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People Tend To Cluster Into Four Distinct Personality 'Types,' Says Study

Posted by BeauHD on Tuesday September 18, 2018 @07:30PM from the sorting-hat dept.

An anonymous reader quotes a report from Ars Technica: A new study has sifted through some of the largest online data sets of personality quizzes and identified four distinct "types" therein. The new methodology used for this study - described in detail in a new paper in Nature Human Behavior -- is rigorous and replicable, which could help move personality typing analysis out of the dubious self-help section in your local bookstore and into serious scientific journals.

Average: These people score high in neuroticism and extraversion, but score low in openness. It is the most typical category, with women being more likely than men to fit into it.

Reserved: This type of person is stable emotionally without being especially open or neurotic. They tend to score lower on extraversion but tend to be somewhat agreeable and conscientious.

Role Models: These people score high in every trait except neuroticism, and the likelihood that someone fits into this category increases dramatically as they age. "These are people who are dependable and open to new ideas," says Amaral. "These are good people to be in charge of things." Women are more likely than men to be role models.

Self-Centered: These people score very high in extraversion, but score low in openness, agreeableness, and conscientiousness. Most teenage boys would fall into this category, according to Revelle, before (hopefully) maturing out of it. The number of people who fall into this category decreases dramatically with age.

science cluster types

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Average? (Score:2) by Nibby (436043)

Sounds like this article is calling out basic bitches. Shame because it crosses the genders.

Re: Average, self-centered, or betas; it's promoting that most organizations (Score:5, Interesting) by PublicMind (783565)

It looks like the article is calling males Average, self-centered, or betas; it's promoting that most organizations should be run by older women.

Re: They even bias the categories by labeling one of them "Role Models". Fuck that noise; I think extroverts are role models; I think the world would be better served by promoting the reserved to higher positions—and you'll note that's the only category where they conveniently leave out gender.

Re: (Score:1) by GhostBond (534446)

Yeah, every time they claim a "study" it's always a (usually poorly run) survey which has almost no correlation to reality. Jeffrey Dahmer talked the cops into giving back a 14 year old boy who had blood on him and he had been victimizing. No doubt he would score high as a "mentor" on this kind of personality test.

Re: (Score:2) by rtb61 (674572)

Here is how it works, average people, people who don't understand what is going on but are trying to socially participate as much as possible, believing it is the right thing to do, maybe. Reserved, people who understand what is going on but only want to participate as much as is necessary because yeah, most of what is going on is utter bullshit based in empty beliefs. Role models, don't think high level role models, think low level role models, how to cook, clean and look after yourself, the value of good

Re: (Score:2) by pots (5047349)

It looks like the article is calling males Average, self-centered, or betas; it's promoting that most organizations should be run by older women.

What are you reading? It specifically says, in the summary no less, that females are more likely to be average. And the word "beta" appears nowhere in any of the linked articles or the summary or anywhere except in your post. And why would it? A/B personality theory has been pretty soundly rejected, it mostly only persists in pop psychology.

Reliable data source (Score:3) by sphealey (2855)

There's a reliable data source, free from built-in bias ("INQPTJLMNOP!") and hidden assumptions ("INTROVERT!")

Re: (Score:2) by zlives (2009072)

in the post truth world, its creditable that they attempted to actually find a data source, that they actually might have even used to support their conclusions.

Re: (Score:2) by Immerman (2627577)

Yeah. Even if most personality quizzes were answered honestly, rather than giving ridiculous answers being practically the point of taking them, the data set would still suffer a horrible selection bias in that it only evaluates the sort of people who like taking obviously nonsensical personality quizzes.

humors me (Score:1) by Anonymous Coward

>largest online data sets of personality quizzes
LOL, no wonder there's a replication crisis in the social sciences field.

Please, we've been over this. (Score:2) by sheramil (921315)

The four personality types are: moist and warm, warm and dry, dry and cold, and cold and moist.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humorism

Re: (Score:2) by sphealey (2855)

What about moist and crumbly? Thixotropic?

There are two types (Score:4, Insightful) by PPH (736903)

Those who divide people into two types and those who don't.

Re: (Score:2) by gweihir (88907)

Damn, I fail at the original and now I fail at this too, because I use either less or more...

Re: (Score:2, Informative) by Swave An deBwoner (907414)

But the article says there are 100 types. Didn't you RTFA?

Re: (Score:2) by Scarletdown (886459)

Let me guess; those who understand binary and those who don't? They never reveal who the other 8 are. :p

Re: (Score:2) by postbigbang (761081)

Demonstrably incorrect. Extroverts process externally, and because of this fact, are more visible doing whatever they do because: external processing is more visible and audible compared to introverts. This has the appearance of being more demonstrable, but is only emotive reaction visible to others because it's on the display for all.

