

# Spherical model of interests in Croatia <sup>☆</sup>

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## Abstract

In order to analyze the validity of spherical model of interests in Croatia, three Croatian samples of primary school students ( $N = 437$ ), secondary school students ( $N = 540$ ) and university students ( $N = 630$ ) were administered a translated version of the Personal Globe Inventory (PGI, [Tracey, T.J.G. (2002). Personal Globe Inventory: Measurement of the spherical model of interest and competence beliefs Monograph. *Journal of Vocational Behavior* 60, 113–172.]). Three aspects of model validity were analyzed: the three-dimensional underlying structure of interest items, spherical arrangement of interest scales and accurate gender mean differences in interests. Principal component analysis confirmed the existence of three substantial factors underlying interest items, whose orientation and meaning is moderately related to theoretical one. Randomization test firmly approved the spherical representation of interest scales and its structural stability across different age and gender groups. Gender differences in interest were close to previous findings and logical expectations. Results have shown firm evidences of validity and gender and age universality of spherical model in Croatian adolescent and young adult samples.

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## 1. Background

A spherical model of interests was proposed by Tracey and Rounds (1996b) and further developed by Tracey (1997b, 2002). The spherical structure of interests subsumes Holland's RIASEC model which has shown equivocal evidences of cross-cultural universality (e.g. Einarsdottir, Rounds, Aegisdottir, & Gerstein, 2002; Farh, Leong, & Law, 1998; Leong, Austin, Sekaran, & Komarraju, 1998; Rounds & Tracey, 1996; Šverko & Babarović, 2006) and gender stability (e.g. Leong et al., 1998; Ryan, Tracey, & Rounds, 1996; Šverko, 2002). The spherical model of interests also considers prestige. The integration of prestige provides a more detailed measurement of interests, and could yield interest models of greater cross-cultural, gender or age universality.

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Spherical model of interests is defined with three orthogonal underlying dimensions: *People-Things*, *Data-Ideas* and *Prestige*. Dimensions *People-Things* and *Data-Ideas*, previously proposed by Prediger (1982; Prediger, Swaney, & Mau, 1993; Prediger & Vansickle, 1992), are placed at the equatorial plane of the sphere and they define interests toward different work areas. The *Prestige* dimension is orthogonal to them and linked to both ‘poles’ of the sphere. It defines interests toward different level of prestige, with its upper part resembling interest toward higher level of prestige, and its lower part resembling interests toward lower level of prestige. According to the model, there are 18 vocational interest types that are placed on the surface of the interest

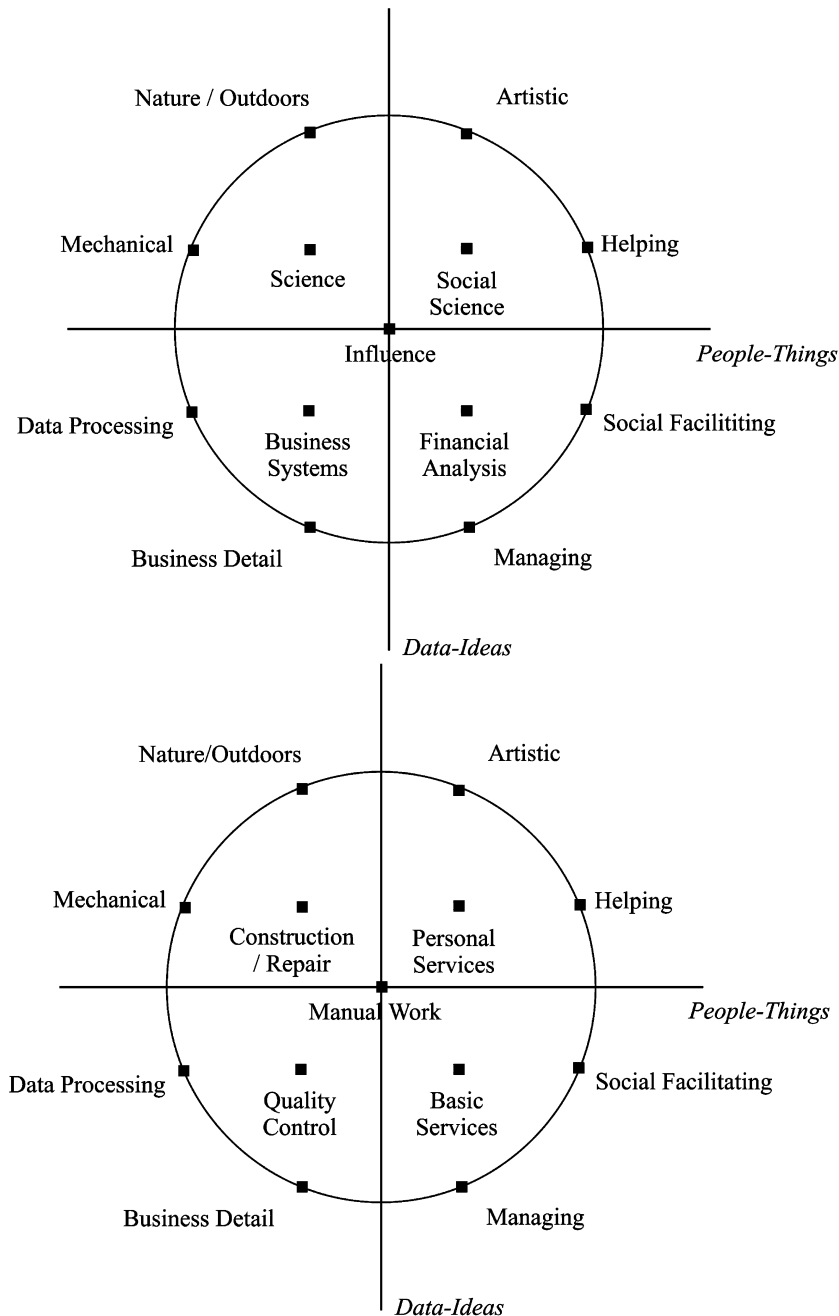


Fig. 1. The spherical model of vocational interests: Upper hemisphere of higher prestige (top) and lower hemisphere of lower prestige (bottom).

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