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Defining Honesty: A Qualitative Analysis of the Trait Honesty

Sara Couture

College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs, Boise State University

Kim Hayes

College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs, Boise State University

Kyle Brasil

College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs, Boise State University

Drew Lindgren

College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs, Boise State University

Lauren Stephens Stephens

College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs, Boise State University

See next page for additional authors

Authors

Sara Couture, Kim Hayes, Kyle Brasil, Drew Lindgren, Lauren Stephens Stephens, and Jared Talley

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Sara Couture, Amanda Lynch, Kimberly R. Hayes, Kyle Brasil, Drew Lindgren, Lauren Stevens, Jared Talley, Patrick Beach, Steven Crowley, Kimberly K. McAdams
Boise State University

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 1) What Traits define Honesty?
- 2) What Traits define dishonesty?

METHODS CONTINUED

Measures

Honesty

Participants first described a situation when someone was being truly honest. Next, participants explained why the actor in the situation was being truly honest.

Describe a dishonest situation

Participants described a situation where someone was acting truly dishonest and then explained why the actor was being dishonest.

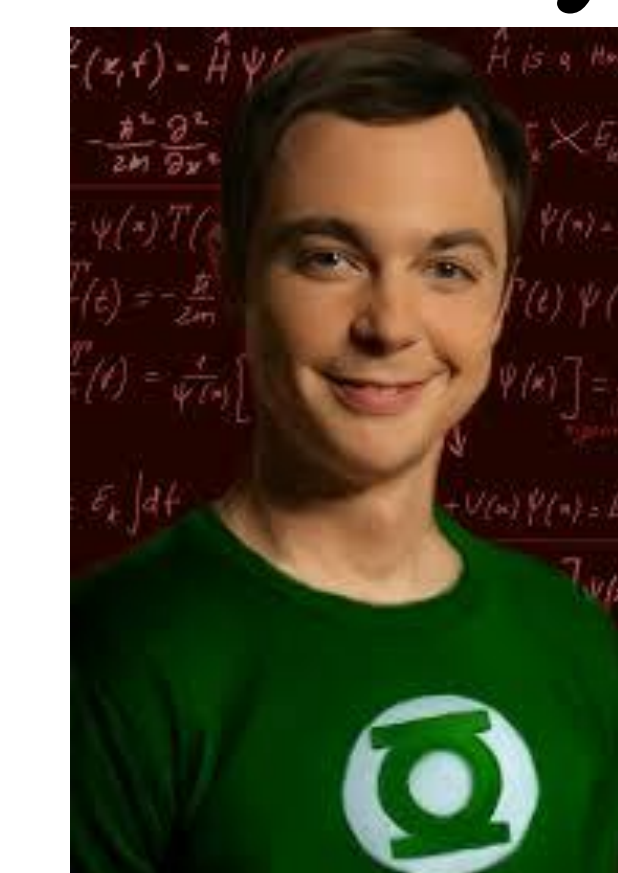
Plan of Analysis

- We each examined the first ten responses from each question and pulled out major themes. Our themes were compared and 9 primary codes were created (Recognizing Applicability; Altruism; Rarity; Truthfulness; Property; Taking Responsibility; Motive; Breach of Contract). Next, we each coded 20 responses. Two researchers examined each set of 20 responses.

RESULTS

Figure 1.

Honesty



Truthfulness 0.565
Taking Responsibility 0.450
Recognizing Applicability 0.431



Altruism 0.577
Rarity 0.126
Returning Property 0.578
Motive (doing the right thing) 0.17
Upholding Contract 0.280 .

Dishonesty



Recognizing Applicability 0.580
Property (Stealing) 0.350
Motive (helping others) 0.660



Harm others 0.45
Lying 0.680
Motive (Harm) 0.660
Breach of Contract 0.328

Table 1

Variable	Honesty Situation	Honesty Explanation	Dishonesty Situation	Dishonesty Explanation
REC	0	0.09	0.65	0
ALT	0.18	0.18	0.05 ?	
RAR	0.35	1	0.35 ?	
TRU	0.5	0.33	0.89	0.44
PROP	0.9	0.77	0.66	1
RESP	0.47	0.18	0.62	0
MOT	0.06	-0.09	0.26	0.25
CON	0.63	0	0.67	0.77
AVG	0.39	0.31	0.52	0.41

Note:

** ? Indicates that the denominator was 0

DISCUSSION

- Results have shown that honesty and dishonesty may not be opposites. Further coding is necessary in order to determine exact traits for honesty and dishonesty.
- With further look into the sub codes we should be able to create a quantitative survey for honesty.
- We are aiming to create a quantitative survey that measures honesty based on the results of this study.
- After developing the new measure, we will validate it by determining how it relates to the current Big Five Factors (e.g. 3) and the HEXACO model [1].
- Future studies should investigate the concept of honesty in additional populations such as non-students, adolescents, and older adults.

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The first with authors lead the poster, all other authors are in alphabetical order For further information , check out the philosophy posters

Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Sara J. Couture (e-mail: saracouture@u.boisestate.edu).



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