

The Dark Triad, Amoralis, and Impulsivity

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The ongoing research on socially toxic behaviors has been dominated by the Dark Triad approach. However, there are other theoretical approaches on antagonistic personalities that are not incepted by the Dark Triad approach. The goal of the present study was to investigate empirical overlap between the Dark Triad and Amoralis constructs. Our data indicated that there is a substantial overlap between the two constructs, save for the Narcissism component of the Dark Triad which is somewhat distinct from the common Dark Triad/Amoralis space. When Impulsivity was included into the analyses it disjointed the relatively monolithic Dark Triad/Amoralis structure that was observed by the earlier analysis; indicating that the Dark Triad and Amoralis do not unreservedly belong to the same measurement space. Thus, theoretically and empirically separable traits (amalgamated in the Dark Triad, Amoralis, and Impulsivity constructs) combine in an intricate fashion to form distinctive patterns of socially malignant behaviors.

Key words: The Dark Triad, Amoralis, Impulsivity, SD3, Amoral 9, UPPS

Highlights:

- There is a substantial empirical overlap between the Dark Triad and Amoralis.
- Machiavellianism, Psychopathy, and Amoralis are the core of evil personalities.
- Narcissism is somewhat distant from the Dark Triad/Amoralis space.
- Impulsivity discriminatively correlates with different Dark Triad/Amoralis traits.
- Impulsivity is not a necessary ingredient of socially aversive behaviors.

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Psychology had been rather hesitant to study aberrant and maladaptive immoral behaviors that are without prolific antisocial and clinical manifestations. Only at the beginning of this century, Paulhus and Williams (2002) have introduced the notion of the Dark Triad. This construct is comprised of three conceptually independent yet empirically overlapping traits: Narcissism, Machiavellianism, and subclinical Psychopathy.

Narcissism is primarily demarcated by excessive self-love and grandiosity (Campbell & Foster, 2010; Morf & Rhodewalt, 2001), Machiavellianism by manipulation, exploitation, and self-interest (Christie & Geis, 1970; Furnham, Richards, & Paulhus, 2013), while subclinical Psychopathy is best defined by callousness, lack of remorse, and predatory behavior (Furnham et al., 2013; Rauthmann, 2012). The Dark Triad is significantly associated with low empathy (Giammarco & Vernon, 2014; Jonason & Kroll, 2015), dysfunctional personal relationships and emotional indifference (Jonason, Lyons, Bethell, & Ross, 2013), aggression and lack of self-control (Jonason & Tost, 2010; Jones & Paulhus, 2010, 2011), and with impulsivity and sensation seeking (Egan, Charlesworth, Richardson, Blair, & McMurrin, 2001; Egan et al., 2005). Similar findings were obtained in studies on adolescent participants. The Dark Triad was significantly predictive of aggression and peer-related violence (Baughman, Dearing, Giammarco, & Vernon, 2012; Kerig & Stellwagen, 2010; Muris, Meesters, & Timmermans, 2013), juvenile delinquency (Chabrol, Leeuwen, Rodgers, & Séjourné, 2009), social media-related violence (Sanecka, 2017), impaired emotional intelligence (Zhang, Zou, Wang, & Finy, 2015), and cruelty to animals (Kavanagh, Signal, & Taylor, 2013). Convergence of findings that were obtained on different age groups is in line with the conclusion drawn by Lee and Ashton (Lee & Ashton, 2005; Lee et al., 2013): socially aversive behavior is structured as a low pole of the basic personality trait Honesty–Humility and, as is the case with other basic personality traits, is stable.

Some subsequent examinations of the personality's dark core revealed that the three Dark Triad traits divergently correlate with external variables (Jonason, Duineveld, & Middleton, 2015; Kerig & Stellwagen, 2010; Lee & Ashton, 2005; Lee et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2015). Recurrent reports on Narcissism not acting in concert with Machiavellianism and Psychopathy indicated that the three Dark Triad traits may not be equally aversive (Rauthmann & Kolar, 2012). Thus, for instance, Pailing, Boon, and Egan (2014) conclude that Narcissism is a distinct construct, unrelated to antisocial tendencies. Jonason, Duineveld, and Middleton (2015) report that Machiavellianism and Psychopathy, but not Narcissism predict different forms of aggression. Moreover, since the antagonistic nature of Narcissism was challenged by conclusions of several studies (Noser et al., 2015; Veselka, Schermer, & Vernon, 2012) its contribution to the core of evil was also called into question. However, Jones and Figueredo (2013) suggested that manipulation and callousness largely accounted for the associations among the facet scores of the Psychopathy, Narcissism, and Machiavellianism scales. They conclude that manipulation–callousness (Hare's Factor 1) emerged as

a common core that accounts for the overlap among the Dark Triad traits. So, divergent correlations of the Dark Triad traits with external variables are viewed as manifestation of the convoluted nature of each socially aversive trait (Jones & Paulhus, 2010; Vernon, Villani, Vickers, & Harris, 2008). Likewise, involvement of Narcissism in the Dark Triad constellation is determined by its shared variance with Machiavellianism and Psychopathy (Paulhus & Williams, 2002) manifesting in the unique interpersonal strategy marked by exploitativeness and manipulation (Lee et al., 2013), vanity, self-centeredness, and revenge (Jonason, Li, Webster, & Schmitt, 2009; Thomaes, Brummelman, Miller, & Lilienfeld, 2017).

