

UNDERSTANDING THE PERPETRATION OF NON-CONSENSUAL INTIMATE MEDIA
SHARING

by

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Abstract

Non-Consensual Intimate Media Sharing (NCIMS), defined as the sharing of intimate media without the consent of the individual depicted, is becoming more prevalent, despite legislative action to address this behaviour. The current thesis aimed to understand the perpetration of this behaviour further to inform future developments, interventions, and research. The systematic review of the literature found that there are several factors associated with the perpetration of NCIMS: personality traits (such as the dark triad or tetrad traits or sexism), gender differences (males more likely to perpetrate than women), possession of more positive attitudes and subjective norms towards NCIMS, lifestyle factors (such as alcohol, pornography, or social media use), or victim-perpetrator overlap (in that those who disseminate intimate media without consent are likely to be victims of the same). To further understand this behaviour specifically with UK students, empirical research was conducted and found that the dark triad traits, social desirability, and being male were predictors of NCIMS proclivity, enjoyment, and approval. This thesis also evaluated an alternative measure of the dark triad traits, the Dirty Dozen, as compared to the Short Dark Triad scale. Implications for both practice and future research are discussed.

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Publications

Chapter 3 of this thesis has been published within a Special Edition of the Journal of Behavioral Science, Contemporary Developments in Attitudes and Interactions with Victims of Crime. The manuscript submitted for publication was based upon the research conducted as part of this thesis. The published version was reviewed by supervisors Dr Anthony Murphy and Dr Melissa Colloff, who contributed to adapting the full chapter for concise journal article publication. A copy of both the accepted and published manuscripts as well as the full reference can be found at the end of this thesis.

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE THESIS

Non-Consensual Intimate Media Sharing (NCIMS) is defined within this thesis as the sharing of intimate media – both photos and videos – without the consent of the individual depicted in it. Other more colloquial terms encompassing this behaviour such as “Revenge Pornography” have been criticised for their victim-blaming connotations, insinuating that the victim had to have done something to deserve the behaviour (i.e., in revenge). “Revenge Porn” was first largely addressed in the UK with its inclusion within the Sexual Offences Act and reports from the Ministry of Justice (2015); however this did not have the same legal consequences as a sexual offence initially, with some cases being prosecuted under other Acts such as the Malicious Communications Act instead (College of Policing, 2021; Ministry of Justice, 2015). This has since been addressed with the implementation of the Online Safety Act (2023) which found this offence now featuring in Section 66B of the Sexual Offences Act. The definition of “Revenge Pornography” was subjected to various criticism due to the requirement for the prosecution to prove that the perpetrator had intended to cause embarrassment or distress to the victim. As identified in the literature, there are many reasons that an individual may perpetrate NCIMS, beyond just retaliation for a real or perceived harm (McGlynn et al., 2017). Therefore, the term “Revenge Pornography” has been criticised for perpetuating harmful rhetorics which attribute some responsibility to the victim, as opposed to where the blame belongs – with the perpetrator (Henry, McGlynn, et al., 2020a; Lakshané, 2024). Throughout the literature, this behaviour is conceptualised using various terminology, and each term may encompass differing behaviours depending on the specific scope of the individual papers. Some examples include cyber-rape, non-consensual intimate media sharing, intimate image abuse, dissemination of intimate images, and image-based sexual abuse. Image-Based Sexual Abuse (IBSA) is a term widely found across the literature in this area but will not be used in this thesis to encompass the behaviour as defined above as this

terminology would also encompass other more contact behaviours such as upskirting and downblousing, as well as the digital creation of intimate media known as “deep fakes” (Henry, McGlynn, et al., 2020b). Contact behaviours in this context may be considered those which are more proximal in nature, such as physically creating the media through the non-consensual taking of intimate images or videos of an individuals’ body, as seen in the practices of upskirting or downblousing. This is as opposed to the definition of NCIMS utilised within this thesis which encompasses the sharing of intimate media without consent, not the creation of said media.

NCIMS is a necessary area for the development of future research to better understand and implement prevention strategies. Previous literature has identified that NCIMS can be incredibly detrimental on the wellbeing of the victims, akin to other forms of sexual violence (Bates, 2016). In fact, research evaluating the extent that in-person sexual offending risk factors overlap with NCIMS found that there was indeed an association between in-person sexual offending and the non-consensual dissemination of intimate images (McArthur et al., 2025). Research conducted in 2024 from UK-based charity Revenge Porn Helpline identified that victims of NCIMS reported a worsening of pre-existing mental health conditions, as well as expressing suicidal ideation, depression, and paranoia (Papachristou, 2024). Victims had also reported negative impacts on employment – and therefore financial difficulties as a result – relationship breakdowns, and receiving harassment from others (Papachristou, 2024). A systematic review investigating the implications of NCIMS in young people found that NCIMS is associated with poor mental health – through increased levels of depression, anxiety, or suicidal ideation - and social implications such as harassment, bullying, and victim-blaming (Schmidt et al., 2024).

There is potentially another layer to the harms experienced by victims of NCIMS, in that the majority of cases the original intimate media would have been sent consensually.

