

# Influence of Betrayal Trauma on Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Pathology

Sydney Stone, M.S., Margaret Froehlich, M.S., & Matthew Yalch, Ph.D.

## INTRODUCTION

- Obsessive compulsive personality disorder (OCPD) is one of the most common forms of personality pathology.
- Research suggests that one risk factor for OCPD is trauma.
- This research has focused almost exclusively on childhood trauma.
- Another form of trauma associated with personality pathology in general is betrayal trauma, an effect that differs depending on sex.
- The goal of this study was to examine the influence of betrayal trauma on OCPD.

## METHODS

- Participants were 300 men and women ( $age_{mean} = 38$  years; see Table 1) recruited via Amazon's Mechanical Turk.
- We measured OCPD personality pathology using the intimacy avoidance, perseveration, restricted affectivity, and perfectionism subscales of the *Personality Inventory for DSM-5*.
- We measured betrayal trauma using the *Brief Betrayal Trauma Survey*.
- We analyzed data using a Bayesian Structural Equation Modeling (BSEM).

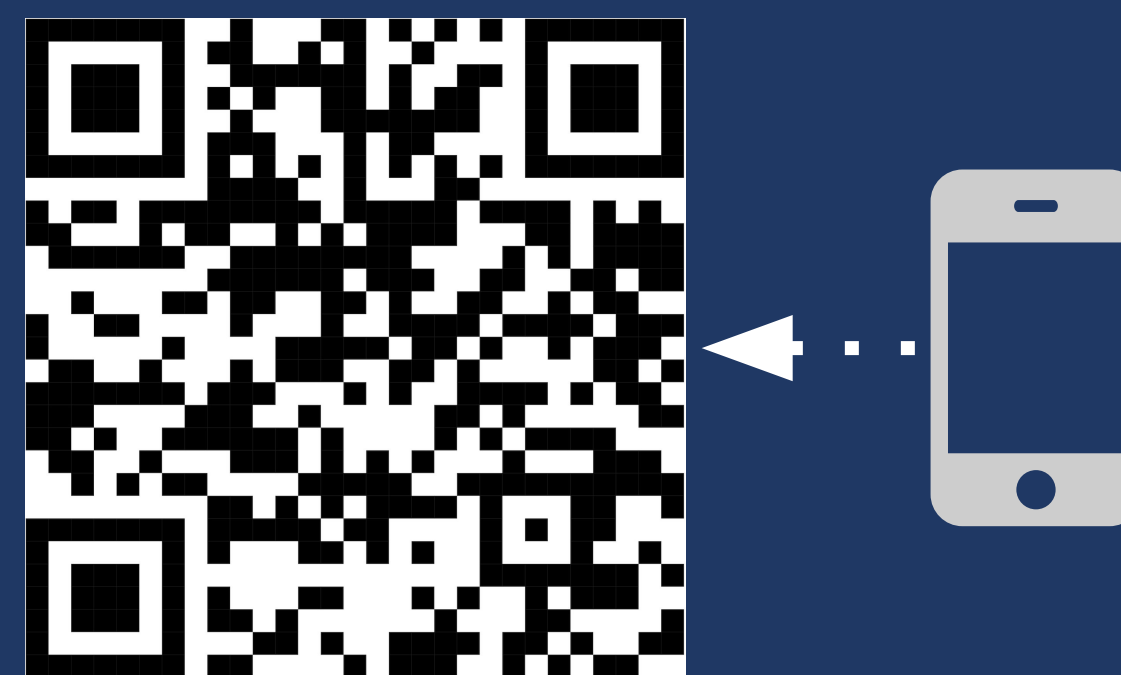
## RESULTS

- Across the sample and for women, traumas with medium and low degrees of betrayal were associated with OCPD (see Figures 1-2).
- Trauma with high and medium degrees of betrayal was associated with OCPD for men (see Figure 3).

## DISCUSSION

- Findings suggest that trauma in general was associated with OCPD pathology.
- Betrayal trauma was only uniquely associated with OCPD for men.
- This is consistent with research on the association between betrayal trauma and antisocial/psychopathic personality pathology.
- Findings suggest that men may have an idiosyncratic response to trauma high in betrayal.
- Findings further hint at the potential utility of incorporating trauma-focused techniques into treatment for OCPD.
- Future research can examine how effective this is in practice.

