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Les composantes de la valeur dans l'auto-organisation équestre

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Résumé :

Objectifs : L'auto-organisation dans les activités sportives et de loisirs a récemment augmenté mais reste peu connue. Cette tendance est la même dans les activités équestres, générant des enjeux économiques et sociétaux pour les institutions et les professionnels du secteur. L'auto-organisation consiste en l'organisation quotidienne, en autonomie, d'une ou plusieurs tâches qui pourraient être sous-traitées. Elle est la conséquence, pour certains pratiquants, d'une inadéquation entre leur demande et l'offre de services disponible. Afin de mieux comprendre les déterminants de l'auto-organisation équestre, cet article étudie la valeur de consommation associée à ce choix organisationnel.

Problématique : Le service sportif, dissocié du bien matériel, est un contrat d'échange immatériel qui requiert la participation du consommateur. Dans ce contexte, cet article analyse les composantes de la valeur de l'auto-organisation sportive. En outre, cette recherche exploratoire vise à comprendre quelles composantes de la valeur influencent la valeur globale de l'auto-organisation, dans le cas des activités équestres, et si cette valeur globale est aussi influencée par l'attachement à l'animal et l'auto-efficacité.

Méthodologie : La méthodologie repose sur une enquête quantitative réalisée en ligne via les réseaux sociaux (Facebook, X - Twitter et Instagram) pendant six mois en 2021, en France auprès de 615 répondants. L'analyse effectuée mobilise des modèles d'équations structurelles.

Résultats : Les résultats montrent que l'attachement à l'animal, l'auto-efficacité, la valeur économique, la valeur hédonique, la valeur éthique liée au bien-être sont des composantes clés de la valeur de l'auto-organisation équestre. De plus, une nouvelle composante est mise en évidence par la valeur de transmission. Cette étude explore aussi l'effet des risques d'erreur perçus dans l'auto-organisation équestre.

Originalité : Ces résultats ouvrent des perspectives pour de nouvelles stratégies managériales à destination des usagers auto-organisés, dans les activités équestres et plus généralement dans le domaine du sport, impliquant notamment une prise en compte des souhaits pour une

pratique permettant une transmission à ses proches et un alignement avec ses préoccupations éthiques.

Mots clés : auto-organisation, activités équestres ; valeur de transmission ; valeur éthique ; attachement ; risques perçus ; modèle d'équation structurelle.

Financement : Ce travail a été soutenu par le Conseil scientifique de la filière équine française, la Fédération française d'équitation (FFE) et l'Agence nationale de la recherche et de la technologie (ANRT) [contrat n°2018/1491].

Value Components in Equestrian Self-Organization

Abstract:

Aim: Self-organization in sport and leisure activities has increased recently but remains little known. This trend is the same in equestrian activities, generating economic and societal issues for institutions and professionals of the sector. Self-organization is the daily autonomous organization of one or more tasks that could otherwise be subcontracted. For some practitioners, it is the result of a mismatch between their demand and the supply of available services. To better understand the determinants of equestrian self-organisation, this article examines the consumer value associated with this organizational choice.

Question: The sports service, dissociated from the material good, implies an immaterial exchange contract requiring consumer participation. In this context, this article analyses the value components of sports self-organization, in the case of equestrian activities. In addition, this exploratory research aims to understand which value components influence the overall value of self-organization and whether this overall value is also influenced by attachment to the animal and self-efficacy.

Methodology: The methodology is based on a quantitative survey conducted online via social networks (Facebook, X - Twitter and Instagram) over six months in 2021, in France with 615 respondents. Structural equation models are used in the analysis.

Results: The results reveal that attachment to the animal, self-efficacy, economic value, hedonic value, ethical value associated with well-being are pivotal elements in the value of equestrian self-organization. Additionally, a novel component, transmission value, has been identified.

This study also explore the influence of the perceived risk of error in equestrian self-organization.

Originality: These findings open-up perspectives for new managerial strategies towards self-organized users, in equestrian activities, and more generally in the field of sport. In particular, this means considering the consumers' expectations of a practice that can be shared with loved ones and that is consistent with everyone's ethical concerns.

Keywords: self-organization, equestrian activities; transmission value; ethical value; attachment; perceived risks; PLS-SEM.

Value Components in Equestrian Self-Organization

Introduction

What is the value attributed to an activity? The consumption value is the value of an object or a service according to the consumer's perception. Detailed value components qualify the relationship of consumers with the object or service in question using typologies (Aurier et al., 2004; Holbrook, 1994). The value co-creation framework of Leclercq et al. (2016) analyzes the process of consumption value formation. Is the value different when the consumer participates in the service's production, and if so, what are the value components in a self-organized setting?

Self-organization consists of the daily organization, in autonomy, for one or several tasks that could be subcontracted. It can concern various practices or activities. In the field of sport and leisure, self-organized practices are little known. They are the result, for some practitioners, of a mismatch between their demand and the available service supply, with clubs that do not fulfil practitioners' needs for autonomy, or freedom. This autonomization process concerns all sport and leisure activities, such as running, cycling, or horse riding, and it generates economic and societal issues for institutions and professionals. We focus specifically on equestrianism, which has the specificity to involve an animal (a horse) in the activity, which questions the role of attachment to the animal.

Detached from the material good, a sports service is an intangible exchange contract requiring consumer participation. Therefore, we believe that understanding the value of performing the activity can lead to a better understanding of the desired service and, consequently, to better adapting the offer to the demand. In this context, this paper analyzes the value components of self-organization in equestrian sports. Moreover, this research

analyzes the influence of attachment and self-efficacy on the overall value of self-organization, and whether there are some mediating effects of the value components.

The conceptual framework reviews the literature on self-organization and the elements that can influence value creation in equestrian activities. Then, based on an exploratory qualitative survey, we propose a hypothetical theoretical model and test it through a quantitative study. The results are then presented and discussed.

Conceptual Framework

Value Creation through Self-Organization

In this study, the principle of self-organization is defined as taking care of activities that could be delegated to a professional, but that can also be self-organized, while using professional services or not. In this perspective, consumer behavior literature observes consumer participation in service activities. The particularity of services is the added value to the offer, created through customer participation (Gabriel et al., 2014). Thus, the experience of service use or purchase creates value. The level of consumer involvement in value creation can vary. Various literature shows the different roles or behaviors of the consumer assuming tasks previously realized by the provider, such as designing, coproducing, or providing information, according to their resources (Dong et Sivakumar, 2017).

In the case of sports services, the consumer must necessarily participate in the activity to benefit from the service. However, self-organization and, more generally, the participation of consumers in a production process depends on their experience and the value they perceive to be created and gained.

The value created by the consumer experience differs according to the situation and includes several components (Aurier et al., 2004). Table 1 proposes an integrative approach of value components in equestrian self-organization adapted from the literature. We hypothesize

that these value components are essential in this specific consumption experience, based on scientific review and field experience.