Whilst consent to the sending of the media to a specific individual is not conducive to consent to sharing the media in any way, it is possible that this layer of partial consent adds to the ways victims of this behaviour are perceived by others and consequently view themselves. A study by Mandau (2021) found that out of the 104 sampled adolescent girls who had been victims of NCIMS, 52 blamed themselves for their own victimisation, putting this down to stupidity, being naïve, and poor judgement. Therefore, this could be a further barrier to seeking support or legal action against the perpetrator and attempting to have the media removed.

There are dedicated websites which house intimate media which has been posted without consent of the individual depicted in it, which persist despite legal attempts to remove this forum. The most notorious of which was entitled *IsAnyoneUp?*, which encouraged users to submit intimate media of other people and it would showcase this to users along with links to social media accounts of the victims depicted (Stroud, 2014). *IsAnyoneUp?* was formally shut down in 2012, but prior to this the site would be achieving over 300,000 views a day earning up to \$20,000 a month in advertising revenue (Lee, 2012). As well as these forums, research has identified that social media also plays a role in NCIMS (Huber & Ward, 2025). StopNCII.org, ran by Revenge Porn Helpline which is a UK-based charity which supports victims of intimate media abuse, assist victims in removing their media from websites and reported to have removed 15,518 images with a 90.9% takedown rate (Papachristou, 2024). In their 2024 annual report, Revenge Porn Helpline reported there had been a 20.9% increase in reports from 18,421 to 22,275 from the year prior (Papachristou, 2024). It is important to consider that, whilst the aforementioned statistics indicate an increase in prevalence of NCIMS, it is also possible that this rise has been influenced by increased reporting, rather than solely an increase in perpetration. With the enhanced legislation which came into effect with the Online Safety Act (2023), it is possible

that more victims are coming forward to report perpetration of this behaviour with the greater awareness of its criminalisation. Nonetheless, NCIMS remains a prevalent issue within current society.

NCIMS can occur in any relationship context between victim and perpetrator. Most commonly the victim and perpetrator had been in a romantic relationship prior to the NCIMS behaviour occurring – with statistics from Revenge Porn Helpline reporting that 58.4% of cases for female victims involved a current or former partner (Papachristou, 2024). NCIMS has been weaponised as a form of coercive control, with perpetrators threatening to distribute intimate media shared within the context of the relationship (Bishop, 2024; Henry et al., 2023). Henry et al. (2023) found, when interviewing victims of Image-Based Sexual Abuse (IBSA) who had been in a relationship with the perpetrator, that a common theme throughout the study was the element of coercive control – specifically that IBSA may be used to trap victims within the relationship, prevent them from leaving the relationship, or to “control, intimidate, punish, and degrade them” (p. 1220). Sexuality may also play a role in how victims and perpetrators of NCIMS within relationships are perceived. Bitton et al. (2024) found that elevated levels of homophobic attitudes were linked with lower attribution of severity for NCIMS occurring within same-sex relationships when compared to opposite-sex relationships.

Whilst NCIMS can occur within any age bracket, this is most common within young adults. Revenge Porn Helpline found that, of the individuals whose age were known, the age categories with the highest number of reported cases were within the 18-24 years (308 cases) and 25-34 years (239 cases), with the number of cases decreasing as age increases (Papachristou, 2024).

As with other forms of sexual offending, NCIMS remains a gendered crime with males often the perpetrators towards female victims. Revenge Porn Helpline reported that of the non-consensually shared content they had removed from the internet, 96.9% were for women (Papachristou, 2024). Broken down into a ratio, it was calculated as 9.19 images per woman to 0.38 per man (Papachristou, 2024). Within the cases which the perpetrator was known, it was identified that over 81% were male perpetrators – in line with the previous year (Papachristou, 2024). These recent findings are in line with literature in the area which has consistently demonstrated that females are disproportionately victimised by this offending type (Branch et al., 2017; Hall & Hearn, 2017; Powell et al., 2018; Powell et al., 2022) and males demonstrate more victim-blaming views towards the victims of NCIMS than females (Zvi & Bitton, 2021).

Aim of the thesis

Despite a notable increase in research in the area of Non-Consensual Intimate Media Sharing (NCIMS), as well as legislative action attempting to tackle this in the UK, this behaviour is only increasing in recent years (Online Safety Act, 2023; Papachristou, 2024; Sexual Offences Act, 2003). The aim of this thesis is to systematically review all literature relating to the perpetration of NCIMS, conduct further research specifically within the UK university student population, and evaluate measures relating to personality traits that are linked with NCIMS perpetration. Findings from this thesis have implications for the development of interventions to tackle perpetration of this behaviour, as well as further developing the literature around NCIMS.

Summary of chapters

Chapter 2 presents a systematic literature review on the perpetration of Non-Consensual Intimate Media Sharing (NCIMS) to synthesise the current knowledge regarding this behaviour in order to feed into strategies for reducing the prevalence. Peer-reviewed journal articles were systematically searched and findings are discussed in relation to the factors which are linked with NCIMS perpetration and potential implications for the development of interventions to reduce the prevalence of this.

