

Narcissism and Self-Esteem on Academic Achievement

Correlational investigation of students' narcissistic habits with their self-esteem and academic success on multiple dimensions

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Narcissism defined by the American Psychological Association....

Personality trait

Persistent pattern of self-centeredness,

A high sense of self-importance, and

A strong need to be admired by others.



NARCISSIST

BELIEVE IT OR NOT THE WORLD REALLY DOES NOT REVOLVE AROUND YOU.



Narcissism identified by others as...

A trait that includes acts, behaviors, and experiences that are intended to sustain or improve a grandiose, yet vulnerable self.
(Morf and Rhodewalt, 2001),

Entitlement, exhibitionism, exploitativeness (Raskin & Terry, 1988)

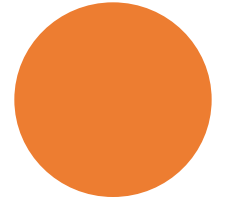


Narcissism is associated with...

- Academic excellence (Lemaitre, 2019; Wink, 1991; Wallace and Baumeister 2002)
- Mental toughness (Papageorgiou et al. 2019)
- Academic entitlement (Chowning & Campbell, 2013)

Narcissism is also linked with...

- A high level of extraversion and a low level of agreeability (Widiger et al., 2002; Costa and McCrae, 1992)
- Self-esteem in adults. (Bushman and Baumeister, 1998; Wink, 1991)
- Parenting styles, with perceived permissive parenting being positively associated with narcissism (Kılıçkaya et al., 2021)



Previous investigations....

- The desire for recognition, according to Lemaitre (2019), may drive narcissists to achieve greatness in scientific fields. Additionally, not just science evaluations, but also other areas can be studied in greater depth as a result of this.
- A prior study by Chowning and Campbell (2013) found that narcissism was not associated with a lower GPA or increased disengagement, demonstrating that it can be either beneficial or detrimental



What else can Narcissism be?

- **Fragile high self-esteem**
 - A type of high self-esteem characterized by extremes based primarily on external validation and self-deception, as well as delusions of achievement, control, and glamour (Kernis, 2001)



Is narcissism the same as Self-esteem?



- Both narcissism and self-esteem stem from a good self-perception.
- While both narcissism and self-esteem are positively related to agentic traits and assertive interpersonal approaches,
- they differ in their relationship with agreeableness and communion (Hyatt et al., 2018).



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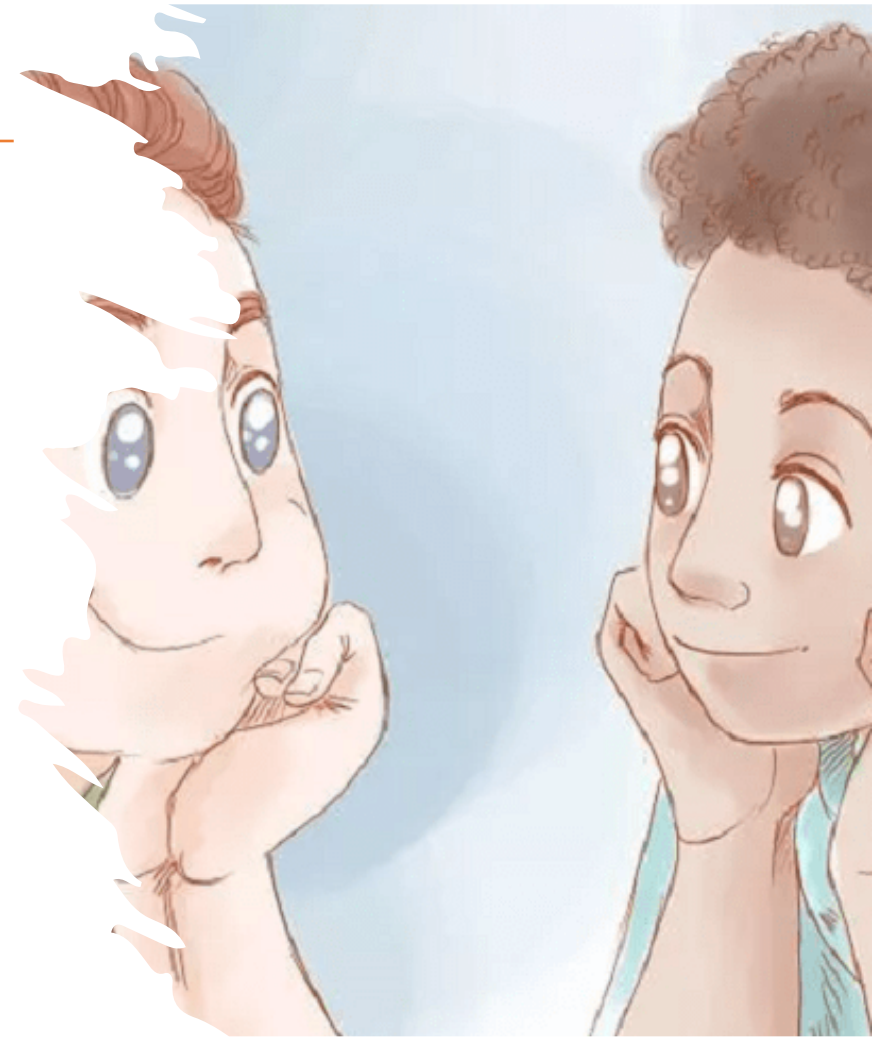
Narcissism vs. High self-esteem

