

Humor Styles and Job Interests

Trinity Ho and Dr. Julie Aitken Schermer

INTRODUCTION

What

The goal of this study was to investigate the possible relationships between humor styles and vocational interests by using the correlations from the two variables.

They were represented by the following factors:

Humor Styles:

- Affiliative
- Self-Enhancing
- Self-defeating
- Aggressive

Vocational Interests:

- Artistic (Creative Arts, Performing Arts, Author-Journalism, Technical Writing)
- Science (Mathematics, Physical Science, Engineering, Life-Science)
- Social (Social Science, Personal Service, Teaching, Social Service, Elementary Education)
- Biology (Adventure, Nature-Agriculture, Medical Service)
- Applied (Skilled Trades, Family Activity, Office Work)
- Business (Dominant Leadership, Finance, Business, Sales, Supervision, HR Management, Law, Professional Advising)
- Work Style (Job Security, Stamina, Accountability, Academic Achievement, Independence, Planfulness, Interpersonal Confidence)

Why

Previous research suggests that humor in general plays an important role regarding work/job satisfaction individual and job performance (de Sousa et al., 2017), or the atmosphere at work place in general (Romero & Cruthirds, 2007).

This study aims to investigate the possible relationships and fill the gap, between humor styles and vocational interests.

METHOD

Participants

669 (535 women) volunteer adults from the university community and undergraduate students. Mean age of 40.10 years.

Method

Humor styles questionnaire (HSQ; Martin et al., 2003)

- 32 items
- Eight items using seven-point Likert-type rating scales (1 = definitely disagree to 7 = definitely agree)

Jackson Career Explorer (JCE; Schermer, MacDougall, & Jackson, 2012)

- 170 items
- Measures 34 basic interests, fits a seven-factor solution using ratings from 1 (would not be interested in doing this activity) to 5 (would be very interested in doing this activity)

Procedure

Participants completed the scales using paper and pencil/pen questionnaires or on-line.

RESULTS

Weak and moderate correlations include:

- Participants generally scored highest on affiliative humor (M = 43.9792, SD = 8.65148) and lowest on aggressive humor (M = 24.6590, SD = 8.47991).
- Aggressive humor shows the most significant correlations to the JCE scales

There were no strong significant correlations between humor styles and vocational factors.

DISCUSSION

Results indicate a non-significant relationship overall between humor styles and vocational interests.

de Sousa et al. (2017). Humor at work: a study about the relationship between humor styles, satisfaction with management and individual job performance <https://www.redalyc.org/journal/2734/273462729011/273462729011.pdf>

Martin, R. A., Puhlik-Doris, P., Larsen, G., Gray, J., & Weir, K. (2003). Individual differences in uses of humor and their relation to psychological well-being: Development of the Humor Styles Questionnaire. *Journal of Research in Personality, 37*(1), 48-75.

Romero & Cruthirds, 2007, "The use of humor in the workplace," in *IEEE Engineering Management Review, 34*(3), 18-18, Third Quarter 2006, doi: 10.1109/EMR.2006.261378. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/3228441_The_use_of_humor_in_the_workplace

Schermer, J.A., MacDougall, R., & Jackson, D.N. (2012). *Jackson Career Explorer*. London, Canada: SIGMA Assessment Systems.