

“STEREOTYPES AND COLLECTIVE PERSONALITY”, by
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Although stereotypes don't reflex individual characters, they work "reasonably" well when they are applied over a community. Let's talk about British people, for example. On the whole, I agree with the usual stereotypes abouts the Britons. I think they are reserved, polite, formal, quiet, a bit embarrassed, shy, straightforward, certainly dull, patriotic, well-mannered and well-dressed.

The reason why I believe that is because I think there is a "collective personality" in a community. Let me explain my theory to you. Under my opinion, a collective has always an image of themselves, and this image conditions their behaviour. For instance, British people see themselves as polite, and they expect every Briton to be polite. So, they teach their children to be polite, and they cheer polite behaviours. As a consequence, people are more polite than they could be without this "collective personality".

For the same reason I think Spanish people are friendly, outgoing, talkative, excitable, lively, warm, inventive and fun to be with. Our society cheer us when we behave according to these stereotypes.

However, there are lots of people that don't fit in this "collective personality". There are, for example, many friendly, talkative and excitable Britons. When we know a person for the first time, it's worth not to prejudge him or her. Prejudices cause fear, rejection and disparaging feelings. As a consequence, we should try not to prejudge a person and try and know him or her better.