Focus of This Quarter’s Seminar

We’re going to (1) wrap up the coding of participants’ social interactions using the Riverside Situational Q-Sort (RSQ) and possibly (2) begin coding participants’ inferred emotional states using the Positive Affect/Negative Affect Schedule (PANAS).

The research goals of the RSQ coding are to (1) assess within-individual consistency in situation selection and (2) determine whether, even after controlling for situational similarity, some individuals’ social behavior is more internally consistent than other individuals’ social behavior. Also, I am carrying out a series of analyses focusing on the relationships among (1) life history strategy, (2) the so-called “dark triad” traits (narcissism, Machiavellianism, and subclinical psychopathy), and (3) everyday social behavior. These analyses will incorporate (1) the EAR participants’ self-reported dark triad trait levels, (2) RBQ-based descriptions of their behavior, and (3) the RSQ-derived Situation Eight DIAMONDS dimensions. Our readings for most of this quarter will focus on the “dark triad” and its relationship to life history strategy.

Just as we’ve done in past quarters, I will prepare sets of audio clips, and corresponding Excel workbooks, for you to work with. Each social interaction will be independently coded by three of you. Because the coding must be independent, we won’t be able to discuss specific iEAR material in the seminar. Instead, we’ll view video from movies and TV shows (suggested by you) and score them in class using the RSQ.

Preceding each seminar meeting with an assigned reading, please email to me a question about the reading before 8:00pm on the day before the meeting.

Schedule of Readings for Discussion


