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Personality Psychology

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Abstract

Personality psychology, which seeks to study individual differences in thoughts, feelings, and behaviors that persist over time and place, has experienced a renaissance in the last few decades. It has also not been reviewed as a field in the Annual Review since 2001 (Funder, 2001). In this chapter, we seek to provide an update, while also providing a meta-organizational structure to the field. In particular, personality psychology has a prescribed set of four responsibilities that it implicitly or explicitly tackles as a field: (a) describe what personality isthe units of analysis in the field; (b) document how it develops; (c) explain the processes of personality and why they affect functioning; and (d) provide a framework for understanding individuals and explaining their actions, feelings, and motivations. We review progress made over the last 20 years to address these four agendas and finish with a section highlighting future directions and ongoing challenges to the field.

Keywords: personality psychology, individual differences, personality development, personality processes, pers

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