values and another for Terminal values) of 57 single value-items (e.g., 'sense of belonging'), immediately followed by a brief explanation in parentheses of their meaning (e.g., 'feeling that others care about me'). Respondents are asked to indicate what extent they consider each of the values a guiding principle of their lives, rating them on a 9-point scale of importance, from 7 ('of supreme importance') to -1 ('opposed to my values'). However, since this task requires respondents to evaluate an abstract concept, Schwartz and his colleagues (2001) found that this instrument is not suitable for adolescents and persons not educated in Western schools. Because of this, and because this task is highly demanding, another instrument was developed: the Portrait Values Questionnaire (PVQ).

#### Portrait Values Questionnaire

The Portrait Values Questionnaire was proposed by Schwartz and his colleagues (2001) and has been validated in diverse contexts. The PVQ allows for the assessment of the same ten basic human values, but it is an easier and more concrete instrument than the SVS. This makes PVQ suitable for people who are unable to answer the SVS. The PVQ measures a person's values implicitly, meaning without revealing the topic being researched. In this way, it also lowers the effects of social desirability. Respondents are presented with forty portraits of people (or twenty-one, in a shortened version) each of which describes what is important to the hypothetical individual described. Both a male and

a female version exist according to the respondent's gender (e.g., '*Thinking up new ideas and being creative is important to him/her. He/She likes to do things in his/her own original way*'). The portraits were developed according to the theoretical definition of the concept of value (Schwartz, 1992; 1994) or by reformulating an item from the previous instrument. Values are inferred from how much the respondents consider themselves similar to the portrait described, and the average answers to the items that assess the same value are calculated. The respondent is asked to compare him/herself to each portrait, saying how much each description is similar to him/her on a 6-point scale, from 1 ('*not like me at all*') to 6 ('*very much like me*'). Two different versions of the instrument exist: the PVQ-40, comprised of 40 items, and a shortened one, the PVQ-21. In the original version, the number of items assessing the same value can vary: three each for Stimulation, Hedonism and Power; four each for Tradition, Benevolence, Universalism, Self-direction and Achievement; five for Security; and six for Universalism.

The factor structure of the PVQ and its cross-cultural validity (e.g., Burr, Santo, Pushkar, 2014; Solano & Nader, 2006; Steinmetz, Schmidt, Tina-Booh, Wiczorek, & Schwartz, 2009) have been widely investigated. The PVQ-40 displays good properties both in terms of the structure of the ten basic values (e.g., Steinmetz et al., 2009) and when it comes to the four-factor model (e.g., Vecchione, Lönnqvist, Lipsanen & Helkama, 2009). Meanwhile, the PVQ-21 is definitely a more valid instrument to assess the four-factor model (Verkasalo, Lönnqvist, Lipsanen, & Helkama, 2009), and it showed an invariant structure across cultures (e.g., Davidov, Schmidt, & Schwartz, 2008). Moreover, its test-retest reliability has been found to be moderate to high (e.g., Schwartz, 2003).

Since the comparison between oneself and the portrait works automatically, it is quite easy to complete the PVQ, and it only takes respondents from 7 to 10 minutes (in the 40-item version) (Schwartz et al., 2001). This instrument can be used with children aged ten and older with adult assistance (Döring, 2010).

## PART III

### Our study

The Portrait Values Questionnaire has been used in the scholarly literature by various authors for different purposes; the review presented here reports on the use of this most recent, common instrument to assess human values developed by Schwartz himself. The aim of this study is to describe how the Portrait Values Questionnaire has been used in the social sciences. More specifically, and in light of these considerations, this study has three aims:

1. To perform a bibliometric review to survey the authors who have focused their attention on this topic, where and when they have done so, the scope of these kinds of studies within the scholarly com-

munity and the scientific journals which feature articles dealing with this topic.

2. To perform a methodological analysis of the PVQ, primarily focusing how it has been used in the studies included in the review.
3. To explore the different ways the PVQ has been used in the scholarly literature.

According to Montero and Leon (2007), this review falls within the category of classical theoretical studies in that it reviews ideas on a topic without using statistics.