Although scoring high on the Dark Triad traits does not necessarily point to presence of unadaptable behavior it certainly infers propensity for disrespecting social standards and legal norms and for hurting feelings of other people (Book, Visser, & Volk, 2015). Thus far, Campbell and colleagues (Campbell et al., 2009) reported significant negative association between Psychopathy and Machiavellianism, but not Narcissism and moral development. Similarly, it was reported that moral disengagement predicts only Psychopathy and Machiavellianism, but not Narcissism (Egan, Hughes, & Palmer, 2015; Međedović & Petrović, 2016). Also, Jonason, Strosser, Kroll, Duineveld, and Baruffi (2015) report that Psychopathy is associated with disregard for all moral concerns, Machiavellianism is characterized by moral flexibility, whereas Narcissism is linked to a socially desirable form of morality.

A different theoretical approach views Amoralität as a personality trait (or collection of traits) predisposing to manipulative and criminal behavior and for transgressing of social and moral norms (Knežević, 2003; Stankov & Knežević, 2005). This approach is operationalized by the Amoral 9 psychometric scale encompassing three modalities of Amoralität: Lascivia (impulsivity – induced Amoralität indicated by hedonism, low impulse control, and laziness), Frustralia (frustration – induced Amoralität indicated by Machiavellianism, ruthless resentment, and projection of amoral impulses) and Crudelia (brutality – induced Amoralität indicated by brutal hedonism, passive Amoralität, and sadism). Amoralität positively correlates with Eysenck's PEN model Psychoticism (Knežević, 2003), with the negative pole of the Big Five dimension Agreeableness (Međedović, Petrović, & Želeskov-Đorić, 2015), and with the negative pole of the HEXACO trait Honesty–Humility (Međedović et al., 2015). Crudelia predicts recidivism of adult offenders while Lascivia predicts criminal behavior of minors (Međedović, Kujačić, & Knežević, 2012). Drawing on Knežević, Radović, and Peruničić (2008) Paulhus and Jones (2015) indicated that both the Amoralität and the Dark Triad approach may be addressing the central domain of malevolent personalities. Therefore, there are at least two different conceptual approaches to malevolent side of the human nature. Nevertheless, there are no studies directly comparing the two.

Impulsivity is a key construct in many personality theories (Cloninger, Svrakic, & Przybeck, 1993; Eysenck & Eysenck, 1985; Gray, 1987; McCrae & Costa, 1990; Tellegen, 1982) and is one of the traits that are commonly associated with the Dark Triad and Amoralität. It is also an important etiological factor of

criminal behavior (Frick, Cornell, Barry, Bodin, & Dane, 2003; Frick, Stickle, Dandreaux, Farrell, & Kimonis, 2005; White et al., 1994) and addiction (de Wit, 2009; Perry & Carrol, 2008). Importance of impulsivity for our understanding of socially malignant behavior is evidenced by its prominent place in the most recent meta-analytic review on the Dark Triad nomological network as special attention was paid to impulsivity's relation to Psychopathy, Narcissism, and Machiavellianism (Vize, Collison, Miller, & Lynam, 2018).

Whiteside and Lynam (2001) in their UPPS Impulsive Behavior scale psychometrically operationalized the multi-faceted nature of Impulsivity. The UPPS scale was conceived to capture principal, and not necessarily correlated, psychological trajectories that predispose towards diverse expressions of impulsive behavior. Moreover, UPPS covers much wider impulsivity territory than Lascivia since it includes four personality facets that are not variations of Impulsivity but rather four distinct personality traits that result in similar overt behaviors (Whiteside & Lynam, 2001).

By virtue of its comprehensive eclectic nature, UPPS includes two cognitive deficits (Lack of Premeditation – poor evaluation of consequences and poor executive control; and Lack of Perseverance – problems with long-term focusing on a given task and low or no sense of duty), one negative reinforcement-driven (Negative Urgency – immediate and high amplitude response to aversive physical or emotional stimuli) and one positive reinforcement – driven behavioral tendency (Sensation Seeking – perpetual search for desirable and often arousing stimulation). Different Impulsivity dimensions were reported to positively correlate with a variety of maladaptive behaviors, as follows: aggression with Negative Urgency, antisocial behavior with Sensation Seeking and Lack of Premeditation, substance abuse with Lack of Premeditation, inattention with Lack of Perseverance, ADHD with Lack of Premeditation, and eating problems with Negative Urgency (Miller, Flory, Lynam, & Leukefeld, 2003).

Besides, it seems that impulsivity is diversely associated with different Dark Triad traits. Thus, Jones, and Paulhus (2011) reported positive association between Narcissism and functional impulsivity, a dimension of Impulsivity that is exhibited through light headedness and hastiness in risky situations (Dickman, 1990) and positive association between Psychopathy and dysfunctional impulsivity, a dimension of Impulsivity that is exhibited through hastiness, urgency, and lack of premeditation. However, in the same study Machiavellianism was not associated with either functional or dysfunctional dimension of Impulsivity. It is theorized that high Machs are bestowed with exceptional self-control, quite in line with their ability to make long term schemes and calculations. Impulsivity may be the trait that differentiates between Machiavellianism and Psychopathy (Jones & Paulhus, 2011) and/or the trait that differentiates between diverse subtypes of Psychopathy (Poythress & Hall, 2011). Furthermore, impulsivity of narcissists is associated with their high Extraversion while impulsivity of psychopaths is associated with their low Conscientiousness, high aggression and poor self-control (Hare & Neumann, 2010; Williams & Paulhus, 2004).

