

Sexual Dimensions of Person Description are Seven also in Brazil

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Studies oriented by the Big Five Model usually start from a wide range of descriptors of human characteristics. These descriptors undergo a series of procedures aiming to reduce the number of words submitted to empirical testing (John et al., 1988). Some characteristics that are often excluded after those procedures refer to sexuality.

However, when Buss and Schmitt (2000) included some words that describe sexual characteristics in a study conducted to test the replicability of the model, these authors found seven dimensions of sexuality with adequate internal consistency:

- 1) Sexual attractiveness: evaluation of the own potential to be physically attractive to prospective mates
- 2) Relationship exclusivity: willingness to engage in exclusive romantic relationships
- 3) Gender orientation: how people are classified according to gender roles
- 4) Sexual restraint: level of restriction for sexual practice
- 5) Erotophilic disposition: motivation for having sex
- 6) Emotional investment: willingness to invest emotionally in a relationship
- 7) Sexual orientation: how people are characterized in terms of sexual orientation

Based on Evolutionary Psychology and taking the Lexical Hypothesis into account, sexual descriptors should be part of spoken language in all human cultures. Curiously few studies investigated the emergence of the dimensions of sexuality in other cultures. Besides that, there is no evidence that sexuality descriptors contribute to predict psychological variables beyond the traits assessed by the Five Factor Model (FFM).

Goals

The goals of the research were: 1) to verify the structure of sexuality descriptors in Brazilian Portuguese; 2) to test if sexuality descriptors were explained by Big Five personality descriptors; and 3) to verify if sexuality characteristics could predict self-esteem beyond the Big Five Factors.

Method

Participants

Study 1

Participants of the first study were 331 individuals. Most of them (73.4%) were undergraduate students and 65% were women. The average age was 23.3 years ($SD=4.53$). Around half of the participants (56.2%) responded an online questionnaire and the others responded a paper and pencil version.

Study 2

Participants of the second study were 593 individuals from all Brazilian regions. Most of them (53.8%) had a bachelor's degree or higher. The average age was 27.4 years ($SD=8.37$). All the participants responded an online questionnaire.

Results

Study 1

A seven factor solution, similar to the findings of Schmitt and Buss (2000), was extracted ($KMO=.82$, Bartlett's: $p<.001$). Four items did not show satisfactory factor loadings and were thus excluded from the final analysis. The items and their factor loadings are reported in Table 1, as well as internal consistency of the seven factors.

Study 2

A factor analysis including the descriptors of personality (FFM) and sexuality showed that a 12 factors solution was adequate, as it can be observed in Figure 1.

Each one of the 12 factors extracted grouped the items that corresponded to the original configuration of the five big dimensions (FFM) and of the seven sexuality dimensions.

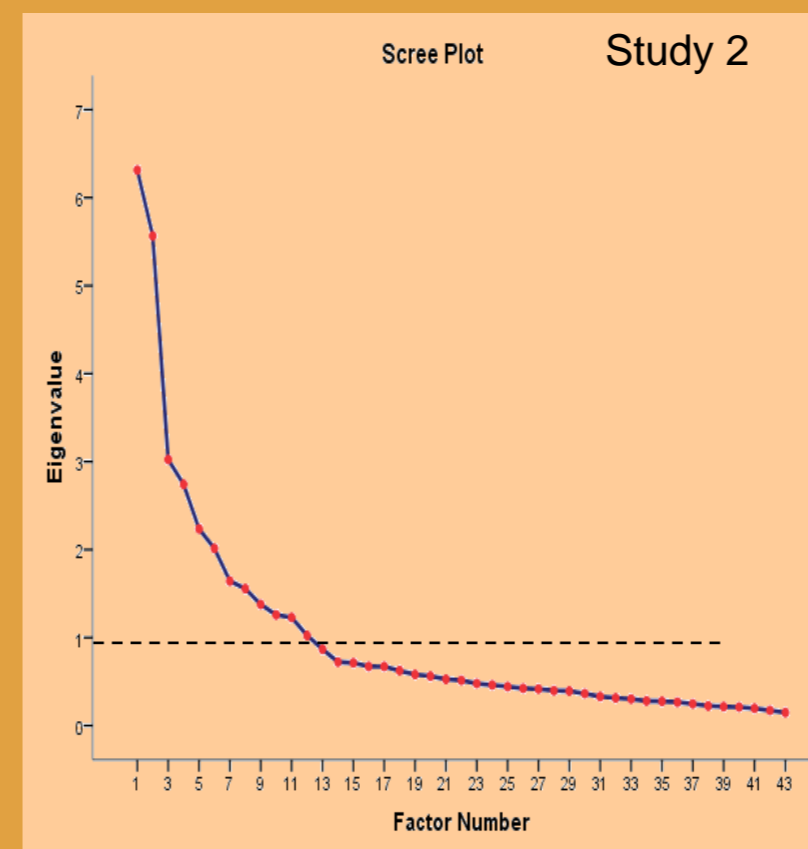


Figure 1. Scree Plot of a Factorial Analyses with all Items of FFM and Sexy Seven.

Table 2. Hierarchical Multiple Regression Analyses Predicting Self-esteem from Personalities Traits in Five Factors and Sexy Seven Models

	Step 1	Step 2
	β	β
Constant	2.61**	2.58**
Agreeableness (FFM)	.10*	.09*
Extroversion (FFM)	.08*	.03
Neuroticism (FFM)	-.24**	-.23**
Consciousness (FFM)	.37**	.34**
Open experience (FFM)	.13**	.09*
Gender orientation		.10*
Sexual attractiveness		.17**
Emotional investment		.06
Erotophilic disposition		-.09*
Sexual orientation		-.04
Relationship exclusivity		.01
Sexual restraint		-.11*
R^2	.29	.33
F	45.8**	23.0**
ΔR^2		.04
ΔF		5.08**

Note. * $p<.05$; ** $p<.001$.

