NARCISSISM: ROMANTIC PARTNER AND RELATIONSHIP CHARACTERISTICS

by

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(Under the Direction of Joshua D. Miller)

ABSTRACT

Narcissism has serious negative interpersonal consequences, including within romantic relationships. The present study investigated personality and relationship quality variables in a sample of 103 couples. The present study explored the characteristics of partners of narcissistic individuals as well as patterns of relationship quality for grandiose, entitled/exploitative and vulnerable narcissism, particularly in the context of varying relationship duration. While there were no clear patterns of partner characteristics, support was found for lower relationship adjustment over time in narcissistic relationships characterized by exploitativeness and entitlement. Findings are discussed with the goal of further understanding the cycle of distress and dissatisfaction that is common in romantic relationships where narcissism is a factor.

INDEX WORDS: Narcissism, Romantic Relationships, Couples, Exploitation, Entitlement, Grandiose Narcissism, Vulnerable Narcissism

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Narcissism is on the rise (Twenge, Konrath, Foster, Campbell, & Bushman, 2008). Since 1982, narcissism scores have increased by over thirty percent. The idea that an inflated self-concept negatively affects relational functioning has been increasingly supported in recent literature (e.g., Campbell & Campbell, 2009); thus there is a need to understand the dynamics of romantic relationships between narcissistic individuals and their partners (Campbell & Foster, 2002). The goal of the present study is to further investigate some of the variables that may play a role in relational functioning of narcissistic individuals – with attention to the individual differences of their romantic partners.

Individuals with narcissistic personality disorder (NPD) and/or trait narcissism possess a sense of self-importance, are preoccupied with fantasies of success and admiration, believe themselves to be superior or special, and expect preferential treatment (American Psychological Association, 2000). Narcissism is also linked to a lack of empathy, sense of entitlement, and envy. Such individuals demand special treatment and are often focused on their own problems at the expense of those of others. They are often interpersonally exploitative and possess a set of behaviors that sometimes seem paradoxical (Morf & Rhodewalt, 2001). Narcissistic individuals may at first appear charming and confident, but their behaviors can have significant negative effects for family members, friends, and romantic partners (Miller, Campbell, & Pilkonis, 2007).

No discussion of narcissism is complete without considering the current movement in the literature to differentiate between grandiose and vulnerable dimensions of narcissism (see Pincus

& Lukowitsky, 2010). Grandiose narcissism is linked to extraversion, dominance, self-assurance, exhibitionism, and aggression; vulnerable narcissism is distinguished by a blend of introversion, defensiveness, anxiety, interpersonal coldness and hostility, as well as vulnerability to stress (Wink, 1991). While both narcissism dimensions or variants are associated with interpersonal antagonism, they differ in regard to the interpersonal tactics employed, which could affect the types of romantic partners that are selected as well as how these partners are affected by these traits. Grandiose narcissism is associated with interpersonal problems that are linked to vindictiveness and domineering styles, while denying personal distress, suggesting that they may lack insight into the difficulties they cause others (Dickinson & Pincus, 2003). Individuals with high vulnerable narcissism scores reported similar vindictive and domineering interpersonal problems, but they were more likely to withdraw or maintain distance coldly and they also reported higher levels of distress. This distancing may be a way of dealing with challenges to the self-concept that are exposed in a close relationship. For example, in a study of Japanese students, vulnerable narcissism predicted anger and hostility (Okada, 2010). For this subset of students, recalling a social rejection led to aggressive evaluations of the individual who rejected them.

Over time, narcissistic personality disorder (NPD) and narcissistic traits have serious interpersonal consequences (Miller, Campbell, & Pilkonis, 2007). In a clinical sample, NPD symptoms were linked to impairment in work, social, and romantic settings. In particular, these symptoms caused pain and suffering in romantic partners, as well as family members and friends. These impairments were present initially and at a six-month follow-up. As Campbell and Campbell (2009) point out, until recently, little attention has been paid to the romantic partners of narcissistic individuals. The authors present a contextual reinforcement model, characterized

by an initial "emerging zone" at the beginning of a relationship and a later "enduring zone" as the relationship continues. The emerging zone contains mostly benefits for the narcissistic individual (e.g., engagement in short-term sexual relationships), though after time, the costs outweigh the benefits in the enduring zone (i.e., requirements of commitment and fidelity). Similarly, romantic partners of narcissistic individuals may experience a rush of excitement and satisfaction in a new relationship, which turns to dissatisfaction and distress as the relationship proceeds.

This change over time has been called the chocolate cake model by Campbell and colleagues (Campbell, 2005). Chocolate cake serves as a metaphor for a relationship with someone who is narcissistic: initially, eating chocolate cake is pleasant and enjoyable, but it also comes with long-term costs if eaten over time (e.g., weight gain, discomfort, sugar crash) that lead to dissatisfaction. Similarly, when partners were asked to rate their relationship satisfaction at the beginning and end of their relationship, those who were dating narcissistic individuals noted a significant discrepancy between those time points that was not as pronounced as those rating non-narcissistic relationships (Brunell & Campbell, 2011). Even beyond romantic relationships, this model is consistent with work that suggests that narcissistic individuals are initially well-liked by others but that this sentiment decreases with time and increased exposure (Paulhus, 1998).

Narcissistic entitlement and exploitation can have serious negative consequences for relationship quality, especially in terms of closeness, affectional expression, and satisfaction. Entitlement refers to the unreasonable expectation of special treatment, and exploitation refers to taking advantage of others for one's own personal gain. This entitled/exploitative aspect of narcissism (E/E) has been conceptualized as the "socially toxic" component of grandiose

narcissism by Ackerman and colleagues (Ackerman, Witt, Donnellan, Trzesniewski, Robins, & Kashy, 2011) and as the potential "core of pathological narcissism" by Dickinson and Pincus (2003). E/E may be a key aspect of the relationship dysfunction seen in narcissism. For instance, individuals scoring highly on narcissistic entitlement and exploitativeness were more likely to administer electrical shocks to a confederate in a laboratory aggression paradigm (Reidy, Zeichner, Foster, & Martinez, 2008). Additionally, in a series of six studies, narcissistic entitlement was a consistent predictor of unforgiveness (i.e., reluctance to forgive), which can also negatively impact romantic relationships (Exline et al., 2004).

There are a number of possible explanations for why narcissism is ultimately related to problematic functioning in romantic endeavors. For instance, self-enhancement, or rating oneself in an overly positive light when compared to ratings by others, is consistently linked with narcissism and narcissistic personality disorder (Campbell & Campbell, 2009). Essentially, narcissistic individuals look for ways to maintain their inflated self-concept, especially in romantic contexts (Campbell, 1999). Self-enhancement is correlated with behaviors generally considered to be maladaptive in interpersonal contexts (Colvin, Block, & Funder, 1995). Individuals who self enhanced were more likely to be rated by outside examiners and friends as aggressive, hostile, and lacking in social skills. These ratings were consistent in a laboratory setting and longitudinally after five years. Over time, self-enhancing behaviors can become detrimental to a romantic relationship. Those in relationships with narcissistic individuals incur multiple long-term costs due to negative consequences from decisions made by their partners (Campbell & Campbell, 2009). A longitudinal analysis of social relationships revealed that strangers' initial likeable impressions of narcissistic individuals later reversed polarity after further acquaintance (Paulhus, 1998).

Not surprisingly, the literature base connecting narcissism and romantic attraction focuses mostly on the perspective of the narcissistic individuals. Campbell's (1999) self-orientation model of narcissism and romantic attraction posits that individuals with narcissistic tendencies employ a self-regulatory strategy in which interpersonal relationships serve to positively enhance self-concept. Simply put, from this framework, narcissistic individuals use romantic relationships to maintain their sense of superiority. Self-enhancement becomes the end goal. In a series of five studies that investigated how narcissism related to preference and attraction, this model was supported (Campbell, 1999). Based on this work, the kind of person to whom a narcissistic individual is likely to pursue romantically is self-oriented (e.g., admiring and highly positive). Conversely, narcissistic individuals are less attracted to other-oriented individuals who are caring and emotionally needy. Of note, these studies used the Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI) to assess narcissism, which is believed to assess grandiose narcissism. At this time, very little is known about the manner in which vulnerable narcissism affects romantic functioning. However, given vulnerable narcissism shares a tendency to be self-centered callous with grandiose narcissism one might hypothesize that vulnerable individuals would likely also prefer to date romantic partners who will serve as sources of self-enhancement. This may be more difficult for vulnerably narcissistic individuals to achieve, however, due to their more neurotic and introverted personality traits.

Even in a collectivistic culture that emphasizes communal values over self-focused goals, narcissism predicted attraction to individuals who provided an opportunity for self-enhancement (Tanchotsrinon, Maneesri, & Campbell, 2007). While all Thai participants were attracted to caring individuals, participants with grandiose narcissistic characteristics were more attracted to admiring and high status partners. These types of individuals were characterized as "very

charming," "the best looking person at the party," and "one of the top students in the faculty of medicine" in the vignettes. Attraction to these social and flattering individuals suggests that these are the types of people that narcissistic individuals will pursue romantically.

Narcissism is also associated with game playing, or displaying unclear and inconsistent commitment to the relationship, which is linked to manipulation and need for power (Campbell, Foster, & Finkel, 2002). Not only did narcissistic individuals self-report a game-playing love style, but present and past partners confirmed their game-playing tendencies. Another possible explanation for the dysfunction often seen in narcissistic relationships is attention to alternatives (AA). High AA means that an individual frequently notices and appraises other potential partners while in a current relationship. In a seminal study, high attention to alternatives (AA) was negatively associated with relationship satisfaction, investment, commitment, and adjustment (Miller, 1997). In fact, for this sample of over 200 college students, high AA was the best predictor of relationship failure after a 2 month follow-up. Conversely, commitment has been defined as when members of the relationship are no longer attending to alternatives (Leik & Leik, 1977). For this reason, the presence of AA in relationships with narcissistic individuals suggests that commitment will be low. This was confirmed in a study by Campbell and Foster (2002), where narcissism was negatively related to commitment. This relationship was mediated by AA, as measured by both desirability of alternatives (see Rusbult & Buunk, 1993) and actual attention given to alternatives (e.g., flirting; see Miller, 1997). Foster, Shira, and Campbell (2006) proposed a model of narcissism and relationship commitment, establishing that sociosexuality (i.e., unrestricted sexual attitudes and behaviors) explains low relationship commitment exhibited by narcissistic individuals.

