

## Chapter 4

# The Two Disciplines of Scientific Psychology, or: The Disunity of Psychology as a Working Hypothesis

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1 Anybody who has some familiarity with the research literature in scientific psychol-  
2 ogy has probably thought, at one time or another, ‘Well, all these means and cor-  
3 relations are very interesting, but what do they have to do with me, as an individual  
4 person?’. The question, innocuous as it may seem, is a deep and complicated one.  
5 In contrast to the natural sciences, where researchers can safely assume that, say, all  
6 electrons are exchangeable save properties such as location and momentum, people  
7 differ from each other. Furthermore, it is not obvious that these differences can be  
8 treated as irrelevant to the structure of the organisms in question, i.e., it is not clear  
9 that they can be treated as ‘noise’ or ‘error’. The problem permeates virtually every  
10 subdiscipline of psychology, and in fact may be one of the reasons that progress in  
11 psychology has been limited. As Lykken (1991, pp. 3–4) hypothesizes:

12 Psychology isn’t doing very well as a scientific discipline and something seems to be wrong  
13 somewhere. This is due partly to the fact that psychology is simply harder than physics or  
14 chemistry, and for a variety of reasons. One interesting reason is that people differ structur-  
15 ally from each other and therefore cannot be understood in terms of the same theory since  
16 theories are guesses about structure.

17 Lykken’s hypothesis—that the lawfulness in human behavior, and whatever  
18 underlies it, may be person-specific—has potentially far-reaching consequences.  
19 Taken to its limit, the truth of the hypothesis would imply that scientific psychology  
20 would involve the construction of theories of human behavior on a case-by-case  
21 basis—an unmanageable task. In addition, it is not clear whether such an approach  
22 would not be contrary to scientific practice as we currently know it, which seeks  
23 to generalize theories over the objects that they apply to. It is hard, for instance,  
24 to imagine a physics that involves constructing a new theory of free fall for every  
25 piece of rock we may want to study. Nevertheless, the processes that underlie your  
26 behavior are probably more complicated than, say, the gravitational dynamics that

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27 underlie the movements of planets in the solar system, and hence Lykken's hypoth-  
 28 esis has some initial plausibility.

29 Given the magnitude of the problems involved in constructing person-specific  
 30 theories and models, let alone in testing them, it is not surprising that scholars have  
 31 sought to integrate inter-individual differences and intra-individual dynamics  
 32 in a systematic way. This may involve, for instance, constructing theories that apply  
 33 to subgroups of people who are homogeneous at the relevant level of the processes  
 34 under study. In such a case, full generalizability of theories to individuals may not  
 35 be possible, but it would be possible to give a systematic account of how inter-  
 36 individual differences in intra-individual processes are distributed in the general  
 37 population, and how they arise in human development. This would render the task  
 38 of partially homogenizing people, by allocating them to homogeneous subgroups,  
 39 at least somewhat manageable.

40 The call for integration of research traditions dates back at least to Cronbach's  
 41 (1957) lament of the disintegrated state of scientific psychology as it existed in the  
 42 1950s. In this paper, Cronbach (1957) sketched what he viewed as a solution to  
 43 the problem of integrating both research on inter-individual differences (which he  
 44 identified with 'correlational psychology') and intra-individual processes ('experi-  
 45 mental psychology', in his parlance):

46 Correlational psychology studies only variance among organisms; experimental psychol-  
 47 ogy studies only variance among treatments. A united discipline will study both of these,  
 48 but it will also be concerned with the otherwise neglected interactions between organismic  
 49 and treatment variables (...). Our job is to invent constructs and to form a network of laws  
 50 which permits prediction. From observations we must infer a psychological description  
 51 of the situation and of the present state of the organism. Our laws should permit us to  
 52 predict, from this description, the behavior of organism-in-situation. (Cronbach, 1957, pp.  
 53 681–682)

54 One of the notable features of the scientific developments since the 1950s is that  
 55 Cronbach's vision of a unified psychology has failed to materialize. Although his  
 56 call for integration has been echoed by later writers who noted the gulf between the  
 57 experimental and correlational styles of research and the corresponding fraction-  
 58 alization of scientific psychology (e.g., Sternberg & Grigorenko, 2001; Borsboom,  
 59 Mellenbergh, & Van Heerden, 2003), experimental and correlational psychology  
 60 have not moved much closer since 1957. Certainly, both have expanded and pro-  
 61 gressed considerably—but rarely in each other's direction; and the theories used  
 62 in each of the scientific frameworks show few signs of converging into a unified  
 63 system.

64 The fact that no integrated discipline of psychology has heretofore materialized  
 65 may be related to Lykken's (1991) hypothesis of person-specific structure; for it is  
 66 likely that the integration of the different schools would have been an accomplished  
 67 fact, if people *were* homogeneous in the dynamic structure of their mental life and  
 68 behavior. Thus, the lack of integration of research traditions invites a systematic  
 69 analysis of the way that psychology treats the individual. This, then, defines the  
 70 main topic of the present chapter: How does psychology treat the individual person,  
 71 and which theoretical and methodological problems emerge from that treatment?

72 Why have research traditions on intra-individual and inter-individual differences  
73 not converged to a greater degree?

74 The structure of this chapter is as follows. First, we will sketch, roughly, what  
75 we perceive to be the ruling research paradigms in psychology: experimental and  
76 correlational methodology. Second, we will discuss recent methodological research  
77 into homogeneity conditions and show how their violations may affect the conclusions  
78 that researchers draw from their observations. Some particularly problematic  
79 fields are discussed in detail by focusing on the fields of intelligence and personality  
80 research. Third, we discuss possible loci of homogeneity in scientific models, and  
81 sketch the prospects for scientific psychology that may arise from these.

## 82 Ruling Paradigms

83 Not much has changed in the basic divisions in scientific psychology since Cron-  
84 bach (1957) wrote his presidential address. True, today we have mediation and  
85 moderation analyses, which attempt to integrate inter-individual differences and  
86 intra-individual process, and in addition are able to formulate random effects models  
87 that to some extent incorporate inter-individual differences in an experimental  
88 context; but by and large research designs are characterized by a primary focus on  
89 the effects of experimental manipulations or on the structure associations of inter-  
90 individual differences, just as was the case in 1957. The rough structure of these  
91 methodological orientations is as follows.

## 92 *Experimental Research*

93 In experimental research, the researcher typically hopes to demonstrate the exist-  
94 ence of causal effects of experimental manipulations (which typically form the  
95 levels of the ‘independent variable’) on a set of properties which are treated as  
96 dependent on the manipulations (their levels form the ‘dependent variable’). As  
97 an example, Bargh, Chen, and Burrows (1996) created an experimental condi-  
98 tion in which subjects were primed by words like ‘bingo’, ‘Florida’, ‘wrinkle’ and  
99 other words associated with the elderly, and a control condition in which they were  
100 primed with neutral words. They then measured the time it took subjects to walk  
101 from the experimental room. Bargh et al. (1996, p. 237) claim that ‘[p]articipants  
102 in the elderly priming condition ( $M = 8.28$  s) had a slower walking speed compared  
103 to participants in the neutral priming condition ( $M = 7.30$  s),  $t(28) = 2.86$ ,  $p < 0.1$ ,  
104 as predicted.’

105 One interesting and very general fact about experimental research is that such  
106 claims are never literally true. The literal reading of conclusions like Bargh et al.,  
107 very prevalent among untrained readers of scientific work, is that all participants  
108 in the experimental condition were slower than all those in the control condition.

109 But that, of course, is incorrect—otherwise there would be no need for the statisti-  
 110 cians. As Lamiell (1987) has argued, the statements that follow from the statistical  
 111 analysis (assuming the validity of the experiment and dismissing the possibility of  
 112 a Type 1 error or fluke) are true ‘of the average’ but not ‘in general’ (i.e., they are  
 113 true of aggregate statistics, but not true for each individual). In Bargh et al.’s (1996)  
 114 research, for instance, we can be certain that some people in the experimental condi-  
 115 tion were faster than some people in the control condition (unfortunately it is hard to  
 116 tell how many, as the Bargh et al. (1996) paper gives no idea of shape of the distri-  
 117 bution of walking times, not even rough descriptives like standard deviations).

118 Of course, this is an entirely unsurprising fact for those acquainted with experi-  
 119 mental research. In fact, it is so unsurprising that few researchers find it significant  
 120 at all. After all, the difference between the means is in the ‘right’ direction, and that,  
 121 for the typical researcher, is what really matters. However, the question is: in what  
 122 sense is this direction the *right* direction?

123 In the minds of Bargh et al. (1996)—and many other experimental psychologi-  
 124 sts—the direction appears to be ‘right’ in the sense that it gives evidence in sup-  
 125 port of a universal law or mechanism. For instance, Bargh et al. (1996, p. 242)  
 126 conclude: ‘[The experiments] showed that traitlike behavior is (...) produced via  
 127 automatic stereotype activation if that trait participates in the stereotype.’ This obvi-  
 128 ously is not intended to hold for, say, 56.7% of the people. This is supposed to be a  
 129 universal law. In this respect, Bargh et al.’s research is paradigmatic for experimen-  
 130 tal research in psychology.

131 Clearly, the universal law is not very universal here—otherwise no t-tests would  
 132 have been performed. So, there exist differences between individuals that are not  
 133 attributable to the experimental manipulation. In the research tradition of experi-  
 134 mental psychology, however, these differences are analyzed—both conceptually and  
 135 statistically—as noise. The investigator ‘sees’ the universal mechanisms through  
 136 the ‘lens’ of a statistical analysis, which is assumed to pick up such mechanisms.  
 137 The underlying picture here is that each and every individual is an instantiation of a  
 138 universal process that is uncovered by the experiment, much like mean differences  
 139 in growth of crop are assumed to reflect the effects of different fertilizers (not coin-  
 140 cidentally, the experimental design for which R.A. Fisher invented the analysis of  
 141 variance). Hence, inter-individual differences are viewed as noise.

