



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Personality and Individual Differences

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/paid

The dark side of love: Love styles and the Dark Triad

Peter K. Jonason^{a,*}, Phillip Kavanagh^b^a University of West Florida, Department of Psychology, Bldg 41, Pensacola, FL 32514, United States^b School of Health and Human Services, Central Queensland University, Department of Psychology, Bldg 32, Bruce Highway, Rockhampton, QLD 4702, Australia

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 18 March 2010

Received in revised form 30 April 2010

Accepted 7 May 2010

Available online 17 June 2010

Keywords:

Narcissism
Machiavellianism
Psychopathy
Dark Triad
Love styles

ABSTRACT

Little work has examined the manner in which the Dark Triad may function in relationship contexts. In this online, international study ($N = 302$), we correlated the Dark Triad with love styles. Individuals who scored high on the Dark Triad appear to have a *ludus* – game playing – and a *pragma* – cerebral – love style. *Game playing* may allow these individuals to keep others at an emotional distance to maintain their short-term mating style. The Dark Triad composite partially mediated the gender difference in the adoption in the *ludus* love style, suggesting that the psychological systems that underlie this love style may relate to the adoption of an agentic social style. Similarly, loving with one's head and not one's heart may be an expression of the limited empathy/emotional systems characteristic of these individuals.

© 2010 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

1. Introduction

The Dark Triad – narcissism, psychopathy, Machiavellianism – are personality traits that reflect an orientation to the world that favors short-term, immediate gains over long-term ones (e.g., Jonason, Li, Webster, & Schmitt, 2009). According to Life History Theory (see Figueredo et al., 2006), psychological systems work in concert to solve adaptive tasks like mating. In this study, we examine the love styles correlated with the Dark Triad (e.g., Paulhus & Williams, 2002), to understand how the Dark Triad manifest themselves beyond the traditionally negative approach of those studying them (e.g., Chabrol, Van Leeuwen, Rodgers, & Séjourné, 2009; Hodson, Hogg, & MacInnis, 2009), and how they jointly and independently provide means to aid people to solve adaptive tasks like mating, by carving up the multidimensional niche space, or the complicated social spheres individuals find themselves in during their lives.

In particular, we are interested in how the Dark Triad relates to love styles or the colors of love (see Lee, 1973). There are six colors of love, all of which represent a different approach or underlying motivation to serious romantic relationships (e.g., Berscheid & Walster, 1978; Dion & Dion, 1988; Hendrick & Hendrick, 1986, 1989). The *eros* or erotic style of love is manifested in high scores on items like “my lover and I have the right physical ‘chemistry’ between us”. Individuals who score high on items like “I enjoy playing the ‘game of love’ with a number of different partners”

are characterized as having a *ludus* or game-playing love style. The *pragma* or pragmatic love style is characterized by high scores on questions like “one consideration in choosing a partner is how he/she will reflect on my career”. The *storage* or enduring love style is manifested through high scores on questions like “my most satisfying love relationships have developed from good friendships”. The *agape* or selfless love style is manifested in high scores on questions like “I would endure all things for the sake of my lover”. Lastly, the *mania* or manic love style is manifested in high scores on items like “when my lover doesn't pay attention to me, I feel sick all over”. Love styles have real-life consequences, including relationship satisfaction (e.g., Davis & Latty-Mann, 1987) and, therefore, more work on them is warranted.

We expect a number of associations. The Dark Triad has a strong bias towards short-term, sexual relationships (e.g., Campbell & Foster, 2002; Foster, Shrira, & Campbell, 2006; Jonason et al., 2009) and short-term mating is primarily driven by the physical attractiveness of the partner (e.g., Li & Kenrick, 2006), therefore, we expect the Dark Triad to be manifested in an *eros* love style. Both the *ludus* love style (Richardson, Medvin, & Hammock, 1988) and the Dark Triad are characterized by high levels of sensation-seeking (e.g., Emmons, 1987; McHoskey, Worzel, & Szyarto, 1998), therefore, we expect the Dark Triad to be manifested in a *ludus* love style. The Dark Triad is characterized by emotional and empathetic deficiencies (Ali, Amorim, & Chamorro-Premuzic, 2009; Andrew, Cooke, & Muncer, 2008; Barlow, Qualter, & Stylianou, 2010) and therefore, it should manifest itself in a *pragma* love style. Relatedly, the emotionless style, characteristic of the Dark Triad (Paulhus & Williams, 2002) likely

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +1 8604506658.