Table 1 Hypothetical integrative approach of value components in equestrian self-organization, adapted from Holbrook (2002, 2006), Aurier et al. (2004), Richins (1994) and Medberg and Heinonen (2014).

	Extrinsic (means-end relation in which consumption is appreciated for its functional/banal instrumentality to achieve a goal – e.g., a hammer)	Intrinsic (consumption experience is appreciated as an end in itself, for its own sake, as self-justified, playful, or self-sustaining - e.g., the pleasure of a day at the beach)
Self-Oriented (an aspect of selfish consumption for my own good or for the effect it has on me - e.g., a sweater is valuable because it keeps me warm)	Instrumental value Utilitarian (product meets practical needs - the concept of efficiency) Economic value Knowledge (permanent info-seeking behavior, different from pre-purchase info-seeking)	Hedonic value Playful (ability to have fun, the difference between work and play) Experiential stimulation (the ability of the experience to stimulate the senses of the individual)
Others orientated (Consumption experience is evaluated for the effect it has on others- e.g., buying a car to impress neighbours)	Social value Self-expression/status (the ability of the product or service to project self-expression) Social link (product as an aid to social interaction, to exchange in the form of conversations. Two-way communication: other ↔ self) Heritage (customer's and family's experience within the company and their consumption experience)	Altruistic value Spirituality (Experience as a means to a later end but rather as an end valued for its own sake) Shared moral value (adequacy between the ethical standards of the clients and the standards of the other stakeholders)

In their netnography, Medberg et Heinonen (2014) introduce invisible values, as the non-visible result of benefits or sacrifices regarding a customer's experience and relationship with the environment. Following a customer-dominant logic, the invisible values appear from the customer's point of view rather than that of business. Even if Medberg et Heinonen (2014) identified four invisible value factors in bank-customer relationships, one (in red in Table 1) seem relevant in this case study. First, "*Heritage value concerns the history [...] initiated by parents or relatives of the customer*" (Medberg et Heinonen, 2014, p. 599). In equestrian self-organization, the heritage value may gain importance as management often occurs within the family. The second invisible value relevant in our study case, is the shared moral value. This value "*refers to the compatibility between a customer's own moral standards and the*

perceived moral standards of the bank" (Medberg et Heinonen, 2014, p. 599). Shared moral value is positioned in the altruistic component, as it refers to the adequacy between the client's ethical standards and the other stakeholders' standards. In this case study, considering the ethical value component related to the animal's welfare seems important as animal's welfare depends on how equines are housed. The altruistic value component (Holbrook, 2006), based on how the consumer experience is an ethical way of consuming, can be transposed to how people consume ethically for themselves and manage their equine for their welfare in equestrian activities.

Creativity can lead to autonomous practices in sport as professional structures have too much of a constraining frame to offer sufficiently diversified experiences (Galewicz, 2017; Riffaud, 2018). Consequently, the hedonic value component includes experiential stimulation (Aurier et al., 2004) and the pleasure of practicing the desired activities (Hirschman et Holbrook, 1982). Self-organized equestrian users may also be motivated by the social value component, including self-expression, status, and social link (Aurier et al., 2004). Self-organized equestrians are passionate about their activity and wish to exchange with others who share the same goals and values, or to have a more comprehensive social network, as observed for runners (Xie et al., 2020). The status dimension related to the prestige of the self-organization enables members to achieve their goals, enhancing the need for identification and self-realization concerning the image projected to others (Bhattacharya et al., 1995).

Despite the many similarities between the different recreational practices, such as representing a lifestyle, self-organization within equestrian activities has the specificities to be expensive, either for equestrian activities or caring for the horse. Thus, the influence of economic value could be essential. This dimension is part of the instrumental value component. This component also includes a knowledge dimension related to a permanent

search for information, stimulating the individual (Aurier et al., 2004). Moreover Eslan et al. (2023) emphasized the importance of animal welfare for self-organization. Consequently, the shared moral value (Medberg et Heinonen, 2014) initially considered finally seems to relate to the ethical value linked to equine welfare. The more self-organization meets the self-organized users' horse needs or responds to a specific ethical value, the more they think self-organization has a high overall value. We pose that the different value components can positively influence the perceived overall value of self-organization. Thus, the more users think that a specific value dimension is important, the more important is the overall value (H1).

Self-Efficacy

Self-efficacy concept, introduced by the psychologist Bandura (1997), refers to an individual's beliefs about his ability to complete a task, learn, challenge, or change. In a self-organization context, self-efficacy is the perceived ability to participate successfully and achieve desired outcomes in the production process, because consumers believe they can produce by themselves better and more responsive products (Xie et al., 2008) in challenging tasks. Self-efficacy underlies the motivation to engage in action and perseverance in achieving the goal. People with a keen sense of efficacy tend to be more proactive in attaining goals, anticipating, and preventing stressors. Self-efficacy measures perceive competence (Vaughan- Johnston et Jacobson, 2020) and includes awareness of the possible risk of error (Park et John, 2014). We pose that the more people are confident in their skills, the more they think self-organization has a high overall value (H2). We also suppose that self-efficacy positively influences different value components (H3).