142 How does the individual person fit in this scheme of thinking? It appears that,  
 143 within standard experimental research, the individual figures as an entity that  
 144 is fully exchangeable with any other entity of the same type. This is true across  
 145 subfields of psychology. Even in social psychology, a discipline that might have  
 146 been expected historically to have attended to individuals’ distinctive personal and  
 147 socio-cultural background, individuals primarily have been conceived merely as  
 148 “members of hypothetical statistical populations” (Danziger, 2000, p. 344). They  
 149 thus are interchangeable elements of groups defined in terms of the experimental  
 150 manipulation. The mechanisms underlying any experimental effects (apart from the  
 151 inevitable ‘noise’) are then assumed to be homogeneous; ‘the same type’ is the  
 152 most general type available in psychological research, namely, the human being. In  
 153 research designs that allow for differences between groups of people (e.g., when a

154 variable moderates effects) of that correct for such differences (e.g., through match-  
 155 ing or analysis of covariance), homogeneity is required for the subgroups of people  
 156 who have equivalent positions on the variables that are used for moderation analy-  
 157 ses, matching, or analysis of covariance.

### 158 *Correlational Research*

159 One man's trash is another man's treasure. What the experimental psychologist  
 160 views as error, and tries to block in all possible ways from confounding the experi-  
 161 mental effects, is the object of study for the correlational psychologist. In correla-  
 162 tional research, the focus is on the structure of association between variables on  
 163 which people differ. Typical research findings from correlational studies are, for  
 164 instance, 'people with bigger brains have higher average IQ-scores', 'extraverts  
 165 do better in sales', 'there is high co-morbidity between depression and generalized  
 166 anxiety', or '80% of inter-individual differences in bodily height caused by genetic  
 167 differences between people'.

168 Such statements concern facts about inter-individual differences. It is tempt-  
 169 ing, however, to conclude that they also have meaning for a single individual.  
 170 This is not generally true. To illustrate this, it is useful to use an approach to  
 171 meaning in which the meaning of a statement is analyzed in terms the conditions  
 172 that would render it true. As an example, the statement 'No Ravens are white' is  
 173 true in all situations in which there are Ravens and none of them is white. Notice  
 174 that there are various situations, e.g., involving white, blue, or green Ravens,  
 175 which all conform to the statement above and therefore fulfill its truth condi-  
 176 tions. Analogously, one might concoct the set of all possible situations, call it S,  
 177 that would yield a heritability coefficient of 0.80 in the population, and say: 'this  
 178 is what my statement means; to say that 80% of the observed variance is due to  
 179 genetic variance is to say that one of the situations in S obtains'. Now, it is clear  
 180 that all the situations in S involve a population of that consists of people who dif-  
 181 fer from each other. It is also clear that none of the situations in S is a situation  
 182 where there are no differences between people. By extension, there is no situation  
 183 in S in which there is only one individual, say, you. Thus, the statement is literally  
 184 meaningless, in the sense that it has *no* truth conditions, when interpreted at the  
 185 level of an individual person.

186 So, for instance, if you are two meters tall, the above statement about heritability  
 187 does not entail that 1.80 m of that length are due to your genes and the rest to the  
 188 environment. The heritability estimate is a function of variance (in this case the ratio  
 189 of genetic to total variance) and that variance is, in your case, zero. So, should the  
 190 rest of humanity suddenly decrease from a sudden epidemic, leaving you to be the  
 191 only survivor, then there would no longer be a heritability of height, because there  
 192 is no variance left to define it on or estimate it from. The same holds for all correla-  
 193 tions that are defined on inter-individual differences, except when very stringent  
 194 conditions are met (to be described below).

195 Thus, although in some cases correlational research may yield clues to suggest  
 196 the presence of universal processes, in general the results cannot be interpreted in  
 197 such a way. Hence, in Lamiell's (1987) terms, results from this line of research are  
 198 not true 'in general' either. However, neither are they simply true 'of the average' as  
 199 the facts from experimental research may be (if it is indeed the case that the under-  
 200 lying mechanisms are universal and all the variance unaccounted for is noise). That  
 201 is, in the case of experimental research, the facts yielded may be true of the average  
 202 without any inter-individual differences that exist in the working of the mechanisms  
 203 studied. This is not generally the case for correlational research. For instance, in the  
 204 correlational case, full homogeneity of the studied population would consistently  
 205 yield null results for the study of inter-individual differences (as these are pure  
 206 noise). Thus, rather than being 'true of the average', conclusions drawn from cor-  
 207 relational research are 'true of the inter-individual differences', and without such  
 208 inter-individual differences, they have no meaning.

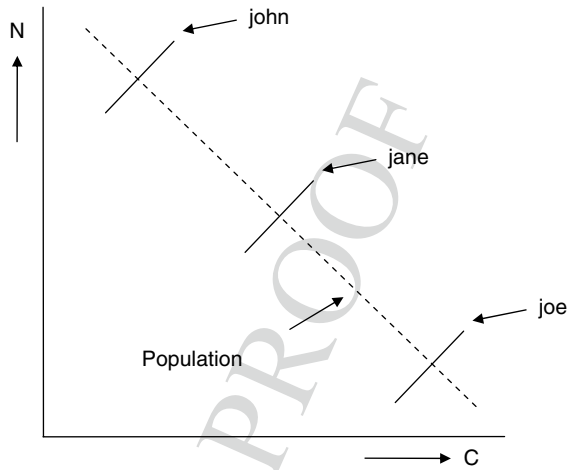
209 What does this mean for the conceptualization of the individual in correlational  
 210 designs? As was argued above, in much experimental research a person is seen as  
 211 the instantiation of a universal process (plus or minus error), which is varied by the  
 212 experimental manipulation. In correlational research, the person functions as the  
 213 instantiation of a class of people with a given position of an inter-individual differ-  
 214 ences variable (say, 'all people who are two meters tall'). Thus, the function of the  
 215 individual in experimental and correlational studies is almost orthogonal. Experi-  
 216 mental studies assume, typically, that a person does not differ from other people in  
 217 relevant ways, and analyze any remaining variance as noise. Correlational studies  
 218 assume, typically, that a person does differ from other people and work exactly on  
 219 these differences.

## 220 *Relations Between the Approaches*

221 In general, facts from correlational research do not generalize to experimental  
 222 research or vice versa. For instance, if it is true that there is a universal influence  
 223 (intraindividual processes) of stereotype primes on walking speed, then this does  
 224 not imply that interinter-individual differences in walking speed are correlated with  
 225 the extent to which people have been primed with 'Florida'. Conversely, if it is  
 226 true that inter-individual differences in normal walking speed are positively cor-  
 227 related with bodily height, this does not mean that surgically increasing your height  
 228 will make you faster, or that walking faster will make you taller. Indeed, relations  
 229 between variables may be in opposite direction in experimental versus correlations  
 230 studies, without any contradiction. As an example, it may be universally true that  
 231 drinking coffee increases one's level of neuroticism; then it may still be the case that  
 232 people who drink more coffee are less neurotic, as illustrated in Fig. 4.1.

233 As can be seen from the figure, the lack of correspondence between intraindi-  
 234 vidual and interindividual relations between variables is a subgroup problem; the  
 235 relation between coffee consumption and neuroticism is positive in each individual,

**Fig. 4.1** Hypothetical relation between coffee consumption and neuroticism. For each individual, the correlation between these variables is positive, but in the population the correlation is negative



236 but those individuals who drink more coffee are generally less neurotic (this is, by  
 237 the way, a special case of Simpson's paradox; see Simpson, 1951). As a result, the  
 238 idea that correlational and experimental research can 'converge', in the sense that  
 239 they render support for the *same* hypothesis—commonly viewed as a desideratum  
 240 in psychological research—only makes sense in a limited set of situations—namely  
 241 those in which the inter-individual differences found in correlational research are  
 242 *exclusively* the result of the intraindividual processes studied in the corresponding  
 243 experimental research. In situations where this is not true, it is unclear whether correla-  
 244 tional research can 'support' the kind of hypotheses that are tested in experimental  
 245 research, because these involve universal processes rather than inter-individual dif-  
 246 ferences; and the set of situations in which laws concerning universal processes yield  
 247 *any* predictions about the structure of inter-individual differences is highly limited.

## 248 *The Role of Temporal Dynamics*

249 The contrasting effects that may be found in correlational versus experimen-  
 250 tal designs can be disentangled if it is possible to use temporal information. For  
 251 instance, intraindividual designs, that sample from the time-domain, would conceivably  
 252 allow the researcher to see that something like Fig. 4.1 is indeed going on  
 253 (Hamaker, Nesselroade, & Molenaar, 2007; Timmerman, Ceulemans, Lichtwarck-  
 254 Aschoff, & Vansteelandt, 2009—this Handbook). The researcher would find, in that  
 255 case, that all intra-individual relations are negative, while all inter-individual rela-  
 256 tions are positive. Using within-subject experimental designs allows one to extend  
 257 such analyses to experimental manipulations, thereby getting a handle on the rela-  
 258 tions that exist between intra-individual processes and inter-individual differences.

259 In order to gauge the possible outcomes of such research, without actually doing  
 260 it, one can also use theoretical analyses of how temporal dynamics may relate to

261 inter-individual differences and responses to experimental manipulations. This is  
262 useful because it allows for a general assessment of the structure of these relations,  
263 for instance, it allows one to assess under which circumstances results from a given  
264 research designs may be unproblematically generalized to other domains. Below  
265 we will execute such a theoretical analysis with respect to the measurement prob-  
266 lem, by assessing the relations between person-specific measurement structures and  
267 models for inter-individual differences.

## 268 **The Psychometric View: Measurement Models** 269 **and Local Homogeneity**

270 In the overwhelming majority of cases in psychology, the intended interpretations of  
271 research data go beyond the actual observations. So, for instance, researchers study  
272 IQ-scores, but want to draw conclusions about intelligence; they get observations  
273 on the reported frequency of alcohol abuse, but want say something about addic-  
274 tion; they get data from diagnostic interviews, but want to make inferences regard-  
275 ing depression. The tradition of scientific psychology is to view such observed  
276 scores as ‘indicators’ of an underlying structure (called a ‘psychological attribute’  
277 or, somewhat misleadingly, a ‘construct’) that is measured through the indicators.  
278 Naturally, in order to gauge whether bridging the gap between intra-individual proc-  
279 ess research and interindividual research is at all possible, one requires some under-  
280 standing of the relation between the measurement structures that may arise in each  
281 of these domains.