Chapter 3 presents an empirical research study to further investigate factors predictive of NCIMS perpetration proclivity, specifically within a sample of UK university students to further the research base within this population. Factors investigated included the Dark Triad traits of narcissism, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy, as well as social desirability and biological sex. A series of three multiple linear regressions were conducted to investigate if the factors as above were predictive of NCIMS proclivity, enjoyment, and approval respectively. Findings demonstrated that all three multiple linear regression models were significant, however not all variables were independently predictive. Implications for the development of interventions to reduce the prevalence of this behaviour within the UK student population are discussed.

Chapter 4 critiques an alternative psychometric to that which was employed in Chapter 3 as a measure of the Dark Triad traits – the Dirty Dozen. The Dirty Dozen and the Short Dark Triad (SD3) scales are the most utilised psychometrics in measuring the Dark Triad traits without employing the full-length measures for each individual construct. The SD3 was utilised in Chapter 3, and Chapter 4 discusses the properties of the Dirty Dozen and makes brief comparisons to properties of the SD3.

Chapter 5 provides an overall discussion of the findings from this thesis, pulling on the results of the systematic literature review and empirical research, as well as consideration of the psychometric properties used to measure psychological concepts aligned with NCIMS – and wider sexual offending – perpetration.

CHAPTER 2: UNDERSTANDING THE PERPETRATION OF NON-CONSENSUAL INTIMATE MEDIA SHARING: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Abstract

Non-Consensual Intimate Media Sharing (NCIMS) remains prevalent in our society, despite the recent legal changes making “Revenge Pornography” illegal in the UK. Despite this, systematic reviews on the characteristics or factors that increase the likelihood that someone will perpetrate NCIMS are scarce. To fill this gap, the current review aims to systematically synthesise all available literature regarding the characteristics, factors, personality traits/profiles, or motivations that individuals may have for engaging in this behaviour. A systematic search was carried out by searching relevant databases, manually screening reference lists, and contacting experts in the field. Inclusion and exclusion criteria in line with the research aims were applied and eligible articles were subsequently quality assessed. This process resulted in the final 15 studies, all with quality assessment scores of over 80% - indicating good quality. The results were then synthesised and it was identified that there are several factors that are associated with perpetration of NCIMS: personality traits (such as the dark triad or tetrad traits or sexism), gender differences (males more likely to perpetrate than women), possession of more positive attitudes and subjective norms towards NCIMS, lifestyle factors (such as alcohol, pornography, or social media use), or victim-perpetrator overlap (in that those who disseminate intimate media without consent are likely to be victims of the same). Recommendations for future research in the area include the completion of longitudinal research to assess causality, as this remains a limitation of the current research in this field. Implications as a result of this review include the development and targeting of psychoeducational interventions to advise participants of the potential harm of NCIMS to discourage engagement in this behaviour.

Introduction

Defining Non-Consensual Intimate Media Sharing (NCIMS)

There are many synonyms associated with non-consensual intimate media sharing (NCIMS), more commonly known as “Revenge Pornography”. The many synonyms for the sharing of intimate media without consent are defined differently in each study; there is yet to be one overarching and consistent term or definition for this specifically. The synonyms also have differing scope over what is included within the terminology.

When what was referred to at the time as “Revenge Pornography” was first criminalised in the UK, the Ministry of Justice (2015) defined this behaviour as “the sharing of private, sexual materials, either photos or videos, of another person, without their consent and with the purpose of causing embarrassment or distress”. Of key consideration is the latter part of the definition regarding the intentions of the individual sharing the non-consensual media, as the literature has found other motivations for perpetrating revenge porn other than to harm the subject (McGlynn et al., 2017). The term “Revenge Porn” has been widely criticised for several reasons; not all perpetrators of sharing intimate media without consent will do so for revenge, it does not encompass other forms of image-based sexual abuse such as threatening to distribute intimate media, it possesses victim-blaming connotations by suggesting that the victim may have done something to evoke a need for revenge in the perpetrator, the term “pornography” conflates the non-consensual dissemination with the production of consensual pornography, and the term focuses on the content of the media rather than the actions of the perpetrators (Henry, McGlynn, et al., 2020b). There have been legislative changes in the UK, with the latter part of the aforementioned definition removed in the updated Sexual Offences Act (2003), which came into effect in January 2024, and it is acknowledged that these changes are recent.

The wider used term “Image-Based Sexual Abuse” (IBSA) has been defined as referring to “the taking or sharing of nude or sexual photographs or videos of another person without their consent. It includes a diversity of behaviours beyond that of ‘revenge porn’, such as the secret trading of nude or sexual images online; ‘upskirting’, ‘downblousing’, and other ‘creepshots’; blackmail or ‘sextortion’ scams; the use of artificial intelligence [AI] to construct ‘deepfake’ pornographic videos; threats to distribute photographs or videos without consent; and the taking or sharing of sexual assault imagery.” (Henry, McGlynn, et al., 2020b, p. i). The term was coined to represent the level of harm that victims of non-consensual sharing of intimate sexual images may experience (McGlynn & Rackley, 2017).

