

IC - (20986) - EXPLORING NATURE CONNECTEDNESS THROUGH THE EYES OF EXPERTS: A MODIFIED-DELPHI STUDY

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Background and objectives

It is important to understand the human-nature relationship for the health and wellbeing of both humans and the environment. The biophilia hypothesis is referenced to understand this relationship. Wilson's (1984) theory suggests that due to evolution, humans have an innate urge to seek out nature. The concept of nature connectedness was developed from this hypothesis. This newly constructed idea is rooted in the belief that human identity and nature can be intertwined (Nisbet, Zelenski and Murphy 2009).

Process and methods (for empirical research)

This project aims to explore nature connectedness in a meaningful way using a modified Delphi method. Typically Delphi studies aim to gather the consensus of a group of experts in a specific area of interest (Avella 2016). This modified Delphi aims to break down the barrier between public and expert by creating a second category of participants referred to as our 'expanded experts.' Expand experts are described as individuals with lived-experience of being connected to nature in the everyday. These category comprises of artists, city planners, activists and many more. This allows for much more inclusive and real-world exploration of experiences.

The participants will first take part in a semi-structured interview process to investigate the concept of nature connectedness. Following a thematic analysis of the interviews, participants will be asked to take part in Delphi rounds. These rounds will involve weighting the importance of the different themes found to allow a deeper understanding of the construct.

Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

At time of submission the research was in the data collection stage. Preliminary data will be available for the conference.

Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution

The results of this project will contribute to and shape the development of a state-of-the-art nature-connectedness scale. Furthermore, understanding how nature connectedness fits into our modern world will allow for more appropriate nature based interventions for urban residents and beyond.

Palavras-chave : Nature Connectedness, Well-being, Urban Environment,