



The Assessment of Sadistic Personality: Preliminary psychometric evidence for a new measure

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ABSTRACT

Recent research suggests that subclinical sadism should be included in the Dark Triad. However, research on the assessment of sadism as a trait is lacking. To address this, we developed a new self-report measure, the Assessment of Sadistic Personality (ASP). In Study 1, 199 university students completed a preliminary 20-item version of the ASP, measures of the Dark Triad, agreeableness, honesty-humility, emotional intelligence, and sadistic tendencies. Internal consistency was acceptable and convergent validity was supported. After reducing the ASP to nine items, 202 university students completed a replication of Study 1. Internal consistency and convergent validity were again supported. When ASP items were combined with Dark Triad items, exploratory factor analysis supported the anticipated four-factor structure. These results provide preliminary evidence for the reliability and validity of the ASP as a new measure of subclinical sadism appropriate for use in conjunction with existing measures of the Dark Triad.

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1. Introduction

The Dark Triad (Paulhus & Williams, 2002) is composed of three socially malevolent personality traits: psychopathy, narcissism, and Machiavellianism. Psychopathy is characterized by impulsive thrill-seeking, erratic behaviour, charm, and a lack of anxiety and empathy (Paulhus & Williams, 2002). Narcissists are characterized as attention-seekers, fantasize of unlimited success or power, and possess a grandiose sense of importance and entitlement (Emmons, 1987). Machiavellians tend to be deceptive, manipulative, and commonly use deceit or flattery in order to serve their own interests (Jakobwitz & Egan, 2006). Psychopathy, narcissism, and Machiavellianism have garnered considerable attention over the past decade as a constellation of unique traits sharing a common core of emotional coldness, self-promotion, and social deviance (Paulhus, 2014; Paulhus & Williams, 2002). Past findings have been robust in demonstrating that high scores on the Dark Triad traits are consistently associated with low scores on agreeableness, empathy, and honesty-humility, as well as high scores on seductiveness and manipulateness (Lee & Ashton, 2005; Paulhus & Williams, 2002; Veselka, Schermer, & Vernon, 2011).

1.1. Sadism and the 'Dark Tetrad'

Extensive evidence supports the inclusion of a fourth trait, termed subclinical sadism, into the Dark Triad to form a 'Dark Tetrad' of personality (Buckels, Jones, & Paulhus, 2013; Buckels, Trapnell, & Paulhus, 2014; Chabrol, Van Leeuwen, Rodgers, & Séjourné, 2009; Chabrol, Melioli, Van Leeuwen, Rodgers, & Goutaudier, 2015; Međedović & Petrović, 2015). Subclinical sadism refers to the dispositional tendency to engage in cruel, demeaning, or aggressive behaviours for pleasure or dominance (Myers, Burket, & Husted, 2006; O'Meara, Davies, & Hammond, 2011). Sadism is positively associated with the Dark Triad traits, with correlations ranging from 0.27 to 0.37 (Chabrol et al., 2009). Although sadism displays commonalities with psychopathy, narcissism, and Machiavellianism such as low empathy and emotional callousness (e.g., Kirsch & Becker, 2007; Međedović & Petrović, 2015; Paulhus, 2014), research supports the incremental validity of sadism in the prediction of a series of maladaptive behaviours, including "trolling" online, adolescent delinquency, and unprovoked aggression (Buckels et al., 2013; Buckels et al., 2014; Chabrol et al., 2009; Reidy, Zeichner, & Seibert, 2011). Thus, sadism is a unique construct that is related to psychopathy, narcissism, and Machiavellianism (Buckels et al., 2013; Međedović & Petrović, 2015).

Nonetheless, measures designed to assess sadism as a subclinical trait are lacking. The Short Sadistic Impulse Scale (SSIS) is a 10-item self-report scale developed to assess sadism along a continuum from slight sadistic attitudes to pathological sadism (O'Meara et al., 2011). However, a limitation of the SSIS is that its 10 items mainly focus on

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the “hurting” nature of the sadist, leading to a largely homogenous item pool at the expense of content coverage (Zeigler-Hill & Vonk, 2015). The 18-item Comprehensive Assessment of Sadistic Tendencies (CAST; Buckels & Paulhus, 2014) and the 16-item Varieties of Sadistic Tendencies (VAST; Paulhus & Jones, 2015) assess verbal, physical, and vicarious components of sadism. While undoubtedly useful, a shortcoming of the CAST and VAST concerns their potentially limiting description of sadism (e.g., Pfattheicher & Schindler, 2015; Trémolière & Djeriouat, 2016). For instance, there is need for the development of items reflecting the subjugating nature of the sadist, which can be described as “behaving in an overbearing manner toward others and showing absolute disregard for the other’s need” (O’Meara et al., 2011, p. 530).

