



Low Honesty-Humility gives high self-reported IQ

Drs. Petri Kajonius

University of Gothenburg, Department of Psychology, Sweden



Summary

The HEXACO model offers a complement to the Big-Five model, including a sixth factor, Honesty-Humility, and its four facets (Sincerity, Fairness, Greed-avoidance and Modesty). The four facets of Honesty-Humility and three indicators of intelligence (one performance-based Cognitive Ability test, one self-estimated SES, and one self-report of previous IQ test. **Figure 2**) were assessed in students entering higher education (Mean of 26 years, SD 11; N = 187; 60% women).

A significant negative correlation was observed between Honesty-Humility and self-reported intelligence ($r = -.37$), most evident in Modesty of the four facets (**Figure 1**).

The result may be interpreted as tendencies of exaggeration with a theoretical frame of psychological image-management. This concludes that the Honesty-Humility trait captures students' self-enhancing ambitions, particularly within the context of a competitive school culture such as Sweden's.

Results

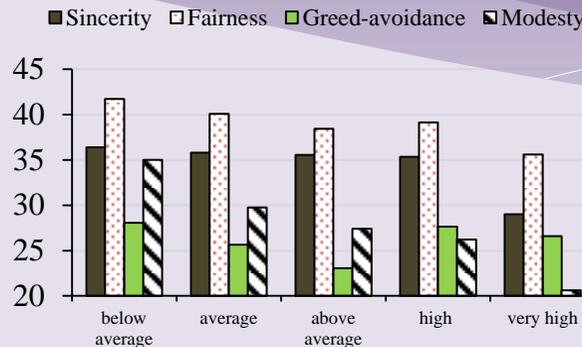


Figure 1. The higher self-rated IQ (right on the X-axe), the lower means of the four staples of Honesty-Humility (Y-axe, max 50). The Modesty-facet (grey-striped color) has the largest effect and is elaborated in Figure 2.

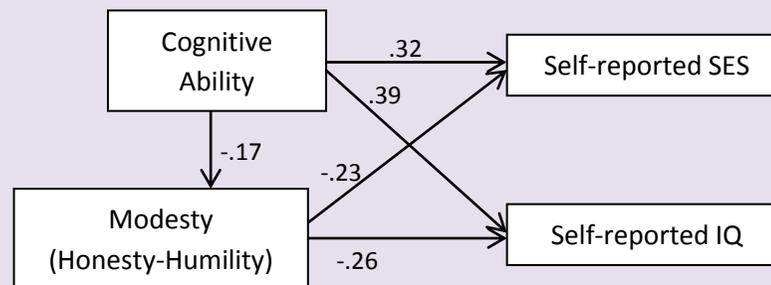


Figure 2. A SEM analysis of the relationships between the Modesty facet and the three measurements of intelligence. All regressions were significant at the $p < .002$ level.

Discussion

Interpreting the data, and recognizing that the current individualistic culture exerts pressure to optimize one's image, people with low Honesty-Humility seem to be more inclined to manipulate circumstances, other people, and even themselves into thinking they are more intelligent than they might actually be.

The results of this study demonstrate that exploring personality traits is important for understanding the rapid development of self-expression in our individualistic society.

Thanks for stopping by. Welcome to email me at: petri.kajonius@psy.gu.se

or login on:

<http://www.personality-psychology.vze.com/>

