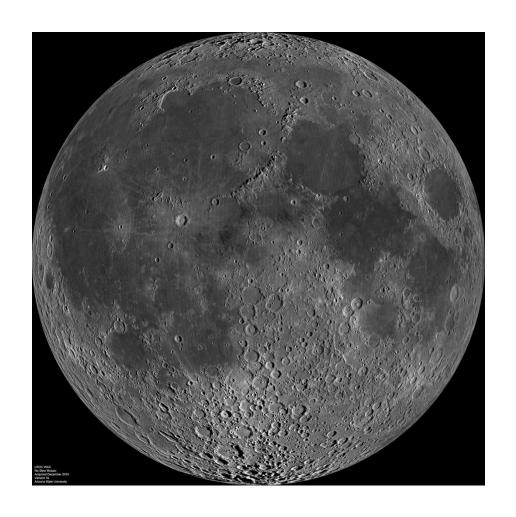
Far sides of the Moon: Reflexive characteristic adaptations

Sergei Shchebetenko

Perm State University, Russia

Oral presentation at the 2nd World Conference on Personality (Buzios, Brazil, April 4, 2016)

The Moon





Different standpoints on... personality traits



Lots of premises. The crucial ones

- The five-factor theory (McCrae & Costa, 1996, 2013)
- The theory of planned behaviour (Ajzen, 1991, 2015)
- The self-discrepancy theory (Higgins, 1987)
- Self-consciousness research (e.g., Fenigstein, Scheier, & Buss, 1975;
 Trapnell & Campbell, 1999)
- Personality architecture (Cervone, 2004)
- Self-memory system (Conway, 2005; Conway & Pleydell-Pearce, 2000)
- Hot intelligence (Abelson, 1963) and personal intelligence (Mayer, 2009)
- Metacognitions (Efklides, 2008; Nelson & Narens, 1994; Schraw & Moshman, 1995)

Lots of premises. The crucial ones

■ The five-factor theory (McCrae & Costa, 1996, 2013)

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The five-factor theory: traits as basic tendencies

Empirical and Theoretical Status of the Five-Factor Model

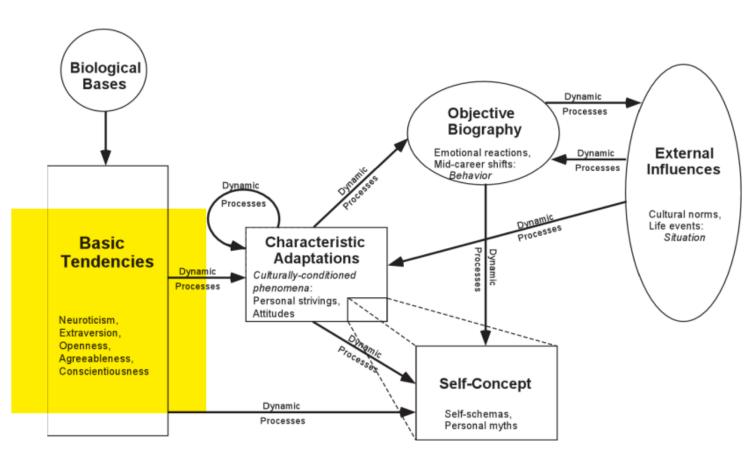
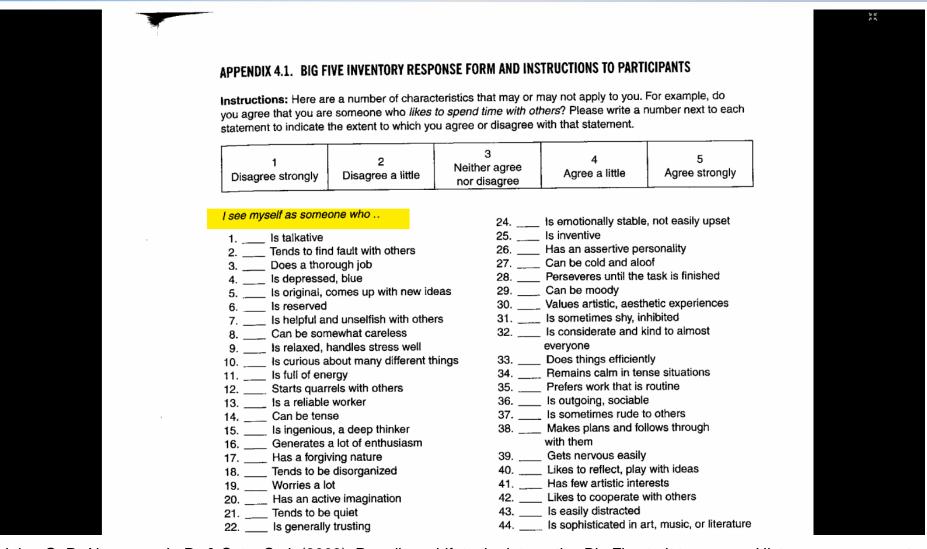


FIGURE 2.1. A schematic representation of the personality system. Adapted from *Can Personality Change*? (p. 22), by T. Heatherton and J. Weinberger (Eds.), 1994, Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. Copyright 1994 by the American Psychological Association.

Questionnaires present people with abstract, universal ideas



John, O. P., Naumann, L. P., & Soto, C. J. (2008). Paradigm shift to the integrative Big Five trait taxonomy: History, measurement, and conceptual issues. In O. P. John, R. W. Robins, & L. A. Pervin (Eds.), *Handbook of personality: Theory and research* (pp. 157). New York, NY: Guilford Press.

Questionnaires ask people about abstract, universal ideas



HEXACO-60

345

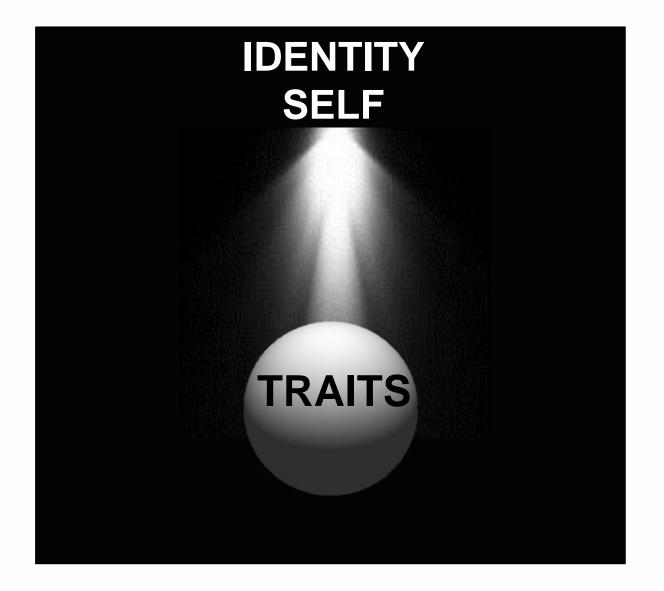
- 1. I would be quite bored by a visit to an art gallery.
- 2. I plan ahead and organize things, to avoid scrambling at the last minute.
- 3. I rarely hold a grudge, even against people who have badly wronged me.
- 4. I feel reasonably satisfied with myself overall.
- 5. I would feel afraid if I had to travel in bad weather conditions.
- I wouldn't use flattery to get a raise or promotion at work, even if I thought it would succeed.
- 7. I'm interested in learning about the history and politics of other countries.
- 8. I often push myself very hard when trying to achieve a goal.
- 9. People sometimes tell me that I am too critical of others.
- 10. I rarely express my opinions in group meetings.
- 11. I sometimes can't help worrying about little things.
- 12. If I knew that I could never get caught, I would be willing to steal a million dollars.
- 13. I would enjoy creating a work of art, such as a novel, a song, or a painting.
- 14. When working on something, I don't pay much attention to small details.
- 15. People sometimes tell me that I'm too stubborn.
- 16. <u>I prefer</u> jobs that involve active social interaction to those that involve working alone.
- When I suffer from a painful experience, <u>I need</u> someone to make me feel comfortable.
- 18. Having a lot of money is not especially important to me.
- 19. I think that paying attention to radical ideas is a waste of time.
- I make decisions based on the feeling of the moment rather than on careful thought.
- 21. People think of me as someone who has a quick temper.
- 22. On most days, I feel cheerful and optimistic.
- 23. <u>I feel</u> like crying when I see other people crying.
- 24. I think that I am entitled to more respect than the average person is.
- 25. If I had the opportunity, I would like to attend a classical music concert.
- 26. When working, I sometimes have difficulties due to being disorganized.
- 27. My attitude toward people who have treated me badly is "forgive and forget."

