

Abstract

Expression of emotions has long been speculated to be a core element of personality (Kring, Smith & Neale, 1994). However, the empirical findings linking the expression of specific emotional expression to personality have been inconsistent. The inconsistent findings from previous studies suggest possible involvement of a moderator. The present study aims to introduce a measure of general emotional expressivity developed from the Display Rule Assessment Inventory (DRAI) and to propose social context as a moderator between general emotional expressivity and personality. Results confirmed this moderation effect, showing that extroversion related to expressivity only in a private context but not in a public context. This result is interpreted in terms of the strength of situational norms in a public setting that constrains the influence of personality on expressivity.