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