E-mail address: peterkarjonason@yahoo.com (P.K. Jonason).

prevents a correlation with the adoption of the *mania* love style. Lastly, the Dark Triad is unrelated to a long-term mating style (e.g., Jonason et al., 2009), which is characterized by closeness, intimacy, and selflessness. These characteristics can be observed in both *agape* and *storage* love styles. Therefore, we expect the Dark Triad to not be related to either of these love styles.

We also expect to replicate a number of gender differences. When it comes to the Dark Triad, men have reliably scored higher than women have (e.g., Jonason, Li, & Buss, 2010; Jonason et al., 2009). Therefore, we expect that men will score higher than women do on the Dark Triad. There are at least two relevant gender differences in love styles. Men tend to score higher than women do on their adoption of the *eros* and *ludus* love styles (Hendrick, Hendrick, Foote, & Slapion-Foote, 1984). We expect to replicate these gender differences as well.

We do not feel that it is sufficient to simply provide evidence of gender differences in love styles because to say men and women differ says nothing about the psychological mechanisms that underlie these differences. Prior work suggests that the Dark Triad – when treated as a composite – mediates the gender difference in the adoption of a short-term mating orientation (Jonason et al., 2009). Such a research suggests that men and women differ vis-à-vis psychological systems that facilitate certain lifestyles. Presently, we expect that the Dark Triad should function as a mediator between the gender of the participant and the adoption of love styles.

In this study, we extend the growing literature on the Dark Triad of personality traits. Most research to date has focused on accounting for the shared variance among the three. In this case, we examine the interpersonal consequences of the Dark Triad as manifested in love styles. By doing so, we attempt to describe how these traits, which have been traditionally considered aversive, may actually facilitate the carving up of the complex multidimensional niche space. In short, we are examining the “dark side” of love.

2. Method

2.1. Participants and procedure

Three-hundred and twenty-five participants (65 males, 260 females) from unique IP addresses initially started the survey; however, 23 participants did not complete all of the measures. Consequently, a reduced sample of 58 men ($M_{Age} = 29.84$, $SD_{Age} = 12.31$) and 244 women ($M_{Age} = 27.23$, $SD_{Age} = 9.68$) were included in the analyses. The majority of the final sample was (92%) identified as heterosexual, 4% as homosexual, and 4% as bisexual. Thirty-nine percent indicated that they were single, 27% were dating someone seriously, 4% were engaged to be married, 26% were married, and the remaining 4% were divorced. The sample was 15% Australian, 3% Canadian, 9% New Zealander, 70% American, and less than 1% German, British, Italian, Dutch, Puerto Rican, Turkish, and from the United Arab Emirates.¹ Upon completion, the participants were debriefed and thanked.

2.2. Measures

Narcissism was assessed with the 40-item Narcissistic Personality Inventory (Raskin & Terry, 1988). For each item, participants chose one of two statements that they felt applied to them more. One statement reflected a narcissistic attitude (e.g., “I have a natural talent for influencing people”), whereas the other did not (e.g., “I am not good at influencing people”). We summed

the total number of narcissistic statements the participants endorsed to measure overall narcissism (Cronbach's $\alpha = .84$).

The 31-item Self-Report Psychopathy Scale-III (Paulhus, Hemphill, & Hare, in press) was used to assess subclinical psychopathy. Participants rated how much they agreed (1 = *strongly disagree*; 5 = *strongly agree*) with statements such as: “I enjoy driving at high speeds” and “I think I could beat a lie detector”. The items were averaged to create an index of psychopathy ($\alpha = .86$).

