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PERSONALITY BEYOND BEHAVIOR: CAUSAL VALIDITY WITH STRATEGIES, OUTCOMES, AND LIFE HISTORIES

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One of Tinbergen's maxims was that you should understand the consequences of behavior before investigating its causes. Behavior is often taken to be the ultimate criterion by which we measure and validate animal personality. Thus far in our studies of nonhuman primates, we have attended primarily to the genetic and environmental causes and behavioral and emotional correlates of personality. Yet personality may describe more about a primate than just its behavior. What does an individual's personality cause over the course of its life? Do personality differences lead to varied outcomes in social standing, survival, health, and reproductive success? Are personalities strategies for achieving these ends with behavior the plastic intermediary? I review the psychometrics of validity and argue that causal validity is central to ecological and evolutionary studies of individual differences in primates. I present preliminary investigations of personality and life history in wild macaques and also suggest primate species that may be fruitful to compare for investigating specific personality domains.

Keywords: personality, life history, validity, behavioral ecology