

The Trifurcated Model of Narcissism: What Do You See When Looking into a Situation Mirror?

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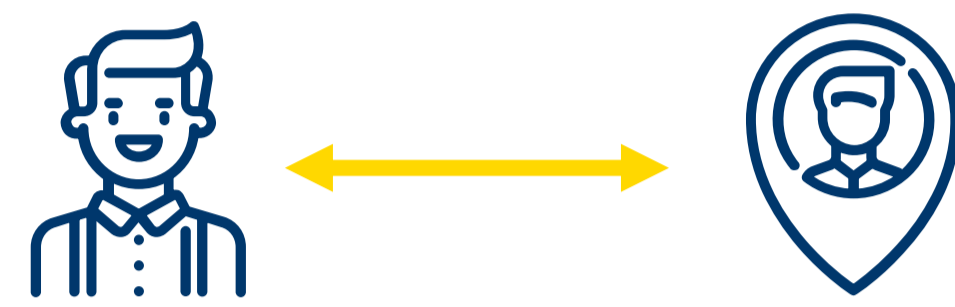


Background

- Substantial and meaningful fluctuations in narcissism states, conceptualized as trifurcated structure, have been observed.
- Trifurcated Model of Narcissism (TMN): Agentic Extraversion, Self-centered Antagonism & Narcissistic Neuroticism.
- In the Big 5, interests or motivation differences in state manifestations have been related to differences in situation perceptions.
 - We want to explore the **WHY** of narcissism state expressions.

Theories informing about the narcissism-situation interaction:

- Self-regular model (SPIN; Grapsas et al., 2020)
- Self-regulatory processing model for narcissism (Morf, 2006)
- Agency model (Campbell et al., 2006)
- Dual-Pathway Model (Back, 2018)



RQ1: How are situation perceptions in situ related to state expressions of different narcissism domains?

- H1.1: Perceiving a situation as social is positively associated with an agentic extraversion state.
- H1.2: Perceiving a situation as dutiful is positively associated with an agentic extraversion state.
- H1.3: Perceiving a situation as adverse is positively associated with a self-centered antagonism state.

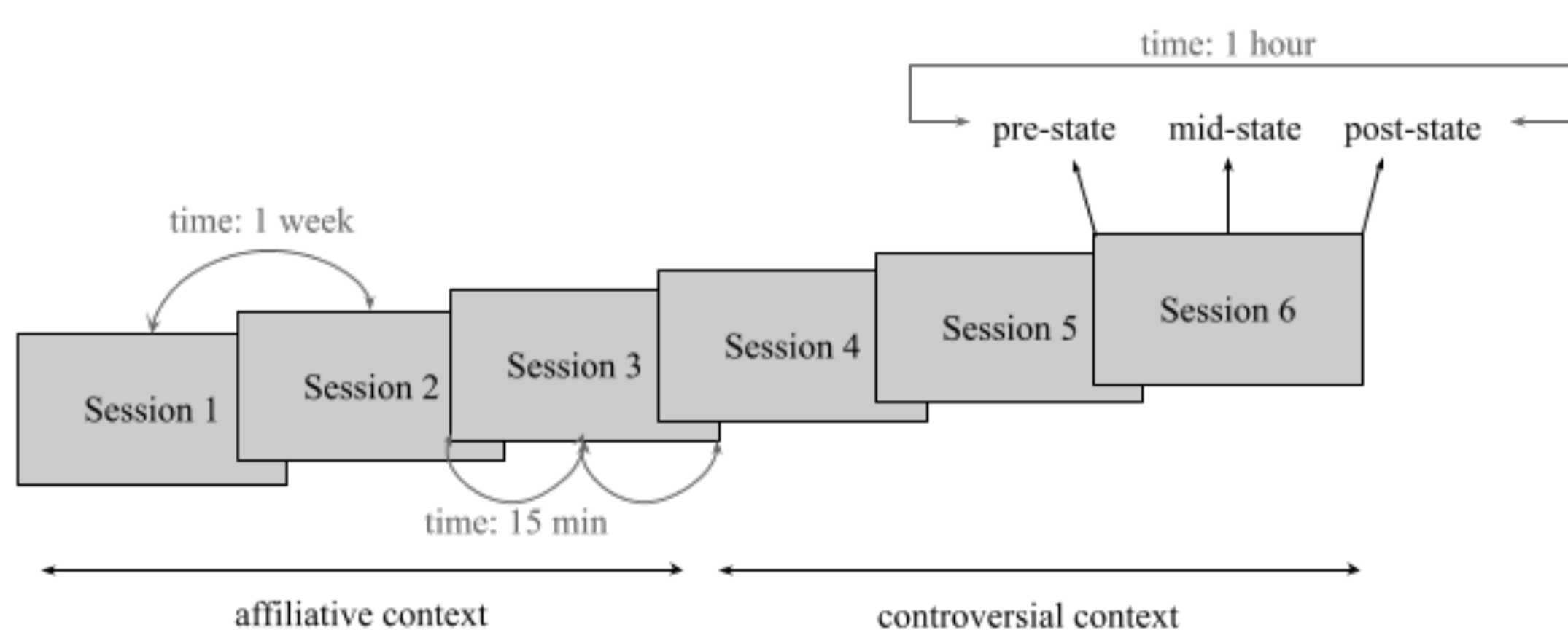
RQ2: How do narcissism states and situation perceptions in situ affect each other over time?

