Mate attraction in the Dark Triad: Narcissists are hot, Machiavellians and psychopaths not
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The Dark Triad (narcissism, Machiavellianism, psychopathy) is linked to a fast life strategy and short-term mating in males, but strong ecologically valid evidence of their success in actual mating-situations is scarce. In natural and non-hypothetical men–women interactions (with ratings from men, women, and independent observers), we investigated (a) how the Dark Triad is related to mate attraction, (b) mediating variables of mate attraction, and (c) women’s and men’s physical attractiveness as a moderators. Fifty-nine men approached 1395 women on the streets aiming to obtain contact information, while two assistants unobtrusively observed interactions and questioned the women afterwards. Narcissism was uniquely associated to different mate attraction indicators because of approach-oriented behaviours (e.g., self-assuredness, charm). Machiavellianism and psychopathy showed neutral or negative relations. Men’s (but not women’s) physical attractiveness moderated the relation between narcissism and Machiavellianism with mate attraction. The courtship style and reproductive success of “dark personalities” is discussed.

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An actor—Partner interdependence model of the Dark Triad and aggression in couples
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The Dark Triad traits—Machiavellianism, psychopathy, and narcissism—form a set of personality strategies that serve to exploit and manipulate others. Although the Dark Triad traits and their correlates have been studied in individuals, little is known about their role in young adult couples in dating relationships, or how these traits relate to individual differences in aggression. To these ends, we had 44 heterosexual dating undergraduate couples (88 participants) self-report trait measures of the Dark Triad Dirty Dozen (Jonason & Webster, 2010) and measures of direct and displaced trait aggression. Using a series of actor–partner interdependence models showed that men’s psychopathy positively related to women’s hostility and physical aggression. Women’s psychopathy positively related to their own verbal and displaced aggression, and men’s anger rumination. Men’s Machiavellianism positively related to women’s displaced aggression. Men’s narcissism positively related to their own revenge planning. We discuss possible implications for intimate partner violence.

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Positively unpleasant: The Dark Triad, happiness and subjective well-being
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We sought to differentiate benign and malignant narcissism using measures of general personality, positive mood, and the Dark Triad (DT) with a sample of 840 persons from the UK, USA and Canada. All measures were reliable, indicating DT constructs are easily recovered from non-offender cohorts. Two structural equation models (SEM) tested this data, one an a priori measurement model, the other involving refined DT scales. The CFI for the refined DT SEM model was higher than for the a priori SEM, and was more stable.

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