A look at social networks may also provide some clues to the influence of narcissism in the relationship context. Social network analysis is a method of quantifying aspects of interpersonal relationships; a network consists of a group of individuals connected through some commonality. When asked to characterize the 30 most important people in their lives, both vulnerable and grandiose narcissistic individuals described their friends and family in unflattering terms, including self-centered, narcissistic, and disagreeable (Lamkin, Clifton, Campbell, & Miller, in press). What is striking about this finding is that these terms are also appropriate descriptors of the narcissistic individuals themselves. A name for this phenomenon is homophily, or the tendency of individuals to associate and bond with others similar to themselves. This tendency can be found in social networks in general, as McPherson, Smith-Lovin, and Cook show in their extensive review on the topic (2001). A major question in the area of narcissism and romantic relationships is whether "like attracts like" (i.e., homophily is present). If narcissistic individuals are most strongly attracted to individuals who offer means of self-enhancement (Campbell, 1999), do narcissists date other narcissists? Or, do they just see their partners as similar to themselves because of an overall tendency to perceive others negatively?

Given the wealth of information about narcissistic individuals in relationships, but lack of empirical information about their partners, the goal of the present study is to further elucidate the characteristics of partners of narcissistic individuals while also comparing differences in grandiose and vulnerable romantic relationships. Previous literature has focused on the types of individuals to whom narcissistic individuals are attracted. Do narcissistic individuals actually get what they want? Do they have a "type"? The present study measured four categories of variables in the relationship: (1) *narcissism and personality*, including the vulnerable and grandiose

varieties and the Five Factor Model; (2) *perception of relationship quality*, including happiness, satisfaction, and adjustment; (3) *perception of partner's desirable characteristics*, including attractiveness, popularity, and status; and (4) *emotional health of partners*, including past abuse and neglect as well as negative affect.

Based on what is broadly known about narcissism and romantic relationships, I propose two broad categories of findings. (1) *The homophily hypothesis*. Following the "birds of a feather flock together" perspective, I hypothesize that partners of narcissistic individuals will broadly exhibit narcissistic characteristics, such as self-centeredness, sense of entitlement, and lack of empathy. I further hypothesize that grandiose and vulnerable narcissism will manifest homophily differentially through their respective personality traits (i.e., grandiose relationships will be characterized by extraversion; vulnerable relationships will be characterized by introversion and neuroticism). (2) *The chocolate cake theory*. Based on Campbell and colleagues' research, targets of partners who exhibit grandiose and E/E narcissism will rate a relationship in its early stages as more positive than a relationship in its later stages. I hypothesize this pattern to hold true for vulnerable narcissistic relationships as well, but not as strongly in that vulnerable narcissism is less likely to begin with strong initial attraction.

CHAPTER 2

METHOD

Participants

Participants were 103 undergraduate couples (50% male; 81.5% Caucasian; Mean age = 19.4; SD = 1.26) recruited from a research participant pool and through their respective partner's participation. To be included, targets were required to have a current partner with whom they have been in a relationship for at least six weeks and who was also willing to participate in the study. Initially, 173 participants responded through the research participant pool; however, the partners of 65 of these individuals did not respond to an email request for participation, leaving 108 participants and their partners. Furthermore, because tests of distinguishability (Kenny, 2008) revealed that the dyads were distinguishable by gender, five same-sex couples were not considered in final analyses so that gender could be used to distinguish between members of the dyad.

Additionally, 78 peer informants provided information about these couples (30 couples did not have at least one peer informant respond). The email addresses of peers were provided by one member of the couple who was originally recruited via the research participant pool. While 143 peer informants of the 103 couples responded, only one peer report was used for each couple; the informant who responded first was used in analyses.

Materials

Measures given to both members of the couple

Demographic and relationship information. All participants were asked to provide information about age, race, gender, education, height, weight, and family history as well as duration of their current relationship and the number of other people dated within the past year. Also, all were asked to list five things that attracted them to their current partner, and to rate their partner's social status, influence, physical attractiveness, and popularity on a 1 (not at all) to 5 (very) scale.

Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS). The DAS (Spanier, 1976) consists of 32 equally-weighted items that measure four components of relationship adjustment: consensus (i.e., agreement on major issues; $\alpha = .91$), affectional expression (i.e., physical expressions of love; $\alpha = .66$), satisfaction (including degree of happiness and confidence that the relationship is going well; $\alpha = .80$), and cohesion (i.e., doing things together; $\alpha = .63$), as well as a total score that reflects overall relationship adjustment ($\alpha = .92$). It includes multiple types of questions; most are rated from a 0 (possible corresponding meanings: always disagree; all the time; more often) to 5 scale (possible corresponding meanings: always agree; never), and two questions are yes/no. Participants indicate frequency of kissing and participating in outside activities together as well as rate their happiness (from 0, extremely unhappy, to 6, extremely happy) and indicate their desire for the relationship to succeed (from 0: "I want desperately for my relationship to succeed, and would go to almost any length to see that it does," to 5: "My relationship can never succeed, and there is no more that I can do to keep the relationship going"). This measure has demonstrated good construct validity and high reliability (Spanier, 1976).

Hypersensitive Narcissism Scale (HSNS). The HSNS (Hendin & Cheek, 1997) is a 10-item self-report measure of hypersensitivity, entitlement, and vulnerability. The items are rated on a 1 (very uncharacteristic) to 5 (very characteristic) scale. An example of a question is: "I dislike being with a group unless I know that I am appreciated by at least one of those present." This scale has shown divergent validity with grandiose narcissism and is regarded as a measure of vulnerable narcissism, and it is accumulating evidence for its validity (Pincus & Lukowitsky, 2010). Alpha for the current study was .72.

International Personality Item Pool (IPIP). The IPIP is a set of personality inventory questions in the public domain. Items are rated on a 5-point scale from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree." Twenty questions assessing the dimensions of the five-factor personality model were used: neuroticism ($\alpha = .63$), extraversion ($\alpha = .69$), openness to experience ($\alpha = .77$), agreeableness ($\alpha = .61$), and conscientiousness ($\alpha = .72$).

Interpersonal Adjectives Scale (IAS-R). The IAS-R (Wiggins, Trapnell, & Phillips, 1988) is a 64-item measure of personality based on interpersonal circumplex theory. Scores on eight variables reflect loadings on the eight axes of the interpersonal circumplex: Assured-Dominant ($\alpha = .87$), Arrogant-Calculating ($\alpha = .89$), Cold-Hearted ($\alpha = .93$), Aloof-Introverted ($\alpha = .93$), Unassured-Submissive ($\alpha = .93$), Unassuming-Ingenuous ($\alpha = .91$), Warm-Agreeable ($\alpha = .91$), and Gregarious-Extraverted ($\alpha = .91$). Scores on these subscales can be mathematically combined to reflect loadings on the two main axes of the circumplex: Agency and Communion.

Love Attitudes Scale (LAS). Based on Lee's (1973) love theory-typology, the LAS (Hendrick & Hendrick, 1990) measures six primary love styles. It consists of 42 items, seven for each of the styles, that are measured on a 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) Likert scale.

Examples of the love styles are as follows: Eros (α = .74; passionate; e.g., "My lover and I have the right physical 'chemistry' between us"), Ludus (α = .79; game-playing; e.g., "I try to keep my lover a little uncertain about my commitment to him/her"), Storge (α = .62; friendship; e.g., "It is hard to say where friendship ends and love begins"), Pragma (α = .78; logical; e.g., "I considered what my lover was going to become in life before I committed myself to him/her"), Mania (α = .77; possessive-dependent; e.g., "When things aren't going right with my lover and me, my stomach gets upset"), and Agape (α = .88; selfless; e.g., "I cannot be happy unless I place my lover's happiness before my own"). This study will focus on Ludus in particular. One of the most commonly used measures of love, the six styles have been supported in factor analysis, and the measure shows good internal consistency and is appropriate for research purposes (Graham & Christiansen, 2009; Hendrick & Hendrick, 1989).

Narcissistic Grandiosity Scale (NGS). The NGS (Rosenthal et al., 2007) asks participants to rate themselves on 16 adjectives such as "superior" and "omnipotent" on a 1 ("not at all") to 7 ("extremely") scale. Alpha for the present study was .96.

Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI). The NPI (Raskin & Terry, 1988) is a frequently-used, 40-item assessment of grandiose narcissism. This study utilized Ackerman and colleagues' (2011) three factors: Leadership/Authority (α = .80), Grandiose Exhibitionism (α = .73), and Entitlement/Exploitativeness (α = .49). An example of a typical question from this measure is, "If I ruled the world, it would be a much better place." Participants rate each item as true or false. Based on Narcissistic Personality Disorder criteria but designed for use with nonclinical populations, it exhibits good reliability and construct validity (Raskin & Terry, 1988). Of note, the low internal consistency found with the E/E scale in the present study is consistent with Ackerman and colleagues' (2011) findings and can be partially attributed to the

low number of items (four) that comprise the scale. Due to the expectation that E/E would be related to meaningful relationship variables, this scale was used in the present study with the understanding that relationships may be attenuated due to lower internal consistency.

Pathological Narcissism Inventory (PNI). The PNI (Pincus, Ansell, Pimentel, Cain, Wright, & Levy, 2009) is a 52-item self report measure of narcissistic traits. Items are rated on a 6 point scale, from 0 (not at all like me) to 7 (very much like me). Out of seven total subscales, four are thought to reflect vulnerable narcissistic traits: Contingent Self-esteem (PNI CSE; e.g., "It's hard for me to feel good about myself unless I know other people like me"; $\alpha = .94$), Hiding the self (PNI HS; e.g., "It's hard to show others the weaknesses I feel inside"; $\alpha = .75$), Devaluing (PNI Dev; e.g., "When others don't meet my expectations, I often feel ashamed about what I wanted"; $\alpha = .86$), and Entitlement rage (PNI ER; e.g., "I get annoyed by people who are not interested in what I say or do"; $\alpha = .87$). The remaining three subscales are believed to reflect grandiose narcissistic traits: Self-Sacrificing Self-Enhancement (SSSE; e.g., "I try to show what a good person I am through my sacrifices"; $\alpha = .70$), Grandiose Fantasy (GF; e.g., "I often fantasize about being rewarded for my efforts"; $\alpha = .83$), and Exploitative (EXP; e.g., "I find it easy to manipulate people"; $\alpha = .76$). The PNI has demonstrated consistency across gender as well as is regarded as a measure that captures both vulnerable and grandiose typologies; its scores are also easy to calculate (Wright, Lukowitsky, Pincus, & Conroy, 2010).