The purpose of this review is to understand the perpetration of sharing intimate media (not limited to just images) without consent, not the perpetration of the wider behaviours (such as the taking of intimate images without consent [“downblousing” or “upskirting”] or using AI to create false intimate media [“deepfakes”]) as is encompassed by the IBSA definition. Therefore, the terminology used throughout this review when referring to the sharing of intimate media without consent will be Non-Consensual Intimate Media Sharing (NCIMS). The decision to exclude other forms of IBSA as detailed above was made due to the difference in the nature of these offences when compared to NCIMS – specifically, NCIMS involves sharing the intimate media of another human being which remains in its original format, whereas creation of “deepfakes” and consideration of more “contact” sexual offending (e.g., more proximal and physically creating the media) such as upskirting or downblousing would broaden the review scope exponentially to an unmanageable number of included studies. Equally, it could be hypothesised that the motivations for NCIMS may differ significantly to those seen in other forms of IBSA, but more research is needed to make a direct comparison.

Prevalence of Non-Consensual Intimate Media Sharing (NCIMS)

Due to the variety of definitions encompassing this phenomenon, it is difficult to ascertain a reliable prevalence rate of Non-Consensual Intimate Media Sharing (NCIMS). NCIMS is becoming more and more prevalent in the UK. UK law firm Slater and Gordon commissioned a survey of 2,006 British participants which has found that victims of NCIMS have almost doubled in the two years from 8% to 15% between the first survey in 2019 and the most recent iteration in 2021 (Slater & Gordon, 2021). UK support organisation Revenge Porn Helpline supported 3,146 people in 2020, an 87% increase from 1,681 in 2019, with April 2020 doubling the case numbers (Revenge Porn Helpline, 2021). Similarly, ‘sextortion’ – the practice of intimate media being recorded and used for financial exploitation or coercion – increased by 160% between 2019 and 2020 (Revenge Porn Helpline, 2021, n.d). Unfortunately, the upward trend of NCIMS proclivity has continued to rise with the helpline having their case load increased by 40% between 2020 and 2021 from 3,146 cases to 4,406 cases (Revenge Porn Helpline, 2022).

When considering the wider definition of Image-Based Sexual Abuse (IBSA), many studies have investigated its prevalence and a recent study by Powell et al. (2024) identifies that of the 6,109 participants across the UK, Australia, and New Zealand – 37.7% reported victimisation of at least one occurrence of IBSA since the age of 16. Therefore, regardless of the definition used, it is clear from the literature that the non-consensual sharing of intimate media remains prevalent in society.

Victimisation of Non-Consensual Intimate Media Sharing (NCIMS)

It is well documented in the literature that Non-Consensual Intimate Media Sharing (NCIMS) or one of the many synonyms or alternative definitions is harmful to victims who experience it. Whilst a significant amount of research in this area suggests that females are more likely to be victims of NCIMS than males, and males are more likely to be perpetrators of NCIMS than females (Branch et al., 2017; Hall & Hearn, 2017; Paradiso et al., 2024; Van den Eynde et al., 2025), some studies have highlighted a lack of an association between perpetration and/or victimisation, and gender (Walker et al., 2021). The impact on the mental health of female victims of NCIMS has been investigated and found that victims suffered from trust issues, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, depression and suicidal thoughts (Bates, 2016) likened to sexual abuse/assault. This impact is echoed by McGlynn et al. (2017) who argue that NCIMS or Image-Based Sexual Abuse (IBSA) is on a continuum along with other forms of sexual abuse or violence.

Huber (2023) found that of the 17 women interviewed for the study, 16 of the participants reported that victimisation of IBSA caused at least one mental health difficulty developing, such as elevated levels of stress, anxiety, low self-esteem, depression, insecurity, obsessive behaviour, suicidal thoughts, or paranoia. Following the reported deterioration in the women's wellbeing, some of the participants identified that they had socially isolated themselves which then resulted in the breakdown of meaningful relationships (Huber, 2023).

It is also well documented that victims of non-consensual intimate media sharing experience victim blaming in the wake of the incident. Call (2021) found that – whilst the general public that completed the research supported the criminalisation of IBSA, the public also attributed blame towards the victims. McKinlay and Lavis (2020) found that victims were perceived by participants to be more blameworthy of NCIMS if they were more naked in the images.

Previous Literature Reviews

The literature around NCIMS is a constantly developing area in the literature. Following a search of databases for previous systematic literature reviews in the area, including The Campbell Collaboration Library of Systematic Reviews and The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR), there were initially no previous reviews found with a focus on perpetration. Earlier systematic reviews identified this area to be contemporary at the time and therefore maintained a wide search strategy to account for this to assess the literature as a whole (Walker & Sleath, 2017).

Previous systematic reviews have investigated the current knowledge of Non-Consensual Intimate Media Sharing (NCIMS) (Henry & Powell, 2018; Walker & Sleath, 2017), the prevalence of this (Patel & Roesch, 2022), and specifically within the context of domestic and sexual violence (Henry, Flynn, et al., 2020). Walker and Sleath (2017) identified that whilst the prevalence is ascertainable, there is a lack of knowledge regarding motivations for perpetration and the characteristics or profiles of those which perpetrate this.

