

Self-Esteem, Narcissism and Psychopathy and Sexual Offending Against Children

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SELF-ESTEEM

- Favorable vs. unfavorable self-evaluation
 - Explicit vs. Implicit
- Low self-esteem has been theoretically linked to sex offending
 - Lower self-esteem among SOCs (Whitaker et al., 2008)
 - Self-esteem has not been consistently linked with sexual recidivism (Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2005)
- High self-esteem linked with aggression (David & Kistner, 2000)
 - Moderated by narcissism? (Bushman et al., 2009)



SELF-ESTEEM

- Discrepant self-esteem
 - Inconsistency between explicit and implicit self-esteem
 - “Discrepant high” self-esteem
 - High explicit, low implicit
 - Linked with increased anger/aggression (Bosson, 2001)
 - Key feature of narcissism? (Zeigler-Hill, 2006)



NARCISSISM

- Cluster of traits (Miller & Campbell, 2010)
 - Egocentric, entitled, diminished sense of empathy
 - Attention-seeking, interpersonally exploitative, manipulative
 - Vulnerable narcissism (discrepant self-esteem)
 - Grandiose narcissism (high self-esteem; Miller et al., 2008)
- Theoretical link with sex offending (Bushman et al., 2003)
- Some empirical support (Kosson et al., 1997)
- Relevance of to sex offending against children?



PSYCHOPATHY

- Cluster of affective, interpersonal, and behavioural traits
- Lacks emotional depth, chronically under-aroused, diminished sense of empathy
- Manipulative, interpersonally exploitive, irresponsible
 - Moderate correlations with narcissism
- Theoretical link with sexual aggression (Harris et al., 2007)
- Increased risk of general, violent- and sexual recidivism (Harris et al., 2007; Olver & Wong, 2006; Parent, Guay & Knight, 2011)



PURPOSE

- Explore the degree to which self-esteem, narcissism, and psychopathy are related
 - Explicit, implicit, and discrepant self-esteem and narcissism
- Examine whether self-esteem, narcissism, or psychopathy differentiate between SOCs and NSOs
 - Explicit, implicit, and discrepant self-esteem
- Examine whether self-esteem, narcissism, or psychopathy are related to risk of violent (including sexual) recidivism in SOCs
 - Explicit, implicit, and discrepant self-esteem and narcissism



PARTICIPANTS

- $N = 87$ (ungrouped analyses)
- $n = 72$ (grouped analyses)
 - SOC: $n = 28$
 - NSO: $n = 44$
- SOCs and NSOs differed significantly on age, ethnicity, and education
- No appreciable impact on results of analyses



MEASURES

Narcissism

- Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI; Raskin & Hall, 1979)

Psychopathy

- Self-report Psychopathy Scale (SRP-III; Paulhus et al., in press)

Risk

- SORAG (Quinsey et al., 1998)



MEASURES

Explicit self-esteem

- Rosenberg Self-esteem Scale (RSES; Rosenberg, 1979)
- Self-esteem Semantic Differentials (SDSE)
 - "I am"
 - *Negative* to *Positive* ○ *Bad* to *Good*
 - *Unlikable* to *Likeable* ○ *Unlovable* to *Lovable*
 - *Unpleasant* to *Pleasant*
- Short Self-esteem Scale (SSES; Thornton)



MEASURES

Implicit self-esteem

- Self-esteem Implicit Association Test (SE-IAT)
 - SELF: ME, MY, MINE, SELF, I
 - OTHER: THEY, THEM, OTHER, HIM, HE
 - Positive: peace, good, smile, happy, paradise
 - Negative: rotten, poor, sickness, poison, bad
- Higher IAT scores indicate more positive evaluation of self relative to others



RESULTS

- CORRELATIONS: SELF-ESTEEM, NARCISSISM, AND PSYCHOPATHY

Measure	NPI	RSES	SDSE	SSES	SE-IAT
NPI		.27*	.17	.17	-.02
SRP	.55**	.03	-.11	-.04	.03
SRP-IPM	.50**	-.04	-.18	-.01	-.02
SRP-CA	.42**	.01	-.23*	-.05	-.02
SRP-ELS	.49**	-.01	-.002	-.13	.02
SRP-CT	.33**	.13	.05	.05	.11

