PSY 202 Overview

The premise of Vazire and Carlson's article is that thorough knowledge of one's personality requires a combination of one's own insight as well as the input of others. More specifically, they propose a "self-other knowledge asymmetry" (SOKA) model that rests on self-other differences in 1) the availability of personality information (observability) as well as in 2) motivational biases in presenting features of personality (evaluativeness). According to the SOKA model, high-observability, overt traits (e.g, being boisterous) should be better judged by others, whereas low-observability, internal traits (e.g., anxiety) should be better judged by oneself. Furthermore, high-evaluative traits (i.e., traits either quite high *or* low in desirability such as intelligence or rudeness, respectively) should be better judged by others. In contrast, the model predicts no self-other difference in judging low-evaluative traits (e.g., being talkative) because they have no associated motivational bias. Concerning the accuracy measure (Fisher's *z*) used in Figure 1, students need only understand that higher values reflect greater accuracy in rating personality traits.