282 Measurement models, as they are currently used in psychology, conceptualize  
283 measurement in keeping with the idea that there exists a causal relation between  
284 the attribute measured (say, general intelligence) and the measurement outcomes  
285 (IQ-scores), in such a way that the scores causally depend on the attribute measured  
286 (Borsboom, 2005, 2008). This is most obvious in situations where models with  
287 multiple indicators are used (e.g., factor models or item response theory models). In  
288 these situations, the measurement model is formally indistinguishable from a com-  
289 mon cause model; the latent variable (a formal stand-in for the attribute measured)  
290 functions as the common cause of the indicators. Thus, for instance, the measure-  
291 ment model says that the probability of developing a given depression symptom  
292 (lack of sleep, depressed mood, suicidal ideation) is a monotonically increasing  
293 function of the level of depression. Moreover, most measurement models require  
294 that, given a position on the latent variable, there are no correlations between the  
295 indicators. Thus, in this example, the level of depression ‘screens off’ these correla-  
296 tions. The ‘screening off’ relation is one of the defining features of a common cause  
297 model (Pearl, 2000; in the latent variable modeling literature, this property is called  
298 ‘local independence’).

299 One can set up measurement models both for intra-individual differences as they  
300 extend over time, and for inter-individual differences as they extend over persons.  
301 In the first situation, one typically studies one person (or a small group) by obtain-



302 ing a large set of repeated measures; in the second situation, one studies a large set  
303 of people who have been measured once (or a few times). In a measurement model  
304 for intra-individual processes, one considers a person-specific measurement model  
305 that relates differences in the observed variables (as they occur over time) to a per-  
306 son-specific attribute structure (which varies over time). In a measurement model  
307 for inter-individual differences, one considers a model that relates differences in the  
308 observed variables (as they occur across people) to an inter-individual differences  
309 structure (which describes variation among people).

310 What does it take for inter- and intra-individual measurement structures to  
311 ‘converge’, in the sense that they arrive on the same conclusions with respect to  
312 the measurement model and latent structure? Clearly, this can happen only if the  
313 intra-individual differences structure does not differ markedly across persons, for  
314 otherwise we need person-specific measurement theories. In addition, it would be  
315 beneficial if the intra-individual measurement model and the inter-individual mea-  
316 surement model were isomorphic, so that the measurement model for, say, extra-  
317 version, would also obtain within each individual. Hamaker, Molenaar, and Dolan  
318 (2005) call this condition *homology*. In that case, for instance, one could say that  
319 extraversion is a ‘human universal’ in the strong sense that everybody’s behavior  
320 (insofar as it relevant to extraversion) is a function of the same latent structure,  
321 much like everybody’s length measurements are a function of the same latent struc-  
322 ture (i.e., bodily height).

323 It is sometimes thought that this inference is automatic, so that there is no prob-  
324 lem here. The idea underlying this assumption is that evidence for a given factor  
325 structure, as derived from inter-individual differences data, is *by itself* evidence  
326 for an isomorphic structure ‘in the head’ of the individual people that make up the  
327 population. Examples of this line of thinking are Krueger (1999), who thinks that  
328 factors defined in an inter-individual differences context represent ‘core psycho-  
329 logical processes’ that underlie various mental disorders; Kanazawa (2004), who  
330 thinks that evidence for general intelligence (the *g*-factor) is also evidence for an  
331 adaptation in the form of a single ‘psychological mechanism’ designed by evolution  
332 to solve a particular type of problems; and McCrae and Costa (2008, p. 288), who  
333 think that evidence for the Big Five, as derived from the inter-individual differ-  
334 ences in personality test data, is also evidence for intra-individual statements like  
335 ‘E[xtraversion] causes party-going in individuals’.

336 Such inferences, however, make sense only if there is a logical connection  
337 between hypotheses that concern intra-individual and inter-individual levels; i.e., it  
338 requires the kind of theoretical system that Cronbach (1957) imagined and Lykken  
339 (1991) doubted. In the past 10 years, the idea that such a connection exists as a  
340 matter of logical necessity has been refuted by Molenaar and his colleagues. In  
341 short, Molenaar and others have conducted simulation studies aimed at showing  
342 that standard factor analyses of variation in populations are insensitive to within-  
343 subject heterogeneity.

344 For instance, Molenaar, Huizenga, and Nesselrode (1997) simulate *N* persons,  
345 each of whose behavior is specified by a different factor structure (up to 4 factors).  
346 One person may obey a 1-factor structure, another a 2-factor structure, and each per-

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347 son is associated with different factor loadings and error covariance matrix. Thus,  
348 with respect to within-subject variability, there is radical heterogeneity. The question,  
349 then, is whether there is a between-subject factor model that adequately describes the  
350 between-subject variability. If so, then local homogeneity is violated because not every  
351 member of the population could exemplify the between-subject model. Molenaar  
352 found that a 1-factor structure was sufficient to fit the between-subject variability.

353 This is, at first sight, surprising because most subjects' time-series data were (by  
354 construction) not fit by a 1-factor model and for those whose behavior was speci-  
355 fied by a 1-factor model, the factor loadings and measurement-error variances of  
356 the between-subject analysis did not match those associated with the time-series  
357 data. On a more thorough analysis, however, it is clear that such results may arise,  
358 because the between-subjects covariance matrix is partly a function of differences in  
359 mean levels of subjects on the observed variables (e.g., this is a variant of Simpson's  
360 paradox as displayed in Fig. 4.1; see also Hamaker et al., 2007; Muthén, 1989). In  
361 another simulation, Molenaar (1999) determined the factor scores for each subject  
362 on the basis of the between-subject model and correlated those scores with the fac-  
363 tor scores derived from the time-series data. The correlations were low and in some  
364 cases negative. This is also a variant of Simpson's paradox; if the majority of the  
365 people with a high mean level on the observed scores are, at a given time point,  
366 mostly below their personal means, the relevant correlations become negative.

367 These simulations show that even the most impressive fit of a between-subjects  
368 model to inter-individual differences data does not have implications for the structure  
369 of psychological attributes or processes that operate at the level of the individual. Theo-  
370 ries concerning that structure are therefore grossly underdetermined by evidence taken  
371 from the structure of inter-individual differences. In general, the converse also holds.

372 Many psychometricians and psychologists, for instance, would guess that if every-  
373 body *did* have the same factor structure governing the time series development,  
374 then we should find that structure in the inter-individual differences data. That is, if  
375 everybody's data come from a person-specific single factor model, then we should  
376 find that factor model in the inter-individual differences analysis. Even this, how-  
377 ever, is not generally the case. Hamaker et al. (2007) show that arbitrarily complex  
378 between-subjects structures can be generated by appropriate manipulations of the  
379 averages (over time) around which the time series revolve.

380 Thus, there is no simple inference ticket from inter-individual differences to  
381 intra-individual processes, just as the converse inference ticket does not exist. The  
382 accuracy of intra-individual claims on the basis of inter-individual differences  
383 research depends on a issue not commonly addressed: whether the measurement  
384 models used in the data analysis apply both to differences between people and to  
385 differences within people, i.e., are these measurement models homologous?

386 The conditions for homology to hold are strict. First, it requires local homogene-  
387 ity, that is, the measurement structure that describes test score covariation for the  
388 individual over time must invariant over people. In item response theory, this issue  
389 has been addressed by Ellis and Van den Wollenberg (1993), who show that local  
390 homogeneity is not implied by standard measurement models for inter-individual  
391 differences. In the context of factor analysis, Molenaar, Huizenga, and Nesselroade  
392 (2003; see also Molenaar, 1999) have shown the same conclusion to hold.

393 Local homogeneity refers to the invariance of measurement structures over indi-  
394 viduals. Even if such invariance holds, this does not automatically guarantee that  
395 the results of an intra-individual analysis will resemble those of an inter-individual  
396 differences analysis. That is, if every individual person is adequately described by,  
397 say, a single factor model, then one may still find a very different model when  
398 analyzing inter-individual differences (Hamaker et al., 2007). The reason for this is  
399 that intra-individual time series analyses usually apply to deviations from a person-  
400 specific mean, but the covariance matrix of inter-individual differences data is a  
401 function of differences between person-specific means as well. The structure of the  
402 latter differences is not necessarily constrained by the intra-individual model. Thus,  
403 in order to have homology between the inter-individual differences structure, and  
404 the results from intra-individual analyses, one needs further conditions to obtain.

405 First, it appears that to have convergence of the time series structure and the  
406 inter-individual differences structure in terms of the dimensionality of the model  
407 and the measurement parameters (e.g., factor loadings), one needs not only invari-  
408 ant factor models (which apply to the covariance structure of the data) but also that  
409 the data exhibit strict measurement invariance across individuals (which concerns  
410 the mean structure; Borsboom & Dolan, 2007; see also Meredith, 1993; Muthén,  
411 1989). This requires that differences in observed mean levels between individuals  
412 are exclusively due to differences in latent means. If this is so, then Simpson's para-  
413 dox cannot occur as it does in Fig. 4.1 or in Hamaker et al. (2007).

414 We conjecture that these conditions will lead to the same values of the measure-  
415 ment parameters in the measurement model (e.g., factor loadings and error variances  
416 in the context of factor analysis), whether it is considered over individuals or over  
417 time (Borsboom & Dolan, 2007; Meredith, 1993; Muthén, 1989). However, it need  
418 not lead to equivalent values of parameters that describe the latent structure (e.g.,  
419 means and (co-)variances of latent variables; Muthén, 1989). For a full convergence  
420 of the model structures (i.e., including parameters that describe latent variables and  
421 relations between them) further conditions are required beyond local homogeneity  
422 and measurement invariance. In this case, one needs a condition known as ergodic-  
423 ity (Molenaar, 2004): that is, the results of the analysis as  $n$  (the number of persons)  
424 approaches infinity must be the same as the results of the analysis as  $t$  (the number  
425 of time points) approaches infinity. This in turn requires two subconditions. The  
426 first condition is *stationarity*: each member of the population ('ensemble') must  
427 have stable statistical characteristics, such as a constant mean levels. The second  
428 condition is *homogeneity of the ensemble*. If the ensemble is homogeneous, the tra-  
429 jectories of each individual fall under the same dynamical laws. Thus, in this case  
430 individuals are fully exchangeable.

