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Cyberpsychology: Protective and Risk Factors Associated With Digital Behavior

The Examination of Psychological Resilience and Self-Efficacy as Predictors of Cyberbullying Among Adolescents

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Cyberbullying, which has gained popularity as a result of extensive use of technology, is described as the deliberate harming of another person or group of people through technical tools. A potential association between psychological resilience, self-efficacy, and cyberbullying was shown in the literature, however, the studies are scarce on adolescent groups. The aim of this study is to examine psychological resilience and self-efficacy as possible predictors of cyberbullying among high school students. A total of 574 adolescents were recruited from high schools in Turkey via an online data collection. Cyberbullying Scale (CBS), Child and Youth Psychological Resilience Scale (CYPRS), and Self-Efficacy Questionnaire (SEQ) were utilized. The results demonstrated that majority of adolescents (26.5%) reported being victims of cyberbullying through online games. Bivariate correlations revealed that overall score of CBS was negatively correlated with total scores of CYPRS and SEQ. Linear regression analysis validated the association between CBS and CYPRS, however, SEQ was not found to be a significant predictor of CBS. Our study demonstrated the importance of psychological resilience in cyberbullying among adolescents. Intensification of psychological resilience may be a viable support for diminishing the negative effects of cyberbullying during adolescence period. Further studies focusing on psychological resilience might assist the development of more efficient intervention strategies in cyberbullying.

SELFIE ERGO SUM: Selfies and Their Association With Personality, Self-Esteem, and Internet (Ab)use, Evidence From Italian and Russian Adults

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An online reality, always more guided by the needs of self-presentation, has developed through social media worldwide, in which selfies are at their forefront. Taking selfies, from different angels and of different parts of the self, has become a shared, and for some even fruitful, activity. The current study is aimed at exploratorily investigating selfies-behavior and their association with the Big-Five personality traits, narcissism, self-esteem, and Internet (ab)use. Data from Italy and Russia were preliminarily compared. Adults (N = 870, 84.8% females) from Italy and Russia (Mage=37.39, SD=12.78) participated in an online survey during 2021. Participants completed the Selfies Behavior Scale, the Ten-Item Personality Inventory, the Narcissistic Personality Inventory, the Rosenberg Self-esteem Scale and the Problematic Internet Use Questionnaire-9 items. Results: Correlations showed that being a younger adult associates with increased Internet (ab) use (r = -.23; p < .01) and taking more selfies (five scales with r ranging between -.20, - .37; p < .01). Taking more selfies associated with greater Internet (ab)use (r range between .23, .28; p < .01), as well as with poorer self-esteem and increased narcissistic traits (i.e., grandiosity, leadership, entitlement). However, correlations between taking selfies and both self-esteem and narcissistic traits showed small effect sizes (r < .20). Mann-Whitney U test results highlighted that Italian adults take more selfies compared to Russian adults (p < .00), also displaying greater agreeableness (p < .00), neuroticism (p < .00), grandiosity (p < .00) and entitlement (p < .00). Differently, Russian adults showed greater extraversion (p < .00), conscientiousness (p < .00), and self-esteem (p < .00) compared to Italian adults. To conclude, coherently with literature evidence, selfies-behavior showed an association with Internet (ab)use, while unexpectedly marginally associating with self-esteem and narcissistic traits. Compared to Russian adults, Italians reported taking more selfies, which might be accounted by them showing greater narcissistic traits. Findings are preliminary, thus more complex, and thorough analyses comparing Italian and Russian adults will be performed.

The Profiles of Susceptibility to Fake News Under Different Time Constrains

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The widespread fake news in the social and even mainstream media poses a high risk for modern society. The person's belief in fake news could alter his or her voting, health or other behaviour and lead to unwanted consequences. Therefore, the ability to distinguish between fake and true news is a highly needed competence in nowadays society. This study is aimed to identify possible profiles of susceptibility to fake news. 504 pre-retirees and retirees residing in Lithuania participated in this study (69,7% were females). The mean age was 64,3 (ranging from 50 to 90 years). The four-group experimental study was conducted. True and fake news headlines taken from social media were presented to the subjects. The presentation time duration was unconstrained, 7 seconds, 10 seconds and 15 seconds for different experimental groups. The belief in true news and fake news were assessed using one 6-point Likert-type item. Two-steps cluster analysis was used to identify possible profiles of susceptibility to fake news. The measures of trust in democratic institutions and the level

