MEASURING PSYCHOPATHY VIA SMALL SAMPLE
OF TriPM ITEMS[*]

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The Triarchic personality model of psychopathy represents one of the most prominent operationalizations of psychopathy. According to this model, psychopathy is characterized by Meanness, Boldness and Disinhibition. The instrument which measures these three dimensions is labeled as Triarchic Personality Measure (TriPM). The goal of the present study was to construct a short self-report inventory by selecting a sample of TriPM items. Using theoretical rationale, we constructed the 15 item version of the scale by narrowing the content of the subscales. In Study 1 (N=135) we showed correlations between the short and long versions of the scale, which were very high. Furthermore, we explored the correlations between the long scales, new measures of psychopathy, and HEXACO personality traits. This analysis revealed the similarities, but differences as well, between the two versions of TriPM. In Study 2 (N=211) we explored the latent structure of the new measure which turned out to be excellent: all items loaded on their respective factors. Finally, we investigated the relations between new psychopathy scales, the Dark Tetrad traits, and substance use. The analysis revealed good convergent and divergent validity of the short TriPM scales. The research results showed adequate reliability (all αs≥.70) and validity of the short TriPM scales,

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thus recommending it for further use. However, researchers should be cautious in interpreting the results obtained from the short scales, since they are not equivalent to the long form of the instrument due to narrowing of the original scales content.

KEYWORDS: psychopathy / Triarchic Personality Measure / HEXACO personality model / Dark Tetrad

INTRODUCTION

Psychopathy and its controversies

Psychopathy is a set of traits characterized by immoral and manipulative behavior, affective callousness based on low emotional empathy, and impulsive behavior which results in the breaking of social and legal norms (Hare, 2003; Levenson, Kiehl, & Fitzpatrick, 1995; Paulhus, Neumann, & Hare, 2016). Psychopathy is often depicted as a crucial personality disposition towards immoral behavior, and as the core predictor of persistent criminality (Leistico, Salekin, DeCoster, & Rogers, 2008). Although psychopathy is a frequent subject of empirical research and there is an extensive body of literature regarding psychopathic characteristics, there are still many unresolved issues regarding this construct. Some of the central topics regarding the controversies around psychopathy are: subordinate dimensions show moderate positive correlations in some models of psychopathy (Hare, 2003), but the absence of correlations in others (Marcus, Fulton, & Edens, 2013); subordinate dimensions have different, and sometimes opposite relations to various external measures (Međedović, 2015); it is highly questionable whether antisocial behavior is a central feature of psychopathy (Cooke, Michie, Hart, & Clark, 2004; Cooke, Michie, & Skeem, 2007; Međedović, Petrović, Kujačić, Željeskov-Đorić, & Savić, 2015); psychopathy is often assumed to be a personality disorder, however, it comprises some indicators of mental health as well (Patrick, Fowles, & Krueger, 2009); despite its various maladaptive outcomes there are adaptive outcomes of psychopathy too (Lilienfeld, Watts, & Smith, 2015), etc.

The Triarchic model of psychopathy

The Triarchic model of psychopathy was constructed with the goal to resolve these persisting issues regarding the construct (Patrick et al., 2009; Patrick & Drislane, 2015). According to this model, psychopathic features are characterized by three traits: 1) *Boldness* – resilience to stress, lack of fear, and high self-assurance; 2) *Meanness* – decreased emotional empathy, cruelty towards others, and premeditated aggression; 3) *Disinhibition* – impulsiveness, irresponsibility, and externalizing behavior. The validity of Triarchic operationalization of psychopathy is validated by establishing correlations with existing psychopathy measures like Psychopathic Personality Inventory, Self Report Psychopathy, Levenson Self-Report

Psychopathy Scale (Drislane, Patrick, & Arsal, 2014) and Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (Venables, Hall, & Patrick, 2014). Furthermore, expected relations between Triarchic psychopathy measures and personality traits have been found (Poy, Segarra, Esteller, López, & Moltó, 2014), together with negative associations with empathy (Stanley, Wygant, & Sellbom, 2013) and positive relations with other immoral behavioral dispositions (Sellbom, & Phillips, 2013). All this data confirmed the validity of the Triarchic model of psychopathy. Three psychopathy traits are operationalized via the Triarchic Personality Measure (TriPM), a self-report inventory which is composed of 58 items (Patrick, 2010).

