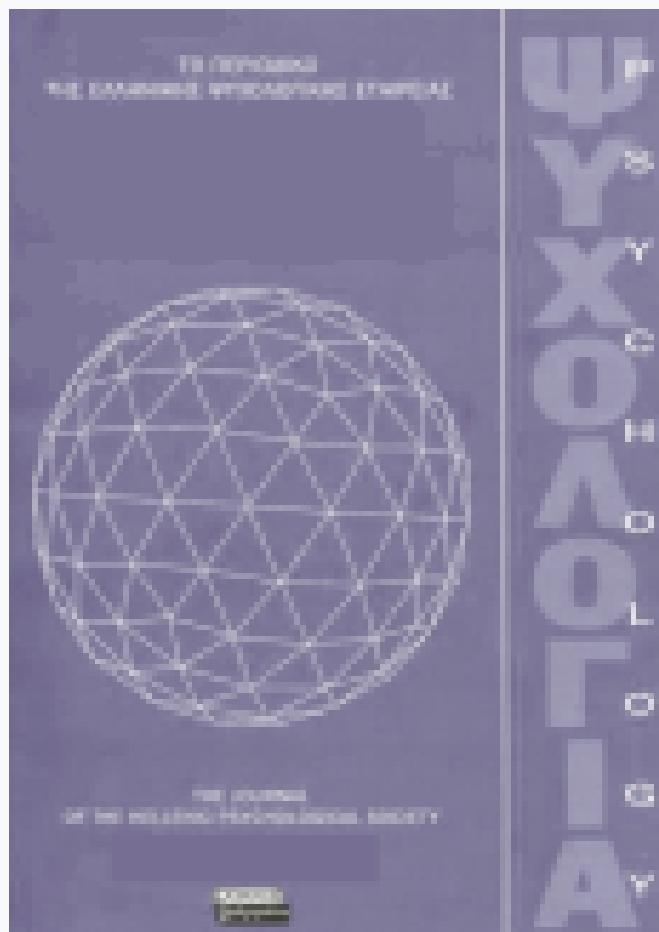


Psychology: the Journal of the Hellenic Psychological Society

Vol 12, No 4 (2005)



Discriminative facility in perceptions of control and coping and adjustment to serious illness

Πάτζια Ρούσση, Ιφιγένεια Κούτρη

doi: [10.12681/psy_hps.23985](https://doi.org/10.12681/psy_hps.23985)

Copyright © 2020, Πάτζια Ρούσση, Ιφιγένεια Κούτρη



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/).

To cite this article:

Ρούσση Π., & Κούτρη Ι. (2020). Discriminative facility in perceptions of control and coping and adjustment to serious illness. *Psychology: The Journal of the Hellenic Psychological Society*, 12(4), 524–539.
https://doi.org/10.12681/psy_hps.23985

