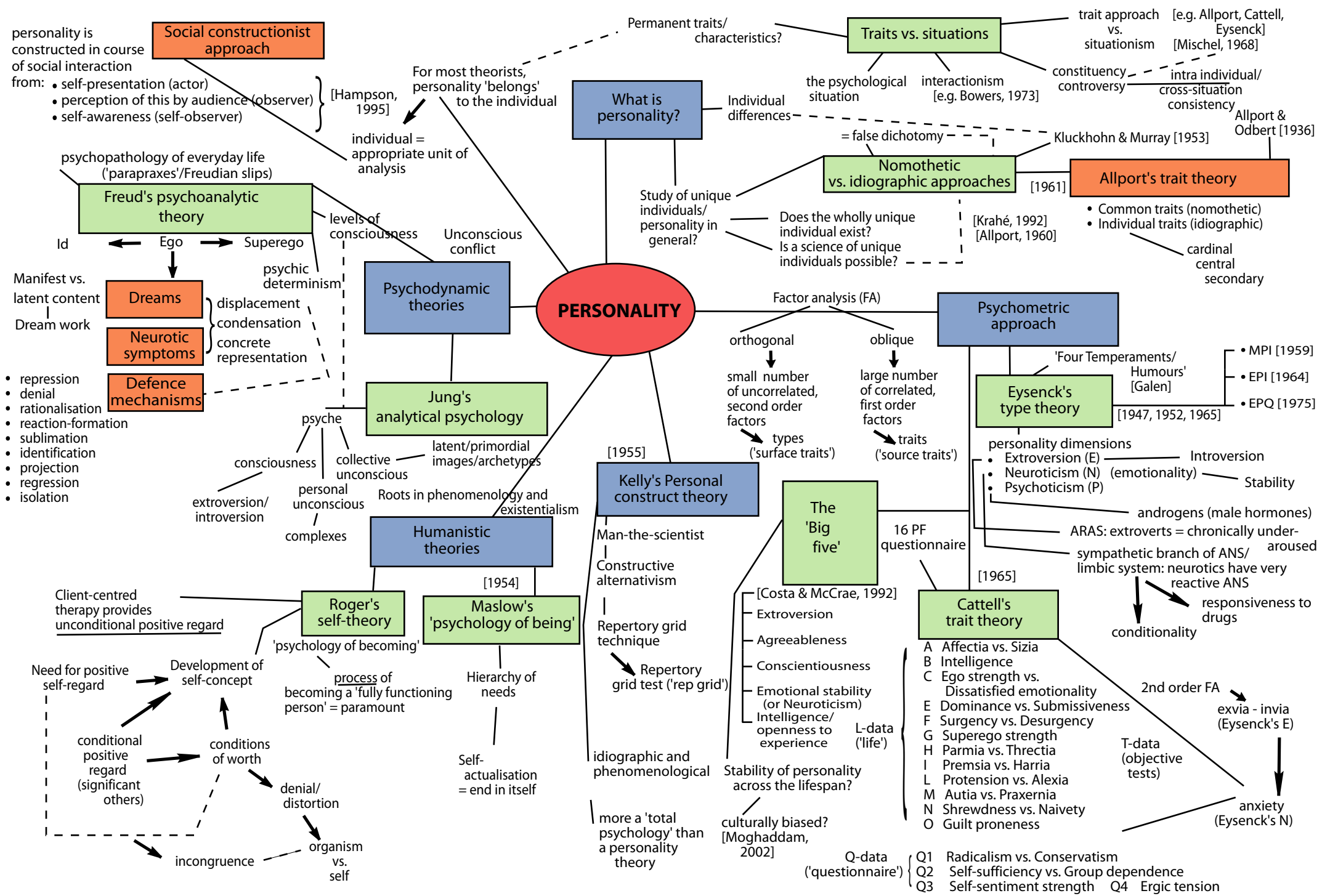
PERSONALITY
What is personality?
Permanent traits/ characteristics?