At the time of submitting the protocol for this review, no other systematic literature reviews existed exploring perpetration of non-consensual intimate media sharing. Whilst this work has been ongoing, there was one systematic literature review published in this area. Paradiso et al. (2024) conducted their searches in May 2022, and focused upon both victimisation and perpetration. The completion of this review highlights the need for a systematic review in this area, as it is a contemporary topic which is rapidly changing as new research is published frequently. When comparing the current review to Paradiso et al. (2024), the present review has slightly different inclusion and exclusion criteria, resulting in a different list of final included studies and moderately different findings. Paradiso et al. (2024)

focused on both victimisation and perpetration – and victimisation is a more commonly researched area – therefore it did not go into the same level of detail regarding perpetration as the current review. Similarly, as the area is constantly evolving, the present review provides an up-to-date evaluation of the literature since Paradiso et al. (2024) conducted their searches in mid-2022. When Paradiso et al. (2024) conducted their searches, 8 of the 15 total studies included in the current review had not yet been published, indicating a significant difference in the studies reviewed and associated findings.

Perpetration had featured in previous systematic literature reviews (Patel & Roesch, 2022; Walker & Sleath, 2017). In Walker and Sleath (2017), the authors included perpetration – though the literature base has moved on substantially since its publication, identifying a need for a more recent synthesis of current knowledge. Since 2017, new empirical studies in the area have been published and the terminology has evolved from “Revenge Pornography” to include more terms such as “Image-Based Sexual Abuse (IBSA)” and “Technology-Facilitated Sexual Abuse”. Another review by Patel and Roesch (2022) also included perpetration, however only through the lens of its prevalence.

The Current Review

The main purpose of this systematic literature review is to synthesise the current knowledge regarding the perpetration of non-consensual intimate media sharing – specifically the motivations, intentions, characteristics, personality traits, risk factors, and profiles of perpetrators to better understand perpetration and therefore influence prevention measures based on the findings. To do this, a systematic approach has been adopted to methodically search through the literature in this area.

Method

The method of this review has adopted a systematic literature review process. This is the most appropriate form of analysis as this review aims to synthesise the most up to date and current literature on the chosen topic through collecting and summarising all available evidence, within the pre-defined eligibility and inclusion/exclusion criteria. The strategy began with an automated search of the databases detailed below, and then manual searching through reference lists of primary studies and contact with experts who have published in the field.

Due to time constraints, dual coding with a colleague also enrolled on the Forensic Psychology Doctorate (ForenPsyD) course at the University of Birmingham was not possible at eligibility stage, however this was conducted at quality assessment stage. The colleague reviewed 10% of included papers and independently quality assessed using the same framework as the author. Both raters were in agreement about the inclusion of the reviewed studies following this process. Due to a lack of variability in the coding decisions and small dataset, Cohen's Kappa Coefficient could not be calculated.

Search Strategy

Sources of literature

The following databases were searched in the process of this review and EndNote software was used for the management of references. These databases were selected due to their scope being such that relevant articles may have been published within them, based on historical publications and other systematic literature reviews in the area.

- Web of Science – search scope excluding pre-prints, searching via topic search, and searching all databases.

- SCOPUS – searching the title, abstract, and keywords.
- EBSCO Host databases – searching all databases.
- ProQuest – excluding magazines, dissertations, blogs, wire feeds, newspapers, and historical newspapers.
- OVID databases – searching all databases.

Search terms

There were two distinct terminology topics which both had various synonyms included in the search strategy to investigate the perpetration of non-consensual intimate media sharing. Though some of the terms have acronyms, only the full terms were searched for. This decision was made as in academic articles, the acronym would not appear without the full terms accompanying it, and therefore including the acronyms in the searches would run the risk of flooding the results with irrelevant articles who use the same acronym for a different term.

The terms relating to intimate media sharing were:

- Non-Consensual Media Sharing (NCMS)
- Revenge Porn/Pornography
- Image-Based Sexual Abuse (IBSA)
- Image-Based Sexual Violence (IBSV)
- Technology Facilitated Sexual Abuse (TFSA)
- Technology Facilitated Sexual Violence (TFSV)
- Non-Consensual Sharing of Intimate Images (NCSII)
- Non-Consensual Intimate Image Dissemination (NCIID)
- Non-Consensual Sharing of Sexually Explicit Material (NCSSEM)
- Non-Consensual Image Sharing (NCIS)
- Cyber-Rape
- Internet Facilitated Sexual Abuse (IFSA)
- Internet Facilitated Sexual Violence (IFSV)
- Involuntary Porn/Pornography

- Non-Consensual Porn/Pornography

These were synthesised with a search string as follows:

“Non-Consensual Media Sharing” OR “Revenge Porn” OR “Image-Based Sexual” OR “Technology Facilitated Sexual” OR “Non-Consensual Sharing of Images” OR “Non-Consensual Intimate Image Dissemination” OR “Non-Consensual Sharing of Sexual*” OR “Non-Consensual Image Sharing” OR “Cyber-Rape” OR “Internet Facilitated Sexual” OR “Involuntary Porn*” OR “Non-Consensual Porn*”*