Machiavellianism was measured with the 20-item MACH-IV (Christie & Geis, 1970). Participants were asked how much they agreed (1 = *strongly disagree*; 5 = *strongly agree*) with statements such as: “It is hard to get ahead without cutting corners here and there” and “It is wise to flatter important people”. The items were averaged to create a Machiavellianism index ($\alpha = .64$).

We also treated the three Dark Triad measures as a composite measure (Jonason et al., 2009). We first standardized (*z* scored) overall scores on each measure. Then we averaged all three together to create a composite Dark Triad score. All three measures loaded well ($>.47$) on a single factor that accounted for 51.49% of the variance (Eigen > 1.54). Machiavellianism was not correlated with narcissism ($r = .10$). Psychopathy was correlated with Machiavellianism ($r(302) = .22$, $p < .01$) and narcissism ($r(302) = .44$, $p < .01$).

Six love styles were measured using the Hendrick and Hendricks (1986) love attitudes scale. Participants were asked 42 questions that assessed the degree to which individuals adopted different love styles. The styles are labeled *eros* or an erotic love style ($\alpha = .82$), *ludus* or a game-playing love style ($\alpha = .80$), *storage* or an affectionate love style ($\alpha = .78$), *pragma* or a rational love style ($\alpha = .82$), *mania* or a volatile love style ($\alpha = .78$), and *agape* or a selfless love style ($\alpha = .88$). For instance, to measure *eros*, participants were asked how much they agreed with the statement (1 = *strongly disagree*; 5 = *strongly agree*): My lover and I were attracted to each other immediately after we first met. Alternatively, to measure *ludus*, participants were asked how much they agreed with the statement: I try to keep my lover a little uncertain about my commitment to her/him.

3. Results

In Table 1, we report descriptive statistics and gender differences tests. We report the unbiased measure of Hedge's *g* to account for sample size differences across men and women. The interpretation of Hedge's *g* is the same as that of Cohen's *d*. We also report *t*-tests where we did not assume equal variance because of the grossly uneven sample sizes across men and women. Perhaps as a result of this sampling error, we were only able to replicate one significant gender difference in the Dark Triad – men scored higher than women did on psychopathy ($p < .01$). However, the means for narcissism ($p > .26$) and Machiavellianism ($p > .11$) were in the proper direction but were not able to pass the arbitrary threshold of a *p* value. Men scored significantly higher on the Dark Triad composite than women did ($p < .05$), which is likely driven by the rather strong difference in psychopathy rates. Men showed a significantly greater adoption of the *ludus* ($p < .05$) and *agape* ($p < .01$) love style than women did. No other significant gender differences were revealed in love styles (p 's .10–.81).

In Table 2, we report zero-order correlations between the Dark Triad and love styles. The Dark Triad appear to be linked by two common love styles: *ludus* and *pragma*. Individually the Dark Triad measures showed some unique correlations with love styles. Machiavellianism was associated with all love styles except *eros*. Narcissism was only associated with the *ludus* and *pragma* styles. Psychopathy was positively associated with only the *ludus* style.

¹ We found no meaningful differences across the countries we sampled.

متن کامل مقاله

دریافت فوری ←

ISIArticles

مرجع مقالات تخصصی ایران

- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه تمام متن مقالات انگلیسی
- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه ترجمه شده مقالات
- ✓ پذیرش سفارش ترجمه تخصصی
- ✓ امکان جستجو در آرشیو جامعی از صدها موضوع و هزاران مقاله
- ✓ امکان دانلود رایگان ۲ صفحه اول هر مقاله
- ✓ امکان پرداخت اینترنتی با کلیه کارت های عضو شتاب
- ✓ دانلود فوری مقاله پس از پرداخت آنلاین
- ✓ پشتیبانی کامل خرید با بهره مندی از سیستم هوشمند رهگیری سفارشات