



The construct validity of a brief measure of general and maladaptive personality

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Introduction

Ancient wisdom held that moral behavior is the mean between two extremes, one of excess and one of deficiency. A basic question in contemporary personality research is very similar: are problems in living associated with only one extreme of personality traits, or with both (Samuels, 2011; Widiger & Mullins-Sweatt, 2009)?

The Five Factor Form is one of the few measures of personality designed specifically to study this question (Rojas & Widiger, 2014). The present study replicates and extends previous research (Rojas, 2017) aimed at validating the measure's design and scoring: the components of the measure's items are examined for internal consistency, and then are subjected to factor analysis to better understand their underlying structure.

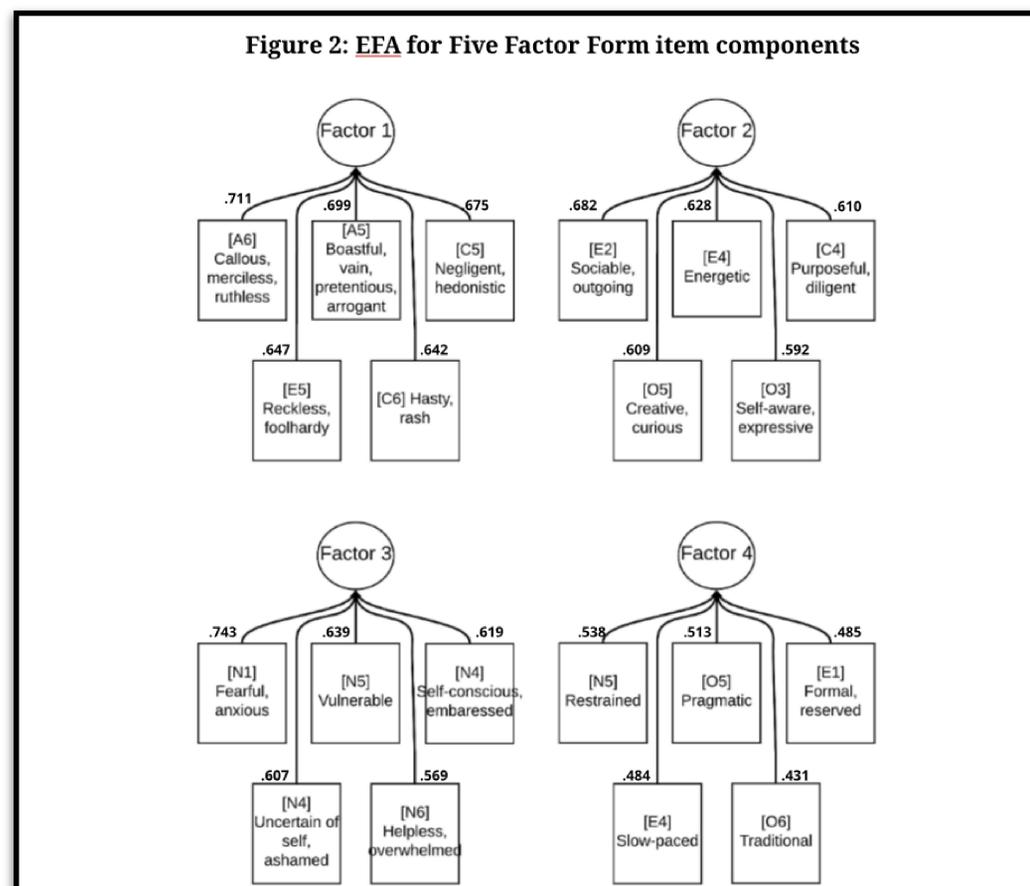
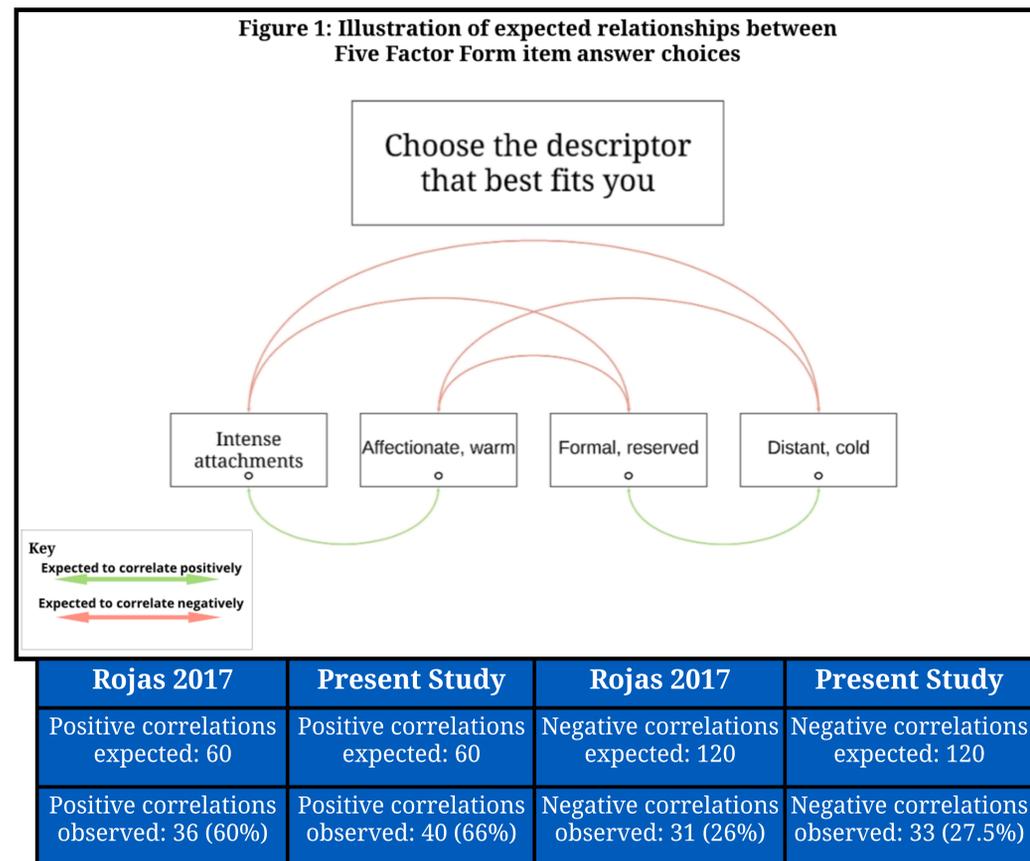
Methods

