



## Shared and Unique Dimensions of Antisocial and Narcissistic Personality Disorders: a Trait-Based Analysis

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## Abstract

The study investigates the relationship between Antisocial Personality Disorder (ASPD) and Narcissistic Personality Disorder (NPD) through the lens of personality traits, using the Deenz Antisocial Personality Scale (DAPS-24) and the Deenz Narcissistic Personality Scale (DNPS-32). ASPD and NPD share overlapping features, such as impulsivity, manipulateness, and lack of empathy, but also differ in key aspects like grandiosity and emotional regulation. The research aims to identify correlations between specific personality traits, such as agreeableness and neuroticism, and these disorders. Data collected from 43 participants revealed significant overlaps in traits like hostility, distrust, and lack of empathy, with important distinctions in dimensions such as impulsivity and self-aggrandizement. The findings contribute to a nuanced understanding of the shared and unique features of ASPD and NPD, offering insights for both diagnostic precision and therapeutic intervention.

## Introduction

Antisocial Personality Disorder (ASPD) and Narcissistic Personality Disorder (NPD) are two personality disorders characterized by maladaptive patterns of behavior, cognition, and emotion. While ASPD is marked by impulsivity, disregard for social norms, and aggressive behaviors, NPD is distinguished by grandiosity, a need for admiration, and a lack of empathy. Despite their diagnostic distinctions, the two disorders share several overlapping traits, such as manipulateness, hostility, and a diminished capacity for empathy.

Understanding the relationship between ASPD and NPD is crucial for both clinical and research purposes. The Five-Factor Model (FFM) of personality provides a valuable framework for examining how traits such as agreeableness, neuroticism, and conscientiousness may correlate with these disorders. The current study employs the Deenz Antisocial Personality Scale (DAPS-24) and the Deenz Narcissistic Personality Scale (DNPS-32) to explore these relationships and delineate the shared and unique dimensions of ASPD and NPD.

## Objectives

The primary objectives of the study were:

1. To examine the shared and distinct personality traits associated with ASPD and NPD.
2. To identify correlations between traits like agreeableness and neuroticism and the dimensions measured by DAPS-24 and DNPS-32.
3. To provide evidence for the psychometric properties of DAPS-24 and DNPS-32 in assessing ASPD and NPD traits.

## Dimensions of the Scales

### Deenz Antisocial Personality Scale (DAPS-24)

The DAPS-24 evaluates eight dimensions of antisocial personality traits:

1. **Impulsivity:** Acting without forethought, often leading to risky or harmful behavior.
2. **Hostility:** A tendency to express anger and irritation easily.
3. **Manipulativeness:** Using deceit or exploitation for personal gain.
4. **Lack of Empathy:** Difficulty understanding or caring about others' feelings.
5. **Aggressiveness:** Engaging in hostile or confrontational behavior.
6. **Irresponsibility:** A pattern of neglecting obligations and commitments.
7. **Criminality:** A propensity for engaging in illegal activities.
8. **Emotional Detachment:** Limited emotional responsiveness and shallow affect.

### Deenz Narcissistic Personality Scale (DNPS-32)

The DNPS-32 assesses six dimensions of narcissistic traits:

1. **Grandiosity:** An inflated sense of self-importance and superiority.
2. **Need for Admiration:** Craving validation and praise from others.
3. **Exploitative Behavior:** Using others for personal advantage.
4. **Lack of Empathy:** Difficulty recognizing or valuing others' emotions.
5. **Fragile Self-Esteem:** Sensitivity to criticism and fear of failure.
6. **Arrogance:** Displaying haughty or dismissive attitudes.

## Methodology

### Participants

The study included 43 participants (25 male, 18 female) aged 18 to 60, recruited through online platforms and clinical settings. Participants were screened using the DSM-5 criteria for ASPD and NPD to ensure a representative sample.

### Procedure

Participants completed the DAPS-24 and DNPS-32 along with measures of the Five-Factor Model (e.g., the NEO Personality Inventory). Scores were analyzed to identify correlations between ASPD and NPD traits and broader personality dimensions.

### Data Analysis

Pearson correlation coefficients were calculated to examine relationships between DAPS-24 and DNPS-32 scores and traits like agreeableness, neuroticism, and conscientiousness. Exploratory factor analysis (EFA) was used to assess the underlying structure of the scales.

## Results

1. **Correlations:** Significant negative correlations were found between agreeableness and both ASPD ( $r = -0.68, p < .001$ ) and NPD ( $r = -0.62, p < .001$ ). Neuroticism showed positive correlations with ASPD ( $r = 0.54, p < .001$ ) and NPD ( $r = 0.57, p < .001$ ).
2. **Shared Dimensions:** Both disorders were linked to hostility, lack of empathy, and manipulateness. However, ASPD showed stronger associations with impulsivity and criminality, while NPD was more strongly linked to grandiosity and a need for admiration.
3. **Factor Analysis:** EFA revealed two primary factors underlying the scales: interpersonal exploitation and emotional dysregulation. These factors accounted for 63% of the variance.

## Reliability and Validity

1. **Internal Consistency:** Cronbach's alpha for DAPS-24 was 0.89 and for DNPS-32 was 0.87, indicating strong reliability.
2. **Construct Validity:** Both scales demonstrated significant correlations with established measures of personality disorders, supporting their validity.
3. **Criterion Validity:** Scores on DAPS-24 and DNPS-32 accurately distinguished clinical and non-clinical groups ( $p < .001$ ).

## Implications

The findings highlight the complex interplay between ASPD and NPD, particularly in traits like hostility, manipulateness, and lack of empathy. These insights can:

- Assist clinicians in differentiating between ASPD and NPD for more accurate diagnoses.
- Inform tailored therapeutic interventions targeting specific traits.
- Support further research on the shared and distinct features of personality disorders.

## Appendix

Computerized versions of the [DAPS-24](#) and [DNPS-32](#) are available online. Printable versions, along with scoring instructions, are available upon request for research and clinical use.

## References

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