431 As Van Rijn (2008) notes, this is extremely unlikely to describe any situa-  
432 tion where inter-individual differences research makes sense. It would imply, for  
433 instance, that if 20% of the people have an IQ-score over 115, then every single  
434 individual should obtain a score over 115 for 20% of the time. This is clearly non-  
435 sensical. In fact, ergodicity cannot hold in cases where stable inter-individual differ-  
436 ences exist. This means that whenever there are stable inter-individual differences,  
437 the model that describes them will not in its entirety apply to individual. Also, ergo-  
438 dicity will be violated for developmental processes, since they by definition have

439 statistical characteristics that vary over time (e.g., person-specific mean levels are  
440 not constant over time). We take this to imply that ergodicity should be viewed as  
441 an esoteric condition, that is, we should normally work from the hypothesis that  
442 ergodicity does not hold.

443 The pattern of results that emerges is the following. If ergodicity is violated,  
444 but local homogeneity and measurement invariance over individuals hold, then one  
445 would expect the dimensionality and measurement model to generalize to the indi-  
446 vidual, but not the parameters that refer to the latent variables in the model (e.g.,  
447 means and (co-)variances). If measurement invariance does not hold either, then in  
448 addition neither the dimensionality nor the parameters of the measurement model  
449 will ordinarily generalize to the individual, although it is still conceptually possible  
450 that they will do so by accident (this is a remote possibility). If ergodicity, mea-  
451 surement invariance, and local homogeneity are all violated, then it is impossible in  
452 principle for any of the model results to apply at the level of the individual, because  
453 the measurement models at the level of the individual and of the population do not  
454 match. In this case there is a full disconnect between the proper description of the  
455 person and of the population.

## 456 **The Substantive View: Processes and Inter-Individual** 457 **Differences**

458 The methodological studies discussed above show that that person-specific measure-  
459 ment models need not be invariant when a between-subjects factor analysis yields a  
460 clear pattern. Thus, the various replications of the Big Five personality factors yield  
461 some evidence for a between-subject structure, but that evidence is consistent with  
462 virtually any hypothesis on person-specific dynamics. It is important to note that the  
463 above conclusion concerns the strength of the evidence for person-specific structures  
464 as derived from the analysis of inter-individual differences (the strength of this evi-  
465 dence is nil), but that this does not rule out the possibility that ergodicity, measurement  
466 invariance, or local homogeneity obtain as a matter of empirical fact. Rather it shows  
467 that this is a hypothesis that can only be tested on a case by case basis, by carrying out  
468 the relevant research; however, we think that positive results are not to be expected in  
469 such research. This becomes clear when one stops to consider the subject matter for  
470 areas where these issues are relevant. We will now turn to a discussion of the situation  
471 as it obtains in two such areas, namely the study of intelligence and of personality.

## 472 **The Case of Intelligence**

473 There is no shortage of competing theories of intelligence, but all mainstream  
474 theories—and even some of those outside the mainstream such as Howard Gardner’s  
475 (1993) theory of multiple intelligences—posit mental ability (or “intelligence”) as

476 a property of individuals. Also, we say things like “John did so well on the test  
 477 because he’s so intelligent” or “Look at how well little Jaime did on her math  
 478 test; she’s so intelligent.” Of course, these folk psychological claims are typically  
 479 completely divorced from substantive psychological theory, but nevertheless, they  
 480 indicate a commitment to intelligence as some causally efficacious property of indi-  
 481 viduals. Moreover, these folk psychological claims are not that different from what  
 482 one finds in a clinical report of one’s performance on an IQ test. Therefore, intel-  
 483 ligence is plausibly construed as a psychological attribute that applies to the indi-  
 484 vidual. However, psychometric theories of mental ability are based exclusively on  
 485 between-subject analyses of test performance. They have focused on (differences  
 486 in) intelligence as a source of inter-individual differences, i.e., differences in intel-  
 487 ligence are posited to explain differential performance on tests of mental ability.  
 488 The obvious and well-worn way to get to the individual from the population is *via*  
 489 the assumption of local homogeneity, otherwise the tests may be measuring differ-  
 490 ent traits in individuals than in the population. However, given the noted problems  
 491 in generalizing population structure to the individual, intelligence dimensions like  
 492 the *g*-factor *cannot* be understood on the basis of between-subject data as denoting  
 493 mental ability *qua* within-subject attribute.

494 Psychological practice seems to indicate that psychologists do assume local  
 495 homogeneity, if only tacitly. The concept of intelligence on which the most popular  
 496 intelligence tests are based has general intelligence as a central theoretical posit, and  
 497 general intelligence has its provenance in standard factor analysis of population-  
 498 level data, not time series analyses of within-subject variability. The commitments of  
 499 psychometricians are difficult to discern. Famously, Spearman hypothesized that *g*  
 500 was mental energy, a within-subject attribute. However, he also cautioned his readers  
 501 that the *g*-factor was only a statistical construct expressing between-subject variabil-  
 502 ity. Jensen, too, does not seem consistent enough to attribute to him a commitment to  
 503 local homogeneity. Consider the following quote from Jensen (1998, p. 95):

504 It is important to understand that *g* is *not* a mental or cognitive process or one of the operat-  
 505 ing principles of the mind, such as perception, learning, or memory. Every kind of cognitive  
 506 performance depends upon the operation of some integrated set of processes in the brain.  
 507 These can be called cognitive processes, information processes, or neural processes. Pre-  
 508 sumably their operation involves many complex design features of the brain and its neural  
 509 processes. But these features are not what *g* (or any other psychometric factor) is about.  
 510 Rather, *g* only reflects some part of the *inter-individual differences* in mental abilities... that  
 511 undoubtedly depend on the operation of neural processes in the brain.

512 However in a series of interviews with Frank Miele (2002, pp. 58–59) on the  
 513 *g*-factor and intelligence, Jensen refers to an individual’s *g* as being causally relevant  
 514 to determining that person future occupational success. Mike Anderson (1992, p. 2)  
 515 indicates that he assumes local homogeneity when he writes that

516 [s]ince differences in tests scores are the target of explanation, whether these represent  
 517 differences between 2 adults or longitudinal changes within the same individual seems  
 518 irrelevant. It is taken to be a parsimonious assumption that these differences in scores are  
 519 to be explained with reference to the *same mechanism*. Thus, for example, higher synaptic  
 520 efficiency makes on individual more intelligent than another, and increasing synaptic effi-  
 521 ciency with age makes us more intelligent as we develop.

522 Kanazawa (2004) also assumes local homogeneity when he hypothesizes that  $g$  is  
523 a species-typical information processing mechanism (see Borsboom & Dolan, 2006,  
524 for a criticism of this position). As indicated, for the  $g$ -factor to generalize from the  
525 population to the individual, local homogeneity is a minimum requirement.

526 Strictly taken, the model formulation in factor analysis, as it is applied to intel-  
527 ligence data, is not in keeping with the idea of local homogeneity. The problem here  
528 is that attributes like general intelligence as supposed to be relatively stable. More  
529 precisely, the assumption is that there is little (in practice) or no (in the formulation  
530 of standard measurement models) variation in scores across repeated measures for  
531 an individual; that is, the latent variable position is usually taken to be a constant  
532 for each individual. Typically, variation between testing occasions is attributed to  
533 measurement error, not variation in ability.

534 Psychological theory and psychometric data are often taken to imply that mental  
535 ability is stable in this sense, but if it is, then there is no within-subject variability  
536 to model, i.e., no time series analysis is available for the individual. With no vari-  
537 ability, there is no factor to be extracted. That is, if the standard measurement model  
538 were true for intelligence data, such that deviations from person-specific means  
539 were solely due to error, then one would expect the analysis of time series data to  
540 yield a covariance matrix where all the off-diagonal elements equal zero.

541 At the population-level, however, we find that the  $g$ -factor models are robust.  
542 As Jensen says in the quoted passage above, “ $g$  only reflects some part of the *inter-*  
543 *individual differences* in mental abilities”. Jensen (2002) makes a more careful  
544 statement relevant to the issue of local homogeneity in the context of intelligence  
545 research and psychometric models of inter-individual differences:

546 It is important to keep in mind the distinction between intelligence and  $g$ ... The psychology  
547 of intelligence could, at least in theory, be based on the study of one person, just as Ebbing-  
548 haus discovered some of the laws of learning and memory with  $N = 1$ ... Intelligence is an  
549 open-ended category for all those mental processes we view as cognitive, such as stimulus  
550 apprehension, perception, attention, discrimination, generalization, learning and learning-  
551 set acquisition, short-term and long-term memory, inference, thinking, relational education,  
552 inductive and deductive reasoning, insight, problem solving, and language. The  $g$ -factor is  
553 something else. *It could never have been discovered with  $N = 1$* , because it reflects inter-  
554 individual differences in performance on tests or tasks that involve any one or more of the  
555 processes just referred to as intelligence (pp. 40–41, italics added).

556 That is,  $g$  is a between-subject statistic, and what it purportedly denotes is a  
557 between-subject attribute that “explains” the positive manifold (also a between-  
558 subjects phenomenon). The fact of heterogeneity, however, does not imply that the  
559 between-subject source of variability is not also a source of variability within sub-  
560 jects. Consider the attribute *height*. Height seems to be an attribute that explains  
561 both within-subject and between-subject variability on certain measures such as  
562 being able to ride a roller coaster, retrieving items from high shelves, and shoe  
563 size. With general intelligence, however, all we have are between-subject models  
564 which tell us nothing about how the attribute functions in individuals. Therefore, to  
565 make inferences about individual’s “general intelligence” being a causal factor is,  
566 arguably, unwarranted. Individuals may have some attribute that we can identify as  
567 indicative of “intelligence”, but the between-subject model does not tell us if it is

568 the attribute purportedly indicated by the g-factor. Even though those within-subject  
569 attributes may be related to general intelligence, this relationship is not implied by  
570 the model.

