

Introduction

Dark triad

The Dark Tetrad (DT) comprises four subclinical traits: Machiavellianism, Narcissism, Psychopathy, and Sadism (Bonfá-Araujo et al., 2022). Individuals scoring high on DT tend to exhibit manipulative behavior, a marked lack of empathy, and inclinations towards deception, aggression, and self-promotion (Paulhus et al., 2002).

Big Five

The Big Five (BF) Model, considered the primary framework in personality research (Costa & McCrae, 1988), consists of five dimensions:

1. Extraversion, characterized by a preference for social interaction, high energy levels, and positive emotions.
2. Agreeableness, indicating a propensity for kindness towards others.
3. Conscientiousness, associated with traits like reliability, organization, and purposefulness.
4. Emotional stability, linked to lower levels of anxiety, worry, and behavioral inhibition.
5. Openness to experience, reflecting traits such as imagination, curiosity, and flexibility.

Present Study

AIMS:

Clarify the relationship between DT and the BF personality factors, but unlike previous studies, we used a person-centered approach:

- ◆ We analyzed different homogeneous subgroups of individuals characterized by specific DT profiles using cluster analysis and examined the relation with BF.

Methods

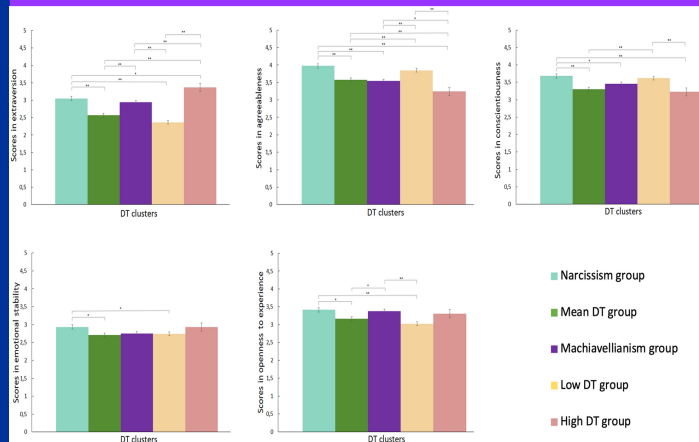
Sample:

1149 participants (50.1% women, 18–79 years).

Scales:

The Short Dark Triad and the Assessment of Sadistic Personality instrument to assess DT, while the Mini-IPIP was used to assess the Big Five personality factors

Results



References

- Bonfá-Araujo, B., Lima-Costa, A. R., Hauck-Filho, N., & Jonason, P. K. (2022). Considering sadism in the shadow of the Dark Triad traits: A meta-analytic review of the Dark Tetrad. *Personality and Individual Differences, 197*, 111767.
- Paulhus, D. L., & Williams, K. M. (2002). The Dark Triad of personality: Narcissism, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy. *Journal of Research in Personality, 36*(6), 556–563.
- Costa, P. T., & McCrae, R. R. (1988). Personality in adulthood: A six-year longitudinal study of self-reports and spouse ratings on the NEO Personality Inventory. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 54*(5), 853–863.

Discussion

Identifying specific combinations of narcissism, Machiavellianism, psychopathy, and sadism traits offers insights into the DT concept and how these traits intersect. **High DT individuals** tend to show increased **extraversion** but **lower** levels of **agreeableness** and **conscientiousness**. Additionally, those with high **narcissism** scores tend to exhibit greater **openness to experience, extraversion, and emotional stability**, regardless of other DT traits. Understanding personality traits is crucial for **mental health, criminal investigations, and workplace dynamics**. Grounding this understanding in empirical research that explores interrelations and interactions with other variables is essential. Adopting a person-centered approach, as demonstrated in this study, provides valuable insights into DT and can inform interventions aimed at mitigating its negative societal impacts.