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CONTENTS

CONSTRUCTION AND VALIDATION OF THE PARANOIA CRITERIA SCALE (PCS): SERBIAN SAMPLE <i>Mina Velimirović, Radomir Belopavlović, Tamara Musić, Bojan Janičić, & Zdenka Novović</i>	229
EFFECTS OF THE SIMULTANEOUS USE OF ACCEPTANCE AND COGNITIVE REAPPRAISAL ON ANGER, POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE AFFECT AFTER EXPERIMENTAL ANGER ELICITATION <i>Andreea Ursu & Maria Nicoleta Turliuc</i>	253
SELF-CONTROL AS A PREDICTOR OF PEER RELATIONSHIPS IN ADOLESCENTS WITH RUMINATION AS A MEDIATOR AND GENDER- ROLE ORIENTATION AS A MODERATOR: AN INTERVENTION STUDY <i>Zhili Zou, Lilan Jiang, Wanyi Chen, Yuxi Gao, Guoping Chen, Yueer Liang, Xiating Wang, Xiaoya Li, & Aitao Lu</i>	273
SOCIAL MEDIA ADDICTION AND CAREER DECISION-MAKING DIFFICULTIES AMONG ADOLESCENTS: THE MEDIATING ROLE OF RUMINATIVE IDENTITY EXPLORATION <i>Bilal Kaya, Selahattin Güneş & Fulya Cenkseven Önder</i>	299
FUNCTIONS OF IDENTITY SCALE: VALIDATION IN SERBIAN EMERGING ADULTS <i>Mila Guberinić, Nikola Ćirović, Jelena Opsenica Kostić, Milica Mitrović, Ivana Janković, Miljana Spasić Šnele</i>	319
MEDIATING ROLE OF LONELINESS IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DIGITAL GAME ADDICTION AND PHUBBING IN ADOLESCENTS <i>Nuri Türk, Hasan Batmaz, Alican Kaya, & Murat Yıldırım</i>	339

Construction and Validation of the Paranoia Criteria Scale (PCS): Serbian Sample*

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The aim of the study was to construct a brief measure of paranoid tendencies based on DSM-5-TR criteria for Paranoid Personality Disorder and examine its psychometric properties in the general population. Item response theory was used to examine the scale's characteristics, including information and differential item functioning (DIF) across sexes. Our 9-item scale was administered three times ($N = 138, 525, 224$). Results showed that the scale is most informative at high trait levels, but its information is satisfactory for the slightly below-average to high-above-average levels. DIF was identified for one of the items, but its impact on total scores was negligible. The patterns of association with another measure of paranoid tendencies, personality inventory, and several measures of psychopathological constructs confirm the scale's validity. Overall, the newly constructed scale is a reliable and valid measure of paranoid tendencies in the general population. Strengths, limitations, and future directions are discussed.

Keywords: Paranoia Criteria Scale, IRT, reliability, validity

Highlights:

- A scale based on the criteria for Paranoid Personality Disorder was constructed.
- The scale exhibited very good psychometric properties when administered to a general population sample.
- Moderate to high levels of associations with several psychopathological constructs were registered.
- The scale can act as a substitute for other well-established but longer measures of paranoid tendencies.
- The scale can potentially be used for cross-cultural comparisons and investigation of the conceptual nature of paranoid tendencies

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Effects of the Simultaneous Use of Acceptance and Cognitive Reappraisal on Anger, Positive and Negative Affect after Experimental Anger Elicitation*

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A significant body of research has focused on the effectiveness of a single primary emotion regulation strategy on subjective experience. However, in everyday life people often use more than one strategy to regulate the aroused emotions. The present study used a mixed-design to explore the effects of two emotion regulation strategies (reappraisal and acceptance) and of two co-activated emotion regulation strategies (acceptance and reappraisal, and reappraisal and acceptance) on the subjective experience of anger, positive and negative affect after experimental anger elicitation. After participants ($N = 99$; $X_{age} = 25.41$ years; $SD = 8.81$ years) recalled a recent anger unsolved event, they were instructed to either (1) reappraise the event, (2) accept the emotions elicited by the event, (3) accept the emotions and reappraise the event; (4) reappraise the event and accept their elicited emotions, or (5) to deal with their emotions as usual (control group). The results show that all emotion regulation instructions lead to a lower level of post-instructions anger intensity and negative affect. In terms of positive affect, only the instruction of simultaneous use of acceptance and reappraisal leads to a higher level of post-instructions positive emotions. The results showed no significant differences between cognitive reappraisal, acceptance, simultaneous use of acceptance and cognitive reappraisal, simultaneous use of reappraisal and acceptance, and control group on post-instruction anger level, post-instruction positive affect, post-instruction negative affect.

Keywords: reappraisal, acceptance, anger, simultaneous use of emotion regulation strategies, positive and negative emotions, multiple strategy use

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Highlights

- Cognitive reappraisal and acceptance are among the most commonly used emotion regulation strategies.
- People may use various emotion regulation strategies simultaneously or sequentially.
- All emotion regulation instructions led to a lower level of post-instructions anger intensity and negative affect.
- Only the simultaneous use of acceptance and reappraisal led to a higher level of post-instructions positive emotions.