- 38. I always try to be accurate in my work, even at the expense of time.
- 39. <u>I am usually</u> quite flexible in my opinions when people disagree with me.
- 40. The first thing that I always do in a new place is to make friends.
- 41. I <u>can</u> handle difficult situations without needing emotional support from anyone else.
- 42. I would get a lot of pleasure from owning expensive luxury goods.
- 43. I like people who have unconventional views.
- 44. I make a lot of mistakes because I don't think before I act.
- 45. Most people tend to get angry more quickly than I do.
- 46. Most people are more upbeat and dynamic than I generally am.
- 47. I <u>feel</u> strong emotions when someone close to me is going away for a long time.
- 48. I want people to know that I am an important person of high status.
- 49. I don't think of myself as the artistic or creative type.
- 50. People often call me a perfectionist.
- 51. Even when people make a lot of mistakes, I rarely say anything negative.
- 52. I sometimes feel that I am a worthless person.
- 53. Even in an emergency I wouldn't feel like panicking.
- I wouldn't pretend to like someone just to get that person to do favors for me.
- 55. I find it boring to discuss philosophy.
- 56. I prefer to do whatever comes to mind, rather than stick to a plan.
- 57. When people tell me that I'm wrong, my first reaction is to argue with them.
- 58. When I'm in a group of people, I'm often the one who speaks on behalf of the group.
- I remain unemotional even in situations where most people get very sentimental.
- I'd be tempted to use counterfeit money, if I were sure I could get away with it.

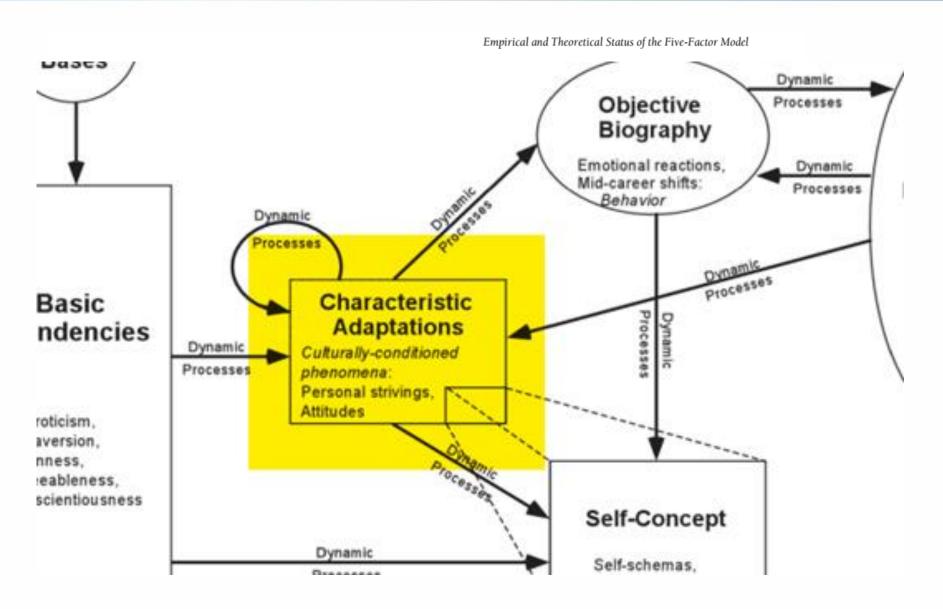
Scoring of HEXACO-60 Scales (see Table 1 for Facet-Level Scales):

Ashton, M. C., & Lee, K. (2009). The HEXACO–60: A short measure of the major dimensions of personality. *Journal of Personality Assessment*, 91(4), 340–345. http://doi.org/10.1080/00223890902935878

We usually consider traits from a single standpoint



The five-factor theory: characteristic adaptations



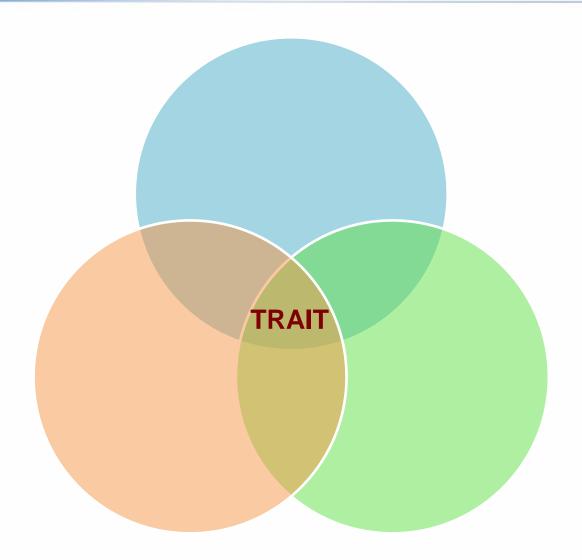
Reflexive characteristic adaptations (RCA)

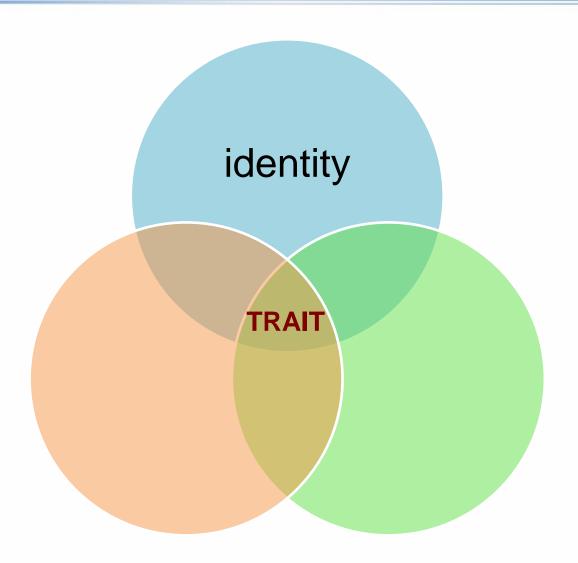
Opinions and interpretations by means of which individuals monitor, and reflect on, their personality traits and the personality traits idea in general.