An undergraduate sample ($N=339$) attended a two-hour laboratory session during which they completed a variety of measures of personality, interpersonal behaviors, and general functioning. Among these measures were:

- The [Five Factor Form](#)
- The [HEXACO Personality Inventory](#)
- The [Big Five Inventory](#)

Analyses and Results

- Bivariate correlations were calculated for each set of four answer choices for each Five Factor Form item to see if they displayed the relationships expected of them
- Factor analysis was conducted to determine the underlying structure of the measure's items
- Bivariate correlations were then calculated for these new factor scores and scores on the other measures in the study



Items' internal consistency

- Consistent with previous research, the Five Factor Form's items displayed mixed internal consistency.

Items' factor structure

- The Five Factor Form is meant to measure the FFM. So it was expected that exploratory factor analysis would yield five factors that resembled FFM domains.
- A four factor solution proved to be the most reasonable fit for the data, however
 - Factor 1: Antagonism / Negative Valence
 - Factor 2: Extroversion / Conscientiousness / Positive Valence
 - Factor 3: Neuroticism
 - Factor 4: Detachment / Inhibition

Conclusion

The results suggest two things:

1. The Five Factor Form's item content may require adjustment
2. These results may have also been due to the influence of evaluation variance (Pettersson et al., 2014), and subsequent work will probably have to control for this by using bi-factor models instead of EFA

References

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