



Exploring the Structure of Personality Symptoms in a Trauma-Exposed Community Sample



Yuanyuan Yang*, Kassandra Gray, Joel Sprunger & Jeffrey Girard

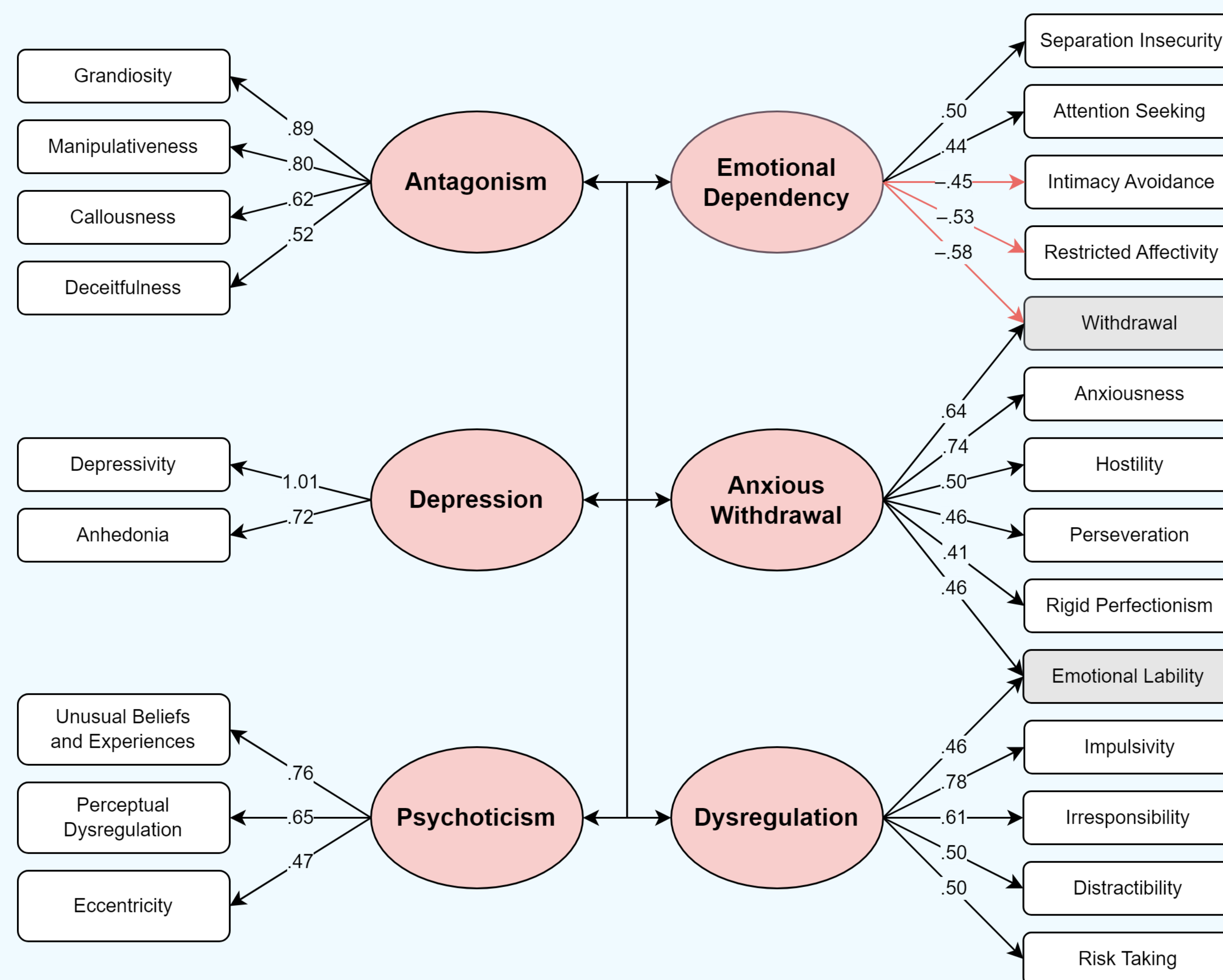
Introduction

- There are growing debates about the definition of PTSD and its relationship to personality pathology^{1,2}
- PTSD shares similarities with anxiety, depression, substance use, ADHD, and various personality disorders³⁻⁶
- Current HiTOP work tends to focus on the syndromes/disorders level
- PTSD is placed in the Internalizing spectrum and Distress subfactor
- But there is still a gap about where trauma-related psychopathology fits within the HiTOP framework^{1,2}

