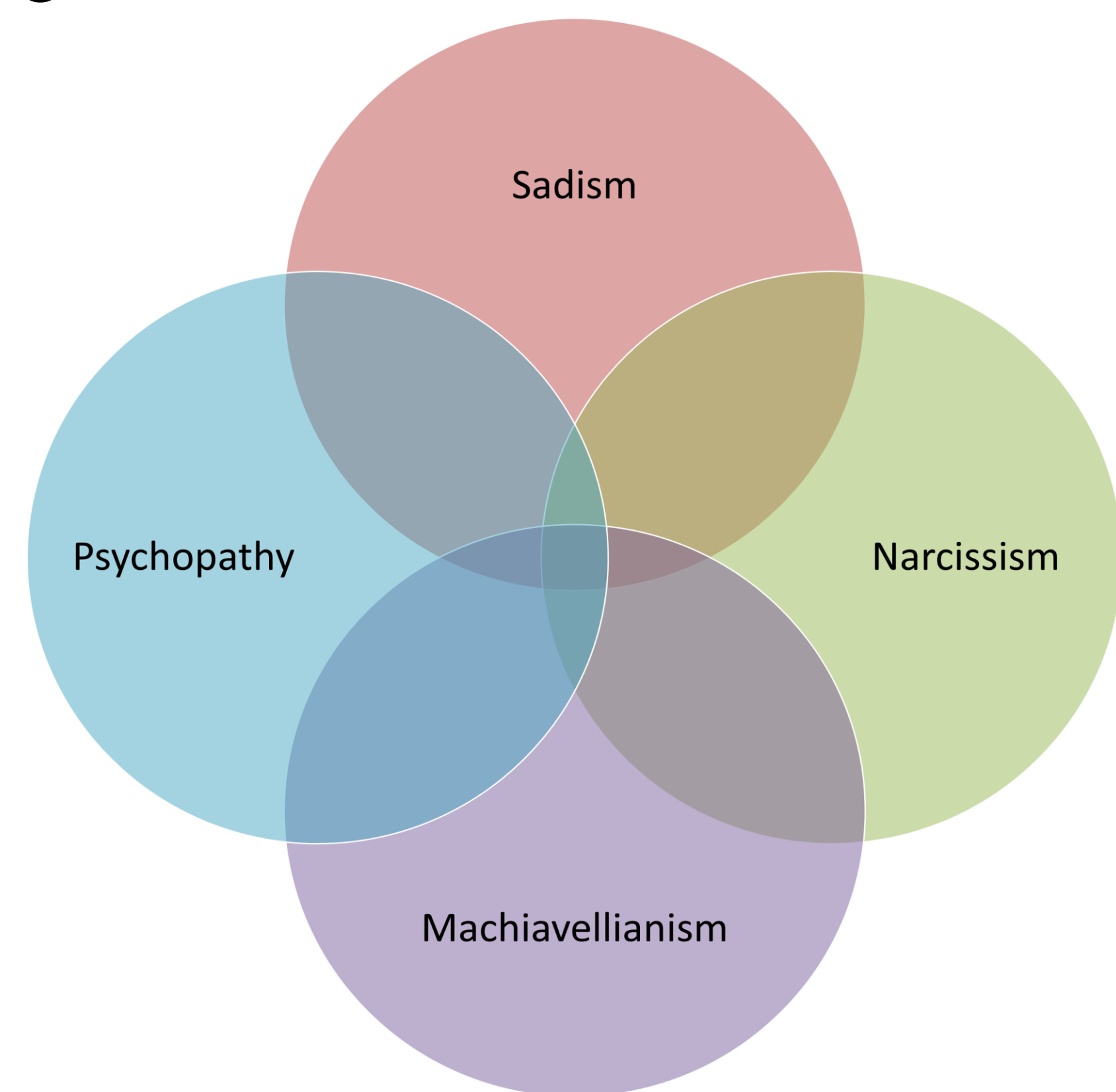


A New Short Measure of the Dark Tetrad

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Background

Heightened interest in dark personality traits and how they relate to each other led Paulhus & Williams (2002) to create the “Dark Triad”, grouping together three dark personality traits: Machiavellianism, psychopathy, and narcissism. Subsequently, sadism has been added as a fourth personality trait (Buckels, Jones, & Paulhus, 2013). This new grouping is now referred to as the “Dark Tetrad.”



Short measures simplify the data collection process and reduce participant fatigue. Researchers have been working to create short measures of dark traits, but a validated short measure of the Dark Tetrad has yet to emerge. In addition, research has provided evidence on the limitations of the currently used short measures of the Dark Triad (Harms, Woods, Landay, & Lowman, 2018), further hindering our progress to a valid, reliable short measure of all the dark personality traits.

