The relationship between personality traits, ethnicity and the tendency for social dissimulation in persons involved and uninvolved in politics

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The relationship between personality traits, ethnicity and the tendency for social dissimulation in persons involved and uninvolved in politics

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Abstract. The purpose of the research was to examine the relationship between personality traits of individuals involved and uninvolved in politics with ethnicity and the tendency for social dissimulation. In assessing the personality traits of individuals involved and uninvolved in politics, the Big Five personality traits model was applied. The study included 525 respondents from RNM, of whom 35 later included in politics (of whom 8 were female) aged 24 to 61 years. The Hexaco Questionnaire was used to assess the features of individuals involved and uninvolved in politics, and the EPQ subscale was used to assess the tendency of social dissimulation. In the data analysis, links were observed between personality traits and ethnicity and social dissimulation. The results show that in the sample tested, Honesty, Social dissimulation and Agreeableness are the most present traits in individuals involved in politics compared to individuals who are not involved in politics. Those involved in politics have a dominant presence of traits such as honesty, modesty, unconventionality and prudence. When it comes to the tendency for social dissimulation, the results state that there are significant differences between individuals involved and not involved in politics. Individuals involved in politics are more likely to display dissimulation. Regression analyzes have shown that Flexibility, Social Boldness, Liveliness, Openness to experiences are considered as the best predictors (out of a total of 26 personality traits) of involving in politics.

Keywords: personality traits, ethnicity, social dissimulation, unconventionality.

Introduction

It is true, personality is an individual psychological category, but it must always be seen as the result of all social events, of all history and historical heritage, as well as of the individual’s position in society. The underlying theme of this problematic relation between personality and politics consists of two issues: political socialization and political culture, which in fact aim at forming political personality and the constellation of “social mentality” or rather political culture (Siber, 1998).

Psychological approaches to personality traits

The process of political socialization it takes into account that it treats the integration of the individual into society as a whole. Seen from this aspect, the individual is the one who creates an interference with the political phenomena as such, within which the personality traits of this
individual create completely new dynamics regarding to the implication and non-implication in the political processes (Maldini, 2011). In these schemes where we observe the mutual relation of the individual with society within a social structure, it is possible to observe several levels of approach to the analysis of the problems of political psychology:

A. aggregate analysis - this approach starts from the general social conditions within which the individual socializes, from the assumption of the individual's socialization and, together with it the psychological content within a population.

B. typological analysis (based on the assumption that there are relatively stable psychological peculiarities that characterize a particular crowd and distinguish it from the others)

C. analysis of the individual (focuses on the need to understand the behavior of designated individuals. Here, first of all, is worked for some particular forms of behavior (creative, protective, pathological) of specific people, in most cases of political leaders who most effectively influence political processes) (Siber, 1998).

These three levels of analysis also provide three basic approaches to the research of political psychology. In it we will start from Kluckhohm and Murray's well-known assumption, which states that the individual resembles no one, the individual resembles some, and the individual is similar to all others.

It is interesting the position of psychological approaches in analyzing ethnic and interethnic relations. In relation with these anthropological-racial approaches it is impossible to disagree with the very early words of John Stuart Mill (1848) which states: "Of all the vulgar forms of escape from the approach of the effects of social and moral effects and influences on human consciousness, the most vulgar is the one that describes differences in behavior and character by highlighting inherited and natural characteristics "(Hutchinson & Smith, 1996, pp. 29).

According to such theories, man and the whole social group are defined by biological inheritance, within which there are genetic differences that condition determination and ability, and with it the rights of peoples assigned to a dominant position In terms of anthropological and scientifically valid approach, ethnic identity is usually the result of the political, cultural, religious and linguistic history of a community before it is the result of "common origin". In this context, eminent British analyst Hugh Seton-Watson wrote: “after studying the ethnic identity problem my whole life, I came to the conclusion that it is not possible to define the nation scientifically. All I can say in this direction is that a significant part of the population of a given community considers that it belongs to a specific nation and behaves in that way” (Siber 1998 pp 48). Psychologically, national feelings can and should be defined as processes of identification and socialization whereby man through this identification reaches to accept the culture, acquires the language, values, and heritage of a given community. One of the most standard definitions is that of Anthony Smith (1973): The national feeling is awareness of the nation's membership and a sense of solidarity with its members; also a desire for the strengthening and freedom of the nation "(Hutchinson & Smith, 1996, pp. 8-9).

