

題目：The influence of relational mobility on public praise and its psychological outcomes  
(関係流動性が公的状況での称賛行動と被称賛者の心理的反応に与える影響)

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Many previous studies have shown that praise results in positive emotion for the recipient and helps to form and maintain desirable interpersonal relationships. However, most of these studies only discussed praise behaviors between the praiser and the recipient. Focused on the effect of social contexts, this research adopted a socio-ecological approach to test if there are cross-societal differences in praise behavior and its psychological outcomes in public situations and why it is the case. We proposed that in high relational mobility societies like the US that are rich in relational freedom and options, people will be more pleased and less embarrassed to receive and have more intentions to give public praise. Because public praise helps advertise their social value, and achieve better relationships. In low relational mobility societies like Japan where social relationships tend to be fixed, on the contrary, there are greater risks attached to being regarded as “tall poppies” who are too successful and become a target of envy. So it is safer to avoid public praise than private praise.

We conducted three cross-societal surveys between Japan and the US to test this hypothesis. As predicted, Japanese as compared to Americans believed that their local society was lower in RMob and also that individuals who stood out from the group would be knocked down rather than be praised. Moreover, this set of beliefs was associated with negative emotions attached to receiving praise and fewer intentions to provide praise in public settings.