

## Resources

### The Trans Woman Voice Questionnaire (TWVQ)

Dr Georgia Dacakis and Shelagh Davies

The TWVQ is a self report questionnaire designed for use with women who were assigned male at birth and who identify and live full time as their authentic female gender. Its purpose is to measure the women's experiences with their voices. The TWVQ is available for free download by speech-language pathologists/speech-language therapists, speech and voice researchers and trans women who wish to monitor or evaluate their own experiences with their voices.

At the time of its development, the TWVQ was named the Transsexual Voice Questionnaire (Male to female, TVQ MtF) With the ever-evolving language used in the trans and gender diverse space came sufficient report that the original title with its use of 'transsexual' and 'male-to-female', was considered by some as offensive. The name was officially changed in July 2020 and the authors feel confident that the name change has not compromised the integrity or the validity of the questionnaire.

#### For psychometric evaluation of the TWVQ see:

- Dacakis, G., Davies, S., Oates, J., Douglas, J., & Johnston, J. (2013). Development and preliminary evaluation of the Transsexual Voice Questionnaire for male-to-female transsexuals. *Journal of Voice*. 27(3), 312-320. doi:10.1016/j.jvoice.2012.11.005
- Dacakis, G., Oates, J., & Douglas, J. (2016). Exploring the validity of the Transsexual Voice Questionnaire (male-to-female): Do TVQMtF scores differentiate between MtF women who have had gender reassignment surgery and those who have not? *International Journal of Transgenderism*. 17(3-4), 124-130. doi:10.1080/15532739.2016.1222922
- Dacakis, G., Oates, J., & Douglas, J. (2017). Further evidence of the construct validity of the Transsexual Voice Questionnaire (TVQMtF) using Principal Component Analysis. *Journal of Voice*. 31(2). doi:10.1016/j.jvoice.2016.07.001
- Dacakis, G., Oates, J., & Douglas, J. (2017). Associations between the Transsexual Voice Questionnaire (TVQMtF) and self-report of voice femininity and acoustic measures. *International Journal of Language & Communication Disorders*. doi:10.1111/1460-6984.12319
- Davies, S., Johnston, J.R. (2015). Exploring the Validity of the Transsexual Voice Questionnaire for Male-to-Female Transsexuals. *Canadian Journal of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology*. Vol. 39, No. 1, pp. 40 - 51

Contact first author for further information regarding the availability of the articles.

# TWVQ Downloads

- [English version \[PDF 80 KB\]](#)
- [Authorised Chinese \(Hong Kong\) translation \[PDF 233 KB\]](#)
- [Authorised Simplified Chinese translation \[176 KB\]](#)
- [Authorised Chinese \(Taiwan\) translation \[PDF 74 KB\]](#)
- [Authorised Croatian translation \[PDF 181 KB\]](#)
- [Authorised Danish translation \[PDF 84 KB\]](#)
- [Authorised Dutch \(Flemish\) translation \[PDF 81 KB\]](#)
- [Authorised Finnish translation \[PDF 164 KB\]](#)
- [Authorised French translation \[PDF 43 KB\]](#)
- [Authorised German translation \[PDF 116 KB\]](#)
- [Authorised Hebrew translation \[PDF 58 KB\]](#)
- [Authorised Italian translation \[PDF 76 KB\]](#)
- [Authorised Persian translation \[PF 44 KB\]](#)
- [Authorised Polish translation \[PDF 140 KB\]](#)
- [Authorised Portuguese translation \[PDF 79 KB\]](#)
- [Authorised Portugese European translation \[PDF 31 KB\]](#)
- [Authorised Spanish translation \[PDF 47 KB\]](#)
- [Authorised Swedish translation \[PDF 159 KB\]](#)
- [Authorised Thai translation \[PDF 107 KB\]](#)
- [Authorised Turkish translation \[PDF 63 KB\]](#)

## Want to translate the TWVQ?

Please follow these guidelines to produce an authorised, accurate translation.

Translation Guidelines for the SES-VMTW and TWVQ

-English

-Swedish

## Currently being translated/finalized

- Catalan
- Greek
- Icelandic
- Indian – Hindi
- Indian - Kannada
- Indian – Malayalam
- Indian/Sri Lankan – Tamil
- Norwegian
- Spanish Rioplatense's (Argentina)
- Urdu - Pakistan

## Frequently asked questions

### Can the TWVQ be scored and are there 'norms' for the questionnaire?

It would be nice to be able to simply add the scores of the questionnaire and then compare the total pre- and post-voice training result as a measure of change, however, as the total is a very broad measure of perceptions of voice functioning and the impact of voice on the individual's life, any change in the score reveals little. The total score does not tell us which areas have improved and which require further focus and it may measure an experience that is not relevant to an individual at one point in their lives but relevant at another. Shelagh often gives the example of the item "I feel uncomfortable talking to friends, neighbours and relatives because of my voice" pointing out that someone who is socially isolated might not feel this is a problem but as their situation changes and they wish to engage with these groups, they may rate their response very differently.

If you look at the 'clinical implications' section of the below article\*\*\* you will see reference to how the scores could be used. Essentially, progress can be viewed by comparing responses to individual items (and a statement about the number of items that 'improved') or by scoring according to each of the components of the questionnaire and commenting on which component has improved e.g., social participation versus vocal functioning.

We are sometimes asked whether there are 'norms' or if the questionnaire has been 'standardised'. There are far too many factors that impact on the individual's perception of their voice for this to be possible.

\*\*\*Dacakis, G., Oates, J. M., & Douglas, J. M. (2017). Further evidence of the construct validity of the Transsexual Voice Questionnaire (TVQ<sup>MTF</sup>) using Principle Components Analysis. *Journal of Voice*, 31(2), 142-148. doi:10.1016/j.jvoice.2016.07.01

### Can the TWVQ be modified by changing pronouns and direction of voice change so that it can be used for people who are:

- Assigned male at birth but don't identify as trans women (i.e., other gender diverse, non-binary, or gender fluid transfeminine identities) ?
- Assigned female at birth but identify as male or transmasculine?

A requirement of developing a valid questionnaire is that members of the population for whom the questionnaire is being developed contribute to the questionnaire and that once developed it is validated on that population. The TWVQ was developed at a time when the majority of trans individuals who sought support from speech pathologists for voice training were those assigned male at birth and identified as female. The questionnaire was guided by in depth interviews of this population and validated with women who were assigned male at birth but identified as female. The questionnaire is therefore most suitable for this population. While we are aware that the questionnaire has been used with other trans and gender diverse populations there has been no validation with these populations. Earlier work to provide a companion TWVQ for transmasculine people was abandoned following the realisation of the authors that simply flipping the pronouns did not produce items that accurately represented the experiences of this population.

## **I need permission to translate the questionnaire into another language, but do I need permission to validate the questionnaire?**

While you must seek permission from the first author to translate the questionnaire ([s.quinn@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:s.quinn@latrobe.edu.au)), you do not need permission to validate the questionnaire however, you may want to let us know of your intentions in case we are aware of a similar project already underway. If you believe that your validation process will result in modifications to the authorised translation then please contact Georgia to discuss. Please note that if you are validating the questionnaire you should clearly identify the gender positioning of the population that you are recruiting. This will allow for valid comparisons with current findings or new information about the use of the questionnaire with people of a range of gender identities.