Measures given only to just one partner

Child Abuse and Trauma Scale (CATS). The CATS (Sanders & Becker-Lausen, 1995) is a self-reported index of the frequency of negative events in childhood and adolescence. The 38-item scale produces a total score ($\alpha = .94$) along with three subscales: sexual abuse (SA; $\alpha = .83$), punishment (PUN; $\alpha = .55$), and negative home environment/neglect (NEG; $\alpha = .90$). This

scale has demonstrated strong internal consistency and test-retest reliability in college students, and manifested significant positive correlations with difficulties in interpersonal relationships and victimization (Sanders & Becker-Lausen, 1995).

Dirty Dozen Machiavellianism Scale (DDM). The DDM is a 4-item scale taken from the Dirty Dozen (Jonason & Webster, 2010), a 12-item measure of the Dark Triad (i.e., psychopathy, narcissism, and Machiavellianism). The DDM measures a person's Machiavellianism; that is, use of deception and manipulation in interpersonal situations (α = .81). Machiavellianism is considered to be related to, but not the equivalent to, narcissism and psychopathy (Paulhus & Williams, 2002).

Levenson Self-Report Psychopathy Scale (LSRP). The LSRP (Levenson, Kiehl, & Fitzpatrick, 1995) is a 26-item measure of the two factors of psychopathy: Factor 1 refers to interpersonal behavior and affect (α = .87) and Factor 2 refers to social deviance (α = .79).

Positive Affect Negative Affect Schedule (PANAS). The PANAS (Watson, Clark, & Tellegen, 1988) is a 20-item self-report measure of positive affect (α = .93) and negative affect (α = .89). The scales have been demonstrated to be stable over a two-month period (Watson, Clark, & Tellegen, 1988).

Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System, Emotional Distress (PROMIS). The PROMIS (Cella et al., 2007) was developed for the National Institutes of Health, through an extensive process including a large initial item bank collected from previous literature (Pilkonis, Choi, Reise, Stover, Riley, & Cella, 2011). In the present study, two short-form scales were measured via the PROMIS: an anxiety measure (PROMIS-A; α = .91) and a depression measure (PROMIS-D; α = .95). An example of a PROMIS-A question is, "In the past 7 days, my worries overwhelmed me" with a five-level response scale (never, rarely, sometimes,

often, always). An example of a PROMIS-D question is, "In the past 7 days, I felt that nothing could cheer me up" with a five-level response scale (never, rarely, sometimes, often, always).

Psychological Entitlement Scale (PES). The PES (Campbell et al., 2004) is a 9-item self-report measure of the extent to which individuals believe that they deserve and are entitled to more than others. Items are scored on a 1 ("strong disagreement") to 7 ("strong agreement") scale. Alpha for the present study was .91.

Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (RSES). The RSES (Rosenberg, 1965) is a 10-item global measure of self-esteem in which the items (e.g., "I take a positive attitude toward myself") are scored on a 1 (strongly disagree) to 4 (strongly agree) Likert scale. Stemming from a long tradition of application, the RSE has been used frequently in multiple settings, including clinical, social, and general research (Byrne, 1996). A recent study of a large nonclinical population found that the RSES exhibited convergent and discriminant validity and internal consistency (Sinclair, Blais, Gansler, Sandberg, Bistis, & LoCicero, 2010). Alpha for the present study was .84.

Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV, Axis II screener (SCID-II screener). The SCID-II screener (First, Gibbon, Spitzer, Williams, & Benjamin, 1997) is a self-report screening questionnaire for personality disorders. The screener is intended to reduce length of time spent interviewing by ruling out personality disorders that are not endorsed in general or characteristic terms. Ten personality disorders were measured: avoidant ($\alpha = .64$), dependent ($\alpha = .59$), obsessive-compulsive ($\alpha = .54$), paranoid ($\alpha = .78$), schizotypal ($\alpha = .75$), schizoid ($\alpha = .61$), histrionic ($\alpha = .70$), narcissistic ($\alpha = .83$), borderline ($\alpha = .84$), and antisocial ($\alpha = .91$). The SCID-II screener has been shown to be a valid, effective screening method with a low false

negative rate, although it is not a substitute for a structured clinical interview (Ullrich, Deasy,

Smith, Johnson, Clarke, Broughton, & Coid, 2008).

Measures given to peer informant

       Brief relationship ratings. Peer informants were asked to rate each member of the

couple on social status, influence, physical attractiveness, and popularity from 1 (very low) to 7

(very high). Informants also used the same scale to rate the couple on levels of overall attraction

to each other, closeness, commitment, and satisfaction. In instances where more than one peer

informant responded, the first submitted response was used for analyses.

Procedure

       The University of Georgia Institutional Review Board approved the protocol for this

study. All participants provided informed consent prior to participation in this study. Targets (the

students recruited through Sona) filled out a series of measures pertaining to themselves, their

partners, and their relationship through a secure website (Qualtrics). Targets were also asked to

provide the email address of their partner and three peers. Partners were emailed a link to a

secure online survey where they were asked similar questions. Peers were emailed a link to a

brief online survey where they were asked to answer questions about the couple. Targets

received research credit proportional to hours spent participating for their involvement in the

study. Partners received ten dollars for participating in the study.

CHAPTER 3

RESULTS

Composite scores

Grandiose narcissism was calculated by summing z-scores for the NPI subscales of

Leadership/Authority and Grandiose Exhibitionism, the NGS, and the PNI grandiose subscales.

A separate z-score was calculated for an Entitlement/Exploitativeness (E/E) score based on the

NPI-EE subscale. Vulnerable narcissism was calculated by summing z-scores for the vulnerable

subscales of the PNI and the HSNS. Table 1 reflects the relationships between subscales that

were used to create the composites. Table 2 reflects the relationships between composites.

Correlations

Bivariate correlations were calculated in order to compare relationships between self- and

partner-rated personality, relationship ratings, and related variables.

Self-reported narcissism and personality. Narcissism was compared to self-rated

personality (Table 3). Grandiose narcissism was positively related to extraversion ($r = .34$;

$p<.01$) and related to conscientiousness ($r = .15$; $p<.05$). E/E was negatively related to

agreeableness ($r = -.41$; $p<.01$) and openness to experience ($r = -.17$; $p<.05$), and was positively

related to neuroticism ($r = .16$; $p<.05$). Vulnerable narcissism was positively related to

neuroticism ($r = .49$; $p<.01$) and negatively related to extraversion ($r = -.29$; $p<.01$),

agreeableness ($r = -.20$; $p<.05$), and openness ($r = -.18$; $p<.05$).

Additionally, narcissism was compared to self-reported love styles (Table 3). Grandiose

narcissism manifested significant positive correlations with Eros ($r = .21$, $p<.01$), Pragma ($r =$

.17, $p<.05$), and Mania ($r = .22$, $p<.01$) love styles. E/E narcissism was significantly positively related to Ludus ($r = .31$, $p<.01$) and Mania ($r = .16$, $p<.05$), and negatively related to Agape ($r = -.16$, $p<.05$). Vulnerable narcissism was negatively related to Eros ($r = -.14$, $p<.05$) and Agape ($r = -.22$, $p<.01$), and positively related to Mania ($r = .27$, $p<.01$).

Narcissism compared to partner personality. Self-reported narcissism was compared to partner's self-rated personality, interpersonal style, and narcissism (Table 4). High grandiose narcissism was positively related to partner's grandiose narcissism ($r = .24$; $p<.01$), partner's extraversion ($r = .18$; $p<.05$), and partner's agency ($r = .21$; $p<.01$). No other significant relationships were found between narcissism and partner's narcissism, five factor model personality domains, or circumplex axes.

Narcissism was also compared to partner love styles (Table 4). Grandiose and E/E narcissism did not manifest significant correlations with love styles. Vulnerable narcissism was negatively related to partner Eros ($r = -.17$; $p<.05$) and Agape ($r = -.15$; $p<.05$); it was positively related to partner Ludus ($r = .20$; $p<.01$).

Additional partner variables. Self-rated narcissism was examined in relation to partner reports of emotional experience, childhood abuse and trauma, and family history of mental illness (Table 5). Grandiose narcissism was unrelated to these variables. E/E narcissism was positively related to partner reports of anxiety ($r = .26$; $p<.01$) and depression ($r = .22$; $p<.05$). Vulnerable narcissism was positively correlated with partner reports of sexual abuse ($r = .21$; $p<.05$) and punishment ($r = .21$; $p<.05$).

Self-reported narcissism was also examined in relation to partners' scores on the Dark triad, self-esteem, and DSM-IV personality disorders (Table 5). Grandiose narcissism was positively related to partner psychological entitlement ($r = .22$; $p<.05$) and narcissistic

personality disorder ($r = .21$; $p<.05$). E/E was unrelated to these variables. Finally, vulnerable narcissism was positively related to partner Factor 2 psychopathy ($r = .24$; $p<.05$) and narcissistic personality disorder ($r = .22$; $p<.05$).

Social status reports. Self-rated narcissism was also compared to self ratings of their partner's social influence (Table 6). Grandiose narcissism was positively related to rating one's partner as higher in social status ($r = .16$, $p<.05$), influence ($r = .21$, $p<.05$), and attractiveness ($r = .14$, $p<.05$). E/E and Vulnerable narcissism did not manifest significant relationships with these variables. Additionally, self-rated narcissism was examined in relation to how one's partner rated them on social characteristics (Table 7). Grandiose narcissism was positively related to being rated as being higher in social status ($r = .17$; $p<.05$) and popularity ($r = .18$; $p<.05$). Vulnerable narcissism was negatively related to being rated as popular by one's partner ($r = -.15$; $p<.05$).

Self-rated narcissism and relationship ratings. Next, self-reported narcissism was examined in relation to self-rated measures of relationship quality (Table 8). Grandiose narcissism manifested one significant positive correlation with cohesion ($r = .16$; $p<.05$). E/E narcissism was significantly negatively related to self-reported total adjustment ($r = -.27$, $p<.01$), consensus ($r = -.22$, $p<.01$), affection ($r = -.20$, $p<.05$), and satisfaction ($r = -.30$, $p<.01$). It was also negatively correlated with ratings of commitment ($r = -.15$; $p<.05$). Vulnerable narcissism was negatively related to self-reported total adjustment ($r = -.32$, $p<.01$), consensus ($r = -.27$, $p<.01$), affection ($r = -.31$, $p<.01$), and satisfaction ($r = -.30$, $p<.01$).

