



University of Zurich

Department of Psychology, Personality and Assessment

Invitation to a guest-lecture by



Dr. Anu Realo, Department of Psychology, University of Tartu, Estonia

title: **Personality and national character stereotypes**

day: Thursday, March 18, 2010

time: 10-12 am

room: BIN-1-D.22, Binzmühlestrasse 14, 8050 Zürich

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Abstract

The presentation provides a brief review of recent cross-cultural research on personality traits at both cultural and individual levels. It is argued that national mean scores of personality traits demonstrate a consistent pattern in their geographic distribution, a substantial level of agreement between self- and other-ratings, and a meaningful configuration of correlations with several relevant culture-level indicators but are unsystematically related to national character stereotypes. Warmth and wealth seem to be common determinants of national stereotypes; yet the origins of national character stereotypes probably differ from country to country. National character stereotypes about one's own nation are also formed in contrast to a dominant neighboring nation or to people's self-rated personality traits: the typical ingroup or outgroup member is portrayed in less socially desirable terms than people's ratings of their own personality

Relevant references

Allik, J., Möttus, R., & Realo, A. (in press). Does national character reflect mean personality traits when both are measured by the same instrument? *Journal of Research in Personality*.

Allik, J., Realo, A., Möttus, R., Pullmann, H., Trifonova, A., McCrae, R. R., & 56 Members of the Russian Character and Personality Survey (2009). Personality traits of Russians from the observer's perspective. *European Journal of Personality*, 23, 567–588.

Kuppens, P., Realo, A., & Diener, E. (2008). The role of positive and negative emotions in life satisfaction judgment across nations. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 95, 66-75.

McCrae, R. R., Terracciano, A., Realo, A., & Allik, J. (2007). Climatic warmth and national wealth: Some culture-level determinants of national character stereotypes. *European Journal of Personality*, 21, 953-976.

Realo, A., Allik, J., Lönnqvist, J.-E., Verkasalo, M., Kwiatkowska, A., Kööts, L., Kütt, M., Barkauskiene, R., Laurinavicius, A., Karpinski, K., Kolyshko, A., Sebre, S., & Renge, V. (2009). Mechanisms of the national character stereotype: How people in six neighboring countries of Russia describe themselves and the typical Russian. *European Journal of Personality*, 23, 229–249.

Schmitt, D., Realo, A., Voracek, M., & Allik, J. (2008). Why can't a man be more like a woman? Sex differences in Big Five personality traits across 55 cultures. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 94, 168-182.

Short biography

Anu Realo is a senior research fellow of personality psychology at the Department of Psychology, University of Tartu, Estonia. She received her *PhD* degree in psychology from the University of Tartu in 1999. Anu Realo has been a visiting professor and scholar at several universities in Belgium, Finland, Iceland, the Netherlands, and Sweden. She is interested in personality and cross-cultural psychology and has conducted research on cultural and individual variation in personality development, emotional experience, individualistic-collectivistic attitudes, and subjective well-being. Anu Realo has published more than 50 articles in internationally-renowned scientific journals and books. Since 2009, she serves as an associate editor for the *Journal of Individual Differences*.