While there is paucity of data on the connection between the Dark Triad and UPPS-defined impulsivity and not much is known about the connection between Impulsivity and Amoralis, there is no knowledge on how inclusion of Impulsivity changes our perspective on the Dark Triad/Amoralis core. Therefore, the main objective of this study was to investigate associations of the Dark Triad, Amoralis, Impulsivity, and their constituting dimensions – similarities and dissimilarities between the Dark Triad and Amoralis and their possibly differential relations with different facets of Impulsivity. We posit: H1) There is a general but not straightforward agreement between the Dark Triad and Amoralis traits and H2) Impulsivity, by virtue of its differential associations with different Dark Triad and Amoralis traits – disjoints the common core of the Dark Triad/Amoralis space.

Better understanding of the relationship between constituting Dark Triad, Amoralis, and Impulsivity traits should be instrumental in resolving some of the perplexing issues mentioned above: what Dark Triad and Amoralis traits jointly define the core of socially aversive personality, what is the position of Narcissism vis-à-vis other Dark Triad and Amoralis traits, and how Impulsivity, one of the hallmarks of antisocial behavior fits into Dark Triad/Amoralis characterization of evil.

Method

Participants and Procedure

The study was conducted during 2016/2017 on a sample comprising 255 participants: 145 (57%) female and 110 (43%) male high school students (mean age 17.8 years; $SD = 0.68$) from three different high schools from Sremska Mitrovica and Novi Sad, Serbia. Data were collected in schools with the approval of school principals and teachers who were informed about the purpose of the study and the content of the psychometric scales that were utilized in the study. Personal presence of the same administrator was enabled throughout the whole process of data collection. This was a standard paper-and-pencil study that was not causing any reasonably anticipated distress to the participants. The study met all ethical requirements in agreement with the Declaration of Helsinki and the legal requirements of the Republic of Serbia. All participants provided informed consent for their voluntary participation in the study.

Measures

Short Dark Triad. Dark Triad traits were assessed by the Short Dark Triad (SD3; Jones & Paulhus, 2014). The scale consists of 27 items capturing Machiavellianism, Narcissism, and subclinical Psychopathy in a balanced way (9 items per each trait). Participants responded to a proposition on a 5-point scale ranging from 1 (*strongly disagree*) to 5 (*strongly agree*). The standardized Serbian adaptation of the SD3 psychometric scale (Dinić, Petrović, & Jonason, 2018) was not available at the time of our data collection (2016/2017).

Amoral 9. Amoralis was evaluated by the 54-item version of this psychometric scale (Knežević et al., 2008). Each of its three principal dimensions – Lascivia, Frustralia, and Crudelia was defined by eighteen 5-point Likert-type scale items. Validity of Amoral 9 was

demonstrated in studies involving criminal offenders (Međedović et al., 2012) and student population (Stankov & Knežević, 2005).

UPPS Impulsive Behavior scale. Impulsivity was assessed by the 45-item UPPS Impulsive Behavior scale (Whiteside & Lynam, 2001). Participants indicated how much they agreed (1 = *strongly disagree*; 5 = *strongly agree*) with statements capturing Lack of Premeditation, Negative Urgency, Sensation Seeking, and Lack of Perseveration. A recent review (Berg, Latzman, Bliwise, & Lilienfeld, 2015) appraises UPPS as a reliable measure of Impulsivity exhibiting suitable construct validity.

Statistical Analysis

Linear associations of the study variables were analyzed by means of bivariate Pearson product moment correlations and by means of two multivariate statistical methods: canonical correlation analysis (CCA) and principal component analysis (PCA). Both CCA and PCA are commonly used for purposes of dimensionality reduction. The primary objective of CCA is to establish the maximum correlation between two sets of variables. It is achieved by assigning weights to each variable so that it will maximize correlation between weighted linear combinations of variables (variates) of the two data sets. However, CCA provides information about predictive relationship and the variance shared between the two variates but it does not provide any information about the predictive relationship and the variance shared between the two sets of variables as no attention is given to communality. Thus, two canonical variates may correlate highly in spite of very small loadings of observed variables on those variates and low explained variance. On the other hand, PCA is a variable reduction technique, used when variables are highly correlated, as was the case in the present study, providing communality information (the variance of observed variables accounted for by a common component). Component retention criterion for PCA was defined as convergence of the 95th percentile rule of Horn's parallel analysis, Cattell's scree test, and Keiser's K1 rule. Since CCA and PCA provide complementary information highlighting similarities and dissimilarities among the studied variables, both analyses were consecutively utilized in the present statistical analysis. Level of statistical significance was defined at $\alpha = .05$ level.

Results

Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistics and the internal consistency for the current study are presented in Table 1. Reasonable internal consistency was demonstrated for the three psychometric scales and their respective subscales, ranging from .92 for Amoralism to .66 for Narcissism.

