



## The Dark Triad traits and views of time in three countries<sup>☆</sup>



Peter K. Jonason<sup>a,\*</sup>, Maria Sitnikova<sup>b</sup>, Atsushi Oshio<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Western Sydney University, Australia

<sup>b</sup> Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences, Russia

<sup>c</sup> Waseda University, Japan

### ARTICLE INFO

#### Keywords:

Machiavellianism

Narcissism

Psychopathy

Dark Triad

Time perspectives

### ABSTRACT

In samples drawn from Australia, Japan, and Russia ( $N = 1032$ ) we replicated an extended work on the relationships between the Dark Triad traits (i.e., narcissism, psychopathy, and Machiavellianism) and individual differences in time perspectives. We documented that narcissism was associated with recollections of favorable pasts, whereas psychopathy and Machiavellianism were associated with recollections of unfavorable pasts. Consistent with life history models of the Dark Triad traits, the Dark Triad traits were associated with hedonism and limited future concerns. Country-wise comparisons suggested that narcissism was associated with *less* future concerns in Australia and Russia but *more* future concerns in Japan. Sex differences in future concerns were mediated by individual differences in psychopathy but suppressed by individual differences in narcissism. Results are discussed using a life history framework.

### 1. Introduction

There are individual differences in how people orient to time (Carstensen, Isaacowitz, & Charles, 1999; Keough, Zimbardo, & Boyd, 1999). These individual differences include positive and negative recollections of one's past and childhood, a tendency to pursue immediate pleasure (i.e., hedonism), a tendency to be concerned with the future, and fatalism (Zimbardo & Boyd, 1999). Time perspectives have been linked to various life outcome and psychological factors. For instance, people with a present orientation (i.e., high hedonism and limited future concerns) are often aggressive, anger-prone, and impulsive, are characterized by “dysfunctional” attachment, and engage in drug or alcohol abuse and risk-taking (Chisholm, 1999; Keough et al., 1999; Stolarski, Bitner, & Zimbardo, 2011). One limitation of this work, however, is that it rarely examines the relationships between these perspectives and domain-general personality traits and instead has focused on behavioral syndromes like risky driving or impulsivity (Zimbardo et al., 1997). One set of personality traits that might be particularly worthy of investigation in relation to individual differences in time perspectives is the Dark Triad (i.e., psychopathy, narcissism, and Machiavellianism). These traits account for variance in similar behavioral syndromes like reward-seeking biases (Birkás, Csathó, Gács, & Bereczkei, 2015; Foster & Trimm, 2008), a tendency to choose smaller, immediate rewards over larger, delayed ones, and to engage in various “short-sighted” behaviors like excessive drinking, use of illegal

drugs, casual sex, and cigarette smoking (Jonason, Koenig, & Tost, 2010; Jonason, Li, Webster, & Schmitt, 2009), and link with impulsivity (Jones & Paulhus, 2011). In this study, we examine the correlations between the Dark Triad traits and individual differences in time perspectives.

Truth be told, there are already (at least) three studies (Birkás & Csathó, 2016; Moraga, Nima, & Garcia, 2017; Stolarski, Czarna, Malesza, & Szymańska, 2017) that have examined these associations, making another study seemingly unwarranted. These studies revealed that the Dark Triad traits are associated with a present hedonistic outlook, limited future concerns, and fatalism. Unfortunately, these studies are limited by being confined to two Eastern European countries and one Northern European country, relatively small sample sizes, a reliance (in two cases) on the Dirty Dozen measure of the Dark Triad traits which has been criticized for limited heterogeneity in the items (Miller et al., 2012), and a failure (in two cases) to examine potential sex-related moderation and mediation effects despite the importance of both when trying to understand the Dark Triad traits, especially from an evolutionary framework (Jonason et al., 2009; Jonason, Lyons, Bethell, & Ross, 2013). Therefore, we examine these links with an alternative, brief measure of the Dark Triad traits in men and women sampled from Australia, Russia, and Japan.

