

## **The Children of Narcissus: Insights into Narcissists' Parenting Styles**

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## Abstract

Individuals scoring high on trait narcissism are characterised by grandiosity, self-centredness, and lack of empathy, resulting in troubled interpersonal relationships (e.g., with acquaintances and relationship partners). Do these troubled relationships extend to their own children? In this online study of 368 parents, we examined whether grandiose narcissists are less likely to adopt optimal parenting styles (authoritative) and more likely to adopt non-optimal parenting styles (authoritarian and permissive) and began to explore underlying mechanisms in terms of low empathy and unresponsive-caregiving. Narcissism was negatively associated with optimal parenting, and positively associated with non-optimal parenting, controlling for Big Five personality and attachment dimensions. Sequential mediation revealed that narcissists' low empathy predicts unresponsive-caregiving towards their child(ren), which in turn predicts low optimal and high non-optimal parenting practices. These effects are driven by narcissists' maladaptive traits. Exploring links between parental personality and parenting allows researchers to identify individuals at risk of poor parenting. Understanding the mechanisms that explain this relationship will assist in the development of effective interventions.

*Keywords:* narcissism, empathy, caregiving, parenting

Parents play a critical role in a child's cognitive, emotional, physical, and social development (Lamborn, Mounts, Steinberg, & Dornbusch, 1991). Much work has focused on delineating parenting styles and their consequences (Baumrind, 1971). There is surprisingly less understanding of the individual differences that lead a parent to develop these styles, and the underlying motivations. This article examines the contribution of subclinical narcissism—a personality trait that is known to undermine interpersonal relationships (Campbell & Foster, 2002). In so doing, it aims to inform ways to support optimal parenting.

Parenting has been conceived in terms of three primary styles (Baumrind, 1971). *Authoritative* parents exude warmth and encourage their children to freely express themselves. They impose rules as a means to meet their children's needs and explain reasons for these rules. *Authoritarian* parents value obedience and respect for authority. They are directive, verbally hostile, use physical punishment, and expect children to accept parental authority unquestioningly. *Permissive* parents fail to monitor, or ignore, their children's activities and lack follow-through behaviours. These parenting dimensions are typically portrayed as trait-like and stable across time (Baumrind, 1989).

Research has consistently shown that parenting styles differentially influence child outcomes. Authoritative parenting emerges as the most optimal form (Baumrind, 1971), with children of authoritative parents reporting higher self-confidence, self-reliance, better socio-emotional and academic outcomes, and fewer externalising problems (Lamborn et al., 1991). Authoritarian and permissive parenting (hereafter “non-optimal” parenting) have been identified as risk factors for antisocial behaviour, low social competence, and poor academic performance (Steinberg, Mounts, Lamborn, & Dornbusch, 1991). Long-term maladaptive consequences of exposure to non-optimal parenting underscore the need for improved understanding of predictors of such parenting. Identifying individuals likely to experience parenting difficulties, and understanding their motivations for adopting differing parenting styles, allows researchers to develop more effective preventative measures or interventions.

Although widely acknowledged that parenting is multiply determined, parental personality has been at the forefront of this research: Extensive correlational evidence links personality to parenting styles (Prinzle, Stams, Deković, Reijntjes, & Belsky, 2009). In the literature on the Big Five, parents high in extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, emotional stability, and openness display more optimal and less non-optimal parenting (Prinzle et al., 2009). In the attachment literature, a secure attachment style has been related to optimal parenting, and insecure attachment to non-optimal parenting (Jones, Cassidy, & Shaver, 2015). These literatures support the value of considering personality in parenting research.

Despite the volume of research examining parent personality on parenting practices, little has explored the underlying mechanisms, which are crucial to informing effective interventions (for an exception; Millings, Walsh, Hepper, & O'Brien, 2013). A key personality variable that shapes interpersonal motivation and warrants exploration in the parenting context is narcissism. Subclinical grandiose narcissism is a normally-distributed personality trait associated with high agency (reflecting dominance and superiority) and low communion (reflecting lack of caring for others; Campbell & Foster, 2007). Narcissism entails inflated self-views and diverse self-enhancement and self-protection efforts, including attention-seeking, and taking credit for success but blaming others for failure (Hepper, Gramzow, & Sedikides, 2010). Narcissists react aggressively to criticism, game-play in romantic relationships, and lack empathy for others (Baumeister, Bushman, & Campbell, 2000; Campbell & Foster, 2002; Hepper, Hart, & Sedikides, 2014a). Thus, the costs of their poor interpersonal functioning are borne by those around them, including friends and romantic partners. Empirical research examining subclinical narcissism in a family context is scant, with only one article exploring effects of narcissistic parenting on their own children (Dentale et al., 2015).

