

What's in a Name?

Forenames as a Predictor of Psychopathological Personality Traits

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Forename stereotypes are consistent with gender differences in disorder-relevant personality traits.

Pearson Correlations of Forename Perceptions and PAI Traits

	Anxiety	Antisocial Features	Dominance
Gender	.535**	-.375**	-.598**
Age	-.360**	-.048	.465**
Black	-.251*	.167	.211
White	.302**	.073	-.266*
Hispanic	-.114	-.047	.159

Note. * $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$

Anxiety

Model	<i>b</i>	SE	β	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
Gender	.595	.123	.472	4.825	.000
Age	-.475	.260	-.189	-1.827	.072
Black	-.007	.004	-.217	-1.636	.106
White	.000	.003	.009	.063	.950
Hispanic	-.003	.003	-.158	-1.336	.186

Antisocial Features

Model	<i>b</i>	SE	β	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
Gender	-4.84	.123	-.427	-3.929	.000
Age	-2.51	.260	-.111	-.966	.337
Black	.011	.004	.401	2.718	.008
White	.006	.003	.377	2.302	.024
Hispanic	.003	.002	.180	1.367	.176

Dominance

Model	<i>b</i>	SE	β	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
Gender	-.599	.102	-.513	-5.860	.000
Age	.743	.216	.319	3.444	.001
Black	.007	.003	.252	2.125	.037
White	.002	.002	.130	.987	.327
Hispanic	.005	.002	.259	2.440	.017

INTRO

- Examined the association between forenames and gender differences in psychological disorders.
- Hypothesis: Gender-typical forenames are associated with personality traits characterizing gender-linked psychological disorders.

METHODS

- N = 292 undergraduate student participants
- Predictors: Perceived gender, age, and race of 75 forenames
- Dependent variable: Traits derived from scales on the Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI).

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

- Perceived age and gender of forenames were significant predictors of perceptions of anxiety, antisocial features, and dominance but not in suicidality, depression or schizophrenia.
- Forenames may induce a self-fulfilling prophecy effect upon one's personality traits and behavioral expression.