

Relative Influences of IPV and Maladaptive Personality Traits on Posttraumatic Cognitive Processes

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INTRODUCTION

- Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a problem for women worldwide.
- The severity of psychological distress women experience following IPV depends on the meaning they make of their experiences.
- Healthy meaning-making involves integrating traumatic experience with previously held beliefs (i.e., *Accommodation*).
- Women may also process their traumatic experiences via less adaptive processes:
 - Assimilation* is the process of understanding new experiences in the context of previously held beliefs.
 - Overaccommodation* is over-generalizing beliefs based on new experiences.
- One factor that influences posttraumatic beliefs is personality.
- Research on personality and posttraumatic beliefs have focused primarily on *normative* personality traits.
- However, *maladaptive* traits may have an even more pronounced influence, especially on less adaptive beliefs.

METHOD

- Participants were 277 IPV-exposed women (age_{mean} = 32 years; see Table 1) recruited via Amazon's Mechanical Turk.
- Measures:
 - IPV: *Severity of Violence Against Women Scales*
 - Cognitive Processes: *Trauma-Related Cognitions Scale*
 - Traits: *Personality Inventory for DSM-5*
- Data Analysis: Bayesian approach to multiple regression.

RESULTS

- The average correlation between cognitive processes ($r_{\mu} = .68$), traits ($r_{\mu} = .68$), and between cognitive processes and traits ($r_{\mu} = .59$) were all large (see Table 2).
- Maladaptive personality traits influenced cognitive processes over and above IPV severity (see Table 3).
- Negative Affect was associated with all cognitive processes, and all traits except Antagonism were associated with Overaccommodation.

DISCUSSION

- Findings clarify our understanding of the role of maladaptive personality in the response to trauma.
- Results suggest that survivors' negative emotions may influence the way they processes/integrate posttraumatic beliefs with previously held beliefs.
- Results also suggest that survivors with high levels of several maladaptive traits are likely to overgeneralize their traumatic experiences.
- Understanding the influence of maladaptive personality on cognitive processes will assist with challenging cognitions in trauma treatment.
- Future research might examine how to implement this in clinical practice.

Maladaptive personality traits influence posttraumatic cognitions of IPV

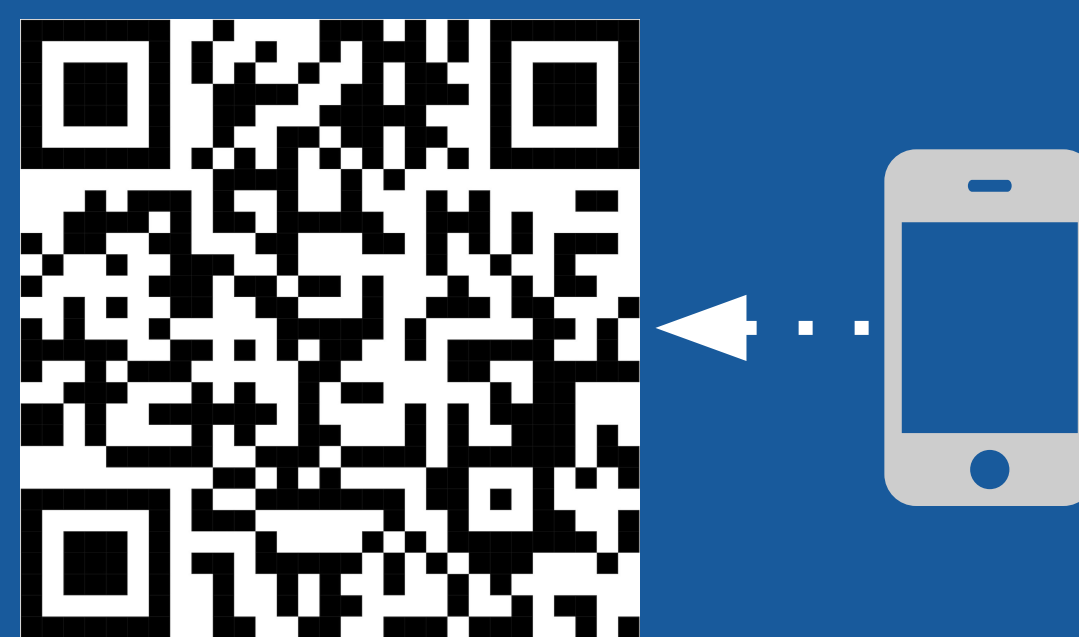


Table 1

Demographic Statistics

	n (%)
Gender	
Cisgender	265 (96)
Transgender	9 (3)
Genderfluid or other	2 (1)
Race	
Asian	27 (10)
Black	3 (1)
Native American	12 (4)
White	229 (83)
Multicultural or other	5 (2)
Latina	
Yes	73 (27)
No	202 (73)
Education	
Less than High School	3 (1)
High School/GED	26 (10)
Some College	15 (5)
Associate degree	12 (4)
Bachelor's Degree	153 (55)
Master's Degree	52 (19)
Graduate Degree	10 (4)
Trade School	5 (2)

Table 2

Internal Consistency and Correlations Between IPV, Posttraumatic Cognitive Processes, and Maladaptive Personality Traits

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1. IPV Severity	(.99)								
2. Accommodation	.25	(.91)							
3. Assimilation	.62	.64	(.93)						
4. Overaccommodation	.75	.55	.85	(.97)					
5. Antagonism	.79	.13	.54	.68	(.86)				
6. Detachment	.70	.32	.57	.70	.66	(.76)			
7. Disinhibition	.75	.30	.61	.72	.74	.76	(.80)		
8. Negative Affect	.49	.48	.54	.57	.46	.63	.63	(.75)	
9. Psychoticism	.73	.24	.61	.71	.75	.73	.76	.65	(.82)

Note. All rs are statistically significant at $p < .05$; Cronbach's alpha on diagonal

Table 3

Relative Effects of IPV and Maladaptive Personality Traits on Posttraumatic Cognitive Processes

	Accommodation		Assimilation		Overaccommodation	
	β	R^2	β	R^2	β	R^2
IPV Severity	.20*	.27*	.29*	.47*	.33*	.65*
Antagonism	-.23*		-.03		.05	
Detachment	.11		.05		.15*	
Disinhibition	.05		.14		.15*	
Negative Affect	.50*		.18*		.10*	
Psychoticism	-.18		.17*		.14*	

Note. IPV = intimate partner violence