Partner ratings of relationship quality. Narcissism was examined in relation to partner ratings of dyadic adjustment (Table 9). Grandiose narcissism did not manifest significant correlations with these ratings. E/E narcissism was negatively related to overall adjustment ($r = -.18$; $p<.05$), consensus ($r = -.15$; $p<.05$), affection ($r = -.17$; $p<.05$), satisfaction ($r = -.16$; $p<.05$),

attraction ($r = -.14$; $p<.05$), and closeness ($r = -.15$; $p<.05$). Vulnerable narcissism was significantly negatively correlated with overall adjustment ($r = -.17$; $p<.05$), satisfaction ($r = -.24$; $p<.01$), and attraction ($r = -.20$; $p<.01$).

   Peer ratings of relationship quality. Narcissism of both members of the couple was examined in relation to peer informant ratings of relationship quality (Table 10). When compared to the narcissism scores of individuals recruited from the research participant pool, informant reports did not manifest any significant correlations. However, when compared to the narcissism scores of partners recruited via email, vulnerable narcissism was negatively related to peer informant ratings of closeness ($r = -.28$; $p<.05$) and satisfaction ($r = -.25$; $p<.05$).

Actor-Partner Interdependence Models

   The actor-partner interdependence model is an increasingly popular statistical framework for analyzing dyadic data that acknowledges mutual influence, or the fact that one partner's behaviors or attitudes can affect the other partner's outcomes (Cook & Kenny, 2005; Kenny, Kashy, & Cook, 2006). This model allows both actor effects (e.g., an individual's characteristics influence his own outcome) and partner effects (i.e., an individual's outcome is influenced by his partner's characteristics) to be determined.

   In the present study, actor-partner interdependence model (APIMs) were constructed to determine whether having a partner with narcissism affected relationship ratings, and whether this was further influenced by the duration of the relationship. Tests of distinguishability (Kenny, 2008) revealed that the dyads were distinguishable by gender, so all models included gender. This necessitated the exclusion of five same-sex couples so that gender could be used to distinguish between members of the dyad. Two models, increasing in complexity, were constructed for each narcissism score (grandiose, E/E, and vulnerable) and each DAS

relationship rating (DAS total, consensus, affection, satisfaction, and cohesion): the first was a simple model with only main effects of gender, duration, actor narcissism and partner narcissism; the second, more complex models included cross-products between these variables. The final, more complex models are presented in Tables 11-13.

All significant interactions were graphed using Aiken & West's (1991) procedure for simple slopes for visual interpretation (Figures 1-7). The levels of narcissism (grandiose, E/E, or vulnerable) were defined as low (-1 standard deviation) and high (+1 standard deviation). Similarly, levels of duration were defined as low (-1 standard deviation) and high (+1 standard deviation).

Grandiose narcissism. Out of five complex models predicting relationship adjustment by grandiose narcissism, one model had significant coefficients (cohesion as an outcome; see Table 11). In this analysis, relationship duration predicted lower relationship cohesion ($B = -.05$; $p<.05$). There was also a significant interaction between duration and actor grandiose narcissism ($B = -.42$; $p<.05$; Figure 1), such that high actor grandiose narcissism was negatively related to duration. The high actor grandiose narcissism slope was significantly different from zero; the slope for low actor grandiose narcissism did not differ from zero. All remaining models, which did not manifest significant coefficients, are also shown in Table 11 (DAS total, consensus, affection, and satisfaction).

E/E narcissism. All five complex E/E models had significant coefficients (Table 12); these models are discussed below.

E/E and overall adjustment. When E/E was used to predict overall relationship adjustment, duration predicted lower adjustment (i.e., DAS Total; $B = -3.03$; $p<.05$; see Table 12). Multiple interactions were present in this DAS Total model: actor E/E and duration ($B = -$

2.74; $p<.05$), partner E/E and duration ($B = -3.80$; $p<.01$), and a three-way interaction between actor E/E, partner E/E, and duration ($B = -4.10$; $p<.05$; Figure 2). In the three-way interaction, duration was negatively related to relationship adjustment for the combination of high actor and high partner E/E. The slope for this combination of high actor and partner E/E was significantly different from zero; all other slopes (i.e., high actor/low partner, low actor/high partner, low actor/low partner) did not differ from zero.

E/E and consensus. For the second model, E/E was used to predict consensus, or a couple's rate of agreement on various life issues (Table 12). In this model, a three-way interaction between actor E/E, partner E/E, and duration was noted ($B = -2.40$; $p<.05$; Figure 3). When plotted, duration was negatively related to consensus for the combination of high actor and high partner E/E. The slope for this combination of high actor E/E and partner E/E was significantly different from zero; all other slopes (i.e., high actor/low partner, low actor/high partner, low actor/low partner) did not differ from zero.

E/E and affection. In the third model, duration predicted lower physical expression of affection ($B = -.51$; $p<.05$; Table 12). An interaction between duration and partner E/E was observed, such that high partner E/E was negatively related to duration (Figure 4). The slope for high partner E/E was significantly different from zero; the slope for low partner E/E did not differ from zero.

E/E and satisfaction. For the fourth model predicting satisfaction, both duration ($B = -1.16$; $p<.01$) and partner E/E predicted lower satisfaction ($B = 3.29$; $p<.05$; Table 12). There was also a gender effect for partner E/E ($B = -2.35$; $p<.05$), such that low partner E/E was related to higher satisfaction for female actors than male actors (Figure 5). In this interaction between gender and partner E/E, the slope for low partner E/E was significantly different, while the slope

for high partner E/E did not differ from zero. Additionally, four interactions were significant: actor E/E and partner E/E ($B = -.69$; $p<.05$), actor E/E and duration ($B = -1.03$; $p<.05$), partner E/E and duration ($B = -1.55$; $p<.01$), and a three-way interaction between actor E/E, partner E/E, and duration ($B = -1.38$; $p<.05$; Figure 6). In the three-way interaction, duration was negatively related to satisfaction for the combination of high actor and high partner E/E. The slope for this combination of high actor E/E and partner E/E was significantly different from zero; all other slopes (i.e., high actor/low partner, low actor/high partner, low actor/low partner) did not differ from zero.

E/E and cohesion. Finally, the fifth model reflected that duration predicted lower cohesion, or a couple's frequency of doing things together ($B = -.41$; $p<.05$; Table 12).

Vulnerable narcissism. Out of five vulnerable narcissism models, three models had significant coefficients; these models are discussed below. The two models that did not have significant coefficients were the models with consensus and cohesion as outcomes (Table 13).

Vulnerable narcissism and adjustment. For the first model predicting overall relationship adjustment, duration predicted lower overall adjustment ($B = -2.52$; $p<.05$; Table 13).

Vulnerable narcissism and affection. In the next model predicting affection, duration predicted lower affection ($B = -.39$; $p<.05$; Table 13). There was a significant interaction between duration and actor vulnerable narcissism, such that high actor vulnerable narcissism was negatively related to duration ($B = -.28$; $p<.05$; Figure 7). In this interaction, the simple slope for high actor vulnerable narcissism was significantly different from zero, while the slope for low actor vulnerable narcissism did not differ from zero.

Vulnerable narcissism and satisfaction. Finally, having a partner with vulnerable narcissism predicted lower satisfaction ($B = -2.82$; $p<.05$; Table 13).

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of the present study was twofold: (1) to describe the characteristics of the romantic partners of narcissistic individuals and (2) to examine the relations between narcissism and relationship adjustment and test whether these relations are moderated by relationship duration. Three narcissism dimensions (grandiose, entitlement/exploitativeness, and vulnerable) were considered in order to determine whether partner characteristics differed across these manifestations of narcissism.

Grandiose Narcissism: Partner Characteristics

Overall, there was some support for the presence of homophily (i.e., similarity) when grandiose narcissism was considered, in that grandiose individuals were likely to have partners who endorsed some narcissistic characteristics. More grandiose individuals were likely to date other grandiose individuals, and grandiose individuals were more likely to date more extraverted and agentic partners. Grandiose individuals were also more likely to date partners who scored more highly on measures of psychological entitlement and narcissistic personality disorder.

Furthermore, there was some evidence that grandiose relationships were characterized by the perception of social influence. Grandiose individuals were more likely to rate their partners as higher in social status, influence, and attractiveness. And, grandiose individuals were more likely to be seen by their partners as high in social status and popularity. This matches the type of person to whom grandiose individuals have been found to be attracted (i.e., individuals who provide an opportunity for self-enhancement; Tanchotsrinon, Maneesri, & Campbell, 2007).

Beyond this picture of an extraverted, self-enhancing, and potentially socially influential partner, there was no indication that grandiose individuals are prone to dating individuals who exhibit specific styles of navigating romantic relationships (i.e., love styles), have a history of child abuse or trauma, or are likely to endorse negative affect, anxiety, or depression. In addition, grandiose homophily did not appear to have a meaningful relationship with measures of relationship quality; it was not related to partner's positive or negative outcome ratings.

Entitled/Exploitative Narcissism: Partner Characteristics

When E/E aspects of narcissism were considered, partner characteristics did not appear to reflect any clear patterns of personality or narcissism (i.e., E/E individuals did not have a clear "type" as to whom they date). While there is a strong body of evidence for homophily in general romantic relationships (McPherson, Smith-Lovin, & Cook, 2001), these results suggest that pathological narcissism looks different in this regard. Partners did not endorse a particular pattern of narcissism, Big Five personality, love styles, or personality pathology.

As would be expected, partners of entitled and exploitative individuals were more likely to endorse experiencing both anxiety and depression. This emotional distress may be related to the significant dissatisfaction seen in these relationships: almost every indicator of relationship adjustment was significantly negatively related to E/E narcissism. Narcissism at its most basic is a focus on the self at the expense of others and it is clear from past research that narcissism causes significant distress to close others (Miller, Campbell, & Pilkonis, 2007); specifically, entitlement and exploitativeness may play a key role in those outcomes (Ackerman et al., 2011). Of the three manifestations of narcissism, E/E demonstrated the least degree of homophily. The lack of homophily is interesting considering recent evidence that narcissistic individuals view others in a generally negative light and indeed as more narcissistic (Lamkin, Clifton, Campbell,

& Miller, in press). This suggests that, at least for E/E narcissism, they may perceive others as more narcissistic even though this may not be accurate.

Vulnerable Narcissism: Partner Characteristics

Partners of vulnerably narcissistic individuals were more likely to endorse experiencing sexual abuse and punishment as children and scored highly on Factor 2 psychopathy and narcissistic personality disorder measures. Furthermore, their partners reported significantly less physical attraction in the relationship.