Technical and conceptual limitations of TriPM

Although TriPM shows adequate psychometric characteristics, including reliability and validity, it has some limitations as well. Some of them are technical: with 58 items, it makes it difficult to administer the inventory in large surveys where questionnaires with a smaller number of items are preferred. Furthermore, it can be reasonably argued that three constructs can be reliably and validly measured with a far lower number of items. Other limitations are conceptual in nature. Every TriPM scale is heterogeneous and it covers several behavioral characteristics. This may sound like an advantage at first glance, since comprehensiveness should be a strong point of a psychological instrument. However, a problem emerges if some characteristics depicted by inventory items are not the core features of a measured construct. As was mentioned before, there is a lot of empirical and conceptual evidence that criminal behavior does not represent a crucial psychopathic feature (Cooke et al., 2004; Cooke et al., 2007; Međedović et al., 2015). However, the items describing criminal behavior are part of the Disinhibition scale. Another example is intentional cruelty which is depicted in the Meanness scale. Intentional cruelty is not usually considered to be an indicator of psychopathy; on the other hand, it is viewed as a crucial feature of trait sadism (Buckels, Jones, & Paulhus, 2013; O'meara, Davies, & Hammond, 2011). Psychopathy and sadism are related but functionally distinct personality characteristics (Međedović, 2017; Mokros, Osterheider, Hucker, & Nitschke, 2011). Our opinion, which is shared by some other researchers as well (e.g. Boduszek & Debowska, 2016), is that we should narrow the content of psychopathy to its core features in order to avoid conceptual confusion.

Goals of the present research

The goal of the present research is to select a smaller sample of items from the TriPM inventory in order to obtain a shorter measure of Triarchic psychopathy traits. In the selection of items, we were guided by conceptual criteria solely, by selecting only the items which depict core psychopathic features. We conducted two studies. In Study 1 we show the correlations between the original TriPM scales and the short scales: these correlations must be high enough in order to establish initial validity of the new scales. Afterwards, we explore the relations between both original TriPM and the new scales with HEXACO personality traits. This task is especially important since we expect a similar pattern of correlations, however, some

differences are expected as well (due to systematic exclusion of some items). In Study 2, we explore the latent structure of the new scales in order to show construct validity. Finally, we analyze the relations between the new scales, the Dark Tetrad traits (narcissism, Machiavellianism, psychopathy and sadism) and substance use in order to further explore convergent and divergent validity of the short TriPM scales.

STUDY 1

Goals of Study 1

The aims of this study are: 1) the construction of the short TriPM scales; 2) exploring the relations between the original and new scales; 3) analyzing the relations between both original and new scales with the HEXACO personality traits. The HEXACO personality framework describes personality using six broad and comprehensive personality domains: Honesty-Humility, Emotionality, Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness and Openness to experience (Lee & Ashton, 2008). The results of previous research which analyzed the relations between TriPM psychopathy scales and HEXACO traits were relatively congruent (Pilch & Górnik-Durose, 2016; Pilch, Sanecka, Hyla, & Atłas, 2015; Ruchensky & Donnellan, 2017). Meanness is negatively correlated to Honesty, Emotionality, and Agreeableness to a somewhat lesser extent. Boldness has negative associations with Emotionality and positive with Extraversion. Finally, Disinhibition is negatively related to the Conscientiousness trait. We expect similar relations in the present study, however some deviations in these relations could be expected too, because of the new psychopathy scales narrower content.