Understanding narcissism in relation to parenting is a timely venture. Grandiose narcissism is on the rise in Western cultures (Twenge, Konrath, Foster, Campbell, & Bushman, 2008). These narcissistic millennials are the parents of the future. Extant literature has

examined only whether certain parenting practices (i.e., being neglectful vs. overly attentive) creates narcissism in offspring (Brummelman et al., 2015). Little research has been devoted to how narcissistic parents rear their children. This is the focus of the present study.

Are narcissistic parents more likely to engage in non-optimal than optimal parenting? Because of narcissists' lack of warmth towards others (Campbell & Foster, 2002) we predicted a negative relationship between narcissism and authoritative parenting. Based on narcissists' ego-involvement and defensiveness (Baumeister et al., 2000) we predicted a positive relationship between narcissism and authoritarian parenting. Finally, given that narcissists admit to not caring about others (Sedikides, Campbell, Reeder, Elliot, & Gregg, 2002) we predicted a positive relationship between narcissism and permissive parenting.

In the only existing study to have examined parental narcissism and parenting (Dentale et al., 2015), parental narcissism positively predicted child's depression and anxiety, which was mediated by reduced parental care, elevated parental shaming, overprotection, and favouritism. This study provided initial evidence that narcissists may adopt non-optimal parenting which may have damaging consequences for their children. However, rearing style was reported retrospectively by the child and not the parent. This introduces potential recall bias; Mechanic and Barry (2015) have shown that adolescents' retrospective reports of parenting behaviours do not match parent-reports because they are based on perceptions and not necessarily on what the parents actually do. The use of child-reports also prevents the exploration of underlying mechanisms or motivations.

The current study builds on prior evidence in four ways. First, we used parental self-report measures that directly assess (non-) optimal parenting (Baumrind, 1971). Second, we examined the influence of different aspects of narcissism. It is well-established that grandiose narcissism entails both relatively adaptive (i.e., authority, self-sufficiency) and more maladaptive (i.e., entitlement, exploitativeness, exhibitionism) aspects. Different subscales of the commonly-used Narcissistic Personality Inventory (Raskin & Terry, 1988) can capture each

dimension (Barry, Frick, Adler, & Grafeman, 2007). Theoretically, the most maladaptive ingredients of narcissism should relate most closely to non-optimal parenting. Third, we controlled for established personality predictors of parenting (i.e., Big Five, attachment) to test the unique contribution of narcissism. Fourth, we examined two psychological mechanisms that underlie these parenting styles: empathy and caregiving-responsiveness.

Empathy comprises a cognitive (i.e., understanding others' perspectives) and emotional (i.e., sharing others' emotions, feeling compassion) component (Davis, 1983). It has a profound impact on interpersonal relationships. In a parenting context, absence of empathy is associated with abusive parental behaviours (Wiehe, 2003). Research consistently shows that narcissists lack empathy (Hepper et al., 2014a). Thus, we examined whether low empathy underscores narcissists' non-optimal parenting practices. Caregiving quality impacts parenting: Millings et al. (2013) showed that responsive-caregiving towards a partner predicted increased use of authoritative parenting styles, and unresponsive-caregiving towards a partner increased use of authoritarian and permissive parenting styles. Although research has not directly explored narcissists' caregiving quality, Feeney and Collins (2001) showed that egoistic motivation correlated negatively, albeit non-significantly, with responsive-caregiving. Moreover, empathy might be a critical precursor to caregiving quality. Theoretically, the caregiving system is activated by an empathic situation, such as an individual in distress (Mikulincer & Shaver, 2007). Although direct tests are scant, Feeney and Collins (2001) reported positive correlations between prosocial orientations and responsive-caregiving. We thus tested the mediating pathways between narcissism and parenting styles via (a) empathy, (b) caregiving-responsiveness, and (c) a sequential pattern from empathy to caregiving-responsiveness (Figure 1).

## **Method**

### **Participants**

Participants ( $N = 408$ ) were recruited online via Amazon's Mechanical Turk. Data were excluded from participants who were not parents ( $n = 10$ ), did not complete the narcissism measure ( $n = 6$ ), or failed instructional manipulation checks ( $n = 24$ ). The remaining 368 participants (235 female, 131 male, 2 undisclosed) were aged 18-75 years ( $M = 37.99$ ,  $SD = 10.84$ ), and were predominantly (75%) White Americans (6% Mixed race, 7% Other White, 7% Black, 4% Other, 1% undisclosed). Most (98.9%) resided in America.

