

Acculturation and Personality among Indian students using the NEO-PI-3

Jade Heffern, Vinita Vader, Vivek Belhekar, Ramona Mellott and Hannah Gish

INTRODUCTION

- This acculturation study investigates the stability of personality by examining the effects of individuals moving from their culture of origin to a new culture
- Evidence suggests personality remains stable and predictable across cultures (Allik et al., 2013; McCrae & Costa, 1997, Berry, 1997, 2003; etc.)
- Research also indicates the stability of personality may undergo changes when a person migrates from one culture to another
- One study examined the effect of acculturation on personality training in a sample of Japanese American immigrants who moved to the US and found personality can be subject to acculturative change (Gungor et al., 2013)

RESEARCH QUESTION

Are there differences in the personality of Indian college students if they intend to migrate/go abroad to study in the US, currently study in the US, and Indian college students who do not intend to migrate/study abroad?

METHOD

- Participants:** Data was collected from four subgroups (Total N= 282):

G1 : Indian national students in India who are planning to migrate/study abroad* (e.g. US)

G2: Indian national students in India who do NOT intend to migrate/study abroad

G3: Indian national students in the US

G4: US national students

*Study Abroad (SA)

- Instrument:** NEO-PI-3 (English version, McCrae et al., 2005)

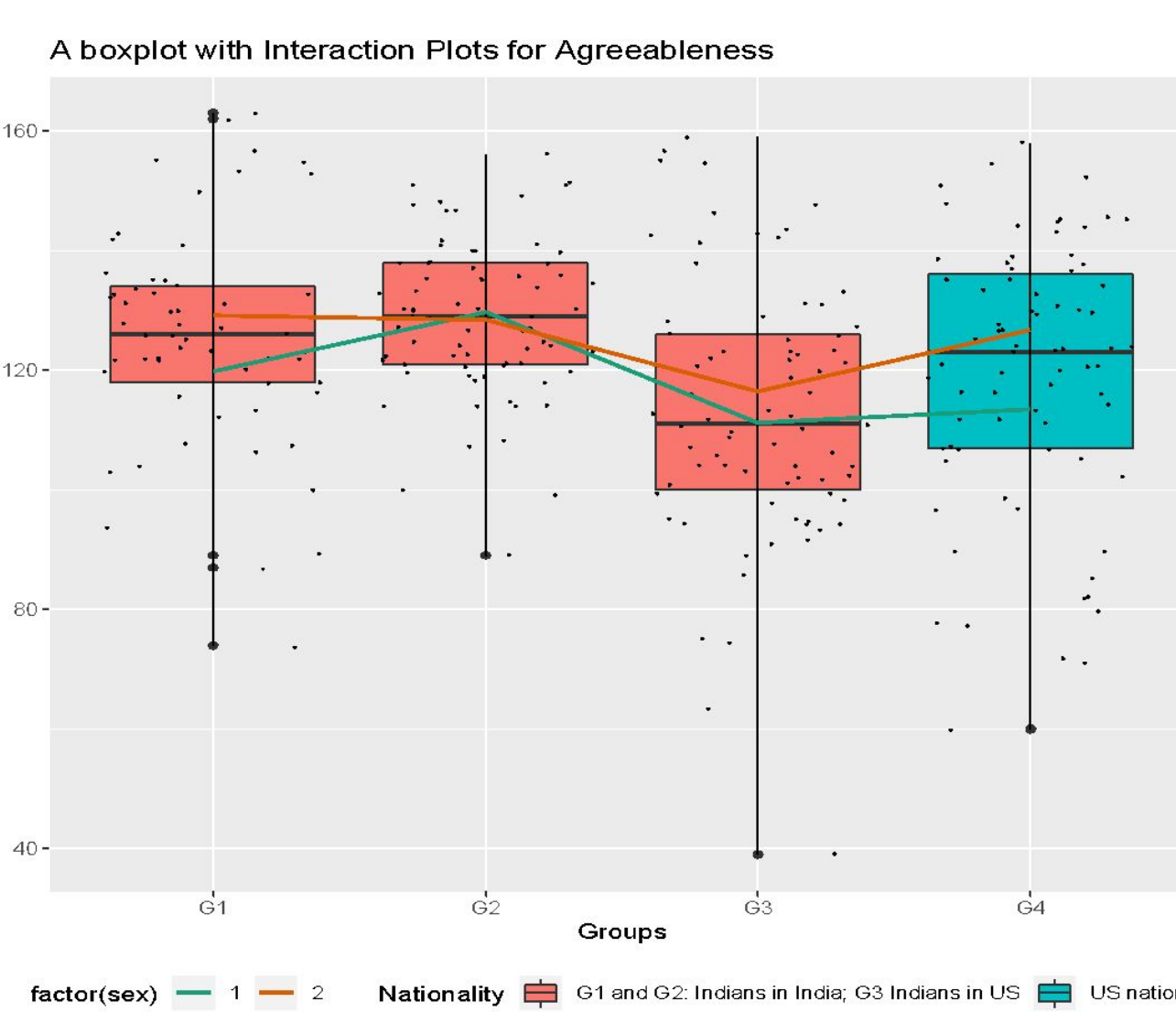
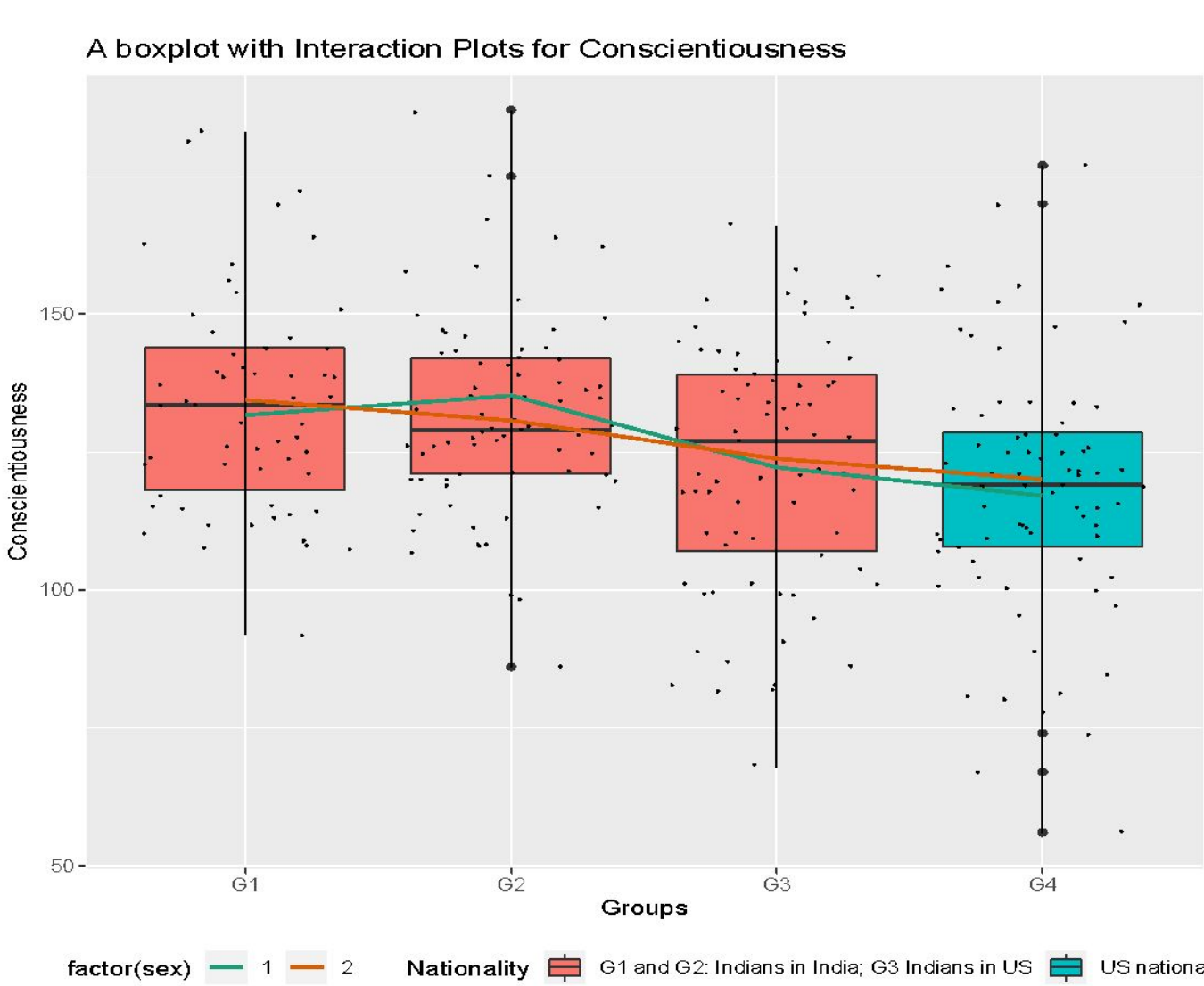
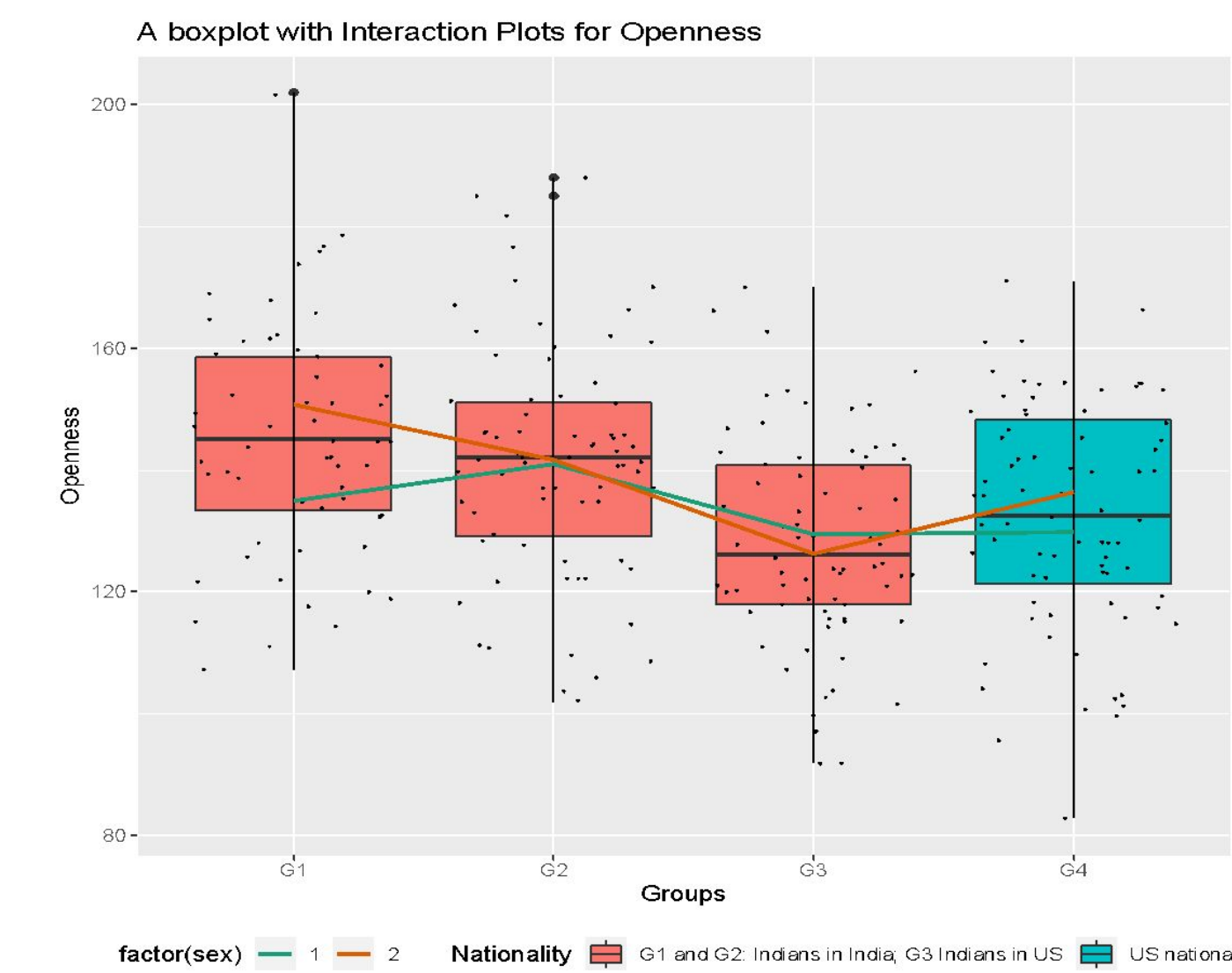
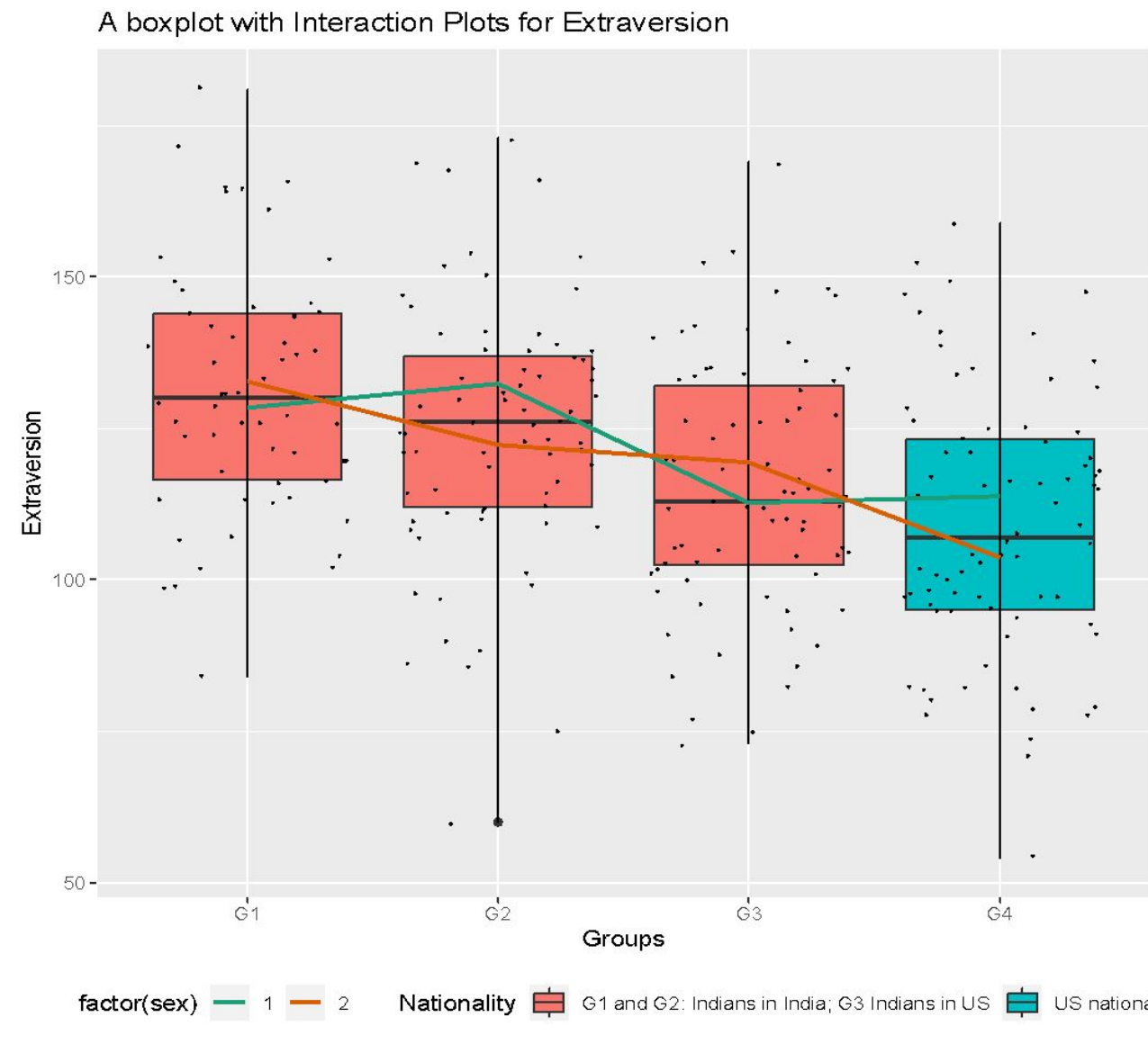
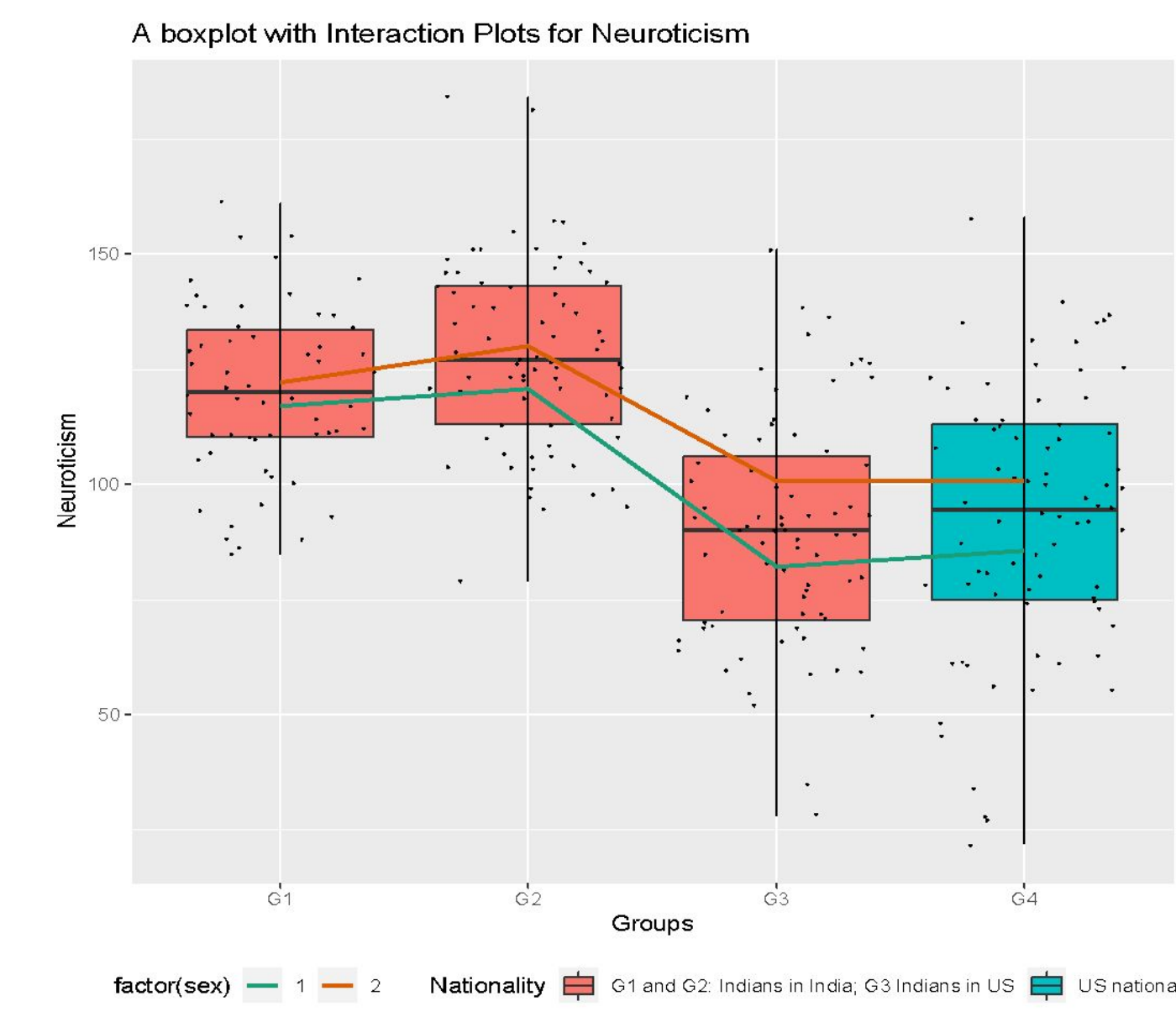
ANALYSIS & RESULTS

