

9	If a married person comes up to having an affair, his/her spouse may be the one to blame. (ab)	.61 (.72)	2.47	1.44	.86	-.11	.62
10	<i>If someone neglects his/her spouse, the latter can't be blamed for having an extramarital affair. (ab)*</i>	.50	2.62	1.53	.70	-.55	.66
11	<i>The one cheated on is often guilty to some extent for his/her spouse's infidelity. (ab)*</i>	.49	2.95	1.53	.56	-.68	.40
Advantageous comparisons							
12	Having an affair with someone else is nothing compared to spousal abuse. (ac)	.76 (.71)	3.63	1.85	-.04	-1.46	.43
13	Compared to those who abandon their spouse and children, someone who has an extramarital affair does nothing serious. (ac)	.54 (.85)	2.70	1.69	.63	-.87	.59
14	Having a romantic night out with someone else than your spouse is no big deal compared to neglecting your seriously ill partner. (ac)	.50 (.59)	3.08	1.78	.31	-1.31	.43
Moral justification							
15	<i>Having an extramarital affair is part of the "life adventure." (el)*</i>	.71	1.77	1.22	1.73	2.37	.61
16	Infidelity is not completely immoral because it offers some people a way to ensure their psychological security. (mj)	.48 (.76)	2.10	1.27	1.16	.69	.74

17	An extramarital affair can mean “broadening the horizon.” (el)	.45 (.82)	1.98	1.36	1.41	1.09	.75
18	Having an affair is a way of keeping your necessary sense of independence. (mj)	.43 (.83)	1.88	1.30	1.54	1.57	.64
Minimizing consequences							
19	<i>A single extramarital affair is not so serious. (mc)*</i>	.62	2.25	1.54	1.12	.05	.74
20	<i>A one-night stand does nothing more than to “spice up” your love life. (el)*</i>	.61	2.01	1.43	1.38	.79	.72
21	Being physically intimate occasionally with someone else than your spouse is not very serious as long as you don’t engage in a long-term relationship. (mc)	.57 (.82)	2.09	1.42	1.29	.71	.74
22	An extramarital affair that is not discovered does no harm. (mc)	.48 (.78)	2.48	1.64	.94	-.33	.68
23	Flirting with someone else does no harm to your spouse. (mc)	.42 (.80)	2.53	1.52	.79	-.49	.65

Note. Values in parenthesis represent factor loadings in CFA (Study 2, $N = 247$); *Items excluded in CFA (also marked by italic font). Dif - diffusion of responsibility; dis - displacement of responsibility; ab - attribution of blame; deh – dehumanization; ac - advantageous comparisons; el - euphemistic labeling; mj - moral justification; mc - minimizing the consequences; Skew – Skewness; Kurt – Kurtosis; r - Corrected Item-Total Correlation.

Statistical procedure in Study 2

First, the 23-item IMDS was analyzed using a first-order Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) approach with Maximum Likelihood Estimation in AMOS 22.0. To evaluate the fit of the hypothesized model (i.e., the factorial structure of the IMDS as it emerged from Study 1) to the data, we used several model fit indices, in accordance with past recommendations (Byrne, 2005), namely the Comparative Fit Index (CFI), the Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA), the Goodness of Fit Index (GFI) and the Adjusted Goodness-of-Fit Index (AGFI). The cutoff values of these indices for good fit are: CFI over .93 (Hu & Bentler, 1999); GFI and AGFI .90

(Byrne, 2001); RMSEA less than .05 (Steiger, 1990), with its upper confidence interval lower than .08 (Hu & Bentler, 1998).

Next, we computed the Pearson correlations between IMDS and the other variables of the research in order to examine the construct and criterion validity of the new scale. Based on the theoretical framework of the IMDS, the convergent validity of this new instrument would be indicated by significant positive associations with CMD and ITIS, and a significant negative correlation with MIQ, while its discriminant validity would be supported by nonsignificant relationships to the M_C and US scales. We also examined a type of criterion validity of the IMDS, i.e., postdictive validity, which refers to the relationship of the new scale to a criterion measured in the past (Cronbach & Meehl, 1955). To this aim, we examined the association of the IMDS with past occurrences of infidelity, as measured by the IS; a significant positive correlation would indicate its postdictive validity. Moreover, we used the relationship between gender and IMDS scores to assess another facet of the criterion validity of the new scale, which would be supported by men scoring higher than women on the IMDS.

Table 2 *Summary statistics and correlation matrix of the IMDS factors in Study 2 (N = 247)*

	Number of items	Cronbach's	McDonald's ω	Min	Max	M	SD	Skewness	Kurtosis	AB	AC	MJ	MC
Diffusion of responsibility (DIF)	3	.81	.82	1	6	2.29	1.32	.88	-.17	.69**	.57**	.82**	.77**
Attribution of blame (AB)	3	.81	.81	1	6	2.40	1.31	.82	-.22		.52**	.65**	.69**
Advantageous comparisons (AC)	3	.75	.76	1	6	3.16	1.43	.12	-.97			.58**	.65**
Moral justification (MJ)	3	.84	.85	1	6	2.08	1.24	1.07	.22				.75*
Minimizing consequences (MC)	3	.84	.84	1	6	2.48	1.44	.72	-.65				-

Note. * $p < .05$; ** $p < .001$

The items in the final version of the IMDS

1. A spouse's infidelity should not be blamed since many people have such experiences at some point.
2. If the partners do not clearly state their limits, one should not be blamed for having an affair.
3. Today, infidelity is very common, so one should not be blamed for an extramarital affair.
4. Someone who is cheated on by his/her spouse usually did some things to deserve it.
5. Some people deserve to be cheated on in their marital relationships.
6. If a married person comes up to having an affair, his/her spouse may be the one to blame.
7. Having an affair with someone else is nothing compared to spousal abuse.

8. Compared to those who abandon their spouse and children, someone who has an extramarital affair does nothing serious.
9. Having a romantic night out with someone else than your spouse is no big deal compared to neglecting your seriously ill partner.
10. Infidelity is not completely immoral because it offers some people a way to ensure their psychological security.
11. An extramarital affair can mean “broadening the horizon.”
12. Having an affair is a way of keeping your necessary sense of independence.
13. Being physically intimate occasionally with someone else than your spouse is not very serious as long as you don’t engage in a long-term relationship.
14. An extramarital affair that is not discovered does no harm.
15. Flirting with someone else does no harm to your spouse.