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TIME ZONE OF PRESENTING AUTHOR: USA Central

TYPE OF SUBMISSION: Poster

MEMBER STATUS: Associate

ELIGIBLE FOR THOMPSON AWARD: No

ELIGIBLE FOR ROWE AWARD: Yes

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TITLE: Genetic and Environmental Overlap of Agency and the Big Five Personality Traits

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KEYWORDS: personality; agency; Big 5; twin study; heritability

ABSTRACT:

Agency refers to an individual's drive to master their environment, to assert the self, to experience competence, achievement, and power. Agency has been shown to relate positively to psychological well-being and self-esteem (see Helgeson & Fritz, 1999, *Jo. of Res. in Personality*). Further, Agency is correlated with several of the Big Five personality traits (Openness, Agreeableness, and Conscientiousness). The present study estimated the heritability of Agency and examined the extent to which the concurrent associations between the Big Five and Agency are mediated by genetic and environmental factors. We used data from wave 1 of the Midlife in the United States (MIDUS) twin sample ( $N = 921$  pairs). We conducted a biometric decomposition of Agency, demonstrating substantial influence of both genetic and environmental factors on Agency. Next, we fit a multivariate model to estimate the extent to which there are shared genetic and environmental influences between the Big Five and Agency, as well as the residual genetic and environmental influences on Agency. The genetic correlations will be discussed under the scope of the phenotypic null hypothesis.

GRANT SUPPORT: Daniel A. Briley was supported by a Jacobs Foundation Research Fellowship.