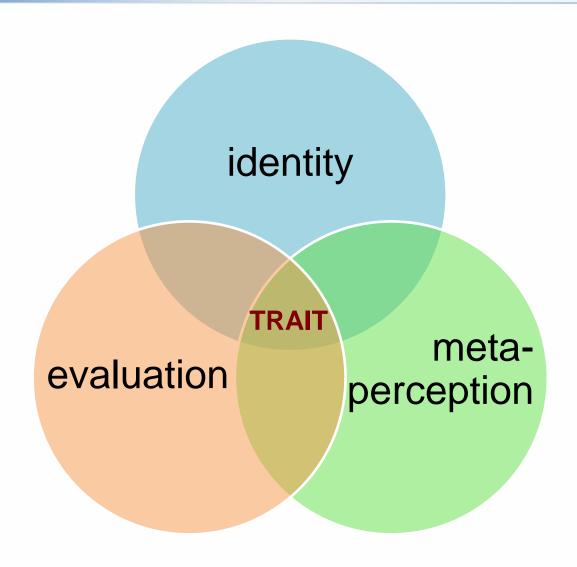
Reflexive characteristic adaptations (RCA)

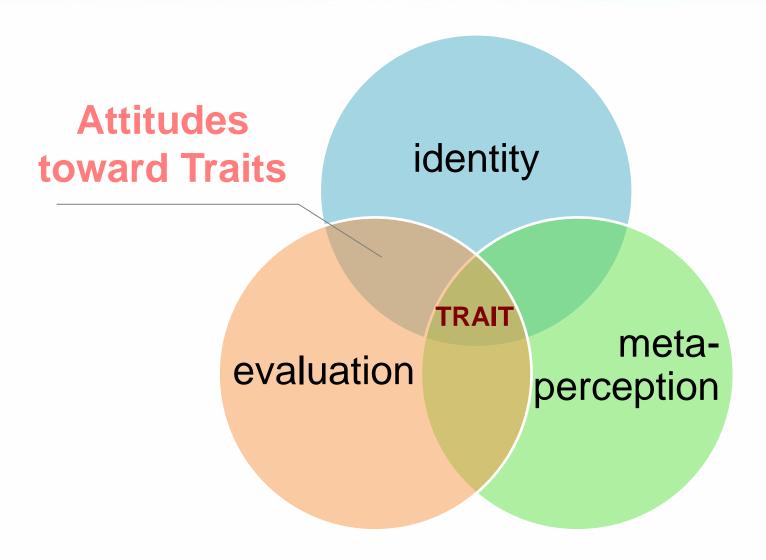
Opinions and interpretations by means of which individuals monitor, and reflect on, their personality traits and the personality traits idea in general.

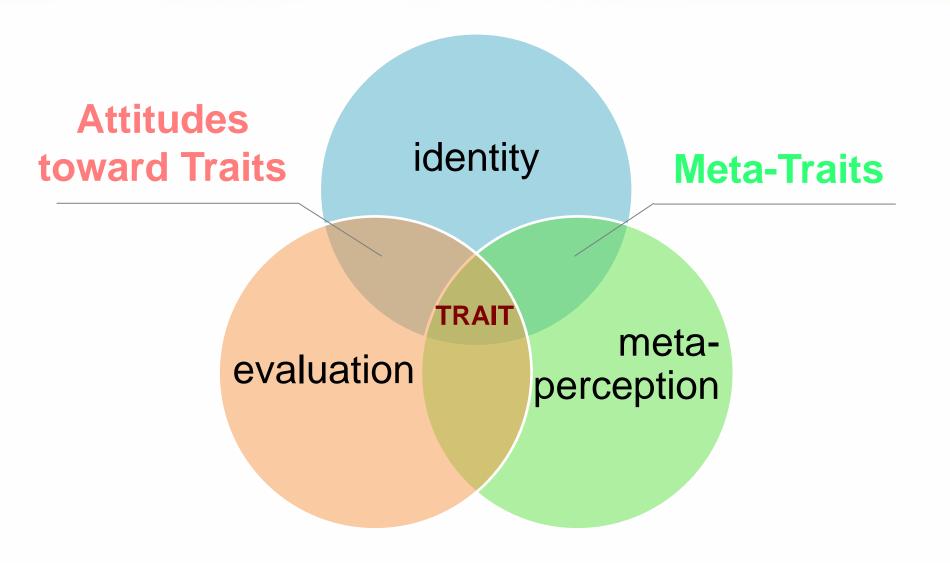


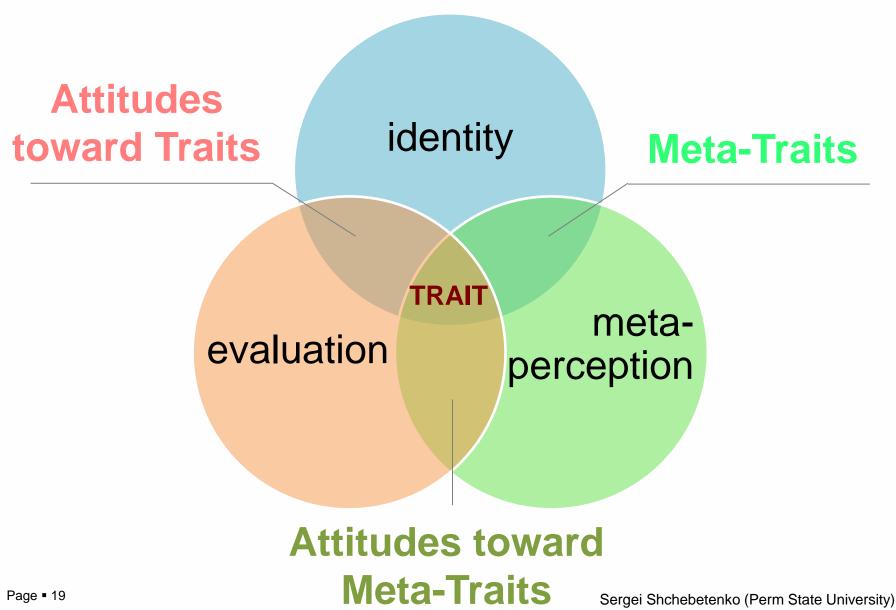












Attitudes toward traits

 Bipolar evaluations of a given trait, without direct reference to any person, including the individual her/himself.

Premises:

attitudes toward emotions (Harmon-Jones et al., 2011), positive and negative valency in the Big Seven model (Almagor et al., 1995; McCrae & Costa, 1995), general evaluative aspect (Bäckström & Björklund, 2014; Peabody, 1970), personal values (Parks-Leduc et al., 2015; Schwartz, 1992).

Test instructions:

Please indicate what you think about the personality characteristics listed below. Do you find the characteristic in question to be positive or negative? It does not matter whether you have this particular characteristic or not: simply *evaluate* it as it is.

Meta-traits

- Metaperceptual opinions on how significant others see one's personality
- Premises:
 - meta-insight (Carlson et al., 2011); positions and perspectives of others in the self (Felson, 1985;
 Gillespie, 2012; Higgins, 1987; Mead, 1934)

Test instructions:

This time, you are asked to indicate what your parents think of you. Do they believe you are a person who possesses a given trait or not? If you think they disagree regarding a given trait, please use an "average value method".

Meta-attitudes toward traits

 Metaperceptual opinions on what attitudes toward traits significant others have

Premises:

reflected appraisals (Cooley, 1902), ought self (Higgins, 1987)

Test instructions:

This time please indicate what you think your parents think (or thought) about the personality characteristics listed below. Do you believe they find (found) the characteristic in question to be positive or negative? Don't question whether your opinion is correct: simply make your guesses.

