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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

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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.

DISCUSSION

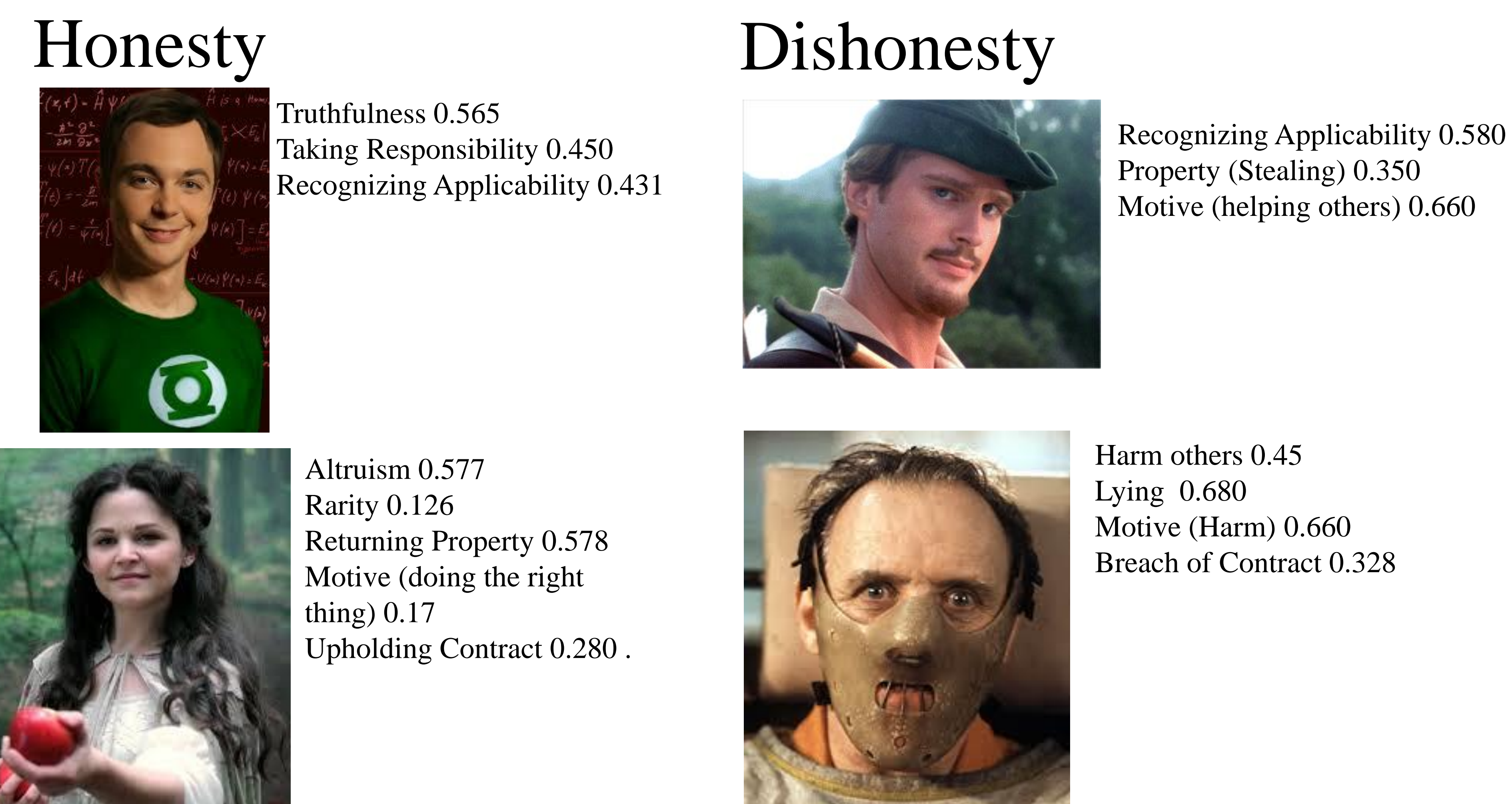
- Results have shown that honesty and dishonesty may not be opposites. Further coding is necessary in order to determine exact traits for honesty and dishonesty.
- With further look into the sub codes we should be able to create a quantitative survey for honesty.
- We are aiming to create a quantitative 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.

INTRODUCTION

- The "Big Five" Factor model of personality psychology is structured to have five superordinate factors; Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, Neuroticism, and Openness [3]. Each of these factors includes facets that contribute to each of the superordinate traits. However, the Big Five Model lacks an important personality variable: honesty.
- Honesty has been viewed to be an important personality trait. Although the Big Five does not incorporate honesty into the model, a different personality theory, the HEXACO (Honesty-Humility, Emotionality, extraversion, Agreeableness (versus Anger), Conscientiousness, Openness to Experience) model, has emerged which does factor in honesty. The HEXACO model is a lexical approach that incorporates a sixth factor in addition to the factors included in the Big Five model and has been labeled Honesty-Humility, which has been shown to be related to Agreeableness [2].
- However, the lexical approach does not address how individuals conceptualize the trait. The lexical approach only investigates whether or not there is a word present in language to explain the trait. Therefore, although the HEXACO model is a decent start at understanding the trait of honesty, it is important to investigate how regular people conceptualize honesty using empirical methods.
- Therefore, the aim of the current study was to create a quantitative measure of honesty based on major themes generated from open-ended questions we developed as well as determining how well this new measure aligns with the measure of honesty developed for the HEXACO model in addition to the Big Five Factor of Agreeableness.

RESULTS

Figure 1.



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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).

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



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