



University of Zurich

Department of Psychology, Personality and Assessment

## Invitation to a guest-lecture by



**Prof. Dr. Jérôme Rossier**, Université de Lausanne

title: „Personality, personality disorders and culture“  
day: Thursday, November 20, 2008  
time: 10-12 am  
room: BIN 1.D.22, Binzmühlestrasse 14/7, 8050 Zürich  
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URL: <http://www.unil.ch/osp/page29144.html>

### Abstract

Most models describing normal personality traits, such as the Five-Factor Model (FFM) or the Alternative Five-Factor Model (AFFM), suggest that five broad personality domains are sufficient for describing personality traits. These broad personality domains seem moreover very stable across cultures. According to the DSM-IV, the identification of personality disorders (PDs) is based on the general diagnostic criteria of “an enduring pattern of inner experience and behavior that deviates markedly from the expectations of the individual's *culture*”. For this reason, PDs might be shaped or their expression might vary according to the social and cultural context. However, several authors suggested that PDs may be considered as an extreme trait level of a normal personality dimension, or as dysfunction associated with general personality traits. Moreover, most studies have observed that the relation between PDs and normal personality traits is stable across cultures. In this context, this presentation will review the impact of culture on the structure underlying normal personality traits and PDs, and the impact of culture on the expression of these traits or disorders (mean-level analyses). The presentation will be illustrated with results obtained from a cross-national research conducted in Africa, a region underrepresented in cross-cultural research. Finally, future research directions will be presented aiming in describing more carefully the relation between PDs, normal personality and culture.

### Relevant references

- Duarte, M.E., & Rossier, J. (2008). Testing and assessment in an international context : Cross- and multi-cultural issues. In J. Athanasou & R. Van Esbroeck (Eds.), *International handbook of career guidance* (pp. 489-510). New York/Heidelberg: Springer Science.
- Rossier, J., Aluja, A., García, L.F., Angleitner, A., De Pascalis, V., Wang, W., Kuhlman, M., & Zuckerman, M. (2007). The cross-cultural generalizability of Zuckerman's Alternative Five-Factor Model of Personality. *Journal of Personality Assessment*, 89, 188-196.
- Rossier, J., Dahourou, D., & McCrae, R.R. (2005). Structural and mean level analyses of the Five-Factor Model and Locus of Control: Further evidence from Africa. *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, 36, 225-248.
- Rossier, J., Rigozzi, C., & Personality Across Culture Research Group (2008). Personality disorders and the Five-Factor Model among French speakers in Africa and Europe. *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, 53, 534-544.

### Short biography

Dr. Jérôme Rossier is an assistant professor in the field of personality and vocational psychology at the Institute of Psychology of the University of Lausanne. His actual researches and publications focus on personality structure, personality disorders, psychological assessment in the context of vocational guidance, and cross-cultural psychology in the field of vocational and personality psychology. His projects were supported by four grants of the Swiss National Foundation. Recently he published several scientific contributions and made several scientific presentations about the moderator influence of personality.