## ARTICLE IN PRESS

Journal of Business Research xxx (xxxx) xxx-xxx



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

### Journal of Business Research

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/jbusres



# Does personality congruence explain luxury brand attachment? The results of an international research study\*

Raffaele Donvito<sup>a,\*</sup>, Gaetano Aiello<sup>a</sup>, Laura Grazzini<sup>b</sup>, Bruno Godey<sup>c</sup>, Daniele Pederzoli<sup>c</sup>, Klaus-Peter Wiedmann<sup>d</sup>, Chris Halliburton<sup>e</sup>, Priscilla Chan<sup>f</sup>, Junji Tsuchiya<sup>g</sup>, Irina Ivanovna Skorobogatykh<sup>h</sup>, Hyunjoo Oh<sup>i</sup>, Rahul Singh<sup>j</sup>, Mike Ewing<sup>k</sup>, Yuri Lee<sup>l</sup>, Li Fei<sup>m</sup>, Cindy Rong Chen<sup>m</sup>, Noel Yee-Man Siu<sup>n</sup>

- <sup>a</sup> University of Florence, Italy
- <sup>b</sup> University of Eastern Piedmont, Italy
- <sup>c</sup> NEOMA Business School, Rouen, France
- <sup>d</sup> Leibniz University of Hannover, Germany
- e ESCP Europe, London, United Kingdom
- f Manchester Metropolitan University, United Kingdom
- g Waseda University, Japan
- h Plekhanov Russian University of Economics, Russia
- <sup>i</sup> University of Florida, USA
- <sup>j</sup> Birla Institute of Management Technology, Greater Noida, India
- k Deakin University, Australia
- <sup>1</sup>Seoul National University, Republic of Korea
- <sup>m</sup> Tsinghua University, China
- <sup>n</sup> Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

#### ARTICLE INFO

Keywords: Brand-store-consumer personality Personality congruence Brand attachment Luxury

### ABSTRACT

There is a general lack of clarity regarding measurement of the self-brand congruity construct, which also calls for cross-national validation. Although previous evidence suggests a positive relationship between self-brand congruity and consumer brand associations (brand attachment), this relationship requires a deeper investigation. This study tests and validates a personality congruence scale in the luxury sector on an international level. Based on a survey of nearly 1500 international luxury customers, it also measures the effect of congruence on brand attachment. The findings confirm that the personality congruence structure is based on five dimensions: prestige, emotion, trust, anxiety, and order. The results highlight the personality congruence effect and its influence on brand attachment. Finally, similarities and differences across countries are detected in the personality congruence and brand attachment relationship. Theoretical and managerial implications are also discussed. This study contributes to the literature on brand personality congruence and its impact on brand attachment in the luxury context.

E-mail addresses: raffaele.donvito@unifi.it (R. Donvito), gaetano.aiello@unifi.it (G. Aiello), laura.grazzini@uniupo.it (L. Grazzini), bruno.godey@neoma-bs.fr (B. Godey), daniele.pederzoli@neoma-bs.fr (D. Pederzoli), wiedmann@m2.uni-hannover.de (K.-P. Wiedmann), challibu@escpeurope.eu (C. Halliburton), P.Chan@mmu.ac.uk (P. Chan), junji.tsuchiya@waseda.jp (J. Tsuchiya), hyunjoo.oh@warrington.ufl.edu (H. Oh), rahul.singh@bimtech.ac.in (R. Singh), michael.ewing@deakin.edu.au (M. Ewing), yulee3@snu.ac.kr (Y. Lee), lifei@sem.tsinghua.edu.cn (L. Fei), chenr@sem.tsinghua.edu.cn (C.R. Chen), nsiu@hkbu.edu.hk (N.Y.-M. Siu).

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbusres.2020.06.047

Received 22 July 2019; Received in revised form 19 June 2020; Accepted 20 June 2020 0148-2963/  $\odot$  2020 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

<sup>\*</sup>Although all the authors share the final responsibility for the contents of this paper, section Literature Review was written by R. Donvito and L. Grazzini; section Research aims and hypotheses development was written by G. Aiello, B. Godey, D. Pederzoli, R. Donvito, L. Grazzini, and Chris Halliburton; section Results was written by B. Godey, D. Pederzoli, R. Donvito, and L. Grazzini. All the authors co-wrote the sections Introduction, Methodology and General Discussion. Acknowledgements. Authors would like to thank Nadine Hennigs, Christiane Klarmann, Taro Koyama, Joshua Newton, Yan Kwan with specific reference to their work in the data gathering phase. A very special mention goes to Bart Weitz and to his memory for the relevant contribution to the conceptualization of the original idea of this research.

<sup>\*</sup> Corresponding author.