

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS OF THE
XXXII INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

EMPIRICAL STUDIES IN PSYCHOLOGY

MARCH 27–29, 2026

FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY, UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE



INSTITUTE OF PSYCHOLOGY
LABORATORY FOR EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY
FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY, UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS OF THE
XXXII INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

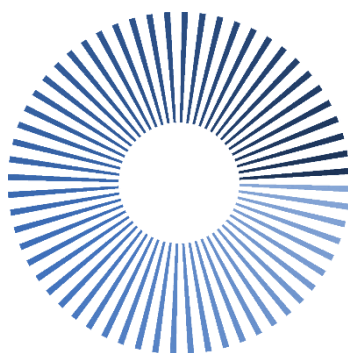
EMPIRICAL STUDIES IN PSYCHOLOGY

MARCH 27–29, 2026

FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY, UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE



INSTITUTE OF PSYCHOLOGY



LABORATORY FOR EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY
FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY, UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE

BELGRADE, 2026

“WITH A LITTLE HELP OF MY FRIENDS”: PREDICTING ANTISOCIAL OUTCOMES
WITH SELF AND FRIENDS’ DARK TRAITS

Dorđe Volarević[✉]*, Svetlana Pavlović[✉], Nikola Drndarević[✉], Marija Čolić[✉] &
Janko Mededović[✉]

Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research

Dark personality traits (DT)—Machiavellianism, narcissism, psychopathy, and sadism—are established predictors of antagonistic and socially harmful behaviours. Most research, however, has focused on individuals’ self-reported traits, neglecting whether perceptions of close friends’ DT contribute to antisocial tendencies. Since individuals high in DT tend to affiliate with similar peers, perceptions of friends’ dispositions may influence antisocial orientations. The present study examined whether self-perceived and ratings of friends’ DT traits predict two antisocial outcomes: antisocial behaviour (AB) tendencies and rape myth acceptance (RMA). Specific objectives were: (1) to examine associations between self-reported DT and antisocial outcomes; (2) to test whether ratings of friends’ DT explain additional variance; (3) to explore regression interactions between self- and ratings of friends’ traits; and (4) to examine the structural patterns of associations using network analysis. We expected that higher levels of DT would be associated with stronger antisocial outcomes (both AB and RMA). Data were collected from a Serbian community sample of 522 adults (40.2% female; $M_{\text{age}} = 25.92$, $SD = 11.07$). Participants completed self- and ratings of a friend’s DT using the Dirty Dozen and the Core Sadism subscale of the Comprehensive Assessment of Sadistic Tendencies. AB was measured with the Subtypes of Antisocial Behavior Questionnaire, and RMA with the 8-item Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance short form. For antisocial behaviour, regression analyses showed that self-reported psychopathy ($\beta = .183$, $p < .001$), sadism ($\beta = .153$, $p \leq .001$), and Machiavellianism ($\beta = .100$, $p < .05$) were significant positive predictors. After adding ratings of friends’ traits, friends’ perceived Machiavellianism ($\beta = .166$, $p < .01$) and friends’ perceived psychopathy ($\beta = .139$, $p < .05$) were also significant predictors. Ratings of friends’ DT had trait-specific effects: friends’ perceived sadism strengthened the link between self-sadism and AB ($\beta = .126$, $p = .014$), whereas friends’ perceived Machiavellianism attenuated the association between self-Machiavellianism and AB ($\beta = -.126$, $p = .009$). For RMA, the overall model was significant, but no self- or ratings of friends’ traits emerged as predictors. Network analysis supported the central role of psychopathy and sadism across antisocial indicators. These findings suggest that antisocial tendencies are explained not only by individuals’ dark dispositions but also by the traits they perceive in close peers. Interventions aiming to reduce AB may benefit from considering these interpersonal dynamics alongside individual personality traits.

Keywords: dark tetrad; antisocial behavior; rape myths; perceived peer influence; psychopathy; sadism

*corresponding author e-mail: volarevic.djordje@gmail.com

CIP – Katalogizacija u publikaciji
Narodna biblioteka Srbije, Beograd

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS OF THE XXXII INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC
CONFERENCE EMPIRICAL STUDIES IN PSYCHOLOGY (32; 2026, Beograd)

[Knjiga rezimea] / XXXII međunarodni naučni skup Empirijska istraživanja u psihologiji
27–29. mart 2026; Filozofski fakultet, Univerzitet u Beogradu; [organizatori]
Institut za psihologiju i Laboratorija za eksperimentalnu psihologiju – 1. Izd –
Beograd: Filozofski fakultet, 2026 –136 str.

Kor. Nasl. – Knjiga apstrakata na engl. jeziku – elektronsko izdanje

ISBN-978-86-6427-353-4

1. Institut za psihologiju (Beograd)
2. Laboratorija za eksperimentalnu psihologiju (Beograd)
- a) Psihologija – Empirijska istraživanja – Zbornik radova