571 Apart from the evidence from between-subjects analyses, are there substantive  
572 reasons that would lead us to suspect any relevance of an attribute like general  
573 intelligence at the level of the individual? Hardly. There is fairly robust evidence  
574 that human cognitive development is characterized by stagewise transitions, for  
575 instance, which are inconsistent with an interpretation of g as a person-specific  
576 attribute, because they involve categorical, qualitative steps in development rather  
577 than children moving up along a smooth continuum (Jansen & Van der Maas, 2002).  
578 Similarly, analyses of various cognitive tasks suggest that mastery of qualitatively  
579 distinct rules is needed to solve, say, Raven items, which may also be viewed as  
580 a problem for the idea that performance on such tasks is determined by smooth  
581 continuum (Verguts & De Boeck, 2002). Language development may likewise be  
582 characterized by sudden jumps in understanding (Van Geert, 1991), for instance  
583 when children start mastering grammar. In addition, although various reductionist  
584 ideas have been put forward, there is no robust evidence for any simple continu-  
585 ous biological substrate that could fill the gap that a dimension like general intel-  
586 ligence leaves at the level of the individual. In fact, the only dynamic theory that has  
587 been proposed to explain the occurrence of the positive manifold of intelligence test  
588 scores (Van der Maas et al., 2006), which forms the main evidence for g, is based  
589 on reciprocal relations between various distinct cognitive processes and does not  
590 even contain general intelligence in its description of the data-generating process.  
591 In conclusion, there is no substantive evidence that general intelligence describes  
592 anything more than a structure of inter-individual differences; and substantive theo-  
593 ries on human development are virtually uniformly in contradiction with the idea  
594 that cognitive development could be described as a smooth transition along a unidi-  
595 mensional attribute.

## 596 **The Case of Personality**

597 If one wants a concrete case of our general point—that psychology’s research  
598 paradigms continue to divide along experimental/correlational lines—there is  
599 no better place to look than the psychology of personality. Decades after Cron-  
600 bach, the seemingly singular professional field continues to harbor two disciplines  
601 (Cervone, 1991, 2004).

602 Even the reader who does not track developments in this field can easily grasp the  
603 nature of this divide, and its implications, through a simple thought experiment. First,  
604 think of a personality variable. Next, think of a personality theorist. Then compare  
605 the two. The personality variable you thought of likely is along the lines of extraversion,  
606 or neuroticism, or something related such as sociability, shyness, or friendli-  
607 ness. The theorist likely is Freud or some 20th-century thinker who was significantly  
608 influenced by Freud’s work. “Extraversion” and “Freud” are prototypic responses.

609 Now compare them. The “personality variables” refer to average tendencies in  
610 thought and action—to what a person does typically. They usually are called *dis-*  
611 *positional* variables because they reference a general inclination, or disposition, to  
612 act in a certain manner. By contrast, the personality theory of Freud did not even  
613 target, as a phenomenon worthy of investigation, average-level behavioral tenden-  
614 cies. Freud saw variability in action rather than average tendencies as revealing of  
615 personality. In psychoanalysis one would not, for example, average together “hos-  
616 tility toward same-sex parent” and “hostility toward opposite-sex parent” to gauge  
617 a persons “average hostile tendencies.” Furthermore, Freud recognized that people  
618 engage in superficially similar actions for different underlying reasons; sometimes  
619 reasons are related complexly and symbolically to overt emotion and action, and  
620 sometimes “it’s just a cigar.” Average behavioral tendencies, then, are an unsure  
621 guide to personality structure.

622 If you had confined your thought-experiment answers to contemporary per-  
623 sonality science (Cervone & Mischel, 2002), the divide would still be apparent.  
624 Contemporary theorists of course abandon much of the theoretical and meta-theo-  
625 retical language of psychoanalysis. Yet, like Freud, many target variability in action  
626 that is apparent when one observes individuals across social context (Mischel &  
627 Shoda, 1995) and recognize that superficially similar dispositional tendencies may  
628 reflect different underlying causes (Cervone, 2004). Overt personality characteris-  
629 tics are seen to result from interactions among psychological systems with different  
630 functional properties (Kuhl & Koole, 2004). Nonetheless, others continue to posit  
631 that “personality structure” is best described by a system of global dispositional  
632 variables (e.g., Ashton & Lee, 2007). In these latter approaches, the core unit of  
633 analysis refers neither to behavior-in-context nor to underlying psychological sys-  
634 tems, dynamics, or functions. The core variables merely describe what people do  
635 on average.

636 How is one to explain these differences? On the one hand, they are closely related  
637 to questions of methodology. Investigators who posit global trait variables tend to  
638 employ methods that are correlational in nature. Variables generally are identified  
639 via factor analysis of inter-individual differences. Those who adopt other perspec-  
640 tives favor other methods, such as case studies (e.g., Freud, 1900; Hermans, 2001)  
641 or experiments (e.g., Greenberg, Koole, & Pyszinski, 2004). So methodological  
642 choices may drive the differences between theoretical views.

643 Yet we suspect that methodological choices *sustain* differences rather than being  
644 their origin. Theoretical camps professionalize in such a way that a given method is  
645 sanctioned, findings that employ the method are publishable when reviewed by the  
646 professional in-group, and the body of published findings sustains the theoretical  
647 approach, including the careers of those who espouse it. This sociology of science,  
648 however, fails to explain how theoretical differences arose in the first place. How  
649 can it be that some investigators view global behavioral tendencies as the structure  
650 of personality, whereas others explore personality dynamics and view idiosyncratic,  
651 contextualized patterns of variability in action as the key markers of underlying  
652 personality structure? It would appear that the very meaning of “personality” and  
653 “personality structure” differs from one group of investigators to another (Cervone,

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654 2005). In one case, the terms reference the architecture of mental systems that  
655 contribute to those aspects of experience and action that conventionally are called  
656 “personality”; this meaning has been apparent since the work of Freud (1923) and  
657 remains evident today (Cervone, et al., 2008). In the other, personality constructs  
658 serve as a “descriptive taxonomy” (John & Srivastava, 1999, p. 103), and the entity  
659 being described is variation in the population at large. How could such divergent  
660 conceptions of “personality” have arisen in the first place?

661 Another thought experiment may be informative. For simplicity, we will shift  
662 our focus from persons to an artifact whose properties are fully understood. Sup-  
663 pose that two teams of extraterrestrial investigators landed on Earth and explored  
664 what might appear to be dominant large species roaming the land: automobiles.  
665 Suppose that one team examined individual automobiles in detail, perhaps with  
666 each member of the team taking a close look at a couple of cars, examined one-  
667 at-a-time. After this data gathering, members of the group might compare notes to  
668 develop a conceptual model of cars. If the extraterrestrials have a good head on their  
669 shoulders, they might surmise from their observations that cars have a number of  
670 distinct functional systems: a system for storing fuel; a system for burning the fuel;  
671 a cooling system; a transmission system; etc. Now imagine that the other group,  
672 seeking to save some time, decides to observe the entire population of cars (or a  
673 large and presumably representative subpopulation) all at once. Here, differences  
674 among cars become apparent: they vary in color and shape; some carry a lot of  
675 people and others have just two seats; some cars break down whereas others keep  
676 running; all of them seem to travel at about the same speed when they’re on the  
677 same roadway, but in very particular circumstances some cars seem a lot faster than  
678 others; most of them seem to provide a comfortable space for people to set, but  
679 some have extra amenities like leather seats and high-quality stereos. When these  
680 investigators sit down to summarize what they have learned, they might conclude  
681 that words like “sportiness,” “reliability,” and “luxuriousness” summarize differ-  
682 ences among the cars.

683 What happens when the two research teams meet up? Do the results “converge”;  
684 does one “integrate” them? This clearly depends on what the words “converge” and  
685 “integrate” are taken to mean. The results do not “diverge.” They are not inconsistent  
686 with one another, and they are related in some ways. If one were to pick a between-  
687 automobiles dimension such as “sportiness,” and then were to examine mechanical  
688 features of those cars that were particularly high and low on that dimension, the cars  
689 would differ mechanically. The sporty cars, for example, might have more cylinders  
690 and thus generate more power via the burning of fuel. They might also have fewer  
691 seats. Yet the two sets of findings do not come together at one conceptual point;  
692 they do not combine into a whole (typical meanings of “converge” and “integrate”).  
693 They have only a loose association. Terms like “sporty” and “luxurious” are very  
694 useful for the purpose of discussing differences among cars. But they do not figure  
695 in a conceptual model of what a car has, mechanically, and how the car works.

696 This analogy maps quite closely to both the history and the current conceptual  
697 status of alternative approaches to personality psychology. Historically, some theo-  
698 rists observed individual people in great detail. Freud (1900) conducted case stud-

ies. Social learning theorists observed individual children as they acquired skills via interaction with the social environment (Bandura & Walters, 1963). These close observations led them, when providing conceptual models of the person, to model structures, processes, and functions of the human mind. It commonly went without saying for these investigators that a model of “personality structure” was a model of the cognitive and affective systems possessed by the individual (Mischel & Shoda, 1995). At a functional level, they modeled human capabilities (Bandura, 1986).

Other researchers investigate large populations, with each research participant studied only at one point in time and in little depth. Perhaps the best known example of such work is the “lexical tradition” in personality psychology (Ashton & Lee, 2007; Goldberg, 1993). Investigators ask large numbers of persons to describe themselves using personality terms that one finds in the dictionary. Factor analysis is then used to identify dimensions that summarize inter-individual variation. For these investigators, it goes without saying that “personality” refers to differences between people, and “personality structure” is a set of dimensions that summarizes between-person differences in the population at large.

