

International Conference on Psychiatric & Geriatrics Nursing and Stroke

November 19-20, 2018 | Paris, France

The dark triad (Narcissism, Machiavellianism, and Psychopathy) in the information age into the age of augmentation



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The digital age has made deception manipulative profiles far more attractive and simpler, not only for predatory behaviour but also in terms of the developing personality. As the information age develops into the age of augmentation (Harris 2016), understanding ourselves becomes even more relevant as our digital identities grow in importance and stature. In the light of this, understanding what has been referred to as “the dark triad” (Paulhus & Williams, 2002) or negative personality traits on a day to day, pedestrian level becomes ever more important. The very fact that our digital identities express not only our conscious choices but also our subconscious wants and desires and unconscious needs, it is important that our profile of the dark triad becomes more refined. If left is “dark”, these traits may become evident in some type of externalized event. Narcissism, Machiavellianism, and Psychopathy are encouraged and exacerbated by technology (Twenge & Foster, 2010). These personality traits have become ever more alluring and seductive because of ability to construct digital identities that may take precedence over authentic identities. We have steered away from general profiling and testing of these traits because of the criticisms of verbal descriptors of individual differences (lexical hypothesis) especially in terms of the dark triad because of negative language and its impact on self-description. The developments in artificial intelligence identify attitudes, emotions, and moods during lexical hypothesis testing, and give the framework greater extension and accuracy in trait profiling of individuals. This in turn gives more proficiency to language-based profiling of the dark triad. Developments in the cost-effectiveness of big data support this. Our society now requires greater base line awareness, observation, monitoring and management long before the deception manipulative profiles of the digital age hit the radar in negative consequences or predatory behavior.

Biography

Aram Cargill is the Director of The Adaption Apex Lab and Change Challenge working alongside Dr. Kaalii Cargill who completed her PhD in Psychology from Melbourne University Australia. She has been the past President of SCAPE (Society of Counselling and Psychotherapy Educators) and ISOCSS (International Society of Clinical and Counselling Supervisors), and past Vice-President of PACFA (Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia). As well as working in private practice (Kairos Centre) for 40 years, she is also on the Board of Directors for Ledsen and an Executive Director at Kanga Innovations. Working together, they two have adapted DARE (Deception Analysis Reasoning Engine) for advanced lexical psychometric testing through mobile phone technology.

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