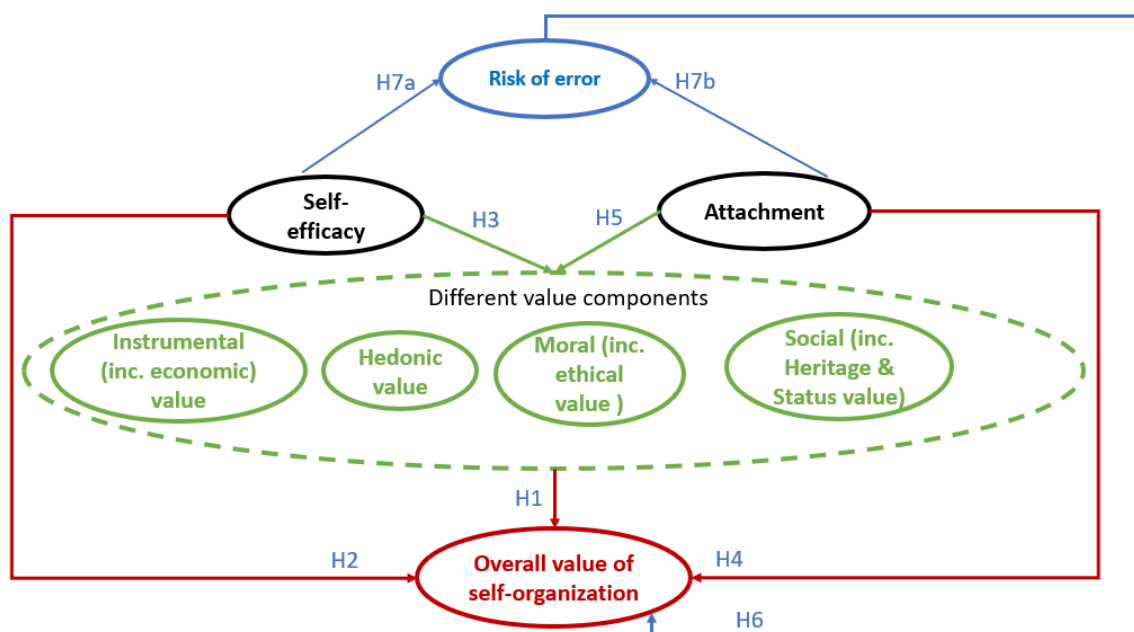
Attachment to the Animal

Attachments and interactions between humans and animals can be of different natures. Equines may be used as "equipment" for many practical and recreational activities or provide aesthetic value and pleasure to consumers. Attachment to an animal can also represent a felt and expressed emotional bond between the animal and its owner (St. George et al., 1998). This concept has already been introduced in the literature by Bowlby (2002) under the principle of attachment theory, firstly applied to the relationship between the child and the mother. The fundamental principle of this theory, in addition to its applicability to all mammal species, is that a child, to develop both emotionally and socially, must create an attachment relationship with a reference person, the caregiver (Rockett et Carr, 2014). In equestrian activities, Le Clinche et al. (2017) observe the type of attachment in the sporting equestrian event and see the equine as an extension of the family. This link also reflects a real passion for the equine, as observed in Eslan et al. (2023). It can lead to behaviors that are sometimes addictive but mostly linked to the playful and experiential pleasure that the relationship with the animal provides. This attachment relationship can develop into a passion with harmonious or obsessive behavior (Rousseau et al., 2002). In a self-organization context, equine owners can live close to their horse and take care of it how they wish, being able to give free rein to their attachment to their equine. Consequently, we suppose that the more users are attached to their animal, the more self-organization has a high overall value (H4), and that the attachment with the animal will positively influence different value components (H5).

Development of a Conceptual Analysis Framework

We consider different value components in the initial framework according to the literature (figure 1).

Figure 1 Hypothetical model of the influence of self-efficacy and attachment on different value components and the overall value of self-organization



Eslan et al. (2023) highlight the fear of being unable to meet equines' needs or of doing mistakes in horses' care, in the context of self-organization. Self-organization also implies many sacrifices since it costs time and money.

The notion of sacrifice shown by Aurier et al. (2004) appears, but the concept of risk is mainly related to strategic management (Mitchell, 1999), or environmental influence in decision-making (Paulraj et Chen, 2007). In tourism, risk assessments are categorized as uncontrollable or self-induced (Wang et al., 2010). Sjöberg et Engelberg (2005) consider risk perception in relation to lifestyles without conclusive results on consumer behavior. In sport literature, risks are more observed according to environmental difficulties rather than organizational ones (Siebert et Kolleyck, 2013).

The exploratory qualitative survey (Eslan et al., 2023) emphasizes the need for autonomy and the search for improvement in the process. These findings corroborate Gillet and al.'s work who show that autonomy and competency perceptions influence the motivation to participate in a sport. The need for autonomy and competence implies being at the origin of

his own actions and interacting effectively with the environment (Gillet et al., 2008). This situation creates hazards that can cause mistakes, which can be source of concern for the users. Moreover, according to the environment and people, worries can greatly fluctuate. Therefore, this study proposes to measure the perceived risks of errors in the context of equestrian self-organization introducing the risks of errors as a mediator. Thus, we pose that the risk of error can mediate the relationship between the overall value of self-organization (H6) and both its antecedents, self-efficacy (H7a) and animal attachment (H7b).

Design of the Research

General Methodology

Based on the literature review and a qualitative survey (Eslan et al., 2023), an online quantitative survey via social networks (Facebook, X-Twitter, and Instagram) was carried out during six months in 2021, in France among 615 respondents. Because there is no primary sampling database, this dissemination method makes it easier to reach an unknown population with a convenient sample. The quantitative step seeks to show the influence of self-efficacy and attachment to the animal on overall self-organization value and the effect of the different value components listed in Table 1.

Identifying the Constructs

In the quantitative survey, 53 items were initially used to measure 12 constructs. To this aim, items were selected from the literature review and completed following the approach proposed by Rossiter (2002). Relying on the results of the qualitative study, items were created to be integrated into the quantitative survey. Therefore, we introduced items related to animal welfare, risk of error, and transmission value. All the items used, and their source are presented in appendix.

Exploratory analysis was performed with SMART-PLS[®]4.0 (Ringle et al., 2022) to verify the scales' structure. Some constructs were not validated and thus discarded, and others were redesigned.

Results

Sample Description

671 respondents answered the quantitative survey, they all own at least one equine at home. 56 respondents with more than 11 missing answers were excluded. Finally, the 615 respondents are between 15 and 78 years old and have various socioeconomic statuses. The average duration of self-organization is 10.7 years (Table 2).

Table 2 Sample general description

Age (number in the sample)	15-20 yrs. (17), 21-35 yrs. (294) , 36-49 yrs. (173), 50 yrs and over (100)
Gender	Men 7%, Women 93%
Job category	Farmers 6%, Intermediary profession 6%, Unemployed 6%, Students 7%, Craftsman and Business owners 13%, Executives and Senior intellectuals 27%, Employees/Workers 35%
Geographical area	Urban area = 18%, Suburban area = 46% , Rural area = 36%
Number of equines owned	Average of three equines [1;45]
Average time spent per week with equine(s)	Practicing activities (riding, grooming) = 6.66 hours Husbandry (feeding, pasture care) = 8.79 hours
Average previous duration in a professional structure	9.9 yrs.
Average duration in self-organization	10.7 yrs.

Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA)

Bartlett's sphericity test shows a significant difference, thus rejecting the correlation hypothesis and verifying the adequacy of the common variance of matrix. The validity of the sample measure quality KMO is good (MSA= 0.8). The EFA carried out on the data collected online shows a correlation between some of the measurement scales from the literature. The

measurement scale is purified with cutoff at 0.32 and removing constructs with only one item. The final scale includes 26 items for 8 constructs with a discriminant validity Heterotrait-monotrait ratio (HTMT) < 0.9, no items have a higher cross-loading with another construct and VIF < 0.2 for all items. Table 3 present the eight constructs finally selected.

