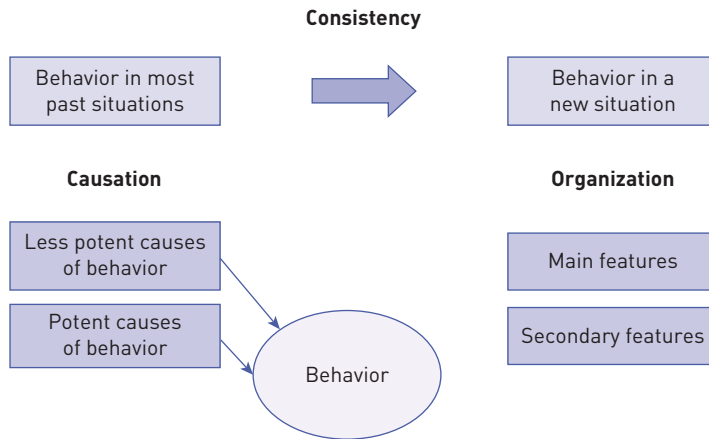




FIGURE 1.1 ● Consistency, Causation, and Organization in the Continuum of Personality Traits



CHECK AND APPLY YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. Professional vocabulary matters because the way you define things will affect the ways you study and understand them. Give your own definition of personality. How does the American Psychological Association define *personality*? How different is your definition from the one produced in this chapter? In what ways?
2. Explain consistency, organization, and causation—all as applied to personality.

Photo 1.1 Most critics say Andy Warhol was a unique person. What does it mean to be unique? Are you a unique person? If not, why? If yes, which individual features or traits, from your view, make you markedly different from other people?



SELF-REFLECTION

Would you like to meet another you? Imagine that scientists have cloned a person who looks and acts exactly like you. This would be another individual with the same personality features that you have. Would you like to meet this person? What would you learn from this person? Would you be willing to have this person as your close friend, or would you rather keep your distance from her or him?

FIGURE 1.2 ● Personality's Central and Peripheral Features

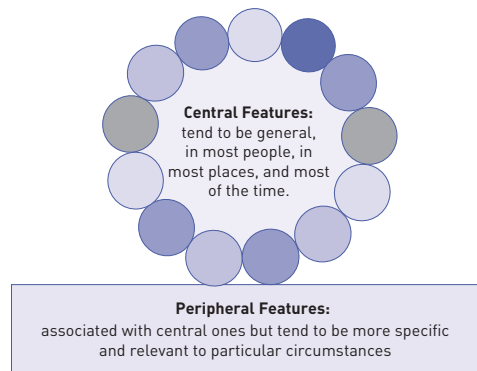


Photo 1.2 Connie Picciotto, who died in 2016 at the age of 70, carried on one of the longest continuous acts of political protest in the United States by keeping vigil, day and night, near the White House since the 1970s to protest nuclear weapons. Some personality features can be viewed as "normal" in some social situations and as "abnormal" in others. Could you suggest such features and situations? Discuss an individual's trait such as stubbornness, for starters.



SELF-REFLECTION

In the 2013 movie *Her*, the main character (Theodore) is a shy, bored, and frustrated man who is about to get a divorce. Driven by his loneliness, he purchases software for his computer that serves as his personal assistant. This thinking-and-talking operating system can self-advance and grow psychologically. Theodore picks a gender for the system and calls her Samantha. Gradually, as they spend many hours “together,” Theodore falls in love with Samantha (or what she represents): a kind, smart, gentle, and compassionate “being.” At one point, he becomes jealous of her for interacting with other clients who have purchased her services. The problem, of course, is that Samantha isn’t human.

This film may be labeled as scientific fiction. Yet to some, *Her* is more than sci-fi entertainment. Technology guru and futurist Ray Kurzweil has already proposed that by 2045 humans will have achieved digital immortality by uploading their minds to computers. Humans, because of digital immortality, will overcome the need for a biological body for survival. Futurists who subscribe to this idea agree and argue that advances in neural engineering and modeling of brain function will make it possible to reproduce human minds in a digital medium even earlier than we think (Kurzweil, 2005). People will be able to create virtual bodies and virtual reality in which the virtual reality will be as realistic as the actual reality (we will return to this discussion in Chapter 8).

Questions

Let’s assume that Kurzweil’s project is successful, and in 10 or 20 years, people are able to upload their personality features to computers. What benefits could this technological project bring to you personally? What ethical problems would you anticipate if such a project is implemented?

CHECK AND APPLY YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. Define *personality traits*. Explain central and peripheral traits. What traits do you think you have? Could you name them?
2. How does the story of Ebenezer Scrooge relate to the study of personality? Provide an example of a person who has significantly and rapidly changed his or her personality features.
3. Explain the tolerance threshold. Give an example.
4. Discuss the case of Connie Picciotto. Was her persistent behavior “normal” or “abnormal” from your standpoint?
5. Give an example of scarcity mindset. Give an example in which you or another person acted this way.
6. Explain the difference among determinism, fatalism, and self-determination—all referring to personality.

Photo 1.3 Narcissus, in Greek mythology, fell in love with his own reflection. Why do people tend to view narcissism negatively? Can narcissism as a trait be useful or helpful? In which situations? Could you suggest a few examples?