## Method

We conducted a literature search on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016 using the PsycINFO abstract database available at the Ramon Llull University, Barcelona, Spain. This database is maintained by the American Psychological Association (APA) and 'provides systematic coverage of the psychological literature from the 1800s to the present. (...) PsycINFO contains bibliographic citations, abstracts, cited references, and descriptive information to help you find what you need across a wide variety of scholarly publications in the behavioral and social sciences'. We preferred to use this database for several reasons: first, because it is used extensively in the psychological sciences, which makes it the most common and best-known database of its kind in this field among the scholarly community. Secondly, with its advanced search options, it usually provides pertinent results. And thirdly, it allows users to search for different kinds of works, such as journal articles, books and dissertations. Moreover, each publication available in this database has been carefully selected for its relevance by a team of experts (APA, 2015).

The following keywords were used in the search: in *Any Field*, 'Portrait Values Questionnaire', in *Age group*: 'Young adulthood (18-29 years)' and in *Year*: '2007-2014'. We did not include the year 2015 because PsycINFO takes several months to update to include the publications from each year. The English language was chosen since the major records fields (Title, Summary, Keywords) are always collected in English. The full name of the instrument to measure values developed by Schwartz and his colleagues (2001) was entered as a keyword to ensure that every study using it was displayed, regardless of which version had been used. The age range was decided in light of the particular importance of the topic of values in this particular phase of the family life cycle, namely young adulthood (Grassi, 2007). Special attention was paid to the most important values of this population segment today (given that the topic of the shift in values from those of previous generations is incredibly interesting), and to what other variables these values influence, such as behaviours, decisions, etc. According to Arnett (2004), the term 'emerging adulthood' underscores the fact that this transition is long enough to be considered a separate period within the life course. The author proposes five features that distinguish this phase in the life cycle:

it is the age of identity explorations, the age of instability, the self-focused age, the age of feeling in-between, and the age of possibilities.

The search yielded a total of 67 articles. Based on this result, we included in the review only the ones written in English, Italian or Spanish, thus excluding one in Portuguese (Tamayo & Porto, 2009), one in Arabic (Delkhamous & Ahmadi, 2013) and one in Turkish (Özcan, 2012). This inclusion criterion was adopted to reflect the authors' language skills. Moreover, articles that dealt with Schwartz's theory but did not make use of the PVQ (Liu, Gijssen, & Tsai, 2013; Venus, Stam, & van Knippenberg, 2013), and articles about studies using the SVS instead of the PVQ (Busacca, Beebe, & Toman, 2010; Zhang, Ly, & Grigoriou, 2008) were all excluded. We also left out two other articles because they were unavailable (Hofmann, 2010; Kulik & Erantal, 2009). We did not exclude any of the articles that came from the search performed using PsycINFO because of the year of publication. All of them, in fact, were published between 2007 and 2014, and they were thus suitable for our review according to the exclusion and inclusion criteria. Ultimately, the remaining 58 articles were considered suitable for our review (Table 2).

These steps are documented in the PRISMA flow diagram (Moher, Liberati, Tetzlaff, Altman, & The PRISMA Group, 2009) (Figure 1).

## Results

The results are structured beginning with the bibliometric review, which is followed by the methodological analysis of the PVQ and then the exploration of the different ways the PVQ has been used in the scholarly literature.

We first considered the authors of the 58 studies included in the review. Schwartz himself, the author who developed both the theory of human values and the instrument that is the focus of this review, the PVQ, participated directly in four of the studies, in each case in conjunction with other colleagues. The authors who wrote more than one of the articles considered in our review are presented in Table 3.

Secondly, we identified the journals which most often tend to publish studies dealing with human values. Nine journals published more than one such article (Table 4), with a total of 20 of the 58 articles appearing in these periodicals. The remaining 38 articles were published in a range of journals, such as the *Journal of Family Psychology* and the *British Journal of Psychology* (see Table 4).

Table 5 shows how many of the 58 articles considered were published in each year from 2007 to 2014.

It is worth remarking that 96,5% of the studies (N= 56) were written in English, although this was always not the native language of the author(s) (e.g., Barni, Ranieri, Scabini, & Rosnati, 2011). One of them was in Italian (Germino, Alessandri, & Caprara, 2008), and one was in Spanish (Saiz, Álvaro, & Martínez, 2010).

