Nerdy personality attributes project

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Below is the recruitment message I plan to use on Facebook when recruiting my participants.

Calling all fellow Geeks/Nerds!

I am currently conducting a study as part of my dissertation for my undergraduate psychology degree at Northumbria University and would really appreciate it if anyone could take part. I am looking at geekiness/nerdiness as a personality trait and how it relates to other personality traits.

You will have to fill out 2 short questionnaires and provide some basic information about yourself however the data will be anonymized. You will also get to know your score for the Nerdy Personality Attribute Scale. Feel free to compare your scores to others but please answer the questions honestly. This should take you approximately 10 minutes.

You must be 18 or over and identify as a geek/nerd in order to be eligible for the study. For more information and to take part in the study please click the link below.

(Link)

This study has received full ethical approval by the Ethics Committee within the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences at Northumbria University. Thank you all in advance!

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION AND CONSENT FORM**

The purpose of this information page is to give you enough information so that you can give your informed consent. Therefore, it’s very important that you read this information carefully and raise any questions that you do not understand with the investigator (via email).

**Name of Researcher:** Callum Finister (w16016333@northumbria.ac.uk)

**Name of Supervisor:** Thomas Pollet (Thomas.Pollet@northumbria.ac.uk)

**Project Title: How does being nerdy/geeky relate to the big five personality traits of a person.**

**What is the purpose of the project?** Nerd culture includes a range of interests such as science fiction (e.g., Star Wars), role-playing games, Video games (e.g., Fortnite), comic books, and cosplay (costume role-play). Nerd activities used to be separate from popular culture, but thanks to things like movie and series adaptations of comic books (e.g., Marvel cinematic universe) and the internet, Nerd culture is a major part of popular culture. What I would like to explore through this study is firstly, is there a significant difference between the general population and a group of self-identified nerds? Secondly; is there any significant personality differences between Nerds and the general population? Finally, is there any correlation between how ‘nerdy’ someone is and any personality traits?

**Why have I been selected to take part and what are the exclusion criteria?** You must be 18 years or older and identify as a geek or a nerd to take part in this research.

**What will I have to do?** You will be asked to complete a series of questions assessing your nerdy personality attributes and your regular personality attributes. We will also collect some information about you (age, gender, education level, and ethnicity for control purposes).

**Will my participation involve any physical discomfort?** This study should not cause any physical discomfort.

**Will my participation involve any psychological discomfort or embarrassment?** You might feel some slight discomfort answering questions relating to your personality. However, you are free to leave any questions unanswered.

**How will confidentiality be assured and who will have access to the information that I provide?** We will store all data on password-protected computer systems. Information and data gathered during this research study will only be available to the research team named above, and the Undergraduate Ethics Chair (Andrew McNeill) and Project Tutor (Brian Lovell). All data will be stored and treated in keeping with the Data Protection Act. However, in line with current scientific practice, your anonymized data may be made public indefinitely via the Open Scientific Framework. If this is an issue for you then please do not take part in this research.

**Will I receive any financial rewards for taking part?** No

**How can I withdraw from the project?** You can withdraw from the study at any time throughout this session by simply closing the browser or tab. If you do this, any information that you have provided will be destroyed. You can also withdraw after you have completed the study by emailing the researcher within 1 month of taking part in the study. If you do this, any information that you have provided will be destroyed. If you email to be withdrawn from the study after 2 months then it may not be possible to remove you from the study.

**If I require further information who should I contact and how?** If you have any queries or questions, please feel free to contact the researcher (Callum Finister) or their supervisor (Thomas Pollet) using the contact emails at the top of this page.

If you have any concerns or worries concerning this research or if you wish to register a complaint, please direct it to the Department of Psychology Ethics Chair (Undergraduate) at andrew.mcneill@northumbria.ac.uk

The data collected in this study will be used for an Undergraduate Psychology Thesis. It may also be published in scientific journals or presented at conferences. Information and data gathered during this research study will only be available to the research team named above, the Undergraduate Ethics Chair (Andrew McNeill), Project Tutor (Brian Lovell) and the departmental Qualtrics administrator (Kris McCarty). Should the research be presented or published in any form, all data will be anonymous (i.e. your personal information or data will not be identifiable). This anonymous data may be held indefinitely to ensure research integrity.

Any personally identifiable information and data gathered during this research is subject to and will be stored in line with the Data Protection Act (2018). Any personally identifiable information will be destroyed as soon as it is no longer needed (e.g. email addresses used to keep in contact with you will be destroyed as soon as they are no longer required). Consent forms with personal details will be destroyed within six months of the conclusion of the project. Any IP addresses collected via online survey systems will be deleted as soon as data collection is complete.

If personal data has been collected during this study, the legal basis for the study’s personal data processing is that the research is being conducted in the public interest, and/or is necessary for scientific and historical research purposes. You have the right to access your data upon request. Contact the Information Commissioner’s Office for further information, and/or complaints about the University’s processing of personal data: https://ico.org.uk/. The Data Protection Officer at Northumbria University (the Data Controller) is Duncan James (dp.officer@northumbria.ac.uk)

This study and its protocol have received full ethical approval from the Department of Psychology Ethics Committee (Undergraduate) in accordance with the School of Health and Life Sciences Ethics Committee. If you require confirmation of this please contact the Chair of this Committee (Andrew McNeill), stating the title of the research project and the name of the researcher.

