

The influence of personality on life satisfaction

Thomas Neher, 17.01.2024

MADE@FAU project

The idea

Individual personality



a country's „average personality“



?

individual life satisfaction



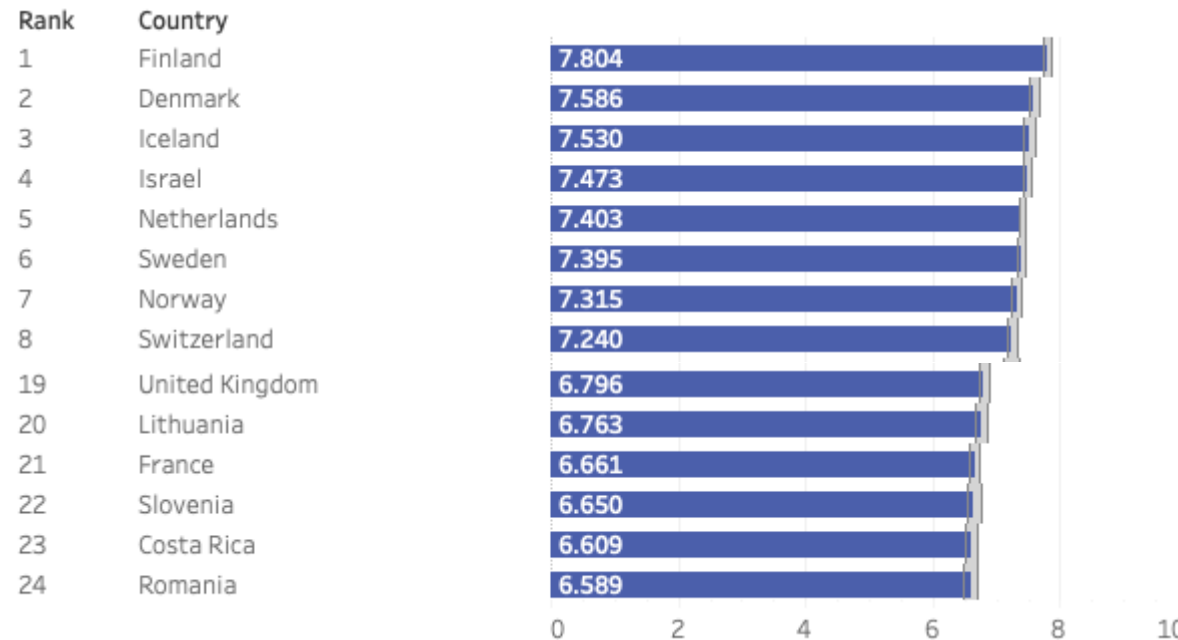
a country's average happiness?

The data – personality

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree not disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	
I take time out for others.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	+ country
I know that I am not a special person.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
I take control of things.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
I try to forgive and forget.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

Open-Source Psychometrics Project. (2014). Answers to
Cattell's 16 Personality Factors Test with items from the IPIP.

The data – happiness



Helliwell, J. F., Layard, R., Sachs, J. D., Aknin, L. B., De Neve, J.-E., & Wang, S. (Eds.). (2023). World Happiness Report 2023 (11th ed.). Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

The data – transformations

- Transforming .zip and .xls to csv
- Selecting data fields
- Filtering and validating the data
- Aggregating personality data on the country level
- Matching country codes of both data sets