**Table 2.** Studies dealing with the Portrait Values Questionnaire

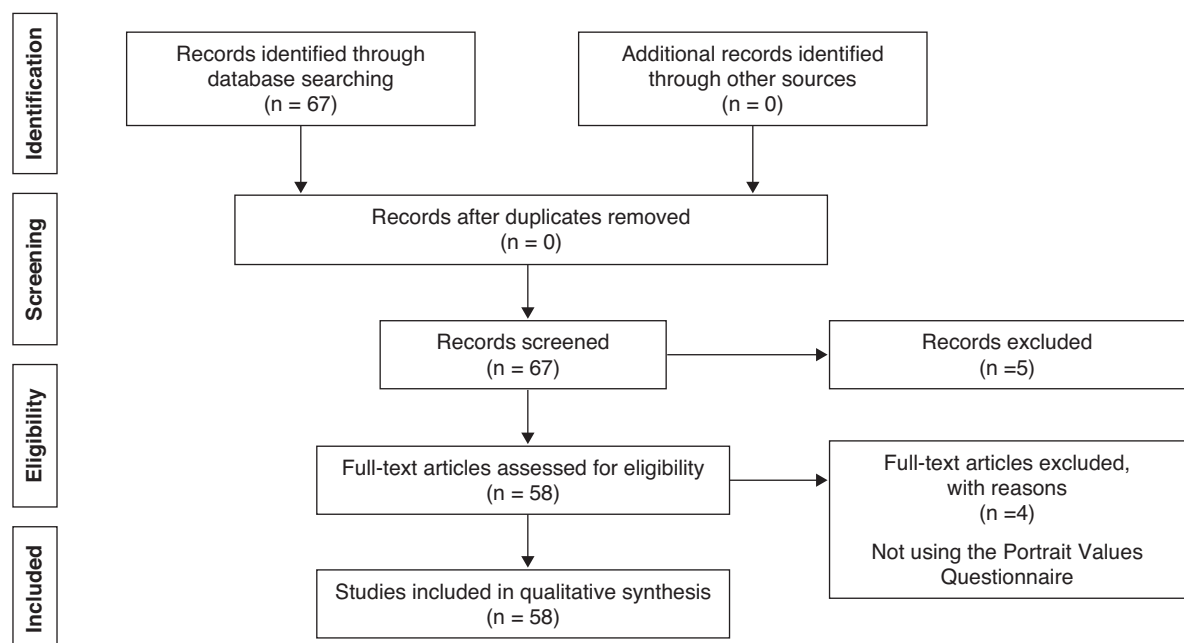
Source	Journal/Book	Cross-cultural (yes/no)	Likert scale	Number of items	Values assessed	Sample
Arieli, Grant, & Sagiv, 2014	Journal of Personality	No	From 1 to 7	Not said	1	36
Avallone, Farnese, Pepe, & Vecchione, 2010	Bollettino di Psicologia Applicata	No	Not said	Not said	All	1,834
Barni, Ranieri, Scabini, & Rosnati, 2011	Journal of Moral Education	No	From 1 to 6	40	All	381 family triads
Barni, Alfieri, Marta, & Rosnati, 2013	Journal of Adolescence	No	From 1 to 6	40	All	423 family triads
Barni, Roccato, Vieno, & Alfieri, 2014	Personality and Individual Differences	No	From 1 to 6	21	3	96 families (384 participants)
Barni, Vieno, Rosnati, Roccato, & Scabini, 2014	European Journal of Developmental Psychology	No	From 1 to 6	21	3	677 students and 122 teachers
Bender & Chasiotis, 2011	Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology	Yes	Not said	Reduced	3	247
Benish-Weisman, Levy, & Knafo 2013	Journal of Research on Adolescence	No	From 1 to 6	40	All	564 adolescents
Berzonsky & Papini, 2014	Identity	No	Not said	21	All	235
Boratav, 2009	Perspectives on human development, family, and culture	No	Not said	40	All	1,000
Burr, Santo, & Pushkar, 2014	Quality & Quantity	No	From 1 to 6*	40	All	433 retired adults and 199 students
Caprara & Steca, 2007	Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology	No	From 1 to 6*	40	2	1,324
Caprara, Francescato, Mebane, Sorace, & Vecchione, 2010	Political Psychology	No	From 1 to 6*	21	4	971
Caprara, Alessandri, & Eisenberg, 2012	Journal of Personality and Social Psychology	No	From 1 to 6	40	All	340
Cieciuch & Schwartz, 2012	Journal of Personality Assessment	No	From 1 to 6	40	All	10,439
Cohen & Liu, 2011	International Journal of Psychology	No	From 1 to 6	40	All	192 teachers