To address the need for a measure of subclinical sadism with adequate content coverage, we developed a brief 9-item self-report Assessment of Sadistic Personality (ASP) designed to augment the Short Dark Triad (SD3; Jones & Paulhus, 2014). In constructing the ASP, we adhered to three fundamental principles for test construction: (a) an emphasis on psychological theory and item content, (b) maintaining item homogeneity within scales, and (c) fostering convergent validity at the item writing stage (Holden, Fekken, & Jackson, 1985; Jackson, 1970). Thus, items were developed based on an extensive review of the literature, and reflect the sadist’s tendency toward subjugation, tendency to seek pleasure through humiliation, and low empathy. Items also reflect common behaviours manifested by the sadist: intimidation, aggression, antagonism, and humiliation (Buckels et al., 2013; O’Meara et al., 2011).

1.2. Objectives

The objective of Study 1 was to investigate the psychometric properties of the preliminary 20-item ASP, and to subsequently reduce the item pool to a more parsimonious set of items. The objective of Study 2 was to investigate the convergent validity, reliability, and factor structure of the final 9-item ASP. We anticipated scores on the ASP would be positively correlated with the CAST and the three Short Dark Triad factors (psychopathy, narcissism, and Machiavellianism; Jones & Paulhus, 2014). We also expected that sadism would be negatively correlated with trait emotional intelligence, honesty-humility, and agreeableness (Greitemeyer, 2015; Jonason & McCain, 2012; Kirsch & Becker, 2007; Lee & Ashton, 2005; Lee et al., 2013; Međedović & Petrović, 2015). Finally, we predicted that sex differences would emerge on the ASP, with males scoring higher than females on sadism (Furnham & Trickey, 2011; Jonason, Koenig, & Tost, 2010; Paulhus & Williams, 2002).

2. Study 1

2.1. Method

2.1.1. Participants and procedure

A sample of 199 undergraduate students (111 men, 88 women) from a large university in central Canada completed a series of questionnaires online. Students’ ages ranged from 17 to 36 years ($M = 18.74$, $SD = 1.76$).

2.1.2. Measures

2.1.2.1. Subclinical sadism. Subclinical sadism was measured using the preliminary 20-item Assessment of Sadistic Personality (ASP; see Table 1). Following an extensive review of the literature, items were written based upon the operational definition of sadism: a tendency to engage in or think about engaging in cruel, demeaning, or aggressive behaviours for pleasure or subjugation (e.g., O’Meara et al., 2011). Participants responded to items on a 5-point scale (1 = *strongly disagree*, 5 = *strongly agree*).

2.1.2.2. Sadistic tendencies. The 18-item Comprehensive Assessment of Sadistic Tendencies (CAST; Buckels & Paulhus, 2014) consists of three

Table 1

The Assessment of Sadistic Personality original 20-item set with theoretical origins.

Items	
1. I have made fun of people so that they know I am in control.	(Subjugation)
2. People do what I want them to because they are afraid of me.	(Subjugation)
3. When I tell people what to do, they know to do it.	(Subjugation)
4. I never get tired of pushing people around.	(Subjugation)
5. I would hurt somebody if it meant that I would be in control.	(Subjugation)
6. I control my friends through intimidation.	(Subjugation)
7. When I mock someone, it is funny to see them get upset.	(Pleasure-seeking)
8. Being mean to others can be exciting.	(Pleasure-seeking)
9. When I get annoyed, tormenting people makes me feel better.	(Pleasure-seeking)
10. I have hurt people close to me for enjoyment.	(Pleasure-seeking)
11. I enjoy humiliating others.	(Pleasure-seeking)
12. I get pleasure from mocking people in front of their friends.	(Pleasure-seeking)
13. I think about harassing others for enjoyment	(Pleasure-seeking)
14. I have cheated others because I enjoy it.	(Pleasure-seeking)
15. I think about hurting people who irritate me.	(Unempathic)
16. I’d lie to someone to make them upset.	(Unempathic)
17. I have stolen from others without regard for the consequences.	(Unempathic)
18. Making people feel bad about themselves makes me feel good.	(Unempathic)
19. I am quick to humiliate others.	(Unempathic)
20. I have tormented others without feeling remorse.	(Unempathic)

subscales encompassing verbal, physical, and vicarious sadism. Participants responded to items on a 5-point scale (1 = *completely disagree*, 5 = *completely agree*). Prior research supports the reliability and validity of the CAST (e.g., Buckels & Paulhus, 2014).