Table 3 AFE results after cleaning the measuring scales (loading cutoff = 0.32) and construct reliability and convergent validity

Construct Code	Self-efficacy	Attachment	Risk of error	Ethical value	Transmission value	Economic value	Hedonic Value	Overall value
Selfeff1	0.757							
Selfeff2	0.753							
Selfeff3	0.795							
Selfeff4	0.701							
Attach2		0.634						
Passion1		0.684						
Passion3		0.732						
Passion4		0.689						
Riskerr1			0.832					
Riskerr2			0.831					
Riskerr3			0.764					
Riskerr4			0.588					
Ethic1				0.823				
Ethic2				0.844				
Ethic3				0.685				
Trans1					0.800			
Trans2					0.839			
Trans3					0.462			
Eco1						0.848		
Eco2						0.848		
Hedo1							0.753	
Hedo2							0.786	
Hedo3							0.685	
Val1								0.814
Val2								0.783
Val3								0.672
Cronbach's Alpha	0.743	0.623	0.750	0.618	0.514	0.610	0.592	0.628
Rho C	0.838	0.780	0.841	0.798	0.750	0.793	0.785	0.802
AVE	0.563	0.470	0.577	0.573	0.518	0.669	0.550	0.576

The risk of error construct is formed from four items, two from the qualitative survey, one from the autonomy measuring scale, and the last one from the knowledge devaluation scale. They are associated with each other during the EFA with satisfactory nomological validity, as their meanings are in line with each other and the construct theme (Rossiter, 2002). The same phenomenon appears in the attachment, as this construct combines one item from the attachment scale and three items from the passion scale. The coefficients α and ω of the attachment, ethical value, economic value, and overall value constructs are above the 0.6 thresholds in exploratory analysis (Hair et al., 2020), as their AVE is close to or above 0.5 (Table 3), so we kept them for the next phase.

We assumed the inheritance of heritage value; however, during the EFA, the items correlated with heritage value are all oriented toward a nomological validity of transmission to heirs such as children or friends. Therefore, we retained the construct of transmission value, even if the indices are a little under the threshold, as it seems interesting to investigate this value component in the case of a leisure. It posits that the more self-organized users are attached to their equine, the more they think that being autonomous allows them to transmit and share their passion with their loved ones. In addition, the more self-organized users think that being autonomous enables them to transmit and share their passion with their relatives, the more important overall self-organization value is for them (H1b). Similar to transmission value, hedonic value also has a low alpha coefficient that is close to 0.6, which is the threshold value acceptable during exploration studies.

However, the concept of status value does not meet the necessary thresholds, so we did not retain this construct for the modeling phase. Table 4 presents the measuring scales of the 8 final constructs with the retained items used for the SEM model presented hereafter.

Table 4 Measuring scales of the retained items for the quantitative survey with AFE results.

Origin	Original item in the literature	Original item in English	Code	Concept
Aurier et al. (2004)	Globalement, je considère qu'aller au cinéma, ça vaut bien l'énergie que j'y consacre	Overall, being autonomous in the management and maintenance of my equine(s) is well worth the energy and	Val1	Overall Value

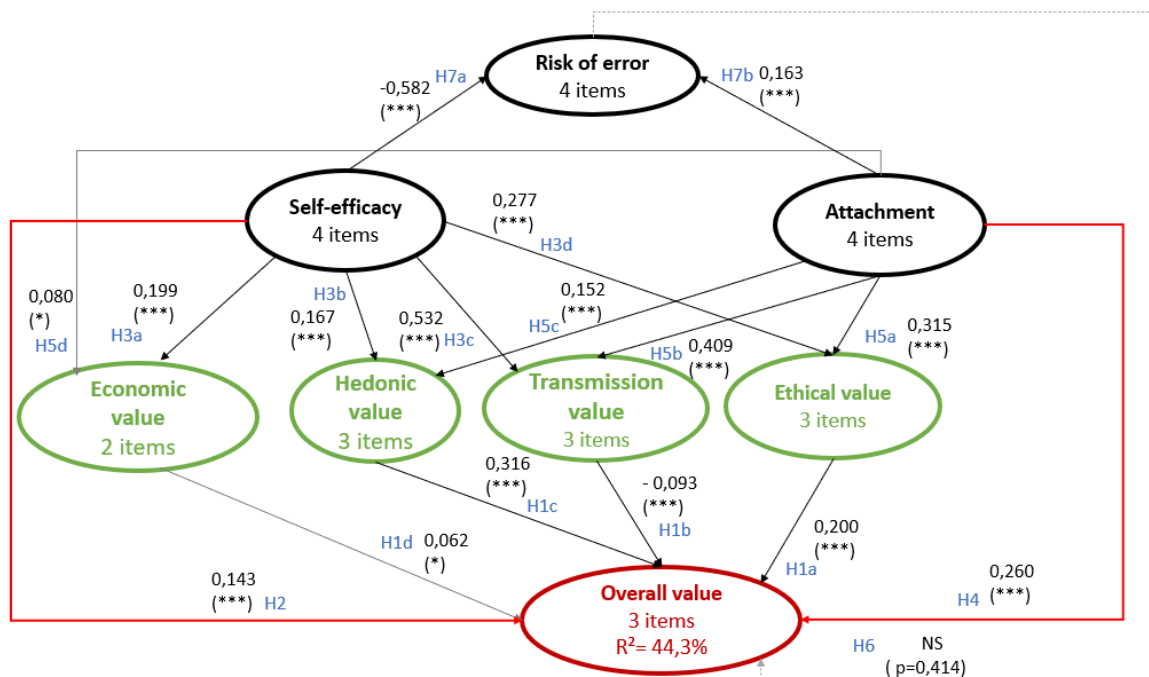
		time I put into it		
	Globalement, le cinéma ça vaut bien les sacrifices que je consens	Overall, being autonomous in the management of my equine(s) is well worth the sacrifices I make	Val2	
Qualitative survey		Having my horse(s) at home is irreplaceable	Val3	
Scholz <i>et al.</i> , (2002)	I am confident that I could deal efficiently with unexpected events	I am confident that I could deal efficiently with unexpected events	Selfeff1	Self-efficacy
	I can remain calm when facing difficulties because I can rely on my coping abilities	I can remain calm when facing difficulties because I can rely on my coping abilities	Selfeff2	
	I can handle whatever comes my way	I can handle whatever comes my way	Selfeff3	
	When faced with a problem, I can find several solutions	When faced with a problem, I can find several solutions	Selfeff4	
Mathwick <i>et al.</i> (2001)	XYZ are good economic value	This mode of organization is a good economic value	Eco1	Economic value
	Overall, I'm happy with XYZ's prices	Overall, I'm happy with the costs associated with this type of organization	Eco2	
Qualitative survey		Being autonomous in the husbandry of my equine(s) allows me to meet the needs of my equine(s)	Ethic1	Ethical Value
		Being autonomous in the husbandry of my equine(s) respects their wellbeing	Ethic2	
Innocent <i>et François-Lecompte</i> (2020)	1- Faire des économies d'électricité, je le fais pour la planète 2- Pour moi, faire attention à mes consommations d'électricité, c'est aussi pour le bien de la collectivité	I find it ethical to be autonomous in the husbandry of my horse(s).	Ethic3	
Mathwick <i>et al.</i> (2001)	I think XYZ's internet site is very entertaining	Being autonomous in the husbandry of my equine(s) is entertaining	Hedo1	Hedonic value
	I shop from the XYZ's internet site for the pure enjoyment of it	Being autonomous in the husbandry of my equine(s) gives me a sense of happiness	Hedo2	
Innocent <i>et François-Lecompte</i> (2020)	Maîtriser sa consommation électrique, pour moi, c'est contraignant	Being autonomous in the husbandry of my equine(s) is restrictive	Hedo3	
	J'aime partager mon expérience au sujet de la consommation d'électricité avec ma famille et mes relations	I like to share my experience about the husbandry of my equine(s) with my family and my relatives	Trans1	Transmission value
Qualitative survey		Being autonomous in the husbandry of my equine(s) allows me to transmit my knowledge to my friends and family	Trans2	
		Being autonomous in the management and care of my horse(s) allows me to continue my family's habits	Trans3	
Qualitative survey		I am afraid of making mistakes or errors in the husbandry of my equine(s)	Risqerr1	Risk of error
Innocent <i>et François-Lecompte</i> (2020)	Dans le domaine de la consommation d'électricité je suis gêné par le fait de ne pas toujours savoir comment faire	In the field of husbandry of my equine(s), I am bothered by the fact that I do not always know how to do things	Risqerr2	
Gillet <i>et al.</i> (2008)	Dans mon sport, souvent je ne me sens pas très compétent	In my organization outside the structure, I often don't feel very competent	Risqerr3	
Qualitative survey		I'm worried or stressed about what might happen to my horse(s)	Risqerr3	
Bures <i>et al.</i> (2019)	When you feel bad, do you seek your pet for comfort?	When I feel bad, I seek comfort from my equine(s)	Attach2	Attachment
Rousseau <i>et al.</i> (2002)	I cannot live without this gambling game	I can't live without my equine(s)	Passion1	
	The new things that I discover with this gambling game allow me to appreciate it even more	The new things I discover with my equine(s) game allow me to appreciate it even more	Passion3	
	This gambling game allows me to live a variety of experiences	Being with my equine(s) allows me to live a variety of experiences	Passion4	