Cohrs, Maes, Moschner, & Kielmann, 2007	Political Psychology	No	From 0 to 5	40	6	470
de Barcellos, Teixeira, & Venturini, 2014	International Journal of Consumer Studies	No	From 1 to 6	21	All	458
Dirilen-Gumus & Buyuksahin-Sunal, 2012	Sex Roles	No	From 1 to 6*	40	All	231 students
Duriez, Soenens, & Vansteenkiste, 2007	European Journal of Personality	No		8	4	724
Duriez, Luyckx, Soenens, & Berzonsky, 2012	Journal of Personality	No	5-point scale	8	4	806
Gerbino, Alessandri, & Caprara, 2008	Età Evolutiva	No	From 1 to 6	40	4	548
Goodwin, Polek, & Goodwin, 2013	Journal of Mixed Methods Research	No		Not said	2	172
Güngör & Bornstein, 2009	Sex Roles	No	From 1 to 5*	21	All	199 adolescents
Güngör, Bornstein, & Phalet, 2012	International Journal of Behavioral Development	Yes	From 1 to 5*	21	All	766
Hofmann-Towfigh, 2007	Journal of Moral Education	No		40	All	719 students
Holtschlag, Morales, Masuda & Maydeau-Olivares, 2013	Journal of Vocational Behaviour	Yes	From 1 to 6*	21	2	35,463
Kanacri, Pastorelli, Zuffianò, Eisenberg, Ceravolo, & Caprara, 2014	Journal of Adolescence	No	From 1 to 6	40	2	686
Kjærsgaard, Leon, Venables, & Fink, 2013	Military Psychology	No		40	All	12
Kretschmer & Pike, 2010	Journal of Family Psychology	No	From 1 to 6	17	All	205 siblings pairs
Livi, Leone, Falgares, & Lombardo, 2014	Personality and Individual Differences	No	From 1 to 6	40	All	146
Luengo Kanacri, Rosa, & Di Giunta, 2012	Journal of Prevention & Intervention in the Community	No	From 1 to 6	40	3	564
Maercker et al., 2009	Psychology and Psychotherapy: Theory, Research and Practice	Yes	From 1 to 6*	40	6	281
Nir & Knafo, 2009	Values, empathy, and fairness across social barriers	No	From 1 to 6*	40	All	98
Olsen et al., 2011	Food and Quality Preferences	Yes	From 1 to 7	6	All	609 consumers
Ottaviani, Mancini, Petrocchi, Medea, Couyoumdjian, 2013	International Journal of Psychophysiology	No	Not said	Not said	2	40