METHOD

Constructing the short versions of the TriPM scales

In the selection of items for the short version, we focused on the conceptual criteria for both the exclusion and inclusion of items into the short TriPM form. Based on the previously described argumentation we systematically *excluded* some items from the selection. We did not account for the items of Disinhibition which depict criminal behavior (e.g. "I have taken money from someone's purse or wallet without asking", "I have stolen something out of a vehicle", etc). We excluded the intentional cruelty items which belong to the original Meanness scale, since they may be more representative of sadism than psychopathy (e.g. "I've injured people to see them in pain", "I enjoy pushing people around sometimes", etc). We also excluded items which lack a clear conceptual relation with the trait they should measure (e.g. "I would enjoy being in a high-speed chase" as a Meanness item).

The criteria for an items *inclusion* were based, not only on the Triarchic model of psychopathy, but also on several prominent psychopathy operationalizations (Hare, 2003; Levenson et al., 1995; Lilienfeld & Andrews, 1996; Patrick et al., 2009;

Boduszek, Debowska, Dhingra, & DeLisi, 2016). We tried to find what the common characteristics of psychopathy are represented in all models and to extract them from TriPM. Finally, we selected the items which represent the following characteristics: for Boldness - high self evaluation, stress resilience, social dominance and social influence; for Meanness - the lack of emotional empathy; for Disinhibition - impulsiveness, the lack of premeditation, irresponsibility. We have chosen 5 items per trait (all selected items can be seen in Table 4).

Sample

The data was collected via online study. The sample was selected via snowball technique, by posting the link for the survey on social networks (N=135). The sample was composed of mostly female participants (62%). The average age was 36 years (SD=14). Participants had 14 years of formal education on average (SD=4.87) which corresponds to the second year of faculty education. Participants were enrolled on a voluntary basis.

Measures

We administrated TriPM (Patrick et al., 2009) scale for the examination of psychopathy. The scale was never administrated in Serbia, but it is translated and validated in Croatia (Ljubin-Golub & Sokić, 2016; Sokić, 2017). Since the Serbian and Croatian language are very similar, we made only minor adjustments to the Serbian version of the scale. The inventory contains 58 items: 19 items each for Boldness and Meanness, and 20 items for Disinhibition. The questionnaire has a 4 point scale for responding where 1 stands for "False"; 2 for "Somewhat false", 3 for "Somewhat true" and 4 for "True".

HEXACO-PI-R (Lee & Ashton, 2006; see Međedović, Čolović, Dinić, & Smederevac, 2017, for the Serbian adaptation of the inventory) was used for the assessment of personality. It has 100 items, 16 per major personality trait (Honesty-Humility, Emotionality, Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness and Openness to experience) and 4 items for the interstitial facet of Altruism. The inventory has a 5 point responding scale where 1 stands for "I completely disagree" and 5 for "I agree completely".

RESULTS

The relations between long and short psychopathy scales

In order to establish the validity of the new psychopathy scales we calculated Pearson's coefficients of correlation between the original and new psychopathy measures. We also obtained the reliability coefficients (Cronbach's α coefficients) for psychopathy traits. These data are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Associations between original and short-form TriPM scales

	M	SD	α	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
1. Boldness	2.67	0.40	.74					
2. Meanness	1.63	0.45	.89	.10				
3. Disinhibition	1.78	0.42	.85	-.21*	.44**			
4. Boldness Short	2.69	0.62	.67	.84**	.14	-.20*		
5. Meanness Short	1.50	0.59	.82	.04	.85**	.26**	.03	
6. Disinhibition Short	1.71	0.62	.74	-.14	.27**	.89**	-.15	.41**

Notes: * - p<.05; ** - p<.01.

As can be seen in Table 1, the correlations between corresponding scales of psychopathy are very high: all coefficients are >.80. It is interesting to mention that the patterns of correlations between psychopathy scales are very similar in the original and short scales - Boldness and Meanness are not related, while there is a positive association of moderate magnitude between Meanness and Disinhibition. The reliabilities of the new scales are acceptable; only the α coefficient for Boldness was somewhat lower, however, small sample size should be accounted for in the interpretation of this finding.