Βιβλιογραφία

- Affleck, G., Tennen, H., Pfeiffer, C., & Fifield, C. (1987). Appraisals of control and predictability in adapting to a chronic disease. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 53, 273-279.
- Aldwin, C. (1994). *Stress, coping, and development*. New York, NY: Guilford Press.
- Beatty, W. W., Hames, K. A., Blanco, C. R., Williamson, S. J., Wilbanks, S. L., & Olson, K. A. (1998). Correlates of coping style in patients with multiple sclerosis. *Multiple Sclerosis*, 4, 440-443.
- Berghuis, J. P., & Stanton, A. L. (2002). Adjustment to a dyadic stressor: A longitudinal study of coping and depressive symptoms in infertile couples over an insemination attempt. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 70, 433-438.
- Blalock, S. J., DeVellis, B. M., Holt, K., & Hahn, P. M. (1993). One problem the same as another? *Health Education Quarterly*, 20, 119-132.
- Carver, C. S., Pozo, C., Harris, S. D., Noriega, V., Scheier, M. F., Robinson, D. S., Ketcham, A. S., Moffat, Jr., F. L., & Clark, K. C. (1993). How coping mediates the effects of optimism on distress: A study of women with early stage breast cancer. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 65, 375-390.
- Cheng, C. (2001). Assessing coping flexibility in real-life and laboratory settings: A multidimensional approach. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 80, 814-833.
- Cheng, C., Chiu, C., Hong, Y., & Cheung, J. S. (2001). Discriminative facility and its role in the quality of interactional experiences. *Journal of Personality*, 69, 765-786.
- Cheng, C., Hui, W., & Lam, S. (2000). Perceptual style and behavioral pattern of individuals with functional gastrointestinal disorders. *Health Psychology*, 19, 146-154.
- Chiu, C., Hong, Y., Mischel, W., & Shoda, Y. (1995). Discriminative facility in social competence: Conditional versus dispositional encoding and monitoring-blunting of information. *Social Cognition*, 13, 49-70.
- Compas, B. E., Connor, J., Osowiecki, D., & Welch, A. (1997). Effortful and involuntary responses to stress: Implications for coping with chronic stress. In B. H. Gottlieb (Ed.), *Coping with chronic stress* (pp. 105-130). New York: Plenum Press.
- Connor-Smith, J. K., & Calvete, E. (2004). Cross-cultural equivalence of coping and involuntary responses to stress in Spain and the United States. *Anxiety, Stress, & Coping*, 17, 163-185.
- Endler, N. S., Macrodimitris, S. D., & Kocovski, N. L. (2000). Controllability in cognitive and interpersonal tasks: Is control good for you? *Personality and Individual Differences*, 29, 951-962.
- Epping-Jordan, J. E., Compas, B. E., Osowiecki, D. M., Oppedisano, G., Gerhardt, C., Primo, K., & Krag, D. N. (1999). Psychological adjustment in breast cancer: Processes of emotional distress. *Health Psychology*, 18, 315-326.
- Feldman, P. J., & Steptoe, A. (2003). Psychosocial and socioeconomic factors associated with glycated hemoglobin in nondiabetic middle-aged men and women. *Health Psychology*, 22, 398-405.
- Folkman, S. (1984). Personal control and stress and coping processes: A theoretical analysis. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 46, 839-852.
- Folkman, S. (1992). Making the case for coping. In B. N. Carpenter (Ed.), *Personal coping: Theory, research, and application* (pp. 31-46). Westport: Praeger.
- Helgeson, V. S. (1992). Moderators of the relation between perceived control and adjustment to chronic illness. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 63, 656-666.
- Hobfoll, S. E. (1998). *Stress, culture, and community: The psychology and philosophy of stress*. New York: Plenum Press.
- Janoff-Bulman, R., & Brickman, P. (1982). Expectation and what people learn from failure. In N. T. Feather (Ed.), *Expectations and actions*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- Kaluza, G. (2000). Changing unbalanced coping profiles – a prospective controlled intervention