The terms relating to the perpetration profiles were:

- Perpetration
- Perpetrators
- Perpetrate
- Motivation/s
- Motive/s
- Characteristics
- Intention/s
- Profile/s
- Traits
- Relationship
- Personality

These were synthesised with a search string as follows:

“Perpetrat” OR “Motiv*” OR “Characteristics” OR “Intention*” OR “Profile*” OR “Trait*” OR “Relationship” OR “Personality”*

Databases were searched using the above search strings, and where the database did not have designated fields with toggles to adjust the “AND” criteria, the following search string was used in full:

("Non-Consensual Media Sharing" OR "Revenge Porn" OR "Image-Based Sexual" OR "Technology Facilitated Sexual" OR "Non-Consensual Sharing of Images" OR "Non-Consensual Intimate Image Dissemination" OR "Non-Consensual Sharing of Sexual*" OR "Non-Consensual Image Sharing" OR "Cyber-Rape" OR "Internet Facilitated Sexual" OR "Involuntary Porn*" OR "Non-Consensual Porn*") AND ("Perpetrat*" OR "Motiv*" OR "Characteristics" OR "Intention*" OR "Profile*" OR "Trait*" OR "Relationship" OR "Personality")*

Searching Process

There were three main stages to conducting the searches as part of completing this systematic literature review. Firstly, the aforementioned search terms were used to search the electronic databases as described above. The second stage of the searching process was to manually scan the reference lists of primary studies in this area for references to be screened for their inclusion. The third and final stage of conducting the searching was to contact experts in this field who have published work in this area and request their guidance. The experts contacted through email were Nicola Henry, Afroditi Pina, Vasileia Karasavva, and Elizabeth Clancy. See Appendix 1 for the email sent. Two authors responded, however did not provide any additional articles which had not already been retrieved. The purpose of contacting authors was to ensure all relevant papers were retrieved, and if any in-progress or in-review papers were identified then these could be retrieved at a later date – given the length of the project and scheduled secondary search.

Selection and Screening of References

Selection and Screening Tool

Appropriate screening tools were considered when preparing to conduct this systematic literature review. Due to the wide nature of the search strategy as the topic is still considered to be contemporary, and therefore the parameters had to be large enough to retrieve all available studies in the area, the author decided to use the inclusion and exclusion criteria alone rather than a specific searching tool such as PICO or SPIDER.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Table 1 - Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion	Exclusion
Peer-reviewed journal articles	Not peer-reviewed or in other formats (e.g., discussion or opinion pieces)
Empirical	Not empirical (e.g., literature reviews)
Primary research	Not primary research
Population – exclusively adults over the age of 18	Population – includes under 18s such as children or adolescents, or population is unable to be identified
Investigating perpetration of non-consensual media sharing, including motivations/intentions, characteristics/profiles of perpetrators or those likely to offend	Does not investigate as in the inclusion criteria (e.g., investigates prevalence or victim impact alone)
Available in English language	Not available to access in English language
Meets the requirements of the quality framework	Does not meet requirements of the quality framework

The criteria of empirical, peer-reviewed journal articles was to ensure reliability and high-quality research was included in this review. The study design was not limited due to the contemporary nature of the topic.

The time period covered by this review is deemed to be all-time. This decision was made as the literature around Non-Consensual Intimate Media Sharing (NCIMS) is a relatively new area of research, so keeping the time period as all-time would not flood the search results. This was confirmed during an initial scoping search.

Additionally, the exclusion criteria of including any population under the age of 18 is because – despite the age of consent in the UK being 16 – intimate media as is the search topic here would be considered indecent images of children for under the age of 18 in the UK (CPS, 2020).

Any articles not available in English were also screened out because of the impracticalities of translating the full research articles. It is therefore acknowledged that this could be a limitation of the review.

Selection and Screening Process

The first search in relation to this systematic literature review took place in March 2024, with an updated search conducted in February 2025.

Search 1 – March 2024

985 references were initially retrieved from the electronic database searches; Web of Science (n = 201), SCOPUS (n = 204), EBSCO Host (n = 118), ProQuest (n = 192), and OVID (n = 270). References were exported and managed through the EndNote reference management software. Duplicates were removed by EndNote (n = 474), and then further scanned manually for any that EndNote missed (n = 55) with 529 duplicates removed in total. This resulted in the remaining 456 references to be screened for inclusion.

Of the 456 references, 418 were screened out as not relevant to the research question and/or the inclusion or exclusion criteria. Any references where it was not clear if the item was relevant were included to the next stage.

This resulted in a final 38 references that proceeded to the next stage of extraction and eligibility screening. No further references were provided through manual searching of relevant article reference lists or provided from the contacts with experts in the field.

Extraction and Eligibility Screening

Data extraction from the full texts of the included studies was completed to establish further relevance to the review question. The extraction form was informed by the template provided in the University Handbook and evaluated for its suitability for this review. This was then checked via a dry run and can be viewed in Appendix 2.

