

CULTURE AND PERSONALITY

In a world in which ethnic and cultural pluralism is daily becoming more politically salient, it is striking that North American professionals constructs of personality and psychopathology re mostly culture bound, selectively reflecting the experiences of particular cohorts—those who are White, male, Anglo-Germanic, Protestant, and formally educated and who share a middle- and upper-middle-class cultural orientation. Lewis-Fernandez Keinman, 1994

Zeitgeists

There are fundamental differences among cross-cultural psychologists with respect to the presumed relation between culture and psychology. Some see psychology as a universal science of human nature in which culture is merely a system of environmental influences, no different in principle from such variables as social class or occupation. Others see human beings as so intimately the product of their language and culture that a completely different psychology is needed for every society.

McCrea, Yik, Trapnel, Bond, Paulas, 1998

**The gist of our argument is easily stated:
Personality traits, like temperaments, are
endogenous dispositions that follow intrinsic
paths of development essentially independent
of environmental influences.**

McCrea & Costa, 2000

1. Is the Five Factor model universal?

2. And if we find that the model is valid in other parts of the world like Korea and China, **does it mean that there are five universal traits under which all behavior and attitudes can be subsumed?**

3. And do the names for these five factor clusters really have application outside the western world:

Extraversion

Openness to Experience

Neuroticism

Agreeableness

Conscientiousness behavior systems

4. Are the five factors an artifact of the statistics used to identify the factors? As Harvard biologist Stephen Jay Gould noted in 1981 factor analysis can group together indicators that have no underlying source of causality. Just because these tendencies like emotionality are clustered together are they really related?