



STUDYDADDY

Get Homework Help From Expert Tutor

[Get Help](#)

EBSCO Publishing Citation Format: APA 7th Edition (American Psychological Assoc.):

NOTE: Review the instructions at http://support.ebsco.com.proxy-library.ashford.edu/help/?int=eds&lang=&feature_id=APA and make any necessary corrections before using. **Pay special attention to personal names, capitalization, and dates.** Always consult your library resources for the exact formatting and punctuation guidelines.

References

Cavarra, M., Canegallo, V., Santoddi, E., Broccoli, E., & Fabio, R. A. (2021). Peace and personality: The relationship between the five-factor model's personality traits and the Peace Attitude Scale. *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology*, 27(3), 508–511. <https://doi-org.proxy-library.ashford.edu/10.1037/pac0000484>

<!--Additional Information:

Persistent link to this record (Permalink): <https://library.ashford.edu/EzProxy.aspx?url=https://search-ebscohost-com.proxy-library.ashford.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=pdh&AN=2020-39580-001&site=eds-live&scope=site>

End of citation-->

Peace and Personality: The Relationship Between the Five-Factor Model's Personality Traits and the Peace Attitude Scale / BRIEF REPORT

By: Mauro Cavarra

Nicoletta Gava Hypnosis Center, Turin, Italy;

Virginia Canegallo

University San Raffaele of Milan

Erika Santoddi

University of Messina

Erika Broccoli

University La Sapienza of Rome

Rosa Angela Fabio

University of Messina

Biographical Information for Authors: Mauro Cavarra holds a BSc in psychological sciences, a MSc in clinical psychology. He is a doctoral candidate in social psychology at the University of Leuven – BE and a certified Cognitive Psychotherapist and is specialized in clinical hypnosis. He is currently researching the field of peace psychology.

Virginia Canegallo received her bachelor's degree in psychological sciences and techniques from the University Vita-Salute, San Raffaele of Milano. She is currently working in the area of social and cognitive psychology. She follows experimental studies in gender differences, gender education, peace assessment, peace education, women's rights violations and processes of resistance in the pursuit of social justice. She

is Member of the Italian Association of Psychology, Social Section, Rome, 2018-present day.

Erika Santoddi earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Messina. She is currently studying at the University of Messina. She is currently working in the area of social and cognitive psychology. She is currently carrying out research on various aspects of cognition and health in Rett Syndrome patients. She follows experimental studies in peace assessment, peace education, implicit and explicit measures of peace.

Erika Broccoli earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Messina. She is currently studying at the University of Rome. She is currently working in the area of social and cognitive psychology and follows experimental studies in peace assessment, peace education. She is particularly interested in issues related to globalization and human rights.

Rosa Angela Fabio received her PhD in experimental psychology from the University of Pavia. She is Full Professor of General Psychology at the Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine of the University of Messina. She is also Head of the Experimental Psychology Laboratory of CERIP of the University of Messina. She mainly works in the area of automatic and controlled processes of attention that influence social and cognitive factors.

Acknowledgement: All authors were involved in all parts of the research. No grant was received for conducting this study.

Note: Continue the conversation by submitting your comments and questions about this article/book review to PeacePsychology.org/peaceconflict. (The Editor of PeacePsychology.org reserves the right to exclude material that fails to contribute to constructive discussion.)

Peace behavior occurs when a subject acts in such a way as to establish and maintain nonviolent, harmonious relationships with others. Examples of peace behaviors are cooperative and kind actions. [Anderson \(2004\)](#) defined it as a condition in which harmonious relationships and low levels of violence can be observed among individuals, families, groups, communities, and/or nations and identified the following levels of observation: (a) intrapersonal, (b) interpersonal, (c) social, (d) civil, (e) national, (f) international, and (g) ecological. Research in the field tends to investigate the relationship between several antecedent factors, including personality and parenting styles ([Canegallo, Broccoli, Cavarra, & Fabio, in press](#)).