Traits vs. situations
trait approach vs. situationism
[e.g. Allport, Cattell, Eysenck]
[Mischel, 1968]
the psychological situation
interactionism [e.g. Bowers, 1973]
constituency controversy
intra individual/ cross-situation consistency
Allport & Odbert [1936]
Kluckhohn & Murray [1953]
= false dichotomy
Individual differences
Nomothetic vs. idiographic approaches
[1961]
Allport's trait theory
Common traits (nomothetic)
Individual traits (idiographic)
cardinal
central
secondary
Study of unique individuals/ personality in general?
Does the wholly unique individual exist?
Is a science of unique individuals possible?
[Krahé, 1992]
[Allport, 1960]
For most theorists, personality 'belongs' to the individual
individual = appropriate unit of analysis
[Hampson, 1995]
Social constructionist approach
personality is constructed in course of social interaction from:
• self-presentation (actor)
• perception of this by audience (observer)
• self-awareness (self-observer)
psychopathology of everyday life ('parapraxes'/Freudian slips)
Freud's psychoanalytic theory
levels of consciousness
Unconscious conflict
Id
Ego
Superego
psychic determinism
Manifest vs. latent content
Dream work
Dreams
Neurotic symptoms
displacement
condensation
concrete representation
Defence mechanisms
• repression
• denial
• rationalisation
• reaction-formation
• sublimation
• identification
• projection
• regression
• isolation
Psychodynamic theories
Jung's analytical psychology
psyche
consciousness
collective unconscious
latent/primordial images/archetypes
extroversion/ introversion
personal unconscious
complexes
Humanistic theories
Roots in phenomenology and existentialism
Factor analysis (FA)
orthogonal
oblique
small number of uncorrelated, second order factors
types ('surface traits')
large number of correlated, first order factors
traits ('source traits')
Psychometric approach
'Four Temperaments/ Humours' [Galen]
Eysenck's type theory
[1947, 1952, 1965]
• MPI [1959]
• EPI [1964]
• EPQ [1975]
personality dimensions
• Extroversion (E)
• Neuroticism (N) (emotionality)
• Psychoticism (P)
Introversion
Stability
androgens (male hormones)
ARAS: extroverts = chronically under-aroused
sympathetic branch of ANS/ limbic system: neurotics have very reactive ANS
responsiveness to drugs
conditionality
[1955]
Kelly's Personal construct theory
Man-the-scientist
Constructive alternativism
Repertory grid technique
Repertory grid test ('rep grid')
idiographic and phenomenological
more a 'total psychology' than a personality theory
The 'Big five'
[Costa & McCrae, 1992]
Extroversion
Agreeableness
Conscientiousness
Emotional stability (or Neuroticism)
Intelligence/ openness to experience
Stability of personality across the lifespan?
culturally biased? [Moghaddam, 2002]
16 PF questionnaire
[1965]
Cattell's trait theory
L-data ('life')
A Affectia vs. Sizia
B Intelligence
C Ego strength vs. Dissatisfied emotionality
E Dominance vs. Submissiveness
F Surgency vs. Desurgency
G Superego strength
H Parmia vs. Threctia
I Premsia vs. Harria
L Protension vs. Alexia
M Autia vs. Praxernia
N Shrewdness vs. Naivety
O Guilt proneness
T-data (objective tests)
2nd order FA
exvia - invia (Eysenck's E)
anxiety (Eysenck's N)
Q-data ('questionnaire')
Q1 Radicalism vs. Conservatism
Q2 Self-sufficiency vs. Group dependence
Q3 Self-sentiment strength
Q4 Ergic tension
Roger's self-theory
Client-centred therapy provides unconditional positive regard
Need for positive self-regard
Development of self-concept
conditional positive regard (significant others)
conditions of worth
denial/ distortion
incongruence
organism vs. self
'psychology of becoming'
process of becoming a 'fully functioning person' = paramount
Maslow's 'psychology of being'
[1954]
Hierarchy of needs
Self-actualisation = end in itself