In the last 10 years, there has been intense interest in the Dark Triad traits (Furnham, Richards, & Paulhus, 2013; Muris, Merckelbach, Otgaar, & Meijer, 2017). The Dark Triad traits are characterized by

<sup>☆</sup> Thanks to Joshua Foster for help with analyses.

\* Corresponding author at: School of Social Sciences and Psychology, Western Sydney University, Penrith, NSW 2751, Australia.

E-mail address: [pjonason@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:pjonason@westernsydney.edu.au) (P.K. Jonason).

grandiosity and self-centeredness (i.e., narcissism), manipulation and cynicism (i.e., Machiavellianism), and callous social attitudes and impulsivity (i.e., psychopathy). One reason for this intense interest has been their integration into a life history theory (Wilson, 1975) paradigm; a paradigm that suggests individual differences reflect different adaptive trade-offs between immediate and mating needs and delayed and survival needs (Figueredo et al., 2006). Using this paradigm, we make a several predictions. First, life history researchers contend that personality traits should be related to childhood conditions (Bjorklund & Pellegrini, 2000; Chisholm, 1999) and the Dark Triad traits are correlated with childhood conditions (Jonason, Icho, & Ireland, 2016; Jonason, Lyons, & Bethell, 2014). However, the childhood conditions associated with each of these dispositions appear to be somewhat different, with narcissism being sensitive to positive childhood experiences and psychopathy and Machiavellianism being sensitive to negative childhood conditions. As such, we expect narcissism to be correlated with viewing their past in a more positive light, whereas psychopathy and Machiavellianism will be correlated with viewing their past in more negative terms. Second, the life history view of the Dark Triad traits contends that these traits generally facilitate operating on a shorter, immediate timeline (Jonason et al., 2010). If so, the traits should be linked to both a hedonistic orientation (i.e., prioritizing pleasure) and limited concerns about the future. However, given differences in each trait (Jones & Paulhus, 2009; McDonald, Donnellan, & Navarrete, 2012), we expect narcissism to be particularly linked to hedonistic goals, psychopathy should be linked to limited concerns about the future, and Machiavellianism should be associated with concerns about the future. Third, if we assume that childhood experiences of those high in each trait act to create expectancy heuristics about the future, we expect those high on the Dark Triad—psychopathy and Machiavellianism in this case (Birkás & Csathó, 2016)—to be linked to fatalism as they may have been unable to affect change for the better in their childhoods, thus, setting the stage for both these traits, but also a sense of learned helplessness as seen in fatalistic thinking.

There is also potential moderation by country of these associations and mediation effects for sex differences in time perspectives by individual differences in the Dark Triad traits. We test the possibility that there may be some country-level differences in the relationships between the Dark Triad traits and time perspectives. For instance, narcissism may be linked to *more* future concerns in Western countries (i.e., Russia and Australia), but *less* future concerns in Eastern countries (i.e., Japan) given the distinction between agentic and communal narcissism (Gebauer, Sedikides, Verplanken, & Maio, 2012). If Western countries are more individualistic and Eastern countries are more collectivistic, narcissistic individuals may differentially get the respect and power they desire by conforming to group-specific norms regarding future planning (i.e., self-centrality breeds self-enhancement; Gebauer, Wegner, Sedikides, & Neberich, 2013). And, last, if the sexes differ in how they view the world, this might be a function of (i.e., mediation) individual differences in the Dark Triad traits. For example, and in direct relation to the life history model of the traits, men may be more likely to have diminished future concerns relative to women given their *fast* (*r*-selected) life history strategy (Figueredo et al., 2006) and this may be a function of men's tendency to also be more psychopathic than women are (Jonason et al., 2009; Jonason et al., 2017).

In this study, we attempt to improve on prior work linking the Dark Triad traits to individual differences in time perspectives (Birkás & Csathó, 2016; Stolarski et al., 2017). In three countries, we report “global” correlations, country-specific correlations and potential moderation effects, and test whether sex differences in the time perspectives is, in part, a function of individual differences in the Dark Triad traits. We adopt an adaptationist framework to understand why the Dark Triad traits might each differently be related to various perspectives on time.