2.1.2.3. The Dark Triad. Psychopathy, narcissism, and Machiavellianism were measured using the 27-item Short Dark Triad (SD3; Jones & Paulhus, 2014). Participants responded to items on a 5-point scale (1 = *completely disagree*, 5 = *completely agree*). Reliability coefficients for the SD3’s subscales are generally acceptable (Jones & Paulhus, 2014).

2.1.2.4. Trait emotional intelligence. Emotional intelligence was measured using the 30-item Trait Emotional Intelligence Questionnaire – Short Form (TEIQue-SF; Petrides & Furnham, 2006). Participants responded to items on a 7-point scale (1 = *completely disagree*, 7 = *completely agree*). Evidence supports the reliability and validity of the TEIQue-SF (Cooper & Petrides, 2010).

2.1.2.5. Honesty-humility and agreeableness. Honesty-humility and agreeableness were measured using subscales from the HEXACO Personality Inventory-Revised (HEXACO PI-R; Lee & Ashton, 2004). Participants responded to items on a 5-point scale (1 = *strongly disagree*, 5 = *strongly agree*). Prior research supports the reliability and validity of the HEXACO (Lee & Ashton, 2004).

2.2. Results

2.2.1. Descriptive statistics and bivariate correlations

Means, standard deviations, internal consistencies, and bivariate correlations for all scales are shown in Table 2. Bivariate correlations between the tetrad traits, agreeableness, honesty-humility, and trait emotional intelligence were consistent with those reported in previous literature (Buckels & Paulhus, 2014; Cooper & Petrides, 2010; Jones & Paulhus, 2014). Cronbach’s alphas ranged from 0.73 to 0.96. The internal consistency of the ASP was very high ($\alpha = 0.96$), indicating that item content was largely homogeneous, and some items were redundant. Consistent with predictions, the ASP had small-to-large positive correlations with psychopathy, narcissism, and Machiavellianism. In addition, the ASP had small-to-moderate negative associations with trait emotional intelligence, honesty-humility, and agreeableness. Moreover, the ASP showed large positive correlations with the CAST (Buckels & Paulhus, 2014).

Table 2
Descriptive statistics and bivariate correlations – Study 1.

Variable	M	SD	α	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1. ASP	36.24	15.17	.96									
2. Psychopathy	22.12	6.63	.83	.66***								
3. Mach	28.76	6.16	.81	.32***	.51***							
4. Narcissism	27.72	5.10	.73	.23***	.36***	.39***						
5. Trait EI	141.60	22.10	.89	-.33***	-.23**	-.15*	.38***					
6. Honesty-humility	49.25	9.51	.83	-.41***	-.59***	-.53***	-.51***	.02				
7. Agreeableness	47.96	8.07	.89	-.33***	-.33***	-.26***	-.20**	.25***	.31***			
8. Physical sadism	8.20	4.19	.90	.85***	.60***	.24***	.12	-.32***	-.34***	-.21**		
9. Verbal sadism	13.30	5.19	.83	.74***	.57***	.37***	.24***	.25***	-.48***	-.36***	.65***	
10. Vicarious sadism	15.48	6.01	.86	.56***	.52***	.25***	.13	-.17*	-.32***	-.05	.60***	.57***

Note. ASP = original 20-item Assessment of Sadistic Personality; physical, verbal, and vicarious sadism refer to Comprehensive Assessment of Sadistic Tendencies subscales.

α = Cronbach's alpha.

* $p < .05$.

** $p < .01$.

*** $p < .001$.

2.2.2. Gender differences

In line with past findings on sex differences in the Dark Triad traits (Furnham & Trickey, 2011; Jonason et al., 2010; Paulhus & Williams, 2002), males scored significantly higher ($M = 40.12$, $SD = 15.51$) than females ($M = 31.37$, $SD = 13.28$) on sadism, $t(192) = 4.16$, $p < 0.001$, Cohen's $d = 0.61$.

