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P25 AI - FRIEND OR FOE? EXPLORING THE LINK BETWEEN PERSONALITY, ANTHROPOMORPHISM AND AI PERCEPTION

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Artificial intelligence (AI) debate intensified since the release of ChatGPT, a powerful chatbot (CB) able to imitate human conversation. Responses vary from enthusiasm to rejection, suggesting the need to explore what shapes these individual differences. Our goal was to investigate if personality and CB anthropomorphism (CBAM) influence attitudes and experiences with AI. We recruited 144 participants (age 16-60, Mdn = 25; 69% female) via snowball sampling. Participants rated their trust and fear of AI on a continuous slider (0-100), reported their CB use, CBAM (modified Individual Differences in Anthropomorphism Questionnaire), and completed the Big Five Inventory (BFI-44). CB users (N = 113) also evaluated their conversation experience (CBEXP, Godspeed questionnaire). We examined the effects of personality (Block 1) and CBAM (Block 2) on AI trust, AI fear and CBEXP with three hierarchical linear regressions. AI fear was predicted by personality (R2adj = 0.13, F (5, 138) = 5.32, p < .001), specifically neuroticism (β = .43, p < .001) and agreeableness (β = .19, p = .025), with no additional contributions from AM. In contrast, the CBEXP (R2adj = .07, F (6, 107) = 2.42, p = .031) was predicted by AM ($\beta = .28$, p = .004) but not personality. The model was not significant for AI trust (F (6, 137) = 0.30, p = .936). Non-users feared AI more (t (142) = -2.81, p = .006, g = 0.57) and trusted it less (t (61.48) = 4.02, p < .001, g = .70) than users; no differences in personality and AM were found. The link between neuroticism and AI fear aligns with few previous studies on negative AI attitudes. Findings on other traits and on AI trust add to the heterogeneity of evidence, suggesting contextual and cultural moderators. Although personality did not differentiate users from non-users, CBAM shaped user experience, albeit with small effects. Our study suggests that while AI fear and trust are important for adoption, their primary determinants extend beyond personality.

Keywords: AI, Personality, Fear, Trust, Anthropomorphism