
(1 thesis; advisor: Richard Rau)

The Interpersonal Circumplex (IPC; Wiggins, 1979) is a two-dimensional space with the dimensions of agency (dominance, assertiveness) and communion (friendliness, warmth) that is commonly used by psychologists to understand interpersonal traits. A core assumption of the IPC is that agency and communion are orthogonal axes. In other words, whether or not someone is assertive should have nothing to do with whether or not he or she is friendly. This assumption has been validated for self-perceptions, but it might not hold for other-perceptions. In fact, different relationships between perceptions of others’ agentic and communal traits—including negative, positive, and curvilinear—have been suggested in different literatures. A potential explanation for this discrepancy is that the suggestions may refer to different kinds of other-perceptions: (a) how people’s agency and communion are judged by others in general (is someone who is commonly seen as agentic more or less likely to be seen as communal?), (b) how people judge others’ agency and communion in general (is someone who sees most others as agentic more or less likely to see them as communal?), and (c) how people judge others’ agency and communion above and beyond general judgment tendencies (is Ann more or less likely to specifically see Bob as communal when she sees him as agentic?). This differentiation refers to the Social Relations Model (Kenny, 1994), which decomposes person perceptions into target effects (= a), perceiver effects (= b), and relationship effects (= c). Vorhandene Daten: We have two existing datasets that allow for an examination of the relation between agency and communion on the level of targets, perceivers, and relationships as well as in self-reports. You can choose one.

Aufgaben: Literature review, data analysis, writing up results as a master thesis