Competitive Climbing as Serious Leisure

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Days Per Month
\( (B = .037, t = 5.489, p < .001) \)

Bouldering Grade Level
\( (B = .081, t = 3.973, p < .001) \)

Roped Grade Level
\( (B = .050, t = 3.374, p = .001) \)
Content Overview (All in 20 minutes!)
• Competitive Climbing
• Serious Leisure
• Serious Leisure Inventory Measure (SLIM)
• Our Study
• Analysis
• Implications and Future Directions
Climbing as Sport?
Serious Leisure
• A systematic pursuit...of an activity...that results in a “career-like” focus on said activity.

Gould et al., 2011; Stebbins, 1992
Serious Leisure Characteristics

1. Unique Ethos
2. Persistence
3. Leisure Identity
4. Career Progress
5. Effort
6. Career Contingency

Gould et al., 2011; Stebbins, 1992
The Serious Leisure Inventory Measure (SLIM)

- Gould et al., 2008
  - 72-Items (Long Form)
  - 54-Items (Short Form)
  - 18 Factors

- Gould et al., 2011
  - 18-Items
  - 18-Factors

- Lee, 2014
  - 18-Items
  - 3-Factors

Today
The Serious Leisure Inventory Measure (SLIM)

- Serious Leisure Score
  - Perseverance
  - Career Progress
  - Career Contingency
  - Unique Ethos
  - Leisure Identity
  - Effort

- Personal Rewards
  - Self-Enrichment
  - Self-Actualization
  - Self-Expression Ability
  - Self-Expression Individual
  - Self-Image
  - Self-Gratification Satisfaction
  - Self-Gratification Enjoyment
  - Re-Creation
  - Financial Return

- Social Rewards
  - Group Attraction
  - Group Maintenance
  - Group Accomplishment
Study Purpose

1. To validate the 18-Item SLIM and three factor model of seriousness and serious leisure outcomes.

2. To test the predictive theoretical model proposed by Gould et al. 2011.
Our Study

Sample
• USA Climbing members ($N = 640$)
• Fairly even split by gender (44% Female) aged 11-70

Recruitment
• Facebook, Email, Reddit

Data Collection
• 79-Item Qualtrics Survey
Analyses

Data Screening
Factor Analysis
Path Analysis
Data Preparation

- Cook’ D
- Mahalanobis Distance
- Studentized Deleted Residual

This process involved the removal of 9 cases leaving us with a total of 640 respondents
What is Factor Analysis?

The use of **observed variables** (i.e. survey questions) to measure an **unobserved** (latent) variable.
RMSEA = .06
CFI = .95
Robust $X^2(50) = 158.2389$
$p < .001$
The Serious Leisure Inventory Measure (SLIM)
Gould’s (2011) Simplified Conceptual Model

Serious Leisure (6-Items) → SL Outcomes (12-Items)
What is Path Analysis?
Path Analysis Results

RMSEA = .006, CFI = .95, Robust $X^2(60) = 182.74$, $p < .001$
Implications

Academic
• Partial Validation of Gould (2011) and Lee (2014)
• CFA vs. EFA

Practitioner
• Market segmentation
• Understanding motivations
• Promoting seriousness
Future Directions

• Replication & Validation of 18-Item SLIM.

• Theory Building & Scale Revision.
Questions, Comments, Thoughts, High Fives?

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