Analyzing the relations between psychopathy and HEXACO personality traits

In order to explore the equivalence between the original and new scales we analyzed the relations between both long and short measures of psychopathy, and the HEXACO personality traits. Besides the major factors of personality, we included the Altruism facet in the analysis as well, since the lack of Altruism is an important marker of psychopathy. The results of this analysis are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: The relations between psychopathy and HEXACO personality factors

	Boldness	Meanness	Disinhibition
Honesty	.01(-.10)	-.24**(-.21**)	-.23**(-.13)
Emotionality	-.35**(-.23**)	-.23**(-.23**)	.02(.00)
Extraversion	.37**(.38**)	-.11(-.08)	-.17*(-.13)
Agreeableness	-.09(-.20*)	-.22*(-.12)	-.11(-.07)
Conscientiousness	.26**(.30**)	-.25**(-.19*)	-.39**(-.34**)
Openness	.25**(.22**)	-.19*(-.14)	-.21*(-.17*)
Altruism	.00(.02)	-.35**(-.28**)	-.18*(-.14)

Notes: * - p<.05; ** - p<.01. Relations between the short form TriPM and HEXACO traits are provided in parentheses.

There are apparent similarities between the original and short scales in regard to their relations with personality traits. Boldness is negatively associated with Emotionality and positively with Extraversion, Conscientiousness, and Openness. Meanness is negatively related to Honesty, Emotionality, Conscientiousness, and the Altruism facet. Finally, Disinhibition shows negative correlations with Conscientiousness and Openness. However, there are some differences in associations as well. Agreeableness is negatively associated with the short, but not the long Boldness scale. The opposite stands true for the relations between Agreeableness and Meanness. The short measure of Disinhibition is not related to Honesty and Altruism, in contrast to the original Disinhibition scale.

DISCUSSION

The findings of Study 1 corroborated the validity of the new psychopathy scales. All measures had adequate reliabilities, which is an important finding since they are composed of only five items. Short psychopathy measures showed high correlations with original TriPM scales. In fact, the relations between psychopathy measures are roughly similar to the ones obtained in previous research: Disinhibition and Meanness are moderately positively associated, while Boldness is mostly unrelated (or even negatively related in our data) to them (Patrick & Drislane, 2015). We believe that low associations between the TriPM psychopathy scales (especially the lack of correlations between Boldness and two remaining scales) are in sharp contrast with calculating a total score on all TriPM scales as a summary score for psychopathy, which is a common practice (e.g. Drislane et al., 2014; Pilch et al., 2017; Sica, Drislane, Caudek, Angrilli, Bottesi, Cerea, & Ghisi, 2015; Weidacker, O'Farrell, Gray, Johnston, & Snowden, 2017; etc). Psychopathy traits defined by the Triarchic model are distinct psychological entities and they should be analyzed in that manner.

Present findings largely corroborated previous data regarding the relations between TriPM psychopathy and HEXACO personality traits (Pilch & Górnik-Durose, 2016; Pilch et al., 2015; Ruchensky & Donnellan, 2017). Furthermore, there is a robust similarity between the original and short scales of psychopathy in their associations with personality. However, there are some differences as well. We believe that these discrepancies inevitably emerge as a result of item selection for the short scales. Short Boldness is negatively associated with Agreeableness, in contrast to the original Boldness scale. This is probably a consequence of the fact that the majority of short Boldness items are saturated by leadership tendencies, social influence and social dominance, all of the traits which are negatively related to Agreeableness. On the other hand, the short Meanness trait is not negatively associated with Agreeableness, like the original Meanness scale. This could be due to the removal of the intentional cruelty items from the short Meanness scale. Finally, the long Disinhibition scale is negatively correlated to Honesty and Altruism, associations which are not found in the short Disinhibition measure. The most probable cause for the lack of associations in the latter case is the absence of criminal and antisocial

behavior items from the short Disinhibition scale. In sum, the results of Study 1 showed that short TriPM scales are indeed valid and reliable measures of psychopathy; however, there are some differences between the short and original form. Dissimilarities are rooted in the slightly different content of two inventory forms.

