

Lecture 17 The Personality Situation Debate

Prof debates against himself

Personality psychology \neq social psychology

↑ some think this has lots of impact

↑ some think personality don't affect behaviour much.

- We perceive that ppl have personality.
- At the same time we see ppl doing things inconsistent with "personality". ← Maybe they behave based on situation instead?

#1 Personality case

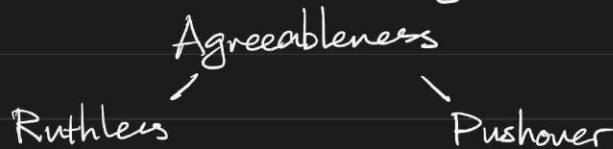
* Personality - stable psychology trait

→ Experiment: ask ppl to rate others personality. Find out there are clusters that correlate

* The Big Five (OCEAN)

- Conscientiousness: responsible, organised, commitment
- Agreeableness: friendliness
- Neuroticism: how emotional, how strong negative emotion
- Openness to experience: willingness to try things
- Extroversion: energy when interacting with ppl.

* Non-valenced Dimensions - no good bad, just description.



* Personality relatively stable (but could change)

Consistency increase over age. → evidence for personality?

* Other personality constructs

- need for plan
- focus
- ...

#2 Situation case

→ Milgram experiment situation affected behaviour?

High agreeableness ppl still shock ppl
not predicted

↳ Situation drives behaviour

→ Take priests from Princeton Seminary
Asks them to write sermons about helping someone

Experimenter: - take yr time
- do it quick
- you're late ignore

help
← situation overrides personality?

Then person lying on ground who needs help

→ Honesty study.

Give ppl opportunity to cheat

↳ Personality only explain 0.2 variance in integrity

→ Summer camp study

↳ No consistent for each other's personality rating

↳ Personality not a thing?

→ Look at big 5 in another language

↳ Get different dimensions

↳ Personality not really the thing
behaviour influenced by culture?

Why believe?

When looking at other's behaviour, we don't see their situation so we attribute their behaviour to personality?

→ Someone comes in now

- Others: onlg so late so low consciousness
 - Person's situation: hit by bus on the way
- ↳ they don't know this

Could be other differences other than "personality"

#3 Personality Block

→ Cheating Study (again)

There's noise!

If we look at honesty out of 10 things and another 10 things
↳ Correlation .71

→ Summer camp rebut

They don't know each other well yet

← Fraternity & Sorority study

Higher agreement! Ppl know each other better there

- Also, personality not strong at every dimension. They may only be consistent on a few



Consistency also a personality?

→ Milgram study

- Only 60% went all the way on the voltage
↳ so the difference could be personality

→ Prison study

- Those who like "prison study" more likely to sign up. Indeed these ppl who signed up with personality towards power, aggression, etc.

- Zimbardo admits differences in guard style.

→ Priest study

No difference in behaviour ≠ no difference in personality.

Maybe all priests act that way because of personality.

Need other groups in the study.

→ Another language

↳ Hey but that's still personality

#4 Situation Block

→ Summer camp

Fraternity / sorority is a situation. That creates social roles and situational behaviours.

→ Ask them to predict behaviour outside dorm

↳ agreement within dorm

but outside dorm — it doesn't predict

→ Milgram : 60% went all the way so individual differences

But we don't know if that 40% always not go all the way.

This might be noise.

#5 Summary

Debate! That's how science work!

Data can be interpreted differently.

Maybe both personality & situation play role.

Extrovert in party — extrovert

In party — in

In library — ex

Ex library — huh maybe in

← left as exercise for whoever wanting to decipher this



→ An idea for getting out of this debate is to say that personality is defined to be the consistent trait under each situation.