

INTRODUCTION

In the seventies personality psychology was pronounced dead by some psychologists but in the nineties, personality psychology is once again alive and well. On both sides of the Atlantic it thrives on the excitement generated by research on the Five-Factor model. Editors of the *Journal of Personality*, the *Journal of Personality Disorders*, the *European Journal of Personality*, the *Journal of Personality Assessment and Psychological Inquiry*, have recently published special issues about the Five-Factor Model. Much of the enthusiasm derives from the lexical approach providing evidence for the cross-language replicability of the latent structure of personality descriptive language. The first in the series of cross-language replications was realised by Wim Hofstee's research group at the University of Groningen. The second major European taxonomic research project was carried out by Alois Angleitner's team at the University of Bielefeld. Both pioneers contribute their latest research to this special issue. In 1991, Dolf Kohnstamm from the University of Leiden, convened temperament and personality researchers in a NIAS workshop, to assess the relevance of the Five-Factor Model for the study of individual differences among children. Later on, some of the workshop participants began to collaborate as The International Consortium for the Study of the Developmental Antecedents of the Five-Factor Model (ICDA-FFM). The Dutch (Kohnstamm, Slotboom, & Elphick) and Flemish (Buyst, De Fruyt, & Mervielde) team of the consortium contribute part of their recent research to this special issue. A special issue about European contributions would be incomplete without a critical perspective on the Five-Factor Model. Chris Brand criticises the Model and provides his own alternative, illustrating that even European Five-Factor research has to contend with British Euro-scepticism. Mervielde concludes the special issue with a comment on future developments and research opportunities.

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