

Personality tests are **all the rage** --- but what do they really tell you

Despite there being no scientific evidence to **back up** personality tests (many scientists consider them to be the **business-bro** equivalent of **horoscopes**), they are all the rage in the **corporate world**, where they are used as a guide in hiring or assembling more effective teams.

all the rage 风靡一时 business-bro 商业伙伴

horoscope 星座 corporate world 公司界

The famous Myers-Briggs Type **Indicator** (MBTI) divides people into 16 types, depending on their **self-reported** preferences for things such as **extroversion** or **introversion**. The MBTI has been around since the 1960s, and an estimate of two million people take it every year, a lot of whom seem to be management consultants. It is hard to believe that management consultants would **be enamoured of** pseudo-scientific theories, though.

self-report 自我报告 pseudo 伪的, 虚假的

extroversion 外向性 introversion 内向性

be enamoured of 倾心于

Time may finally be up for Myers-Briggs. Researchers at Northwestern University have just published what they believe to be the first scientifically **sound** approach to personality classification. "Personality types only existed in **self-help** literature and did not **have a place in** scientific journals," one of the researchers announced. "This will change because of this study."

sound 合理的, 可靠的 self-help 自助型

have a place in 有一席之地

What makes this new study so great is the **volume** of data; the researchers analyzed questionnaires from more than 1.5 million people. According to this study, your personality is either Average, Reserved, Self-Centred, or a Role Model. "Young males are **overrepresented** in

the Self-Centred group, while females over 15 years old are vastly **underrepresented**".

Meanwhile, the most common personality type is Average, which is defined as being "high in **neuroticism** and extroversion, while low in openness".

volume 量

neuroticism 神经敏感

overrepresented 比例偏高的

underrepresented 比例偏低的

However, the general public may not care if personality tests are scientific or not. We love them because they cater to our **narcissism** and our need to belong; they make us feel normal and special at the same time.

narcissism 自恋