



# Exploring the Self-Structure of Individuals Higher in Narcissism

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## Introduction

- Using the newly trifurcated model, narcissism can now be broken down into three facets, demonstrating that narcissistic traits (i.e., content) are well understood
  - Agentic extraversion:** high self-esteem, sociable, assertive
  - Narcissistic neuroticism:** fragile self-esteem, self-conscious, emotional dysregulation
  - Antagonism:** shared variance marked by arrogance, entitlement, exploitativeness
- However, self-concept includes not only content, but also structure, referring to how individuals organize self-relevant information
- Some individuals might view themselves clearly, confidently and consistently demonstrating higher self-concept clarity (SCC)
- Some individuals may also view themselves as more fragmented and differentiated suggesting higher self-concept differentiation (SCD)
- Narcissism is thought to relate more closely to SCD, but research has suggested there may be differences in self-structure for each of the narcissistic facets

## Research Question

How does each facet of narcissism organize themselves?

Does authenticity mediate the effects between narcissism and self-concepts?

## Methods

### Self-Concept Clarity Scale (SCC)

“I seldom experience conflict between the different aspects of my personality”

### Self-Incoherence scale (SCD)

Descriptiveness of seven personality traits across five identified roles

E.g., “How active are you as a friend?”

### Five Factor Narcissism Inventory Short-Form

- Agentic extraversion: “I often fantasize about someday being famous”
- Antagonism: “I’m pretty good at manipulating people”
- Narcissistic neuroticism: “I feel awful when I get put down in front of others”

### Self-Authenticity Scale (Study 2)

“I am strongly influenced by the opinions of others”

Study 1 (N = 394)

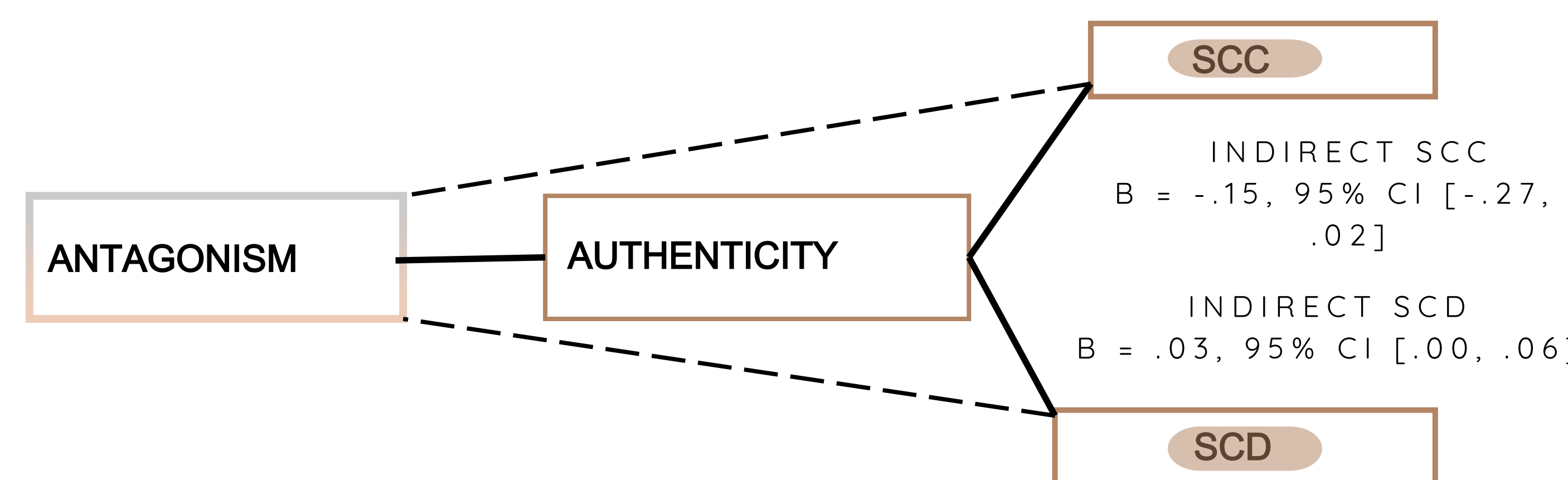
Study 2 (N = 210)

## Study 1

TABLE 1  
DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS AND CORRELATIONS FOR STUDY 1

