

Non-cognitive Traits and Educational Achievement among Taiwanese Youths in Poverty

人格特質對低社經青少年發展的復原力效應

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This study aims to use the both the 7th and 9th grade samples from the Taiwan Youth Project dataset to examine how non-cognitive traits might serve as sources of resilience for youths who experienced economic hardship during adolescence. Both subjective and objective measures of personality traits will be examined to see whether they moderate the impact of family poverty status on the likelihood of entry into a top-tiered university and a graduate program. The results show that for the younger cohort, those who were exposed to longer family poverty in adolescence, having a more conscientious personality raises the likelihood of entering a top university. For the older cohort, the resilient effect of personality in altering the chances of entering a good university mainly matters when poverty was experienced during mid-adolescence. Finally, for the older cohort of youths, those who were exposed to poverty in mid and late adolescence, self-rated conscientiousness and objective measures of agreeableness and conscientiousness significantly increases the likelihood of entering a graduate school, when compared to their peers who never experienced poverty