Table 1 presents 78 bivariate correlations between Amoralism, Dark Triad, Impulsivity, and their subscales. Because of the high likelihood of Type I error among such a large number of inter-correlations, here they are presented mainly for descriptive purposes. However, it is worth noting that total scores of the three key constructs were significantly correlated at $p < .01$ level. Median correlation among Dark Triad, Amoralism, and Impulsivity traits was .45, .53, and .28, respectively, suggesting that each of the three psychometric scales encompasses overlapping yet distinctive traits.

Table 1
Intercorrelations, Means, Standard Deviations, and Internal Consistency for Scores on the Dark Triad, Amorality, and Impulsivity scales

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	α
1. AMORALITY													2.67	0.46	.92
2. Lascivia	.83**												2.78	0.68	.87
3. Frustralia	.84**	.53**											3.02	0.50	.80
4. Crudelia	.77**	.38**	.58**										2.20	0.51	.82
5. DARK TRIAD	.65**	.47**	.62**	.54**									2.90	0.53	.84
6. Machiavellianism	.58**	.34**	.64**	.48**	.79**								3.42	0.68	.72
7. Narcissism	.28**	.21**	.24**	.23**	.77**	.40**							2.96	0.65	.66
8. Psychopathy	.69**	.54**	.57**	.56**	.82**	.47**	.45**						2.32	0.70	.74
9. IMPULSIVITY	.57**	.69**	.40**	.24**	.37**	.16*	.22**	.49**					2.76	0.45	.87
10. Premeditation (lack)	.40**	.47**	.18**	.26**	.09	-.03	.00	.25**	.72**				2.17	0.63	.82
11. Negative Urgency	.46**	.50**	.42**	.17**	.38**	.26**	.21**	.42**	.66**	.27**			3.01	0.80	.85
12. Sensation Seeking	.20**	.28**	.16*	.02	.30**	.10	.29**	.31**	.52**	.14*	.04		3.56	0.86	.88
13. Perseverance (lack)	.40**	.50**	.24**	.18**	.08	.02	-.04	.20**	.62**	.55**	.29**	-.08	2.30	0.60	.75

Note. Pearson bivariate correlations are presented; α = Cronbach's alpha coefficient.

* $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$.

Relationship between the Dark Triad and Amorality

Bivariate correlation analysis. Statistically significant association between total scores for the Dark Triad and Amorality indicated a close relationship between the two constructs. The total Amorality score, and its constituting traits, were all positively associated with the Dark Triad traits. Among the Dark Triad traits, Narcissism displayed the weakest and Psychopathy the strongest association with the total Amorality score and its constituting traits. Internal consistency of both Dark Triad and Amorality constructs was evidenced by the fact that Machiavellianism, Narcissism, and Psychopathy significantly correlated with each other and the total Dark Triad score, as was the case with Lascivia, Frustralia, and Crudelia with the total Amorality score (Table 1).

Canonical correlation analysis. CCA that was performed in order to quantify the strength of the multivariate relationship between dimensions of the Dark Triad and dimensions of Amorality yielded two statistically significant canonical functions. The first canonical function explaining 59.3% ($R_c = .77$, $\chi^2(4) = 250.37$, $p < .01$) and the second canonical function explaining 9.4% of the shared variance ($R_c = .31$, $\chi^2(1) = 24.81$, $p < .001$). Given the size of r^2 effect for each function, only the Function 1 was considered as important in the context of the present study.

Function 1 encompassed all 3 dimensions of the Dark Triad and all 3 dimensions of Amorality (Table 2). Canonical loadings suggested that two of the Dark Triad traits (Psychopathy and Machiavellianism) and all 3 Amorality traits were primary contributors to Function 1. This was evidenced by the size

of canonical loadings for Frustration, Psychopathy, Machiavellianism, Crudelia, and Lascivia, but not Narcissism. With the exception of Narcissism, all standardized canonical coefficients had the same sign, demonstrating positive associations among them. Narcissism was inversely related to canonical function following parsing of its common variance with Psychopathy and Machiavellianism, and had the lowest canonical root of all 6 variables contributing to the Function 1.

Table 2
Canonical Weights and Canonical Loadings for the Dark Triad and Amoral traits

Traits	Function 1	
	β	r
Machiavellianism	-.57	-.83
Narcissism	.18	-.35
Psychopathy	-.69	-.87
Lascivia	-.23	-.68
Frustration	-.59	-.93
Crudelia	-.37	-.80

Note. β = standardized canonical coefficients, canonical weights; r = canonical loadings.

Principal component analysis. PCA was performed in order to further elucidate the relationship between the Dark Triad and Amoral traits from a different perspective. PCA extracted only one factor with an eigenvalue greater than 1. A single principal component explained 54.23% of the total variance. Communalities coefficients in Table 3 indicate that Narcissism did not share a substantial proportion of common variance with other dimensions, as evidenced by its $h^2 < .30$. This low communality index of Narcissism relative to communality indices of five other traits additionally indicated that Narcissism is somewhat distinct from the Dark Triad/Amoral traits space. This finding is in line with the bivariate correlation data from Table 1 and also consistent with results of CCA since only 15% of Narcissism's variance was accounted for by both statistically significant canonical functions.