2.2.3. Exploratory factor analyses of Dark Triad and Assessment of Sadistic Personality items

To test for the existence of a 'Dark Tetrad,' the dimensionality of the 20 ASP items, as well as the 27 SD3 items, was analyzed using principal axis factoring with Promax (oblique) rotation. The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin measure of sampling adequacy was 0.91, indicating that the data were acceptable for factor analysis. Three criteria were used to determine the number of factors to extract: a priori hypotheses for the existence of a 'Dark Tetrad,' a scree plot, and factor loadings. As the scree plot and loadings did not support the initial four-factor structure hypothesis, we forced a three-factor solution, which yielded three interpretable factors. Factor 1 (sadism/psychopathy) accounted for 32.34% of the variance, Factor 2 (Machiavellianism) accounted for 8.13% of the variance, and Factor 3 (narcissism) accounted for 3.67% of the variance among items.

2.3. Discussion

Scores on the ASP showed patterns of correlations with trait emotional intelligence, honesty-humility, and agreeableness that were comparable to those of the Dark Triad (Lee & Ashton, 2005; Paulhus & Williams, 2002; Veselka et al., 2011). This was also consistent with past findings demonstrating that high scores on sadism were associated with low honesty-humility (e.g., Mededović & Petrović, 2015), lack of empathy that may reflect limited emotional intelligence (e.g., Kirsch & Becker, 2007; Trémolière & Djeriouat, 2016), and low agreeableness (Greitemeyer, 2015). As expected, scores on the ASP correlated with the triad traits (e.g., Chabrol et al., 2009; Greitemeyer, 2015). Scores on the ASP also correlated positively with a published measure of sadism (i.e., CAST), providing preliminary evidence for convergent validity. Findings from Study 1 showed that sex differences on sadism replicated those in previous studies of the Dark Triad traits (e.g., Furnham & Trickey, 2011; Jonason et al., 2010; Paulhus & Williams, 2002), with males exhibiting higher mean levels of sadism than females.

When all tetrad traits were entered into a factor analysis, the cross-loadings between sadism and psychopathy items indicated that the two constructs overlapped considerably. However, past research investigating the factor structure of sadism and psychopathy has identified the traits as separate entities (e.g., Mokros, Osterheider, Hucker, & Nitschke, 2011). Thus, it is likely that the original ASP item pool

consisted of items reflecting psychopathy (e.g., "I have stolen from others without regard for the consequences"). Although these items represent instrumental aggression or cruelty, they neglect a defining feature of sadism: derivation of pleasure from cruelty (Buckels et al., 2013). These 'psychopathy' items were subsequently eliminated for Study 2.

3. Study 2

3.1. Method

3.1.1. Participants and procedure

A group of 202 undergraduate students (54 men, 148 women) at a large Canadian university completed questionnaires online for course credit. Students' ages ranged from 17 to 26 years ($M = 18.59$, $SD = 1.21$).

3.1.2. Measures

Subclinical sadism was measured using the reduced 9-item Assessment of Sadistic Personality (see Table 3). Participants responded to items on a 5-point scale (1 = *strongly disagree*, 5 = *strongly agree*). Seven items from Study 1 were retained, and 11 redundant items or items reflecting psychopathy were discarded. Two new items were written for Study 2. The reverse-coded item "I would not purposely hurt anybody, even if I didn't like them" was included to reduce potential acquiescent responding. The item "Watching people get into fights excites me" was included to assess the vicarious component of sadism. With the exception of the revised 9-item ASP, the measures employed in Study 2 were identical to the measures used in Study 1.

3.2. Results

3.2.1. Descriptive statistics and bivariate correlations

Means, standard deviations, internal consistencies, and bivariate correlations are shown in Table 4. Internal consistency of the revised

Table 3
Revised Assessment of Sadistic Personality items and theoretical origins – Study 2.

Items	
1. I have made fun of people so that they know I am in control.	(Subjugation)
2. I never get tired of pushing people around.	(Subjugation)
3. I would hurt somebody if it meant that I would be in control.	(Subjugation)
4. When I mock someone, it is funny to see them get upset.	(Pleasure-seeking)
5. Being mean to others can be exciting.	(Pleasure-seeking)
6. I get pleasure from mocking people in front of their friends.	(Pleasure-seeking)
7. Watching people get into fights excites me.	(Pleasure-seeking)
8. I think about hurting people who irritate me.	(Unempathic)
9. I would not purposely hurt anybody, even if I didn't like them.	(Unempathic)

ASP was acceptable ($\alpha = 0.83$). Consistent with Study 1, the ASP had small-to-large positive correlations with psychopathy, narcissism, and Machiavellianism. Similarly, consistent with Study 1, the ASP had small-to-large negative associations with trait emotional intelligence, honesty-humility, and agreeableness. Moreover, the ASP again showed large positive correlations with the CAST.