## 2. Method

### 2.1. Participants and procedure

Participants ( $N_{Grand} = 1032$ ) were 310 Australian (97 men), 351 Japanese (135 men), and 371 Russian (94 men) undergraduates ( $M_{Age} = 20.13$ ,  $SD_{Age} = 2.77$ ,  $Range = 16$  to 45) who participated in an online (translated and back-translated in Russian and Japanese) study about “personality and views of the future” (see Jonason et al., 2017b) who were solicited through psychology classes. Participants, in their respective languages, were informed of the nature of the study, asked to consent and, if provided, completed a series of measures (items were randomized within measures). Upon completion participants were thanked and debriefed. Sample size minimums for each country were determined based on power analysis ( $> 0.80$ ) for the average effect size in social and personality psychology ( $r \approx 0.20$ ; Richard, Bond, & Stokes-Zoota, 2003) and guidelines ( $N \approx 250$ ) set for reducing estimation error in personality psychology (Schönbrodt & Perugini, 2013).

### 2.2. Measures

The 27-item Short Dark Triad scale (Jones & Paulhus, 2014) was used to measure Machiavellianism (e.g., “I like to use clever manipulation to get my way.”), narcissism (e.g., “I insist on getting the respect I deserve.”), and psychopathy (e.g., “People who mess with me always regret it.”); a measure that has been validated in Japanese (Shimotsukasa & Oshio, 2017). Participants indicated their agreement to the above (1 = *strongly disagree*; 5 = *strongly agree*) items which were averaged to create indexes of narcissism (Cronbach's  $\alpha = 0.68$  to 0.79), Machiavellianism ( $\alpha = 0.69$  to 0.77), and psychopathy ( $\alpha = 0.72$  to 0.73).<sup>1</sup>

We used the 56-item Zimbardo and Boyd (1999) Perspectives on Time Scale which has been validated in a Japanese sample (Shimojima, Sato, & Ochi, 2012). It is composed of five dimensions tapping individual differences in (1) recollections of a difficult past (*past negative*; e.g., “I think about the bad things that have happened to me in the past.”), (2) recollections of a pleasant past (*past positive*; e.g., “It gives me pleasure to think about the past.”), (3) taking pleasure in immediate rewards (*present hedonistic*; e.g., “Ideally, I would live each day as if it were my last.”), (4) perception that one has little control over future outcomes (*fatalistic*; e.g., “My life path is controlled by forces I cannot influence.”), and (5) orientation towards long-term goals and pursuits (*future concerns*; e.g., “I complete projects on time by making steady progress.”). Participants were asked their agreement (1 = *strongly disagree*; 5 = *strongly agree*) with each item which were averaged ( $\alpha = 0.72$  to 0.84).<sup>2</sup>

## 3. Results

Table 1 contains correlations between the Dark Triad traits and individual differences in time perspectives overall (top panel) and in each country (2nd, 3rd, and 4th panel). We begin by talking about “global” effects. All three of the Dark Triad traits were linked by a hedonistic bias but, that is where the convergence ends. Psychopathy and Machiavellianism were both positively correlated with individual differences in recollections of a bad past while fatalism and

<sup>1</sup> In the full sample Machiavellianism was not correlated with narcissism ( $r = -0.02$ ) but it was correlated with psychopathy ( $r = 0.46$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) and psychopathy was correlated with narcissism ( $r = 0.15$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ). The three were better correlated in the Australian ( $r_s = 0.34$  to 0.55) and the Russian ( $r_s = 0.15$  to 0.44) samples but less so in the Japanese sample ( $r_s = -0.05$  to 0.41). Overall, there was limited evidence for problematic skew ( $-0.23$  to 0.34) or kurtosis ( $-0.13$  to  $-0.32$ ).

<sup>2</sup> Overall, there was limited evidence for problematic skew ( $-0.37$  to 0.40) or kurtosis ( $-0.32$  to 1.37).

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/5035523>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/5035523>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)