STUDY 2

Goals of study 2

Study 2 had two goals. The first one was to explore whether the latent structure of the short TriPM scale corresponds to the expected saturation of items to their respectable factors. The second goal was to further evaluate the validity of the short scales, by analyzing their associations with other measures of dark personalities. We chose the Dark Tetrad traits: Machiavellianism, narcissism, psychopathy and sadism (Chabrol, Van Leeuwen, Rodgers, & Séjourné, 2009; Međedović & Petrović, 2015; Paulhus, 2014) as criteria measures. Furthermore, we collected data regarding the consumption of various psychoactive substances as another important behavioral outcome of psychopathy. Previous research showed that Meanness has the highest positive correlations with Machiavellianism (Fanti, Kyranides, Drislane, Colins, & Andershed, 2016; Pilch & Górnik-Durose, 2016) and sadism (Ruchensky & Donnellan, 2017), while Boldness is a crucial TriPM correlate of narcissism (Stanley et al., 2013). The existing data also show that substance use is mostly related to the Disinhibition psychopathy trait (Dotterer, Waller, Cope, Hicks, Nigg, Zucker, & Hyde, 2017). We expect similar relations between short TriPM scales and the external criteria measures in the present study as well.

METHOD

Sample

The study sample consisted of 211 individuals (57% female; M_{age}=28.73, MD=7.38). Participants were highly educated: 58% had finished faculty, while 29% were in the process of studying faculty during the time of data collection; 12% had finished secondary school and 1% of the participants finished only elementary school. Data was collected via online study as well, with a snowball technique used for sampling. Participants were enrolled on a voluntary basis.

Measures

We used short TriPM scales to assess Triarchic psychopathy traits. Machiavellianism (M=2.90; SD=0.64; α=.72), narcissism (M=2.91; SD=0.61; α=.70) and psychopathy (M=1.97; SD=0.58; α=.70) were measured via the short Dark Triad inventory (SD3: Jones & Paulhus, 2014). Every trait is represented by nine items in this inventory.

Sadism is measured by a Core Sadism scale from the Varieties of Sadistic Tendencies inventory (VAST: Paulhus & Jones, 2015). This scale has 7 items (M=1.72; SD=0.54; α=.69). Finally, we assessed substance use via an inventory where we asked participants how often they consume various psychoactive substances (alcohol, cigarettes, sedatives, cannabis, ecstasy, cocaine, amphetamines and hallucinogenic drugs). The items had a 6 point scale for responding where 1 stands for "Never" while 6 depicts "Very frequently". The score on this variable was calculated as a first principal component of the items (Eigenvalue=3.45; 24.65% of original items variance was explained).

RESULTS

Descriptive data and sex differences on short TriPM scales

First we showed descriptive statistics for the short TriPM psychopathy scales. Since there are robust sex differences in psychopathy (with males scoring higher than females: Cale & Lilienfeld, 2002) we calculated sex differences between the psychopathy traits in the present data as well. The results of these analyses are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Descriptive statistics, sex differences
and the reliabilities of short TriPM scales

	M(SD)$_{males}$	M(SD)$_{females}$	t	d	α
Boldness	3.08 (0.60)	2.90(0.53)	2.371*	0.33	.80
Meanness	2.37(0.41)	2.11 (0.36)	4.864**	0.67	.78
Disinhibition	2.07 (0.69)	1.90 (0.68)	1.801†	0.25	.70

Notes: † - p=.07; * - p<.05; ** - p<.01.

As can be seen in Table 3, all three psychopathy traits are more pronounced in male participants. The highest difference was detected in the Meanness trait. Furthermore, all three scales had adequate reliabilities (measured by Cronabch's α coefficient).

Latent structure of the short TriPM items

An important indicator of internal validity is the latent structure of the construct's observed indicators. This is why we explored the latent structure of the short TriPM scales using the Exploratory Maximum Likelihood Factor Analysis. Parallel analysis (an optimized algorithm: Timmerman & Lorenzo-Seva, 2011) has suggested the retention of three factors. These factors are rotated in Promax position. The three factor solution had excellent fit: $\chi^2(63)=113.12$, p=.001; CFI=0.95; GFI=0.99; RMSEA=0.05. The results of factor analysis showed perfect construct validity of the

short TriPM items: every item loaded on its respective factor. The factor structure of the short TriPM scale is shown in Table 4.

