Perspectives of the Gender Roles in the family versus Personality Traits

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ABSTRACT:
Attitudes toward gender roles have shifted in recent decades (Fortin, 2005), but they still vary considerably (Sani and Quaranta, 2017). These attitudes affect how people behave as well as how they perceive others’ behavior in practically every social situation (e.g., Eccles, 1987). Given that these attitudes develop at a young age (Beal 1994) and are transmitted across generations (Farré & Vella, 2012), it is important to understand the stable factors that influence them, such as personality. Using the 1979 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, we examined the relationship between attitudes about gender roles and personality traits. To do so, we used the discordant-kinship model (Garrison & Rogers, 2016) which enabled us to control for gene-and-environmental variance among 1,278 adult sibling pairs and allowed us to better understand the personality-attitude relationship. Preliminary results suggest that sibling differences in big five traits are significantly associated with differences in gender role attitudes.