### **Procedure**

After providing consent, participants completed measures of personality in a randomised order, followed by caregiving, and finally parenting. Each participant received \$1.50 upon study completion and written debriefing.

### **Materials**

*Narcissism.* The Narcissistic Personality Inventory (Raskin & Terry, 1988) contains 40 forced-choice items. Participants choose between pairs of statements, one indicating high narcissism (e.g., "I find it easy to manipulate people"), the other low (e.g., "I don't like it when I find myself manipulating people"). The number of narcissistic choices is summed ( $\alpha = .90$ ,  $M = 11.82$ ,  $SD = 7.92$ , range = 0-35). Following Barry et al. (2007), we computed mean scores for adaptive narcissism (i.e., authority and self-sufficiency items;  $\alpha = .82$ ,  $M = .41$ ,  $SD = 0.26$ ) and maladaptive narcissism (i.e., entitlement, exploitativeness, and exhibitionism items;  $\alpha = .79$ ,  $M = .21$ ,  $SD = 0.19$ ). Adaptive and maladaptive narcissism correlated positively,  $r(366) = .66$ ,  $p < .001$ .

*Empathy.* We used two 7-item subscales from The Interpersonal Reactivity Index (Davis, 1983): Perspective-taking (e.g., "Before criticising somebody, I try to imagine how I would feel if I were in their place";  $\alpha = .85$ ), and Empathic-Concern (e.g., "I often have tender, concerned feelings for people less fortunate than me";  $\alpha = .90$ ) from 1 = *not at all* to 8 = *extremely*. As narcissists lack both aspects of empathy (Hepper et al., 2014a; Hepper, Hart, Meek, Cisek, & Sedikides, 2014b), and the subscales correlated moderately,  $r(128) = .50$ ,  $p <$

.001, we combined them into an empathy index ( $\alpha = .91$ ,  $M = 5.97$ ,  $SD = 1.19$ ).

*Caregiving.* We used an adapted version of the Caregiving Questionnaire (Kunce & Shaver, 1994). We assessed three 8-item dimensions of caregiving: proximity, sensitivity, and cooperation (e.g., “When, my child is troubled or upset, I move closer to provide support and comfort”) from 1 = *strongly disagree* to 8 = *strongly agree*. We computed a responsive-caregiving index ( $\alpha = .92$ ,  $M = 6.40$ ,  $SD = 1.03$ ) based on a composite mean of proximity ( $\alpha = .86$ ), sensitivity ( $\alpha = .90$ ), and cooperation ( $\alpha = .85$ ).

*Parenting.* The Parenting Styles and Dimensions Questionnaire (Robinson, Mandelco, Olsen, & Hart, 1995) measures authoritative (27 items,  $\alpha = .89$ ,  $M = 4.04$ ,  $SD = 0.61$ ), authoritarian (20 items,  $\alpha = .85$ ,  $M = 1.95$ ,  $SD = 0.51$ ), and permissive styles (15 items,  $\alpha = .75$ ,  $M = 1.99$ ,  $SD = 0.56$ ). Parents rated the frequency of behaviours (e.g., “I encourage my child to talk about his/her troubles”) from 1 = *never* to 5 = *always*.

*Covariates.* Due to the sensitive nature of some measures, we assessed social-desirability using the impression-management subscale of The Balanced Inventory of Desirable Responding Short-Form (BIDR-16; Hart, Ritchie, Hepper, & Gebauer, 2015;  $\alpha = .78$ ). Participants rated 8 statements (e.g., “I never cover up my mistakes”) from 1 = *strongly disagree* to 8 = *strongly agree*. We also assessed the Big Five and attachment (1 = *strongly disagree*, 8 = *strongly agree*). The Ten-Item Personality Inventory (Gosling, Rentfrow, & Swann, 2003) contains 2 items measuring each of the Big Five domains; Extraversion ( $M = 4.32$ ,  $SD = 2.07$ ,  $r[362] = .61$ ), Neuroticism ( $M = 3.19$ ,  $SD = 1.77$ ,  $r[362] = .68$ ), Agreeableness ( $M = 6.40$ ,  $SD = 1.37$ ,  $r[362] = .39$ ), Openness ( $M = 5.69$ ,  $SD = 1.54$ ,  $r[362] = .36$ ), and Conscientiousness ( $M = 6.40$ ,  $SD = 1.46$ ,  $r[362] = .55$ ). The Experiences in Close Relationships scale-Revised (Fraley, Waller, & Brennan, 2000) contains 18-items assessing each of attachment-avoidance (e.g., “I am nervous when people get too close to me”,  $M = 2.79$ ,  $SD = 1.49$ ,  $\alpha = .96$ ) and attachment-anxiety (e.g., “I need a lot of reassurance that I am loved by my partner,  $M = 2.82$ ,  $SD = 1.63$ ,  $\alpha = .96$ ).