Vulnerable narcissism in particular did not relate to any partner personality characteristics or to partner vulnerable narcissism, suggesting that romantic relationships involving a partner with vulnerable narcissism are not strongly characterized by homophily. This is particularly interesting when considering the etiology and history of vulnerable narcissism (e.g., Wink, 1991; Dickinson & Pincus, 2003). It is possible that the emotional vulnerability that characterizes this variant of narcissism causes more difficulty in romantic relationships and even in finding partners. Indeed, those who scored higher on vulnerable narcissism actually rated their own relationships negatively for almost all DAS categories (i.e., overall adjustment, consensus, physical affection, and satisfaction). However, the partner negative relationship ratings were less global and seemingly driven by low satisfaction in particular.

However, there were some interesting similarities when comparing partner emotional experience and romantic strategies to vulnerable narcissism. Those with high vulnerable narcissism scores were more likely to have partners who endorsed a pattern of love attitudes that are considered more maladaptive and could be detrimental to romantic relationships (i.e., less passionate, less selfless love, and more game-playing) – the same pattern that those with vulnerable narcissism themselves endorsed. These love styles appear to have a pernicious effect

on these relationships, as vulnerable narcissism was characterized by significantly lower ratings of relationship adjustment and satisfaction. It appears that relationships in which vulnerable narcissism is present are characterized by dysfunction that may stem from maladaptive relationship styles and for some individuals, past negative experience, that result in relationship dissatisfaction.

Relationship Duration and Patterns of Relationship Quality

Regardless of duration, vulnerable narcissism and entitlement/exploitative aspects of narcissism were consistently related to lower relationship quality and adjustment. In terms of overall ratings of relationship quality, grandiose narcissism was unrelated to partner ratings of relationship adjustment, while E/E and vulnerable narcissism were clearly linked to partner dissatisfaction. This was not unexpected as earlier research has demonstrated that narcissism is related to pain and suffering in close relationships (Miller, Campbell, & Pilkonis, 2007). However, somewhat surprising was the lack of dissatisfaction in grandiose relationships, even without entitlement and exploitativeness. One possible explanation for this is that grandiose narcissism did not demonstrate a significant self-reported relationship with antagonism, which would be expected even when not including E/E in its formulation for the purposes of this study and because antagonism is a key trait component across narcissism dimensions (Miller & Campbell, 2008; Ackerman et al., 2011). There may be some unique aspect of this particular sample that resulted in a grandiose narcissism composite that emphasized extraversion and agency over antagonism/low communion.

Though this study was not longitudinal, the use of APIMs allowed for a more sophisticated look at dyadic processes (i.e., determining actor and partner effects), and also allowed for analysis of interaction effects with duration of the relationship. Some support was

found for the chocolate cake model of narcissism (Campbell, 2005) in that having a partner with higher scores on the E/E components of narcissism was related to lower relationship quality if relationship duration was long. Furthermore, because APIMs allow both actor and partner effects to be considered, the combination of actor and partner E/E narcissism appeared to be particularly potent; that is, detrimental to relationship outcome.

Pulling apart grandiose narcissism so as to be able to examine the E/E piece by itself in the current study yield important findings that lend support to Ackerman and colleagues' (2011) assertion that E/E represents the most "socially toxic" aspect of narcissism and may be what is driving the cycle of distress and dissatisfaction in these relationships. Vulnerable narcissism did not manifest this pattern, however, reflecting poorer relationship quality regardless of duration. Grandiose narcissism also did not demonstrate many significant relationships in the APIMs except for stronger cohesion (i.e., doing things together) for newer relationships, again suggesting that E/E may be more of a driving aspect of the chocolate cake model.

Love styles may explain in part some of the cycle of distress and dissatisfaction seen in narcissistic relationships. Ludus, or game-playing, was expected to be related to grandiose narcissism (Campbell, Foster, & Finkel, 2002); when considering E/E narcissism as a separate construct, however, E/E emerged as positively related to romantic game-playing. As discussed earlier, game-playing can be detrimental and confusing in a relationship, especially when the partner does not share this same style. E/E narcissism was also negatively related to Agape, or a selfless love style that is thought to be positively related to relationship quality (e.g., Davis & Latty-Mann, 1987).

Interestingly, all three narcissism variants were related to Mania, or possessive-dependent love. While Mania is considered a maladaptive relationship style, this was a surprising finding

with regard to E/E or grandiose narcissism; however, both grandiose and vulnerable narcissism were linked to a manic love style in a recent study and this relationship may be explained in part by a positive relationship between antagonism and Mania (Miller, Gentile, & Campbell, 2013). Mania has a clearer link to vulnerable narcissism, which is related to experience of negative affect and low self-esteem, but the link to grandiose and E/E narcissism is an area for further study and interest. Grandiose narcissism also appeared to be related to more adaptive love styles, including Eros and Pragma, while vulnerable narcissism was negatively related to these styles, both via self-report and as reported by their partners. On a related note, recent research on narcissism and attachment suggests that vulnerable narcissism may be related to an anxious attachment style as well as strong reactions to rejection, which may influence the love styles seen in vulnerable narcissism (Besser & Priel, 2009). Further research regarding attachment style as related to love style may help to clarify differences and similarities between the dimensions.

Implications

Information about narcissism and relationships has the potential to add to the growing body of literature aimed at distinguishing between the two grandiose and vulnerable dimensions or variants of narcissism. One major question is whether it is meaningful to separate these manifestations (i.e., lumping vs. splitting). While there are clear differences, including differing etiology and distress, these two variants of narcissism also have the uniting core components of antagonism and preoccupation with the self. It is possible that a single individual can demonstrate characteristics of both variants. In the relationship context, both appear to be related to negative outcomes, though these may come about in different ways. And for grandiose narcissism, at least in this set of participants, entitlement and exploitativeness was a damaging force, more so than the other aspects of grandiosity. Another interesting question is whether E/E

is more strongly associated with a focus on self-enhancement by exploitation, which may manifest in a more gradual way over time than vulnerable narcissism, which appears to manifest more clearly throughout the relationship. As self-enhancement is a common mechanism employed by narcissistic individuals in relationships (Campbell, 1999), further research may seek to determine whether this strategy is related to specific components of narcissism (e.g., entitlement or exploitativeness). Additionally, as self-enhancement is viewed unfavorably by others (Colvin, Block, & Funder, 1995), the specific strategies and timing of self-enhancement in the romantic relationship context merit further study.

While personality disorder criteria have not been changed in the most recent version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, which defines the signs and symptoms by which personality disorders are diagnosed, the proposed criteria for additional research explicitly emphasize interpersonal dysfunction. As discussed, narcissism has serious interpersonal consequences and these individuals are not likely to seek treatment (especially grandiose individuals who deny distress). Oftentimes, the significant other may be the impetus for seeking treatment (Young & Flanagan, 1998). In the context of increasing narcissism societally (Twenge, Konrath, Foster, Campbell, & Bushman, 2008), demand for psychological treatment for narcissism is likely to increase. Unfortunately, there is a significant lack of empirically studied treatment protocol for narcissism in the therapy context. As the partner is likely to initiate treatment-seeking, this neglected area can only benefit from any additional information that could inform treatment, such as in a couples therapy setting. Based on the findings of this study taken in the broader context of narcissism and romantic relationship literature, focusing on certain aspects of the narcissistic experience may prove more fruitful than others. In particular, entitlement and exploitativeness are major areas that could be a focus for

treatment. Additionally, vulnerable narcissism was consistently related to negative relationship ratings, regardless of duration; for this reason, social skills training may be useful for these individuals if framed in an appealing context (e.g., with a goal of reducing internal distress).

Limitations and Suggestions for Future Studies

An important note about this study is the representativeness of the sample, which consisted of mainly freshman college students reporting on their romantic relationships halfway through the school year. The relationships represented, while varied, appeared to fall into two major groups: long-term, multiple-year relationships likely carried over from high school, or new relationships likely initiated at the beginning of the college experience. There may be unique characteristics of these types of couples. Obviously, this limits the generalizability of the findings of this study and more research using additional populations (e.g., middle-aged adults or young adults not in a college setting) will be useful.

Further questions about narcissism in the romantic context remain to be answered. As this study presents a cross-sectional slice of relationship quality, longitudinal studies may help to measure the finer points of the chocolate cake model, such as the timing of the shift in polarity from enjoyment to dissatisfaction. It will be important to conduct naturalistic and laboratory studies that code interactions in the moment between partners in order to further understand and measure the mechanisms (i.e., specific behaviors) that narcissistic individuals use in their relationships in order to answer these questions.

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Table 1. Relations between narcissism composites and individual scales/subscales

	Grandiose	E/E	Vulnerable
NGS	**.78****	.29**	.01
NPI LA	**.76****	.29**	-.05
NPI GE	**.68****	.31**	.15*
PNI-G	**.74****	.18**	.38**
NPI EE	.33**	**1.00****	.23**
HSNS	-.02	.16*	**.87****
PNI-V	.31**	.24**	**.88****

*p<.05; **p<.01; NGS = Narcissistic Grandiosity Scale; NPI LA = Narcissistic Personality Inventory Leadership/Authority; NPI GE = Narcissistic Personality Inventory Grandiose Exhibitionism; PNI-G = Pathological Narcissism Inventory Grandiose Subscales; NPI EE = Narcissistic Personality Inventory Entitlement/Exploitativeness; HSNS = Hypersensitive Narcissism Scale; PNI-V = Pathological Narcissism Inventory Vulnerable Subscales. Grandiose = composite of NPI-LA, NPI-GE, NGS, and PNI Grandiose scores; E/E = NPI Entitlement/Exploitativeness; Vulnerable = composite of PNI Vulnerable scores and HSNS scores.

Table 2. Relations among narcissism composites.

	Grandiose	E/E	Vulnerable
Grandiose	-	-	-
E/E	.32**	-	-
Vulnerable	.17*	.20**	-

*p<.05; **p<.01; Grandiose = composite of NPI-LA, NPI-GE, NGS, and PNI Grandiose scores; E/E = NPI Entitlement/Exploitativeness; Vulnerable = composite of PNI Vulnerable scores and HSNS scores.

Table 3. Relations between self-reported narcissism, personality, and love styles

	Grandiose	E/E	Vulnerable
Neuroticism	-.06	.17*	.49**
Extraversion	.34**	-.01	-.31**
Openness to Experience	.02	-.14*	-.05
Agreeableness	-.09	-.44**	-.24*
Conscientiousness	.14*	-.09	-.19*
Agency	.61**	.22**	-.19**
Communion	-.03	-.44**	-.27**
Eros	.21**	-.07	-.14*
Ludus	.14	.31**	.07
Storge	.07	-.09	-.04
Pragma	.17*	.02	.00
Mania	.22**	.16*	.27**
Agape	.14	-.16*	-.22**

*p<.05; **p<.01; Grandiose = composite of NPI-LA, NPI-GE, NGS, and PNI Grandiose scores; E/E = NPI Entitlement/Exploitativeness; Vulnerable = composite of PNI Vulnerable scores and HSNS scores.

