

ASTROLOGICAL FACTORS AND PERSONALITY: A SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE REPLICATION*

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SUMMARY

The following astrological and empirical predications were investigated in this study: (a) Extraversion is related to birth under the odd numbered sun signs, and introversion to birth under the even numbered signs; and (b) people born under the water signs are more "emotional" than others. Data were collected from 692 male and female university students born in the Southern hemisphere who were administered the Eysenck Personality Inventory. Results showed no significant differences in extraversion scores of Ss born under odd or even numbered sun signs; or in neuroticism scores of Ss born under water signs.

A. INTRODUCTION

There is a growing controversy in the area of astrological factors and their relationship with personality and other psychological measures. Recently, evidence has been presented that both supports and rejects relationships between birth signs and personality and other factors. Influences of astrological aspects of a person's birth have been shown by Cooper (1), Cooper and Smithers (2), Gauquelin (5, 6), Gauquelin, Deloche, and Tanon (7), and Gauquelin, Lampe, and Paruta (8).

Pellegrini (12) found a marked correlation between the astrological sun signs and the Femininity scale of the California Psychological Inventory. Standen (15) points out that the signs with high femininity are consecutive signs from Leo to Capricorn (July 24 to January 20) and suggests, besides a gross error in the data, various explanations such as weather or diet during gestation or first months of infancy. Pellegrini (13) has expanded Standen's explanations to include the suggestions of the theories of moon phases and

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planetary positions to human fertility, as well as sex and health of offspring put forward by Ostrander and Schroeder (10). The geomagnetic activity that has been reported by Friedman, Becker, and Bachman (4) and Pokorny and Mefferd (14) may well be included amongst those variables. Tyson (16) tested this season of birth hypothesis with a Southern hemisphere sample of Ss which should have reversed Pellegrini's findings. He found no sun sign effect on any of the 18 scales of the CPI which seems to rule out the season of birth factor. He also found a sex effect on 11 of the scales, as expected from the norm tables. These sex differences were not found by Pellegrini, and Tyson suggests that Standen's explanation of a gross data error is likely.

In the most comprehensive study to date, Mayo, White, and Eysenck (9) investigated the traditional astrological theory that certain sun signs (odd numbered signs: Aries, Gemini, Leo, Libra, Sagittarius, and Aquarius) show a tendency toward extraversion while the remainder (even numbered signs: Taurus, Cancer, Virgo, Scorpio, Capricorn and Pisces) show a tendency to introversion. They reported a significant difference in extraversion (E) scores based on the Eysenck Personality Inventory (EPI) between odd and even sun signs. Their results also supported a secondary prediction, an alleged relationship between the water signs (Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces) and emotionality, which suggests that these signs would have elevated neuroticism (N) scores. Again a significant trend was found here. They offer no explanation of these findings, leaving the discussion of the findings to a later date pending replication.

The present study is a replication of the Mayo *et al.* (9) study with the additional hypothesis that the effects may be reversed in the Southern hemisphere.

B. METHOD

The Eysenck Personality Inventory [EPI (3)] was administered to 753 first year undergraduate students at the University of Queensland. The date and place of birth were also obtained for each S. The E and N scores were obtained from the EPI's.

C. RESULTS

From the place of birth data, 692 Southern hemisphere born Ss were used in the analysis. The remaining 61 Ss were excluded because of birth in the Northern hemisphere. Table 1 shows the mean E and N scores for males and females separately and the combined mean score for each of the