## Results

To examine whether narcissism can explain variation in parenting practices above established personality predictors, we regressed each parenting style on impression-management, sex, Big Five, and attachment (Step 1), and narcissism (Step 2). Adding total narcissism to the model explained significant additional variance in authoritative parenting,  $\Delta R^2 = .02$ ,  $F(1, 346) = 6.86$ ,  $p = .009$ ; and authoritarian parenting,  $\Delta R^2 = .05$ ,  $F(1, 346) = 22.56$ ,  $p < .001$ ; but not permissive  $\Delta R^2 = .00$ ,  $F(1, 346) = .43$ ,  $p = .51$  (Table 1). This was also true when examining the adaptive and maladaptive narcissism components: authoritative  $\Delta R^2 = .02$ ,  $F(1, 345) = 4.91$ ,  $p = .008$ ; authoritarian  $\Delta R^2 = .04$ ,  $F(1, 345) = 9.97$ ,  $p < .001$ ; permissive  $\Delta R^2 = .00$ ,  $F(1, 345) = 1.85$ ,  $p = .16$ .

We next tested direct and indirect effects of narcissism on parenting styles via empathy and caregiving using Hayes' (2013) PROCESS. We did so using three narcissism indices: (a) total narcissism, (b) adaptive narcissism (controlling for maladaptive narcissism), and (c) maladaptive narcissism (controlling for adaptive narcissism).

For each model we tested four possible paths from narcissism to parenting style, controlling for impression-management, sex, Big Five, and attachment (see Figure 1): a direct effect (path c), an indirect effect via empathy (path a\*e), an indirect effect via caregiving (path b\*f), and a sequential indirect effect via empathy and then caregiving (path a\*d\*f). The latter indirect effect corresponds to the theoretical proposal that narcissists' low empathy predicts deficits in caregiving, which in turn shapes parenting style.

The total effects of total and maladaptive narcissism on authoritative parenting were negative and significant, with the total effect of adaptive narcissism positive and non-significant. The total effects of all three narcissism indices on authoritarian parenting were positive, albeit non-significant for adaptive narcissism. The total effects of all narcissism indices on permissive parenting were positive but non-significant (Table 2). Note that the absence of significant total effects does not preclude the presence of an indirect effect (Hayes,

2013); for example, narcissism may predict permissive parenting indirectly via low empathy, unresponsive-caregiving, or both.

The direct effects showed patterns consistent with past research. Total and maladaptive narcissism were negatively associated with lower empathy. All narcissism indices were negatively associated with unresponsive-caregiving, albeit non-significantly. Empathy positively predicted caregiving-responsiveness. Empathy was positively and significantly related to authoritative parenting, but unrelated to non-optimal parenting strategies. Responsive-caregiving was positively associated with authoritative parenting and negatively associated with authoritarian and permissive parenting. Thus, empathy and/or caregiving-responsiveness could be acting as mediators between narcissism and parenting.

We next tested indirect effects from narcissism to each parenting style via empathy (path  $a*e$ ), caregiving-responsiveness (path  $b*f$ ) and sequentially via empathy and caregiving (path  $a*d*f$ ). In the case of *optimal* parenting, the path from total, adaptive, and maladaptive narcissism to authoritative parenting via empathy alone was significant. Those scoring higher in total and maladaptive narcissism had lower empathy, which predicted less authoritative parenting; interestingly, those higher in adaptive narcissism had higher empathy, which predicted more authoritative parenting. None of the indices predicted authoritative parenting via caregiving-responsiveness alone. However, the sequential indirect effects were significant for all three narcissism indices: Those higher on total and maladaptive narcissism scored lower on empathy, which predicted unresponsive-caregiving, which reduced the propensity to engage in authoritative parenting. In contrast, those high on adaptive narcissism reported higher empathy, which in turn predicted higher caregiving-responsiveness and authoritative parenting. The direct effects of all narcissism indices on authoritative parenting were non-significant, thus empathy and caregiving-responsiveness fully explained these associations.

In the case of *non-optimal* parenting, the indirect effects via empathy or caregiving-responsiveness alone were non-significant for all three narcissism indices. However, the

sequential indirect effects for both non-optimal parenting styles were significant for all narcissism indices. That is, the low empathy of those high on total and maladaptive narcissism predicted unresponsive-caregiving, which increased the propensity to engage in authoritarian and permissive parenting. Conversely, the higher empathy of those high in adaptive narcissism predicted responsive-caregiving and subsequently lower authoritarian and permissive parenting tendencies. The direct effects of total and maladaptive narcissism on authoritarian parenting were positive and significant, although reduced in strength compared to the total effect. Thus, low empathy and unresponsive-caregiving cannot account completely for narcissists' propensity to engage in authoritarian parenting.