Variable	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. SCC	---					
2. SCD	-.24**	---				
3. Disturbed Identity	-.76**	.31**	---			
4. Agentic Extraversion	.11**	.06	-.12*	---		
5. Narcissistic Neuroticism	-.48**	.24**	.45**	-.23**	---	
6. Antagonism	-.06	.17**	.20**	.48**	-.20**	---
<i>M</i>	2.99	1.04	3.21	3.17	3.46	2.45
<i>SD</i>	.41	.78	.86	.60	.71	.53
<i>a</i>	.88	.91	.92	.85	.76	.90

\*\*CORRELATION IS SIGNIFICANT AT THE 0.01 LEVEL (2 - TAILED)  
\*Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2 - tailed)  
Note. SCC = Self - Concept Clarity; SCD = Self - Concept Differentiation; *SD* = Standard Deviation; *M* = Mean; *a* = Cronbach's alpha

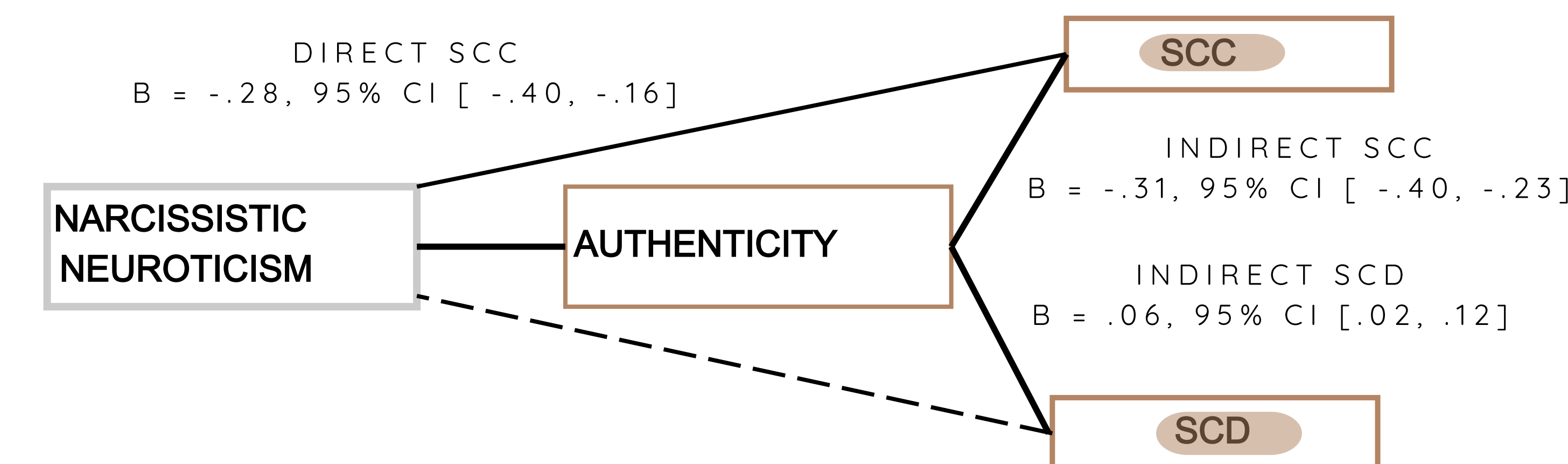


## Study 2

TABLE 2  
DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS AND CORRELATIONS FOR STUDY 2

Variable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. SCC	---						
2. SCD	-.30**	---					
3. Disturbed Identity	-.70**	.27**	---				
4. Trait Authenticity	.68**	-.25**	-.76**	---			
5. Agentic Extraversion	.08	-.11	-.07	.10	---		
6. Neuroticism	-.55**	.18*	.41**	-.54**	-.06	---	
7. Antagonism	-.08	.05	.29**	-.15*	.49**	-.13	---
<i>M</i>	3.03	1.03	3.21	4.61	3.21	3.35	2.48
<i>SD</i>	.71	.36	.78	.84	.60	.67	.52
<i>a</i>	.86	.93	.85	.81	.86	.77	.91

\*\*CORRELATION IS SIGNIFICANT AT THE 0.01 LEVEL (2 - TAILED)  
\*Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2 - tailed)  
Note. SCC = Self - Concept Clarity; SCD = Self - Concept Differentiation; *SD* = Standard Deviation; *M* = Mean; *a* = Cronbach's alpha



## Conclusion

- Narcissist's self-structure varies per facet
- Grandiose narcissism may relate to more self-clarity, confidence and consistency
- Vulnerable narcissism may entail a variable and unreliable self
- Authenticity may explain these effects, especially when an individual is both high in antagonism and narcissistic neuroticism