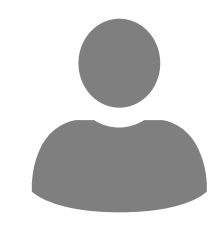


Influence of Big Five Traits on Ethnocultural Empathy

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INTRODUCTION

- Ethnocultural empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of people from racial and ethnic groups different from one's own.
- Ethnocultural empathy may be a function of personality.
- The predominant way of conceptualizing personality is via the Big Five traits: Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Neuroticism, and Openness.
- Of these, Agreeableness, Extraversion, and Openness may be most predictive of in ethnocultural empathy.
- Agreeableness and Extraversion are associated with creating and maintaining friendly relations with others.
- Openness is associated with greater acceptance of and curiosity about unique ideas and cultures.
- However, influence of the Big Five personality traits on ethnocultural empathy has not yet been examined empirically.

METHODS

- Study participants were 404 workers on Amazon's Mechanical Turk (see Table 1 for demographics).
- Measures: *Scale of Ethnocultural Empathy*, *Big Five Inventory*.
- We examined the influence of Big Five personality traits on ethnocultural empathy using a Bayesian approach to multiple regression.

RESULTS

- Big five personality traits accounted for a large portion of variance in ethnocultural empathy (see Table 2).
- Openness had the strongest association with ethnocultural empathy, with Agreeableness and Conscientiousness having more modest effects.

DISCUSSION

- Results suggest that ethnocultural empathy is influenced by but not synonymous with personality.
- The primary trait influence on ethnocultural empathy was Openness, which is also the most malleable trait.
- This raises the possibility of whether increasing Openness might also increase ethnocultural empathy, or vice-versa.
- Future research can examine these possibilities.

Being open is the most important personality characteristic related to ethnocultural empathy.



Table 1

Demographic breakdown of participant race and sex

	<i>n</i> (%)
Race	
Asian	24 (5%)
Black	31 (7%)
White	318 (78%)
Middle Eastern	1 (<1%)
Native American	3 (<1%)
Pacific Islander	1 (<1%)
Multiracial	10 (2%)
Hispanic	12 (2%)
No endorsement	3 (<1%)
Sex	
Male	210 (52%)
Female	187 (46%)
No endorsement	7 (1%)

Table 2

Relative Effects of Big Five Traits on Ethnocultural Empathy

	β	95% HDI	R^2
Agreeableness	.21*	[.12, .30]	.30*
Conscientiousness	.09*	[.00, .18]	
Extraversion	.02	[-.07, .10]	
Neuroticism	.07	[-.02, .17]	
Openness	.42*	[.34, .49]	

Note. * indicates 0 is not within 95% HDI.