

25. 国によって異なる笑顔の意味(2)：構造理解

So why is this? Why do some societies not encourage casual smiling? I got my answer when I came across a paper by Kuba Krys, a psychologist at the Polish Academy of Sciences. In some countries, smiling might not be a sign of warmth or even respect. It's evidence that you're a fool — a tricky fool.

Krys focused on a country's "social stability." Countries that are low on this scale tend to have social systems like law courts and health-care that are unreliable and unstable. Therefore, people there view the future as unpredictable and uncontrollable.

Smiling is a sign of certainty and confidence, so when people in those countries smile, it might seem odd to others around them.

Why would you smile when fate is an invisible danger waiting to hurt you?

You might, in those "low stability" countries, even be considered stupid for smiling.
