

# Histrionic Personality Pathology and the Triarchic Model of Psychopathy

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## INTRODUCTION

- Histrionic personality pathology is characterized by attention-seeking, theatric emotionality, and seductiveness.
- Behaviors related to histrionic pathology function as impulsive and aggressive means of controlling others.
- This parallels the three dimensions of psychopathy: boldness, meanness, and disinhibition.
- However, the degree to which dimensions of psychopathy are associated with histrionic pathology has not yet been examined.
- Doing so was the purpose of this study.

## METHODS

- Study participants were 399 workers on Amazon’s Mechanical Turk (age<sub>mean</sub> 39; see Table 1).
- Measures: TriPM and HPD scales of PDQ-IV, PBQ-SF, and PID-5.
- We examined relative effects of psychopathy dimensions on histrionic pathology using a Bayesian approach to structural equation modeling.

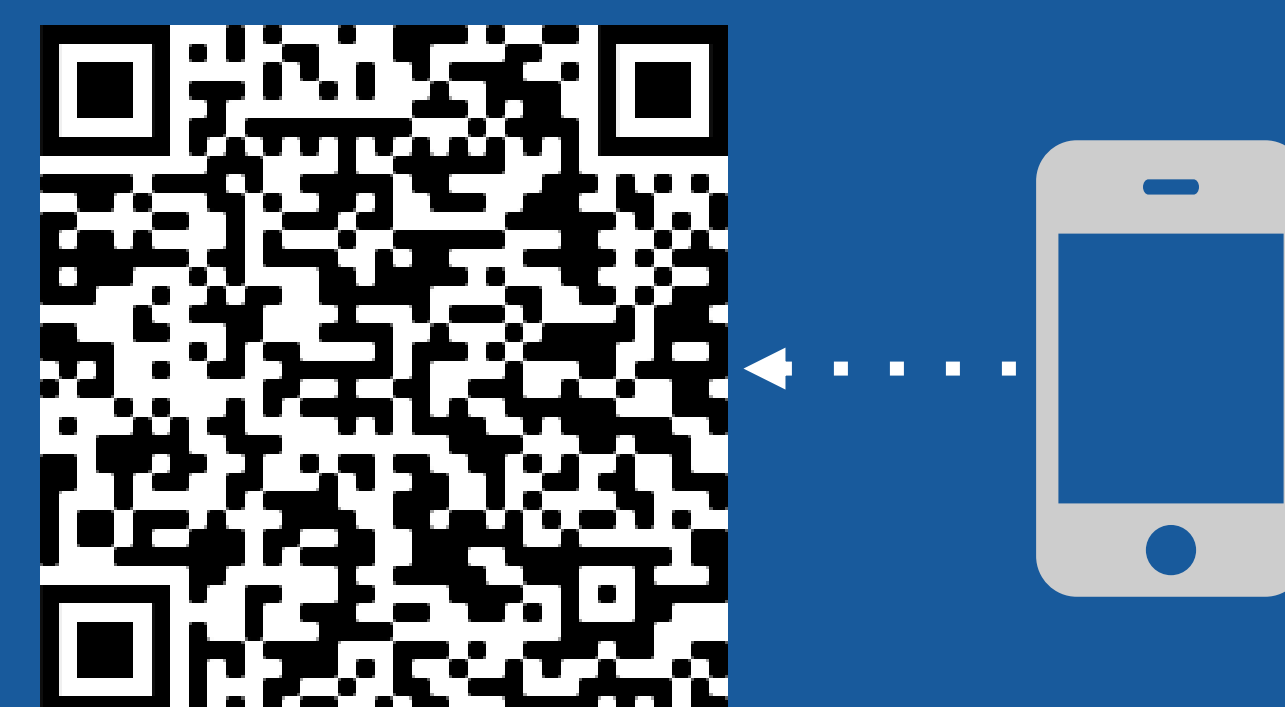
## RESULTS

- Preliminary analysis of latent measurement of HPD suggests structural validity (for CFA: PPP = .17, B $\hat{\Gamma}$  = .99, BMc = .99) and reliability ( $\omega_h$  = .89).
- Disinhibition and meanness (but not boldness) were associated with histrionic personality pathology (see Figure 1).

## DISCUSSION

- Findings highlight the aggression and impulsive nature of histrionic pathology.
- This contrasts with the lack of influence of boldness, which is the most adaptive of the three psychopathy dimensions.
- Taken together, findings suggest that although histrionic personality pathology is not analogous to psychopathy, it shares some of its least adaptive features.