- Current study employed a MANOVA and mean comparisons across groups and sexes, factor analysis and cluster analysis to analyze the data.
- Multiple comparisons between four groups were computed employing Tukey’s HSD, Holm’s Adjusted p-values and Benjamin-Hochberg p-values.

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics									
	Indian Nationals						US Nationals		Alpha
	Don't intend to migrate/SA		Intend to migrate/SA		Studying in US		Studying in US		
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
NEO-N	128.03	20.12	120.31	18.37	89.52	24.96	92.33	28.99	.93
NEO-E	124.52	21.26	131.26	20.35	115.37	20.28	109.30	21.90	.89
NEO-O	141.45	19.00	145.05	19.12	128.15	16.80	132.75	18.50	.86
NEO-A	128.71	12.96	125.76	18.28	113.25	21.95	119.49	22.19	.87
NEO-C	131.74	17.83	133.52	19.53	122.85	22.21	118.34	22.81	.89

Table 2: Post Hoc Comparisons for mean Differences across 4 Groups						
	G1-G2	G1-G3	G1-G4	G2-G3	G2-G4	G3-G4
NEO-PI-3 Neuroticism						
Tukey's HSD	-7.72	30.79*	27.98*	38.51*	35.70*	-2.81
Holm's Adj p-values	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.47
BH p-values	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.47
NEO-PI-3 Extraversion						
Tukey's HSD	6.74	15.89*	21.96*	9.15*	15.22*	6.07
Holm's Adj p-values	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.14
BH p-values	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.08
NEO-PI-3 Openness						
Tukey's HSD	3.60	16.90*	12.30*	13.30*	8.70*	-4.60
Holm's Adj p-values	0.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.15
BH p-values	0.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.25
NEO-PI-3 Agreeableness						
Tukey's HSD	-2.95	12.51*	6.27	15.46*	9.22*	-6.24
Holm's Adj p-values	0.39	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.01	0.07
BH p-values	0.39	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.02	0.15
NEO-PI-3 Conscientiousness						
Tukey's HSD	1.78	10.66*	15.18*	8.89*	13.40*	4.51
Holm's Adj p-values	0.63	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.22
BH p-values	0.63	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.37