Betrayal trauma is associated with OCPD, but only for men



**Table 1**  
Demographic Statistics

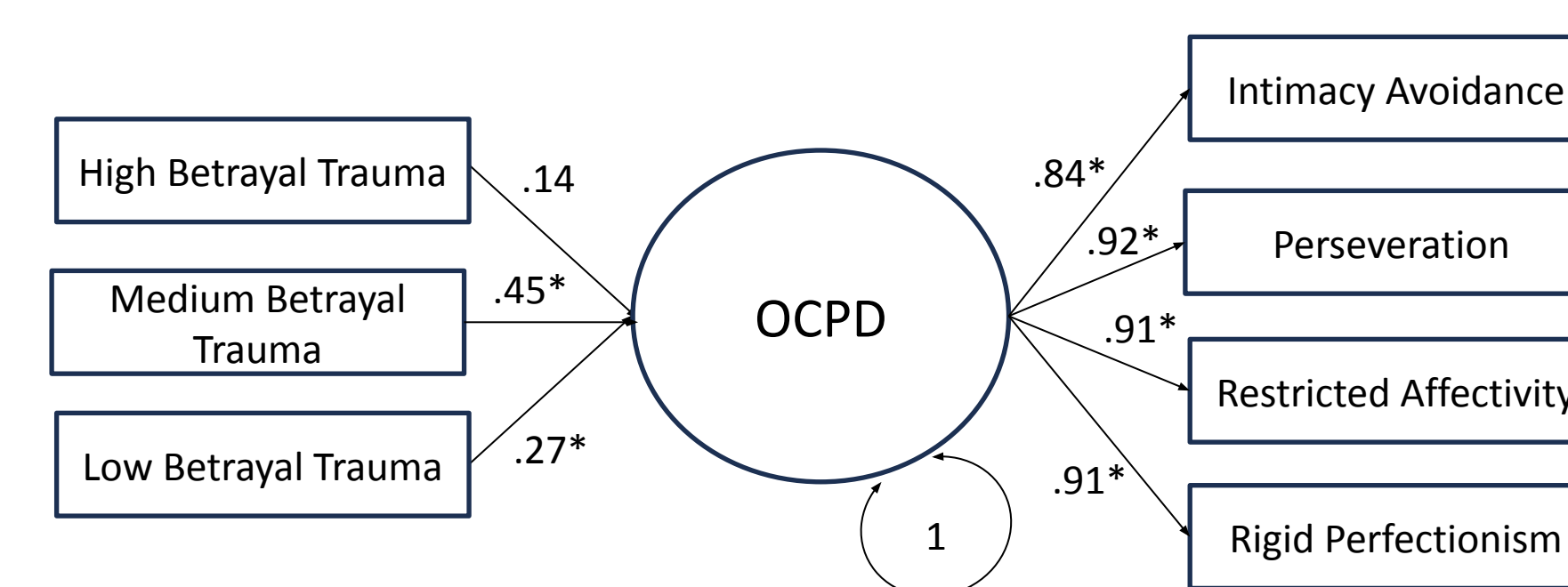
Demographics	n (%)
Race	
Asian	15 (5)
Black	12 (4)
White	267 (89)
Other	9 (3)
Ethnicity	
Latiné	54 (18)
Non-Latiné	246 (82)
Gender	
Male	165 (55)
Female	135 (45)

**Table 2**  
Correlations Between and Psychometric Information for Study Variables

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Intimacy Avoidance	(.83)						
2. Perseveration	.61	(.93)					
3. Restricted Affectivity	.59	.64	(.89)				
4. Rigid Perfectionism	.58	.69	.70	(.93)			
5. High Betrayal Trauma	.52	.55	.53	.50	(.89)		
6. Medium Betrayal Trauma	.53	.57	.56	.53	.70	(.94)	
7. Low Betrayal Trauma	.55	.57	.56	.52	.73	.70	(.88)
Skew	-.65	-.53	-.32	-.63	.10	-.03	-.01
Kurtosis	-.41	-.53	-.61	-.17	-1.06	-1.29	-1.29
D	.14	.09	.07	.08	.13	.13	.13