Structural Equation Models

Following this exploratory analysis, we tested different models to observe the distinct influence of value components. In the rest of this paper, we present the structural equation model based on the hypotheses proposed on Figure 2, which is considered as the best model. The fit indices are acceptable: SRMR = 0.074, and d-ULS = 2.167; d-G = 0.469 and Chi-square = 1661.971. The discriminant validity between all constructs is good (<0.9). This model explains 44.3% of the variance of the overall value of self-organization.

Considering the first hypothetical model proposed (Figure 1), we derived each hypothesis from both antecedents on the different value components: influence of attachment on value components: H5(a to d); influence of self-efficacy on value components: H3(a to d). Similarly, the influence of each value component on overall value constitutes hypothesis H1(a to d) (Figure 2).

Figure 2 Model presenting the overall value of the self-organized equestrians under the effect of two antecedents: attachment and self-efficacy and different value components (significance *** = 0 to 1%; ** = 1 to 5%; * = 5 to 10%)



The findings show a significant positive link between self-efficacy and attachment on the overall value of self-organization (Table 5). The direct influence of both antecedents demonstrates their importance as the more self-organized users are attached to their horse or feel confident about their skills, the greater the value of self-organization, confirming H2 and H4. Moreover, the ethical value (H1a), transmission value (H1b) and hedonic value (H1c) components have a strong positive significance on overall value. This confirms not only the importance given to equine welfare by self-organized users, but also the pleasure while caring for their animals. The negative influence of transmission value on overall value of self-organization (H1b) suggests that the more self-organized users appreciate being able to share with their loved ones, the less they value self-organization. Our initial hypothesis concerning the link between these two constructs is confirmed, but the influence is not the one expected. This might be explained by the fact that when you are self-organized you have time constraints linked with everyday tasks (e.g. cleaning pastures and stock management). These constraints reduce the available time that people can have with their loved ones to share their passion for horses. Economic value has a low significant coefficient proving that even if it is an important motivation to choose self-organization (Eslan et al., 2023), economical elements do not give high value to self-organization (H1d). Risk of error does not influence overall value, invalidating H6.

Self-efficacy negatively influences risk of error, confirming H7a. This result shows that the more you feel confident in your skills, the less you fear making mistakes in equestrian self-organization. This result confirms that self-efficacy related to self-organization influences the need to consider the risks inherent in autonomous practice, as shown by the qualitative interviews, and is often underestimated. Attachment to the equine positively influences all value components (H5a, b, c, d), and risk of errors (H7b). These findings show that the more people are attached to their equine, the more willing they are to transmit their passion to their

entourage, the more they want to offer good welfare conditions to their equines, and the more they enjoy being self-organized. In addition, they give more importance to the risk of making mistakes.

Table 5 presents the results of this model.

*Table 5 Regressions of the first model as presented in Figure 1 with the direct effect of self-efficacy and attachment on the overall value of self-organization (H2 and H4) (significant p-value in bold: *** \leq 0.01; 0.1 < ** \leq 0.05; 0.05 < * < 0.1)*

Regressions	Estimate	Std err	p-value
Ethical value ~ Attachment	0.315	0.038	0.000 ***
~ Self-efficacy	0.277	0.040	0.000 ***
Transmission value ~ Attachment	0.409	0.043	0.000 ***
~ Self-efficacy	0.152	0.049	0.002 ***
Risk of error ~ Attachment	0.163	0.034	0.000 ***
~ Self-efficacy	-0.582	0.028	0.000 ***
Hedonic value ~ Attachment	0.532	0.037	0.000 ***
~ Self-efficacy	0.167	0.043	0.000 ***
Economic value ~ Attachment	0.080	0.043	0.061 *
~ Self-efficacy	0.199	0.046	0.000 ***
Overall value ~ Attachment	0.260	0.058	0.000 ***
~ Self-efficacy	0.143	0.040	0.000 ***
~ Ethical value	0.200	0.043	0.000 ***
~ Transmission value	-0.093	0.036	0.002 ***
~ Risk of error	-0.031	0.038	0.414 (ns)
~ Hedonic value	0.316	0.045	0.000 ***
~ Economic value	0.062	0.035	0.074 *

Mediation Effects

This model also demonstrates the mediating effect of i) ethical value, transmission value, and hedonic value between attachment and overall value and ii) ethical value, transmission value, and hedonic value between self-efficacy and overall value. Table 6 presents the type of mediation effect of the different value components between self-efficacy and overall value, and Table 7 presents the mediation effect concerning attachment, according to the interpretation of Zhao et al. (2011).

The indirect effect of self-efficacy on the overall value is mediated by ethical value, transmission value, and hedonic value. The complementary mediation of ethical value and hedonic value is considered as a medium size effect (est <0.3). This indirect effect of self-efficacy on overall value is significantly stronger than the direct effect of self-efficacy on ethical value. We observe a similar mediation concerning the effect of ethical value and hedonic value between attachment and overall value. A non-mediation effect occurs for risk of error and economic values. These findings tend to prove that ethical value and hedonic value mediates the attachment to the equine, self-efficacy, and overall value of self-organization. This implies that overall value will be lower if ethical value and hedonic value are not respected and present during self-organization.

