

# Personality predictors of positive prosocial development: A longitudinal study

Marek Blatný, Katarína Millová, Martin Jelínek and Marta Romaňáková

Institute of Psychology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Brno, Czech Republic

## AIM

The study aims to broaden the knowledge of the relationship between personality and generativity as an expression of positive prosocial development. The study tests personality predictors of generativity on the basis of longitudinal data and includes not only personality traits but also self-concept variables while examining five of the seven components of generativity within the McAdams and de St. Aubin model (1992).

## METHOD

### Sample

Participants from two longitudinal studies, the Brno and the Prague Longitudinal Studies of Life-Span Human Development.

Wave 1&3: 75 participants from Brno study (31 men, 44 women; mean age in the first wave 39.57, sd = 2.36; mean age in the third wave 52.64, sd = 0.93).

Wave 2&3: 150 participants from Brno and Prague studies (63 men, 87 women; mean age in the second wave 50.15, sd = 2.81; mean age in the third wave 54.82, sd = 2.88).

### Instruments

Wave 1&2: NEO-FFI (Costa & McCrae, 1992), Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (S-Est; Rosenberg, 1965), Generalized Self-Efficacy Scale (S-eff; Schwarzer, 1993), Self-Concept Clarity Scale (S-clar; Campbell et al., 1996).

Wave 3: Concern for the next generation - Loyola Generativity Scale (LGS; McAdams & de St. Aubin, 1992), Belief in the species - Social cynicism scale of the Social Axions Survey II (SAS II; Leung et al. (2012), Generative commitment - qualitative analysis of personal strivings (PSA ; Emmons, 1986), Generative action - Generative Behavior Checklist (GBC; McAdams & de St. Aubin, 1992), Personal story - qualitative analysis of episodes of autobiographical narratives (NAEs, McAdams, 2013).

## RESULTS

Prediction of generativity dimensions in wave 3 (55 years) based on personality and self-concept variables in wave 1 (40 years) and wave 2 (50 years) – regression analysis.

	LGS		SAS		PSA		GBC		NAE	
	40	50	40	50	40	50	40	50	40	50
Gender	0.06	0.11	-0.06	<b>-0.23</b>	0.11	0.07	-0.24	-0.05	-0.25	-0.04
NEOFFI (N)	-0.04	0.12	<b>-0.33</b>	-0.09	-0.03	-0.03	-0.04	0.14	-0.10	0.18
NEOFFI (E)	<b>0.53</b>	<b>0.45</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>0.23</b>	0.18	0.12	<b>0.35</b>	<b>0.36</b>	0.21	<b>0.30</b>
NEOFFI (O)	0.07	<b>0.20</b>	0.18	0.11	-0.22	-0.08	<b>0.24</b>	<b>0.27</b>	-0.05	0.01
NEOFFI (A)	-0.08	-0.01	0.17	0.15	-0.04	0.07	-0.12	-0.02	-0.03	0.05
NEOFFI (C)	-0.06	-0.02	-0.13	<b>-0.21</b>	-0.15	0.05	0.09	-0.02	-0.18	-0.03
S-est	0.15	0.15	0.02	-0.05	0.01	-0.16	-0.05	0.09	-0.12	-0.04
S-clar	-0.11	-0.02	0.10	<b>0.39</b>	0.12	0.18	-0.28	-0.09	0.05	0.22
S-eff	0.05	0.11	-0.15	-0.15	-0.24	-0.08	0.14	0.06	0.13	-0.07
R <sup>2</sup>	0.35	0.38	0.39	0.28	0.13	0.06	0.35	0.24	0.11	0.08
F(65,9 / 143,9)	<b>3.86</b>	<b>90.46</b>	<b>4.70</b>	<b>60.08</b>	1.10	10.02	<b>3.90</b>	<b>40.98</b>	0.88	10.40
ΔR <sup>2</sup>	0.01	0.019	0.02	0.07	0.03	0.02	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.02
ΔF(3,65 / 3,140)	0.44	10.45	0.57	<b>40.62</b>	0.84	0.99	1.73	0.41	0.33	10.11

## CONCLUSION

From the longitudinal point of view, extraversion is the main predictive factor of later generativity, and openness to experience also contributes to the prediction of generativity. A combination of personality features characterized by positive emotions, activity, assertiveness, creativity/inventiveness and sociability plays the key role in predicting generativity. In long term, these characteristics contribute to the interest in engaging socially, including guiding the next generation, and to actively implementing this interest.

Self-concept variables are not used as generously as personality traits in the prediction of generativity. All self-concept variables that we have included in our research are correlated with personality traits, especially with extraversion, emotional stability and conscientiousness (Judge & Ilies, 2002; Lodi-Smith et al., 2017; Orth & Robins, 2014), which may explain why the self-concept variables do not affect the prediction of generativity beyond the influence of personality traits.

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