Peace Attitudes and the Five-Factor Model (FFM) of Personality

Evidence has shown that peace attitudes are associated with the FFM traits ([Costa & McCrae, 2013](#); [Sibley & Duckitt, 2008](#)). [Eryilmaz \(2014\)](#) reported moderate, significant correlations between peace attitudes and both Agreeableness and Conscientiousness in elderly and adolescent subjects and that a model comprising such dimensions along with Extraversion explained 55% of peace attitudes variance. [Blumberg, Zeligman, Appel, and Tibon-Czopp \(2017\)](#) observed that Openness to Experience and Agreeableness were positively associated with peace scales and negatively associated with war scales, whereas measures of Aggressive Mistrust correlated negatively with Agreeableness and Emotional Stability.

Although previous research has observed no clear association between Neuroticism and peace attitudes, the former has been found to be negatively correlated with other measures of intrapersonal peace and positively correlated with unpeaceful emotional states (Neff, Kirkpatrick, & Rude, 2007; Shallcross, Ford, Floerke, & Mauss, 2013). Concerning gender, Eryilmaz (2014) reported that female adolescents seem to show more pronounced peace attitudes and declare themselves as being more caring and more willing to take charge of regulatory roles in interpersonal relationships. The same tendency was observed more recently (Blumberg et al., 2017).

Overview

We aimed to (a) investigate the correlations between the five factors of personality (Emotional Stability, Openness to Experience, Agreeableness, Extraversion, and Conscientiousness; Costa & McCrae, 2013) and the Peace Attitude Scale (PAS; Broccoli, Canegallo, Santoddi, Cavarra, & Fabio, in press) subscales. Furthermore, we investigated whether personality subscales predict the PAS total score. Finally, because Eryilmaz (2014) and Blumberg et al. (2017) showed that gender has an effect on peace attitudes, we considered this variable in our analyses. Our aim was to replicate and extend these findings.

Method

Participants

One hundred twenty-one adolescents and adults (80 female) between 17 and 40 years of age ($M = 23.04$, $SD = 2.34$) were randomly sampled from high schools (72) and workplaces (49) located in four regions of Italy. Sample size was determined with a 95% confidence limit and 5% marginal error. Exclusion criteria were as follows: presence of pathologies, disorders, psychiatric or neurological impairment, and use of drugs or psychotropic substances.

Measures

The PAS (Broccoli et al., in press) is a 22-item self-report measure with five dimensions: Sociopolitical factor, Personal Well-Being factor, Ease With Diversity factor, Environmental Attitude factor, and Caring factor. Each item was presented as a statement to which the subject had to reply on a 7-point Likert-type response scale (*Never, Almost never, Rarely, Sometimes, Often, Very Often, Always*). Higher scores indicate higher peace attitudes. The Cronbach's alpha value was .93, and the test and retest reliability was .95. Criterion validity was computed with Neff's Self-Compassion Scale (Neff et al., 2007), which was correlated with the PAS ($r = .56$, $p < .001$).

The Big Five Questionnaire (BFQ; Caprara, Barbaranelli, Borgogni, & Perugini, 1993) is a 132-item self-report measure, validated for Italian-speaking subjects and based on the FFM (Costa & McCrae, 2013).

Data Analysis

IBM SPSS 24.0 was used for all data analyses on this cross-sectional research. Descriptive statistics of the dependent variables were tabulated and examined. Correlational analyses were conducted between PAS subscales and BFQ subscales. The Bonferroni correction was applied to maintain an overall Type I error rate of .05 against the multiple comparisons. Hierarchical regression analysis was applied assuming the

BFQ subscales as independent variables and PAS total score as the dependent variable. Alpha level was set to .05 for all statistical tests. In the case of significant effects, the effect size of the test was reported. The Greenhouse–Geisser adjustment for nonsphericity was applied to probability values for repeated measurements.

