

Abstract

The specificity of the Interpersonal Relatedness factor (IR) in Chinese culture and the universality of five-factor model of personality (FFM) were examined in this study. We predicted that similar pattern of age differences in personality among different cultures provided evidence for its universality; otherwise, cultural differences or the specificity of personality was supported. Scales of Chinese Personality Assessment Inventory that measured the Interpersonal Relatedness factor and the Big Five Inventory were administered to younger and older adults in both Hong Kong and Canada. Findings showed that Ren Qing and Flexibility were specific in Chinese culture and the five-factor model of personality was universal. Implications of findings for studying personality cross-sectionally and cross-culturally were discussed.