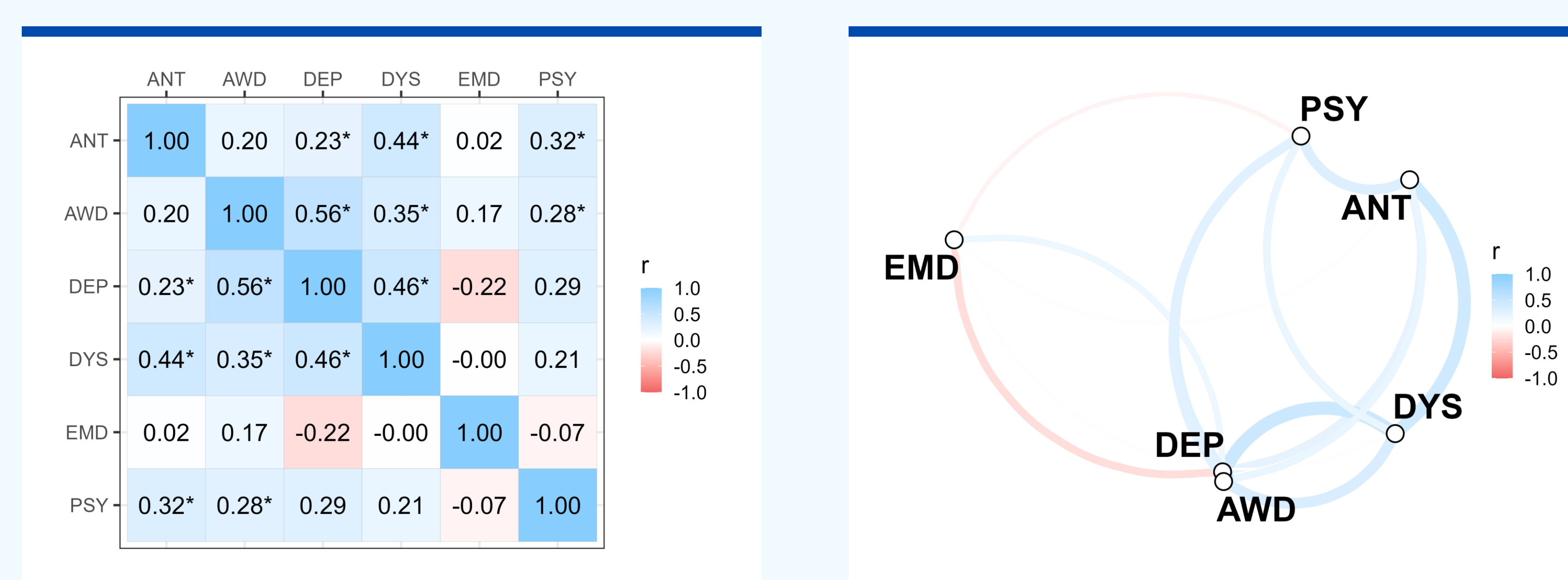
Study Aim: Explore the structure of personality symptoms in trauma-exposed community members

Methods

- **Participants**
 - 462 trauma-exposed adults
 - 19-73 years (M=38.7, SD=13.0)
 - 313 Female, 193 Male
 - 359 White, 42 Black, 20 Asian
- **Materials**
 - Primary Care PTSD Screen for DSM-5 (PC-PTSD-5)⁷
 - Personality Inventory for DSM-5 Faceted Short Form (PID-5-FSF)⁸
- **Analyses**
 - Calculate PID-5-FSF facet scores
 - Parallel analysis to inform the number of factors to retain
 - Exploratory factor analysis (EFA) with oblique, geomin rotation



EFA Path Diagram (Only Showing $|\lambda| > 0.40$)



Factor Heatmap (* = $p < .01$)

Factor Network Plot (by MDS)

Results

- **Factor Descriptions**
 - Antagonism (ANT)
 - Anxious Withdrawal (AWD)
 - Depression (DEP)
 - Dysregulation (DYS)
 - Emotional Dependency (EMD)
 - Psychoticism (PSY)
- **Factor Correlations**
 - Dysregulation-Antagonism (.44)
 - Dysregulation-Depression (.46)
 - Depression-Anxious Withdrawal (.56)

Discussion

- Factors had similarities to the HiTOP spectra but also some differences
- Observed symptoms extended beyond Internalizing and Distress
- Factors likely blend both trauma-related and pre-existing symptoms
- Findings may inform the structure of symptoms in response to trauma
- **Limitations**
 - Online, non-clinical sample
 - Self-report measures only
 - Early-stage work (first steps)
- **Future Directions**
 - Link factors to PTSD symptoms
 - Link factors to other constructs
 - Replicate in a clinical sample

References

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