Methodology: questionnaires

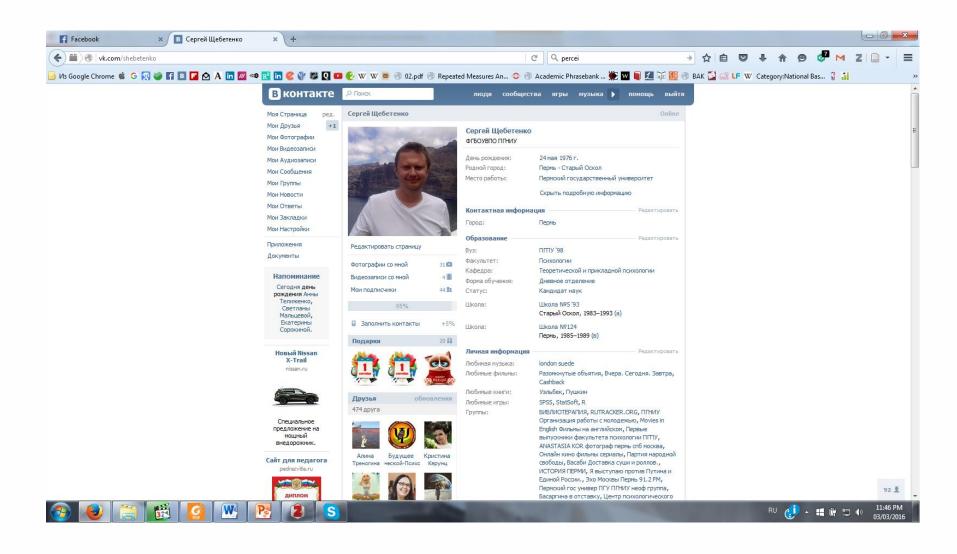
- The Russian version (Shchebetenko, 2014) of the Big Five Inventory (John et al., 1991, 2008) to measure the traits
- Three modified versions to measure RCA. Were changed:
 - instructions,
 - scale labels (e.g., 1 ("a very bad trait") 5 ("a very good trait") for attitudes)
 - items (1. "...is talkative" => "talkativeness"; 2. "...tends to find fault with others"=> "tendency to find fault with others")

Methodology: sample and outcome criteria

■ 1,030 undergraduate university students aged from 17 to 38 years (M = 19.65, SD = 1.72) including 691 women (67.1%).

- Two criteria:
 - academic achievement
 - online social networking behavior

Online social networking source: Vk.com



Outcome criteria and personality

Two criteria:

- academic achievement --> conscientiousness
 - meta-analyses (McAbee & Oswald, 2013; Poropat, 2009; Richardson,
 Abraham, & Bond, 2012; Trapmann, Hell, Hirn, & Schuler, 2007)
- online social networking behavior --> extraversion
 - empirical findings (Gosling et al., 2011; Muscanell & Guadagno, 2012; Ross et al., 2009)

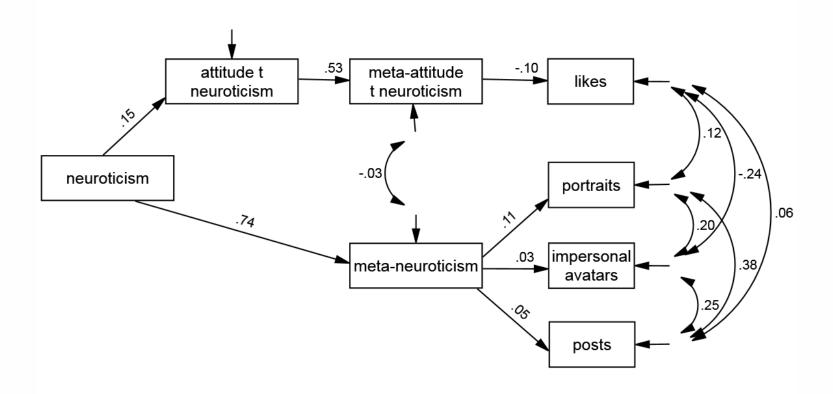
Outcome criteria and personality

Two criteria:

- academic achievement --> all five traits via RCA
- -online social networking --> all five traits via RCA

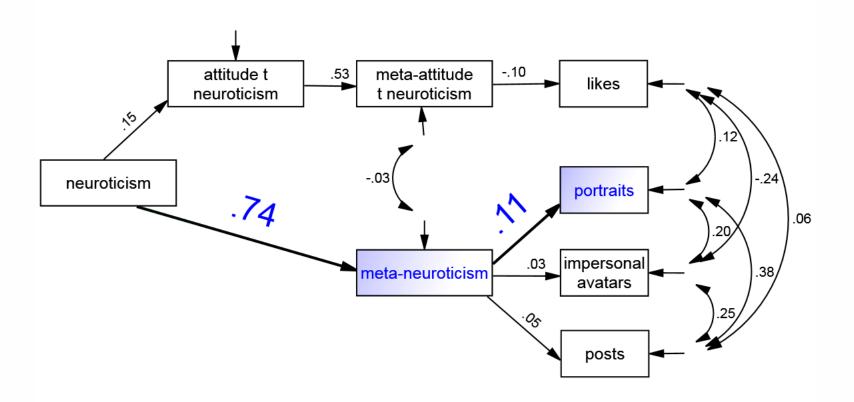
Results

Example 1: Neuroticism and online social networking behaviour



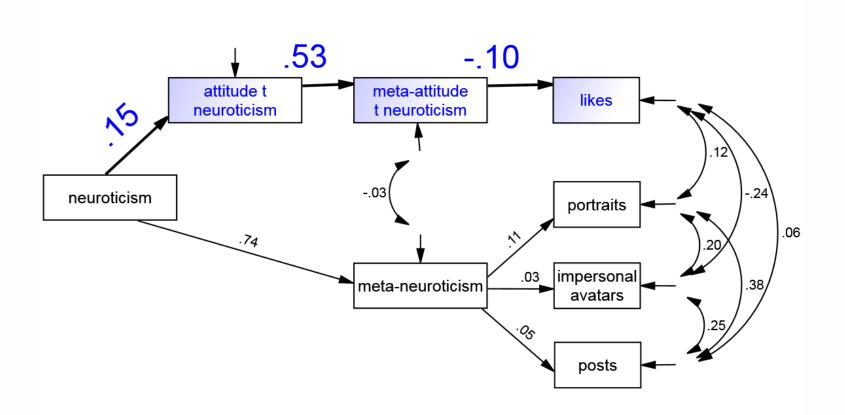
N = 830; $\chi 2 (14) = 15.77$, p = .328, CFI = .999, RMSEA [90% CI] = .012 [.000; .037]

Neuroticism positively related to users' activity via meta-neuroticism



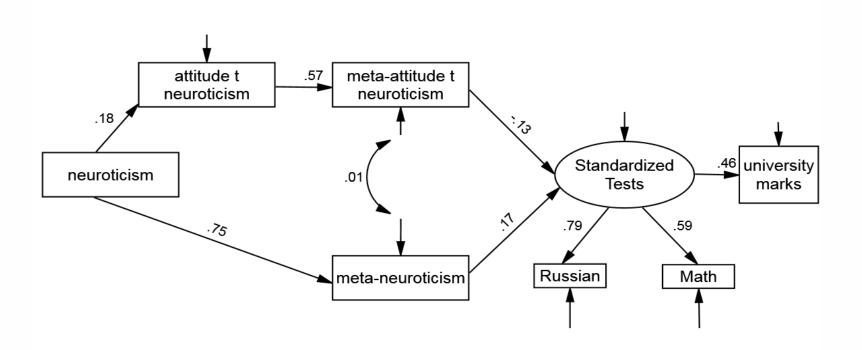
N = 830; $\chi 2 (14) = 15.77$, p = .328, CFI = .999, RMSEA [90% CI] = .012 [.000; .037]

Neuroticism negatively related to the number of likes via attitudes toward neuroticism



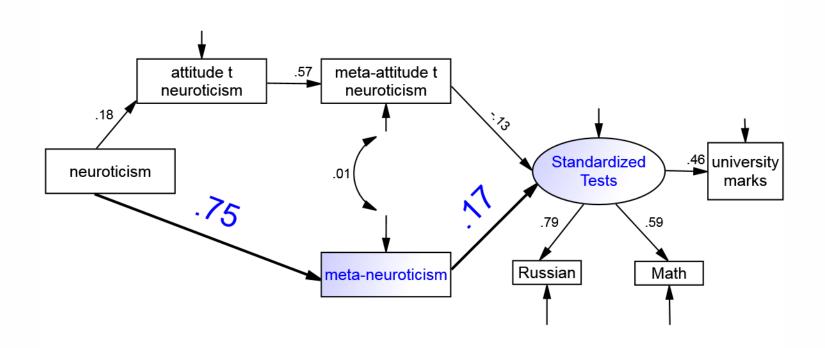
N = 830; $\chi 2 (14) = 15.77$, p = .328, CFI = .999, RMSEA [90% CI] = .012 [.000; .037]