Table 4: The latent structure of the short TriPM scale items

	Boldness	Disinhibition	Meanness
Random % of explained variance	13.6	12.3	11.3
Observed % of explained variance	26.7	20.6	13.3
Eigenvalues	3.54	2.76	1.82
I sympathize with others' problems (R)			0.70
I'm a born leader.	0.79		
I have had problems at work because I was irresponsible.		0.46	
I don't have much sympathy for people.			0.78
I can convince people to do what I want.	0.63		
I have lost a friend because of irresponsible things I've done.		0.30	
It doesn't bother me to see someone else in pain.			0.63
I function well in new situations, even when unprepared.	0.60		
Others have told me they are concerned about my lack of self-control.		0.62	
I don't see any point in worrying if what I do hurts someone else.			0.48
I don't like to take the lead in groups. (R)	0.72		
I jump into things without thinking.		0.61	
I am sensitive to the feelings of others. (R)			0.70
I'm not very good at influencing people. (R)	0.60		
My impulsive decisions have caused problems with loved ones.		0.75	

Notes: the results of Parallel analysis are shown in the first two rows; loadings below 0.30 are omitted; (R) - reversely coded

The relations between psychopathy, the Dark Tetrad and substance use

Finally, we explored the associations between short TriPM psychopathy scales, Dark Tetrad traits and substance use. Pearson's correlation coefficient was used as a measure for bivariate associations. The results of correlation analysis are shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Correlations between psychopathy, Dark Tetrad and substance use

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
1. Boldness							
2. Meanness	.18*						
3. Disinhibition	.08	.22**					
4. Machiavellianism	.15*	.24**	.08				
5. Narcissism	.60**	.18*	.10	.18**			
6. Psychopathy	.36**	.41**	.49**	.44**	.32**		
7. Sadism	.15*	.46**	.34**	.35**	.19**	.55**	
8. Substance use	.24**	.13	.31**	.05	.16*	.33**	.25**

Notes: * - p<.05; ** - p<.01.

The correlation analysis showed that Machiavellianism is positively related to Boldness and Meanness; the same could be said for Narcissism. Psychopathy and sadism were positively related to all Triarchic psychopathy measures. Finally, substance use was positively associated with Boldness and Disinhibition. Boldness was not related to Disinhibition. Boldness and Disinhibition showed low positive associations with the Meanness scale.

DISCUSSION

The findings obtained in Study 2 additionally confirmed the utility of the short TriPM scales. The analysis of the short TriPM items latent space showed that all items loaded on their respective factors, thus revealing a perfect latent structure. Furthermore, the fit indices of this latent model were high and quite comparable with the fit indices of the original inventory items (Drislane & Patrick, 2017). We also found sex differences on all three traits (with the difference in Disinhibition having marginal significance) with the highest differences in the Meanness trait. These results have been obtained in previous studies as well (Sica et al., 2015).

Correlation analysis of the associations between Triarchic psychopathy scales and the external criteria also yielded results that are congruent with previous studies. Meanness had the highest correlations with Machiavellianism and sadism, Boldness showed a high positive correlation with Narcissism, while all three psychopathy scales were significantly related to the psychopathy measure from the SD3 inventory. These results were obtained in previous research as well (Fanti et al., 2016; Ruchensky & Donnellan, 2017; Stanley et al., 2013). Our data confirmed earlier findings that Disinhibition is a crucial predictor of substance use from the Triarchic psychopathy model (Dotterer et al., 2017). The positive association between Boldness and substance use is not surprising either. Previous research found that affective psychopathic characteristics are related to lower abstinence in substance use treatment (Swogger et al., 2016). These findings suggest that there are

two pathways which mediate the link between psychopathy and substance use: the first one is rooted in impulsivity and imprudence, while the second one is based on a lack of fear and anxiety (Hopley & Brunelle, 2012).