Many efforts in contemporary personality psychology claim to “integrate” these two perspectives. Yet, with the risks of painting with a broad brushstroke, it can be said that these efforts commonly are integrative only in the way that the study of “sportiness” and auto mechanics is integrated in our example above. There is no one-to-one mapping from one language to the other. Innumerable research findings in personality psychology document that people with different scores on between-person trait dimensions differ from one another when those persons are brought into the laboratory and their cognitive or physiological responses to stimuli are assessed (e.g., Eysenck, 1970). Yet, similarly, one could bring cars high and low on “sportiness” into the shop to have their mechanical workings assessed and find that the cars differ. There is only very limited sense in which such findings would “integrate” the two types of research on cars—or persons. And this is not a shortcoming of the research. They can’t be integrated into one converging whole. As Harré (1998) has explained with particular clarity, a psychological model of the individual needs to identify the personal powers through which persons think and act. Descriptive terms (“outgoing,” “anxiety-prone,” “conscientious,” and the like) are necessary to social discourse about persons, but one should be very careful in using such terms as cited causes in the explanation of the actions of the individual.

### **The Conceptual View: Is a Unified Psychology Possible?**

The case of personality psychology, then, illustrates the more general point we stated earlier. Many investigators in the field write as if between-person correlational findings have direct meaning for the psychology of individual. In some cases, this intellectual move from inter-individual correlational findings to intra-individual hypotheses is explicit (e.g., McCrae & Costa, 1996, 2008). In numerous other cases, it is a bit more subtle. Researchers may search for the psychological dynamics—i.e.,

740 a conceptual model of the individual—that is associated with the given score on a  
741 personality trait factor—where the factor summarizes intra-individual differences.  
742 For example, they may seek to uncover the psychological dynamics of “introverts”  
743 and “extraverts,” that is, people with low and high scores on an extraversion scale.  
744 This search is sensible if one can assume that the different people who get the same  
745 test score are psychologically homogenous. As we saw earlier, there commonly are  
746 no grounds for making this assumption.

747 It is clear from the discussion so far that the gulf that exists between research  
748 on intra-individual processes versus research on inter-individual differences is  
749 more than a matter of different methodological inclinations, or of researchers’  
750 lack of attendance to the project of unification. There appear to be rather prin-  
751 cipled problems in connecting results from both areas of study. These problems  
752 become apparent if one stops to consider the relevant measurement structures in  
753 both fields. It is clear that these need not have anything in common. In addition,  
754 substantive theories on, say, the dynamics of behavior do not match or support  
755 theories on inter-individual differences in behavior; likewise, theories on the  
756 development of cognition have no place for such a thing as general intelligence.  
757 It is interesting to note, in this respect, that theories of inter-individual differ-  
758 ences are not in any relevant sense *refuted* by these observations. In contrast,  
759 theory and research on intra-individual processes appears to be largely *irrelevant*  
760 to the study of inter-individual differences, and vice versa. The reason is that,  
761 barring perhaps the most basic laboratory tasks for which assumptions like ergo-  
762 dicity or measurement invariance over individuals might be taken to hold true,  
763 *any* theory on intra-individual processes is compatible with *any* theory of inter-  
764 individual differences.

765 Many people find this to be perplexing. Obviously, the item responses on which  
766 inter-individual differences researchers execute their analyses are necessarily gen-  
767 erated by some dynamic process in the individual. Also, it is evident that some of  
768 the inter-individual differences that researchers find are extremely robust. Further-  
769 more, any set of inter-individual differences is parasitic on the dynamic processes  
770 that generated the basic behavior that people exhibit. If John shows up at every  
771 other party, while Jane never leaves the house, then clearly there is a dynamic pro-  
772 cess that differs between them: John does not mysteriously appear at a party without  
773 some antecedent dynamic process that, obviously, Jane does not follow. Similarly,  
774 if Jane can solve a polynomial equation while John cannot, there must be a process  
775 that she carries out but he does not. So how could we have stable inter-individual  
776 differences if there were no systematic differences in whatever dynamics describe  
777 the actions of the individual?

778 We think that the answer to this question may be that, instead of there being *no*  
779 connection between these levels of analysis, there may actually be *too many*. To see  
780 that this may be the case, note that all that is required for a between-subjects mea-  
781 surement model to hold is that (a) there be some set of differences between them that  
782 is accurately described by the latent structure, and (b) these differences connect to  
783 the observables in the right way, which means that differences in the attribute struc-  
784 ture systematically lead to differences in the observables.

785 Thus, for the hypothesis of general intelligence to be true in the context of the  
786 factor model, what is required is that people can be ordered on a line, and that where  
787 they are on the line determines their probability distribution over the item responses  
788 in the way the model says it does. The model has nothing to say, however, on (a)  
789 why or how people come to occupy different positions on this line, or (b) how they  
790 produce the answers to IQ-items. That is, John and Jane may have an equal stand-  
791 ing on the latent structure called the *g*-factor, but for different reasons. Jane may,  
792 for instance, have a smaller brain volume but compensate by having a higher level  
793 of neural plasticity, to name but two biological substrates that have been suggested  
794 for the *g*-factor (Garlick, 2002; Posthuma et al., 2002). Similarly, both may have a  
795 higher probability of answering Raven items correctly than, say, Pete, who has a  
796 small brain with low plasticity; nevertheless, they may follow different strategies  
797 in answering these items, shaped by different previous experiences and maturation  
798 processes. In fact, it is entirely possible that Pete follows the same strategy as John,  
799 but is less efficient in his use of memory resources, so that he fails an item where  
800 John succeeds. Jane, on the other hand, may follow a strategy different from both  
801 John and Pete, and succeed. As long as the processes in play do not affect different  
802 items differently (or do so to a sufficiently small degree), there is nothing in the  
803 above situation that would falsify a measurement model for inter-individual differ-  
804 ences, for the simple reason that such a model makes no claims with respect to the  
805 substantive nature of the latent variables it posits or the relations they bear to the  
806 observations. It only says that *if* differences arise (in whatever way), *then* these dif-  
807 ferences must affect the items people take in keeping with the model structure. And  
808 this can often happen in an infinity of ways.

809 It is useful to illustrate how this may work by returning to the automobile meta-  
810 phor used in the previous section, and exploring it in some more detail. Consider  
811 a set of vehicles—say, cars, bicycles, and horse carriages. We may attach to these  
812 vehicles an abstract latent structure that refers to a dispositional attribute that deter-  
813 mines their performance in races—we call this ‘power’ or ‘maximum performance’,  
814 or ‘racing ability’. We may measure this latent structure, for instance by letting the  
815 vehicles race on various tracks, using the times needed to complete the tracks as  
816 indicators. It is easy to imagine a set of tracks that would show positive intercorrela-  
817 tions analogous to those observed on intelligence test scores: on average, vehicles  
818 that perform better on one track will also perform better on other tracks. It is also  
819 reasonable to interpret racing ability as a dimension that is real, in the sense that,  
820 say, a Ferrari F60 really does have a higher racing ability than a horse carriage with  
821 respect to a given set of race tracks (naturally, this does not apply to small mountain  
822 paths). One may furthermore suppose that these differences determine differences  
823 between the vehicles’ performance, so that the race performances are valid meas-  
824 ures of racing ability.

825 However, if a researcher should set out to determine what ‘racing ability’ consi-  
826 sts of, or where it is ‘located’ in the cars and horses under consideration, she would  
827 find nothing. Similarly, research into the processes that give rise to differences in  
828 performance would probably reveal a bewildering complexity of findings, as these  
829 processes differ across vehicles in a myriad of ways. And, should the researcher

830 set out to investigate which physical determinants ‘underlie’ differences in racing  
 831 ability, the project would strand hopelessly, because the different vehicles have little—  
 832 in anything—in common when it comes to the propulsion mechanisms that  
 833 realize their racing ability.

834 The interesting thing is that all this would not happen because there is *no* relation  
 835 between the physical processes involved in propulsion and the dispositional attribute  
 836 of racing ability (there obviously are such relations), but because these relations are  
 837 themselves dependent on the object under study. The relations involved do not possess  
 838 sufficient systematicity, generality, and are too complex to allow for a parsimonious  
 839 explanation of differences in racing ability in terms of the processes that underlie  
 840 it. Thus, even though there must, by necessity, be processes that underlie differences  
 841 in racing ability, models that describe inter-individual differences in racing ability  
 842 and models that describe mechanisms of propulsion for any given vehicle would cover  
 843 surprisingly little common ground. Moreover, it is very hard to see a way in which  
 844 a theory on the propulsion mechanism of individual vehicles would place significant  
 845 restrictions on the model structure that applies to the measurement of racing ability  
 846 as an inter-individual differences dimension. In fact, one could imagine that any set  
 847 of propulsion mechanisms, or of time series models describing them, would be consistent  
 848 with any structure of inter-individual differences.

849 It is thus likely, should there be car scientists that consider such questions, that  
 850 they should develop intra-individual and inter-individual research traditions as psychologists  
 851 have. And it is questionable, as in the case of psychology, whether the intra-individual  
 852 and inter-individual twains would ever meet. To us, the situation sketched in the car  
 853 example thus appears to be quite similar to the situation as it exists in the fields that  
 854 show the greatest tension between intra-individual and inter-individual levels of analysis,  
 855 such as personality and intelligence research. General intelligence, for instance, is  
 856 extremely similar to racing ability. Personality traits like extraversion are similar as  
 857 well, although they are not maximum performance concepts but typical performance  
 858 concepts; thus, such traits would bear more similarity to notions such as ‘reliability’,  
 859 as explained in the previous paragraph.