Correlations

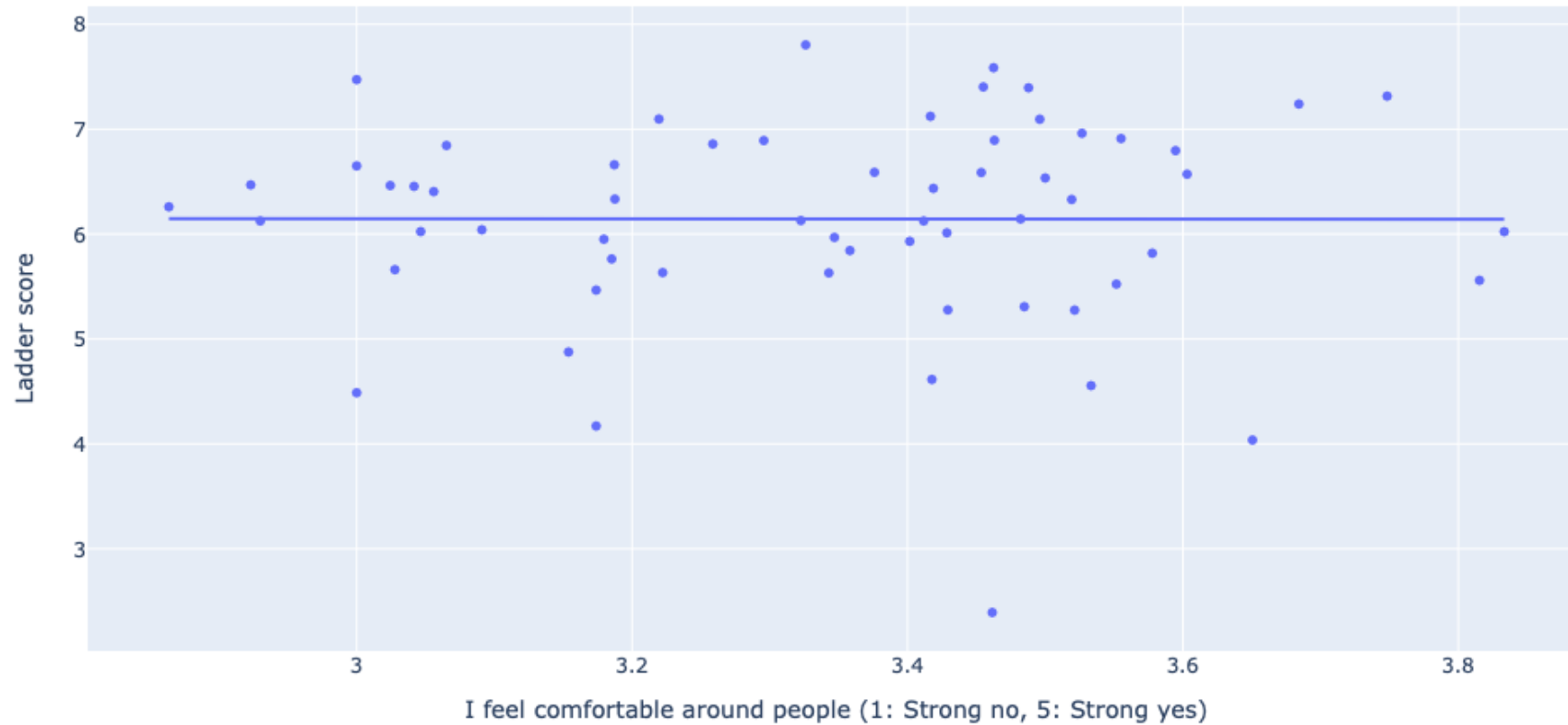
correlation	abs_value	question
high	0.623084	I believe in one true religion
high	0.520874	I am not bothered by messy people
high	0.510531	I believe laws should be strictly enforced
high	0.505590	I dislike loud music
medium	0.499895	I have little to say
...
low	0.004793	I love large parties
low	0.004746	I distrust people
low	0.004740	I do unexpected things
low	0.002114	I enjoy my privacy
low	0.001295	I feel comfortable around people



High correlation question



Low correlation question



Conclusions and limits

- At first glance: open-mindedness and tolerance related to higher ladder scores
- Then: Interpretations contradictory -> no clear conclusion
- Exploratory research, validity not high
- Hypothesis first!
- Relationship is more complex than linear