Table 4. Relations between actor narcissism and partner narcissism, personality, and love styles

	Actor Grandiose	Actor E/E	Actor Vulnerable
Partner Grandiose	.24**	.13	.05
Partner E/E	.13	.05	.10
Partner Vulnerable	.05	.10	.10
Partner Neuroticism	-.01	.12	-.00
Partner Extraversion	.18*	.10	.04
Partner Openness	-.04	.04	-.01
Partner Agreeableness	-.10	-.04	-.10
Partner Conscientiousness	.05	-.08	-.11
Partner Agency	.21**	-.00	.04
Partner Communion	-.01	.09	-.10
Partner Eros	.10	-.12	-.17*
Partner Ludus	-.04	.05	.20**
Partner Storge	.01	.12	.04
Partner Pragma	.09	.03	-.06
Partner Mania	-.02	.07	.03
Partner Agape	-.02	-.12	-.15*

*p<.05; **p<.01; Grandiose = composite of NPI-LA, NPI-GE, NGS, and PNI Grandiose scores; E/E = NPI Entitlement/Exploitativeness; Vulnerable = composite of PNI Vulnerable scores and HSNS scores.

Table 5. Relations between actor narcissism and partner pathology and dark triad variables

	Actor Grandiose	Actor E/E	Actor Vulnerable
<u>Partner</u>			
CATS Total	.02	.07	.19
Sexual abuse	.13	.12	.21*
Punishment	-.03	.08	.21*
Neglect	-.02	.03	.09
Positive Affect	.11	-.04	-.08
Negative Affect	.10	.11	-.04
Anxiety	.06	.26**	.16
Depression	-.01	.22*	.15
Family history of Mental Illness	-.02	.12	-.02
Machiavellianism	-.12	-.03	-.01
Factor 1 Psychopathy	-.02	.08	.19
Factor 2 Psychopathy	.10	.05	.24*
Psychological Entitlement	.22*	.14	.14
Self-esteem	.13	-.07	-.19
Paranoid PD	.12	.01	.20
Schizoid PD	-.10	-.03	.11
Schizotypal PD	.07	.16	.07
Antisocial PD	.05	.12	.10
Borderline PD	-.02	.15	.17
Histrionic PD	.08	.16	.09
Narcissistic PD	.21*	.16	.22*
Avoidant PD	-.10	-.03	.03
Dependent PD	-.02	.18	.18
Obsessive-Compulsive PD	.05	.14	-.01

*p<.05; **p<.01; Grandiose = composite of NPI-LA, NPI-GE, NGS, and PNI Grandiose scores; E/E = NPI Entitlement/Exploitativeness; Vulnerable = composite of PNI Vulnerable scores and HSNS scores. DAS = Dyadic Adjustment Scale. CATS Total = Child Abuse and Trauma Scale Total Score. PD = Personality Disorder.

Table 6. Relations between actor narcissism and ratings of partner

	Actor Grandiose	Actor E/E	Actor Vulnerable
<u>Partner as rated by actor</u>			
Social status	.16*	.03	.03
Influence	.21*	.07	-.04
Attractiveness	.14*	-.04	-.07
Popularity	.09	-.02	-.12

*p<.05; **p<.01; Grandiose = composite of NPI-LA, NPI-GE, NGS, and PNI Grandiose scores; E/E = NPI Entitlement/Exploitativeness; Vulnerable = composite of PNI Vulnerable scores and HSNS scores.

Table 7. Relations between actor narcissism and partner ratings of actors

	Actor Grandiose	Actor E/E	Actor Vulnerable
<u>Actor as rated by partner</u>			
Social status	.17*	.01	-.10
Influence	.11	.01	-.13
Attractiveness	.06	-.12	-.10
Popularity	.18*	-.02	-.15*

*p<.05; **p<.01; Grandiose = composite of NPI-LA, NPI-GE, NGS, and PNI Grandiose scores; E/E = NPI Entitlement/Exploitativeness; Vulnerable = composite of PNI Vulnerable scores and HSNS scores.

Table 8. Relations between self-reported narcissism and relationship ratings.

	Grandiose	E/E	Vulnerable
DAS Total	.05	-.27**	-.32**
DAS Consensus	.04	-.22**	-.27**
DAS Affection	.02	-.20*	-.31**
DAS Satisfaction	-.01	-.30**	-.30**
DAS Cohesion	.16*	-.07	-.12
Attraction	.13	-.07	-.12
Closeness	.03	-.09	-.12
Commitment	.08	-.15*	-.12

*p<.05; **p<.01; Grandiose = composite of NPI-LA, NPI-GE, NGS, and PNI Grandiose scores; E/E = NPI Entitlement/Exploitativeness; Vulnerable = composite of PNI Vulnerable scores and HSNS scores. DAS = Dyadic Adjustment Scale.

Table 9. Relations between actor narcissism and partner ratings of relationship quality

	Actor Grandiose	Actor E/E	Actor Vulnerable
Partner DAS Total	-.01	-.18*	-.17*
Partner DAS Consensus	-.01	-.15*	-.11
Partner DAS Affection	.04	-.17*	-.07
Partner DAS Satisfaction	-.06	-.16*	-.24**
Partner DAS Cohesion	.06	-.09	-.08
Attraction	-.04	-.14*	-.20**
Closeness	-.04	-.15*	-.04
Commitment	.11	-.05	-.13

*p<.05; **p<.01; Grandiose = composite of NPI-LA, NPI-GE, NGS, and PNI Grandiose scores; E/E = NPI Entitlement/Exploitativeness; Vulnerable = composite of PNI Vulnerable scores and HSNS scores.

Table 10. Relations between self-reported narcissism and informant ratings of relationship variables

	Grandiose		E/E		Vulnerable	
	Person 1	Person 2	Person 1	Person 2	Person 1	Person 2
Attraction	.16	.09	-.19	.01	.06	-.15
Closeness	-.03	.21	-.07	-.01	.03	-.28*
Commitment	.06	.10	-.09	.00	.06	-.15
Satisfaction	.04	.01	-.01	-.23	-.02	-.25*

*p<.05; **p<.01; Grandiose = composite of NPI-LA, NPI-GE, NGS, and PNI Grandiose scores; E/E = NPI Entitlement/Exploitativeness; Vulnerable = composite of PNI Vulnerable scores and HSNS scores. Person 1 = member of the couple recruited via the research participant pool; Person 2 = member of the couple recruited via email.

Table 11. Actor-Partner Interdependence Models estimating grandiose narcissism and relationship ratings.

	Total Adjustment		Consensus		Affection		Satisfaction		Cohesion	
	Estimate	SE	Estimate	SE	Estimate	SE	Estimate	SE	Estimate	SE
Intercept	109.62	2.94	46.95	1.83	9.62	0.44	37.80	0.92	15.32	0.45
Sex	3.85	1.70	2.58	1.10	0.19	0.25	0.64	0.50	0.41	0.27
Duration	-2.83	1.43	-0.98	0.76	-0.32	0.20	-1.00	0.52	**-0.50***	0.21
Actor GN	-1.08	3.92	-1.03	2.16	-0.93	0.56	-0.22	1.40	1.04	0.58
Partner GN	-1.11	4.13	-0.12	2.29	0.55	0.59	-0.90	1.46	-0.57	0.62
Sex*Actor GN	1.32	2.56	0.81	1.41	0.65	0.36	0.26	0.91	-0.38	0.38
Sex*Partner GN	-0.16	2.60	-0.40	1.43	-0.34	0.37	0.22	0.92	0.34	0.39
Actor GN*Partner GN	-2.02	1.52	-1.19	0.81	-0.35	0.21	-0.54	0.56	0.03	0.22
Duration*Actor GN	-1.41	1.22	-0.70	0.70	-0.01	0.18	-0.33	0.42	**-0.42***	0.18
Duration*Partner GN	-2.41	1.23	-1.22	0.70	-0.20	0.18	-0.69	0.42	-0.24	0.19
Duration*Actor GN*Partner GN	-1.56	1.56	-0.89	0.83	-0.27	0.22	-0.47	0.57	0.02	0.23

*p<.05; **p<.01. Actor GN = Actor Grandiose Narcissism; Partner GN = Partner Grandiose Narcissism; SE = Standard Error.

Table 12. Actor-Partner Interdependence Models estimating E/E narcissism and relationship ratings.

|	Total Adjustment		Consensus		Affection		Satisfaction		Cohesion	
	Estimate	SE	Estimate	SE	Estimate	SE	Estimate	SE	Estimate	SE
Intercept	112.52	2.99	47.56	1.93	9.81	0.46	39.67	0.87	15.56	0.48
Sex	2.52	1.75	2.25	1.16	0.13	0.27	-0.25	0.48	0.37	0.29
Duration	**-3.03***	1.19	-1.01	0.65	**-0.51****	0.18	**-1.16****	0.44	**-0.41***	0.19
Actor E/E	-6.35	3.81	-2.87	2.15	-1.10	0.57	-2.17	1.36	-0.11	0.62
Partner E/E	4.87	4.57	0.91	2.65	0.63	0.70	**3.29***	1.59	0.27	0.72
Sex*Actor E/E	2.25	2.67	0.94	1.50	0.57	0.40	0.66	0.96	0.02	0.44
Sex*Partner E/E	-4.52	2.70	-1.39	1.55	-0.60	0.41	**-2.35***	0.95	-0.31	0.43
Actor E/E*Partner E/E	-2.03	1.65	-0.53	0.89	-0.33	0.25	-0.69	0.62	-0.47	0.27
Duration*Actor E/E	**-2.74***	1.37	-1.23	0.82	-0.18	0.21	**-1.03***	0.44	-0.38	0.22
Duration*Partner E/E	**-3.80****	1.41	-1.58	0.84	**-0.45***	0.21	**-1.55****	0.46	-0.27	0.23
Duration*Actor E/E*Partner E/E	**-4.10***	1.81	**-2.40***	1.02	-0.45	0.27	**-1.38***	0.62	-0.11	0.29

*$p<.05$; **$p<.01$. Actor E/E = Actor Entitlement/Exploitativeness; Partner E/E = Partner Entitlement/Exploitativeness; SE = Standard Error.

