

Investigating Variations in Personal Personality, Impulsivity, Self-Esteem & Motivation based on Crimes Committed, Frequency and Personal Background

Background

Personality has been looked into as a possible insight into why people decide to commit crimes. However, it is somewhat unclear what role it plays, if any, in the criminal's mind. In this study, we will clarify suspected relationships and possibly identify new ones between: Personality, Impulsivity, Self-Esteem, Motivation, Personal Background and Criminality, respectively.

Introduction

Personality: *Psycho-social aspects of a person*
Impulsivity: *Likelihood of one to act without thought*
Self-Esteem: *Self-image/worth*
Motivation: *What drives a person; values*
Personal Background: *Factors in one's life*
Criminality: *Status of being a criminal*

Gap in the Research

Some previous results have been unclear and somewhat inconclusive. No study before has combined all these traits into one singular assessment to test for each one's correlation with criminality.

Literature Review

Personality van Dam et al. (2015) ¹⁷ <i>Differences in Big Five (↑C, ↓A, ↓O, ↓E)</i> van Gelder & De Vries (2012) ⁵² <i>Honesty-Humility & Emotionality; large role in crime</i>	Motivation Antonaccio et al (2011) ³ <i>Unstable country, higher crime rate → more motivated to commit</i> Madarie (2017) ³⁰ <i>Applied motivational types to cyber-criminals</i>
Impulsivity Swogger et al. (2015) ⁴⁹ <i>“premeditated ... aggression predicts violent recidivism”</i>	Self-Esteem Trzeniewski et al. (2006) ⁵¹ <i>Low self-esteem in adolescence, more likely to commit.</i>
Personal Background Antonaccio et al. (2011) ³ <i>Unstable country, higher crime rate → more motivated to commit</i> Fergusson et al. (2008) ²² <i>Childhood lead exposure → more likely to commit later on</i> León-Carrión & Ramos (2003) ²⁶ <i>Untreated head injury → more likely to commit</i> Zoutewelle-Terovan et al. (2012) ⁵⁸ <i>Family formation reduced offending in males</i>	

Purpose
 To investigate and potentially identify new correlations between criminality and psychological/environmental factors.

Hypothesis
 We hypothesize there will be some correlations between criminality and our psychological/environmental factors.

Methods

Survey:
 Personal Background Survey
 Big Five^{12, 16, 17, 23, 27}
 H-H & E (HEXACO)^{4, 5, 19, 20, 25}
 Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale^{24, 38, 42, 44, 47, 53}
 UPPS-P Impulsive Behavior Scale⁵⁶
 Portrait Values Questionnaire^{45, 46}
 BIS/BAS¹⁰
 Contacted prisons, then re-entry; unsuccessful
 Expanded to the internet: Reddit.
 Began collecting responses.

Results
 Significant Results (Blank Assessments)
Independent Samples T-Test using Jamovi
BigFiveC/Crime Correlation
 Inconsistent w/ One-Way ANOVA

Discussion
 Previous literature showed correlations, this didn't; due to sample size, exclusively female sample, and long survey. We also had less Rosenberg responses, as a scoring error deleted several Rosenberg responses.

Conclusion
 This is an ongoing study; as of now new respondents are being added and new statistical tests are being looked into. This may lead to finding correlations; correlations being found will lead to a deeper public understanding on criminality. To solve a problem, we must first understand it, and in this case we need to start studying criminal psychology and decision making in the mind.

Independent Samples T-Test

Independent Samples T-Test	Statistic	df	p	
BigFiveOpenness	Student's t	0.7822	9.00	0.454
BigFiveConscientiousness	Student's t	3.1699	9.00	0.011
BigFiveExtraversion	Student's t	-0.1150	9.00	0.911
BigFiveAgreeableness	Student's t	0.0507	9.00	0.961
BigFiveNeuroticism	Student's t	-0.5482	9.00	0.597
H-HEXACO	Student's t	-0.0640	9.00	0.950
EHEXACO	Student's t	-0.4329	9.00	0.675
RosenbergSE	Student's t	-0.4651	9.00	0.653
UPPSP EBRANU	Student's t	-0.7367	9.00	0.480
UPPSP EBRAPU	Student's t	-0.7111	9.00	0.495
UPPSP SES	Student's t	1.0694	9.00	0.313
UPPSP DICPR	Student's t	0.2638	9.00	0.798
UPPSP DICPE	Student's t	-1.5845	9.00	0.148
BASD	Student's t	-1.3369	9.00	0.214
BASF	Student's t	0.2056	9.00	0.842
BASRR	Student's t	0.4366	9.00	0.673
BIS	Student's t	-0.2632	9.00	0.798
PVQ Conformity	Student's t	-0.4734	9.00	0.647
PVQ Tradition	Student's t	-0.5048	9.00	0.626
PVQ Benevolence	Student's t	0.5939	9.00	0.567
PVQ Universalism	Student's t	0.2991	9.00	0.772
PVQ Self-Direction	Student's t	-1.1259	9.00	0.289
PVQ Stimulation	Student's t	0.0972	9.00	0.925
PVQ Hedonism	Student's t	-0.7674	9.00	0.463
PVQ Achievement	Student's t	-0.8491	9.00	0.418
PVQ Power	Student's t	-0.1107	9.00	0.914
PVQ Security	Student's t	-1.3225	9.00	0.219

Future Research
 We would like to look into the potential relationship between crime severity and psychological factors; i.e., do those who committed more severe crimes have more extreme traits than those who committed less severe crimes?

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