stent (that is, they correlated substantially between different experimental treatments, e.g., salivation after stimulation of the tongue with drops of water, artificial lemon flavor, or freshly pressed lemon juice).

3) The correlations between the questionnaire-scales on the one hand and the experimental-psychophysiological variables on the other were zero on average.

4) No systematic moderator-effects for Neuroticism could be observed.

Altogether the results did not support the theory. In as much as the questionnaire scales showed both sufficient internal consistency and criterion validity with respect to the criteria of peer ratings, there is no justification for attributing reliability. Eysenck's Theory could not be supported by the results of this large scale study.


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Moods are generally conceptualized as transient states of subjective experience which vary considerably over time. Accordingly, mood is usually assessed by state-oriented scales, asking for respondents' mood at the time of measurement. On the other hand, individual differences in typical or enduring mood are reflected in person-dependent proportions of mood variance in longitudinal analyses, as well as in substantial correlations between mood and personality traits. Both mood level and reactivity to mood changes should therefore be understood as the result of a person-situation interaction.

A scale designed to assess the person component of mood level (8 items) and reactivity (7 items), the Mood Survey (MS), was presented by Underwood and Froming (1980). This scale is a valuable instrument for research on the relationship between mood and personality. Since no similar scale was available for German-speaking populations, we translated the MS into German.

In study 1, this German version of the MS, the so-called "Stimmungs-Skala" (St-S), was administered to 138 German students. Principal-component factor analysis replicated the 2-factor structure of the MS, with 9 items contributing to the mood Level factor (31.0% of total variance), and 6 to the Reactivity factor (16.5%). Internal consistency was good (α = .86 for the Level and α = .78 for the Reactivity subscale).

In study 2 (N = 47), test-retest-reliability and construct validity of the St-S were assessed. The scores of both subscales proved to be quite stable over a period of 5 weeks, r = .82 for Level and r = .76 for Reactivity. Both subscales
were meaningfully related to various personality traits. For Level, we found positive correlations with extraversion, internality of control, self-esteem, and coping resources, and negative correlations with social anxiety and depression. All of these were higher than the corresponding correlations of a state-measure of mood. Reactivity was correlated negatively with self-esteem and coping resources, and positively with depression. Scores on both St-S subscales were independent of social desirability.

In study 3, the ecological validity of the St-S was assessed. St-S scores were correlated with parameters of naturally occurring mood changes, measured over three one-week periods, distributed over a total of eight months. Sixty-six students carried a “beeper,” preprogrammed to beep at various times during each 90-minute interval between 9:00 am and 9:00 pm. At each signal, subjects were asked to report their momentary mood. For each subject, the arithmetic mean and standard deviation of momentary mood were computed over time. As expected, the Level subscale of the St-S was significantly correlated with the intra-individual mean, but not the standard deviation, of mood reports (r = .35, p < .01, and r = -.16, ns, respectively), while the reverse was true for the Reactivity subscale (r = .03, ns, and r = .28, p < .05, respectively).

The results indicate that the St-S is an economical, reliable and valid instrument to measure enduring mood level and reactivity to mood changes. However, replications with larger and more heterogeneous samples would be desirable. In addition to research on individual differences and personality, experimental research about mood influences on social judgment and behavior may profit from application of the St-S in order to control for interindividual differences in mood reactivity. The German scale may be obtained from the first author on request.

References


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The Fragebogen zu Kompetenz- und Kontrollüberzeugungen (Competence- and Control-Beliefs Inventory, CCI) is a new personality questionnaire designed for the routine and standardized assessment of generalized competence-