Example 2: Neuroticism and academic achievement



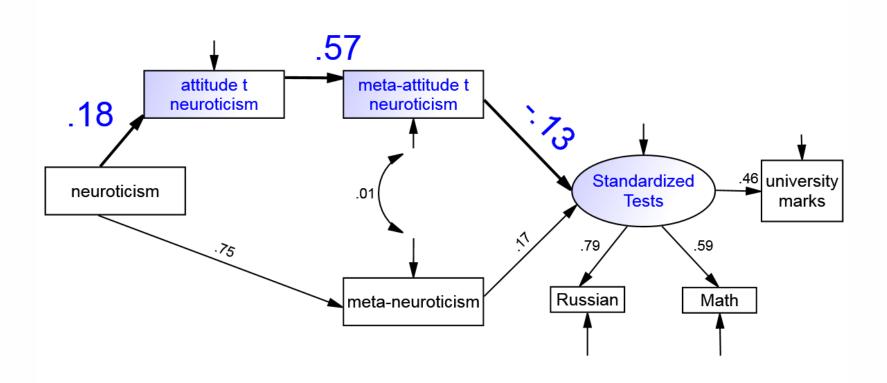
N = 739; $\chi 2$ (12) = 24.70, p < .05, CFI = .990, RMSEA [90% CI] = .038 [.016; .059]

Neuroticism positively related to standardized tests via meta-neuroticism



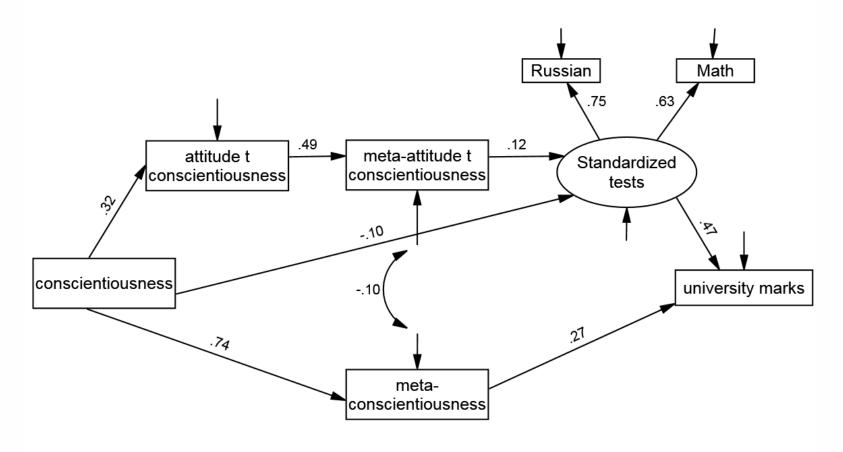
N = 739; $\chi 2 (12) = 24.70$, p < .05, CFI = .990, RMSEA [90% CI] = .038 [.016; .059]

Neuroticism negatively related to standardized tests via attitudes toward neuroticism



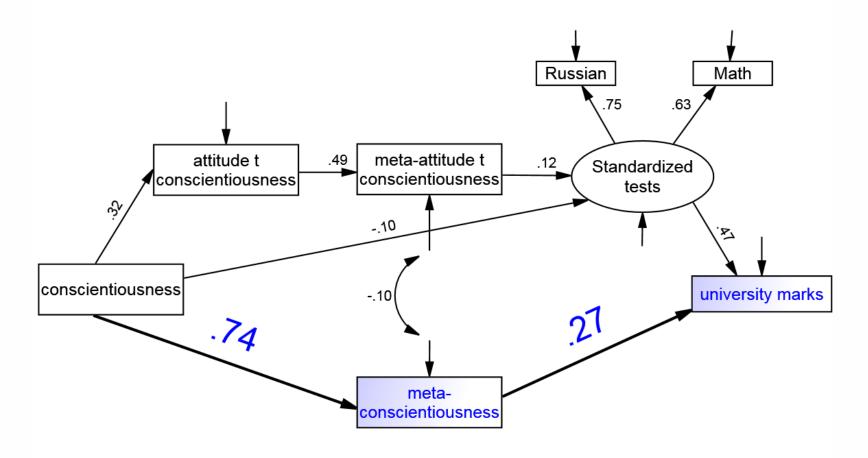
N = 739; $\chi 2$ (12) = 24.70, p < .05, CFI = .990, RMSEA [90% CI] = .038 [.016; .059]

Example 4: Conscientiousness and academic achievement



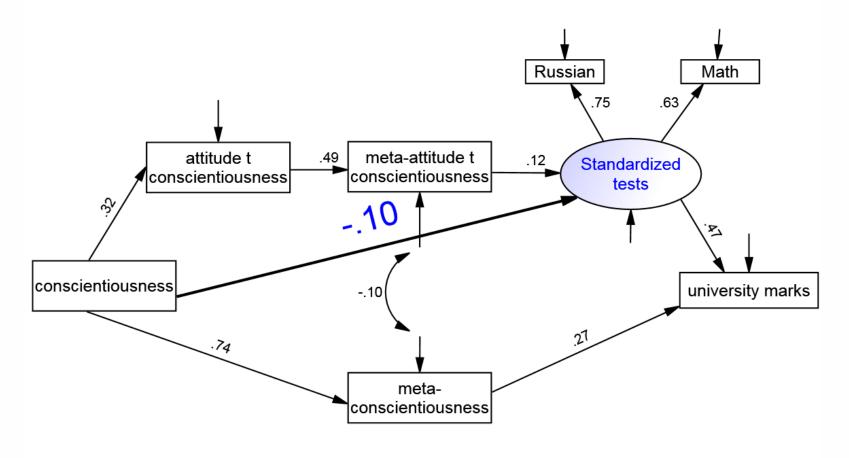
N = 739; $\chi 2 (11) = 15.48$, p = .162, CFI = .996, RMSEA [90% CI] = .023 [.000; .048]

Conscientiousness positively related to university marks via meta-conscientiousness



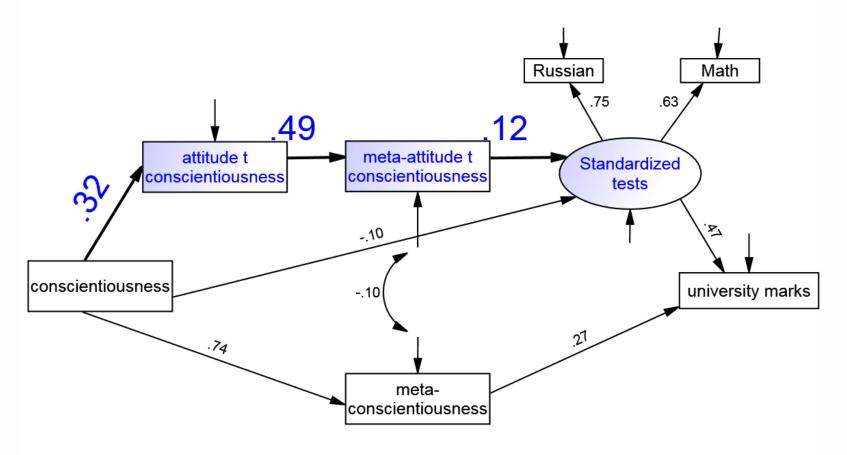
N = 739; $\chi 2$ (11) = 15.48, p = .162, CFI = .996, RMSEA [90% CI] = .023 [.000; .048]

Conscientiousness negatively related to standardized tests, directly



N = 739; $\chi 2 (11) = 15.48$, p = .162, CFI = .996, RMSEA [90% CI] = .023 [.000; .048]

