



ISSPD XIII

Bridging personality
and psychopathology:

The person behind the illness

**XIII INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON
THE DISORDERS OF PERSONALITY**

**16-19 SEPTEMBER 2013
COPENHAGEN, DENMARK**

ABSTRACTS

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XIII International Congress on
the Disorders of Personality

Bridging personality and psychopathology:
The person behind the illness

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pathologies: grandiose and vulnerable. These two constructs were innovatively examined with the cognitive structure of interpretation bias, measured both explicitly and implicitly. In line with Kohut's theory (1971, 1977), findings indicated a similar core of fragility in both types. However, they seem to present with different overt self-appraisals. The two narcissistic types might also develop as a result of different parenting strategies. Clinical theories also emphasized the parents' role in the development of narcissistic pathology. We present findings that indicate that parenting strategies are related to vulnerable narcissism, but not to grandiose narcissism. Finally, we empirically examined the notion that empathy deficit is a core characteristic of narcissistic pathology. We examined this notion in adolescents and young adults while differentiating grandiose and vulnerable narcissism. Surprisingly, findings indicated that both narcissistic types might be weakly, but positively, related to empathy. We discuss these findings with reference to the development of narcissism in adolescents.1) *Do narcissists see the world differently? Cognitive biases in NPD*/ Michal Weiss 2) *It's all the parents' fault - is it? How narcissists evaluate their parents*/ Eva Schürch 3) *Pathological narcissism and empathy in adolescents and young adults*/ Marc Allroggen

Presentation #1

Do narcissists see the world differently? Cognitive biases in NPD

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Clinical theories suggested that narcissistic personality disorder has two facets: grandiose (G) and vulnerable (V). Both types share an inner core of fragile, inferior feelings, which they compensate for with grandiose fantasies and behaviors. G's defenses are more overt, and they appear as arrogant and entitled, while Vs' grandiosity is mainly fantasized, and they may appear as shy and modest. The fragile self of the two types keeps them in a constant need for admiration and affirmation from others in order to regulate their self-esteem. Therefore, we examined the two types' explicit and implicit self-appraisals in the context of ambiguous social feedback, by measuring their interpretation biases (IB). We expected G's explicit IBs to be less negative than V's IBs. However, implicit IBs will be more similar for both types. In a preliminary study, 27 subjects were recruited into three groups (G, N=8; V, N=9; and control, N=10), based on their PNI scores. All subjects completed explicit and implicit IB tasks. As expected, the three groups differed significantly in their explicit IBs, with the V group being the most negatively biased, and the G group being the least. Implicit IBs showed no significant difference, maybe due to the small sample size. However, effect size was moderate ($d=0.31$), and results were in the expected direction. Overall, Vs' IBs were more negative than G's, with a significant interaction (group*bias). These findings support the notion of two types of narcissism, with different overt presentations and more similar covert self-appraisals.

Presentation #2

It's all the parents' fault – is it? How narcissists evaluate their parents

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Background: Although theories agree on the seminal role of parents in the development of narcissism, not many empirical studies exist to date that have examined the connection between parenting strategies and narcissism in children. *Aim:* In this study we wanted to test the hypotheses that specific parenting strategies fuel the development of narcissistic personality in the children. *Method:* Adults from five different clinical and community samples (mean age ranging from 19 to 43 years) retrospectively reported on various parenting strategies adopted by their parents. Strategies ranged from intrusive coldness, control, and role reversal to overvaluation and lack of boundaries. We used

the Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI) to assess grandiose narcissism and the Pathological Narcissism Inventory (PNI) to assess vulnerable narcissism in young adults. *Results:* While we found correlations between parenting strategies and vulnerable narcissism (PNI) in all samples, there were, with a few exceptions, no correlations with grandiose narcissism (NPI). *Conclusion:* We found evidence for the connection between certain parenting strategies and vulnerable narcissism in children. However, for grandiose narcissism the results are less clear. Possible explanations for these results are discussed.

Presentation #3

Pathological narcissism and empathy in adolescents and young adults

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Introduction: Empathy deficits are seen as a core characteristic of pathological narcissism. *Method:* 137 participants (mean age 17.6 years, SD: 1.69; female 24.1 %) completed the German version of the Pathological Narcissism Inventory (PNI) and the Multifaceted Empathy Test (MET). *Results:* Against expectations we find a small positive relationship between empathy and dimensions of both grandiose and vulnerable narcissism. *Discussion:* The implications of the findings of this preliminary study with adolescents and young adults are discussed with reference to the development of narcissism in adolescents.

Symposium (S-29)

Formulation, meaning and risk in a forensic context

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Overview

Dr Craissati considers the needs of the criminal justice system in relation to the 'gold standard' of quality case formulation and explores the potential relationship of formulation to risk reduction. An adjusted model is proposed which details a stepped approach to formulation, linked to quality standards, but adapted to suit the purpose of a probation service. Dr Minoudis will present an empirical paper evaluating formulation in forensic settings. Offender personality disorder strategy places formulation-led management at its core. However, there exists little research into the quality of formulation and limited methods of evaluating its effectiveness. This presentation reports on an evaluation of formulation after it was taught and practiced with offender managers. A new formulation quality checklist was validated in this process. Results of the study and implications for future research and practice are discussed. Dr Van Velsen references ten key features of formulation suggested by Hart et al (2011) Such breadth is admirable but can lead to complex formulations that are interesting for clinicians (sometimes), but might be without meaning for the patient. A psychodynamic formulation can enliven and ensure the presence of the person in the risk formulation, using a particular example. She will argue that the most important aspect of the risk formulation is its narrative resonance with the patient's own experience. This requires movement from the nomothetic to the personal.