

University of Vaasa

Department of Management and Organization



LEADEC TEAM

MBTI SERIES 20

**VIRPI ALANKO, VESA ROUTAMAA & KYLLIKKI VALKEALAHTI:**

A Look behind the Bars: Prisoners' Types - Finnish vs. American.

Proceedings of the Psychological Type and Culture East and West: Fourth Multicultural Research Symposium, January 19-21, 2001, Waikiki, Hawaii.

---

### **Abstract**

*The purpose of this study was to find out prisoners' type distribution and to compare Finnish and American prisoners. The basic objective was to raise the question of which MBTI types are most likely to end up in prison. In order to have a look at the effect of different societal and cultural circumstances, the Finnish male prisoners' type distribution was first compared with American male prisoners and further with American female prisoners. Especially, Finnish male prisoners' type structure was centered around certain types. The study showed an overrepresentation of Sensing and Perceiving. Finnish male prisoners were more similar to American female prisoners than to American male prisoners. Partly, the results suggest that prisoners tend towards the same personality preferences independently of their cultural background. However, these differences as well as the type structure on the whole raise the important question of the impact of culture and the school system on a person's development during the life cycle. It seems that, in Finland, the culture and the educational system favor certain types and especially the Judging function.*