Table 3
PCA component matrix of the Dark Triad and Amoral traits

Traits	Loadings	h^2
Lascivia	.68	.47
Frustration	.83	.69
Crudelia	.75	.56
Machiavellianism	.76	.58
Narcissism	.53	.28
Psychopathy	.83	.68

Note. h^2 = communalities.

Relationship between the Dark Triad, Amoral, and Impulsivity

Bivariate correlation analysis. There was a statistically significant correlation between total Amoral and Impulsivity scores which was based on significant correlations between constituting Amoral and Impulsivity traits, save for the correlation between Crudelia and Sensation Seeking. Impulsivity correlated more with Lascivia than with Frustration and Crudelia. Of all Impulsivity traits, Sensation Seeking had the lowest levels of linear association with Amoral traits. Although there was a strong correlation between Lascivia and the total Impulsivity score it is worth noting that Lascivia was only weakly associated with Sensation Seeking. On the other hand, significant correlation between the total Impulsivity and the total Dark Triad scores was dominantly defined by the association between Psychopathy and Negative Urgency. However, there was no association between the two Dark Triad traits (Narcissism and Machiavellianism) with the two Impulsivity traits defined by a cognitive deficit (Lack of Premeditation and Lack of Perseveration). That is, Psychopathy significantly correlated with all Impulsivity traits, Narcissism significantly correlated with Negative Urgency and Sensation Seeking but not with Lack of Premeditation and Lack of Perseveration, while Machiavellianism significantly correlated only with Negative Urgency (Table 1).

Canonical correlation analysis. A separate CCA was performed in order to investigate association between the set of four Impulsivity traits defined by UPPS and the set of six socially aversive traits that were defined by SD3 and Amoral 9. This CCA yielded two statistically significant canonical functions: Function 1 ($R_c = .73$, $\chi^2(24) = 263.9$, $p < .001$) and Function 2 ($R_c = .47$, $\chi^2(15) = 75.744$, $p < .01$) explaining approximately 53% and 22% of variance, respectively.

Canonical loadings indicated that all four dimensions of Impulsivity, but only two dimensions of Amoral (Lascivia and Frustration), and only one dimension of the Dark Triad (Psychopathy) considerably contributed to Function 1. Amoral's dimension Crudelia and the Dark Triad's dimensions of Narcissism and Machiavellianism shared little common variance with Function 1. On the other hand, canonical loadings indicated that the three dimensions of Impulsivity (Lack of Premeditation, Lack of Perseveration, and Sensation Seeking) and the two dimensions of the Dark Triad (Narcissism and Machiavellianism) considerably contributed to Function 2. Frustration, Crudelia, Lascivia, Psychopathy, and Negative Urgency shared little common variance with Function 2. Thus, CCA indicated that Function 1 relates to tendency for Negative Urgency – driven psychopathic amoral behavior while Function 2 relates to narcissistic Machiavellian pattern that is devoid of Urgency, Amoral, and Psychopathy (Table 4).

Table 4

Canonical Weights and Canonical Loadings for the Dark Triad, Amoralty, and Impulsivity traits

Traits	Function 1		Function 2	
	β	r	β	r
Premeditation (lack)	-.17	-.62	.72	.67
Negative Urgency	-.55	-.74	-.51	-.25
Sensation Seeking	-.48	-.49	-.50	-.44
Perseverance (lack)	-.41	-.62	.29	.58
Lascivia	-.81	-.95	.55	.20
Frustralia	-.22	-.59	-.56	-.30
Crudelia	.19	-.33	.86	.26
Machiavellianism	.23	-.26	-.32	-.42
Narcissism	-.11	-.33	-.48	-.57
Psychopathy	-.28	-.69	-.35	-.28

Note. β = standardized canonical coefficients, canonical weights; r = canonical loadings.

Principal component analysis. PCA followed by Promax rotation was performed in order to additionally clarify the latent structure of the measurement space defined by the three psychometrics scales and to obtain communality information for the whole data set. In contrast with CCA that investigated association between the two predetermined sets of variables (Dark Triad/Amorality vs. Impulsivity) PCA approaches all variables at the same level. The PCA yielded three principal components (in compliance with the above set criteria) explaining 38.6%, 16.9% and 11.5% of the total variance, respectively (Table 5). Horn's parallel analysis yielded the following eigenvalues for the three PCA components of the raw data set: 3.86, 1.69, and 1.16 as opposed to 1.32, 1.22, and 1.14 for the 50th percentile and 1.41, 1.29, and 1.20 for the 95th percentile confidence interval. The three-component solution was retained although the eigenvalue of the third component was somewhat (1.16 vs. 1.20) lower than the 95th percentile of the corresponding eigenvalue of the simulated data. This decision was based on interpretability (the three-component solution encompasses all ten study variables and groups them in an interpretable pattern) and on the amount of the total variance explained by the third PCA component.

The main principal component was saturated with four Dark Triad/Amorality traits (Frustralia, Crudelia, Machiavellianism, and Psychopathy). Therefore, it was viewed as the core Dark Triad/Amorality dimension. The subsequent principal component is accounted by Lascivia (Impulsivity – induced Amorality) and three out of four Impulsivity traits (Lack of Perseverance, Lack of Premeditation, and Negative Urgency). Finally, the third principal component was dominated by Sensation Seeking, supplemented by a much smaller contribution of Narcissism. Thus, inclusion of Impulsivity disjointed the relatively monolithic Dark Triad/Amorality structure that was observed in the earlier analysis (Table 3) indicating that Dark Triad and Amorality do not unreservedly belong to the same measurement space. There were moderate

associations between the first principal component and the other two principal components, whereas there was only a weak association between the second and the third principal component.