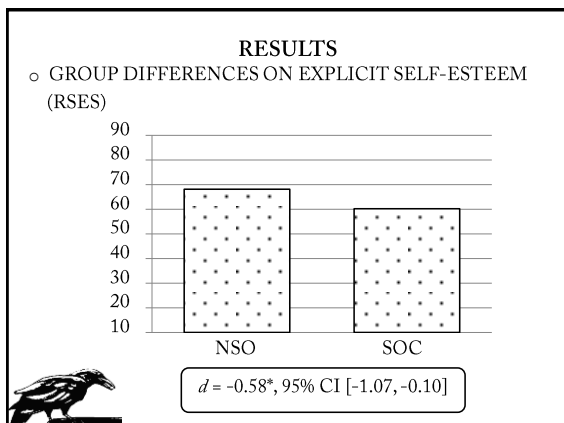
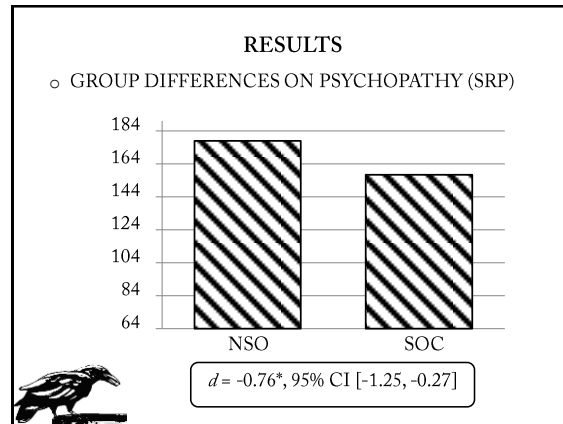
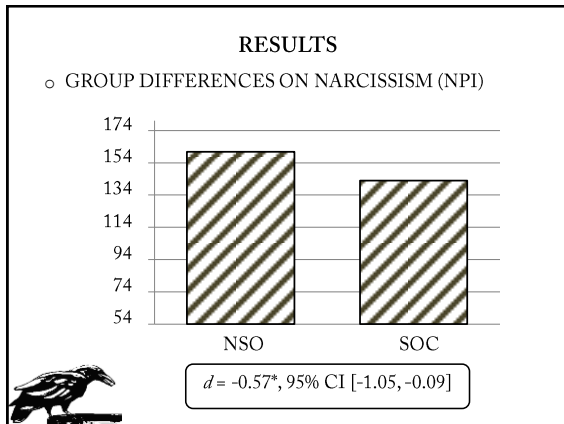


RESULTS

- EXPLICIT, IMPLICIT, AND DISCREPANT SELF-ESTEEM, AND NARCISSISM

- Hierarchical multiple regression analyses
 - "Independent": Implicit (SE-IAT), explicit (RSES), and discrepant self-esteem (SE-IAT*RSES)
 - "Dependent": Narcissism (NPI)
 - Ungrouped analyses ($n = 87$)
 - Grouped analyses (SOC $n = 28$; NSO $n = 44$)
- Only explicit self-esteem (RSES) was significantly associated with narcissism





- ### RESULTS
- MORE DIFFERENCES ON EXPLICIT SELF-ESTEEM
 - SDSE $d = -0.55^*, 95\% \text{ CI } [-1.03, -0.07]$
 - SSES $d = -1.07^*, 95\% \text{ CI } [-1.57, -0.56]$
 - IMPLICIT SELF-ESTEEM
 - SE-IAT $d = 0.19, 95\% \text{ CI } [-0.28, 0.67]$

RESULTS

○ CORRELATIONS: SELF-ESTEEM, NARCISSISM, PSYCHOPATHY AND RISK AMONG SOC_s

Measure	NPI	SRP	RSES	SDSE	SSES	SE-IAT
SORAG	.48**	.37	.45*	.32	.25	.08

- SRP CT ($r = .48$)
- SRP CA ($r = .29$)
- SRP IPM ($r = .04$)
- SRP ELS ($r = .23$)

RESULTS

○ EXPLICIT, IMPLICIT, AND DISCREPANT SELF-ESTEEM AND RISK

	R^2	B (SE)	β
Block 1*	.20		
RSES*		0.35 (0.14)	.45
Block 2	.21		
RSES*		0.35 (0.14)	.45
SE-IAT		2.62 (4.59)	.10
Block 3	.23		
RSES		0.33 (0.14)	0.42
SE-AT		4.17 (5.05)	0.16
SE-IAT x RSES		0.16 (0.21)	0.15

$n = 28$ * $p < .05$

RESULTS

- o EXPLICIT SELF-ESTEEM, NARCISSISM, AND RISK

	R^2	B (SE)	β
Block 1*	.23		
NPI*		0.19 (0.07)	.48
Block 2	.31		
NPI*		0.14 (0.07)	.36
RSES		0.24 (0.14)	.31

$n = 28$ * $p < .05$



SUMMARY

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VARIABLES

- o High trait narcissism significantly associated with high explicit self-esteem
- o Narcissism not associated with implicit or discrepant self-esteem

GROUP DIFFERENCES

- o SOCs had significantly lower explicit self-esteem, trait narcissism and psychopathy than NSOs

RISK

- o High explicit self-esteem significantly associated with higher risk of recidivism only when narcissism was not accounted for



LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- o Results did not support increasing self-esteem as a method of reducing risk of recidivism among SOCs
 - o Low self-esteem as a responsivity factor?
 - o SOCs explicit self-esteem scores vs. norms
- o Small sample size
 - o Multiple regression analyses
- o Cross-sectional design
- o Sex offenders against adults?



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THANK YOU

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More about our research
Aggressive Cognitions and Behaviour Research Lab
<http://www.carleton.ca/acbrlab/>

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