Hierarchical Structure of Maladaptive Personality Traits

Ruiz, J.¹,², Gutiérrez, F.,³ & Peri, J.M.²

¹Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychobiology, University of Barcelona (UB)
²Personality Disorder Unit, Institute of Neuroscience, Barcelona’s Clinic Hospital
³August Pi i Sunyer Biomedical Research Institute (IDIBAPS)

Objective
Examine in a clinical sample the joint hierarchical structure of personality pathology derived from the 25 primary facets of the Personality Inventory (PID-5; Krueger et al., 2012) for the fifth edition of Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5: section III) and the 18 traits domains of the Dimensional Assessment of Personality Pathology-Basic Questionnaire (DAPP-BQ; Livesley & Jackson, 2009).

Method
The clinical sample was comprised of 444 outpatients (58% female), aged 18 to 64 years old (M= 33.9, SD= 11.3), referred for personality assessment to the Personality Disorder Unit of Barcelona’s Clinic Hospital (Catalonia, Spain). A series of exploratory factor analyses (EFA) was performed following a “best-accords” approach (Goldberg, 1981) by using Unweighted Least Squares (ULS) as the method for factors extraction and Promax rotations. One to k factors were successively extracted, being k the maximum number of nontrivial factors (three or more loadings per factor above .30 psychologically interpretable). Regression-based factor scores on each level of the hierarchy were computed and subsequently correlated to compute path coefficients between the different hierarchical levels. We also calculated zero-order and disattenuated correlations between all scales.

Results
A hierarchical structure of seven factors emerged (F1-Negative Affect, F2-Antagonism, F3-Detachment, F4-Dissimulation, F5-Psychoticism, F6-Compulsivity, F7-Submission) (Figure 1), which accounted for 67.33% of the common variance. The fit indexes of this model were acceptable (χ²(620)= 2288.839; p < .001; AGFI= .99) as well as factorial simplicity indices (S= .676; LS=.394) and the root mean square of residuals (RMSR = .026; Kelley’s RMR = .042). This seven-factor solution was the lowest one meeting our acceptability criteria, and it is fully shown in Table 1.

Disattenuated correlations (r) between the PID-5 & DAPP-BQ scales show that about two-thirds of the scales in either of the questionnaires have a corresponding image from good to excellent in the other, as suggested by r ≥ .80 (Figure 2).

Conclusions
The hierarchical structure resulting integrates the main domains of personality pathology covered by both the PID-5 and the DAPP-BQ and represents an empirically-based model for the dimensional classification of maladaptive personality traits.

Table 1. Promax-Rotated Factor Loadings for the Seven-Factor Solution of the Hierarchical Model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traits</th>
<th>Negative Affect</th>
<th>Antagonism</th>
<th>Detachment</th>
<th>Dissimulation</th>
<th>Psychoticism</th>
<th>Compulsivity</th>
<th>Submission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DAPP Anxiety</td>
<td>.49 (p &lt; .05)</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PID Antagonism</td>
<td>.47 (p &lt; .05)</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PID Detachment</td>
<td>.45 (p &lt; .05)</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PID Dissimulation</td>
<td>.41 (p &lt; .05)</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PID Psychoticism</td>
<td>.41 (p &lt; .05)</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PID Compulsivity</td>
<td>.40 (p &lt; .05)</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PID Submission</td>
<td>.40 (p &lt; .05)</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
<td>&lt;.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Loadings ≥ .30 are shown in bold type and the largest loadings of each factor underline.

Figure 1: Hierarchical Structure of Maladaptive Personality Traits

Figure 2: All r ≥ .70 and (r) ≥ .60 are shown

Hierarchical Structure of Maladaptive Personality Traits

Ruiz, J.¹,², Gutiérrez, F.,³,⁴ & Peri, J.M.²

¹ Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychobiology, University of Barcelona (UB)
² Personality Disorder Unit, Institute of Neuroscience, Barcelona’s Clinic Hospital
³ August Pi i Sunyer Biomedical Research Institute (IDIBAPS)

References

