# Analyzing the development of legal norm acceptance by using a Bayesian second-order growth model with approximate measurement invariance

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Analyzing the development of latent constructs over time requires the existence of at least scalar longitudinal measurement invariance (MI). If scalar MI is absent, no valid comparison should be made and the results must not be interpreted. The Bayesian framework offers the possibility of a less stringent understanding of MI, called approximate MI, in which a small difference between factor loadings and/or intercepts is allowed. Using data from the panel study crime in the modern city (CRIMOC) including over 3,000 participants and eight panel waves, an example for a second-order growth model with longitudinal approximate metric and scalar MI for the development of legal norm acceptance in adolescence will be presented. The results indicate a curvilinear development of legal norm acceptance, with a minimum at the age of 15.