### **Testing an Alternative Model**

We tested an alternative model to confirm the sequential direction of effects. We reversed the order of the empathy and responsive-caregiving variables and examined the indirect effects (Table 3). For optimal parenting, total and maladaptive narcissism negatively predicted authoritative parenting via caregiving alone. All three narcissism indices predicted authoritative parenting via empathy alone. The only significant sequential indirect effect (via caregiving and then empathy) was for total narcissism. For non-optimal parenting, total narcissism predicted authoritarian and permissive parenting via caregiving alone. These were the only mediating effects. Thus, reversing the order of mediators revealed only one sequential indirect effect compared to nine obtained using the more theoretically-expected order in the main models.

### **Discussion**

This study provides further support that variation in how people function in the parenting role can be influenced by their personality, and shines a spotlight on subclinical grandiose narcissism as a trait that uniquely shapes parenting practices. Specifically, we showed that narcissism is associated with an increased propensity to use non-optimal parenting and decreased propensity to use optimal parenting. Furthermore, these effects are driven by

narcissists' maladaptive traits (i.e., entitlement, exploitativeness, exhibitionism). Those individuals scoring higher in adaptive traits (i.e., authority, self-sufficiency) actually display more optimal and less non-optimal parenting via their higher empathy. Moreover, all narcissism indices explained variance in authoritative and authoritarian parenting styles above that explained by the Big Five and attachment, while controlling for sex and socially-desirable responding. These findings replicate and extend recent evidence (Dentale et al., 2015) using a more fine-grained analysis of narcissism, using a different parenting measure, and controlling for important covariates. This research adds to the narcissism literature by pinpointing another group of people who suffer because of narcissists' lack of communal orientation; their own children.

For the first time, we explored the mechanisms underlying the narcissism-parenting link. We added support to the existing literature that narcissism, particularly maladaptive narcissism, is negatively associated with empathy, and provided the first direct evidence that narcissism is associated with unresponsive-caregiving, via empathy. Across all three parenting styles we showed that the low empathy of those with high total and maladaptive narcissism predicted unresponsive-caregiving toward their child(ren), which was associated with an increased use of non-optimal and decreased use of optimal parenting. For those scoring high on adaptive narcissism, higher empathy predicted caregiving-responsiveness, which predicted increased use of optimal and decreased use of non-optimal parenting. Given that a substantial body of evidence points to the detrimental effects of exposure to non-optimal parenting (Lamborn et al., 1991), understanding *why* narcissists parent the way that they do is essential in being able to intervene through parenting skills programs and reduce negative influences on their child's development. Our research highlights the need to tackle narcissists' low empathy to improve their parenting practices. Such an intervention should focus on promoting the more adaptive elements of narcissism and reducing the maladaptive elements specifically. In this vein, it is encouraging that it is possible to prime communal motives, at least temporarily, in

narcissists (Finkel, Campbell, Buffardi, Kumashiro, & Rusbult, 2009) and that affective empathy can be induced by inviting narcissists to take another's perspective (Hepper et al., 2014a). To be successful in encouraging narcissists to use optimal parenting styles in the long-term, it will be necessary to tailor an intervention to their unique motivational needs, for example, by making empathy appealing to their agentic motives. Doing so should result in narcissistic parents (i) being more likely to engage and remain in parenting programs, (ii) being more empathic towards their children, leading to more responsive-caregiving, and (iii) improving their overall use of optimal compared to non-optimal parenting strategies.

Whilst empathy and responsive-caregiving in this study fully mediated the relationships between all narcissism indices and authoritative parenting, they only partially mediated the relationship between total and maladaptive narcissism and authoritarian parenting. Future research should examine other potential mediators that could explain this link. One possibility is narcissists' need for power, which plays a role in their bullying behaviour (Hart, Hepper, & Sargeant, 2014). That is, narcissists' use of non-optimal parenting strategies may be driven by their high need-for-power (i.e., high agentic motivation) as well as their low empathy (i.e., low communal motivation).

This research further adds to the growing empirical literature on the consequences of narcissists' low empathy. Recent research has shown that their low empathy is a reason for their criminal activity (Hepper et al, 2014b) and bullying in schools and the workplace (Hart & Hepper, 2017; Hart et al., 2014). In this study we showed that their low empathy also impacts their parenting practices. Together, this body of evidence suggests that empathy may represent a key point for intervention for high-narcissists, especially those high in maladaptive traits, in a range of contexts. If we can find ways to increase narcissists' empathy, this has the potential to ameliorate many of their interpersonal difficulties and enrich their relationships. Future research should continue to focus on finding ways to do so.