- trial in worksite health promotion. *Psychology and Health*, 15, 423-433.
- Lazarus, R. S., & Folkman, S. (1984). *Stress, appraisal, and coping*. New York: Springer.
- Leventhal, H., Diefenbach, M., & Leventhal, E. A. (1992). Illness cognition: Using common sense to understand treatment adherence and affect cognition interaction. *Cognitive Therapy and Research*, 16, 143-163.
- Leventhal, H., Leventhal, E. A., & Contrada, R. J. (1998). Self-regulation, health, and behavior: A perceptual-cognitive approach. *Psychology and Health*, 13, 717-733.
- Macrodimitris, S. D., & Endler, N. S. (2001). Coping, control and adjustment in Type 2 Diabetes. *Health Psychology*, 20, 208-216.
- McQueeney, D. A., Stanton, A. L., & Sigmon, S. (1997). Efficacy of emotion-focused and problem-focused group therapies for women with fertility problems. *Journal of Behavioral Medicine*, 20, 313-331.
- Mendoza-Denton, R., Ayduk, O., Mischel, W., Shoda, Y., & Testa, A. (2001). Person X situation interactionism in self-encoding (I am... When...): Implications for affect regulation and social information processing. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 80, 533-544.
- Mischel, W., & Shoda, Y. (1995). A cognitive-affective system theory of personality: Reconceptualizing situations, dispositions, dynamics, and invariance in personality structure. *Psychological Review*, 102, 246-268.
- Osowiecki, D. M., & Compas, B. E. (1999). A prospective study of coping, perceived control, and psychological adaptation to breast cancer. *Cognitive Therapy and Research*, 23, 169-180.
- Pakenham, K. I. (1999). Adjustment to multiple sclerosis: Application of a stress and coping model. *Health Psychology*, 18, 383-392.
- Pennebaker, J. W., & Seagal, J. D. (1999). Forming a story: The health benefits of narrative. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 55, 1243-1254.
- Reed, G. M., Taylor, S. E., & Kemeny, M. E. (1993). Perceived control and psychological adjustment in gay men with AIDS. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, 23, 791-824.
- Rothbaum, F., Weisz, J. R., & Snyder, S. S. (1982). Changing the world and changing the self: A two-process model of perceived control. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 42, 5-37.
- Roussi, P. (2002). Discriminative facility in perceptions of control and its relation to psychological distress. *Anxiety, Stress, and Coping*, 15, 179-191.
- Roussi, P., & Kiosseoglou, G. (2001). Discriminative facility and its relationship to constructive thinking. *Studia Psychologica*, 43, 295-311.
- Roussi, P., Krikeli, V., Hatzidimitriou, C., & Koutri, I. (in press). Patterns of coping, complexity in coping and psychological distress in women diagnosed with breast cancer. *Cognitive Therapy and Research*.
- Roussi, P., Miller, S. M., & Shoda, Y. (2000). Discriminativeness in the face of threat: relationship to psychological distress. *Psychology and Health*, 15, 21-33.
- Schwartz, C. E., & Sprangers, M. A. G. (2000). *Adaptation to changing health*. Washington: American Psychological Association.
- Schwartz, J. E., Neale, J., Marco, C., Shiffman, S. S., & Stone, A. A. (1999). Does trait coping exist? A momentary assessment approach to the evaluation of traits. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 77, 360-369.
- Shoda, Y., LeeTiernan, S., & Mischel, W. (2002). Personality as a dynamical system: Emergence of stability and distinctiveness from intra- and interpersonal interactions. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 6, 316-325.
- Shoda, Y., & Mischel, W. (1998). Personality as a stable cognitive-affective activation network: Characteristic patterns of behavior variation emerge from a stable personality structure. In S. J. Read & L. C. Miller (Eds.), *Connectionist and PDP Models of Social Reasoning and Social Behavior* (pp. 175-208). NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.
- Smari, J., & Valtysdottir, H. (1997). Dispositional coping, psychological distress, and disease-control in diabetes. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 22, 151-156.

