

Adversity and Persecutory ideation: a moderated
mediational model

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PII: S0165-1781(16)32036-4
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2017.09.055>
Reference: PSY10866

To appear in: *Psychiatry Research*

Received date: 1 December 2016
Revised date: 18 April 2017
Accepted date: 22 September 2017

Cite this article as: Carmen Valiente, Regina Espinosa, Patricia Villavicencio, Dolores Cantero and Filiberto Fuentenebro, Adversity and Persecutory ideation: a moderated mediational model, *Psychiatry Research*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2017.09.055>

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Abstract

Adversity has been identified as an important factor in models of psychopathology and can help in understanding persecutory ideation, although potential moderators and mediators for adult psychopathology have not been sufficiently examined. Experiential avoidance (EA) and Self-esteem (SE) are relevant factors to understand how adversity leads to persecutory ideation. This study hypothesized that adversity would be associated with persecutory ideation through heightened EA, and that this association would be strengthened in individuals with a discrepant high SE. Participants with persecutory ideation (n=52), with depression (n=35) and healthy controls (n=51) were assessed with the Trauma History Screen, the Paranoia and Deservedness Scale, and the Beck Depression Inventory. A SE discrepancy index was calculated subtracting the normalized explicit SE score from the normalized implicit SE score (measured by a version of a Go/No-go association task). Our analysis revealed that adversity was associated with higher levels of paranoia and was mediated by EA. In addition, we found that the relationship between

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