It's actions that count, and both do about the same actions in terms of sympathy and empathy, e.g. "caring". Some process inside. Others do not. They both care.

tl;dr: Extroverts ca

slashdotters...5th type? (Score:5, Funny) by avandesande (143899)

Where is reserved and neurotic?

Re: (Score:2) by The Original CDR (5453236)

Working in tech support. Reserved because they have to be nice to users. Neurotic because they know that one user will eventually snap from being put on hold, grab a fire ax and storm their bullpen.

Re: (Score:1) by Tablizer (95088)

Where is reserved and neurotic? We don't show up on surveys because pollsters never encounter us: we are in basements trolling around on Slashdot eating delivered pizza.

Re: (Score:2) by avandesande (143899)

I have a special slot they can push the pizza under the door so there is no interaction

Misandric Much? (Score:5, Insightful) by DatbeDank (4580343)

Lot of male hating going on in this so called study. Self centered especially. Also women are more average and role models? So what is it? Can't have more of each unless they're 50/50.

With all due respect, most women make terrible role models, especially for boys. They tend to be stuck in their ways and offer advice from their own feminine perspective discounting what boys really need to do in order to strike out on their own.

Sorry mids for the unpopular truth. I'll take a hit in karma because that's the reality of what I've seen.

Re: Misandric Much? (Score:5, Interesting) by HornWumpus (783565)

Teenagers are self centered, duh. Calling out boys is what makes it misandry.

Re: (Score:1) by The Evil Atheist (2484676)

Funny how, if data apparently supports that women do not suit tech roles, it's just the facts. But if data apparently supports that boys are self-centered, it's misandry.

Re: (Score:2) by goose-incarnated (1145029)

Funny how, if data apparently supports that women do not suit tech roles, it's just the facts. But if data apparently supports that boys are self-centered, it's misandry.

It's always been okay for society to go soft on women and hard on men. Modern society is nothing new.

Re: Misandric Much? (Score:4, Insightful) by Anonymous Coward

Dude have you ever seen a single chick flick in your entire life. If teenage boys are simply self centred then teenage girls are frankly sadistic in comparison.

Re: Misandric Much? (Score:4, Insightful) by Anonymous Coward

Re: Misandric Much? (Score:4, Insightful) by Anonymous Coward



**DNS:and-BIND ( 461968 )**  
Movies are fiction. If you are getting your idea of real life from them no wonder you're a misogynist. Remember who makes these movies: people like Harvey Weinstein.

**Re: Misandric Much? (Score:3)**  
by [serviscope\\_minor \( 664417 \)](#)  
*Dude have you ever seen a single chick flick in your entire life. If teenage boys are simply self centred then teenage girls are frankly sadistic in comparison.*  
Dude have you seen a single horror flick in your entire life? If teenage girls are sadistic then teenage boys are either suicidally stupid or bloodthirsty psychopaths wearing clown masks.

**Re: Misandric Much? (Score:2)**  
by [DatbeDank \( 4580343 \)](#)  
So then don't use a term like role model to describe this then. It's shit like this that gets spun by the less informed to mean X when the researchers meant Y.  
Do you really think the average layperson is going to spend 5 minutes deciphering that? Get outta here with that.

**Re: (Score:1)**  
by [gweihir \( 88907 \)](#)  
Women being more average is pretty well-known. Of course, it is a distribution and the extremes are pretty much the same, which is why you get the occasional women who is a world-class scientist and the occasional women who lives on the street, but of both you get less than of equivalent men. You do not get a lot of either though and it is not suitable as a basis for any discussion of superiority. It is not clear to me whether that is done by conditioning by society though, and I think it may well be.  
The co

**Re: (Score:1)**  
by [gweihir \( 88907 \)](#)  
Note to moderator that voted me down: "I do't agree." is not a valid reaction to a scientific fact, however much you dislike it.

**Re: (Score:2)**  
by [Darinbob \( 1142669 \)](#)  
The 5th type: male Slashdotters with a chip on their shoulder.

**So Myers Briggs (Score:1)**  
by Anonymous Coward  
Thanks for repeating old news.  
[1 hidden comment](#)

**Re: (Score:1)**  
by [aybiss \( 876862 \)](#)  
Hahaha!

**Re: (Score:2)**  
by [HornWumpus \( 783565 \)](#)  
'Neuroticism' not 'neurotic'.  
That mistake is about the only legit crit of Damour's memo.  
[1 hidden comment](#)

**Re: (Score:2)**  
by [Rockoon \( 1252108 \)](#)  
'Neuroticism' not 'neurotic'.  
If this is your problem, *then you are being fucking neurotic.*

Seems that he nailed it.