Data from each study was screened for relevance to the research question, and against the inclusion criteria. Data extracted from the studies using the extraction form included; the authors, year of publication, title, country of research, whether it was quantitative or qualitative, the study aims, the population/participants, the study design and methods used, the data analysis method, the findings or conclusions, any strengths/limitations or future research implications, and any additional observations and conclusions from the author when screening the full text articles.

Of the 38 studies from initial screening, 25 full text articles were screened out for eligibility. Therefore, 13 studies remained to subsequently be quality assessed. See below for the studies excluded with reasons for exclusion.

Table 2 - Search 1 Eligibility Exclusions

Author/s & Year	Title	Reason for exclusion
Attrill-Smith, Wesson, Chater, & Weekes (2021)	Gender differences in videoed accounts of victim blaming for revenge porn for self-taken and stealth-taken sexually explicit images and videos	Not relevant to the research question.
Brighi, Amadori, Summerer, & Menin (2023)	Prevalence and risk factors for non-consensual distribution of intimate images among Italian young adults: Implications for prevention and intervention	Not relevant to the research question.
Cross, Holt, and O'Malley (2023)	"If U don't pay they will share the pics": Exploring sextortion in the context of romance fraud	Not exclusively 18 + adult participants
Flynn, Cama, Powell, & Scott (2023)	Victim-blaming and image-based sexual abuse	Not exclusively 18 + adult participants
Hall & Hearn (2019)	Revenge pornography and manhood acts: A discourse analysis of perpetrators' accounts	Unknown participants and/or victims, not able to apply inclusion criteria
Harewell & Pina (2023)	The role of myth acceptance in the proclivity to perpetrate image-based sexual abuse	Could not access full text (meeting abstract)
Hearn & Hall (2019)	"This is my cheating ex.": Gender and sexuality in revenge porn	Unknown participants and/or victims, not able to apply inclusion criteria
Hearn & Hall (2022)	From physical violence to online violation: Forms, structures and effects. A comparison of the cases of 'domestic violence' and 'revenge pornography'	Not empirical
Henry & Flynn (2019)	Image-based sexual abuse: Online distribution channels and illicit communities of support	Unknown participants and/or victims, not able to apply inclusion criteria
Henry, Flynn, & Powell (2019)	Image-based sexual abuse: Victims and perpetrators	Not exclusively 18+ adult participants
Huber (2023)	Image-based sexual abuse: Online communities and the broader misogynistic landscape	Unknown participants and/or victims, not able to apply inclusion criteria
Karasavva & Forth (2022)	Personality, attitudinal, and demographic predictors of	Not exclusively 18+ adult participants

	non-consensual dissemination of intimate images	
Karasavva, Swanek, Smodis & Forth (2023)	From myth to reality: Sexual image abuse myth acceptance, the Dark Tetrad, and non-consensual intimate image dissemination proclivity	Not exclusively 18+ adult participants
Lorca, & Garcia-Mingo (2023)	Search, Search, Bitch: Misogynist digital communities disseminating sexual images without consent	Full text not available in English
Maes, Van Ouytsel, & Vandenbosch (2023)	Victim blaming and non-consensual forwarding of sexts among late adolescents and young adults	Not exclusively 18+ adult participants
Marin-Cortes & Linne (2021)	Una tipología del ciberacoso en jóvenes	Full text not available in English
Moon & Ahn (2020)	Psychological analysis of the characteristics and types of organisational digital sex offenders: Focusing on literature research	Full text not available in English
Naezer & Lotte Van (2021)	Only sluts love sexting: Youth, sexual norms and non-consensual sharing of digital sexual images	Not exclusively 18+ adult participants
O'Malley & Holt (2022)	Cyber sextortion: An exploratory analysis of different perpetrators engaging in a similar crime	Not relevant to the research question
Oliver, Puiras, Cummings, & Mazmanian (2023)	The importance of context: Describing the who, where, and how of technology-facilitated sexual harrassment	Not relevant to the research question
Otchere, Primo, & Sarfo (2021)	Exploring cyberbullying and its implications on psychosocial health of students in Accra, Ghana: A thematic analysis	Not relevant to the research question
Powell, Henry, Flynn, & Scott (2019)	Image – based sexual abuse: The extent, nature, and predictors of perpetration in a community sample of Australian residents	Not exclusively 18+ adult participants
Powell, Scott, Flynn & McCook (2022)	Perpetration of image-based sexual abuse: Extent, nature,	Not exclusively 18+ adult participants

	and correlates in a multi-country sample	
Wanjiku (2021)	Revenge pornography on the internet: The case of social media in Kenya	Unknown participants and/or victims, not able to apply inclusion criteria
Zhong, Kebbell, & Webster (2020)	An exploratory study of technology-facilitated sexual violence in online romantic interactions: Can the internet's toxic disinhibition exacerbate sexual aggression?	Not exclusively 18+ adult participants

Assessment of Methodological Quality

As this systematic review included studies of various types (due to the contemporary nature of the topic), the author developed the quality assessment tool based upon exploration of the literature concerned with and utilising quality appraisal tools, as well as hybridisation of existing tools such as the CASP and AXIS checklists, to ensure that the tool would be applicable for the purposes of this review (Critical Appraisal Skills Programme, 2024; Downes et al., 2016). The quality assessment form used can be found in Appendix 3.

