

School/Department:	Department of Psychology, Education and Child Studies
Project Title:	The relationship between normal personality, abnormal personality and mental health
Abstract:	<p><i>This project aims to understand the relationships between normal- and abnormal personality traits and mental health in adolescence and emerging adulthood.</i></p> <p>In research on personality, the Big Five model has been well established empirically. This model comprises five broad dimensions that have consistently emerged from investigations of individual differences between persons, in children, adolescents, and adults similarly: Extraversion, Agreeableness (labeled Benevolence with regard to children), Conscientiousness, Emotional Stability and Openness to Experience (labeled Imagination with regard to children). A substantial body of evidence shows that these traits are important in determining risk for adjustment problems. Individuals who are emotionally unstable and highly introverted are prone to depression and anxiety, whereas individuals who are low on benevolence and conscientiousness exhibit higher levels of aggression and delinquency.</p> <p>In contrast to the empirically well-established Big Five model of normal personality traits, Personality Disorders (PDs) are diagnosed in clinical settings based on the criteria of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual–5 (DSM-5), which has no fully empirically established basis. First, the DSM-5 distinguishes 10 specific types of PDs (and the category ‘personality disorder not otherwise specified’). Although these are presented as separate disease entities, in reality comorbidity among these disorders is very high. Second, diagnoses have a categorical all-or-none basis and have arbitrary diagnostic thresholds, with people falling just below a symptom threshold categorized as healthy, and individuals crossing this threshold categorized as having a disordered personality. Third, the DSM-5 criteria are based on the notion that PDs arise in adulthood and cannot easily be diagnosed before this time. In short, the DSM-5 system is flawed in that PDs are not easily separated, individuals just above the threshold are not very different from people just below the threshold, and symptoms of PDs can already be present in childhood and adolescence.</p> <p>To overcome these problems, researchers have argued convincingly that personality pathology may be better conceptualized within a dimensional model. In answer to these developments, the PDs Workgroup of the DSM included an additional, more dimensional model for personality pathology in the new edition of Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5). Although it is becoming clear that abnormal personality may be best described by a dimensional model, similar to normal personality, one of the main questions that remains largely unanswered is: If both normal- and</p>

	<p>abnormal personality are best described by a dimensional trait model, is abnormal personality an extreme manifestation of the same trait dimensions underlying normal personality, or is abnormal personality a separable psychological construct? And, in parallel to this debate, how do normal and abnormal personality then relate to mental health?</p> <p>With this research proposal we aim to investigate how normal personality, abnormal personality, and mental health relate to each other when taking a more dimensional approach.</p> <p>Research questions to consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stability of abnormal personality (3-year interval) 2. Longitudinal relationship between normal personality (dimensions/facets) and abnormal personality 3. Relationship between abnormal personality and mental health (also depending on the interest of the candidate: well-being (PANAS), social media use, relationship quality, coping styles, self-efficacy, substance use, burnout (work/academic) and/or identity) <p>Questions can be answered using data available from the longitudinal Flemish Study on Parenting, Personality and Development (for more details, see https://www.personalitydevelopmentcollaborative.org/project-page-fsppd/)</p>
Requirements of candidate:	<p>Background: Interest in psychology, clinical psychology, personality, abnormal personality, personality pathology, well-being, mental health, predictors of well-being and mental health.</p> <p>Master's degree: Yes</p> <p>EUR requirement:</p> <p>IELTS: 7.5 (min. 6.0 for all subs.) TOEFL: 100 (min. 20 for all subs.)</p>
Supervisor information:	<p>Formal Promoter: Prof. dr. Peter Prinzie Email address: prinzie@essb.eur.nl</p> <p>Five recent key references de Maat, D. A., Schuurmans, I. K., Jongerling, J., Metcalf, S., Lucassen, N., Franken, I. H., Prinzie, P., & et al. (2021). Early life stress and behavior problems in early childhood: Investigating the contributions of child temperament and executive functions to resilience. <i>Child development</i> Van Eldik, W., de Haan, A. D., Arends, L. R., Belsky, J., & Prinzie, P. (2021). Moderation of longitudinal associations between interparental stress and (mal)adaptation by personality: Contrasting differential susceptibility and diathesis-stress models. <i>Journal of Personality</i>, 89,</p>

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Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands
CSC PhD 2021 Project Description
Application to: EuccChinaOffice@eur.nl
Application deadline: Friday Mar 4, 2022



Erasmus University China Center -> CSC Scholarship -> "I am a prospective CSC PhD Candidate" -> Table 1

Please note that each institute requires difference level of English, make sure to find the right institute. 2022 CSC-PhD programme information will be shared and updated soon!