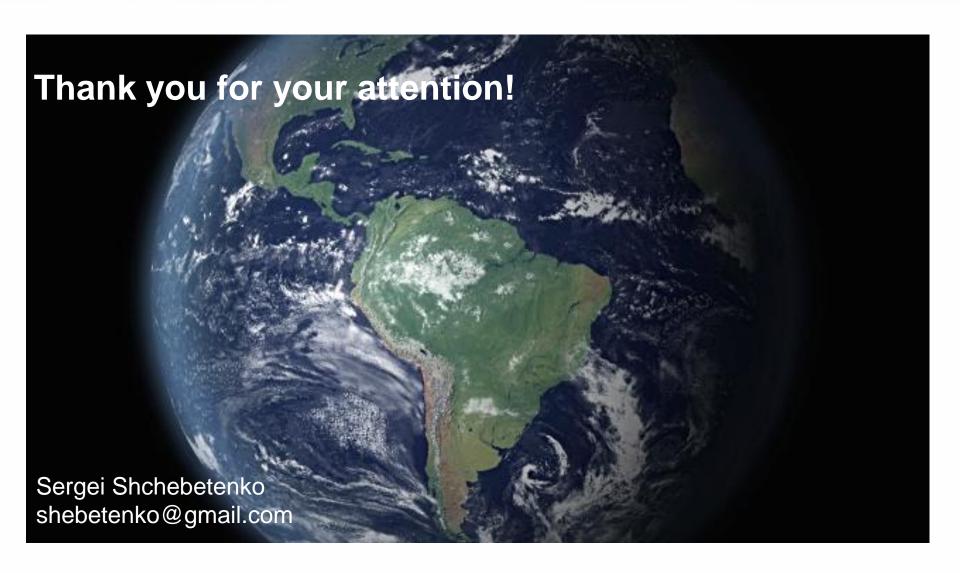
Conscientiousness positively related to standardized tests, via attitudes toward conscientiousness

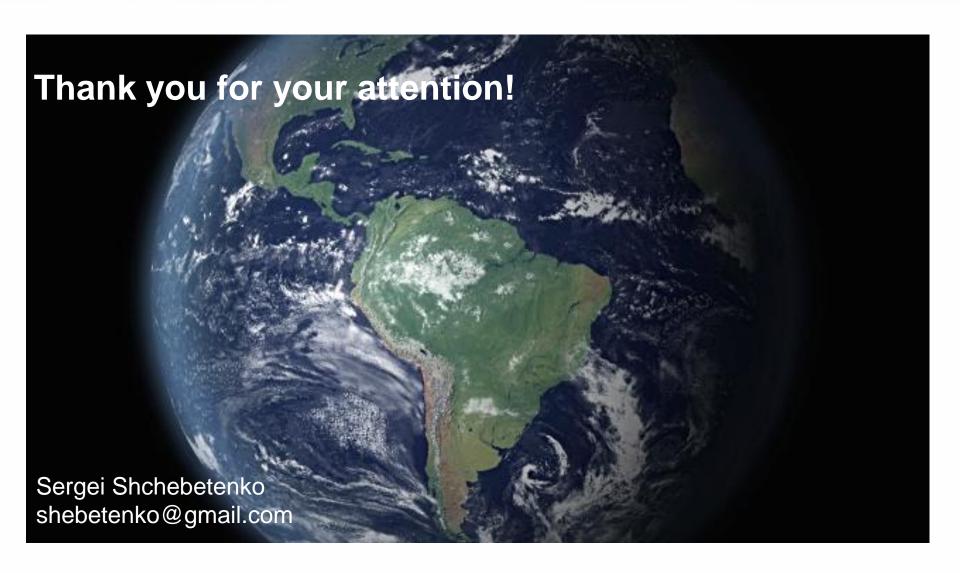


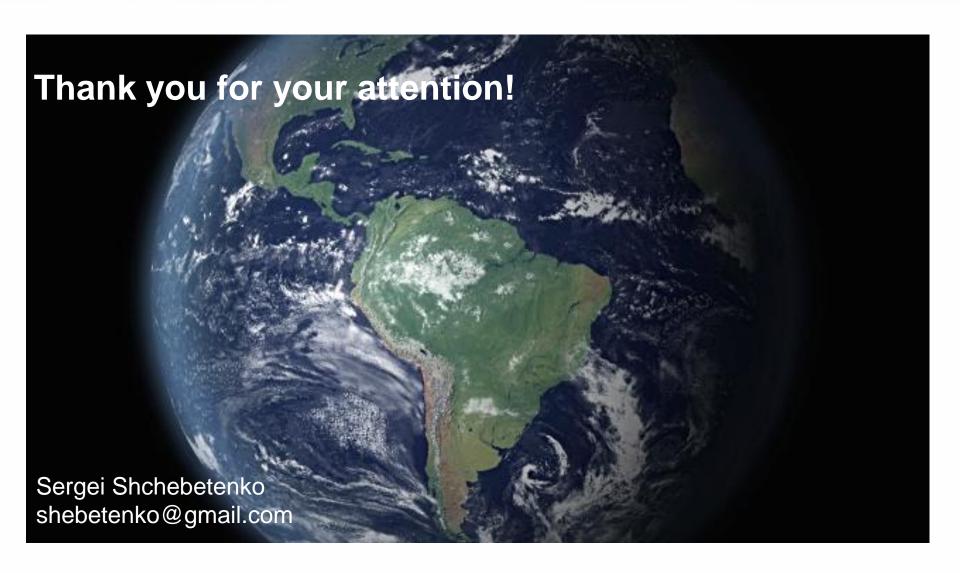
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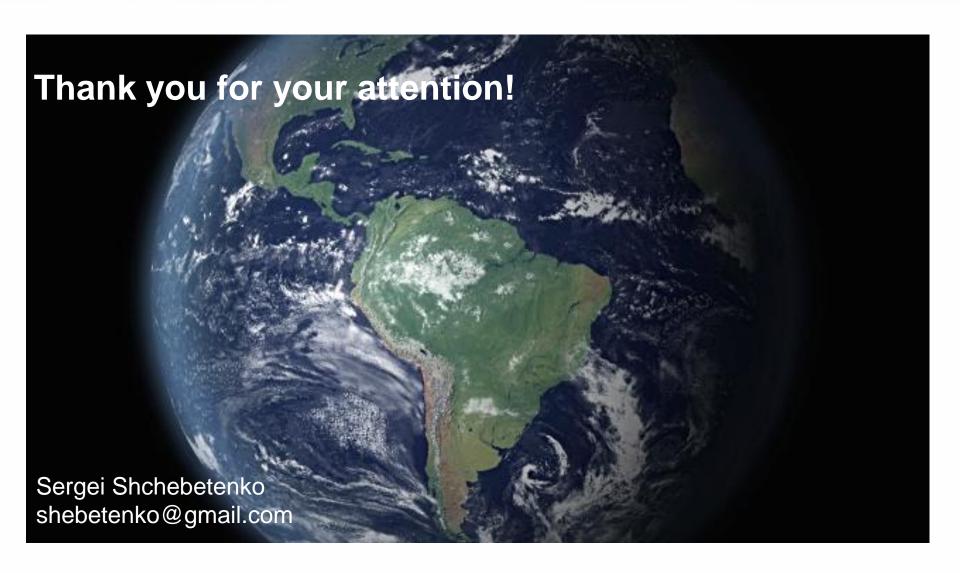
Hallelujah, a quick summary!