Table 5

Rotated component matrix of PCA of the Dark Triad, Amoralty, and Impulsivity traits. Communalities, Intercorrelations of components

Traits	Loadings			h^2
	1	2	3	
Lascivia	.28	.63	.20	.73
Frustration	.84	.11	-.08	.74
Crudelia	.82	.08	-.21	.61
Machiavellianism	.92	-.26	-.03	.74
Narcissism	.33	-.23	.59	.56
Psychopathy	.59	.16	.32	.71
Premeditation (lack)	-.18	.87	.07	.71
Negative Urgency	.32	.42	.04	.39
Sensation Seeking	-.29	.06	.97	.81
Perseverance (lack)	-.02	.87	-.23	.72
1				
2	.34			
3	.41	.18		

Note. h^2 = communalities.

Discussion

The main purpose of the present study was to directly compare two different positions on socially malignant traits: the widely held Dark Triad approach (Paulhus & Williams, 2002) psychometrically defined by SD3 and the infrequently cited Amoralty approach (Stankov & Knežević, 2005) psychometrically defined by Amoral 9. Our observations indicate that there is a strong empirical overlap between the two psychometric scales with different theoretical origins. This finding vindicates the assumption (Paulhus & Jones, 2015) that Amoralty, like everyday sadism (Buckels, Jones, & Paulhus, 2013; Chabrol et al., 2009), may be considered as a constituting element of the dark personality. Nevertheless, Narcissism seemed only weakly connected with Psychopathy, Machiavellianism, Lascivia, Frustration, and Crudelia – the five Dark Triad/Amoralty traits that constitute the common core of malicious personality.

Our second objective was to investigate relationship between the Dark Triad and Amoralty with Impulsivity, as defined by the Whiteside and Lynam (2001) UPPS psychometric scale. As hypothesized, our data suggest that introduction of Impulsivity redefines the Dark Triad/Amoralty constellation. Within the Dark Triad space Psychopathy is characterized by Negative Urgency, Machiavellianism is characterized by absence of Impulsivity, while

Sensation Seeking is the only impulsive trait associated with Narcissism. Within the common Dark Triad/Amorality space Impulsivity is always allied with Psychopathy and Amorality, Machiavellianism is allied with Psychopathy and Amorality only in absence of Impulsivity, while Narcissism acts on its own. Therefore, Impulsivity differentiates two ways of socially malignant behavior: amoral and impulsive psychopathic behavior that is devoid of Machiavellian strategies and narcissistic self-centeredness (typical of impulsive psychopaths) and calculated Machiavellian psychopathic behavior (typical of cold blooded psychopaths).

Relationship between the Dark Triad and Amorality

Results of CCA and PCA indicated that preponderance of variance shared by the Dark Triad and Amorality can be explained by a single canonical variate. Thus, both findings suggest a substantial overlap between the two constructs and their constituting elements. However, it seems that Narcissism is markedly disconnected from the Dark Triad/Amorality space explained by Psychopathy, Machiavellianism, and all three Amorality traits. Narcissism's lowest communality index indicated its minimal contribution to the principal component. As opposed to two other Dark Triad traits, Narcissism shared only a minor proportion of common variance with Amorality and its standardized canonical coefficient was of the opposite sign relative to Machiavellianism, Psychopathy, and all three Amorality dimensions. This may be explained by the inherent overlap among Dark Triad/Amorality variables where Narcissism as the weakest component of the common core is drained of its dark constituent by the more powerful and better connected Dark Triad/Amorality elements. Recent study has indicated that after removing its overlap with two other Dark Triad components Narcissism loses much of its antagonistic content. This residualized Narcissism is largely associated with Extraversion and that it "appears to be related to mostly adaptive outcomes" (Vize et al., 2018).

To the best of our knowledge there are no readily available reports on earlier studies targeting association between Amoral 9 and SD3. A secondary source (Paulhus & Jones, 2015) reports that Psychopathy moderately correlated with all three Amorality dimensions while Narcissism failed to account for any sizable amount of their variance.

In the present study, this discrepancy can be explained by the very conceptualization of the Dark Triad. In order to nourish their insatiable sense of grandiose self-centeredness and their incessant craving for approval and admiration, narcissists will reach for any tactics available, moral or amoral (Boardley & Kavussanu, 2010; Roberts, Woodman, Lofthouse, & Williams, 2015). Therefore, it seems that narcissistic amorality is galvanized by factors other than impulsivity, frustration, and brutality. According to Jones and colleagues (Jones, Woodman, Barlow, & Roberts, 2016) narcissists' egocentric nature overshadows their existing moral concerns. The construct of Amorality, scrutinized in this study, addresses more prominent and unswerving forms

