

Poster Title: An Expanded Version of the Hypersensitive Narcissism Scale
(The Maladaptive Covert Narcissism Scale)

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Poster Abstract

The fundamental distinction between overt and covert narcissism in the normal range of individual differences (e.g., Wink, 1991) finally has become accepted in personality and social psychological research (e.g., Miller et al., 2011). These two factors or “faces” of maladaptive narcissism were named Grandiosity-Exhibitionism (overt) and Vulnerability-Sensitivity (covert) by Wink. Hendin and Cheek (1997) constructed a new scale by correlating items from Murray’s (1938) Narcism Scale with a composite of the two MMPI-based measures of covert narcissism used in Wink’s research. The resulting 10-item measure was named the Hypersensitive Narcissism Scale (HSNS). According to PsycINFO, the Hendin and Cheek (1997) article was cited only 15 times in the first 10 years after its publication but more than 80 times since 2007. The purpose of the present research was to improve the reliability and item content of the recently popular HSNS by expanding it into a more complete measure of maladaptive covert narcissism.

In an Amazon Mechanical Turk survey of 420 adults, the 23-item expanded version of the Maladaptive Covert Narcissism Scale (MCNS) had an alpha reliability of .89 compared to .75 for the original HSNS; it correlated .65 with the MMPI measure of covert narcissism compared to .30 with the maladaptive overt narcissism factor of the NPI and -.16 with the Adaptive Overt Narcissism Scale (Cheek, Wink, Hargreaves, & Derr, 2013). As may be seen in Table 2, correlations with shame divided overt and covert maladaptive narcissism (.02 vs. .58) and correlations with entitlement rage connected overt and covert maladaptive narcissism (.55 and .64). The new MCNS showed very similar correlations with the Big Five Inventory scales as the original HSNS had in Hendin and Cheek (1997) except for a substantially more negative correlation with conscientiousness. In our second sample of 182 college women, the MCNS had an alpha of .85, a correlation of .66 with the MMPI measure of covert narcissism, and similar correlations with the Big Five Inventory scales except for a more modest negative correlation with conscientiousness (-.16; these results are not show in Table 2).

Overall, the present results indicate that the new scale represents a significant improvement in the assessment of maladaptive covert narcissism.

References for text and tables

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Table 1: Item characteristics of the Maladaptive Covert Narcissism Scale

Items	Loading on First Unrotated Factor ^a	Item correlation with remainder of scale ^b
1. I can become entirely absorbed in thinking about my personal affairs, my health, my cares or my relations to others.	.34	.29
2. My feelings are easily hurt by ridicule or by the slighting remarks of others.	.52	.44
3. When I enter a room I often become self-conscious and feel that the eyes of others are upon me.	.56	.47
4. I dislike sharing the credit of achievement with others.	.45	.35
5. I feel that I have enough on my hands without worrying about other people's troubles.	.43	.45
6. I feel that I am temperamentally different from most people.	.41	.27
7. I often interpret the remarks of others in a personal way.	.58	.42
8. I easily become wrapped up in my own interests and forget the existence of others.	.45	.36
9. I dislike being with a group unless I know that I am appreciated by at least one of those present.	.54	.28
10. I am secretly annoyed when other people come to me with their troubles, asking me for my sympathy.	.40	.34
11. I am jealous of good-looking people.	.51	.49
12. I tend to feel humiliated when criticized.	.58	.48
13. I wonder why other people aren't more appreciative of my good qualities.	.53	.33
14. I see other people as being either great or terrible.	.47	.41
15. I sometimes have fantasies about being violent without knowing why.	.49	.30
16. I am especially sensitive to success and failure.	.53	.40
17. I have problems that nobody else understands.	.57	.56
18. I try to avoid rejection at all costs.	.57	.41
19. My secret thoughts, feelings, and actions would horrify some of my friends.	.53	.56
20. I tend to become involved in relationships in which I alternately adore and despise the other person.	.46	.47
21. Even when I am in a group of friends, I often feel very alone and uneasy.	.63	.36
22. I resent others who have what I lack.	.60	.58
23. Defeat or disappointment usually shame or anger me, but I try not to show it.	.59	.38

Note. The first 10 items are the HSNS and the next 13 items were added to make the 23-item MCNS; these two sets of item correlated .76 with each other (N = 420).

a. N = 420 adult men and women; b. N = 182 college women

Table 2: Correlations among Measures of Narcissism and with Emotion and Big 5 Scales

	Adaptive Overt Narcissism Scale AONS	Adaptive Narcissistic Personality Inventory-10 items	Maladaptive Narcissistic Personality Inventory -20 items	Maladaptive Overt Narcissism Scale MONS	MMPI Covert Narc. Composite	Maladaptive Covert Narcissism Scale MCNS
AONS	(.88)					
Adaptive NPI-10	.49	(.78)				
Maladaptive NPI-20	.19	.58	(.82)			
MONS	.15	.45	.65	(.78)		
MMPI Covert	-.22	-.11	.20	.19	(.72)	
MCNS	-.16	-.03	.30	.45	.65	(.89)
Entitlement Rage (PNI)	-.08	.24	.55	.55	.43	.64
Shame (FFNI)	-.22	-.24	.02	.06	.49	.58
Self Esteem (Rosenberg)	.47	.26	-.03	-.08	-.61	-.54
Neuroticism	-.23	-.25	-.01	.00	.60	.58
Extraversion	.48	.49	.26	.16	-.30	-.30
Openness	.62	.12	-.03	-.06	-.06	-.10
Agreeableness	.19	-.09	-.34	-.34	-.37	-.48
Conscientiousness	.38	.14	-.23	-.23	-.44	-.44

Note. Numbers in parentheses are alpha coefficients of internal consistency reliability for each scale.