**Four is the magic number. (Score:2)**  
by [140Mandak262Jamuna \( 970587 \)](#)  
Reminds me of my grandma's theory of nutrition. Every food item is 140Mandak by high in one of the four things, "heat, coldness, bile or gas". She would go, "Mangoes are hot, and buttermilk is cold, peanuts have bile and potatoes have gas, why? because I say so, and I say so because my grandma said so."  
This four type of people also sounds like that. But one thing about grandma's nutrition, if you balance all the four things, you find you also get a reasonably balanced meal by modern standards. Not so su  
[1 hidden comment](#)

**Re: (Score:3)**  
by [religionofpeas \( 4511805 \)](#)  
My grandma had watermelons, earthmelons, firemelons and airmelons. The four elemelons.

**Re:Four is the magic number. (Score:2)**  
by [serviscope\\_minor \( 664417 \)](#)  
*This four type of people also sounds like that. But one thing about grandma's nutrition, if you balance all the four things, you find you also get a reasonably balanced meal by modern standards. Not so sure this four type of people sorting would match that performance.*  
I tried eating the four types. They didn't taste good and I got constipated because of the lack of fiber. BRB cops here

**Oh, for fuck's sake. (Score:5, Insightful)**  
by [jcr \( 53032 \)](#) <[jcr@TEAmac.com minus caffeine](#)> on Tuesday September 18, 2018 @07:59PM ([#57338614](#))  
[Jurnal](#)  
Pop-psych trivia doesn't belong on /.  
-jcr  
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**Re: (Score:1)**  
by Anonymous Coward  
For real.  
-Anonymous Coward

**Re: (Score:1)**  
by [hill\\_mcgonigle \( 4333 \) \\*](#)  
*I'm so glad you signed your post -jcr; otherwise I wouldn't have had a clue from your username who posted it.*  
Seems high in trait neuroticism.

**A neural net applying stats to psychology. (Score:1)**  
by Anonymous Coward  
Science you can trust.

**Introvert / extrovert is symmetrical (Score:2)**  
by [Beeftopia \( 1846720 \)](#)  
[Psychology today refers to it as extroversion.](#) [psychologytoday.com]  
It's symmetrical that way (introversion - extroversion) to reflect opposite meanings in the subject of human personality.  
The Jung thing references [a German text](#) [scientificamerican.com]. It's not bad Latin any more than extrude or external are.  
You know how naming variables is important? That the variable name itself is supposed to convey meaning? Intro- and extro- are more likely to be linked - thus conveying meaning - than 'intro' and 'extra':  
int extro;  
vs.  
int intro;  
int extra

**Re: (Score:2)**  
by [angel'o'sphere \( 80593 \)](#)  
Then why don't you name your variables introversion and extroversion?  
There is a huge deal of people on the planet that actually speak a roman language (or got bored to death by it in school), so obviously we use intro and extra, but more precisely we would intra and extra ...

**Re: (Score:2)**  
by [Beeftopia \( 1846720 \)](#)  
Then why don't you name your variables introversion and extroversion?  
\* The -version is in common.  
\* Short variables with meaning > long variables with same meaning.  
\* Less likely to screw up typing short variable names.  
\* Hopefully the context in which the variables are used would provide the "-version" meaning. If not, then I could see typing the full "introversion" and "extroversion."  
\* I'm not opposed to typing long variable names, if it adds useful meaning.

**Re: (Score:2)**  
by [angel'o'sphere \( 80593 \)](#)  
As I pointed out the original terms are extra and intra  
So using abbreviations with the wrong ending makes no sense.  
Every modern IDE will give you an auto complete after either entering i or e ... you seem not to be a programmer I want to hire.  
*\* Short variables with meaning > long variables with same meaning.*  
Definitely wrong, as extra and intra and extro and intro can mean anything which starts with intr and extr ... I hope I never have you on my team, unless you change that attitude

**It's because of stuff like this that (Score:1)**  
by Anonymous Coward  
.. psychobabble is a real word that most people recognize.