# Psychopathic Meanness and Disinhibition predict Histrionic Personality Pathology



**Table 1**  
Sample Demographics

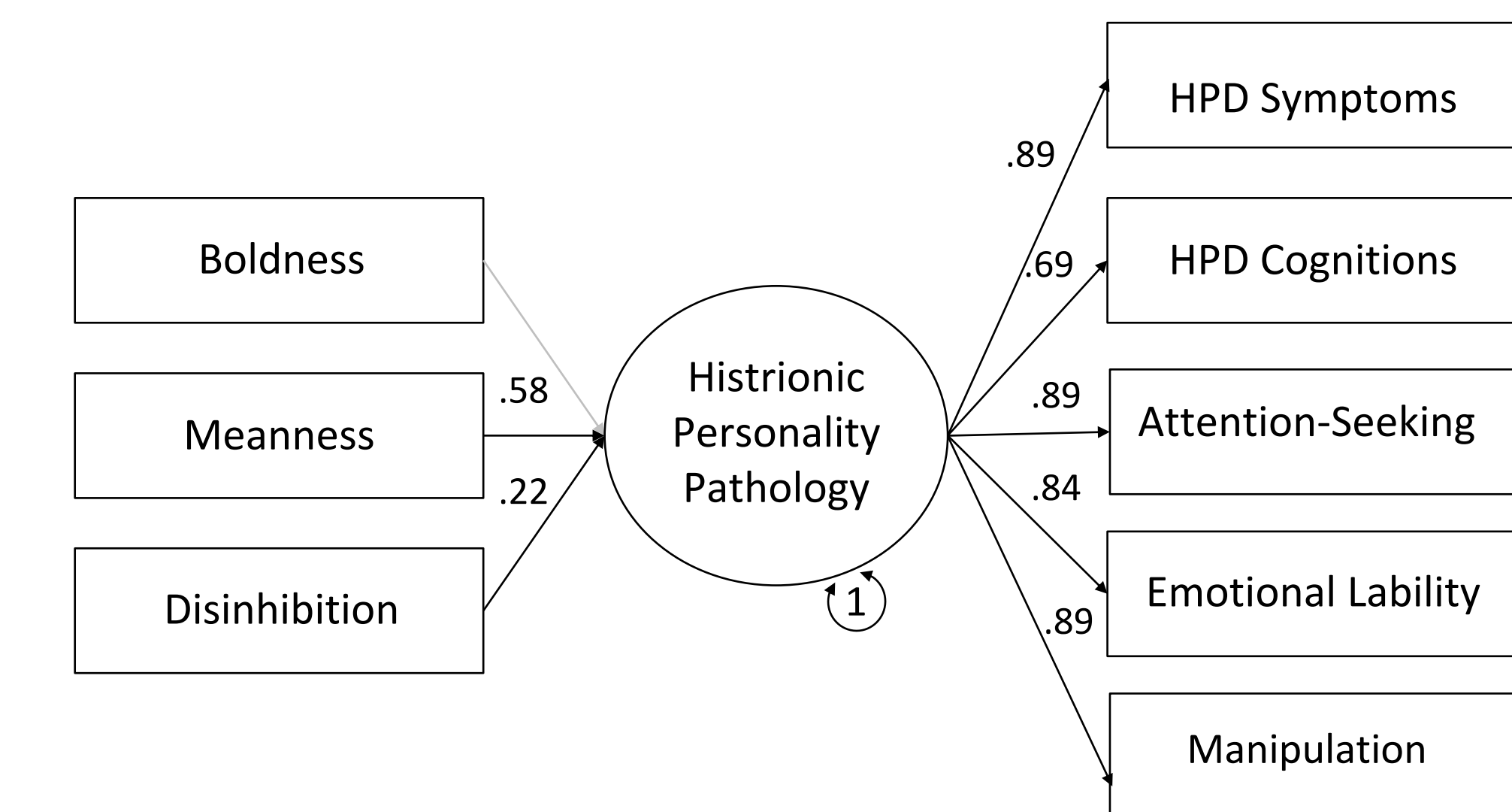
	n (%)
<b>Gender</b>	
Male	235 (58%)
Female	164 (41%)
<b>Race</b>	
White	304 (76%)
Black	53 (13%)
Asian	14 (3.5%)
Multiracial or Other	12 (3%)

**Table 2**  
Correlations Between Histrionic Personality Pathology and the Triarchic Model of Psychopathy

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Cognitions of HPD	(.91)							
2. Symptoms of HPD	.57	(.81)						
3. Attention Seeking	.78	.61	(.93)					
4. Emotional Lability	.76	.58	.73	(.93)				
5. Manipulativeness	.78	.58	.80	.74	(.89)			
6. Boldness	-.08	-.08	-.01	-.27	-.01	(.62)		
7. Meanness	.69	.63	.66	.61	-.67	-.10	(.90)	
8. Disinhibition	.64	.65	.62	.62	-.60	-.20	.88	(.94)
Skew	-.53	-.48	-.67	-.71	-.53	-.30	-.67	.31
Kurtosis	-.11	-.79	-.59	-.30	-.57	2.7	-.58	-.69

Note. Cronbach’s alpha on diagonal; all  $r_s > .10$  statistically significant at  $p < .05$ .

**Figure 1**  
Graphical Depiction of BSEM



Note. Black lines indicate credible pathways; coefficients are standardized.