$N = 420$; Correlations $> +/- .10$ are statistically significant $p < .05$.

Sample means and standard deviations by gender for the 23-item MCNS

Females $M = 66.70$ $SD = 14.93$ ($n = 249$)

Males $M = 68.40$ $SD = 13.96$ ($n = 171$) [$t(418) = 1.18, ns$]

From Wellesley data:

College women $M = 67.69$ $SD = 12.83$ ($n = 582$)

The Maladaptive Covert Narcissism Scale (MCNS; Cheek, Hendin, & Wink, 2013)

[The first 10 items are the Hypersensitive Narcissism Scale (HSNS; Hendin & Cheek 1997)]

Please answer the following questions by deciding to what extent each item is characteristic of your feelings and behavior. Fill in the blank next to each item by choosing a number from the scale printed below.

1 = very uncharacteristic or untrue, strongly disagree

2 = uncharacteristic

3 = neutral

4 = characteristic

5 = very characteristic or true, strongly agree

- ___ 1. I can become entirely absorbed in thinking about my personal affairs, my health, my cares or my relations to others.
- ___ 2. My feelings are easily hurt by ridicule or by the slighting remarks of others.
- ___ 3. When I enter a room I often become self-conscious and feel that the eyes of others are upon me.
- ___ 4. I dislike sharing the credit of an achievement with others.
- ___ 5. I feel that I have enough on my hands without worrying about other people's troubles.
- ___ 6. I feel that I am temperamentally different from most people.
- ___ 7. I often interpret the remarks of others in a personal way.
- ___ 8. I easily become wrapped up in my own interests and forget the existence of others.
- ___ 9. I dislike being with a group unless I know that I am appreciated by at least one of those present.
- ___ 10. I am secretly "put out" or annoyed when other people come to me with their troubles, asking me for my time and sympathy.
- ___ 11. I am jealous of good-looking people.
- ___ 12. I tend to feel humiliated when criticized.
- ___ 13. I wonder why other people aren't more appreciative of my good qualities.
- ___ 14. I tend to see other people as being either great or terrible.

MCNS, continued

1 = very uncharacteristic or untrue, strongly disagree

2 = uncharacteristic

3 = neutral

4 = characteristic

5 = very characteristic or true, strongly agree

- ___ 15. I sometimes have fantasies about being violent without knowing why.
- ___ 16. I am especially sensitive to success and failure.
- ___ 17. I have problems that nobody else seems to understand.
- ___ 18. I try to avoid rejection at all costs.
- ___ 19. My secret thoughts, feelings, and actions would horrify some of my friends.
- ___ 20. I tend to become involved in relationships in which I alternately adore and despise the other person.
- ___ 21. Even when I am in a group of friends, I often feel very alone and uneasy.
- ___ 22. I resent others who have what I lack.
- ___ 23. Defeat or disappointment usually shame or anger me, but I try not to show it.

Appendix

Table 1 of Cheek, Wink, Hargreaves, & Derr, 2013 APA poster		
<i>The 20 Items of the Adaptive Overt Narcissism Scale</i>		
Item	Loading on first unrotated factor ^a	Item correlation with remainder of scale ^b
1. I value my own independence and autonomy.	.59	.31
2. I set big goals for myself.	.57	.49
3. I have a wide range of interests.	.61	.44
4. I have a high degree of intellectual capacity.	.65	.50
5. I tend to have an unconventional way of thinking.	.49	.40
6. I genuinely value intellectual and cognitive matters.	.56	.44
7. I am verbally fluent and can express ideas well.	.60	.51
8. I appreciate art and beauty.	.47	.36
9. I tend to be submissive; more of a follower than a leader. (R)	.35	.36
10. I give up or even withdraw in the face of frustration and adversity. (R)	.35	.28
11. My friends follow my lead.	.47	.46
12. I'm witty and charming with others.	.53	.46
13. I have great faith in my own ideas and my own initiative. ^c	.48	--
14. Resourceful	.59	.55
15. Persevering	.56	.45
16. Individualistic	.54	.48
17. Clever	.65	.57
18. Outgoing	.41	.46
19. Ambitious	.57	.57
20. Self-Confident	.45	.33

Note. (R) indicates a reverse worded item to be recoded before computing the scale score.

^a*N* = 420 adult men and women; ^b*N* = 175 college women

^cItem 13 was not included in the sample of college women

The Adaptive Overt Narcissism Scale [AONS; Cheek, Wink, Hargreaves, & Derr, 2013]

For each of the following statements and adjectives, please rate to what extent you feel that the statement describes you:

- 1 = not at all
- 2 = very little
- 3 = neutral
- 4 = very much
- 5 = extremely

- ___ 1. I value my own independence and autonomy.
- ___ 2. I set big goals for myself.
- ___ 3. I have a wide range of interests.
- ___ 4. I have a high degree of intellectual capacity.
- ___ 5. I tend to have an unconventional way of thinking.
- ___ 6. I genuinely value intellectual and cognitive matters.
- ___ 7. I am verbally fluent and can express ideas well.
- ___ 8. I appreciate art and beauty.
- ___ 9. I tend to be submissive, more of a follower than a leader. (**R**)
- ___ 10. I give up or even withdraw in the face of frustration and adversity. (**R**)
- ___ 11. My friends follow my lead.
- ___ 12. I'm witty and charming with others.
- ___ 13. I have great faith in my own ideas and my own initiative.
- ___ 14. Resourceful
- ___ 15. Persevering
- ___ 16. Individualistic
- ___ 17. Clever
- ___ 18. Outgoing
- ___ 19. Ambitious
- ___ 20. Self-Confident