Table 13. Actor-Partner Interdependence Models estimating vulnerable narcissism and relationship ratings.

|	Total Adjustment		Consensus		Affection		Satisfaction		Cohesion	
	Estimate	SE	Estimate	SE	Estimate	SE	Estimate	SE	Estimate	SE
Intercept	110.24	2.74	47.06	1.73	9.48	0.40	38.19	0.86	15.48	0.45
Sex	3.26	1.65	2.44	1.06	0.17	0.24	0.38	0.49	0.33	0.27
Duration	**-2.52***	1.17	-0.97	0.64	**-0.39***	0.17	-0.84	0.43	-0.33	0.19
Actor VN	-3.39	3.33	-2.01	1.91	-0.39	0.49	-0.72	1.17	-0.05	0.55
Partner VN	-3.80	3.28	-0.36	1.88	0.59	0.48	**-2.82***	1.15	-0.99	0.54
Sex*Actor VN	-0.87	2.12	-0.18	1.20	-0.16	0.31	-0.41	0.74	-0.21	0.35
Sex*Partner VN	0.88	2.11	-0.23	1.20	-0.50	0.31	1.08	0.74	0.51	0.35
Actor VN*Partner VN	-1.09	1.15	-1.01	0.62	0.08	0.17	-0.42	0.42	0.15	0.19
Duration*Actor VN	-1.85	0.99	-0.98	0.58	**-0.28***	0.14	-0.21	0.34	-0.24	0.16
Duration*Partner VN	-0.62	1.01	-0.45	0.60	-0.15	0.15	-0.08	0.34	0.17	0.17
Duration*Actor VN*Partner VN	-1.68	1.05	-0.56	0.58	-0.28	0.15	-0.56	0.38	-0.12	0.17

*p<.05; **p<.01. Actor VN = Actor Vulnerable Narcissism; VN = Partner Vulnerable Narcissism.

Figure 1. Interaction between duration and actor grandiose narcissism to predict cohesion.
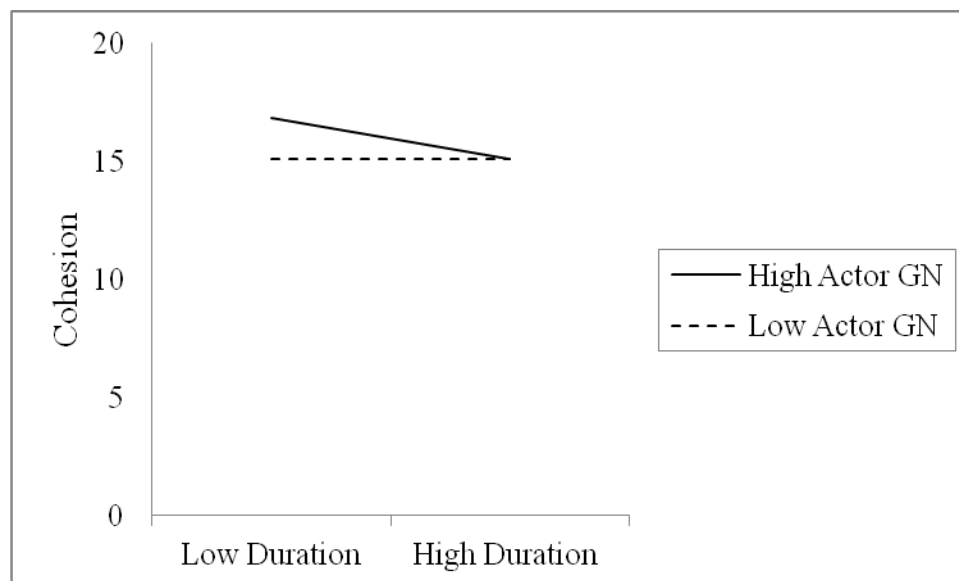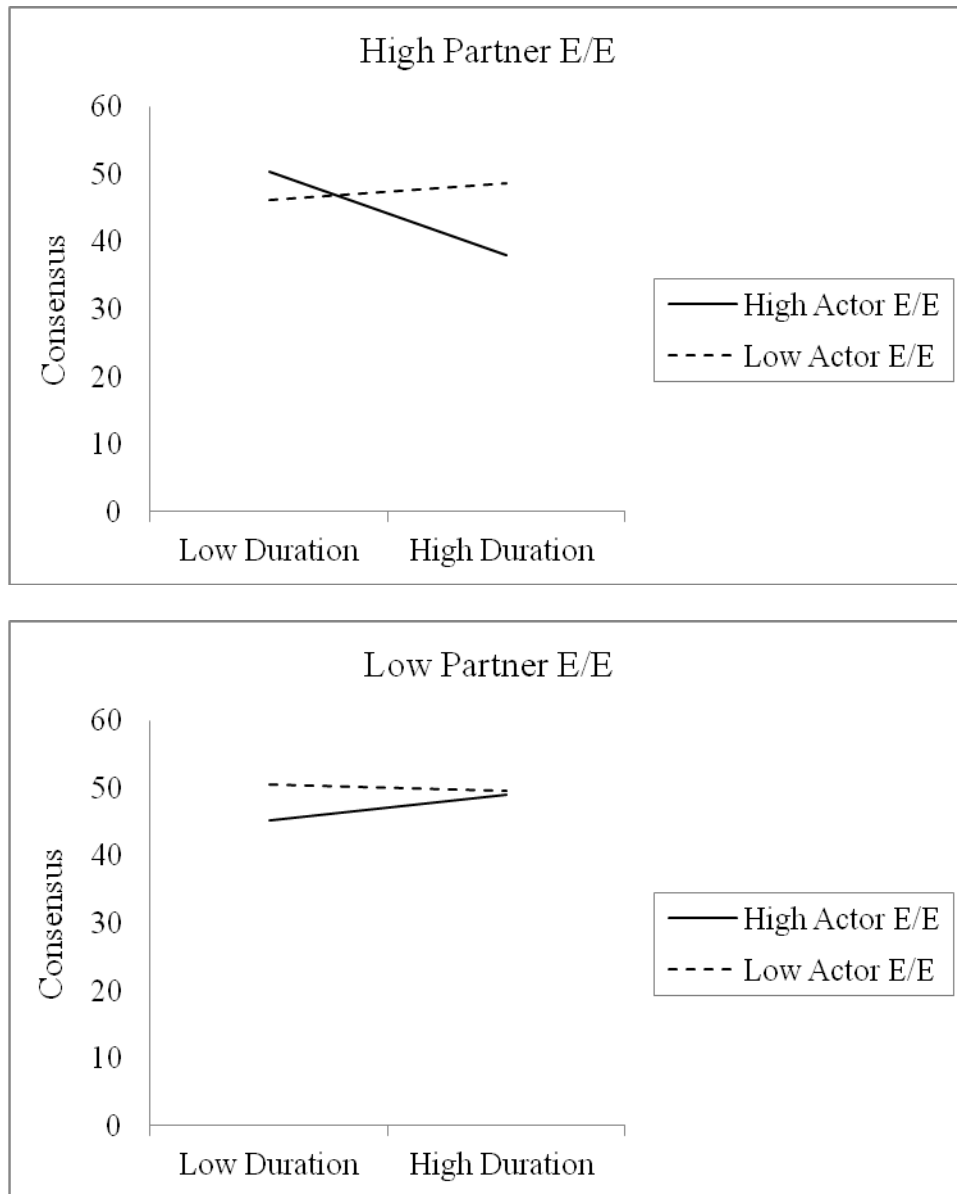

Note: Actor GN = Actor Grandiose Narcissism.

Figure 2. Interactions between duration, actor E/E, and partner E/E to predict overall relationship adjustment.
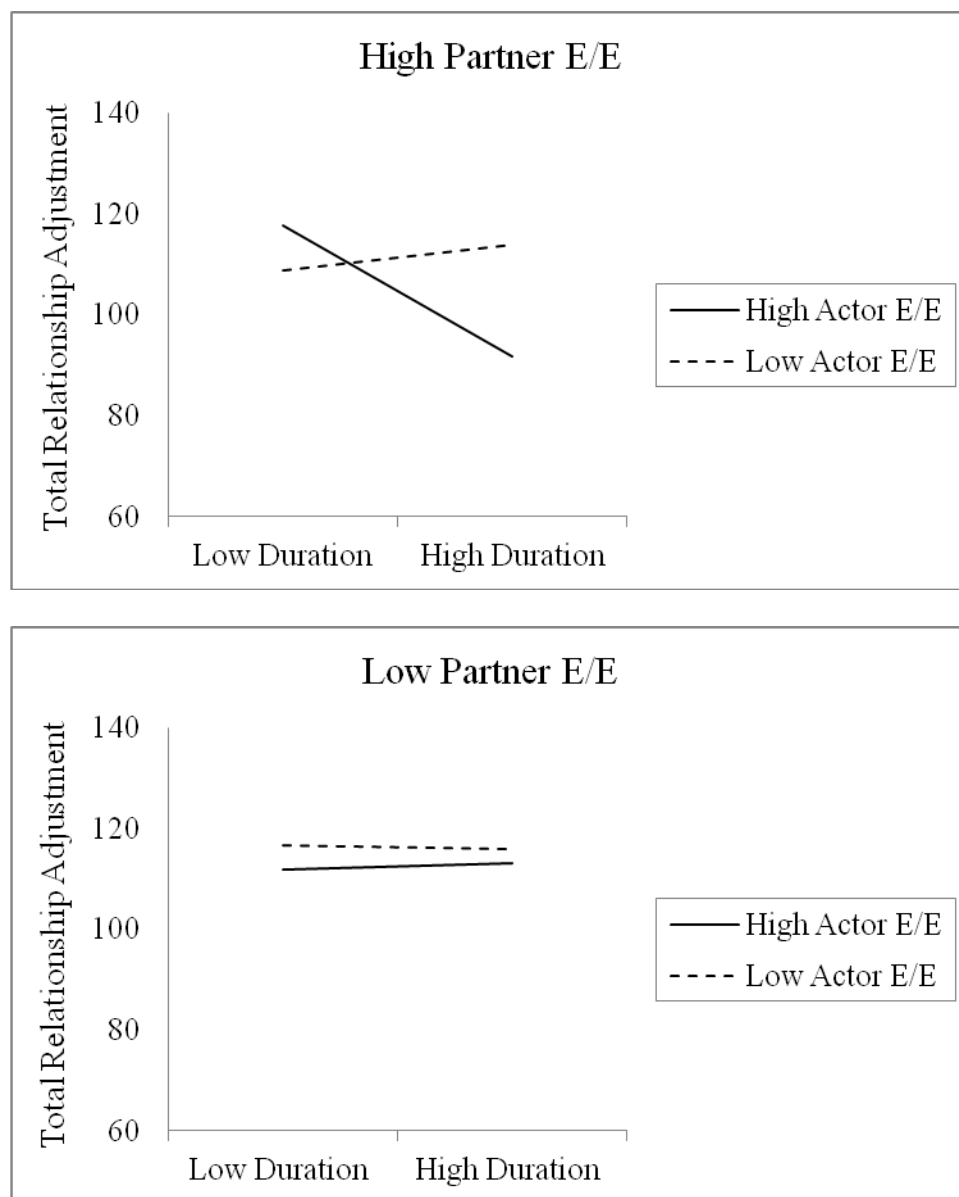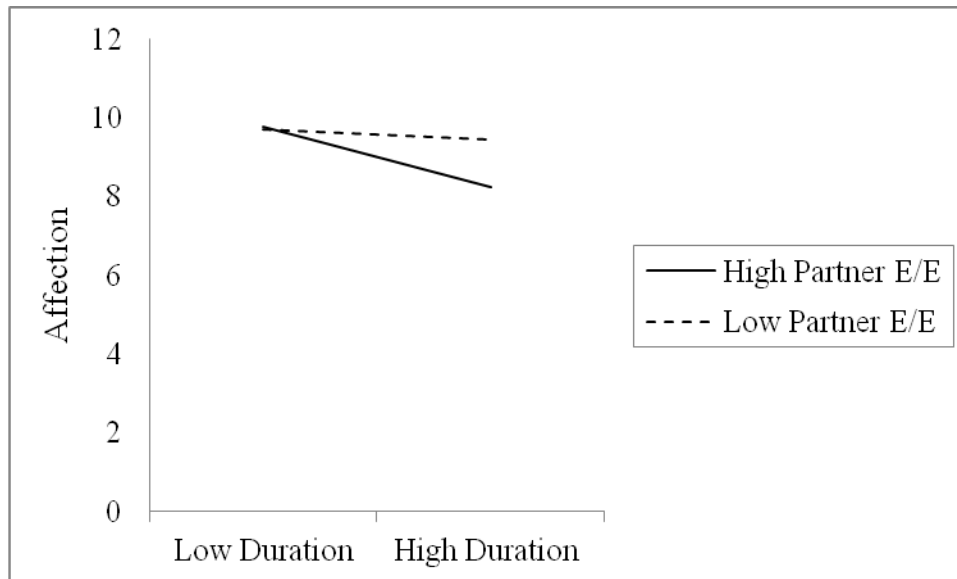