(Continuation)

**Table 2.** Studies dealing with the Portrait Values Questionnaire (*continuation*)

Source	Journal/Book	Cross-cultural (yes/no)	Likert scale	Number of items	Values assessed	Sample
Paciello, Fida, Tramontano, Cole, & Cerniglia, 2013	European Journal of Developmental Psychology	No	From 1 to 6*	40 (reduced)	4	171 students
Pallini, Bove, & Laghi, 2011	Measurement and Evaluation in Counselling and Development	No	From 1 to 6	40	All	339 students
Riecki, Lindeman, & Lispanen, 2013	Advances in Cognitive Psychology	No		Not said		850
Robinson, 2013	European Journal of Ageing	Yes	From 1 to 6*	21	All	44,955
Saiz, Álvaro, & Martínez, 2011	Addiciones	No	From 1 to 6	40	All	233 drug addicted
Sapienza, Hichy, Guarnera, & Di Nuovo, 2010	International Journal of Psychology	No	From 1 to 6	40	All	264 students
Schermer, Feather, Zhu, & Martin, 2008	Twin Research and Human Genetics	No	From 1 to 6	40	All	690 twins
Schiefer, Mollering, Benish Weisman, Boehnke, & Daniel, 2010	European Journal of Social Psychology	Yes	From 1 to 6	25	All	3,223 students
Sandy, Gosling, & Koelkebeck, 2014	Journal of Individual Differences	Yes	From 1 to 6	40	All	38,049
Schiefer, 2013	Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology	Yes	From 1 to 6+	21	All	N/A
Schouten, 2008	International Journal of Intercultural Relations	No	From 1 to 7	31	8	325 students
Schwartz, & Butenko, 2014	European Journal of Social Psychology	No	From 1 to 6	PVQ-R, 57 items	All (19 values)	266
Sevgili & Cesur, 2014	Educational Sciences: Theory & Practice	No	From 1 to 6	40	All	485
Śliwak & Zarzycka, 2013	Psychologica Belgica	No	From 1 to 6	40	All	288
Sørensen, Scholderer, Dutra de Barcellos, Veflen Olsen, & Verbek, 2012	Appetite	Yes	From 1 to 6	21	All	1,931
Steinmetz, Schmidt, Tina-Booh, Wiczorek, & Schwartz, 2009	International Journal of Methodology	No	From 1 to 4	28	All	1,677
Tulviste, Konstabel, & Tulviste, 2014	International Journal of Intercultural Relations	Yes	From 1 to 6	21	All	Data from a round of the ESS
van der Noll, 2014	International Journal of Intercultural Relations	No	Not said	40	All	1,122
Vecchione, Caprara, Schoen, González, Casto, & Schwartz, 2012	British Journal of Psychology	Yes	From 1 to 6	40	2	1,569
Vollmer & Randler, 2012	Personality and Individual Differences	No	From 0 to 5	21	All	1,344
Výrost, Fedáková, & Kentoš, 2010	Studia Psychologica	Yes		2	1	41,027
Woehr, Arciniega, & Poling, 2013	Woehr, Arciniega, & Poling, 2013	No	From 1 to 6	40	9	360 students

\*The response scale is reversed.

**Figure 1.** The PRISMA flow diagram (Moher, Liberati, Tetzlaff, Altman, & The PRISMA Group 2009).

**Table 3.** Authors who published more than one article considered in the review

Author	Number of articles
Gian Vittorio Caprara	6
Daniela Barni	4
Shalom H. Schwartz	4
Rosa Rosnati	3
Michele Vecchione	3
Guido Alessandri	2
Michael Berzonsky	2
Marc H. Bornstein	2
Maya Benish-Weisman	2
Bart Duriez	2
Derya Güngör	2
Ariel Knafo	2
Nina Veften Olsen	2
Michele Roccato	2
Eugenia Scabini	2
David Schiefer	2
Bart Soenens	2
Alessio Vieno	2

**Table 4.** Journal where more than one article considered in the review were published

Journal	Number of articles
International Journal of Intercultural Relations	3
Personality and Individual Differences	3
International Journal of Psychology	2
European Journal of Social Psychology	2
Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology	2
Journal of Moral Education	2
Journal of Personality	2
Political Psychology	2
Sex Roles	2

**Table 5.** Number of articles published per year

Year	Number of articles
2007	4
2008	3
2009	5
2010	6
2011	6
2012	9
2013	12
2014	13

The second aim of this study was to carry out a methodological analysis of the PVQ, the instrument developed by Schwartz and his colleagues (2011) to assess the ten basic human values he theorised. We first determined which version of the instrument was administered to each of the samples detailed in the studies. In most cases (N=30), the original version of the instrument was used, meaning the one with 40 items (PVQ-40). In thirteen cases, however, the reduced version (PVQ-21) was administered. In some studies (N=9),

an even more reduced version of the instrument, comprised only of selected items, was used to assess only a limited number of the basic human values or some of the higher-order dimensions theorised by Schwartz. In these cases, the number and the choice of which items to administer to the sample depended on the aims of each given study. In one case, the 57-item Portrait Values Questionnaire used by Schwartz et al. (2012) was used, thus assessing the 19 values identified in the revised version of the theory (Schwartz & Butenko, 2014). Elsewhere some studies (N=5), the did not reveal the version of the instrument used.