of amoral behavior and does not directly deal with expression of narcissistic characters, at least not those measured by SD3. It is quite possible that SD3 items cover only the bright, socially desirable aspect of Narcissism and do not entail socially aversive narcissistic behaviors (Veselka et al., 2012). According to Back, Kufner, Dufner, and Denissen (2013), the nature of Narcissism is heterogeneous and its manifestations are often incongruous since they reflect the conflict between Narcissism's bright and its dark side. The main feature of the bright side is admiration consisting of grandiosity; strive for uniqueness and charmingness that are generated by persistent need for reward and approval. Rivalry, the dark side, consisting of devaluation, strive for supremacy and aggressiveness is motivated by avoidance of punishment. In that case, Amoral traits would most likely positively correlate with the latter side of Narcissism. Similarly, some authors consider that narcissistic component of the Dark Triad serves as its brighter side that is used as bait for potential victims. Narcissists' glittery appearance may be the reason why they are usually perceived as more benign and even attractive relative to Machiavellians and psychopaths (Rauthmann & Kolar, 2013).

In contrast, there is a better understanding of the connection between Psychopathy, Machiavellianism, and Amoral. Machiavellianism implies unscrupulous interpersonal tactics and manipulation that waive all moral constraints (Jones & Paulhus, 2009, 2010). Machiavellianism is one of Frustration's three facets (Knežević et al., 2008, as cited in Paulhus & Jones, 2015). Psychopathy entails defining features of antisocial and, for that reason, amoral behavior: callousness, impulsivity, and cruelty (Chabrol et al, 2009; Jones & Paulhus 2010; Miller et al., 2012). After all, Cruelty, loaded with brutal hedonism, passive amorality, and sadism is one of Amoral's three dimensions (Knežević et al., 2008, as cited in Paulhus & Jones, 2015).

Thus, our data confirm close association between Amoral, Psychopathy, and Machiavellianism and suggest that ego-promotion makings of Amoral should deserve further study. Our results are in compliance with earlier reports indicating that Narcissism is fairly unlike the two other Dark Triad traits (Jonason, Duineveld et al., 2015; Pailing et al., 2014). With this in mind, our data limited to the SD3 definition of Narcissism do not permit any conclusion about the *sui generis* malevolent nature of Narcissism. Furthermore, the apparent discrepancy between the results of the bivariate correlation analysis that validates Narcissism's involvement in the Dark Triad and the results of the multivariate CCA and PCA analyses indicating that Narcissism is somewhat detached from Machiavellianism and Psychopathy common core highlights the need for caution when interpreting residualized variables after partialling of the variance shared by all Dark Triad traits (Vize et al., 2018).

Relationship between the Dark Triad, Amoral, and Impulsivity

Results of CCA indicate that tendency for Negative Urgency – driven psychopathic amoral behavior is orthogonal to narcissistic Machiavellian

pattern that is devoid of Urgency, Amoralis, and Psychopathy. However, in this study when Impulsivity was included in the analysis Machiavellianism was more closely related to Narcissism than to Amoralis. From this correlational perspective, Machiavellianism was more closely connected with Narcissism and Sensation Seeking rather than to Psychopathy which in turn is characterized by high Impulsivity and Amoralis, quite in line with previous studies (Rauthmann & Kollar, 2013; Rauthmann & Will, 2011; Roberts et al., 2015).

When PCA approach to the analysis of the whole data set was complemented with the CCA correlational approach it became obvious that presence/absence of Impulsivity makes the key distinction among the Dark Triad personality traits. When Impulsivity was added to the analysis a more complete picture of Dark Triad/Amoralis relationship emerged, providing an additional insight into constellations of evil personality traits. The first constellation was saturated with Amoralis, Machiavellianism, and Psychopathy but was devoid of Impulsivity and Narcissism. Impulsivity, independently to the Dark Triad and Amoralis, constituted the second component of PCA while the third component consisted only of Narcissism and Sensation Seeking. The second PCA component and the third PCA component were more closely related to the core of evil (the main PCA component) than to each other. Our finding that the third PCA component containing Narcissism was more closely related to the main PCA component containing two other constituents of the Dark Triad than to the Impulsivity, saturated second PCA component speaks in favor of Narcissism's inclusion in the Dark Triad approach.

This is in agreement with earlier studies supporting that Impulsivity is a trait discerning Psychopathy and Machiavellianism (Furnham et al., 2013; Jones & Paulhus, 2011; Malesza & Ostaszewski, 2016). Machiavellians are planning devious strategies while psychopaths react instantaneously and abruptly. Narcissistic impulsivity is usually manifested by a swift and overconfident reaction in risky situations which is usually misread as courage and determination, resulting in a very favorable first impression (Foster & Trimm, 2008; Friedman, Oltmanns, Gleason, & Turkheimer, 2006).

Existing literature points at different types of Impulsivity which may or may not lead to antisocial manifestations. According to Eysenck, impulsivity of psychopaths is of the real, instinctive kind, best described as Narrow Impulsivity (Brunas-Wagstaff, Bergquist, Richardson, & Connor, 1995; Eysenck & Eysenck, 1977) or dysfunctional impulsivity (Dickman, 1990). In contrast, Narcissism is associated with functional impulsivity that entails dare and boldness under precarious circumstances, best described as Venturesome Impulsivity (Brunas-Wagstaff et al., 1995; Eysenck & Eysenck, 1977). Machiavellianism implies composed calculation which, by definition, discounts impulsivity (Jauk et al., 2016; Rauthmann & Will, 2011).