Methods

Sample

- $N = 220$ participants in the experiment.
- After applying our exclusion criteria, we included a total of 183 participants (72,81% female, 26,78% male, and 1.1% identifying as other).
- These participants contributed to a total of 3,042 measurement occasions.
- The average age of the final sample was 24.42 years ($SD = 3.85$).

Procedure



- Participants were randomized to groups of three to four people.
- For six weeks, they met weekly via Zoom.
- Meetings lasted approx. one hour and covered predetermined subjects.
- Initial three encounters = affiliative tasks; last three meetings = tasks that might generate controversy.
- Narcissism state and situation perception measurements were taken before, in the middle of, and after the group sessions.

Measurements

- Narcissism states in three domains: FFNI-SF (Sherman et al., 2015), PNI-54 (Pincus et al., 2009), NARQ-S (Leckelt et al., 2018), NVS (Crowe et al., 2018), NGS (Crowe et al., 2016)
- Situation perceptions: DIAMONDS (Rauthmann & Sherman, 2018)

Literature

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Results

RQ1: Relations between narcissism domains and situation perceptions

Analysis: Multilevel Models

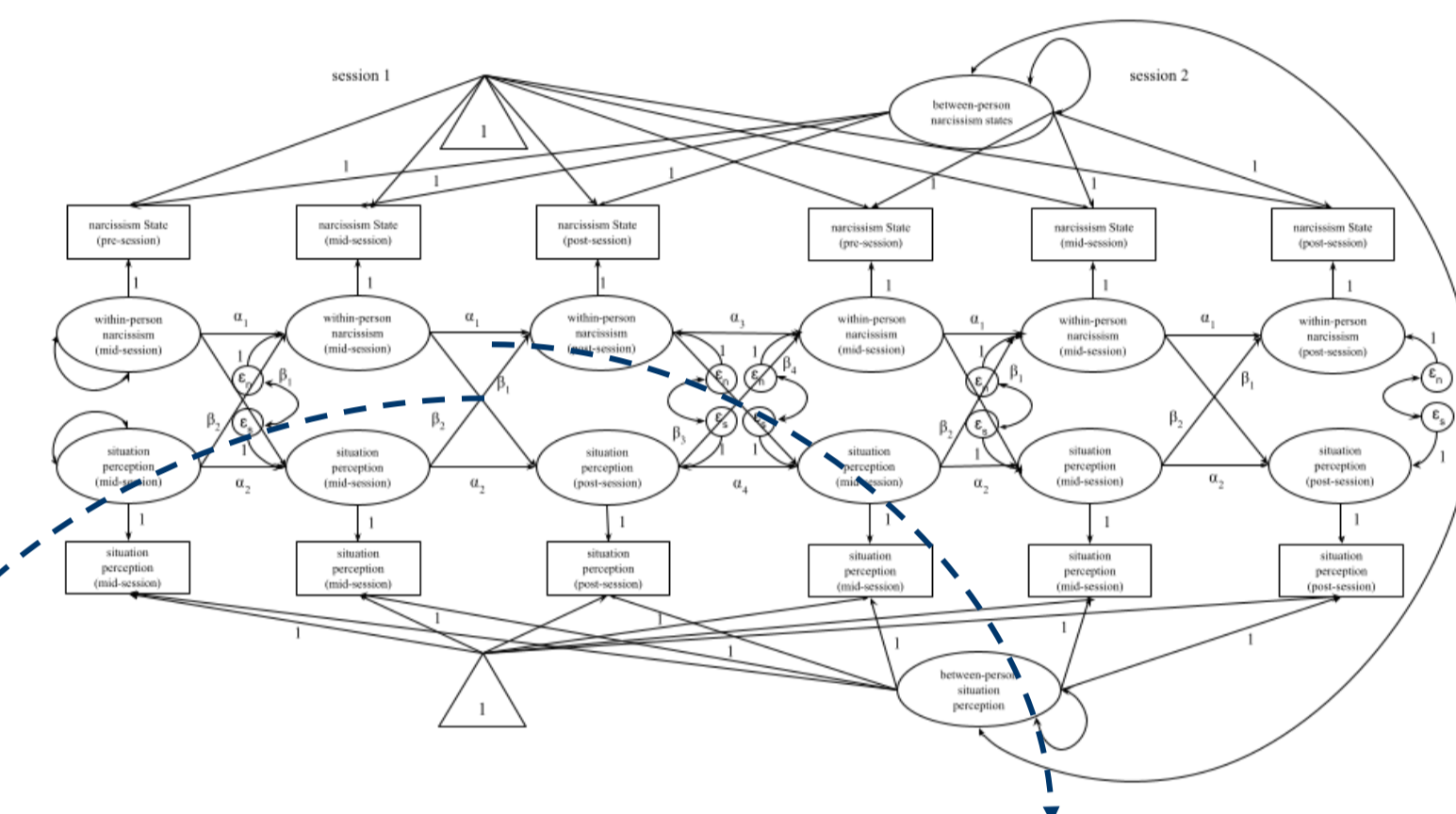
Table 4. Unstandardized Fixed L1 Effects of Within-Person Centered Situation Characteristics on Narcissism States.