Personality is the unique organization of peculiarities, that is formed by the mutual, reciprocal action of the organism & the social circle and which determines the general way for the individuals and his behavioral characteristics. Allport defines personality as : "dynamic structure of those psychophysical systems which in the individual determine its particular adaptability to the circle "(Cloninger & Svrakic, 2009). Millon defines : Personality consists of the embedded, pervasive, consistent and ordinary directions of the psychological functioning of a style ... it is a closely intertwined organization of the attitude, perceptions, habits, emotions and behavior of a person ... ". Personality consists of more restricted characteristics - traits, the matching between which defines it, the personality. Most personalities have a mix of contradictory traits, personality is named based on the dominant trait while basic personality functions are to feel, perceive, think and act (Cloninger & Svrakic, 2009; Martin, 2010; Myers, 2010).
Upon the basic functions, personality consists the lustful, the emotional and the cognitive parts, while in the phenomenological sense: temperament, character & intelligence. (Cloninger & Svrakic, 2009; Martin, 2010; Myers, 2010). Most authors define personality in five main areas: extroversion, pleasantness, awareness, neuroticism, and openness (Cloninger & Svrakic, 2009; Martin, 2010; Myers, 2010).

Methodology

The problem and purpose of this research is to validate the relationship between the personality traits of individuals involved and not involved in politics with ethnicity and the tendency for social dissimulation. The following research hypotheses derive from the research problem:

- H 1 : There is a significant interaction between politics involvement and personality traits according to the Big Fife +2 model.
- H 2 : Personality traits are presented with significant predictive contribution to involvement in politics. The study included 525 respondents, 35 of whom were later involved in politics (8 of whom were female) aged 24 to 61 years.

In assessing personality traits about involvement in politics, the Big Five personality traits model was applied, through the HEXACO I O model. Ashton and Lee (2009) developed a questionnaire measuring six dimensions of personality HEXACO (H = Honesty / Mutility -; E = Emotionality; X = Extraversion; A = Agreeableness compliance-comfort; C = Conscientiousness; O = Openness to experience – open to experience and A= Altruism). It consists of 100 verses divided into four subscales for each of the seven dimensions of personality. Participants were asked to rate each assertion, i.e., a statement on a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Specific results are obtained for each of the 24 dimensions, calculating the arithmetic mean of the evaluations of statement upon the 13 individual aspects. Social dissimulation is operationalized through the EPQ scale dimension. 22 items provide the degree of manifestation of social dissimulation of those involved and not involved in politics. Both measuring instruments have satisfactory reliability. For the Hexako scale α = 0.92 and for the EPQ α = 0.83.

Results

Statistical package SPSS 21 was used for hypothesis testing purposes, parametric and nonparametric statistics were used, and correlation-regression analysis and multipla prediksion.

Table 1. Presentation of the results of the differential analysis between the subsamples of the included and not included in the politics, depending on the dimensions of personality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Not included in politics</th>
<th>Included in politics</th>
<th>t-testi</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
<td>DS</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honesty</td>
<td>53.29</td>
<td>7.60</td>
<td>54.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotionality</td>
<td>53.48</td>
<td>6.89</td>
<td>53.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extraversion</td>
<td>53.24</td>
<td>9.65</td>
<td>53.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The results indicated that there were statistically significant differences between those not involved in politics and those involved in politics in the honesty dimension (t = 3.32; p <0.05) with those involved in politics achieving average greater than respondents not involved in politics. Also, the differential analysis confirmed that significant differences also appear in the social dissimilarity variable (t = 3.78; p <0.01) with those involved in politics more likely to exhibit a tendency for social dissimilarity than those not included in politics.

Table 2. Results from the analysis of variance in the EPQ questionnaire in the context of political inclusion and social dissimulation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effect</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>df</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Political involvement Personality dimensions</td>
<td>89.88</td>
<td>2.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Involvement * dimensions</td>
<td>8.81</td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The results showed a significant main effect of personality dimensions (F (2,29) = 89.88, p <.01) and a significant interaction of involvement in politics and personality traits (F (2,25) = 8.81, p <0.1). Post hoc testing with the Tukey HSD test showed that those involved in politics and not involved in politics manifest the dimensions of the Emotionality traits. It has also been shown that those involved in politics are significantly more likely to have a dominant presence of traits such as honesty, modesty, unconventionalism and prudence compared to those who are not involved in politics where this manifestation is not significant. Furthermore, post hoc testing showed that those not involved in politics use altruism and honesty significantly more than those involved in politics.

