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; \(M_{\text{age}}=49.68\))
• 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

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. 

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 \((B=-.06, p<.01; \text{Figure})\).