- An individual may have several standpoints on personality;
- These standpoints may be termed reflexive characteristic adaptations in terminology of the five-factor theory
- Reflexive characteristic adaptations provided incremental contributions to external criteria – over personality traits
- These contributions were either compensatory or amplifying

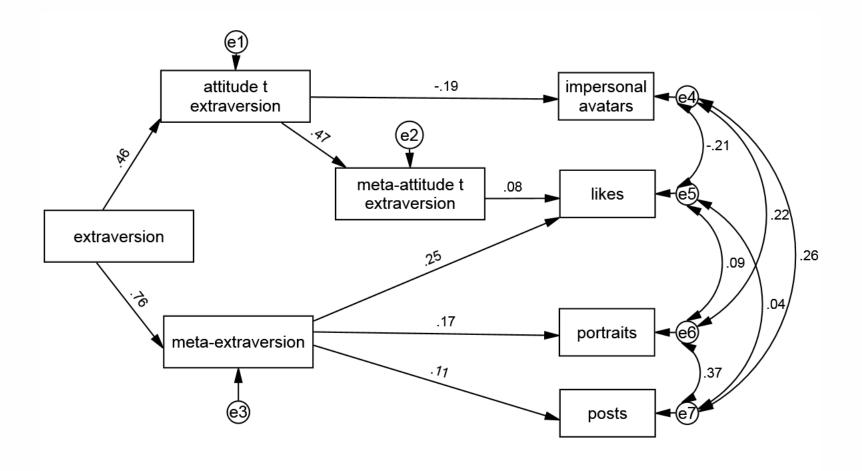






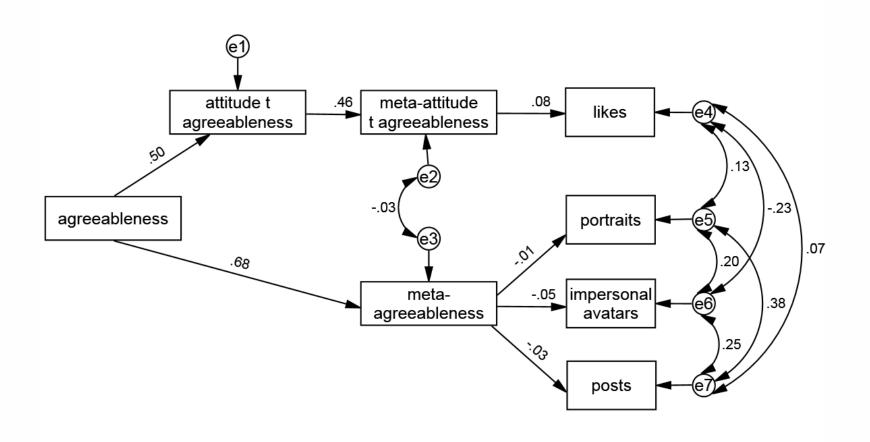


Extraversion and online social networking behavior



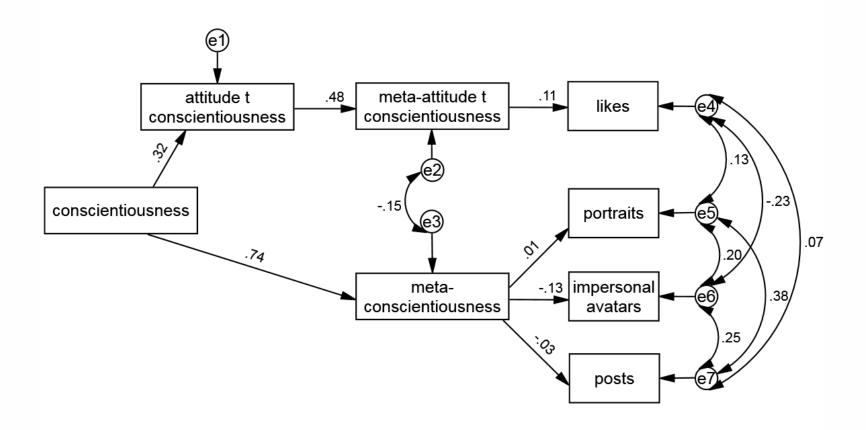
χ2 (14) = 30.21, p = .007, CFI = .989, AGFI = .977, RMSEA [90% CI] = .037 [.019; .056]

Agreeableness and online social networking behavior



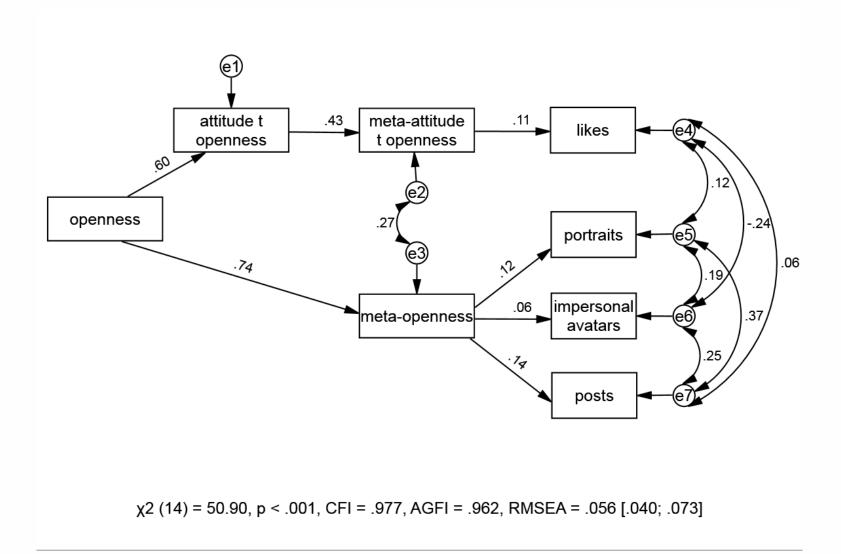
 χ 2 (14) = 49.02, p < .001, CFI = .972, AGFI = .963, RMSEA = .055 [.039; .072]

Conscientiousness and online social networking behavior

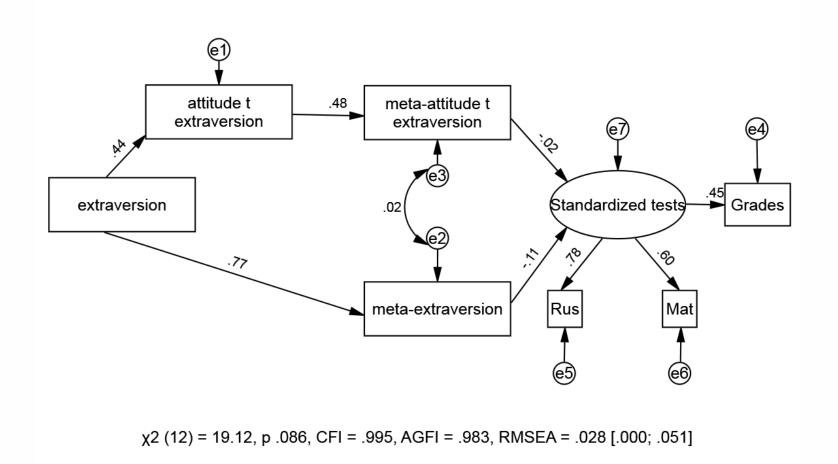


$$\chi$$
2 (14) = 22.10, p = .077, CFI = .988, AGFI = .987, RMSEA = .026 [.000; .046]

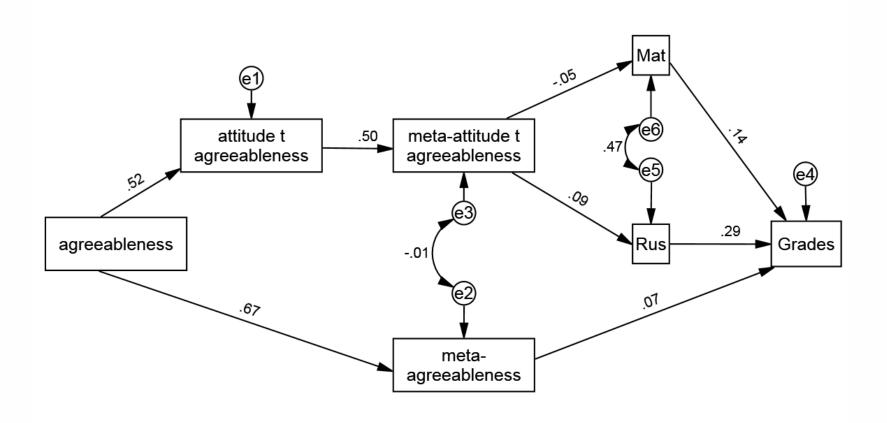
Openness and online social networking behavior