Several limitations of the present study should be noted. First, we used self-report

measures in order to assess potential underlying mechanisms. Interestingly, our results replicated those of Dentale et al. (2015) whose participants retrospectively recalled their parents' behaviours. We acknowledge that self-report methods are prone to biases and tried to minimise such effects by controlling for socially-desirable responding and using anonymous participation. However, we were unable to control for the possibility that parental personality may affect the parents' assessment of their child's behaviour or interactive effects of parental personality and child temperament (Belsky, 1984). For example, narcissistic parents, being relatively more self-absorbed, may evoke more disobedience from their child as a way of getting noticed and thereby indirectly lead the parent to report more authoritarian behaviours. Future studies might combat these issues by using direct observations of parenting methods, partner- and/or child-reports of parenting, and within-dyad actor-and partner-reports of multiple parent-child interactions. Second, we assessed caregiving-responsiveness by adapting Kuncze and Shaver's (1994) Caregiving Questionnaire, originally designed for romantic relationships, to focus on caregiving towards child(ren). Although this measure showed high reliability, it has not been validated with this target and should be interpreted with this caveat in mind. Finally, the cross-sectional nature of the data limits the extent to which causation can be inferred. The considerable continuity of personality measures over time (McCrae & Costa, 1994) lends confidence that narcissism, empathy, and caregiving influence parenting. Although it seems unlikely that parenting behaviours influenced narcissism, empathy, or caregiving-responsiveness, longitudinal research should verify the causal direction of effects.

## **Conclusion**

The present study makes a novel contribution by demonstrating that narcissism predicts increased use of non-optimal parenting strategies and decreased use of optimal parenting strategies above known personality predictors. We begin to provide an understanding of this relationship showing that narcissists' low empathy predicts unresponsive-caregiving, which predicts non-optimal parenting strategies. Assisting parents high in narcissism to adjust their

parenting towards a more responsive style might be an effective way to prevent persistent emotional and behavioural problems in their offspring. We hope that these findings provide a starting-point for further research and can inform preventative educational and intervention parenting programs in the long-term.

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Table 1

*Step 2 Regression Analyses Parameters: Impression-management, Sex, Big Five, Attachment, and Narcissism on Parenting Styles*

Effect	Authoritative		Authoritarian		Permissive	
	$\beta$	$t$	$\beta$	$t$	$\beta$	$t$
<i>Total Narcissism:</i>						
IM	.08	1.60	-.13*	-2.51	-.10	-1.93
Sex	.15**	3.11	-.11*	-2.33	-.07	-1.41
Anxiety	-.04	-0.64	.09	1.47	.17**	2.99
Avoidance	-.20***	-3.65	.13*	2.48	.14*	2.57
Neuroticism	.04	0.62	.00	0.00	.06	1.02
Extraversion	.02	0.34	-.07	-1.36	-.01	-0.17
Agreeableness	.12*	2.02	-.08	-1.44	-.06	-0.98
Conscientiousness	.13*	2.29	-.13*	-2.43	-.21***	-3.84
Openness	.17**	3.35	-.16**	-3.18	-.09	-1.71
Narcissism	-.14*	-2.62	.25***	4.75	.05	0.66
<i>Adaptive and Maladaptive Narcissism:</i>						
IM	.07	1.30	-.12*	-2.33	-.08	-1.66
Sex	.14**	2.96	-.11*	-2.21	-.06	-1.29
Anxiety	-.03	-0.46	.08	1.38	.16**	2.82
Avoidance	-.20***	-3.61	.13*	2.43	.14*	2.53
Neuroticism	.05	1.07	-.02	-0.23	.04	0.68
Extraversion	.01	0.26	-.07	-1.34	-.01	-0.18
Agreeableness	.13*	2.24	-.09	-1.51	-.06	-1.13
Conscientiousness	.11*	2.07	-.13*	-2.37	-.20***	-3.66
Openness	.16**	3.22	-.15**	-2.99	-.08	-1.67
Adaptive narcissism	.08	1.22	.06	0.89	-.10	-1.47
Maladaptive narcissism	-.21**	-3.04	.20**	2.96	.12	1.88

*Note.* \*  $p < .05$ , \*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*\*  $p < .001$ . IM = Impression-management. Sex: male = 1, female = 2.