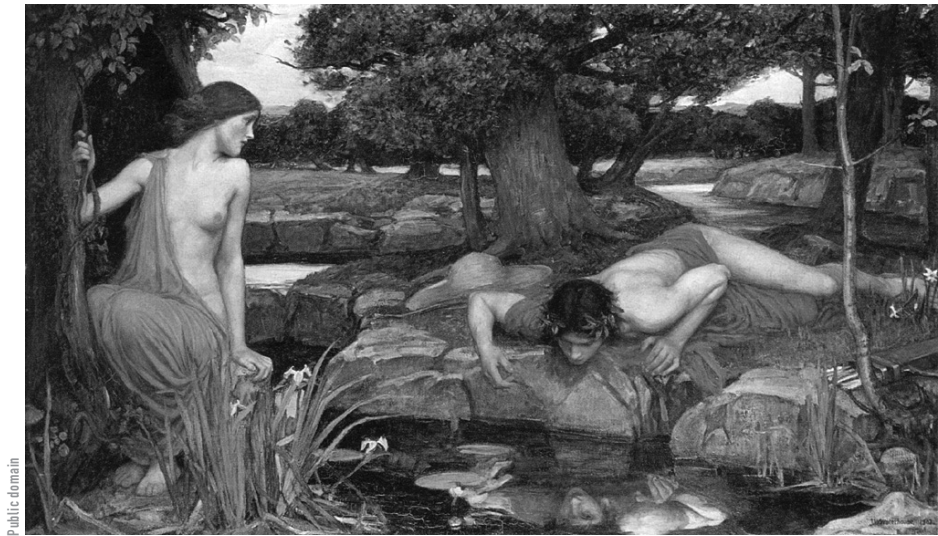


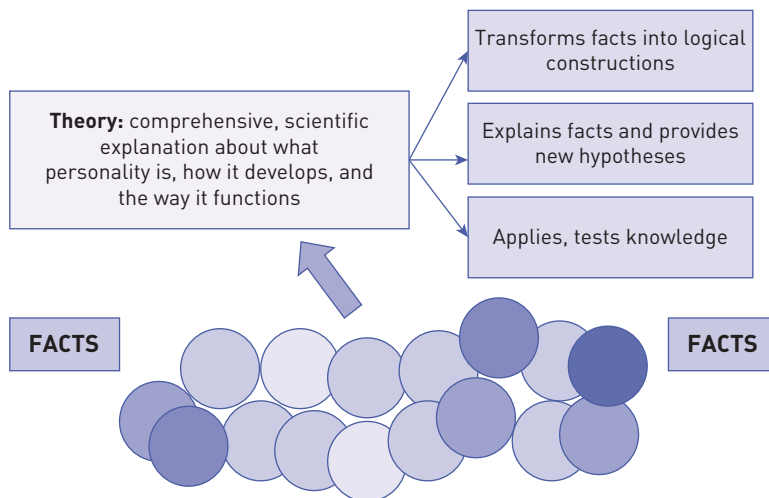
TABLE 1.1 ● Four Types of Knowledge Related to Personality: A Preview

Type of Knowledge	Sources of Knowledge
Scientific	Knowledge accumulated through research, systematic empirical observation, and evaluation of a wide range of psychological phenomena. Facts are obtained with the help of scientific research methodologies and rigorous verification by multiple sources, typically including peer reviewers.
Popular (or Folk)	Everyday assumptions about psychological phenomena and behavior. Such assumptions are often expressed in the form of beliefs, evaluations, or prescriptions.
Values	A consistent set of beliefs about the world, the nature of good and evil, right and wrong, and the purpose of human life. They are all based on a certain organizing principal or central idea.
Legal	Knowledge encapsulated in the law and detailed in rules and principles related to psychological functioning of individuals. Legal authorities commonly establish these rules and enforce them.

Photo 1.4 Are you a religious person? If yes, how do your beliefs influence your personality? If you are not religious, how do your values affect your behavior and in what ways?



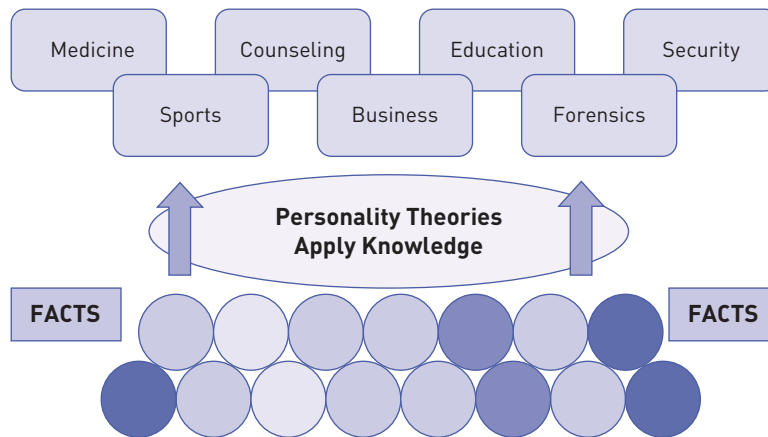
FIGURE 1.3 ● Knowledge and Theory in Studying Personality



CHECK AND APPLY YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What is the difference between values and popular beliefs?
2. What discrepancies between values and individual behavior can you name as you observe people's everyday interactions?
3. Think about your day. Recall the situations in which you were using legal knowledge and scientific knowledge in making decisions or judging other people.
4. What is the book *The Mirror Effect* about?
5. Name the functions of academic traditions.
6. Ask your professor to which academic group or society does she or he belong. Ask if this is an international or national group or whether it is local. What do they do as members of this group?

FIGURE 1.4 ● Main Application Areas of Personality Theories



CHECK AND APPLY YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What are the main areas of application of personality psychology?
2. Name at least one applied area or issue that you think should have been mentioned here.

Visual Review