Concerning the mediation effect of transmission value, the results show a competitive mediation of transmission value between self-efficacy and attachment with overall value. The indirect effect of the mediation is indeed negative (Table 7). This effect can be interpreted as a sign of an omitted indirect path in the model (Zhao et al., 2011).

*Table 6 Mediation effects of the different value components between self-efficacy and overall value in the model (Figure 2) (significant p-value in bold: *** ≤ 0.01 ; 0.1 < ** ≤ 0.05 ; 0.05 < * < 0.1)*

Self-efficacy	Standardized estimate (std_all)	Std err	p-value	Type of mediation
Direct effect self-efficacy => Overall value	0.125	0.029	0.000 ***	Complementary mediation of ethical and hedonic value Competitive mediation of transmission value
Indirect effect ethical value	0.055	0.015	0.000 ***	
Indirect effect hedonic value	0.053	0.016	0.001 ***	
Indirect effect transmission value	-0.038	0.015	0.010 **	Non-mediation of risk of error and economic value of the construct of self-efficacy on
Indirect effect risk of error	0.018	0.023	0.419 (ns)	
Indirect effect economic	0.012	0.008	0.106 (ns)	

value				overall value
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Table 7 Mediation effects of the different value components between attachment and overall value in the model (Figure 2) (significant p-value in bold: *** ≤ 0.01 ; $0.1 < ** \leq 0.05$; $0.05 < * < 0.1$)

Attachment	Standardized estimate (std_all)	Std err	p-value	Type of mediation
Direct effect attachment => Overall value	0.193	0.035	0.000 ***	Complementary mediation of ethical and hedonic value
Indirect effect ethical value	0.063	0.015	0.000 ***	
Indirect effect hedonic value	0.168	0.028	0.000 ***	
Indirect effect transmission value	-0.038	0.015	0.010 **	Competitive mediation of transmission value
Indirect effect risk of error	-0.005	0.006	0.422 (ns)	Non-mediation of risk of error and economic value of the construct of attachment on overall value
Indirect effect economic value	-0.000	0.006	0.237 (ns)	

Discussion

Triggers for Self-Organization

In the equestrian context, this research highlights the importance of specific antecedents and value components in the overall value attributed to self-organization. Our study shows that, contrary to received ideas about elitism and social representation associated with horse riding (Bourdieu, 1979; Le Mancq, 2007), the status value does not seem to influence equestrian self-organization. On the contrary, other dimensions, such as transmission value, ethical value, and hedonic value, are important.

Ethical value, in our case, is strongly associated with equine welfare, and not with the ethical preservation of resources or the impression of participating in something bigger as shown in electricity consumption (Innocent et François-Lecompte, 2020). This highlights the

importance of the ethical component of value but also shows the necessity to adapt it to each study case, as different kinds of ethical arguments can be considered according to the context. In our case, equine welfare appears essential for self-organized equestrian people. These results confirm the finding about the importance of equine housing for horse-owners, shown by Hemsworth (2017) and Ruet et al. (2019).

This research brings an original point of view on transmission value. The literature showed the influence of a heritage value inherited from the entourage. This notion, shown by Medberg et Heinonen (2014) in the context of banking, influences providers' choice according to their family's previous experiences. However, in equestrian self-organization, the results reflect the idea of transmission to relatives. The transmission value consists in social sharing with its entourage. This transmission value deserves to be developed and investigated in new research in other sports.

Concerning autonomy, this research is promising. Specific factors like the different value components influence the importance of overall self-organization value, hence the choice to be self-organized. Unfortunately, the constructs of autonomy was not confirmed during the EFA, so not included in the model, but the strong influence of self-efficacy on the overall value of self-organization, hedonic value, economic value, ethical value, and risk of error proves the importance of trusting one's own ability to really value self-organization.

The non-significant effect of status value underlines an ambivalence about horse riding, which is often considered as elitist and as the self-expression of high social status. In equestrian self-organization, the status does not seem important in the overall value. The practice of equestrian activities is often perceived as being reserved for the higher socioeconomic classes (Bourdieu, 1979) with a prestigious status. The image of horses in magnificent stud farms with white fences is often representative of the privileged status of the owner. However, self-organized practitioners are more likely to come from diverse

backgrounds (Chantelat et al., 1998; Galewicz, 2017). People become self-organized either because of the passion for the animal or the passion for the activity, rather than for the status they acquire (Eslan et al., 2023). The status value of having a self-organizing equine is thus inconclusive.

The economic value is seen by Aurier et al. (2004) as part of the utilitarian value. The results are in line with these conclusions, as the economic value influences the overall value of self-organization. However, even if economic arguments are considered in the choice to self-organize (Eslan et al., 2023), this value is not as important as we expected.

The non-mediation effect result of risk of error suggests further investigation. Mitchell (1999) specifically calls for perceived risk research in leisure activities as empirical studies tend to focus on a medical approach of injuries risks, which are not the exact scope of this paper. Nevertheless, in these last ones, the notion of risk corresponds to the risks incurred in terms of health. The risk of error is thus composed by the perception of the risks incurred and the ability to manage these risks (Meyer et Verliac, 2004). In our case study, we can assume that people are worried about major risks for their horses, or worried about endangering their horses. This creates possible mental load and stress for self-organized users. Furthermore, this variable could be linked to people's skills, beliefs, and constraints. Adding constructs related to mental load and sacrifices could enrich the theoretical model to better understand the effect of the risk of error. These elements are in line with the results on the transmission value, which underline an omitted element that could be time constraints. Self-organized users sacrifice their available time to transmit their passion and organization. Finally, a question arises about the effect of sacrifices, constraints, and risks on overall value of self-organization, which opens the way to research avenues. Moreover, according to Zhao et al. (2011)'s interpretation, considering the risk of error as a moderator rather than a mediator should also be investigated in future research to enrich and improve the theoretical model.

The object of attachment, here the horse, is the self-organization keystone. The direct influence on overall value as well as its indirect effects via ethical value and hedonic value are of high importance in self-organization's overall value. These results are in line with the work of Le Clinche et al. (2017) who show that attachment to the horse is also the motivation to participate in equestrian shows. However, the link between attachment and transmission is new. Indeed, Medberg et Heinonen (2014) only showed that a form of relational inheritance was involved in the decision to choose a bank. This study, in self-organization context, shows that the attachment to the horse makes one want to transmit to relatives.

Measurement Scales Evaluation

The measurement of overall value in our study follows the work of Aurier et al. (2004). This measuring scale compares benefits and sacrifices of self-organization. This scale raises the question of how to measure the overall value in general. It would also be interesting to explore how constraints influence the model and the overall value, in line with Bornemann (2020) findings. Indeed, she shows that depending on how a person is engaged with his/her horse, the way time is consumed fluctuates, as the constraints differ according to individuals and the environment (Dashper et Brymer, 2019).