Table 2

*Tests of Direct and Indirect Effects of Narcissism on Parenting Styles via Empathy and Caregiving*

Effect	Authoritative			Authoritarian			Permissive		
	$\beta$	<i>SE</i>	95% CI	$\beta$	<i>SE</i>	95% CI	$\beta$	<i>SE</i>	95% CI
<i>Total effects:</i>									
Total narcissism → Parenting	<b>-.14</b>	.06	-.26, -.03	<b>.24</b>	.06	.12, .36	.03	.05	-.07, .13
Adaptive narcissism → Parenting	.08	.08	-.07, .24	.07	.06	-.05, .20	-.09	.06	-.22, .04
Maladaptive narcissism → Parenting	<b>-.21</b>	.08	-.39, -.04	<b>.18</b>	.07	.04, .32	.06	.06	-.05, .17
<i>Direct effects:</i>									
Total narcissism → Parenting	-.04	.05	-.14, .06	<b>.21</b>	.06	.10, .32	-.02	.05	-.12, .08
Adaptive narcissism → Parenting	.06	.06	-.06, .17	.07	.06	-.05, .20	-.08	.06	-.20, .04
Maladaptive narcissism → Parenting	-.09	.06	-.22, .03	<b>.15</b>	.07	.01, .30	.01	.05	-.09, .11
Total narcissism → Empathy	<b>-.19</b>	.06	-.31, -.07	<b>-.19</b>	.06	-.31, -.07	<b>-.19</b>	.06	-.31, -.07
Adaptive narcissism → Empathy	.12	.07	-.01, .26	.12	.07	-.01, .26	.12	.07	-.01, .26
Maladaptive narcissism → Empathy	<b>-.32</b>	.09	-.49, -.14	<b>-.32</b>	.09	-.49, -.14	<b>-.32</b>	.09	-.49, -.14
Total narcissism → Caregiving	-.06	.05	-.16, .04	-.06	.05	-.16, .04	-.06	.05	-.16, .04
Adaptive narcissism → Caregiving	-.01	.07	-.14, .11	-.01	.07	-.14, .11	-.01	.07	-.14, .11
Maladaptive narcissism → Caregiving	-.04	.08	-.19, .12	-.04	.08	-.19, .12	-.04	.08	-.19, .12
Empathy →	<b>.20</b>	.06	.07, .33	<b>.20</b>	.06	.07, .33	<b>.20</b>	.06	.07, .33

Caregiving

Empathy → Parenting	<b>.18</b>	.06	.07, .29	.07	.06	-.05, .18	-.03	.06	-.15, .08
Caregiving → Parenting	<b>.62</b>	.07	.47, .77	<b>-.48</b>	.07	-.62, -.34	<b>-.43</b>	.08	-.59, -.27

*Indirect effects:*

Total narcissism → Parenting

Via Empathy	<b>-.04</b>	.01	-.07, -.01	-.01	.01	-.04, .01	.01	.01	-.01, .03
Via Caregiving	-.04	.03	-.10, .02	.03	.03	-.02, .08	.03	.02	-.02, .08
Via Empathy → Caregiving	<b>-.02</b>	.01	-.05, -.01	<b>.02</b>	.01	.01, .04	<b>.02</b>	.01	.01, .04

$R^2 = .54$	$R^2 = .43$	$R^2 = .41$
$F(12, 340) = 29.38, p < .001$	$F(12, 340) = 17.76, p < .001$	$F(12, 340) = 16.33, p < .001$

Adaptive narcissism → Parenting

Via Empathy	<b>.02</b>	.01	.00, .06	.01	.01	-.00, .03	-.00	.01	-.03, .01
Via Caregiving	-.01	.04	-.09, .07	.01	.03	-.05, .07	.03	.02	-.02, .08
Via Empathy → Caregiving	<b>.02</b>	.01	.00, .04	<b>-.01</b>	.01	-.03, -.00	<b>-.01</b>	.01	-.03, -.00

$R^2 = .54$	$R^2 = .43$	$R^2 = .30$
$F(13, 339) = 27.14, p < .001$	$F(13, 339) = 16.58, p < .001$	$F(13, 339) = 13.06, p < .001$

Maladaptive narcissism → Parenting

Via Empathy	<b>-.06</b>	.02	-.11, -.02	-.02	.02	-.06, .01	.01	.02	-.03, .05
Via Caregiving	-.02	.05	-.12, .06	.02	.04	-.05, .10	.02	.03	-.04, .08
Via Empathy → Caregiving	<b>-.04</b>	.01	-.08, -.02	<b>.03</b>	.01	.01, .06	<b>.03</b>	.01	.01, .05

$R^2 = .54$	$R^2 = .43$	$R^2 = .41$
$F(13, 339) = 27.14, p < .001$	$F(13, 339) = 16.58, p < .001$	$F(13, 339) = 16.24, p < .001$

*Note.* Analyses conducted using PROCESS model 6 (10,000 bootstrap samples; Hayes, 2013) on  $n = 353$  due to missing data. All standard errors for continuous outcome models are based on the HC3 estimator. Reported results are controlling for Impression-management, Sex, Big Five, and Attachment. Confidence intervals are bias-corrected. Significant direct and indirect effects are evidenced by confidence intervals that do not include zero and are presented in bold type.

