

Personality and deviant peers' influence on alcohol use in adolescence

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One of the most important variables for alcohol use in adolescence is the friends' deviant behaviour. In addition, personality has also been consistently associated to alcohol use at this stage. The aim of the present study was to examine the direct, mediation and moderation effects of these two variables on adolescents' alcohol consumption.

Four hundred and ten participants (58% females) completed the Junior Spanish version of the NEO-PI-R (JS NEO), the Deviant Peers Scale (DPS) and the Alcohol Intake Scale (AIS).

OLS regression analyses showed simple main effects of Extraversion, Deviant Peers and, importantly, and interaction between low Conscientiousness and Deviant Peers in explaining alcohol use. SEM analyses also indicated that low Agreeableness was indirectly associated to alcohol use through the affiliation with deviant peers.

In conclusion, there seem to be both mediator and moderator effects between different personality traits and friends' deviant behaviour on alcohol consumption in adolescence.

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Personality and dwelling preferences: What kind of home matches the person?

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There are not dwellings fitting to everybody. Thus, we need an instrument to measure how much friendly is home to its inhabitants; how successfully can they satisfy their multiple needs (for security, privacy, sensory stimulation, etc.) at home. Based on the theoretical researches by Gibson, Heft, Coolen, Inglis we developed the questionnaire 'Friendliness of adolescents' dwelling environment'. Laddering interview, endless sentences, and essays were used. Participants were adolescents living in various home and home- vicarial dwellings. Due to the pilot study we identified key constructs used by adolescents in their descriptions of preferable and non-preferable dwellings. These constructs were linked to adolescents' needs. The list of these needs was added to the list of the needs proposed by 3 judges—environmental psychologists. Then the items pool (3 per every need) was completed. The more points the result shows the more favorable is home. Now, the questionnaire is being standardized.

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Personality and family variables in the explanation of emotional and behavioral problems in adolescents

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In the last decades a large volume of research on the role of family variables and personality has been generated in the explanation of adolescent behavior. In particular, the aspects that have received more attention from researchers have been the constructs of affect,

family conflict and parental supervisory level. Within the individual factors "temperament" variables such as impulsiveness, sensation seeking and empathy have been the most studied. In the present study we analyzed the role of personality traits and family variables on the manifestation of emotional and behavioral problems in adolescence. We will also examine to what extent personality and family variables and their relationship to behaviour vary as a function of gender. The study sample consisted of 1008 adolescents with a mean age of 14.11 years (53.1% male, 46.9% women). The relevance of these findings for the prevention of problem behaviors in adolescents is discussed.

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Personality and mental health: Further investigation for the decisive role of emotion-related traits

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Novel research shows that emotion-related traits, or trait emotional intelligence (TEI), can account for much of the effects of general personality and gender-linked personality traits on mental health. It remains unclear how to best represent these emotional personality dimensions to enable clinical measurement. Following from our development of a theoretically refined TEI composite (Siegling et al., 2013), the present study examines how to operationalize these traits, based on the predictive effects of four trait EI factors across two samples. In the second sample, Saucier's Mini-Markers and a new set of mental health indicators (depression, anxiety, stress, and life satisfaction) were utilized to examine the mediating effect of TEI – compared to our revised composite. Using both samples, a statistical regression approach using backward elimination yielded converging evidence to our theory-based findings regarding TEI's core elements. The discussion focuses on the implications for the on-going development of the TEI measurement domain.

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Personality change in Japanese emerging adults: Interactions of life events and susceptibility to experiences

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Individual differences in personality change have been considered from the viewpoint of life events. But, same life events do not necessarily cause same effect on everyone. The individual susceptibility to experiences should moderate the effect of life events in personality change. So, in this study, it is examined whether Big Five personality traits are influenced by the quality of life events experience during 20 weeks, and is also examined how fluctuations of self-concept and attachment status moderate this effect. Hierarchical multiple regression analyses revealed associations between positive life events and change in agreeableness and openness. Furthermore, it is revealed that individuals in avoidant attachment status are susceptible to positive life events on change in agreeableness, and is also revealed that individuals with high self-concept ambiguity are likely to change in openness by positive life events. These findings show particular individuals tend to change their personality more easily by life events.

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