An Integrative Framework to Study Wisdom

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Conceptual Problems with Wisdom Research and their Consequences

1. **Inconsistent terminology:** Disagreement on how the construct should be labeled (e.g., wisdom, wise reasoning, self-transcendence, dialectical thinking, sophia, phronesis, etc.). Results in jingle-jangle fallacies.
2. **Lack of consensual definition and multiplicity of wisdom models:** Results in multiplicity of nomological networks and definitions that do not converge.

→ Directly affects the diagnostic value of wisdom measures and their psychometric criteria.
→ Need for integration of different wisdom models to facilitate an effective accumulation and communication of empirical findings.

The Nomological Lens Model Network (NLMN): a Proposal Framework to Study Wisdom

The NLMN, developed by Rauthmann (2017), is a comprehensive framework to structure and integrate bodies of literature in a meaningful way. Applied properly, this framework can provide an overview of a given field using pre-defined categories. The NLMN can be used to foster hypothesis generation, theory building and to gain cumulative insights. Ultimately, the NLMN provides an iterative bottom-up approach to get from multiple working definitions to a consensual definition of psychological wisdom

Graphical Representation of the Nomological Lens Model Network
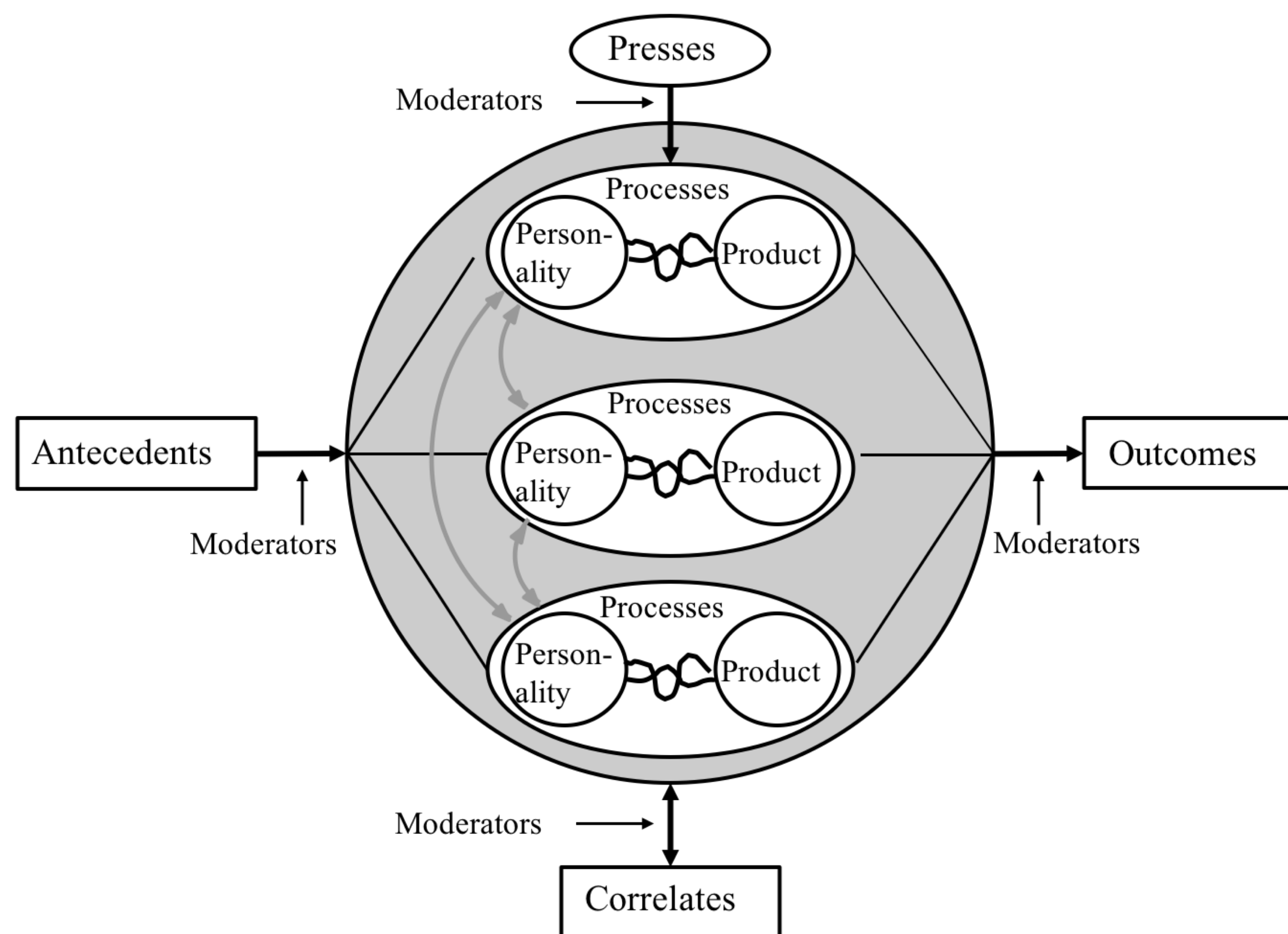
(Rauthmann, 2017)

Components of the NLMN

The diagnostic perspective:

Nomological network:
- constitutes **construct validity**
- the focal construct *wisdom* is represented within the "lens"
- *Wisdom* is specified through relations between and among the *Person, Processes,* and the *Product* component
- specifies relationships between the focal construct and antecedents, outcomes, correlates, and moderators.

Lens Model:
- evaluation of **criterion validity**
- assesses the symmetry and overlap between the *Person* and the *Product component.*

The personality psychological perspective:

The four Ps:
- **Person(ality):** Wise personality traits (e.g., openness to experience; empathy, etc.)
- **Products:** Wise behavioral products (e.g., advice giving, mentoring, etc.)
- **Processes**: Mechanisms that directly link wise personality to wise products (i.e., mechanisms that cause or explain wise behavior)
- **Presses:** Situations that evoke wise behavior.

The four Ps are interrelated and wisdom should be expressed in all of the four Ps.

Benefits for Wisdom Research

1. Identification of *common vs. unique components* of different conceptualization of wisdom as well as *blind spots* in wisdom research.
2. Can be used as a framework to categorize and integrate different wisdom models and to get to an agreed-upon nomological network of wisdom.

Reference: Rauthmann, J. F. (2017, June 23). A Nomological Lens Model Network as a Framework to Organize and Synthesize Bodies of Evidence. https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/8GMJ7