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You're So Harsh On Me: Meanness in Psychopathy and Perceived Family Criticism

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INTRODUCTION

- Psychopathy is a dysfunctional personality construct marked by interpersonal deficiencies, such as psychopathic meanness.
- Malice within meanness is characterized by an aggressive and manipulative interpersonal style, deficient guilt and excessive pleasure in response to others' pain, and haughty attitudes toward others and society.
- Coldness within meanness is associated with a lack of interpersonal connection and empathy for others.
- Imperviousness within meanness relates to reduced experiences of socially-mediated negative emotions.
- However, the relationship between meanness in psychopathy and perceptions of criticism remains unclear.
- Additionally, research in moral decision making has shown that although those with high levels of psychopathic traits understand right from wrong, they choose to pursue harmful behaviors anyway!
- Therefore, such individuals may also recognize their criticism toward others but undervalue or ignore others' response to that criticism.
- This study will explore the relationships between psychopathic meanness and perceived criticism using an ecological momentary assessment framework.
- We hypothesize that Malice and Coldness will be associated with higher perceptions of criticism from family. In contrast, Malice will be associated with more frequent criticism and giving higher levels of criticism to family members. Conversely, Imperviousness will be associated negatively both with perceived criticism from family members and with criticism of family members.

SCREENSHOTS



METHOD

- Participants will be asked to complete daily surveys that they receive on their smartphones through the SEMA3 app over a consecutive 14 day period.
- Using a random signal-contingent sampling scheme, participants will receive notifications for 5 brief surveys at random times throughout the day between 9:00am - 9:00pm.
- These surveys will assess momentary perceptions of expressed emotion (both self and family members') and mood and will consist of Likert scale, single-answer multiple choice, and multiple-answer multiple choice items.
- Surveys consist of questions that depend on responses chosen and take approximately one minute to complete.
- Participants will also complete a survey at the end of each day assessing their overall perceptions of expressed emotion (self and family members') and mood that day.

CONCLUSIONS

- Overall, the lack of research on perceived criticism, especially within populations that display meanness, shows a need for research because just like mood, perceived criticism may change throughout the day.
- Understanding the relationship between psychopathic meanness and momentary patterns of perceived criticism among family members could provide helpful *insight into social interactions and elucidating patterns of family dysfunction involved in the most antagonistic features of psychopathy.*

REFERENCES

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1:10 Who in your family did you interact with?

1:11 Right now, how critical is this person of you?

1:11 How upset did this make you?

1:11 How upset did this make your family member?

1:09 Rate how happy you are feeling right now.

○ Mother

○ Father

○ Brother

○ Sister

○ Extended Family

7

↓ 1: Not at All

Extremely: 10 ↑

4

↓ 1: Not at All

Extremely: 10 ↑

4

↓ 1: Not at All

Extremely: 10 ↑

1

↓ 1: Not at All

Extremely: 10 ↑

NEXT

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