### 860 *Why are Inter-Individual Differences Intractable?*

861 The question that arises is: what properties of such inter-individual attributes lead  
 862 them to separate themselves so clearly from the intra-individual analysis? We think  
 863 that three properties are important in this respect: their dispositional character, the  
 864 fact that they are multiply realizable, and the fact that they are multiply determined.  
 865

866 First, almost all inter-individual differences concepts are essentially dispositional.  
 867 That is, their meaning relies heavily on an ‘if...then...’ structure. The typical  
 868 example of a dispositional concept, for instance, is ‘fragility’. To say that a vase is  
 869 fragile is to say that it has a physical structure that leads it to break if it is dropped.  
 870 Whatever physical structure precisely realizes the property of fragility is not rel-

871 evant to the truth-value of the sentence ‘this vase is fragile’. For intelligence, such  
872 ‘if...then...’ relations are filled in like ‘John is highly intelligent: if he is presented  
873 with a difficult problem, he will solve it’. For personality traits, they are filled in  
874 like ‘John is extraverted: if he were given the choice between staying at home with a  
875 book or going to a party, he would choose the latter’. It does not matter for the truth-  
876 value of such conditionals precisely *how* John solves items or gets to parties. Also,  
877 it does not matter *what* allows or forces him to exhibit such behaviors. In fact, these  
878 concepts are amenable to a functionalist analysis, in the sense that it may be upheld  
879 that, at the level of the individual, *whatever* allows him or her to solve an item in an  
880 IQ test *is* intelligence. Thus, in this sense concepts like intelligence, extraversion,  
881 and racing ability are essentially open; that is, they can be (physically) realized in  
882 infinitely many ways.

883 This points to a second important property of inter-individual differences dimen-  
884 sions, which is that their levels can be often expected to be multiply realizable. Just  
885 like a given level of racing ability can be realized by different vehicles in different  
886 ways, a given level of intelligence may be realized in different people in different  
887 ways. To see this, it is illustrative to note that, should we tomorrow be visited by  
888 little green men from outer space who, instead of a brain, have a hydraulic system  
889 located in their left big toe that does the thinking, they might still be located on  
890 the dimension of general intelligence as long as their levels of intelligence can be  
891 placed on the same line as ours and behave in the same way, even though the item  
892 response processes, at a physical level, may have few elements in common with our  
893 own. This thought experiment, naturally, represents an extreme case, but it is in our  
894 view highly likely that in the human population general intelligence (if it exists) is  
895 realized differently in different people as well; this appears to be almost guaranteed  
896 by the sheer complexity of the human brain and the existence of inter-individual  
897 differences in cognitive and emotional development. Such different realizations of  
898 the levels of inter-individual differences dimensions can be expected to involve  
899 ‘physical’ differences (e.g., in the context of intelligence, brain size, neural plas-  
900 ticity, neural connectivity, etc.) as well as ‘psychological’ ones (e.g., differences in  
901 strategy, the use of cognitive rules and heuristics, etc.).

902 A related but distinct property of inter-individual differences dimensions is that  
903 they are not just multiply realizable (the same level of intelligence may be realized  
904 by different constitutions) but also multiply determined: the causal pathways that  
905 lead to any given level of an inter-individual differences dimension are likely to  
906 differ among people. There is ample reason to expect this to be so. For instance,  
907 the combination of (a) high heritability estimates for almost all inter-individual dif-  
908 ferences dimensions (Boomsma, Busjahn, & Peltonen, 2002) and (b) the limited  
909 success in finding any genetic markers that explain more than, say, 1.5% of the vari-  
910 ance in such dimensions, suggests that inter-individual differences may be strongly  
911 polygenic. This is evidence for multiple determination as far as it concerns the part  
912 of development that is under genetic control, because it means that distinct path-  
913 ways underlie inter-individual differences for (almost) any distinct combination of  
914 individuals. Another source of evidence for multiple determination comes from the  
915 study of epigenetic effects (Jaenisch & Bird, 2003; Molenaar, Boomsma, & Dolan,

1993), which is an autonomously operating process that creates inter-individual differences that are not uniformly tractable to any set of genes or environmental conditions. Finally, at the environmental side of development, the differential pathways that lead to equivalent levels of ability are completely obvious. To give an example, John and Jane may have the same level of intelligence at a given time point, because Jane may have had a virus of accident that impaired her intelligence to equal the initially lower level of John, whose intelligence has undergone no major impairments. Any such external influences, insofar as they do not distort the measurement model for a given test, must be counted as part of the causes that give rise to the inter-individual differences dimensions under study; and it is clear that their number is infinite. Taken together, the evidence suggests that our working assumption should be that inter-individual differences stand under the influence of a large number of disparate causal factors.

We think that it is plausible to assume that most inter-individual differences variables are dispositional, multiply realizable, and multiply determined. The implication of this is that, even though each and every difference between two people depends for its existence on *some* differences in intra-individual processes, the systematic explication of the relation between these domains is likely to be an extremely complicated matter; in fact, in many cases, this relation may be intractable. This observation is consistent with the psychometric analysis discussed earlier in this chapter, which established the lack of correspondence between inter-individual differences structures and the structure of intra-individual processes. Thus, although causally dependent on intra-individual processes, inter-individual differences may not lend themselves to an explanation in terms of these intra-individual processes. This, in our view, may be one of the reasons that the two disciplines of scientific psychology, as discussed by Cronbach 1957, have not appreciably moved closer. In fact, we suspect that the character of the relation between intraindividual processes and inter-individual differences may serve to isolate these branches of study from each other in a structural way.

### *Supervenience*

The reason for this is that the relation between intraindividual differences and inter-individual processes, as explicated in this chapter, is most aptly characterized as a *supervenience* relation. A property X supervenes on a (set of) properties Y if and only if it is true that, given a fixed Y, there cannot be differences in X. A typical supervenience relation in psychometrics, for instance, is that of the relation of a total score (X) to the item scores (Y) of which it is composed: there cannot be differences in the total score if there are no differences in the item scores. The supervenience relation is asymmetric, as can be easily seen from the same example: if there are no differences in the value of the total score (X), there may nevertheless be differences in the item scores (Y). This is because the total scores are multiply realizable, as for  $n$  items, a total score  $k$  can be realized in  $n!/\{k!(n-k)!\}$  ways.

957 Together with multiple realizability, the supervenience relation has been used  
 958 often in the literature on the mind-body problem to give a nonreductive physicalist  
 959 account of the relation between mental states and brain states. Roughly, physicalism  
 960 holds that all mental phenomena *are* ultimately physical phenomena. Reduction-  
 961 ism holds that, in addition, psychological laws and regularities can ultimately be  
 962 *reduced* to (or systematically explained in terms of) physical theories, for instance  
 963 to those concerning the human brain. Thus, physicalism is an ontological thesis  
 964 and reductionism is an epistemological one. Nonreductive physicalism roughly  
 965 holds that psychological states (like, for instance, ‘believing that  $\pi$  is not a rational  
 966 number’) can be realized in an infinite number of ways in the human brain. Thus,  
 967 although there cannot be differences in psychological states if there are no differ-  
 968 ences in the physical structures that realize them (supervenience and materialism),  
 969 there may be differences in the physical structures that serve to realize the same psy-  
 970 chological state (multiple realizability). The primary argument against reductionism  
 971 that follows from this (explicated by Fodor, 1974) is that the physical category of  
 972 states that realize a psychological state will be arbitrary from the perspective of the  
 973 reducing theory (say, neuroscience) and therefore cannot figure in its laws.

974 We submit that the relation between intra- and inter-individual differences is  
 975 exactly the same as that between mental and physical processes. That is, every inter-  
 976 individual difference depends, for its existence, on a difference in intra-individual  
 977 processes (supervenience). However, these differences are multiply realizable,  
 978 which means that the intra-individual processes that ‘realize’ a given level of intel-  
 979 ligence only do so from the perspective of the higher level science (inter-individual  
 980 differences research). They do not form a homogeneous category from the perspec-  
 981 tive of the lower-level science (intra-individual processes). Therefore, the collection  
 982 of intra-individual processes that is contained in the correlational psychologist’s  
 983 ‘has intelligence level  $x$ ’ is not a consistent category from the perspective of the  
 984 experimental psychologist: from the perspective of the experimental psychologist,  
 985 it corresponds to a disjunctive ‘either follows process  $a$ , or  $b$ , or  $c$ , or...’, and this  
 986 disjunction is arbitrary from an intra-individual processes perspective. Therefore, it  
 987 will not be a ‘kind’ of intra-individual research, and cannot figure in its laws.

### 988 *Illustration: The Case of Chess Expertise*

989 The related issues of multiple realizability, multiple determination and the disposi-  
 990 tional character of intra-individual cognitive abilities are present in a wide range of  
 991 psychologically interesting concepts. An almost archetypical example of a cogni-  
 992 tive process, playing chess, illustrates how these three elements interact to make  
 993 intra-individual inferences from interindividual data improbable, if not impossible.

994 Chess playing is a psychologically interesting skill that encompasses a variety of  
 995 cognitive skills and processes, much in the same way as IQ can be seen as combina-  
 996 tion of skills that yields an individual score with predictive qualities. The equiva-  
 997 lent of chess IQ is the international rating system called the Elo-rating, after the



998 American physicist Arpad Elo. Although the distribution of scores is logistic rather  
999 than normal, the overall nature of the Elo-rating is very similar to the IQ score. An  
1000 individual has a score that is a rank on a unidimensional ability scale, which reflects  
1001 the probability of beating lower or higher ranked individuals, and the likelihood of  
1002 solving chess problems of varying complexity. A closer examination will show that  
1003 all three previously discussed issues hold for chess playing.

1004 First, chess playing and chess ability are essentially dispositional. In principle,  
1005 there are no limits to the cognitive process, playing style or set of abilities a player  
1006 uses to win games; all that matters is the ratio of wins and losses against variably  
1007 skilled opponents and the probability of solving problems. Players of comparable  
1008 chess playing ability may constitute their respective levels in very different man-  
1009 ners; one player may possess a vast knowledge of common situations and by-the-  
1010 book tactics, whereas another may rely more on intuition and creativity. As long as  
1011 they have the same scores on the Elo-scale, there is nothing on the inter-individual  
1012 level to set them apart, which allows for rather dissimilar processes to fall under the  
1013 umbrella of 'chess playing at level x'.