Results

Correlation Between PAS and BFQ

As shown in Table 1, there are high significant positive relationships between PAS total score and all BFQ subscales: Openness to Experience ($r = .485$, $p < .001$), Emotional Stability ($r = .366$, $p < .001$), Agreeableness ($r = .463$, $p < .001$), Extraversion ($r = .255$, $p < .001$), Conscientiousness ($r = .314$, $p < .001$). The associations remained significant for all BFQ subscales even after applying a Bonferroni correction.

Table 1

Pearson's Correlation Coefficients of the Relationship Between Personality Traits and Attitudes Toward Peace

Variables	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1. PAS		.816**	.534**	.516**	.635**	.467**	.485**	.366**	.463**	.255*	.314**
2. Sociopolitical factor			.194**	.332**	.408**	.246**	.268*	-.079	.357**	-.009	.255*
3. Personal Well-being factor				0.051	.160**	.093*	.323**	.648**	.309**	.298**	.230*
4. Ease With Diversity factor					.211**	.217**	.197*	.129	.237*	.042	.114
5. Environmental Attitude factor						.201**	.253*	.13	0.139	.253*	.104
6. Caring factor							.316**	.017	.272*	.19	.087
7. Openness to Experience								.165	.380**	.479**	.463**
8. Emotional Stability									.199*	.018	-.053
9. Agreeableness										.198*	.374**
10. Extraversion											.382**
11. Conscientiousness											

Note. PAS = Peace Attitude Scale.

* $p < .005$. ** $p < .001$.

Pearson's Correlation Coefficients of the Relationship Between Personality Traits and Attitudes Toward Peace

Gender Influence

Repeated-measure analysis of variance was applied assuming gender as a between-subjects variable and the PAS subscales as a within-subject variable. Gender showed significant effect, $F(2, 461) = 21.54$, $p < .001$, $\eta^2 = 0.08$. Moreover the Gender \times PAS Subscales interaction showed a significant effect, $F(8, 1844) = 14.73$, $p < .001$, $\eta^2 = 0.08$. Female subjects showed higher scores in all PAS subscales compared to male except on Personal Well-Being: Sociopolitical factor ($MD = 48.13$, $SD = 6$, vs. $MD = 41.20$, $SD = 8.34$), Personal Well-Being factor ($MD = 26.50$, $SD = 6.3$, vs. $MD = 28.53$, $SD = 5.64$), Ease With Diversity factor ($MD = 13.49$, $SD = 3.37$, vs. $MD = 12.08$, $SD = 3.92$), Environmental Attitude factor ($MD = 12.64$, $SD = 4.02$, vs. $MD = 10.94$, $SD = 4.26$), Caring factor ($MD = 9.9$, $SD = 2.62$, vs. $MD = 8.88$, $SD = 2.81$).

Predictive Personality Factors

Hierarchical regression analysis was applied, and Table 2 shows that the BFQ subscales were included as the independent variables at Step 1 of regression analysis ($r^2 = .420$), $F(5, 73) = 10.559$, $p < .001$. The personality traits of Openness to Experience, $t(112) = 2.479$, $p < .001$; Conscientiousness, $t(112) = 2.336$, p

< .001; and Emotional Stability, $t(112) = 2.326$, $p = .02$, better predicted peace attitudes. These five traits together explain 42% of the variance of peace attitudes. In Step 2, Extraversion was excluded because it caused no loss in terms of explained variance. Indeed, after the exclusion of the trait, 42% of variance was explained by the four remaining traits ($r^2 = .419$), $F(4, 74) = 13.359$, $p < .001$.

