



SFB/Transregio 266

ACCOUNTING FOR TRANSPARENCY

Personality Traits of Current and Future Accountants: Evidence from the Socio-Economic Panel

Ulf Brüggemann & Jonas Materna

TRR 266 Accounting for Transparency

May 28, 2022

Intro

Short intro to the SOEP

■ ...

Who are the individuals that enter accounting?

Big 5 Personality Traits of People entering Accountancy

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>				
	Conscientiousness	Extraversion	Agreeableness	Openness	Neuroticism
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Sample (1 = Accountant)	0.037** (0.019)	0.009 (0.016)	0.051** (0.021)	-0.117** (0.048)	0.043 (0.037)
Gender (1 = Female)	0.061 (0.055)	0.105** (0.044)	0.123** (0.053)	0.083 (0.073)	0.802*** (0.092)
Age	0.008*** (0.001)	-0.010*** (0.001)	-0.006*** (0.002)	-0.005** (0.002)	0.001 (0.002)
Age x Gender	0.004*** (0.001)	0.003** (0.001)	0.002 (0.002)	-0.0002 (0.002)	-0.008*** (0.003)
Higher Education (1 = Yes)	0.011 (0.023)	-0.111*** (0.015)	0.023 (0.019)	0.176*** (0.024)	-0.049** (0.025)
Estimator	ols	ols	ols	ols	ols
Fixed effects	year	year	year	year	year
Std. errors clustered	year	year	year	year	year
Observations	6,294	8,163	8,165	8,145	8,165
R^2	0.029	0.016	0.013	0.007	0.058
Adjusted R^2	0.027	0.015	0.011	0.006	0.057

Note:

* $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$

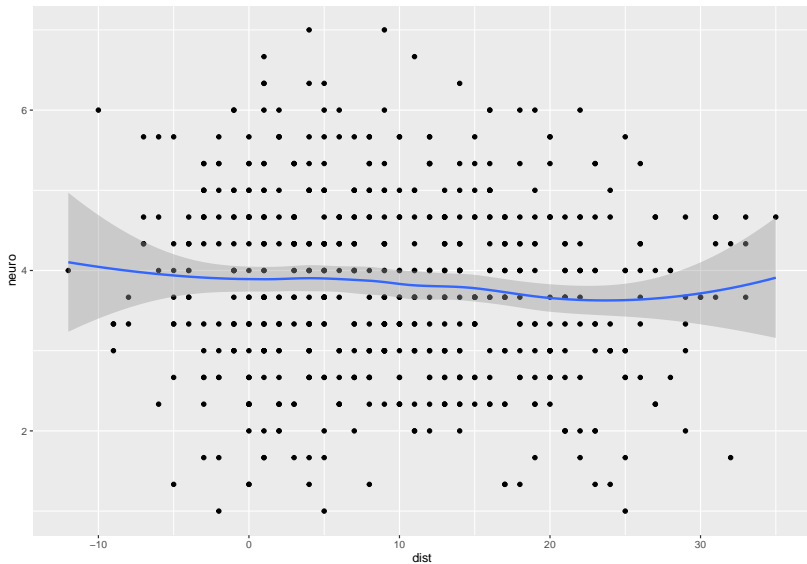
Do those traits change after entering accountancy?

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>				
	Conscientiousness	Extraversion	Agreeableness	Openness	Neuroticism
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Sample (1 = Accountant)	0.094 (0.100)	-0.003 (0.127)	0.026 (0.090)	-0.074 (0.104)	-0.261** (0.122)
age	0.007** (0.004)	-0.010*** (0.003)	-0.008*** (0.003)	-0.004 (0.004)	-0.021*** (0.004)
gender_Age	0.006 (0.005)	0.005 (0.005)	0.001 (0.004)	-0.003 (0.005)	-0.001 (0.005)
higher_edu	0.109** (0.043)	0.021 (0.043)	0.049 (0.037)	-0.063 (0.046)	0.012 (0.050)
Estimator	ols	ols	ols	ols	ols
Fixed effects	pid	pid	pid	pid	pid
Std. errors clustered	pid	pid	pid	pid	pid
Observations	6,294	8,163	8,165	8,145	8,165
R^2	0.013	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.019
Adjusted R^2	-0.645	-0.540	-0.539	-0.540	-0.515

Note:

*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Do those traits change after entering accountancy?



Is openness related to a lower job satisfaction?

<i>Dependent variable:</i>	
Work satisfaction	
entered_acc	0.235 (0.218)
high_openn	0.230*** (0.037)
high_openn_acc	-0.395* (0.219)
age	-0.019*** (0.003)
higher_edu	-0.033 (0.051)
log_wage	0.145*** (0.038)
pgtatzeit	-0.008*** (0.002)
Estimator	ols
Fixed effects	syear
Std. errors clustered	syear
Observations	6,563
R^2	0.010
Adjusted R^2	0.008

Appendix

Big 5 Personality Traits of Accountants (Control: Professionals)

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>				
	Conscientiousness	Extraversion	Agreeableness	Openness	Neuroticism
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Sample (1 = Accountant)	0.020 (0.040)	-0.053* (0.028)	-0.138*** (0.049)	-0.476*** (0.072)	-0.058 (0.068)
Gender (1 = Female)	0.099*** (0.034)	0.433*** (0.073)	0.007 (0.069)	0.194** (0.084)	0.968*** (0.043)
Age	0.007*** (0.001)	-0.004*** (0.002)	-0.002** (0.001)	0.006*** (0.001)	0.0003 (0.001)
Age x Gender	0.001 (0.001)	-0.001 (0.001)	0.004** (0.002)	0.0003 (0.002)	-0.011*** (0.001)
Higher Education (1 = Yes)	-0.007 (0.010)	-0.194*** (0.014)	0.005 (0.019)	-0.016 (0.011)	-0.044 (0.030)
Estimator	ols	ols	ols	ols	ols
Fixed effects	year	year	year	year	year
Std. errors clustered	year	year	year	year	year
Observations	13,017	15,157	15,146	15,119	15,151
R^2	0.019	0.040	0.012	0.016	0.044
Adjusted R^2	0.018	0.039	0.011	0.015	0.044

Note:

* $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$

Satisfaction of Accountants (Control: Professionals)

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>			
	Work satisfaction	Income satisfaction	Leisure satisfaction	Life satisfaction
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Sample (1 = Accountant)	−0.030 (0.050)	0.085* (0.050)	−0.034 (0.055)	−0.048 (0.037)
Gender (1 = Female)	−0.002 (0.017)	0.127*** (0.021)	−0.321*** (0.021)	−0.008 (0.009)
Age	−0.004*** (0.001)	−0.006*** (0.001)	0.009*** (0.002)	−0.008*** (0.001)
Higher Education (1 = Yes)	0.005 (0.021)	0.031 (0.020)	−0.136*** (0.017)	0.096*** (0.023)
log(Income)	0.198*** (0.016)	1.160*** (0.027)	0.125*** (0.017)	0.280*** (0.014)
Working Time	−0.006*** (0.001)	−0.023*** (0.001)	−0.042*** (0.002)	−0.013*** (0.001)
Estimator	ols	ols	ols	ols
Fixed effects	syear	syear	syear	syear
Std. errors clustered	syear	syear	syear	syear
Observations	67,524	48,437	63,313	68,950
R^2	0.004	0.142	0.050	0.016
Adjusted R^2	0.003	0.142	0.050	0.015

What happens after entering the accounting profession?