Even if this model seems promising, some limitations persist in this study, such as the low reliability of some constructs (i.e. attachment, transmission value), although sufficient for this type of modelling. Overall, the measurement scales need reworking to confirm the theoretical model, especially for the risk of error, transmission value, hedonic value, attachment, and overall value. This would enable to extend the use of this model to other self-organized activities. The number and variability of individuals in the sample could be increased. Thus, reworking the scales and the sample are prospective avenues.

Managerial Implications

With a focus on the consumer and the value components, this study allows a better understanding of the needs and expectations of self-organized users. Therefore, businesses' tasks are to adapt and innovate to meet individual consumers' expectations better. These results show the importance of adapting the services offer to the self-organized equestrian user's needs. This work raises the question of organization in terms of learning and the role of companies in training self-organized users. A learning program through apprenticeship should reinforce the search for autonomy instead of dependence for self-organized users. The self-organization phenomenon implies a strong contribution from the consumer-producer and a minor contribution from the providers. The provider role is seen more as a support than a creator of the final service (Rayna et al., 2015). Breaking away from a federal sport model, self-organized users are nevertheless sometimes forced to use commercial or private service providers for support (Gaubert, 2016). Thus, as observed in innovation on online platforms, equestrian companies can co-create new services according to the identified needs of their clients, to support them in their project.

This first approach of analyzing value components in equestrian self-organization shows the importance of specific values. Considering these results, a user typology approach would highlight the importance of specific values according to the different profiles of self-organized users and according to the organization types. Professional structures need to address this issue, to at least keep their customers or develop co-creation activities with these users. The notion of unperceived sacrifices, constraints, and risks remains to be considered. According to the self-organized users' expectations, several types of services are relevant. The attachment to their equine, their desire to respect its welfare, and the wish to transmit their way of living with their horse must be considered by professionals. A comparative analysis between self-organized users and users of professional structures would be

interesting as their values may differ and therefore influence the overall value of organization differently.

Conclusion

To conclude, this paper analyzes the effects of self-efficacy, attachment, and value components on overall value of self-organization. Economic value is not the main and only value to consider. Hedonic, ethic, and transmission values appear as major components and mediators of the influence of attachment and self-efficacy on the overall value. Nevertheless, these mediators' effects of value components can vary greatly according to the environment and the skills of the individuals, which limits the globalization of the results. Among all the effects on overall value of self-organization, we can notice the high importance of ethical value and the attachment to the animal. This research adds the concept of transmission value to the literature on autonomy in sport. At the same time, our results raise questions about the effects of risks, constraints, and sacrifices that are not completely encompassed in this study and open the way to further research on self-organization.

This study provides valuable results for the equine industry, suggesting the importance of adapting professionals' offer to self-organized equestrians to value components that are essential for the organization of these users. Equestrian services offered in the professional structures would then serve as a support by offering a network and adapted advice for self-organized people. Moreover, the case of self-organized equestrian users could be transferable, on the one hand, to other activities with animals, such as canicross or dog mushing, but also to activities without animals, as the roles of attachment and ethical value could be found in natural settings with hikers or the mountain with climbers, as suggested by Crockett et al. (2022).

This research warns of the need to keep an open mind about new self-organized practices and consumers' expectations that they reflect. Moreover, in the animal field research, animal welfare and its perceptions have to be deeply studied.

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Appendix : Table of initial items for quantitative survey constructs (in French)

Authors	Initial items	Variable name	Presence in final scale
Gillet et al. (2008) 6 items	AUTONOMY		
	Dans mon organisation Hors Structure, souvent je ne me sens pas très compétent	Risqerr3	X
	Dans mon organisation Hors Structure, j'ai le sentiment de bien réussir	Aut2	
	Dans mon organisation Hors Structure, je peux prendre des décisions pour la gestion de mon/mes équidé(s)	Aut3	
	Dans mon organisation Hors Structure, je me sens libre d'exprimer mes idées et mes opinions	Aut4	
	Mon mode d'organisation Hors Structure me permet d'être en contact avec des personnes pour lesquelles j'ai beaucoup de sympathie	Aut5	
	Dans mon organisation Hors structure, je me sens à l'aise avec les autres	Aut6	
Bures et al. (2019) 3 items	ANIMAL ATTACHMENT		
	Je passe du temps chaque jour à jouer ou faire de l'exercice avec mon/mes équidé(s)	Attach1	
	Je considère mon/mes équidé(s) comme un/des membre(s) de ma famille	Attach2	
	Quand je me sens mal, je cherche du réconfort auprès de mon/mes	Attach3	X

	équilibré(s)		
Rousseau et al. (2002) 4 items	PASSION		
	Je ne peux pas me passer de mon/mes équilibré(s)	Passion1	X
	Les choses nouvelles que je découvre avec mon/mes équilibré(s), me permettent de l'apprécier davantage	Passion2	X
	J'ai un sentiment qui est presque obsessionnel pour mon/mes équilibré(s)	Passion3	
	Être avec mon équilibré me permet de vivre des expériences variées.	Passion4	X
Scholz et al. (2002) 5 items	SELF-EFFICACY		
	J'ai confiance dans le fait que je pourrais faire face efficacement à des événements inattendus	Selfeff1	X
	Je peux rester calme lorsque je suis confronté(e) à des difficultés car je peux me fier à mes habiletés pour faire face aux problèmes	Selfeff2	X
	Peu importe ce qui arrive, je suis généralement capable d'y faire face.	Selfeff3	X
	Je suis certain de pouvoir accomplir mes objectifs	Selfeff4	X
	Lorsque je suis confronté(e) à un problème, je suis capable de trouver plusieurs solutions	Selfeff5	
Medberg et Heinonen (2014) 3 items	HERITAGE VALUE -> TRANSMISSION VALUE		
	Être autonome pour la gestion et l'entretien de mon/mes équilibré(s) me permet de continuer des habitudes familiales	Her1	X
	Ma famille m'a transmis ses connaissances dans la gestion et l'entretien de mon/mes équilibré(s)	Her2	
	Être autonome dans la gestion et l'entretien de mon/mes équilibré(s) me permet de transmettre mes connaissances à mes proches (amis ou famille)	Trans2	X
Matthwick et al. (2001) 2 items	ECONOMIC VALUE		
	Ce mode d'organisation est avantageux d'un point de vue économique	Eco1	X
	Dans l'ensemble, je suis content(e) des coûts liés à ce mode d'organisation	Eco2	X