Table 2
Hierarchical Regression Analysis

Factors	R^2	ΔR	$F(5, 73; 4, 74)$	β	$t(112)$	p
Block 1	.42	.38	10.559			
Openness to Experience				.284	2.479	.015
Conscientiousness				.237	2.336	.022
Emotional Stability				.221	2.326	.023
Agreeableness				.187	1.815	.074
Extraversion				.023	0.215	.83
Block 2	.419	.388	13.359			
Openness to Experience				.294	2.843	.006
Conscientiousness				.241	2.46	.016
Emotional Stability				.219	2.331	.022

Hierarchical Regression Analysis

Discussion

Correlation Between Peace Attitudes and Personality

The analyses revealed that the PAS total score had significant correlations with all personality dimensions. These results confirm observations in previous literature. In fact, [Blumberg et al. \(2017\)](#) found that the first two measures were positively associated with peace attitudes and negatively correlated with war attitudes. In other words, results seem to support the idea that individuals who are more motivated to seek out new experiences and to engage in self-examination and who tend to see associations between even remotely connected ideas (i.e., high Openness to Experience; [Costa & McCrae, 2013](#)) also tend to show higher peace attitudes. The results of the present article show that this consideration holds for both the total PAS score and all its subscales. Concerning Agreeableness, our results confirm what was observed by [Eryilmaz \(2014\)](#), who also reported an association with peace attitudes. More specifically, people who tend to show a tendency toward softheartedness, trust, generosity, acquiescence, leniency, and good natured behaviors (i.e., high Agreeableness) seem to show higher peace attitudes.

Our results concerning correlation with Conscientiousness are in line with what was observed in a sample comprising both adolescent and elderly subjects ([Eryilmaz, 2014](#)). The same study also found a correlation between Extraversion and peace attitudes. With reference to the single PAS subscales, we found Conscientiousness to be correlated with both the Sociopolitical factor and the Personal Well-Being factor. This indicates that individuals who tend to be efficient and organized and to take obligations toward others seriously ([Costa & McCrae, 2013](#)) seem to show higher peace attitudes, especially concerning the desire to promote dialogue between individuals, nations, and diverse cultures, and the tendency to feel safe and secure in conflictual or stressful situations (i.e., PAS's Sociopolitical factor and Personal Well-Being factor). Our data show that this latter aspect, together with the Environmental Attitude subscale, is also correlated with Extraversion (i.e., a tendency to be affectionate, talkative, active, and fun-loving individuals; [Costa & McCrae, 2013](#)).

With reference to the last personality factor, unlike in previous studies, we found that Neuroticism (or Emotional Stability) correlates with the PAS total score and with its Personal Well-Being subscale. Although this association can be intuitively understandable (both scales take into account measures of internal stability and emotional well-being), past research has mostly found relationships between Neuroticism and measures that may be only indirectly related to peace attitudes. For instance, this personality trait was found to be negatively associated with measures that could be connected to feelings of internal peace, such as self-acceptance (Shallcross et al., 2013) and self-compassion (Neff et al., 2007), and positively associated with unpeaceful emotional states (Shallcross et al., 2013).

Gender Influence

Consistent with previous research (Blumberg et al., 2017; Eryilmaz, 2014), we also found that female subjects tend to score higher when it comes to peace attitudes. By observing the gender variable, we found that female subjects showed higher scores in all PAS subscales except in the Personal Well-Being factor. Female subjects, although valuing intercultural dialogue and integration, diversity, environmental causes, and caring for the less fortunate and animals, seem to report lower personal well-being levels compared to men. Referring to Anderson's model (Anderson, 2004), female subjects showed lower levels of intrapersonal peace while showing higher levels of interpersonal, social, national, and ecological peace. As Eryilmaz (2014) pointed out, this effect may be a consequence of the adoption of traditional gender roles. Such social constructs may skew male subjects toward greater inner peace and female subjects toward a greater tendency to attend to others' needs.

Personality Predictors of Peace Attitudes

As our results show, a model including four of the five personality traits (i.e., Openness to Experience, Conscientiousness, Emotional Stability, and Agreeableness) explains 42% of the variance of the PAS total score. More descriptively, this seems to indicate that these personality factors may constitute the roots for the development of peace attitudes. This outcome is not entirely consistent with previous research: For instance, Eryilmaz (2014), found that a model composed by Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, and Extraversion was able to explain 51% of the sample variance. These divergent results may be explained by the fact that the latter work and our study used different tools to measure both peace attitudes and personality traits. Furthermore, Eryilmaz's sample comprised elderly and adolescent subjects whereas ours included adolescents and adults.

