

26. 国によって異なる笑顔の意味(3)：構造理解

To test this theory, Krys had thousands of people in 44 different countries judge a series of eight smiling and non-smiling faces on a scale of honesty and intelligence. He compared their answers to each country's ranking of social stability from a 2004 study of 62 societies.

He found that in countries like Germany and Switzerland, people with smiling faces were rated as significantly more intelligent than non-smiling people. But in India, Iran, and Russia, those with smiling faces were considered significantly less intelligent.

Even after controlling for other factors, like the economy, there was a strong correlation between how unpredictable a society was and the likelihood its members would consider smiling people unintelligent.

It's worth noting that other studies have found there might be other social factors that play a greater role in emotional expression — which smiling is certainly a part of. And there's evidence that some cultures don't value happiness very highly, which would affect how often people there force themselves to smile. Krys' work could certainly be expanded and repeated, but it might be comforting for any happy Americans who find themselves puzzled by a non-smiling situation like on a subway in Russia.
