

## BACKGROUND & RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Recent research suggests the existence of two subtypes of grandiose narcissism: **Agentic and Communal** (Gebauer et al., 2012). While the two converge on their implicit motives of power and agency, communal narcissists derive satisfaction from a perceived helpfulness. It follows that communal narcissists overstate their pro-sociality in comparison to peer reports (Nehrlich et al., 2019).

As a newer concept, there is less research on communal narcissism and how its characteristics compare to its counterpart. The current study sought to fill that gap in the areas of interpersonal interactions and self-esteem. In particular, we predicted that the overstated pro-sociality of the communal narcissist would lead them to express attraction to a physically needy individual. This would be in opposition to what we suggested for the agentic narcissist, who would be unattracted to an “imperfect” other offering too much opportunity for intimacy (Campbell, 1999). We also explored the role of self-esteem in this relationship.

## METHODS

N = 139 adults ages 18-66, M = 22, took an online survey including demographics and:

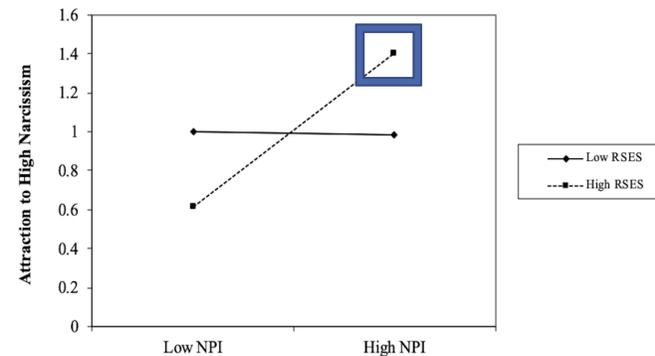
- **Narcissism Personality Inventory** (Gentile et al., 2013)
- **Communal Narcissism Inventory** (Gebauer et al., 2012)
- **Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale** (Rosenberg, 1954) via self-report questionnaires.

Participants were provided with three vignettes describing characteristics of different potential romantic partners: **high narcissism, high need, and high insecurity**.

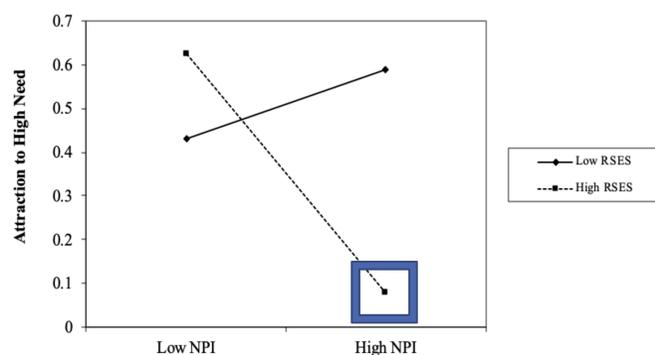
A **Romantic Attraction Measure** (Campbell, 1999) determined the participant's attraction to each potential partner.

## RESULTS

Effect of Agentic Narcissism x Self-esteem on attraction to High Narcissism Partner



Effect of Agentic Narcissism x Self-esteem on attraction to High Need Partner



- A main effect of **agentic narcissism** was found on the relationship of romantic attraction to **high narcissism** partners ( $\beta = .192, p = .020$ ).
- A main effect of **communal narcissism** was found on the relationship of romantic attraction to **high narcissism** partners ( $\beta = .186, p = .027$ ).
- There was a significant two-way interaction between **agentic narcissism x self-esteem** predicting romantic attraction to **high narcissism** partners (Figure 1;  $\beta = .199, p = .007$ ).
- There was a significant two-way interaction between **agentic narcissism x self-esteem** predicting attraction to **high need** partners (Figure 2;  $\beta = -.176, p = .022$ ).

## DISCUSSION

- Corroboration for the self-orientation model of attraction (Campbell, 1999)
- Self-enhancing strategies → the discrepancy between an agentic narcissist's attraction to high need individuals based on their self-esteem.
- Agentic narcissism + unstable self-esteem → more opportunities to self-enhance (Zeigler-Hill, 2006) → more open to a less desirable partner.
- It is possible that communal narcissists are more likely to overstate their attraction to a physically needy partner in the presence of an evaluator
- Difference in self-esteem moderation → distinction between the basic presentation of self-image in agentic versus communal narcissists.
- Communal narcissists may not see themselves as similar to the presented description of a “high narcissism” partner.

## REFERENCES

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