

# Tolerance of immigrants in Japan: Big Five personality traits and population ratio of foreigners

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## Abstract

- We examine relationships Big Five personality and tolerance in areas with high numbers of foreigners.
- The results of analysis suggest that Japanese people who show high Neuroticism and live in areas with many foreigners tend not to accept the immigrants.

## Introduction

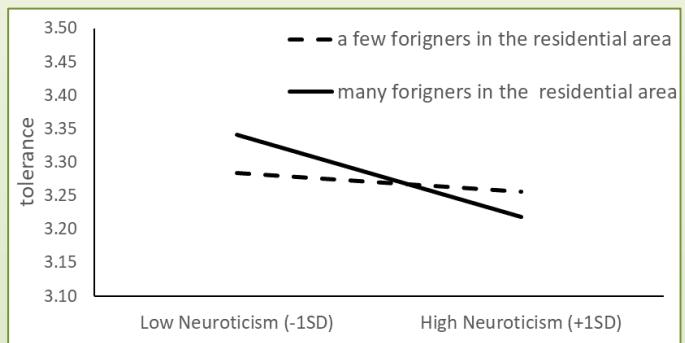
- An issue in immigration is whether local inhabitants accept the different cultural backgrounds and lifestyles of immigrants; namely, tolerance.
- Previous studies have examined the relationships between tolerance and demographic variables in Japan (e.g., Yamamoto & Matsumiya, 2010).
- It is important to examine people's reactions to immigrants because immigrant numbers are increasing in Japan (Nishinippon Shimbun, 2017).
- This study focuses on the Big Five personality traits associated with tolerance.

## Method

- Dataset: Data Sharing for Psychology in Japan (DSPJ) project, which is conducted in nationwide areas
- Participants: 4,358 Japanese adults (1,742 females and 2,616 males;  $M_{age}=49.68$ )
- IV:
  - Japanese Version of Ten Item Personality Inventory (TIPI-J; Oshio et al, 2012)
  - Population ratio of foreigners in the residential area (logarithmic transformation)
  - Interactive terms of each Big Five personality dimensions and the population ratio of foreigners
  - Demographic variables (sex, age, education level, household income, living in hometown, the number of years of the residence, marriage(alone, separation))
  - Regional variables (population density (logarithmic transformation), population ratio of 65 years old and over, rates of population change, ratio of single person households)
- DV: General tolerance (“We should tolerantly accept the people who have the opinions differing from ours even if they live according to them.”)
- Analysis: Stepwise multiple regression analysis

## Results

- Extraversion ( $B=.02, p<.05$ ), Agreeableness ( $B=.16, p<.001$ ), Openness ( $B=.06, p<.001$ ) are positively relation to general tolerance, on the other hand Conscientiousness ( $B=-.04, p<.01$ ) and Neuroticism ( $B=-.04, p<.01$ ) are negatively relation.
- A marginally significant interactive effect of Neuroticism and population ratio of foreigners on general tolerance is revealed ( $B=-.03, p<.10$ ).
- A simple slope analysis showed a significant negative relationship between Neuroticism and general tolerance in residential areas with many foreigners ( $B=-.06, p<.01$ ; Figure).



## Discussion

- The results suggest that Japanese people who show high Neuroticism and live in areas with many foreigners are low general tolerance.
- It is possible that the high Neuroticism people tend to feel threatened by the foreigners.