



Childhood maltreatment and eating disorders in young adults: personality functioning mediation moderated by epistemic mistrust

Asta Adler (Vilnius University), Rasa Barkauskiene (Vilnius University)

Abstract

OBJECTIVE: Prior research underscores the association between eating disorders and early familial relational issues, notably childhood maltreatment. However, gaps remain in our comprehension of the mechanisms driving the manifestation of disordered eating in young adults. Personality functioning may serve as a potential mediator in the nexus between childhood maltreatment and eating disorders. Epistemic trust, defined as the propensity to deem new information from another as trustworthy. And epistemic mistrust could be a foundational element in the development of personality disorders. This study aims to examine the mediating role of personality functioning in the relationship between childhood maltreatment and eating disorders among young adults, and how epistemic mistrust may moderate this link.

METHODS: 303 young adults aged 18 to 30 years, with 84.16% females, online completed the Adverse Childhood Experience Questionnaire, the Level of Personality Functioning Scale - Brief Form 2.0, the Eating Disorder Examination Questionnaire – 6.0, and the Epistemic Trust, Mistrust and Credulity Questionnaire.

RESULTS: The data indicate that personality functioning mediates the relationship between childhood maltreatment and eating disorders in young adults. Furthermore, epistemic mistrust significantly moderates the link between personality functioning and eating disorders, with higher levels of epistemic mistrust predicting increased symptoms of eating disorders at the same level of personality dysfunction.

DISCUSSION: The findings highlight the critical role of personality functioning in the development

of eating disorders. Importantly, the results suggest that incorporating elements that foster epistemic trust could enhance the efficacy of prevention and intervention strategies for eating disorders, facilitating the assimilation of social information.

Topics: Other

For workshops only

No Answer Given

Submission Format: Scientific Paper

Is It a Student Paper? No