

CONCEPTUALIZATION AND PRELIMINARY VALIDATION OF A DEPRESSIVE PERSONALITY CONCEPT

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This paper proposes a depressive personality organization—a unique set of traits. It proposes a psychodynamic and psychiatric operationalization and reports on a preliminary validation through the construction of a questionnaire and the investigation of its psychometric properties in three nonclinical samples and a clinical sample of depressed patients. Preliminary results support the validity of the instrument and the underlying theoretical conceptualization of a depressive personality.

Keywords: depressive personality, inventory, conceptual proposition, validation

The concept of depressive personality, akin to that of depression, has been discussed for many years in the psychiatric and psychoanalytic literature. It has been described and used by clinicians and researchers from several theoretical perspectives (Campos, 2009a; Phillips, Gunderson, Hirschfeld, & Smith, 1990; Phillips, Hirschfeld, Shea, & Gunderson, 1993; Ryder, Bagby, & Schuler, 2002), particularly by psychodynamic clinicians and classic authors in German psychiatry (Klein & Miller, 1997; Koldobsky, 2003). For Klein, Wonderlich, and Shea (1993), the concept of a depressive personality is at the crossroads between depression and personality because the two concepts merge into one. The depressed mood and the other depressive features are presented as chronic and stable personality traits; there is a depressive personality or character structure (see also Klein, Durbin, Shankman, & Santiago, 2002).

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