1014 In addition, evidence from the neurosciences suggests that chess ability is a mul-  
1015 tiple realized ability, even on the intra-individual level (over time). An example is  
1016 a study by Amidzic, Riehle, Fehr, Wienbruch, and Elbert (2001), in which mag-  
1017 neto-encephalogram recordings (MEG) were made of both expert chess players  
1018 and intermediate players whilst playing a chess computer. The patterns of cortical  
1019 activity for 5 s after the computer made a move were recorded and compared. Ama-  
1020 teur chess players showed pronounced temporal lobe activity, a region commonly  
1021 associated with logical reasoning skills such as 'if... then...' statements. The pat-  
1022 tern for experts (ELO>2000) was markedly different. They showed very little tem-  
1023 poral activity but pronounced prefrontal lobe activity, which is normally related to  
1024 memory and retrieval activity while intermediate players showed mainly temporal  
1025 lobe activity. This result was very robust, and showed a strong negative correlation  
1026 (-0.84) between Elo-rating and activity in medial temporal lobes, the perirhinal  
1027 and entorhinal cortex and related structures. It is known that expert chess players  
1028 are able to memorize the patterns that often occur in chess matches up to a stagger-  
1029 ing 100,000 and 400,000 moves or situations (De Groot, 1978). This suggests that  
1030 as a player becomes better, he or she relies more and more on 'pre-programmed'  
1031 positions, so that deciding on the next best moves becomes much more a memory  
1032 activity than a reasoning ability. This is a prime example of a cognitive ability that  
1033 shows significant qualitative changes not captured by the interindividual model.  
1034 It seems therefore that chess playing ability is a multiply realizable skill; there are  
1035 many ways to play chess and they change markedly with increased skill. Finally,  
1036 chess playing is multiply determined. There is a wide range of skills that are useful  
1037 when playing chess, but the interplay between them is potentially very complex  
1038 and not suitable for simple factor analytic approaches. For example, an increase in  
1039 working memory capacity may only be an advantage if one's knowledge of strategy  
1040 allows for the efficient use of this extra capacity.

1041 It seems clear that the causal factors that contribute to the overall quality of a  
1042 chess player are irreducible on several different levels. It must be stressed that this

1043 is not an exotic exception to the rule, if anything, chess is exemplary for a wide  
1044 variety of cognitive abilities that psychologists deem worthy of study. These issues  
1045 do not preclude a coherent analysis, but awareness of measurement issues are an  
1046 essential safeguard against overly ambitious intra-individual inferences drawn from  
1047 any form of group level measurement.

1048 Clearly, the dispositional character of inter-individual differences dimensions,  
1049 together with multiple realizability and multiple determination, yields significant  
1050 problems for attempts to sensibly connect these dimensions to intra-individual pro-  
1051 cesses. This appears to grant such dimensions a certain sense of autonomy and irre-  
1052 ducibility. For instance, it has been argued in the literature that multiple realizability  
1053 is a sufficient condition to block successful reduction of the higher-level theory to  
1054 the lower-level theory; Fodor (1974, 1997) famously maintains that this holds for  
1055 higher-level sciences as diverse as psychology, economics, and meteorology. This  
1056 conclusion has been hotly debated in the philosophical literature of the past three  
1057 decades, and it is beyond the scope of this chapter to evaluate its validity. However,  
1058 apart from the principled question whether reduction is at all possible, we think it is  
1059 relatively obvious that the existence of supervenience and multiple realizability will  
1060 seriously complicate the practical integration of fields.

## 1061 Conclusion

1062 It has been the working assumption of many psychologists and methodologists that  
1063 the integration of experimental and correlational research or, if you will, intra-indi-  
1064 vidual processes and inter-individual differences research, is a matter of time; that  
1065 it is a sign of the ‘immaturity’ of psychology that they have not yet converged to a  
1066 single theoretical system; and that the unification of psychology is something that  
1067 we should strive for. The image that arises from the present investigation, however,  
1068 is a rather different one. The rift separating the traditions may be much deeper than  
1069 is commonly thought and, in fact, may be structural—that is, the gap will not be  
1070 closed by the passing of time or the progression of scientific psychology. It may  
1071 very well be here to stay. Thus, to speak with Fodor (1974), we may want to accept  
1072 not the unity, but the disunity of psychology as a working hypothesis.

1073 The evidence for this hypothesis is quite overwhelming. First, the fact is that  
1074 more than 50 years have passed since Cronbach’s call for integration, and that they  
1075 have done so without widespread progress being made in this particular program.  
1076 Naturally, one may consider various explanations of this situation that draw on  
1077 sociological processes (e.g., the formation of research traditions) or differences  
1078 in methodological orientation (as Cronbach himself did by labeling the traditions  
1079 as ‘correlational’ and ‘experimental’). However, we seriously doubt whether such  
1080 explanations have sufficient explanatory force. Scientists tend to relentlessly pursue  
1081 lines of research that ‘work’, in the sense that they answer interesting questions  
1082 or lead to the solution of practical problems, and it seems rather implausible that  
1083 so few ‘working’ versions of the desired integration had been stumbled upon if

1084 they were there for the taking. The traditions of ‘correlational’ and ‘experimental’  
1085 research may not be induced by different methodological inclinations, but by a dif-  
1086 ferent subject matter.

1087 Moreover, psychometric considerations suggest that few restrictions on one side  
1088 of the divide can be deduced from theories that apply to the other side: a particu-  
1089 lar dimension of inter-individual differences can be generated by many systems  
1090 of intra-individual processes, and conversely a theory of intra-individual processes  
1091 does not lead to restrictions on the possible spaces of inter-individual differences  
1092 unless unreasonably strong restrictions are met. For instance, Hamaker et al. (2007)  
1093 and Timmerman et al. (2009—this Handbook) show how far little intra-individual  
1094 and inter-individual structures can diverge. The only restriction that is universally in  
1095 place is that intra-individual and inter-individual theories should be *consistent* with  
1096 each other—in the sense of not being contradictory—and the psychometric work of  
1097 the past few decades strongly suggests that this restriction is extremely easy to meet.  
1098 However, mere consistency of theories is far to little to fuel an integration of fields,  
1099 or to drive an explanation of inter-individual differences in terms of intra-individual  
1100 processes. Psychology is entirely consistent with, say, non-Euclidean geometry, but  
1101 that does not imply that there are any interesting explanatory connections between  
1102 these areas of research.

1103 To have a real connection between the fields under consideration here, one  
1104 should be able to infer what an inter-individual differences structure should like  
1105 from a theory of intra-individual processes—more specifically, one should be able  
1106 to place refutable restrictions on the inter-individual model structure. This is cer-  
1107 tainly not impossible in general, but for many sub-disciplines in psychology the task  
1108 at hand appears to be extremely difficult to carry out. More specifically, the sort of  
1109 attributes that inter-individual differences research has brought into play appear to  
1110 be of the wrong kind to figure in such explanatory schemes. One may of course  
1111 counter that this just means that the inter-individual differences attributes should be  
1112 done away with, and replaced by process-oriented theories. This, however, requires  
1113 one to actually show that such replacements will work adequately, and this need not  
1114 be possible. Returning to the intelligence example, for instance, there have been  
1115 several proposals to fill the gap of things like *g* by substituting sets of cognitive  
1116 processes at the level of the individual (e.g., Sternberg, 1985), but the empirical  
1117 success of such approaches has been limited (Deary, 2000) and it is not clear that  
1118 such process theories are at all in the same explanatory league as inter-individual  
1119 differences dimensions, in the sense that they may not apply to the same phenomena  
1120 (e.g., the positive manifold; Borsboom, Mellenbergh, & Van Heerden, 2003). The  
1121 similarity to the mind-body debate is quite strong in this case as well; for instance,  
1122 we find similar calls for ‘brain-based’ constructs instead of ‘psychological’ ones  
1123 among the fiercest reductionists (e.g., Churchland, 1981). Such calls, however, are  
1124 promises; and a general law that applies to promises is that the proof of the pudding  
1125 is in the eating. Clearly, so far there has been little pudding to eat.

1126 Scientific progress comes in many forms. The textbook example is the successful  
1127 explanation of a phenomenon in terms of a theory, but sometimes science progresses  
1128 by showing that a dreamed route of progress is blocked. Famous examples include

1129 Gödel's (1931) incompleteness theorem, which destroyed the work presented in  
 1130 Russell and Whitehead's (1910) *Principia Mathematica* by showing that the desired  
 1131 reduction of mathematics to logic was impossible, and the theory of complex sys-  
 1132 tems, which for instance explains why we cannot predict the weather more than a  
 1133 few days in advance. Our suggestion in the present work is that the integration of  
 1134 intra-individual and inter-individual research programs may be exactly such a case:  
 1135 a dreamed route of progress that is really a dead end street.

1136 This may sound like a gloomy conclusion. However, we think that there is little  
 1137 reason for optimism on the 'integration' of the two disciplines of psychology in the  
 1138 sense Cronbach (1957) had in mind, and wishful thinking is not bound to change  
 1139 that. Moreover, there are two important implications that follow from the analysis,  
 1140 if it is correct, that may serve to further our understanding of how the disciplines  
 1141 could be related. The first implication is that we need further understanding on the  
 1142 conceptual and empirical relationships between attributes as they are used in the  
 1143 two disciplines. We have established, reasonably firmly, that equating the concepts  
 1144 of intra-individual processes research and inter-individual differences research is  
 1145 not an option that we should expect to work. At the same time, it would seem that  
 1146 the experimental psychologists 'working memory' and the differential psycholo-  
 1147 gists 'working memory' are related, and how they may be is a important issue.  
 1148 Clearly, we have only scratched the surface with respect to this interesting question.  
 1149 Second, the present analysis cautions against interpreting results from inter-indi-  
 1150 vidual differences research as descriptive of the individual person; similar caution  
 1151 should go out to most experimental studies, which are descriptive of means, not  
 1152 individuals. Thus, the analysis of the individual in its own right is a project that,  
 1153 despite a century of psychology, still awaits a proper methodology. It is our hope  
 1154 that methodological techniques suitable to this purpose will be developed to matu-  
 1155 rity in the coming years.

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AQ5

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