

Spencer/INET Conference

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Questions to be Addressed at the Conference by All Speakers and Discussants

- ① How firm is the correlational evidence on the predictive power of personality? (Longitudinal and cross section studies)
- ② Association vs. causation: What is the causal status of personality?

Is the evidence on the predictive power of personality correlational or causal? Can we make policy based on it?

- ③ What is the relative importance of person over situation in explaining and predicting behavior?
Is there sharp quantitative evidence?

- ④ Are there precise models of personality and cognition that are useful frameworks for measurement? For policy analysis?
- ⑤ How do the parameters of economic models correspond with psychological measurements?

How best to integrate the evidence in personality psychology with economics? How best to use economic models and approaches in psychology?

- ⑥ To what extent can analysts separate personality variables from measures of cognition? What do achievement tests, IQ tests and grades measure?

- ⑦ Conceptual and empirical models of preference and trait evolution.

How do preferences and traits evolve as functions of age, experience and investment, including willful practice?

The final session will address how well these questions have been answered in the literature and what remains to be done.