- Smith, C. A., & Wallston, K. A. (1996). An analysis of coping profiles and adjustment in persons with rheumatoid arthritis. *Anxiety, Stress and Coping: An International Journal*, 9, 107-122.
- Stanton, A. L., Danoff-Burg, S., Cameron, C. L., Bishop, M., Collins, C. A., Kirk, S. B., & Sworowski, L. A. (2000). Emotionally expressive coping predicts psychological and physical adjustment to breast cancer. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 68, 875-882.
- Stanton, A. L., Danoff-Burg, S., Cameron, C. L., & Ellis, A. P. (1994). Coping through emotional approach: Problems of conceptualization and confounding. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 66, 350-362.
- Stanton, A. L., & Franz, R. (1999). Focusing on emotion: An adaptive coping strategy? In C. R. Snyder (Ed.), *Coping: The psychology of what works* (pp. 90-118). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
- Stone, A. A., Schwartz, J. E., Neale, J. M., Shiffman, S., Marco, C. A., Hickcox, M., Paty, J., Porter, L. S., & Cruise, L. J. (1998). A comparison of coping assessed by ecological momentary assessment and retrospective recall. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 74, 1670-1680.
- Taylor, S. E., & Brown, J. D. (1988). Illusion and well-being: A social psychological perspective on mental health. *Psychological Bulletin*, 103, 193-210.
- Taylor, S. E., & Brown, J. D. (1994). Positive illusions and well-being revisited: Separating fact from fiction. *Psychological Bulletin*, 116, 21-27.
- Taylor, S. E., Helgeson, V. S., Reed, G. M., & Skokan, L. A. (1991). Self-generated feelings of control and adjustment to physical illness. *Journal of Social Issues*, 47, 91-109.
- Taylor, S. E., Kemeny, M. E., Reed, G. M., Bower, J. E., & Gruenwald, T. L. (2000). Psychological resources, positive illusions, and health. *American Psychologist*, 55, 99-109.
- Taylor, S. E., Lichtman, R. R., & Wood, J. V. (1984). Attributions, beliefs about control, and adjustment to breast cancer. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 46, 489-502.
- Tennen, H., Affleck, G., Armeli, S., & Carney, M. A. (2000). A daily process approach to coping: Linking theory, research, and practice. *American Psychologist*, 55, 626-636.
- Terry, D. J., & Hynes, G. J. (1998). Adjustment to a low control situation: Reexamining the role of coping responses. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 74, 1078-1092.
- Thompson, S. C. (1993). Naturally occurring perceptions of control: A model of bounded flexibility. In G. Weary, F. Gleicher, & K. L. Marsh (Eds.), *Control motivation and social cognition* (pp. 74-93). New York: Springer-Verlag.
- Thompson, S. C., Collins, M. A., Newcomb, M. D., & Hunt, W. (1996). On fighting versus accepting stressful circumstances: Primary and secondary control among HIV-positive men in prison. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 70, 1307-1317.
- Thompson, S. C., Sobolew-Shubin, A., Galbraith, M. E., Schwankovsky, L., & Cruzen, D. (1993). Maintaining perceptions of control: Finding perceived control in low-control circumstances. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 64, 293-304.
- Vassilaki, E., & Roussi, P. (2004). Patterns of perceived control and coping and their relationship to psychological distress in a Greek rheumatoid arthritis population. Under editorial review.
- Weisz, J. R., McCabe, M. A., & Dennig, M. D. (1994). Primary and secondary control among children undergoing medical procedures: Adjustment as a function of coping style. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 62, 324-332.
- Wortman, C. B., & Brehm, J. W. (1975). Responses to uncontrollable outcomes: An integration of reactance theory and the learned helplessness model. In L. Berkowitz (Ed.), *Advances in experimental social psychology* (Vol. 8, pp. 278-336). New York: Academic Press.

Discriminative facility in perceptions of control and coping and adjustment to serious illness

PAGONA ROUSSI & IFIGENIA KOUTRI
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

ABSTRACT This study discusses the extant database regarding secondary appraisal and coping with serious illness using cognitive-affective theory, as developed by Mischel and Shoda, as a conceptual model. In the first section, we briefly describe the theory, emphasizing the concept of discriminative facility. In the second section, we review the literature regarding definitions of perceptions of control, followed by findings regarding the relationship between perceptions of control and adjustment to serious illness. The concept of discriminative facility is used to integrate contradictory findings in the existing literature. In the third section, research findings regarding the relationship between coping and adjustment are presented and problems related to the measurement of emotion-focused coping are discussed. The concept of discriminative facility is used to interpret contradictory findings. At the end of the third section, we present studies that have examined directly the relationship between discriminative facility and adjustment. In the fourth section, we briefly mention interventions that support the importance of discriminative facility in coping with serious illness. In the last section, we discuss the implications of using cognitive-affective theory as an integrating model for researchers and clinicians in the field of health psychology.

Key words: Discriminative facility, Perceptions of control, Coping.

Address: Pagona Roussi, Psychology Department, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, 541 24 Thessaloniki, Greece. Tel.: 0030-2310-346532, E-mail: roussi@psy.auth.gr