Many of the studies taken into consideration in our review assessed all ten basic human values theorised by Schwartz (N=34), while the remaining 22 studies focused only on a few of them. One study chose instead to use the refined version of Schwartz's Values Theory (Schwartz et al., 2012) to consider all of the 19 values proposed therein (Schwartz & Butenko, 2014). This information is not available for one of the studies (Riekk, Lindeman, & Lipsanen, 2013) (see Table 2). The review concluded that 36 out of 58 studies considered some or all of the ten basic human values, while 14 studies focused on the higher-order dimensions (Self-transcendence, Self-enhancement, Openness to Change and Conservation), each of which includes a number of these basic values. Three studies considered both of these classifications, arriving at different results depending on the value type used. Alternatively, two studies examined cultural values: according to Schwartz (1994), overall cultural values can be derived by aggregating individual-level questionnaire-based data. Schwartz (2006) explicitly defined the cultural values measured by each PVQ item. Thus, it is possible to calculate the respondents' scores by averaging the items that assess the same cultural value. Finally, one study considered traditional values (conformity, tradition and benevolence) versus modern values (stimulation, hedonism and achievement), while a final study pitted individualistic values (power, achievement, hedonism, stimulation and self-direction) against collectivist ones (conformity, tradition and benevolence). It was impossible to get this information for one study, since it used the PVQ within a wider survey to provide the respondents with a personal value profile as feedback to reward them for their participation (Riekk, Lindeman, & Lipsanen, 2013).

As explained above, respondents completing the PVQ are asked to compare themselves to each portrait, giving their answers on a 6-point scale from 1= 'not like me at all' to 6= 'very much like me'. Most of the studies analysed kept this original response scale, but some changed it. These changes sometimes arose from the aims of the research, while in other cases they were meant to make the task easier for the respondents. In some studies, for example, respondents were required to answer on a 4-, 5- or 7-point Likert scale (N=7). In one study, the 6-point Likert scale was maintained, but the numerical values assigned to responses varied from 0 ('not like me at all') to 5 ('very much like me') (see

Table 2). The instrument was usually administered in the native language of the respondents, as the PVQ has been validated in many different countries. The translations into the different languages were carried out using a strict back-translation procedure with bilingual translators. If the native-language version was not available, an English version was used.

The Portrait Values Questionnaire was mainly used for single-culture studies: in 16 studies, the scale was administered to an Italian sample. Only 12 articles are cross-cultural studies. Of these, five used the data from one or more round of the European Social Survey (ESS), an academically-driven cross-national survey that has been conducted in Europe every two years since 2002. Only in four cases out of 58 was the PVQ administered to assess values in a longitudinal study.

Furthermore, the scale was administered in various ways: it was sent by email to the respondents or through social networks, it was set up as an online survey, or the respondents filled out a paper-and-pencil version of the scale, doing so individually or in small groups. All the samples made up of students featured data collected in their classrooms or during assemblies. In only one study were participants interviewed face-to-face by trained interviewers at home or in their workplaces, while in another one participants were interviewed over the phone. Participation in the research was almost always voluntary, but sometimes a small monetary reward was provided as compensation for participating (N=7), while students were rewarded with extra credit (N=4).

In terms of software, most of the studies in our review made no mention of the statistical data analysis programmes they used. Of the studies did name a programme (five studies mentioned more than one statistical programme), eight used SPSS as a general statistical programme, while the others used computer programmes that could be classified as SEM (structural equation modelling). These programmes are specifically intended to look for causal relations among the data. The following were used: Mplus (N=8), LISREL (N=4), Amos (N=4) and EQS (N=3). The authors mentioned a total of eight different statistical programmes (Systat, Mplus, Amos, HLM, LISREL, EQS, SPSS and HUDAP). This information about the statistical programmes used is in line with the analyses carried out in the studies, as they are mainly correlations, linear structural models and analyses of variance.

The sample sizes in the articles analysed (see Table 2) varied from a minimum of 12 people (Kjærgaard, Venables, Leon & Fink, 2013) to a maximum of 44,955 people (for this study, data were drawn from the first and the fourth round of the ESS, respectively, in 2002 and in 2008) (Robinson, 2013).

The third aim of this study was to explore the different ways the PVQ is used in the scholarly literature. Considering the available data, it was possible to classify four different purposes for administering the instrument. In one study, the PVQ was administered to examine of whether it is possible to arrive at a finer-grained

set of values, made up of 19 in all. We regarded this use as an attempt to clarify and improve upon Schwartz's theory of human values; in fact, Schwartz himself was the author of this article. In two cases, however, the PVQ was used to validate other instruments that assess human values, specifically related to work contexts. Additionally, one of the 58 studies analysed did not aim to assess human values; the only reason the PVQ was administered to the sample was to give the participants a personal value profile as compensation for participating. The most important and prevalent use of the instrument was to analyse the relationships between human values and other variables, such as beliefs, behaviours, attitudes, etc. We have tried to explore this last use of the instrument more deeply because it is so widespread in the scholarly literature on this topic. To do so, we grouped these variables as the authors express them, using their language verbatim (Table 6).