Instruments

Study 1

Two versions (online, paper-and-pencil) of a questionnaire with a list of 32 sexuality descriptors originated from two previous studies with Brazilian samples (Natividade, Laskoski, Barros, & Hutz, in press; Barros, Natividade, & Hutz, in press). Participants had to inform in which degree each descriptor characterized them using a 7 points scale.

Study 2

Online questionnaire containing one list of 28 sexuality adjectives derived from study 1, a brief five-factor personality scale, and the Rosenberg's self-esteem scale.

Procedures

Paper-and-pencil respondents were recruited in two universities and responded the instrument in their classrooms. Online respondents were recruited through invitations by emails and links in social network websites.

Table 1. Factor Loadings and Communalities of Sexuality Descriptors Items for Principal Axis Factor Analysis with Varimax Rotation

	Sexual attractiveness	Gender orientation	Emotional investment	Erotophilic disposition	Relationship exclusivity	Sexual orientation	Sexual restraint	f^2
Sensual	.820	.175	.054	.179	.018	.028		.749
Sexy*								
Excitante	.777	.031	.112	.163	.089	-.109	-.124	.679
Exciting*								
Sedutora	.767	-.118	.177	.089	.075	.027	-.086	.655
Seductive*								
Atraente	.726	.094	-.030	.145	.044	-.074	-.033	.567
Attractive*								
Gostosa	.722	.139	.141	.122	-.036	.042	-.032	.579
Hot*								
Feminina	.111	.931	-.143	.100	-.131	-.021	-.006	.927
Feminine*								
Máscula	-.030	-.891	.150	-.063	.050	.013	.026	.811
Manly*								
Masculina	-.012	-.866	.201	-.062	.128	.020	.010	.824
Masculine*								
Afeminada	.160	.725	-.011	.109	-.089	.080	.029	.578
Effeminate*								
Amorosa	.099	-.075	.826	.049	.145	.120	-.089	.742
Loving*								
Carinhosa	.130	-.096	.742	-.077	.104	.092	-.078	.608
Tender*								
Afetuosas	.054	-.143	.681	-.084	.170	.039	-.004	.525
Affectionate*								
Romântica	.135	-.176	.561	.069	.174	.158	-.181	.457
Romantic*								
Obscena	.129	.085	-.055	.832	-.117	-.011	-.096	.743
Obscene*								
Indecente	.161	.009	-.012	.775	-.097	.023	.065	.641
Indecent*								
Vulgar	.198	.153	-.008	.754	-.115	.009	-.013	.644
Vulgar*								
Pervertida	.227	.096	.014	.457	-.214	-.060	.160	.345
Pervert*								
Infiel	.070	-.032	.238	-.150	.803	.004	-.078	.736
Unfaithful*								
Monogâmica	.089	-.182	.242	-.034	.681	.140	.073	.590
Monogamous*								
Poligâmica	.020	.063	-.154	.249	-.677	-.043	.092	.558
Polygamous*								
Fiel	-.045	.116	-.024	.086	-.649	-.154	.120	.482
Faithful*								
Homossexual	-.032	-.060	.099	-.019	.038	.900	.018	.827
Homosexual*								
Heterossexual	.083	.009	-.051	.011	-.117	-.867	.044	.778
Heterosexual*								
Bissexual	.028	.116	.217	.010	.160	.735	-.020	.627
Bisexual*								
Imaculada	.075	.028	-.090	.157	-.082	-.018	.560	.360
Immaculate*								
Pura	-.020	-.055	.011	-.005	.004	-.009	.551	.308
Pure*								
Recatada	-.123	-.015	-.133	-.069	-.095	-.037	.537	.337
Pudency*								
Virginal	-.183	.043	-.029	-.010	-.008	.025	.508	.295
Virginal*								
Initial Eigenvalues	5.28	4.61	2.73	2.29	1.76	1.54	1.39	
% Variance Explained	11.5	11.4	8.54	8.38	8.14	7.97	4.73	
Mean	4.36	3.44	5.54	2.25	5.91	6.27	2.60	
SD	1.14	1.98	.97	1.17	1.19	1.39	1.08	
Alpha coefficient	.89	.92	.81	.81	.81	.88	.61	
Alpha coefficient Study 1								
Alpha coefficient Study 2	.91	.87	.83	.79	.86	.81	.71	

Note. * Items translated only for this presentation. The factors loading higher than .40 are in boldface. All the values refer to Study 1 and were similar in the Study 2. The alpha coefficient for Study 2 is also showed.

A hierarchical regression analysis included as

predictors of self-esteem in the first step the five factors of personality and in the second step the seven sexuality dimensions. It was observed that most of the variance of self-esteem was explained by the five big factors. However the inclusion of the seven dimensions on the second model contributed significantly to explain self-esteem.

Conclusion

This study attested the existence of descriptors of personal characteristics concerning sexuality in the Brazilian culture. These descriptors represented the same seven dimensions found by Schmitt and Buss (2000).

Our findings support the idea that sexual dimensions of person description are not subsumed, but go beyond the Five Factors when explaining personality. Stating that means to reinforce the notion that the Big Five and the Sexy Seven refer to independent constructs and can, consequently, provide different kinds of information to explain diverse psychological variables.

References

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Support