3.2.2. Sex differences

Consistent with Study 1, males again scored significantly higher ($M = 17.41$, $SD = 6.04$) than females ($M = 14.67$, $SD = 5.29$) on sadism, $t(199) = 3.13$, $p < 0.01$, Cohen's $d = 0.48$.

3.2.3. Exploratory factor analyses of Dark Triad and Assessment of Sadistic Personality items

The dimensionality of the revised 9-item ASP as well as the 27-item SD3 was analyzed using principal axis factoring with oblique rotation (see Table 5). The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin measure of sampling adequacy was 0.83. The scree plot and parallel analysis both suggested that four factors should be extracted. In addition, the rotated solution yielded four interpretable factors. Factor 1 (sadism) accounted for 21.47% of the variance, Factor 2 (Machiavellianism) accounted for 4.30% of the variance, Factor 3 (psychopathy) accounted for 3.44% of the variance, and Factor 4 (narcissism) accounted for 2.74% of the variance among items.

3.3. Discussion

The aim of Study 2 was to examine the reduced 9-item ASP together with the triad factors. The same pattern of correlations and sex differences emerged as in Study 1. Additionally, when all tetrad traits were entered into a factor analysis, four interpretable factors emerged, providing support for the existence of sadism as a unique construct that is related to psychopathy, narcissism, and Machiavellianism. Thus, the results of this study support recent literature (e.g., Buckels et al., 2013; Međedović & Petrović, 2015) contending that each of the tetrad traits represent separate constructs, and that sadism cannot be reduced to the other traits.

4. General discussion

The aim of the present research was to provide preliminary evidence in support of a new 9-item Assessment of Sadistic Personality (ASP) designed to augment the Short Dark Triad (SD3). We also aimed to show that sadism is a unique construct that is related enough to measures of psychopathy, narcissism, and Machiavellianism to warrant study of a 'Dark Tetrad' of personality. Study 1 evaluated a preliminary 20-item version of ASP, whereas Study 2 evaluated the reduced 9-item ASP. In both studies, convergent validity for the ASP was demonstrated.

Recent literature has asserted that sadism has a distinct profile from the Dark Triad traits, and explains unique variance in outcomes such as enjoyment of cruelty and delinquency (Buckels et al., 2013; Buckels et al., 2014; Chabrol et al., 2009). Nonetheless, despite its uniqueness, sadism and the triad overlap enough to warrant study of a 'Dark Tetrad' of personality (Buckels et al., 2013; Chabrol et al., 2009; Furnham, Richards, & Paulhus, 2013). For instance, some commonalities between the traits include a lack of empathy, limited emotional involvement, and emotional callousness (Kirsch & Becker, 2007; Međedović & Petrović, 2015; Paulhus, 2014). In Study 1, when all tetrad traits were entered into a factor analysis, the cross-loadings between sadism and psychopathy items indicated that the two constructs overlapped considerably. Assessment of Sadistic Personality items reflecting psychopathy were subsequently discarded. In Study 2, the hypothesized four-factor Dark Tetrad structure emerged, providing evidence for the existence of a Dark Tetrad of personality.

The ASP has been introduced as a concise measure of subclinical sadism. The scale possesses several notable features. Relative to existing measures of sadism, such as the SSIS, a particular strength of the ASP is its content coverage. Although this 9-item scale is brief, its items span the full content domain, and reflect the sadist's cruelty, controlling nature, tendency to seek pleasure, and lack of empathy (O'Meara et al., 2011). An additional strength of the ASP is that it can be used in conjunction with the SD3 to concisely assess a Dark Tetrad of personality.

4.1. Limitations and future directions

The present findings should be considered in light of their limitations. Future studies should expand the sampling domain beyond undergraduate students to determine whether the results generalize to wider demographic groups. Although preliminary evidence for convergent validity was established for the ASP, future research should also seek to provide further support for this scale (i.e., discriminant, criterion, and construct validity). Additionally, it would be beneficial to investigate whether the ASP predicts relevant criteria such as academic misconduct or delinquency among undergraduate and community populations. Test-retest reliability is also needed to support the trait structure of the scale. Finally, future studies should further clarify the factor structure of the proposed 'Dark Tetrad' of personality using confirmatory factor analytic procedures.

4.2. Concluding remarks

The current studies evaluated two versions of the Assessment of Sadistic Personality. Preliminary evidence for convergent validity was shown, and some support was provided for the existence of sadism as a personality construct that is related to, albeit distinguishable from,

Table 4
Descriptive statistics and bivariate correlations – Study 2.