Multivariate regression analysis was used to confirm the predictive value of personality traits for inclusion or exclusion in politics. The regression analysis was performed on the sample as a whole by including all the predicted variables. To determine whether the information provided by the model in which the predicates such as dimension of personality are included is valid or not, a variance analysis was performed. The value of the obtained coefficient F = 9.521 p <0.00 indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between the explained and unexplained part of the general multiple regression variance. In other words, the information provided by the coefficient of determination is valuable.

Table 3 Tabular presentation of statistics that corroborate the predicted contribution of structural components of personality traits in the context of involvement or noninvolvement in politics (step-wise analysis)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dependent variable model - personality traits</th>
<th>Predictor</th>
<th>R2 parcial</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>t</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Determination of the relative value of the contribution of particular features in predicting politics involvement or non-involvement is accomplished through a step-wise procedure. The predicative value determination was accomplished through the successful inclusion of the particular predicate in the regression analysis (Table 3). The results presented in Table 3 confirm that the model in which 4 of the 26 personality traits are included explains 35% of the variance of the criterion variable in the politics commitment. Regression analyzes have shown that flexibility, social boldness, liveliness, openness to experience are considered to be the best predictors (out of 26 personality traits) of involvement in politics. The greatest contribution is provided by social courage which itself explains 16.3% of the variable criterion of involvement in politics. The values of the coefficient of determination for the remaining 22 personality dimensions suggest that they should be removed from the prediction variables model since the values obtained are statistically insignificant.

**Discussion**

The work done in the field of examining the personality traits of politicians shows that there are existential characteristics of politicians. Extensive media coverage of politicians’ lives offers great opportunities for clinicians to draw conclusions about the psychological traits of politicians. Specifically, the conclusions of different psychologists are very similar.

Although there are still many models that try to explain the underlying sources of individual changes in personality, in last twenty years, the known model Bige Fife is distinguished as a foundational research and conceptual paradigm in this area (Knezevic, 2003). The model assumes the existence of five basic broad personality traits called Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness, Cooperation, and Conscientiousness (John, Naumann, and Sotto, 2008).

The results show that in relation to personality traits behavioral forms can be identified, which in the broadest sense can be characterized as predicate traits, and which may have latent or manifest character in readiness for involvement in politics (Siber, 1998). Regression analyzes have shown that flexibility, social courage, vivacity, openness to experience are considered to be the best predictors (out of 26 personality traits) of engaging in politics.

The greatest contribution is provided by social courage which itself explains 16.3% of the criterion variable of involvement in politics. The distinctive features of those involved in politics are the product of an individual's interference with political phenomena as such, in which the personality traits of this individual create completely new dynamics regarding (non) implication in political processes (Maldini, 2011).

Results indicated that there were statistically significant differences between those not involved in politics and those involved in politics in the honesty dimension ($t = 3.32; p < 0.05$), with those involved in politics achieving a higher average than non-respondents. Also, the differential analysis confirmed that significant differences also appear in the social dissimilarity variable ($t = 3.78; p < 0.01$) with those that the involved in politics more likely to exhibit a tendency for social dissimilarity than those not involved in politics. The findings show that most personalities have a mix of contradictory traits, but personality is determined based on the dominant trait (Cloninger & Svrakic, 2009; Martin, 2010; Myers, 2010).
The findings showed a significant main effect of personality dimensions \((F = 89.88; p < .01)\) and a significant interaction of social inclusion and personality dimensions \((F = 8.81; p < 0.1)\). Complementary post-hoc tests showed that those involved in politics and those not involved in politics manifest the dimensions of the Emotionality feature. Those involved in politics prove the dominant presence of traits such as honesty, modesty, unconventionalism and prudence compared to the uninvolved. Furthermore, post hoc testing showed that those not involved in politics use altruism and honesty significantly more than those involved in politics. These hypotheses and the empirical findings after them highlight the theoretical and practical importance of more accurately examining personality traits of those involved and uninvolved in politics, obtained by different methods.

References