Note: * = p < .05; HSD = Honestly Significant Difference; BH = Benjamini & Hochberg (1995) FDR; adj = adjusted. Insignificant differences are in Grayscale.



Based on the mean comparisons of the five factors of the NEO-PI-3, results indicate:

--Indians who are studying in the US appear similar to their US counterparts on all 5 personality factors

--Indians who plan to migrate/plan to study abroad appear similar to Indian students who do not intend to migrate/study abroad on all 5 personality factors

--Indians who are currently studying abroad in the US have significant differences in all of the 5 factors in comparison to Indians who are still in India, regardless of their intent to migrate/study abroad or not.

--Indian students who are planning to migrate/study abroad were significantly different on 4 of the 5 personality factors (exception was Agreeableness).

Factor Analysis:

The Five-Factor structure explaining 58% variance is retained with PC-varimax.

Cluster analysis:

K-means clustering is used. Four different solutions were evaluated.

Very broadly, cluster analysis indicates cluster one consisting of Indians in India who want to and do not want to go to the US and cluster two consisting of Indian students studying in the US and US students..

DISCUSSION

These findings indicate that Indian students who move to the US for education show acculturative **changes in their self-report on the Big 5 personality factors with personality factor structures similar to U.S. students.**

Differences in levels of **Neuroticism** after moving to US, can be attributed to a more structured and predictable environment.

Reduced **Extraversion** behaviors in Indian students in US could be indicative of cultural differences across India and US. Lack of opportunity in the initial years to be extraverted could be another possible reason.