In some of these cases 'values' was considered an independent variable, while in others it was taken as

**Table 6.** Variables analysed in relation to values

Sociodemographic variables	Age Gender Income Employment Education Religion Migration generation Origin Socioeconomic status
Variables related to family	Parents' socialization values Children's acceptance of parents' socialization values Siblings' relationship quality Preference for more than two children Expectations of autonomy from children and higher autonomy Expectations from self Autonomy from the family Family dynamics
Cultural variables	Cultural values (in individuals with a migrant background) Identity style Cultural orientations Work values Host community acculturation orientations Civic engagement Teachers' values Patriotism
Attitudes, behaviours, perceptions and beliefs	Disgust reaction to moral transgression Individual differences in negative group-related attitudes Attitudes towards pork production systems Organizational citizenship behaviour In-role performance Organizational and occupational commitment Political orientations Self-efficacy beliefs Perspective perception Compliance behaviour Moral disengagement Liberal attitude towards gender role Violent behaviours Moral reasoning Task performance Orientations towards human rights Perception of immigrants Attitudinal consequences to support or oppose a ceasefire government decision Prosocial behavior Consumption
Others	Perceived changes in health and interactions Hierarchical status Traits Life satisfaction Posttraumatic stress symptoms Type of school Time



the dependent variable. Human values were also approached as correlated variables or as mediators between two other variables.

## Discussion

This study was aimed at highlighting studies that have analysed the role of human values in different life situations, and that in doing so have used the Portrait Values Questionnaire (Schwartz et al., 2001) to assess these values, all in pursuit of a variety of research aims.

Findings show that there is no one journal that specifically deals with human values: this informs us of the cross-cutting nature not only of the overall concept of values, but also of the instrument itself, which was used in fields as diverse as military psychology (Kjærgaard, Venables, Leon, & Fink, 2013) and food preferences (Olsen et al., 2010).

The authors who have carried out research into this topic come from different countries, although a considerable number of studies were conducted by Italian researchers. However, all of them (with only two exceptions) were written in English: this is fundamental for a study to be widely circulated throughout the scholarly community. Once again, Schwartz's model was confirmed by more than 200 studies in 60 countries, with researchers employing samples from different geographic regions, languages, religions, ages, sexes and occupations (Schwartz & Bilsky, 1987, 1990; Schwartz, 1994; Sagiv & Schwartz, 1995). However, most of the studies examine a single culture. Nonetheless, the key role played by the data collected through the European Social Survey for the few authors who did conduct cross-cultural studies on this topic is worth noting. In fact, the cross-cultural studies that included more than four countries and had large samples all were able to do so thanks to this data. As shown in Table 2, the samples of the different studies appear to be highly heterogeneous, as they vary greatly in size. The researchers' use of the instrument under such dissimilar conditions validates the universality of Schwartz's theory of human values.

A further consideration is that versions of the PVQ beyond the two validated ones (PVQ-40 or PVQ-21) were sometimes used. These departures might affect the metric properties of the instrument. Even the response scale was often modified.

In terms of the average age of the studies' samples, it is very worth noting that the PsycINFO search using did not only turn up young adults as was expected. Although the age range entered into the 'Age Group' search field was from 18 to 29 years old, a considerable number of studies dealt with adolescents, while many of them focused on a wider age range. Only nine studies focused exclusively on the age range that is more or less considered 'young adult' by the scholarly literature. Moreover, it is interesting to observe that, even though the keyword used in our search was 'Portrait Values Questionnaire', some of the studies that appeared as search results used the previous instrument

developed by the same author (the SVS) (N=2), while others only touched upon his theory but not use the instrument (N=1) (Busacca, Beebe, & Toman, 2010; Venus, Stam & van Knippenberg, 2013; Zhang, Ly, & Grigoriou, 2008). These works were thus excluded from our review.

In conclusion, the results of our review are further proof of the transversality of this topic: in fact, we can note that human values were examined by researchers from a wide variety of fields and with various kinds of aims.

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