**Read the Article Yesterday (Score:4, Informative)**  
by [mentil \( 1748130 \)](#) on Tuesday September 18, 2018 @08:38PM ([#57338806](#))  
The 'Average' category was criticized by some of the authors for being 'weak', as it's the largest cluster yet not particularly descriptive. It has yet to be proven that these 4 categories actually correlate with anything important, although follow-up research is checking if Role Models have greater career success.  
Also, these are just clusters, individuals can fall outside of these combinations. One bright spot is that the clusters were named after they were found, rather than before, so they weren't trying to hammer data to fit preconceptions of personality types.  
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**Re: (Score:2)**  
by [phantomfive \( 622387 \)](#)  
Clusters can actually be a by-product of the way the tests are designed.

**I've been hearing this crap for years (Score:5, Insightful)**  
by [rsilvergun \( 571051 \)](#) on Tuesday September 18, 2018 @08:50PM ([#57338874](#))  
one time at I had to go through one of these personality tests to tell me which group I fit into. I was annoying, but me and my coworkers went from pretty annoyed to pissed when we learned the company paid \$2k/each for the privilege. They could have just given us that \$2k as a bonus and out moral woulda shot up. This was when I made a lot less money and \$2k would have been an event.  
My point is this personality crap is usually just an excuse to sell corporate seminars.  
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**Re: (Score:2, Offtopic)**  
by [HornWumpus \( 783565 \)](#)  
You can hope that at least they were using the Minnesota personality assessment test.  
The really stupid places farm this testing to fucking scientists. If that's you, the answers are mostly obvious.  
For some reason you should read/memorize bus schedules when not otherwise busy, remember that, plus tell them what they want to hear and you should score 100%  
If you run into the scientology test, it's a sure sign there is a clam with rank in the organization. Flee.

**I've done my own study... (Score:4, Funny)**  
by [WolfgangVL \( 3494585 \)](#) on Tuesday September 18, 2018 @09:07PM ([#57338964](#))  
And have concluded that:  
The majority of people are unsalted peanuts. This is the biggest category of people, because salt costs money.  
The second largest category is salted peanuts. This category is filled mostly with middle age humans, as they have had a few years to gather enough salt.  
The third and final category is candied peanuts. This category is 100% comprised of drug dealers and sex workers.  
There is also peanut butter, but that is an unrelated category.  
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**It's due to the four predominate hormones (Score:2)**  
by [jader3rd \( 2222716 \)](#)  
Read Why Him, Why Her and you'll learn about it.

**No they don't (Score:1)**  
by [aybiss \( 876862 \)](#)  
They don't.

**Of course there are only four types of people (Score:3)**  
by [thisisauniqueid \( 825395 \)](#) on Tuesday September 18, 2018 @09:52PM ([#57339174](#))  
I don't fall into any of those described categories. I guess that means I'm not a person?  
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**This extrovert thinks... (Score:2, Funny)**  
by [Gerald Butler \( 3528265 \)](#)  
that the study authors should be beaten to within an inch of their life and tossed in a dungeon and forgotten about. They are political douche-bags and need to be excommunicated from civilization. They are garbage.

**Extraversion? (Score:2)**  
by [mnemotronic \( 586021 \)](#)  
What? Like Windows 8?

**Hold the press! Four is the new Twelve!!! (Score:2)**  
by [Mjlnr \( 609829 \)](#)  
Here I was thinking that there are twelve distinct personality types! Then along came the sixteen Meyers-Briggs Personality Types.... And I was all like "whaaa..." And now this... I thought there'd be more, not less!  
Twelve was wrong. Sixteen was wrong...  
But hang on a sec... What do Twelve and Sixteen have in common?  
THE FACTOR FOUR!!! Yes!!! It all makes sense now! Yes!!! I've been so blind all my life!  
And looking around, thinking about my family, friends, colleagues, relatives... Indeed, they are essentially

**I can be all - depending on the circumstances (Score:2)**  
by [petes\\_PoV \( 912422 \)](#)  
Regarding the "big five" personality traits [bigthink.com]. Sometimes I'm introverted, sometimes I take the lead. I trust people I know, but I don't trust strangers. I dislike being the centre of attention, but I am not necessarily easy to satisfy.  
Most times I have positive emotions, but I dislike large parties.  
I like order (in my life) but I am untidy. I work hard but I don't always follow the rules. I try to avoid mistakes but I put off doing chores.  
I like art, have a good imagination and can deal with complex probl

**We did this in high school in the 90s. (Score:2)**  
by [Hadlock \( 143607 \)](#)  
A sort of variant on the MBPT.  
Average: these people score high in neuroticism and extraversion, but score low in openness. It is the most typical category, with women being more likely than men to fit into it.  
This person was BLUE, or a dove, typical emotional female, uses phrases often like, "I feel", are very concerned about the aesthetics of the inside of their home  
Reserved: This type of person is stable emotionally without being especially open or neurotic. They tend to score lower on extraversion but t





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