Cluster solutions: Two clusters retained

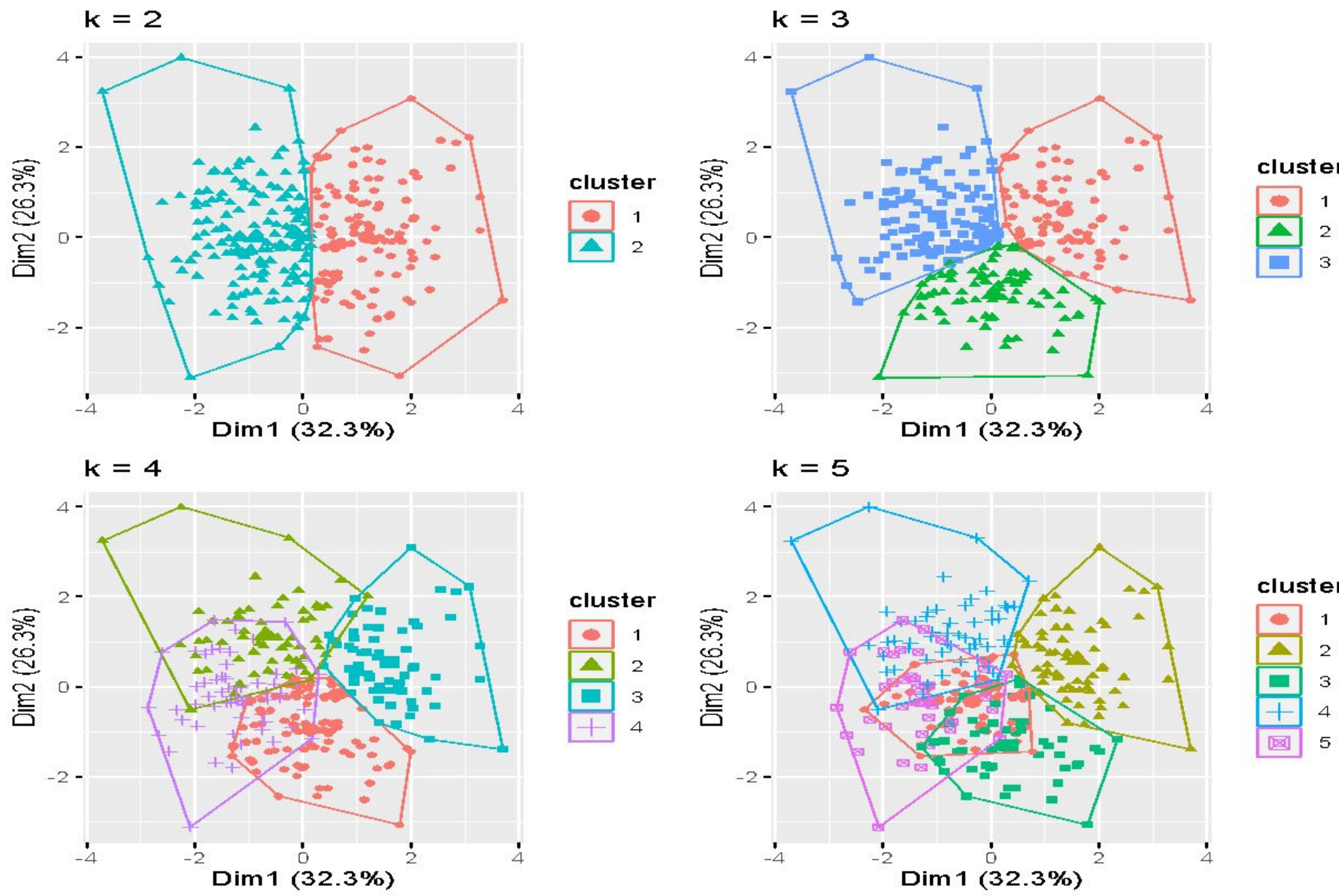


Table 3: Two Clusters and Present country of residence			
Residence	Cluster 1	Cluster 2	Grand Total
India	86	45	131
USA	32	117	149
Grand Total	118	162	280*

Chi Square = 53.988, *df* = 1, *p*-value = 2.017e-13, *Two obs. Not considered for missing values. Accuracy = .73

The present results can be seen in the light of **Acculturation strategies** (Berry & Sam, 1997). **Assimilation or integration strategies** wherein the participants have a positive attitude towards the host culture could be possible reasons; attitudinal and behavioral shifts are possible after migration leading to differences in self report. Another potential explanation can involve Cultural fit between the person’s personality and the host culture. It is possible that people high on extraversion were more likely to move to the US for further studies (Silventoinen et