Extraversion and academic achievement

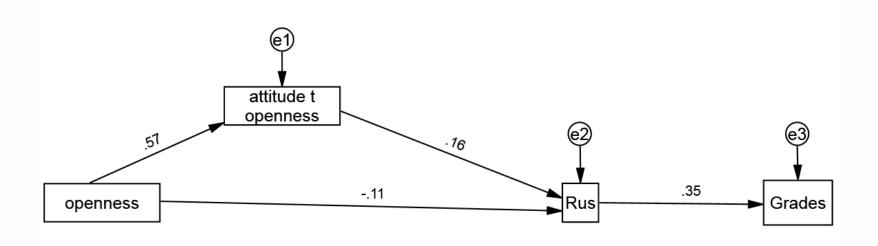


Agreeableness and academic achievement



 χ 2 (11) = 43.12, p < .001, CFI = .974, AGFI = .958, RMSEA = .063 [.044; .083]

Openness and academic achievement



 χ^2 (2) = 1.58, p = .453, CFI = 1.00, AGFI = .995, RMSEA = .000 [.000; .068]

Personality characteristics and online social network behavior: correlations (n = 830)

	Extraversion	Agreeableness	Conscientious.	Neuroticism	Openness		
			Traits				
Portraits	.178***	.025	.071*	.092**	.120**		
Impersonal	090*	019	129***	002	.034		
Posts	.093**	009	.028	.048	.142***		
Likes	.246***	.021	.097**	.077*	.098**		
		Attitudes toward traits					
Portraits	.087*	.027	.053	013	.087*		
Impersonal	214***	094**	088*	003	001		
Posts	.001	.046	.017	055	.094**		
Likes	.203***	.122***	.096**	001	.109**		
		Meta-traits					
Portrai ts	.169***	007	.017	.117**	.124***		
Impersonal	062	050	145***	.018	.057		
Posts	.107**	035	030	.058	.134***		
Likes	.266***	.016	.080*	.054	.084*		
	Meta-attitudes toward traits						
Portraits	.015	.035	.056	046	.039		
Impersonal	149***	082*	.003	006	022		
Posts	.014	.022	.037	047	.047		
Likes	.141***	.112**	.122***	112**	.124***		

Personality characteristics and academic achievement

	Extraversion	Agreeableness	Conscientious.	Neuroticism	Openness		
			Traits				
Math test	085*	015	080*	016	069		
Russian	102**	.005	083**	.179***	.049		
language test							
University grades	038	.037	.236***	.122**	.015		
	Attitude toward traits						
Math test	094**	048	010	063	019		
Russian	089**	.077	018	097**	.144***		
language test							
University	014	.095**	.074*	018	.011		
grades							
	Meta-traits						
Math test	087*	011	056	.024	056		
Russian	113***	008	042	.209***	.079*		
language test							
University	052	.094**	.274***	.164***	.026		
grades							
the C	Meta-attitudes toward traits						
Math test	053	056	.072*	049	037		
Russian	056	.092**	.084**	088**	.009		
language test							
	.060	.103**	.052	082*	.031		
grades							

Note. Math test (n = 773), Russian language test (n = 985), university grades (n = 764).

Table. Participants' sex, personality traits, meta-traits and attitudes toward traits as predictors of the participation at Wave 2 (hierarchical logistic regression analysis).

Predictors	Participation at Wave 2 (nyes = 277)						
	B (SE)	Wald's χ², p	Odds ratio [95% CI]	Cox and Sne R ²			
Step 1, χ ² (1) = 5.98, p < .001				.006			
*Sex (female = 2; male = 1)	.37 (.16)	5.81, .016	1.45 [1.07; 1.97]				
Step 2 $\Delta \chi^2$ (5) = 25.12, p < .001; The mode	el χ^2 (6) = 31.09, p	< .001		.030			
*Sex (female = 2; male = 1)	.40 (.17)	5.54, .019	1.48 [1.07; 2.06]				
*Extraversion	38 (.11)	11.59, .001	0.68 [0.55; 0.85]				
Agreeableness	.12 (.14)	0.69, .406	1.12 [0.86; 1.47]				
*Conscientiousness	.38 (.12)	10.93, .001	1.47 [1.17; 1.84]				
Neuroticism	.02 (.11)	0.02, .893	1.02 [0.82; 1.27]				
Openness	.14 (.12)	1.39, .238	1.15 [0.91; 1.46]				
Step 3 $\Delta \chi^2$ (5) = 17.06, p = .004; The mode			•	.046			
Sex (female = 2; male = 1)	.33 (.17)	3.65, .056	1.39 [0.99; 1.94]				
*Extraversion	40 (.13)	10.27, .001	0.67 [0.52; 0.86]				
Agreeableness	12 (.17)	0.50, .478	0.89 [0.64; 1.23]				
*Conscientiousness	.46 (.13)	13.27, < .001	1.59 [1.24; 2.03]				
Neuroticism	.00 (.12)	0.00, .973	1.00 [0.80; 1.26]				
Openness	.20 (.15)	1.61, .204	1.22 [0.90; 1.64]				
Attitude toward extraversion	.05 (.18)	0.08, .774	1.05 [0.74; 1.51]				
*Attitude toward agreeableness	.60 (.22)	7.55, .006	1.83 [1.19; 2.81]				
Attitude toward conscientiousness	47 (.24)	3.82, .051	0.63 [0.39; 1.00]				
*Attitude toward neuroticism	45 (.21)	4.55, .033	0.64 [0.42; 0.96]				
Attitude toward openness	31 (.23)	1.85, .173	0.74 [0.47; 1.14]				
Step 4 $\Delta \chi^2(5) = 22.05$, p = .001; The mode			(2,)	.066			
*Sex (female = 2; male = 1)	.35 (.18)	3.95, .047	1.42 [1.01; 2.00]				
Extraversion	.06 (.18)	0.09, .761	1.06 [0.74; 1.51]				
Agreeableness	.06 (.20)	0.07, .788	1.06 [0.71; 1.57]				
Conscientiousness	.14 (.19)	0.58, .445	1.15 [0.80; 1.66]				
Neuroticism	.08 (.16)	0.25, .615	1.09 [0.79; 1.49]				
Openness	04 (.20)	0.05, .827	0.96 [0.65; 1.41]				
Attitude toward extraversion	.13 (.19)	0.46, .497	1.14 [0.79; 1.65]				
*Attitude toward agreeableness	.76 (.23)	11.03, .001	2.13 [1.36; 3.33]				
*Attitude toward conscientiousness	53 (.24)	4.77, .029	0.59 [0.37; 0.95]				
*Attitude toward neuroticism	43 (.21)	3.97, .046	0.65 [0.43; 0.99]				
Attitude toward openness	39 (.24)	2.69, .101	0.68 [0.43; 1.08]				
*Meta-extraversion	58 (.16)	12.93, < .001	0.56 [0.41; 0.77]				
*Meta-agreeableness	39 (.18)	4.88, .027	0.68 [0.48; 0.96]				
*Meta-conscientiousness	.42 (.16)	6.92, .009	1.52 [1.11; 2.08]				
Meta-neuroticism	13 (.16)	0.64, .425	0.88 [0.65; 1.20]				
*Meta-neuroticism	.36 (.18)	3.91, .048	1.44 [1.00; 2.05]				

Note. N = 1,030; The predictors that contributed significantly are in an asterisk.