There is a growing prevalence in the use of everyday sadism along with the Dark Triad’s three dark personality traits in research. The current short measures of the Dark Triad are inconsistent and do not fully capture each dark personality trait. The purpose of this study is to create a new short measure for the Dark Tetrad that is consistent with widely accepted long measures for each of the four constructs within the Dark Tetrad.

Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: It is possible to accurately measure the Dark Tetrad using a brief measure.

Hypothesis 2: The structure of the new short measure of the Dark Tetrad will consist of four factors

Hypothesis 3: The constructs being measured in the new short measure of the Dark Tetrad will be equivalent to the constructs being measured in the corresponding well-established measures

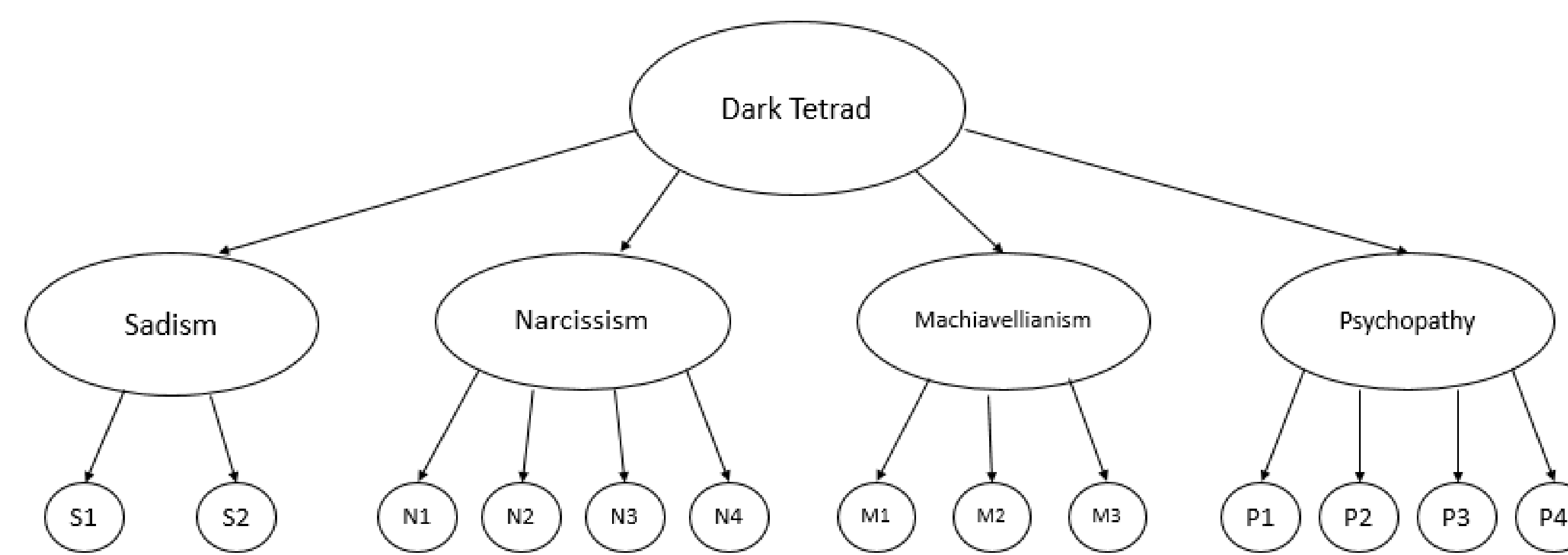


Figure 1. Proposed model of Dark Tetrad constructs and latent variables

Method: Part 1

Participants:

All participants will be recruited for this study using Amazon’s Mechanical Turk service.

In part one of the study, each participant enrolled in the study will complete a preliminary Dark Tetrad measure (created in a previous study), the MACH-IV (Christie & Geis, 1970), the Self-Report Psychopathy III (Paulhus & Hemphill, 2004), the Narcissistic Personality Inventory (Raskin & Hall, 1979), and the Comprehensive Assessment of Sadistic Tendencies (Buckels & Paulhus, 2014).

The results of Part 1 will be used to determine which items of the preliminary Dark Tetrad measure will be used for the newly developed short measure.

Method: Part 2

In part two, each participant enrolled in the study will complete two questionnaires, both the newly developed Short Dark Tetrad measure and a well-established long measure of one of the Dark Tetrad constructs. Specifically, participants will be randomly separated into four groups, and each group will be assigned to complete a well-established measure of either Machiavellianism, psychopathy, narcissism, or sadism. The measures being used are the MACH-IV (Christie & Geis, 1970), the Self-Report Psychopathy III (Paulhus & Hemphill, 2004), the Narcissistic Personality Inventory (Raskin & Hall, 1979), and the Comprehensive Assessment of Sadistic Tendencies (Buckels & Paulhus, 2014), respectively.

Analysis

Data will be analyzed through correlational study and confirmatory factor analysis.

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