Concluding Remarks

This research aimed at analyzing the correlations between personality factors and PAS. Our work confirmed existing results: Conscientiousness and Openness to Experience are associated with peace attitudes. Furthermore we observed that other factors, such as Emotional Stability and Agreeableness, may also influence peace attitudes. Gender, too, seems to play a role in determining PAS scores: Female subjects seem to score higher on all subscales except for the Personal Well-Being factor.

Although recognizing that the present study dealt with a specific aspect among the factors influencing peace attitudes and that personality itself is a complex construct, our results seem to suggest that societies populated by individuals with different personality profiles may show different attitudes toward peace. Future research may focus on addressing this final aspect and potential ways to modulate these attitudes through

techniques that promote self-compassion and yield measurable results on cognitive functioning such as mindfulness (Fabio & Towey, 2018).

References

- Anderson, R. (2004). A definition of peace. *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology, 10*, 101–116. 10.1207/s15327949pac1002_2
- Blumberg, H. H., Zeligman, R., Appel, L., & Tibon-Czopp, S. (2017). Personality dimensions and attitudes towards peace and war. *Journal of Aggression, Conflict and Peace Research, 9*, 13–23. 10.1108/JACPR-05-2016-0231
- Broccoli, E., Canegallo, V., Santoddi, E., Cavarra, M., & Fabio, R. A. (in press). Construction, psychometric characteristics and validity of Peace Attitude Scale. *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology*.
- Canegallo, V., Broccoli, E., Cavarra, E., & Fabio, R. A. (in press). The relationship between parenting styles and peace attitudes. *Journal of Aggression, Conflict and Peace Research*.
- Caprara, G. V., Barbaranelli, C., Borgogni, L., & Perugini, M. (1993). The “big five questionnaire”: A new questionnaire to assess the five factor model. *Personality and Individual Differences, 15*, 281–288. 10.1016/0191-8869(93)90218-R
- Costa, P. T., Jr., & McCrae, R. R. (2013). *Personality in adulthood: A five-factor theory perspective*. New York, NY: Guilford Press.
- Eryilmaz, A. (2014). Relationship of peace attitudes with personality traits, gender and age groups. *Journal of Psychiatry and Neurological Sciences, 27*, 138–146. 10.5350/DAJPN2014270206
- Fabio, R. A., & Towey, G. E. (2018). Long-term meditation: The relationship between cognitive processes, thinking styles and mindfulness. *Cognitive Processing, 19*, 73–85. 10.1007/s10339-017-0844-3
- Neff, K. D., Kirkpatrick, K. L., & Rude, S. S. (2007). Self-compassion and adaptive psychological functioning. *Journal of Research in Personality, 41*, 139–154. 10.1016/j.jrp.2006.03.004
- Shallcross, A. J., Ford, B. Q., Floerke, V. A., & Mauss, I. B. (2013). Getting better with age: The relationship between age, acceptance, and negative affect. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 104*, 734–749. 10.1037/a0031180
- Sibley, C. G., & Duckitt, J. (2008). Personality and prejudice: A meta-analysis and theoretical review. *Personality and Social Psychology Review, 12*, 248–279. 10.1177/1088868308319226

This publication is protected by US and international copyright laws and its content may not be copied without the copyright holders express written permission except for the print or download capabilities of the retrieval software used for access. This content is intended solely for the use of the individual user.

Source: Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology. Vol. 27. (3), Aug, 2021 pp. 508-511)

Accession Number: 2020-39580-001

Digital Object Identifier: 10.1037/pac0000484



STUDYDADDY

Get Homework Help From Expert Tutor

[Get Help](#)