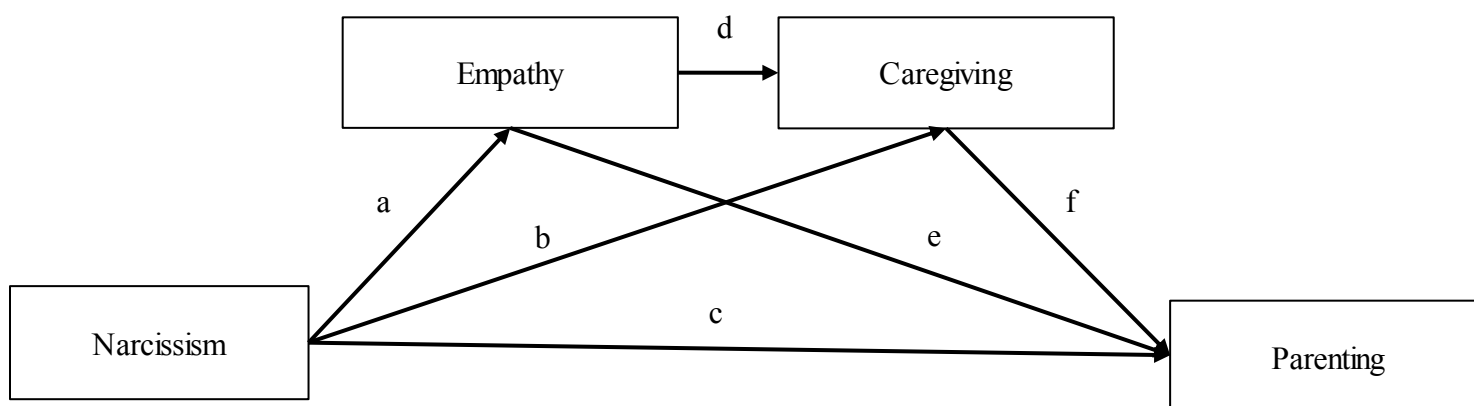
Table 3

*Tests of Indirect Effects of Narcissism on Parenting Styles via Caregiving and Empathy*

Effect	Authoritative			Authoritarian			Permissive		
	$\beta$	<i>SE</i>	95% CI	$\beta$	<i>SE</i>	95% CI	$\beta$	<i>SE</i>	95% CI
<i>Indirect effects:</i>									
Total narcissism → Parenting									
Via Caregiving	<b>-.10</b>	.04	-.17, -.03	<b>.05</b>	.03	.00, .10	<b>.05</b>	.03	.01, .11
Via Empathy	<b>-.03</b>	.01	-.07, -.00	-.01	.01	-.04, .00	.01	.01	-.00, .01
Via Caregiving → Empathy	<b>-.00</b>	.00	-.01, -.00	.00	.00	-.01, .00	.00	.00	.01, .04
Adaptive narcissism → Parenting									
Via Caregiving	.01	.04	-.07, .08	-.00	.03	-.06, .05	-.00	.03	-.06, .05
Via Empathy	<b>.02</b>	.01	.00, .06	.01	.01	-.00, .03	-.00	.01	-.03, .01
Via Caregiving → Empathy	.00	.00	-.00, .01	.00	.00	-.00, .00	.00	.00	-.00, .00
Maladaptive narcissism → Parenting									
Via Caregiving	<b>-.06</b>	.05	-.22, -.02	.05	.04	-.02, .14	.04	.03	-.02, .12
Via Empathy	<b>-.04</b>	.02	-.11, -.02	-.02	.02	-.06, .01	.01	.02	-.03, .05
Via Caregiving → Empathy	-.00	.00	-.01, .00	-.00	.00	-.01, .00	.00	.00	-.00, .01

*Note.* Analyses conducted using PROCESS model 6 (10,000 bootstrap samples; Hayes, 2013) on  $n = 353$  due to missing data. All standard errors for continuous outcome models are based on the HC3 estimator. Reported results are controlling for Impression-management, Sex, Big Five, and Attachment. Confidence intervals are bias-corrected. Significant direct and indirect effects are evidenced by confidence intervals that do not include zero and are presented in bold type.





*Figure 1.* Theoretical model of relationship between narcissism and parenting.