	Agentic Extraversion			Self-centered Antagonism			Narcissistic Neuroticism		
	<i>b</i>	Holm-adjusted CI	<i>t</i>	<i>b</i>	Holm-adjusted CI	<i>t</i>	<i>b</i>	Holm-adjusted CI	<i>t</i>
Duty	<.001/.001	[0.016]	0.42/0.93	0.04**/0.03***	[0.058]	4.67/3.37	0.06**/0.03***	[0.084]	6.63/3.39
Intellect	0.02/-.001	[-0.005; 0.035]	1.88/0.15	<.001/0.01	[-0.013; 0.016]	0.26/-1.38	0.02/-.001	[-0.002; 0.037]	1.76/0.17
Adversity	0.02/0.03	[0.054]	1.68/1.87	0.06**/0.02	[0.028; 0.083]	3.88/1.81	0.10***/0.01	[0.047; 0.147]	5.24/0.54
Mating	0.04**/0.02*	[0.009; 0.067]	3.50/2.31	0.04*/0.02	[0.008; 0.067]	3.14/1.94	0.08***/0.04***	[0.044; 0.109]	5.85/4.70
Positivity	0.05***/0.06***	[0.028; 0.079]	5.79/6.56	-0.03***/0.01	[-0.053; 0.012]	-4.26/-0.76	-0.07***/0.01	[-0.094; 0.056]	-5.87/-1.14
Negativity	0.01/0.02	[0.028]	0.76/1.74	0.05***/0.03**	[0.025; 0.070]	5.47/2.75	0.13***/0.10***	[0.107; 0.154]	14.24/10.74
Deception	0.02/0.01	[-0.019; 0.064]	1.30/0.38	0.07*/0.04	[0.014; 0.126]	3.00/1.62	0.14***/0.06**	[0.083; 0.188]	6.16/2.80
Sociality	0.02***/0.01	[0.012; 0.028]	4.12*/1.03	-0.01**/-0.01	[-0.024; 0.002]	-2.58/-1.38	-0.02*/0.01	[-0.040; 0.004]	2.68/-1.57

Note. Model selection was based on the lowest AIC value. Coefficients refer to Model IV, except for models with subscript a, where Model III is reported as the AIC indicated better fit. The pre-registered 95% confidence intervals were Bonferroni-Holm adjusted to control the family-wise error rate. For the three confomatary relations, we applied a 90% confidence interval as pre-registered. *b* = estimate (unstandardized) effect; *t* = *t*-value; **p* < .05, two-tailed; ***p* < .01, two-tailed; ****p* < .001, two-tailed. ^{††}*p* < .001, one-tailed. Estimates and *t*-values for the total model, controlling for all situation perceptions can be found behind the slash.

