

# Personality and Self in Sociocultural Context.

## Personality Traits in Relation with Self Independence and Interdependence.

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### ABSTRACT

In a sociocultural context, there are two basic modalities of self, most often referred to as an independent self and an interdependent self. **The independent self** is characterized by the notion of individual uniqueness, while the **interdependent self** is characterized by connectedness, and a tendency to think of oneself in terms of close relations with others.

### PARTICIPANTS

The research sample consists of 124 adults from the Czech Republic (92 females; an average age of 38.78).

SAMPLE					
Gender	female		male		Total
Frequency	92	32			n=124
Percent	74,2	25,8			100,0
Education	elementary school	high school	university		
Frequency	2	48	74		124
Percent	1,6	38,7	59,7		100,0
Place of residence	village (units up to 3000 inhabitants)	city (up to 150 000 inhabitants)	city (above 150 000 inhabitants)		
Frequency	33	44	47		124
Percent	26,6	35,5	37,9		100,0

### METHODS

Personality factors have been measured by the **Big Five Inventory (BFI-2)**. Self-independence and Self-interdependence have been measured by three different instruments.

	METHODS		N of items	Cronbach's Alpha (this study)
	ORIGINAL METHOD	CZECH TRANSLATION and ADAPTATION of the METHOD		
Big Five Inventory (BFI-2)	(Soto & John, 2017)	(Hřebíčková & Graf, 2017)	60	
Relational-Interdependent Self-Construct (RISC)	(Cross, Bacon, & Morris, 2009)	(Cerha & Alvarez, 2015)	11	
Cronbach's Alpha	.83	.851		.851
Self-Construct Scale (SCS)	(Singelis, 1994)	(Soková & Kebas, 2013)	30	
Cronbach's Alpha (Independent items)	.69 to .70	0.62	15	.697
Cronbach's Alpha (Interdependent items)	.73 to .74	0.60	15	.716
Individualism-Collectivism Scale (IND-COL)	(Singelis, Triandis, Bhawuk & Gelfand 1995; Triandis & Gelfand, 1998)	(Bartoš, 2010)	32	
Cronbach's Alpha (Collectivism items)	.65 to .77	.77	12	.781

**Correlation of the methods** used provides us with information about convergent validity. The Relational-Interdependent Self-Construct (RISC) is strongly related to the Interdependent self (SCS) and Collectivism (COL items). The strongest relation is between Collectivism (COL items) and the Interdependent self (SCS) ( $r=.717$ ).

Correlation of the Methods				
	RISC	SCS (independent)	SCS (interdependent)	COL items
RISC	1	-0,003	.596**	.569**
SCS (independent)	-0,003	1	-0,128	-0,012
SCS (interdependent)	.596**	-0,128	1	.717**
COL items	.569**	-0,012	.717**	1

\*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).  
\* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

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### RESULTS

As we have hypothesized, **Extraversion** (and its three facets) is related to the Independent Self concept. Although Extraversion correlates with the Relational-Interdependent Self and Collectivism, there is no significant relation with the Interdependence.

**Agreeableness** (and its three facets) strongly correlates with Collectivism. The Agreeableness trait is also moderately related to the Relational-Interdependent Self and Interdependent self. But there is no significant relation with the Independent Self.

**Negative Emotionality** and the Independent Self shows a mutual negative correlation.

Big Five Traits, Facet Scales & Self Independence/Interdependence				
	RISC	SCS (Independent)	SCS (Interdependent)	COL Items
<b>Extraversion</b>	.266 <sup>**</sup>	.499 <sup>**</sup>	0.104	.315 <sup>**</sup>
Sociability	.282 <sup>**</sup>	.330 <sup>**</sup>	.238	.361 <sup>**</sup>
Assertiveness	0.094	.504 <sup>**</sup>	-0.129	0.104
Energy Level	.273 <sup>**</sup>	.499 <sup>**</sup>	0.149	.296 <sup>**</sup>
<b>Agreeableness</b>	.296 <sup>**</sup>	0.065	.386 <sup>**</sup>	.494 <sup>**</sup>
Compassion	.390 <sup>**</sup>	-0.011	.493 <sup>**</sup>	.550 <sup>**</sup>
Respectfulness	0.168	0.047	.221	.241 <sup>**</sup>
Trust	0.172	0.115	.238 <sup>**</sup>	.413 <sup>**</sup>
<b>Conscientiousness</b>	0.166	0.120	0.155	0.110
Organization	0.093	-0.012	0.113	0.042
Productiveness	.217 <sup>**</sup>	.181	0.150	0.158
Responsibility	0.137	.187	0.149	0.104
<b>Negative Emotionality</b>	-0.080	-.386 <sup>**</sup>	0.049	-.221 <sup>*</sup>
Anxiety	-0.042	-.438 <sup>**</sup>	0.008	-0.145
Depression	-0.123	-.410 <sup>**</sup>	0.067	-.253 <sup>**</sup>
Emotional Volatility	-0.044	-.178	-0.035	-.186 <sup>*</sup>
<b>Open-Mindedness</b>	-0.059	0.163	-0.034	0.138
Intellectual Curiosity	-0.151	0.140	-0.117	0.092
Aesthetic Sensitivity	0.053	-0.076	0.138	0.125
Creative Imagination	-0.070	.355 <sup>**</sup>	-0.146	0.088

\*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

\* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

### DISCUSSION

A detailed study of three different concepts of Interdependence is highly desirable. According to results, we assume that Agreeableness and Extraversion pose crucial Personality traits in understanding Social Interdependence of the Self.

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