of conspiracy beliefs were used to analyze the differences between clusters. The analysis showed that there were two to four different groups of participants under different time constraints. The most common profiles were a) distrusting, b) trusting in both fake and true news, c) trusting in true news and d) trusting in fake news. Further analysis revealed that there were some differences between identified clusters in age, trust in democratic institutions and level of conspiracy beliefs. The results indicated that different groups of people with varying levels of susceptibility to fake news might exist. Therefore, different strategies for the prevention of trust in fake news may be needed for those groups.

Parasocial Relationships With Video Game Characters and Social Anxiety, Emotional Recognition and Loneliness of Video Game Users

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Parasocial relationship is a concept of seemingly mutual relationship with media characters beyond media exposure. Past research provided inconsistent results in the correlation of phenomena to loneliness. There also has been little research evidence on this correlation in videogaming. The aim of the study is to explore if there is a positive correlation of parasocial relationship with videogame characters to loneliness and related construct of social anxiety, and inverse correlation to emotion recognition (accuracy of emotional state modality assessment and sensitivity to emotions' intensity). Results could shed light on player-character relationships in videogames and reduce uncertainties regarding the associated risks, like maladaptive behaviour. Multidimensional Inventory of Loneliness Experience (Osin, Leontiev), Social Anxiety and Social Phobia Questionnaire (Sagalakova, Truevtsev), Video Test for Measuring Emotions Recognition (Lyusin, Ovsyannikova) were used. Scales were developed to measure parasocial emotional symbiosis and perceived authority of a preferred videogame character: items showed no difference across age and gender, two respective factorized scales have been internally consistent and structure validated through repeated split-sample and different study (N = 190) factor analyses. Participants (N = 121) were randomly sampled from videogaming communities in social networks, age ranged from 16 to 29 (M = 20.3, SD = 3.3), 62.8% female, education levels presented equally. Social anxiety was positively correlated to parasocial emotional symbiosis (r = .274, p < .01) and perceived character authority (r = .200, p < .05), and there was no significant correlation between these factors to overall loneliness and emotion recognition. Conversely, a significant correlation to positive loneliness, denoted as resourceful loneliness (r = .184, p < .05 and r = .208, p < .05) emerged. Results may within the frame of videogaming contribute to the theoretical viewpoint that parasocial relationship is not mere substitution to social connections and may be resourceful for socially anxious individuals.

Parasocial Relationships With Fictional Characters and Aspects of Close Relationships in Media Users

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Parasocial relationships were first described by Horton and Wohl as seemingly mutual relationships with media figures. The present study proposes an assumption that intensity of parasocial relationships between likeable fictional characters and fiction users relates to their family dysfunctions, attachment styles and various aspects of psychological space sovereignty. A total of 182 respondents have completed an online questionnaire, age ranging from 15 to 35 years old, women sample being the majority (84,1%). A personal inventory of 60 items covering user-character relationships has been applied. Factor analysis has been conducted on the sample of 163 respondents, who engaged in either of the media activities with the presence of their likeable character. The results of the analysis have revealed 4 factors, explaining the 66 percent of the variance and constituting the facets of character-user relationships, which were stable across age and gender groups: parasocial attraction to a character, emotional detachment of a character, character autonomy, attention to fictional world contradictions. No significant differences for these factors have been found across media genres. Parasocial attraction has been found to negatively relate to psychological space sovereignty (r= -.241, p < .01). It has also been positively related to family dysfunction of induced anxiety (r= .171, p < .05) and anxious attachment style (r= .185, p < .05), but hierarchical regression analysis demonstrated that family dysfunctions is the only reliable predictor of anxious attachment style. Emotional detachment of a character has proven to be positively related to family dysfunction of eliminating emotions (r= .155, p < .05) and avoidant attachment style (r =.208, p < .01). Respondents have also been asked to assess how thorough is their representation of favourite character, including that of appearance and behaviour. Parasocial attraction significantly differed with respect to this thoroughness (p < .05). Practical implications of these findings are discussed, also within the theoretical frame of substitution and Panksepp-Jakobson hypotheses.