RQ2: Spill-over effects of situation perceptions on narcissism domains and vice versa

Analysis: Random-Intercept Cross-Lagged Panel Models



Cross-Lagged Effects

Table 6. Autoregressive Effects of Situation Perceptions and Cross-Lagged Effects of Situation Perception and Narcissism Domains

Situation Perception and Narcissism Domains	Agentic Extraversion		Self-centered Antagonism		Narcissistic Neuroticism	
	Proximal	Distal	Proximal	Distal	Proximal	Distal
Cross-effects						
Situation Perception → Narcissism State						
Duty	-.01	.02	.22**	.10	.03	.18
Intellect	.22**	-.05	.21**	-.03	.03	.15
Adversity	.11	.12	.08	.09	-	-
Mating	-	-	-	-.06	.05	.05
Positivity	.19**	.10	-	-.05	.06	.06
Negativity	.12	.21	.16*	.21	.29***	.19
Deception	-	-	-	.02	.12	.12
Sociality	.16	.57	-	.01	.24	.24
Narcissism State → Situation Perception						
Duty	-.01	.02	-	-	-	-
Intellect	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adversity	-	-	-	-	<.001	-.02
Mating	.02*	-.01	<.001	-.01	-	-
Positivity	-	-	.01	-.01	-	-
Negativity	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deception	.03*	.02	.02	.03	-	-
Sociality	.02*	-.04**	.01	-.01	-	-

Note. Unstandardized parameter estimates; Proximal = within-session; Distal = between-session **p* < .05, ***p* < .01, ****p* < .001. The model selection was based on the BIC. a = full coupling; b = single coupling from situation perception to narcissism state; c = single coupling from narcissism state to situation perception.

Autoregressive Effects

Table 6. Autoregressive Effects of Situation Perception

Autoregressive	Agentic Extraversion		Self-centered Antagonism		Narcissistic Neuroticism	
	Immediate	Distal	Immediate	Distal	Immediate	Distal
Duty	.41***	-.03*	.41***	-.03*	.41***	-.03*
Intellect	.22***	-.11**	.23***	-.10**	.23***	-.11**
Adversity	.31***	.11*	.31***	.11*	.32***	.11*
Mating	.36***	.21*	.36***	.21*	.36***	.21*
Positivity	.28***	.02*	.29***	.02*	.29***	.02*
Negativity	.23***	.06*	.23***	.06*	.19***	.01*
Deception	.27***	.22*	.27***	.22*	.26***	.021*
Sociality	.04*	-.27***	.04*	-.26***	.05**	-.27***

Note. Unstandardized parameter estimates; Immediate = within-session; Distal = between-session **p* < .05, ***p* < .01, ****p* < .001. The model selection was based on the BIC. a = full coupling; b = single coupling from situation perception to narcissism state; c = single coupling from narcissism state to situation perception.

Table 7. Autoregressive Parameters of Narcissism Domains

Autoregressive	D		A		N		O		S	
	Im	Di	Im	Di	Im	Di	Im	Di	Im	Di
Agentic Extraversion	.44***	.13**	.44***	.13**	.44***	.13**	.44***	.13**	.44***	.13**
Self-centered Antagonism	.32***	.14*	.32***	.14*	.32***	.14*	.32***	.14*	.32***	.14*
Narcissistic Neuroticism	.38***	.13**	.38***	.13**	.38***	.13**	.38***	.13**	.38***	.13**

Note. Unstandardized parameter estimates; WS = within-session; BW = between-session D = Duty; I = Intellect; A = Adversity; M = Mating; O = Positivity; N = Negativity; Di = Deception; S = Sociality. **p* < .05, ***p* < .01, ****p* < .001.

Conclusion

Co-Occurrences of Narcissism and Situation Perceptions

- H1.1: Perceiving a situation as social is positively associated with an agentic extraversion state. ✓
- H1.2: Perceiving a situation as dutiful is positively associated with an agentic extraversion state. ✗
- H1.3: Perceiving a situation as adverse is positively associated with a self-centered antagonism state. ✓

Exploratory findings

- Duty ↔ Antagonism and Narcissistic Neuroticism: No Self-selection; Duty as a potential threat.
- Positivity ↔ Agentic Extraversion: Situational environment cooperative to narcissistic goals.
- Negativity ↔ Antagonism and Narcissistic Neuroticism: Situational environment uncooperative to narcissistic goals.
- Deception ↔ Narcissistic Neuroticism: Emotional instability might lead to the perception of deception, at the same time people with heightened Narcissistic Neuroticism might engage in deceptive practices.
- Our data, derived from standardized group settings, supported our pre-registered hypotheses with few exceptions.
- We could identify additional potentially meaningful within-person associations between situation perceptions and narcissism states.
- Next to the associations within each situation, we also examined the directionality of the relation between situation perceptions and narcissism domain states.
- Our findings suggest that even though narcissism domain states mostly have negligible effects on situation perceptions, more prominent effects can be identified in the reverse direction.
- Specifically, perceived intellect, positivity, negativity, and duty all showed spill-over influences on the expression of different narcissism domains at later times.

Situational Influences on Narcissism States