Variable	M	SD	α	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1. ASP	15.41	5.62	.83									
2. Psychopathy	19.33	5.42	.75	.66***								
3. Mach	28.34	5.66	.78	.53***	.56***							
4. Narcissism	26.50	4.41	.59	.28***	.31***	.34***						
5. Trait EI	147.48	18.97	.85	-.23***	-.25***	-.11	.32***					
6. Honesty-humility	51.66	8.87	.80	-.51***	-.49***	-.58***	-.41***	.11				
7. Agreeableness	47.19	7.80	.77	-.33***	-.31***	-.28***	-.09	.35***	.30***			
8. Physical sadism	7.41	3.53	.86	.66***	.61***	.39***	.27***	-.19***	-.51***	-.22***		
9. Verbal sadism	11.69	4.63	.82	.73***	.55***	.47***	.27***	-.18*	-.38***	-.21***	.58***	
10. Vicarious sadism	13.08	4.62	.79	.40***	.38***	.28***	.13	-.01	-.20**	-.07	.46***	.39***

Note. ASP = 9-item Assessment of Sadistic Personality; physical, verbal, and vicarious sadism refer to Comprehensive Assessment of Sadistic Tendencies subscales.

α = Cronbach's alpha.

* $p < .05$.

** $p < .01$.

*** $p < .001$.

Table 5
Pattern matrix factor loadings for “Dark Tetrad” items – Study 2.

Subscale/item	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3	Factor 4
M1. You should wait for the right time to get back at people.	.62	–.08	.24	.02
M2. Whatever it takes, you must get the important people on your side.	.62	.16	.10	–.18
M3. It's wise to keep track of information you can use against people later.	.61	–.08	.14	.13
M4. Avoid direct conflict with others because they may be useful in the future.	.53	–.06	–.10	–.06
M5. It's not wise to tell your secrets.	.48	–.09	–.17	.06
M6. I like to use clever manipulation to get my way.	.45	.14	.20	.14
M7. There are things you should hide from other people because they don't need to know.	.42	–.05	–.05	.03
M8. Most people can be manipulated.	.27	.12	–.01	.16
M9. Make sure your plans benefit you, not others.	.24	–.03	.28	–.07
N1. People see me as a natural leader.	–.13	.62	–.17	.06
N2. I hate being the centre of attention.	.01	.54	–.21	.13
N3. I like to get acquainted with important people.	.30	.48	–.17	–.02
N4. I know that I am special because everyone keeps telling me so.	–.04	.48	.25	–.09
N5. Many group activities tend to be dull without me.	–.04	.46	.20	–.05
N6. I have been compared to famous people.	–.07	.37	.20	–.01
N7. I am an average person.	–.06	.28	.06	.02
N8. I feel embarrassed if someone compliments me.	.25	–.02	–.32	.27
N9. I insist on getting the respect I deserve.	.24	.01	.16	–.19
P1. Payback needs to be quick and nasty.	.11	–.10	.70	–.01
P2. I like to get revenge on authorities.	.03	–.03	.56	.13
P3. People who mess with me always regret it.	.12	.14	.56	.06
P4. People often say I'm out of control.	–.07	–.16	.51	.29
P5. I'll say anything to get what I want.	.11	.12	.45	.19
P6. I enjoy having sex with people I hardly know.	–.25	.08	.30	.41
P7. I have never gotten into trouble with the law.	–.28	–.01	.25	.17
P8. I avoid dangerous situations.	–.15	.09	.22	.10
P9. It's true I can be mean to others.	.23	–.02	–.09	.36
S1. Being mean to others can be exciting.	–.02	–.02	.04	.75
S2. When I mock someone, it is funny to see them get upset.	–.12	.01	–.07	.69
S3. I have made fun of people so that they know I am in control.	.20	.04	–.16	.57
S4. Watching people get into fights excites me.	–.07	.03	.09	.56
S5. I would hurt somebody if it meant that I would be in control.	.14	–.07	.19	.53
S6. I would not purposely hurt anybody, even if I didn't like them.	–.07	–.03	.15	.50
S7. I think about hurting people who irritate me.	.20	–.04	–.04	.49
S8. I get pleasure from mocking people in front of their friends.	–.05	.10	.11	.44
S9. I never get tired of pushing people around.	–.06	.06	.16	.44

Note. M = Machiavellianism, N = narcissism, P = psychopathy, S = sadism. Bolded values represent loadings > .30.

the Dark Triad traits. In summary, the ASP appears to be a promising new measurement tool of this emerging construct.

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