You will find out your score for the Nerdy Personality Attribute Scale at the end of the study, you are free to share your score if you wish but we ask that you please answer all questions as honestly as you can. thank you in advance.

Do you identify as a geek/nerd?

* yes (1)

If you would like to take part in this study, please read the statement below and click ‘Yes I consent to taking part in this research’

I understand the nature of the study, and what is required from me.  I understand that after I participate, I will receive a debrief providing me with information about the study and contact details for the researcher.  I understand I am free to withdraw from the study at any time, without having to give a reason for withdrawing. I agree to provide information to the investigator and understand that my contribution will remain confidential.

* Yes I consent to taking part in this research (1)

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Thank you for agreeing to take part in this research. Before you start the survey, we would like you to provide us with an anonymous (but memorable) code name in the box below. This code word will be used to identify your data if you want to withdraw from the study later. Please choose a memorable code name, but try to avoid using obvious phrases (e.g., ‘code name’) or phrases that may compromise the anonymity of the data (e.g., your name).

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What is your gender?

* Male (1)
* Female (2)
* Other / prefer not to say (3)

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how many years old are you?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

how much education have you completed?

* less than high school (1)
* high school (2)
* university degree (3)
* graduate degree (masters and above) (4)

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In which country do you currently reside?

▼ Afghanistan (1) ... Zimbabwe (1357)

Which ethnic groups do you consider yourself part of? (check all that apply)

* Arab (1)
* Asian (2)
* black (3)
* white (4)
* Hispanic (5)
* native American (6)
* native Australian (7)
* other, please specify here: (8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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In the table below, please rate how much you agree with each statement from disagree to agree.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | disagree (1) | somewhat disagree (2) | neutral (3) | somewhat agree (4) | agree (5) |
| I am interested in science. (1) |  |  |  |  |  |
| I was in advanced classes. (2) |  |  |  |  |  |
| I like to play RPGs. (Ex. D&D) (3) |  |  |  |  |  |
| My appearance is not as important as my intelligence. (4) |  |  |  |  |  |
| I collect books. (5) |  |  |  |  |  |
| I prefer academic success to social success. (6) |  |  |  |  |  |
| I watch science related shows. (7) |  |  |  |  |  |
| I spend recreational time researching topics others might find dry or overly rigorous. (8) |  |  |  |  |  |
| I like science fiction. (9) |  |  |  |  |  |
| I would rather read a book than go to a party. (10) |  |  |  |  |  |
| I am more comfortable with my hobbies than I am with other people. (11) |  |  |  |  |  |
| I spend more time at the library than any other public place. (12) |  |  |  |  |  |
| I would describe my smarts as bookish. (13) |  |  |  |  |  |
| I like to read technology news reports. (14) |  |  |  |  |  |
| I have started writing a novel. (15) |  |  |  |  |  |
| I gravitate towards introspection. (16) |  |  |  |  |  |
| I am more comfortable interacting online than in person. (17) |  |  |  |  |  |
| I love to read challenging material. (18) |  |  |  |  |  |
| I have played a lot of video games. (19) |  |  |  |  |  |
| I was a very odd child. (20) |  |  |  |  |  |
| I sometimes prefer fictional people to real ones. (21) |  |  |  |  |  |
| I enjoy learning more than I need to. (22) |  |  |  |  |  |
| I get excited about my ideas and research. (23) |  |  |  |  |  |
| I am a strange person. (24) |  |  |  |  |  |
| I care about super heroes. (25) |  |  |  |  |  |
| I can be socially awkward at times. (26) |  |  |  |  |  |

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In the table below, please rate how well each of the personality descriptions describe you.  
I see myself as:\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | disagree strongly (1) | disagree moderately (2) | disagree a little (3) | neither agree or nor disagree (4) | agree a little (5) | agree moderately (6) | agree strongly (7) |
| extraverted, enthusiastic (1) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| critical, quarrelsome (2) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| dependable, self-disciplined (3) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| anxious, easily upset (4) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| open to new experiences, complex (5) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| reserved, quiet (6) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| sympathetic, warm (7) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| disorganised, careless (8) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| calm, emotionally stable (9) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| conventional, uncreative (10) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| nerdy (11) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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**PARTICIPANT DEBRIEF**

**Name of Researcher:** Callum Finister (w16016333@northumbria.ac.uk)

**Name of Supervisor:** Thomas Pollet (Thomas.Pollet@northumbria.ac.uk)

**Project Title: How does being nerdy/geeky relate to the big five personality traits of a person.**

**What was the purpose of the project?** In this research we were interested the relationships between how nerdy someone is and other well-established personality traits. Previous research suggests there is a correlation between how ‘nerdy’ someone is and how extraverted and how openness to experiences someone is even though stereotypically nerds are introverted. The purpose of this research was to confirm these findings and look at other personality traits in relation to nerdiness such as conscientiousness and agreeableness. This research should there give us a greater understanding of how being a nerd relates to people’s personalities and what type of people they are.

**How will I find out about the results?** If you would like to know the results of this study, please contact Callum Finister (w16016333@northumbria.ac.uk). You will then be given a summary once the results have been analysed.

**If I change my mind and wish to withdraw the information I have provided, how do I do this?** You can withdraw from this study at any time within the next month. If you would like to withdraw from the study please email Callum Finister (w16016333@northumbria.ac.uk) quoting the code word that you provided us with at the beginning of the study. We will then destroy the information that you have given to us. If you email to be withdrawn from the study after a month then it may not be possible to remove you from the study as the data may have already been processed.

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