Self-Control as a Predictor of Peer Relationships in Adolescents with Rumination as a Mediator and Gender-Role Orientation as a Moderator: An Intervention Study*

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Peer relationships are essential for the social development of adolescents and serve as indicators of social health. Previous research indicates that individuals with high self-control tend to engage in behaviors that strengthen peer relationships; however, the mediating and moderating factors in this relationship remain underexplored. This study aimed to investigate the mediating role of rumination and the moderating effect of gender-role orientation among Chinese adolescents. In Study 1, 1,064 adolescents (592 girls) completed questionnaires assessing self-control, rumination, gender-role orientation, and peer relationships. Results revealed that rumination significantly mediates the relationship between self-control and peer relationships, with gender-role orientation moderating the relationship between self-control and rumination—strongest in the femininity group and weakest in the androgyny group. In Study 2, a self-control intervention was implemented with 46 adolescents (26 girls). The findings indicate that while the intervention positively influences the direct relationship between self-control and peer relationships, it does not significantly impact the indirect effect via rumination. This study is the first to demonstrate the dynamic effects of self-control interventions on their association with peer relationships, highlighting the importance of addressing both mediating and moderating variables in future research.

Keywords: peer relationships, self-control, rumination, gender-role orientation, self-control intervention

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Highlights

- Self-control enhances adolescent peer relationships through reduced rumination, revealing a significant mediating mechanism.
- Gender-role orientation moderates the self-control-rumination link, with strongest effects in femininity-oriented adolescents and weakest in androgynous groups.
- A targeted self-control intervention improved direct associations between self-control and peer relationships, but not indirect effects via rumination.

Social Media Addiction and Career Decision-Making Difficulties among Adolescents: The Mediating Role of Ruminative Identity Exploration*

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This study explores the mediating role of ruminative identity exploration in the association between adolescent social media addiction and career decision-making difficulties. Four hundred eleven adolescents, 228 (55.5%) females and 183 (44.5%) males, participated in the study. The Social Media Addiction Scale for Adolescents, the Dimensions of Identity Development Scale, and the Career Decision-Making Difficulties Scale for High School Students were utilised to collect the study data. Data were analysed using structural equation modelling. Significance was examined by bootstrapping. The study analyses revealed that social media addiction positively predicted ruminative identity exploration and career decision-making difficulties. Also, ruminative identity exploration positively predicted career decision-making difficulties. Moreover, ruminative identity exploration mediated the relationship between social media addiction and career decision-making difficulties. This study's results suggest that adolescents' social media addiction increases decision-making difficulties via ruminative identity exploration. The results are discussed in light of the literature. Recommendations were made for practitioners and researchers.

Keywords: Social media addiction, ruminative identity exploration, career decision-making difficulties, adolescence

Highlights:

- Social media addiction positively predicts career decision-making difficulties.

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- Ruminative identity exploration positively predicts career decision-making difficulties.
- Social media addiction positively predicts ruminative identity exploration.
- Ruminative identity exploration mediates the relationship between social media addiction and career decision-making difficulties.

Functions of Identity Scale: Validation in Serbian Emerging Adults*

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The aim of the study was to validate the Serbian version of the Functions of Identity Scale (FIS), a measure of five functions of identity: structure, harmony, goals, future, and personal control. The sample consisted of 384 emerging adult students (78.4% female; $M_{age} = 21.60$, $SD_{age} = 2.73$). Findings replicated the validity of the 15-item five-factor (structure, harmony, goals, future, personal control) model of FIS previously documented with English, Italian and Turkish language versions. Confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) revealed strong support for the five-factor model, compared to a single-factor model. Positive correlations between FIS dimensions and indicators of healthy psychosocial functioning and negative correlations with indicators of internalizing problems were found, as expected. FIS Serbian version is a promising tool for evaluating identity functions in emerging adults, contributing to cross-cultural validity and growing research on identity in this cultural context.

Keywords: Functions of identity scale, Serbian validation, confirmatory factor analysis, psychosocial functioning, emerging adulthood

Highlights

- Findings replicate the validity of the 15-item five-factor model of FIS.

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- CFA revealed strong support for the five-factor model, compared to a single-factor model.
- FIS dimensions have positive correlations with indicators of healthy psychosocial functioning.
- FIS dimensions have negative correlations with indicators of internalizing problems.

Mediating Role of Loneliness in the Relationship between Digital Game Addiction and Phubbing in Adolescents*

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Phubbing has emerged as a prominent behavioural addiction in today's technological world. The COVID-19 pandemic also has important effects on the increase of digital addiction and loneliness of individuals. This study examined the mediating role of loneliness in the relationship between digital game addiction and phubbing behaviours. Data were collected from 445 (47% male and 53% female) high school students ($M_{\text{age}} = 15.42$, $SD = 1.12$). The results of the study showed that there were significant positive relationships between digital game addiction, phubbing, and loneliness. In addition, loneliness was found to have a mediating effect on the relationship between digital game addiction and phubbing. These results show that the role of loneliness, along with digital game addiction, is important in understanding the basic dynamics of phubbing behaviour. The prevention and intervention program that reduces loneliness can be implemented to mitigate the effects of digital game addiction on phubbing.

Keywords. Digital game addiction, loneliness, phubbing, adolescents, mediation analysis;

Highlights

- Digital game addiction was positively associated with both phubbing and loneliness.
- Loneliness emerged as a significant positive predictor of phubbing.
- Loneliness played a partial mediating role in the relationship between digital game addiction and phubbing.
- These findings suggest that phubbing behavior may be better understood by considering the combined influence of digital game addiction and loneliness.

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