GENERAL DISCUSSION

The main goal of the present research was to explore whether the Triarchic Personality Measure (TriPM) could be reasonably shortened, but still remain a reliable and valid inventory for the measurement of Triarchic psychopathy traits. All obtained results suggest that this goal was accomplished. Short TriPM scales have good reliability, taking into account that every scale is composed of only five items. The instrument has a perfect factor structure: every selected item represents a valid indicator of the construct which is intended to be measured. Finally, external validity is established by showing expected correlations between the new scales, HEXACO personality traits, Dark Tetrad traits, and substance use. All these findings suggest that short TriPM scales reliably and validly measure psychopathy, and thus, they can be used in further research.

The problem of equivalence between original and short TriPM scales

Short TriPM are valid measures of psychopathy indeed, but there is a question whether the scores on these measures can be viewed as equivalent to the scores on the original TriPM scales. We think that the answer is no, which is most evident in the difference between the associations of two forms of TriPM and HEXACO personality scales. In our opinion, equivalency should not be expected in the first place, since some content of the original scales is deliberately removed from the short measures. We do not think that this is a shortcoming of the new scales: indicators of characteristics which may not represent central features, but correlates of psychopathy, are excluded from the short form. The short scales are more homogenous in their content which could make the interpretation of findings easier. However, researchers should be cautious when interpreting the results obtained on the small scales since they may not apply to the original scales. More precisely, the variance captured by items measuring intentional cruelty and criminal behavior is lacking from the short scales; consequently, they have diminished power to predict criteria measures which can be conceptually linked to these behavioral dispositions. Of course, we would recommend the usage of full scales in every research design where the number of items does not represent a potential constraint.

Limitations and future directions

The present research brought the initial data of validity and reliability of short TriPM scales. The research has limitations of its own: small sample size and the lack of criteria measures obtained by different methods are some of them. The utility and prognostic validity of the short Triarchic psychopathy measures can be determined only by future empirical studies. It is important to establish a nomological network

of the short scales in order to fully explore their predictive power and compare it to the original instrument. If future research confirms the validity and reliability of the short scales, they can be a useful tool for measuring psychopathy in long and time consuming surveys.

Acknowledgments

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MERENJE PSIHOPATIJE POMOĆU MALOG UZORKA STAVKI TriPM INVENTARA

Trijarhijski model psihopatije predstavlja jednu od istaknutih savremenih operacionalizacija ovog koncepta. U okviru ovog modela psihopatija se definiše pomoću tri crte: Zlobe, Smelosti i Dezinhibicije. Instrument koji meri ove tri dimenzije je nazvan Trijarhijska Mera Linosti (Triarchic Personality Measure: TriPM). Cilj ovog istraživanja bio je konstruisanje kratke forme TriPM instrumenta selekcionisanjem manjeg broja njegovih ajtema. Odabrali smo ukupno 15 stavki koristeći pre svega konceptualne argumente i sužavajući sadržaj skala. U Studiji 1 (N=135) analizirali smo korelacije između mera duge i kratke verzije instrumenta, koje su bile veoma visoke. Takođe, izvršena je eksploracija povezanosti između kratke, duge verzije upitnika i HEXACO crta ličnosti. Ova analiza je pokazala sličnosti ali i određene razlike između dve verzije TriPM-a. U Studiji 2 (N=211) ispitana je latentna struktura novog upitnika za koju se pokazalo da je veoma dobra: svi ajtemi su imali zasićenja na onim faktorima koje treba da mere. Na kraju, analizirane su i povezanosti između novih mera psihopatije, crta Mračne Tetrade i upotrebe psihoaktivnih supstanci. Rezultati ove analize pokazali su visoku konvergentnu i divergentnu validnost kratkih TriPM skala. Sumarno, istraživanje je pokazalo adekvatnu pouzdanost (Kronbahove alfe≥.70) i validnost kratkih skala psihopatije, na taj način ih preporučujući za buduću upotrebu. Ipak, istraživači treba da budu oprezni u interpretaciji nalaza dobijenih pomoću kratkih skala jer one nisu ekvivalentne originalnim merama, zbog sažimanja njihovog sadržaja.

KLJUČNE REČI: psihopatija / Trijarhijska mera ličnosti / HEXACO crte ličnosti / Mračna Tetrada