Narcissists.

- no desire for close, warm relationships.
- Feel superior to others
- Seek others' attention.
- pride and elation
- may retaliate with anger and aggression.

High self-esteem

- seek close, intimate relationships
- do not feel superior to others
- are happy with themselves
- are not overly admirable
- are rarely aggressive or angry





Self-esteem = Academic success?

OR

Academic success = Self-esteem?

According to study, self-esteem and performance influence one another at some point, and individuals' self-esteem increases after attaining a goal. Low self-esteem can have a detrimental effect on an individual's mental health, resulting in stress, decreased productivity, and loss in a work environment (Wiggins and Schatz, 1994)

The Current Study

- Understanding students' academic achievement
- Emphasis on narcissistic behaviors in association with self-esteem
- Focus on narcissism as a moderating factor,
- **HYPOTHESIS: Narcissism + Self-esteem= Increased academic performance**
 - Narcissism may stimulate the elements of self-esteem that are associated with a high GPA. Perhaps narcissism provides an additional push for excellence that self-esteem alone would not provide.

Sample and Procedure

- Two universities
 - In total, 338 sample participants were identified and selected.
- M age = 19.20 years ($SD = 1.72$)
- Online study, completed for course credit or raffle entry

Measures

Measure	Details
Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-13; Gentile et al., 2013)	“People always seem to recognize my authority” “I will never be satisfied until I get all that I deserve”
The 10-item Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale SES (Rosenberg, 1965)	Several sample items were offered, such as "I believe that I have a variety of positive characteristics" and "On the whole, I am content with myself"
Academic Performance (GPA)	Grades (GPA) assessed from official transcripts

Analyses

- Moderation analysis with multiple regression predicting increased GPA when narcissism is present on self-esteem
- Main effect of narcissism – hypothesized
- Main effect of self-esteem –hypothesized
- Interaction of narcissism x self-esteem – hypothesized
- Direction?
 - Self-esteem should predict a higher GPA, so could Narcissism



Main Effects?

Keeping with previous research....

- The demand for recognition may motivate narcissists to excel in science (e.g., Lemaitre, 2019)

TRANSLATION: This can be interpreted as additional study of not only science evaluations, but also other subjects

- Narcissism not associated with lower GPA or more withdrawal (e.g., Chowning & Campbell, 2013)

TRANSLATION: Narcissism by itself = not good, not bad

Main Effects?

Keeping with previous research....

- Increased in grades and test scores was associated with adolescents with high self-esteem for honesty while adolescents with higher grades demonstrated relative increases in self-esteem for social competence (Zheng et al., 2020)

TRANSLATION: Students who feel better about themselves perform better academically, and that improving grades and test scores encourages more positive self-images.

Results

- *Regression Analysis Predicting Academic Performance from Self-esteem moderated by Narcissism.*

Predictors	Adjusted R ²	B
	.01	
Narcissism		-.11
Self-esteem		.13
Narcissism * Self-esteem		.04

Result

Hypothesized ...

High level of narcissism + Self-esteem = Increased Academic performance

Low level of narcissism + Self-esteem = Minimal Academic performance

Findings.....

- **The analysis did not reveal a significant main effect of self-esteem and narcissism.**
- **There was also no significant two-way interaction of self-esteem and narcissism predicting academic performance**

What Does It Imply?

Self-esteem did not predict academic achievement **AND** that relationship did not depend on narcissism.



Why is it
so?

- It could be that self-esteem does not predict GPA because self-esteem is an **OUTCOME** of GPA.



What's Next?

- Confidence is a greater predictor of academic achievement than self-esteem is when it comes to academic performance.
- Efforts to raise students' self-esteem have not been proved to benefit academic achievement and may occasionally be detrimental (Baumeister, et al., 2003).
- The emphasis should be on students' self-efficacy and confidence rather than attempting to boost students' self-esteem in order to boost academic achievement, as numerous researchers have demonstrated that the best way to boost student achievement is to increase their self-esteem, not the other way around.

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