Antagonism and Detachment are the primary AMPD traits predicting Machiavellianism.

INTRODUCTION

• Machiavellianism is associated with manipulative attitudes and behaviors.
• One influence on Machiavellianism is basic personality traits (i.e., Big Five traits), particularly low levels of Agreeableness and Conscientiousness.
• However, basic traits do not capture as much variance in Machiavellianism as maladaptive personality traits.
• Maladaptive personality traits are variants of normative traits that are associated with malignant aspects of personality and are more used in clinical settings.
• We would expect that maladaptive variants of Agreeableness (i.e., Antagonism) and Conscientiousness (i.e., Disinhibition) would predict Machiavellianism.
• However, this has not yet been examined.

METHODS

• Participants were 362 adults recruited from Amazon’s Mechanical Turk (age mean = 39; see Table 1).
• Measures: Machiavellianism-IV and Personality Inventory for DSM-5 Brief Form.
• We examined the effects of maladaptive personality traits on Machiavellianism using a Bayesian approach to multiple regression.

RESULTS

• AMPD traits in general accounted for a medium-sized amount of variance in Machiavellianism.
• Antagonism and Detachment had medium-sized positive effects on Machiavellianism.
• Disinhibition, Negative Affect, and Psychoticism did not have credible effects on Machiavellianism.

DISCUSSION

• Findings underscore the influence of Antagonism and Detachment on Machiavellianism.
• Our finding that Antagonism as a predictor is consistent with the traditional understanding of Machiavellianism.
• Less consistent with expectations were findings related to Disinhibition and Detachment.
• That Machiavellianism was associated with Detachment but not Disinhibition suggests an organized personality style involving a distanced stance toward others.