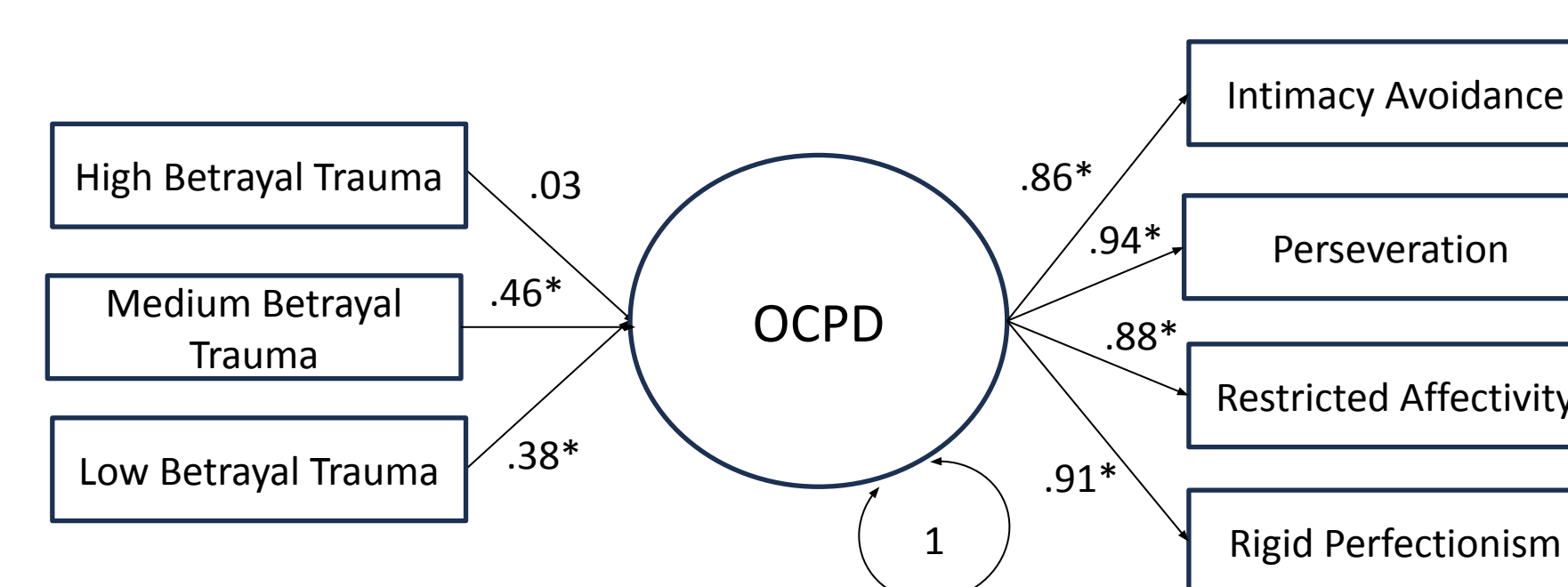
Note. Cronbach's  $\alpha$  on diagonal; D = Kolmogorov-Smirnov statistic; all correlations calculated using Kendall's  $\tau$  because of non-normal data distributions; all ts and all Ds > .07 are statistically significant at  $p < .05$ .

**Figure 1**  
BSEM for Overall Sample



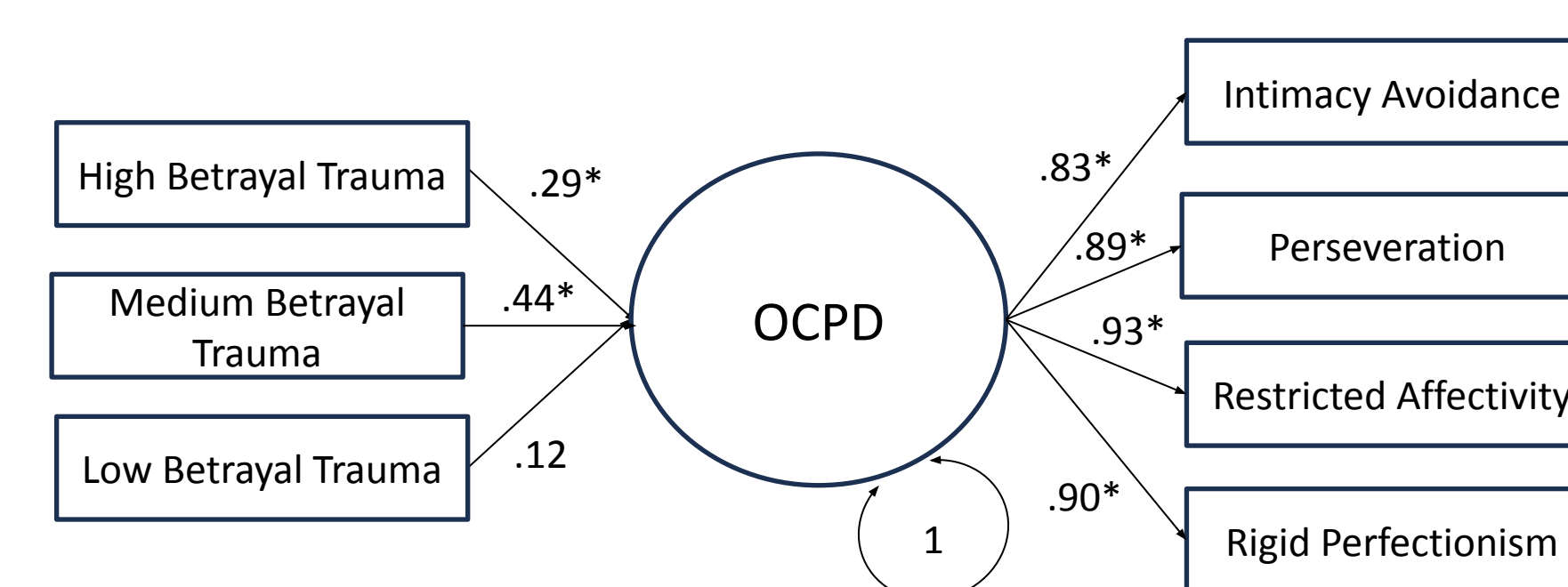
Note. \* indicates 0 is not within 95% highest density interval.

**Figure 2**  
BSEM for Women Only



Note. \* indicates 0 is not within 95% highest density interval.

**Figure 3**  
BSEM for Men Only



Note. \* indicates 0 is not within 95% highest density interval.