From qualitative verbatim 6 items	RISK OF ERROR / SACRIFICES		
	Être autonome pour la gestion et l'entretien de mon/mes équilibré(s) est lourd à gérer au quotidien	Risqauto	
	Il est plus risqué pour mes équilibrés d'être Hors structure que d'être dans une structure professionnelle	Risquequi	
	Je suis inquiet(e) ou stressé(e) de ce qui pourrait arriver à mon/mes équilibré(s)	Risqerr4	X
	Je ne trouve pas le temps de faire autre chose que de m'occuper de mes équilibrés	Risqtps	
	Mon/mes équilibré(s) m'oblige(nt) à être présent et m'empêche(nt) de partir en vacances	Risqvac	
	J'ai peur de me tromper ou de faire des erreurs dans la gestion et l'entretien de mon/mes équilibré(s)	Risqerr1	X
Innocent et François-Lecomte (2020) 3 items	HEDONIC VALUE		
	Être autonome dans la gestion et l'entretien de mon/mes équilibré(s), c'est contraignant	Hedo3	X
	Pour moi, être autonome dans la gestion et l'entretien de mon/mes équilibré(s), c'est comme un jeu	Hedo4	
	Quand je suis autonome dans la gestion et l'entretien de mon/mes équilibré(s) et que mon/mes équilibré(s) est/sont bien, c'est une récompense à mes efforts	Hedo5	
Matthwick et al. (2001) 2 items	Être autonome dans la gestion et l'entretien de mon/mes équilibré(s) est distrayant	Hedo1	X
	Être autonome dans la gestion et l'entretien de mes équilibrés me procure un sentiment de bonheur	Hedo2	X
Innocent et François-Lecomte (2020) 4 items	SOCIAL VALUE		
	J'aime partager mon expérience au sujet de la gestion et de l'entretien de mon/mes équilibré(s) avec ma famille et mes relations	Trans1	X
	Ce n'est pas toujours bien vu d'être autonome dans la gestion et l'entretien de ses équilibrés	Soc2	
	Être attentif à la gestion et l'entretien de mon/mes équilibré(s) entraîne parfois des tensions au sein de mon foyer	Soc3	
	Je me sens un peu isolé(e) dans ma démarche d'être autonome dans la	Soc4	

	gestion et l'entretien de mon/mes équadé(s)		
Bhattacharya et al. (1995) 2 items	Dans mon groupe social, c'est considéré comme prestigieux de gérer ses équadés en autonomie	Statut1	
	Les personnes qui gèrent de façon autonome leurs équadés n'ont pas une très bonne réputation dans mon groupe social.	Statut2	
ALTRUISTIC VALUE / ETHICAL VALUE			
From qualitative verbatim 2 items	Être autonome dans la gestion et l'entretien de mon/mes équadé(s) permet de répondre aux besoins de mon/mes équadé(s)	Ethic1	X
	Être autonome dans la gestion et l'entretien de mon/mes équadé(s) respecte leur bien-être	Ethic2	X
Innocent et François (2020) 2 items	Je trouve éthique d'être autonome dans la gestion et l'entretien de mon/mes équadé(s)	Ethic3	X
	Être autonome dans la gestion et l'entretien de mon/mes équadé(s) donne l'impression de participer, à son niveau, à quelque chose de plus grand	Ethic4	
INSTRUMENTAL VALUE : KNOWLEDGE			
Innocent et François-Lecomte (2020) 4 items	J'aime en savoir plus sur la gestion et entretien des équadés	Conn1	
	J'aime observer mon/mes équadé(s)	Conn2	
	Cela m'est difficile d'obtenir les informations nécessaires pour être autonome dans la gestion et l'entretien de ses équadés	Conn3	
	Dans le domaine de la gestion et l'entretien de mon/mes équadé(s), je suis gêné par le fait de ne pas toujours savoir comment faire	Risqerr2	X
OVERALL VALUE			
Aurier et al. (2004) 3 items	Globalement, être autonome dans la gestion et l'entretien de mon/mes équadé(s) vaut bien l'énergie et le temps que j'y consacre	Val1	X
	Globalement, être autonome dans la gestion de mon/mes équadé(s) vaut bien les sacrifices auxquels je consens	Val2	X
	Globalement, être autonome dans la gestion de mon/mes équadé(s) vaut bien les risques que je dois prendre pour le faire	Valglo3	
From qualitative verbatim 2 items	Être autonome dans la gestion de mon/mes équadé(s), c'est au-dessus de tout, ce n'est pas mesurable	Novaleur1	
	Le fait d'avoir mon/mes équadé(s) chez moi, c'est irremplaçable	Val 3/ Novaleur2	X

Appendix 2 Cross loadings matrix

	Animal attachment	Economic value	Risk of error	Ethical value	Hedonic value	Overall value	Self-efficacy	Transmission value
attach2	0,554	0,026	0,093	0,209	0,279	0,265	0,011	0,148
passion1	0,613	-0,019	0,069	0,197	0,309	0,348	0,037	0,177
passion3	0,777	0,152	0,047	0,309	0,437	0,364	0,138	0,381
passion4	0,760	0,114	-0,023	0,270	0,472	0,392	0,254	0,407
eco1	0,043	0,617	-0,088	0,002	0,040	0,036	0,082	0,088
eco2	0,123	0,978	-0,171	0,164	0,231	0,231	0,223	0,152
risqerr1	0,106	-0,153	0,831	-0,117	0,029	-0,078	-0,447	0,016
risqerr2	-0,035	-0,138	0,852	-0,190	-0,082	-0,189	-0,519	-0,086
risqerr3	0,000	-0,069	0,771	-0,181	-0,041	-0,137	-0,419	-0,031
risqerr4	0,155	-0,190	0,544	-0,022	0,053	-0,004	-0,231	0,086
ethic1	0,301	0,112	-0,229	0,830	0,357	0,385	0,336	0,245
ethic2	0,282	0,072	-0,142	0,817	0,294	0,349	0,236	0,211
ethic3	0,246	0,151	-0,009	0,603	0,276	0,307	0,168	0,215
hedo1	0,368	0,186	-0,016	0,284	0,711	0,348	0,196	0,312
hedo2	0,446	0,139	-0,020	0,358	0,807	0,505	0,200	0,357
hedo3	0,436	0,154	-0,020	0,265	0,703	0,366	0,198	0,335
val1	0,373	0,169	-0,188	0,379	0,443	0,808	0,302	0,208

val2	0,373	0,156	-0,097	0,332	0,438	0,774	0,284	0,191
val3	0,404	0,154	-0,047	0,338	0,381	0,689	0,212	0,207
selfeff1	0,096	0,117	-0,401	0,231	0,112	0,204	0,724	0,133
selfeff2	0,101	0,168	-0,463	0,208	0,203	0,256	0,756	0,132
selfeff3	0,119	0,139	-0,402	0,267	0,181	0,242	0,772	0,139
selfeff4	0,225	0,206	-0,391	0,292	0,278	0,337	0,750	0,261
trans1	0,386	0,084	0,013	0,249	0,385	0,251	0,175	0,836
trans2	0,363	0,111	-0,034	0,239	0,355	0,179	0,168	0,823
trans3	0,130	0,195	-0,047	0,128	0,207	0,126	0,170	0,421