Note: Actor E/E = Actor Entitlement/Exploitativeness; Partner E/E = Partner Entitlement/Exploitativeness.

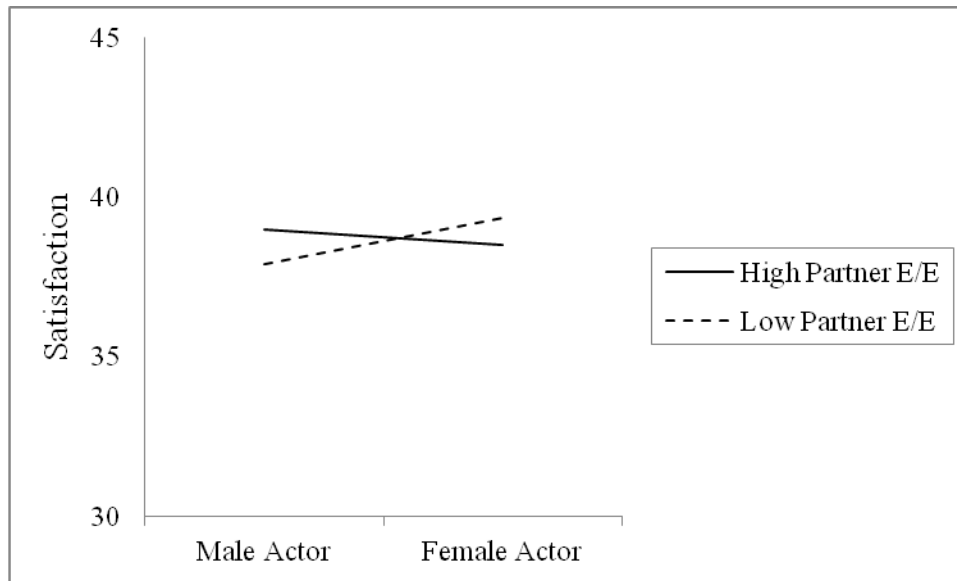Figure 3. Interactions between duration, actor E/E, and partner E/E to predict consensus.

Note: Actor E/E = Actor Entitlement/Exploitativeness; Partner E/E = Partner Entitlement/Exploitativeness.

Figure 4. Interaction between duration and partner E/E to predict affection.
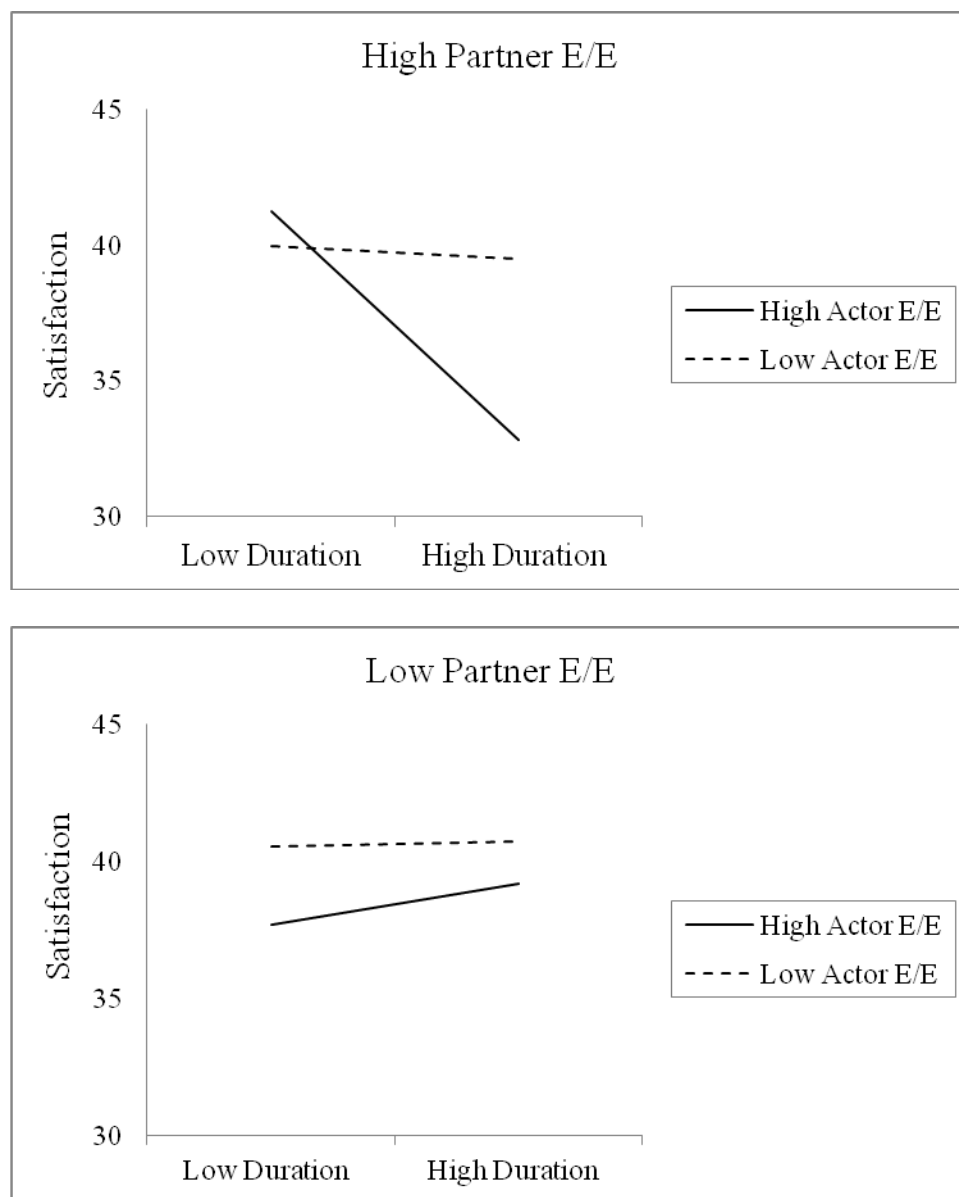

Note: Partner E/E = Partner Entitlement/Exploitativeness.

Figure 5. Interaction between actor gender and partner E/E narcissism to predict relationship satisfaction.
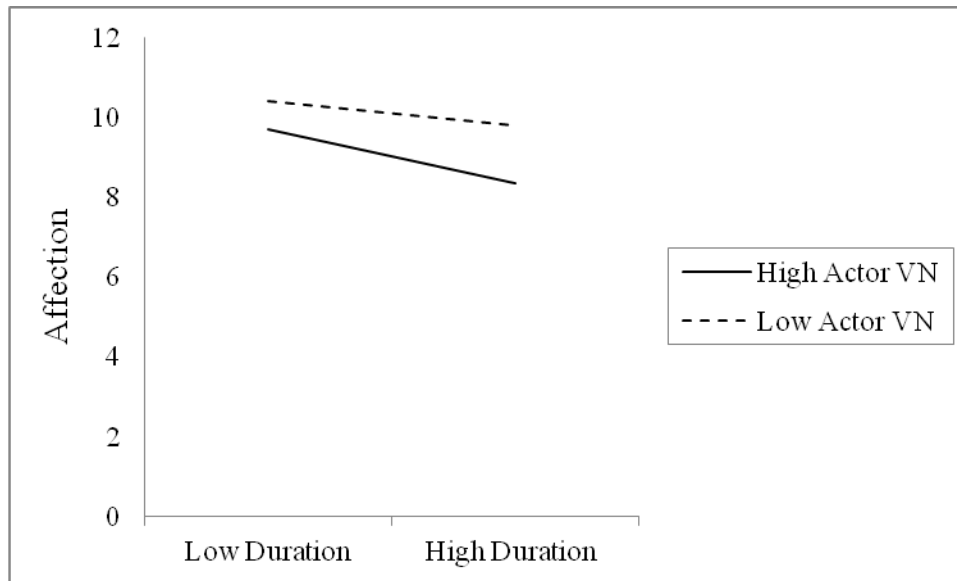

Note: Partner E/E = Partner Entitlement/Exploitativeness.

Figure 6. Interaction between duration, actor E/E narcissism, and partner E/E narcissism to predict relationship satisfaction.

Note: Actor E/E = Actor Entitlement/Exploitativeness; Partner E/E = Partner Entitlement/Exploitativeness.

Figure 7. Interaction between duration and actor vulnerable narcissism to predict affection.

Note: Actor VN = Actor Vulnerable Narcissism.