According to Whiteside, Lynam, Miller, & Reynolds (2005), different Impulsivity factors are associated with distinct Five Factor Model (FFM) traits: Sensation Seeking correlates with Extraversion, Negative Urgency correlates with Neuroticism, while Lack of Premeditation and Lack of Perseveration negatively

correlate with Conscientiousness. On the other hand, the Dark Triad traits (Paulhus & Williams, 2002) and the Amoral traits (Mededović et al., 2015) are negatively associated with Agreeableness. Low Conscientiousness is associated with Psychopathy and Machiavellianism, but not with Narcissism while Narcissism and Psychopathy correlate with Extraversion (Paulhus & Williams, 2002). Thus, Agreeableness is the only basic FFM dimension that is not associated with any UPPS Impulsivity factors. At the same time low Agreeableness is the only basic FFM trait that correlates with all three Dark Triad traits (Liang & Huang, 2015). This constellation may be responsible for extraction of separate Impulsivity and Narcissism and Sensation Seeking PCA components. Since the correlation between these two components is weaker than the correlation between the each component and the dominant first component (the core of evil) it is questionable whether their projection onto personality space defined by FFM would provide a more complete picture of the antagonistic personality.

Nevertheless, other traits that are beyond the scope of this study inevitably contribute to maladaptive behavior whether or not it is antisocially and/or clinically defined. Probing the core of socially aversive character gains additional importance if we consider its possible adaptive value within the vast repertoire of human behavior (Book et al., 2015; Jonason, Li, & Buss, 2010). However, knowing the difference between the good and the evil is not limited to legal, diagnostic, and therapeutic issues. It is the very foundation of prosocial behavior which is undeniably adaptive. Contemporary research has reached the conclusion that the roots of socially aversive and amoral behavior are qualitatively independent of prosocial traits (Ashton & Lee, 2005; Lee & Ashton, 2005). Consequently, it would be stimulating to investigate projection of Dark Triad/Amorality/Impulsivity traits in the FFM/Big Five and/or HEXACO space since that might throw additional light on the nature of the second and the third PCA component that were detected in this study. Moreover, our findings should be verified in a setting where Narcissism is assessed by means other than SD3, such as the Narcissistic Admiration and Rivalry Questionnaire (NARQ; Back et al., 2013).

Limitation

This study is imperfect in a number of ways. Like most contemporary personality studies we relied on self-reports of our respondents. Participants from our size-limited sample belonged to a nonclinical population of adolescent non-offenders from only two Serbian cities. They were probed by psychometric scales that were developed for use on the adult population. This has already been the case in previous studies involving UPPS (Booth, Spronk, Grol, & Fox, 2018; Van der Veen, Hershberger, & Cyders, 2016) and SD3 (Chabrol et al., 2009; Zuo, Wang, Xu, Wang, & Zhao, 2016) and Amoral 9 (Mededović et al., 2012) on high school age adolescent respondents. Our approach is further justified by the overall interpretability and good internal consistency of the data. Although previous studies have not indicated any age-related differences in manifestations

of socially aversive personality it is quite possible that antagonistic character of adolescents (Back, Schmukle, & Egloff, 2010; Küfner, Nestler, & Back, 2013; Hill & Lapsley, 2015) curbs generality of our conclusions. Another limitation of this study originates from the relatively low reliability of Narcissism measured by SD3, since Narcissism's relation with other study variables was central to our interpretation of the data. Finally, use of SD3 psychometric scale restraints multidimensionality of all Dark Triad traits, and in particular the convoluted nature of Narcissism.

Conclusion

To our knowledge this study was the first to directly examine two competing approaches to antisocial behavior and their relationship to different facets of Impulsivity. Our data support both of the above stated hypotheses since there is a substantial but not complete overlap between the Dark Triad and Amoralism indicating their common core, and that introduction of Impulsivity breaks this common core apart.

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Mračna trijada, amoralnost i impulsivnost

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U savremenim istraživanjima društveno nepoželjnog ponašanja preovlađuje pristup operacionalizovan konstruktom Mračne trijade. Međutim, postoje i drugi teorijski pristupi koji se odnose na društveno averzivne osobine, a koje ovaj konstrukt ne obuhvata. Cilj ovog istraživanja bio je da ispita empirijski odnos između Mračne trijade i Amoralala. Naši podaci pokazuju da postoji veliko preklapanje između ova dva konstrukta, uz značajno odstupanje narcističke komponente Mračne trijade, koja se u priličnoj meri nalazi izvan zajedničkog mernog prostora. Uključivanjem Impulsivnosti u dalju analizu, dolazi do razdvajanja Mračne trijade i Amoralala; to značajno ograničava prvobitni nalaz o monolitnosti prostora određenog sadejstvom Mračne trijade i Amoralala. Zaključujemo da su crte ličnosti, različitog teorijskog i empirijskog porekla (združene u konstrukte Mračne trijade, Amoralala i Impulsivnosti) međusobno povezane na složen i delikatan način koji definiše karakteristične obrasce društveno nepoželjnog ponašanja.

Ključne reči: Mračna trijada, Amoral, Impulsivnost, SD3, Amoral 9, UPPS

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