TABLE 1
MEAN EXTRAVERSION AND NEUROTICISM SCORES FOR MALES AND FEMALES
BORN UNDER EACH OF THE 12 ZODIACAL SIGNS

| Zodiacal sign | Extraversion | | | | Neuroticism | | Combined | |
|----------------|--------------|----|---------|----|-------------|--------|----------|-------|
| | Males | | Females | | Male | Female | Ext. | Neur. |
| | Mean | N | Mean | N | Mean | Mean | Mean | Mean |
| 1. Aries | 14.42 | 26 | 12.52 | 48 | 11.65 | 11.98 | 13.47 | 11.82 |
| 2. Taurus | 13.55 | 11 | 12.00 | 33 | 11.18 | 12.05 | 12.77 | 11.62 |
| 3. Gemini | 12.00 | 23 | 12.98 | 46 | 11.04 | 13.46 | 12.49 | 12.25 |
| 4. Cancer | 13.10 | 21 | 12.25 | 28 | 11.57 | 12.28 | 12.67 | 11.93 |
| 5. Leo | 14.00 | 22 | 11.55 | 42 | 11.87 | 11.52 | 12.77 | 11.69 |
| 6. Virgo | 12.24 | 17 | 11.69 | 45 | 11.53 | 11.89 | 11.96 | 11.71 |
| 7. Libra | 12.42 | 17 | 12.64 | 39 | 11.12 | 12.28 | 12.53 | 11.70 |
| 8. Scorpio | 13.69 | 26 | 12.55 | 33 | 12.08 | 12.12 | 13.12 | 12.10 |
| 9. Sagittarius | 15.35 | 20 | 12.21 | 38 | 13.65 | 12.61 | 13.78 | 13.13 |
| 10. Capricorn | 13.00 | 15 | 11.75 | 28 | 7.60 | 11.61 | 12.37 | 9.60 |
| 11. Aquarius | 13.07 | 14 | 12.62 | 34 | 12.29 | 12.35 | 12.84 | 12.82 |
| 12. Pisces | 12.45 | 22 | 11.62 | 39 | 12.36 | 12.64 | 12.03 | 12.75 |

12 zodiacal signs, numbered consecutively from 1. Aries to 12. Pisces [a similar procedure to Mayo *et al.*'s (9)]. The combined male and female E and N scores are plotted in Figure 1. The plot of E scores does not show the "saw-tooth" pattern as expected by the odd-even hypothesis. The plot of N scores clearly shows that the water signs are not higher on the N scale than the other signs, and no significant difference was found.

A three factor analysis of variance was performed on the E and N scores

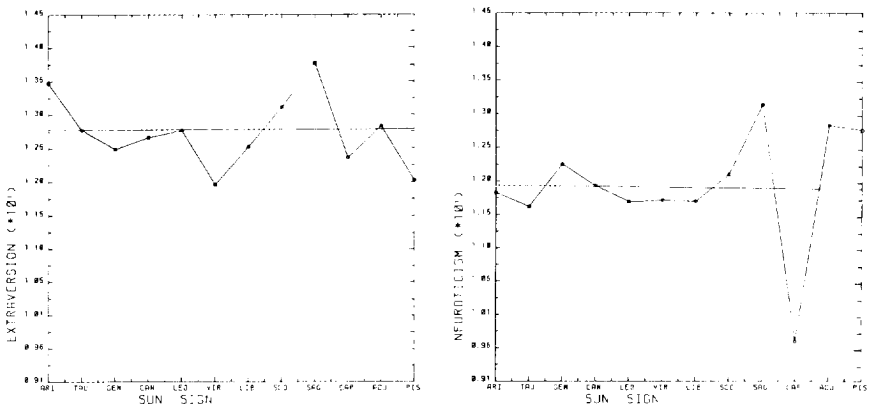


FIGURE 1
MEAN EXTRAVERSION AND NEUROTICISM SCORES FOR THE 12
SUN SIGNS, TOGETHER WITH THE GRAND MEAN, FOR
MALES AND FEMALES COMBINED

to test the odd-even effect with a design similar to that of Mayo *et al.* The first factor, with two levels, was sex. The second factor, also with two levels, was odd *versus* even. The third factor was a dummy factor with six levels corresponding to the paired rows in Table 1 (this is a blocking factor and is in effect removing any variance due to the odd-even pairing over the year). The analysis is an unequal cells design based on the complete linear-model approach (11). The results of the analysis on both the E and N scores yielded no significant effects as was expected, as the odd-even pattern was not obtained. There was no sex effect; this was unexpected as females usually score higher on the N scale (e. g., 9).

D. DISCUSSION

These results clearly show that the odd-even hypothesis and the water sign emotionality hypothesis are not supported in any way. One reason for disagreement may be sample size; ours was smaller than Mayo *et al.*'s (9): 692 as to 2300. If the effect was very slight, though they reported it as strong, it may not show up in small samples. But some trend should have been noticeable if this is the case.

One odd finding in the results was a very low N score for Capricorn males. This is unexplainable by any means and highlights the chance effects that can occur in data, even with such a fair size sample.

Another possible explanation of both this and Tyson's (16) nonfindings is there may be a Northern hemisphere geophysical effect that does not affect Southern hemisphere born people. It seems the hypotheses are in great doubt, but again more replications are needed to settle the relationships of sun signs to personality.

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