



University of Zurich
Department of Psychology, Personality and Assessment

Invitation to a guest-lecture by



Prof. Dr. Jüri Allik

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**title: How people see others is different from how people see themselves:
A replicable pattern across cultures**

day: Thursday, April 1, 2010

time: 10-12 am

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

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Abstract

Consensus studies from four cultures—Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, and Germany— as well as secondary analyses of self- and observer-reported Revised NEO Personality Inventory (NEO PI-R) data from 29 cultures suggest that there is a cross-culturally replicable pattern of difference between internal and external perspectives for the Big Five personality traits. People see themselves as more neurotic and open to experience compared to how they are seen by other people. External observers generally hold a higher opinion of an individual's conscientiousness than he or she does about him or herself. As a rule, people think that they have more positive emotions and excitement seeking but much less assertiveness than it seems from the vantage point of an external observer. This cross-culturally replicable disparity between internal and external perspectives was not consistent with predictions based on the actor-observer hypothesis since the size of the disparity was unrelated to the visibility of personality traits. A relatively strong negative correlation, $r = -.53$, between the average self-minus-observer profile and social desirability ratings suggests that people in most studied cultures view themselves less favorably than they are perceived by others.

Relevant references

Allik, J., Realo, A., Mõttus, R., Borkenau, P., Kuppens, P., & Hřebíčková, M. (2010). How People See Others is Different from How People See Themselves: A Replicable Pattern across Cultures. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* (in press).

Short biography

Jüri Allik received his PhD from Moscow University in 1976 and also from Tampere University, Finland, in 1991. He is a professor of experimental psychology at the University of Tartu and served there as the dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences from 1996 to 2000. He also was the chairman of the Estonian Science Foundation (2003-2009). He is a foreign member of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters (1997). His primary field of research is visual psychophysics, especially perception of visual motion. Recent research, however, is more concentrated on personality, emotions, intelligence, and crosscultural comparison. With Robert R. McCrae, he edited *The Five-Factor Model of Personality Across Cultures*.