Privacy in Public: Personality and Eriksonian Theory as Applied to College Students’ Facebook Disclosure
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**Method**

**Steps:**
1) Questionnaire on Facebook use
2) NEO-PI-R Five-Factor Inventory of Personality: Extraversion and Neuroticism (Costa & McCrae, 1992)
3) Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (Zimet, Dahlem, Zimet, & Farley, 1988)
4) “Real Me” questionnaire (Amichai-Hamburger; Wainapel; & Fox, 2002)
5) Identity and intimacy sections of the Erikson Psychosocial Inventory Scale (Rosenthal, Gurney, & Moore, 1981)
6) Logged onto Facebook & used checklist!

**Results**

- Extroversion significantly negatively correlated with number of items in “Info” section—did not support hypothesis
- None of the other factors of interest had a significant effect on the total number of categories.
- Surprising findings:
  - Correlations between “Real Me” and other measures of interest

**Future Research**

- Continue exploring internet self vs. offline self using a different measure
- Encompass a greater variety of ages to explore Eriksonian psychosocial stages
- Analyze other parts of Facebook profile for disclosure

**Background**

- **Extroversion:** Gaining energy from others vs. from self
- **Neuroticism:** Worrying, emotionally unstable
- **Erik Erikson’s Theory of Psychosocial Development:**
  - People must deal with certain decisions (“crises”) at specific life stages
  - Identity vs. Role Confusion
  - Intimacy vs. Isolation
- Research is divided in how each of these aspects of a person affect what they disclose on their Facebook profiles.

**Project Description**

- “What effect do personality and stage of development according to Erikson’s theory have on Facebook disclosure?”
- **Hypotheses:**
  - High extroversion → High Facebook disclosure
  - High neuroticism → High Facebook disclosure
  - Strong identity → High Facebook disclosure
  - Strong intimacy → Low Facebook disclosure
- **Participants:** 56 undergraduate students enrolled in psychology class
- **Independent variables:** extroversion, neuroticism, identity, intimacy, social support
- **Dependent variables:** total number of categories in “Info” section and results on “Real Me” questionnaire (secondary dependent variable)

**Table:**

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<th>Ext.</th>
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**Correlations among all measures of interest.**

**Int.** = Identity
**Id.** = Intimacy
**Neu.** = Neuroticism
**Ext.** = Extroversion
**RM 3** = Real Me 3
**RM 4** = Real Me 4

**Correlation is significant at the .01 level.**
**Correlation is significant at the .05 level.**