Of the 13 studies that were quality assessed, 2 were screened out – leaving 11 studies at this time. See below for a table of the articles screened out at quality assessment stage.

Table 3 - Search 1 Quality Assessment Exclusions

Author/s & Year	Title
Said & McNealey (2023)	Non-consensual distribution of intimate images: Exploring the role of legal attitudes in victimisation and perpetration
Sirianni & Vishwanath (2016)	Bad romance: Exploring the factors that influence revenge porn sharing amongst romantic partners

Search 2 – February 2025

This search used the same parameters as Search 1, to update results with any studies published between March 2024 and February 2025.

283 references were initially retrieved from the electronic database searches; Web of Science (n = 39), SCOPUS (n = 77), EBSCO Host (n = 41), ProQuest (n = 36), and OVID (n = 90). References were exported and managed through the EndNote reference management software. Duplicates were removed by EndNote (n = 153), and then further scanned manually for any that EndNote missed (n = 13) with 166 duplicates removed in total. This resulted in the remaining 117 references to be screened for inclusion.

Of the 117 references, 96 were screened out as not relevant to the review research question and/or the inclusion and exclusion criteria. Any references where it was not clear if the item was relevant were included to the next stage.

This resulted in a final 21 references that proceeded to the next stage of extraction and eligibility screening. No further references were provided through manual searching of relevant article reference lists.

Extraction and Eligibility Screening

Data extraction from the full texts of the included studies was completed to establish further relevance to the review question using the same form as in Search 1 and detailed above.

Of the 21 studies from initial screening, 17 full text articles were screened out for eligibility. The remaining 4 studies were subsequently quality assessed. See below for the studies excluded with reasons for exclusion.

Table 4 - Search 2 Eligibility Exclusions

Author/s & Year	Title	Reason for exclusion
Alonso-Ruido, Estevez, Varela-Portela, Sotelino-Losada (2024)	Sextortion: a strategy of online sexual violence in university students	Not relevant to the research question
Bleakley and McCarthy (2024)	“Nothing will stop the sluts now”: Analysing women's support for image-based abuse websites on social media	Not relevant to the research question
Duran-Guerrero and Sanchez-Jimenez (2025)	Perpetration of non-consensual sharing of sexual content among adolescents: socio-moral and emotional competencies, gender-based attitudes, and sexual behavior correlates	Not exclusively 18+ adult participants
Gunnoo, Jackson, and Saling (2024)	The dark triad, dating app use and online disinhibition positively predict technology-facilitated sexual violence perpetration	Not relevant to the research question
Holmes, Baskurt, Hilkes, and Babchishin (2024)	Non-consensual forwarding of sexts: Characteristics and overlap with in-person sexual coercion	Not primary research
Hull, Christensen, McKillop, Rayment-McHugh (2024)	Females' Engagement in Offline and Online Sexual Offending and Their Interactions With the Criminal Justice System: A Gender and Age Comparison	Not relevant to the research question
Jeacock, Ohlsson, and Jafari (2025)	Victims' experiences of cyberflashing: an explorative study	Not relevant to the research question
Kowalski and Thompson (2024)	Expanding the Sexual Experiences Survey to Include Technology Facilitated Sexual Exploitation	Not empirical research
Lee and Lee (2024)	The Relationship between Cyber Violence and Cyber Sex Crimes: Understanding the Perception of Cyber Sex Crimes as Systemic Issues	Not exclusively 18+ adult participants
Lodde, Zandara, Martella, Manchia, Panbello, Mascia et al. (2024)	Psychiatric assessment in image-based sexual abuse case: a case report on	Not relevant to the research question

	imputability in personality disorder with narcissistic traits	
Merry and Whitfield (2024)	The Landscape of Sexual Harm in the Video Game, Streaming, and Esports Community	Not relevant to the research question
Miranda, Consolvo, Patrick Gage, Kohno, Matthews, Meiklejohn et al (2024)	Understanding Help-Seeking and Help-Giving on Social Media for Image-Based Sexual Abuse	Not peer reviewed
Oliver, Cummings, Puiras, Mazmanian (2024)	Technology-Facilitated Sexual Harassment Against Women and Psychological Dysfunction: A Test of Objectification Theory	Not relevant to the research question
Pampanel, Gewitz-Meydan, and Tarshish (2024)	Childhood sexual abuse and technology-facilitated sexual violence on dating apps: The moderating role of motivations for use	Not relevant to the research question
Porter, Falcon, Graefe, Metheny, Cooper, and Astorini (2024)	Swipe Left on Sexual Harassment: Understanding and Addressing Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence on Dating Apps	Not relevant to the research question
Renken, Hall, Prokhorets, and Saucier (2024)	"Your Photos, Your Fault": Masculine Honor Beliefs and Perceptions of Revenge Pornography	Not relevant to the research question
Runyan (2024)	Image-based sexual abuse: An exploratory analysis of victims and perpetrators in a public university setting	Not peer reviewed

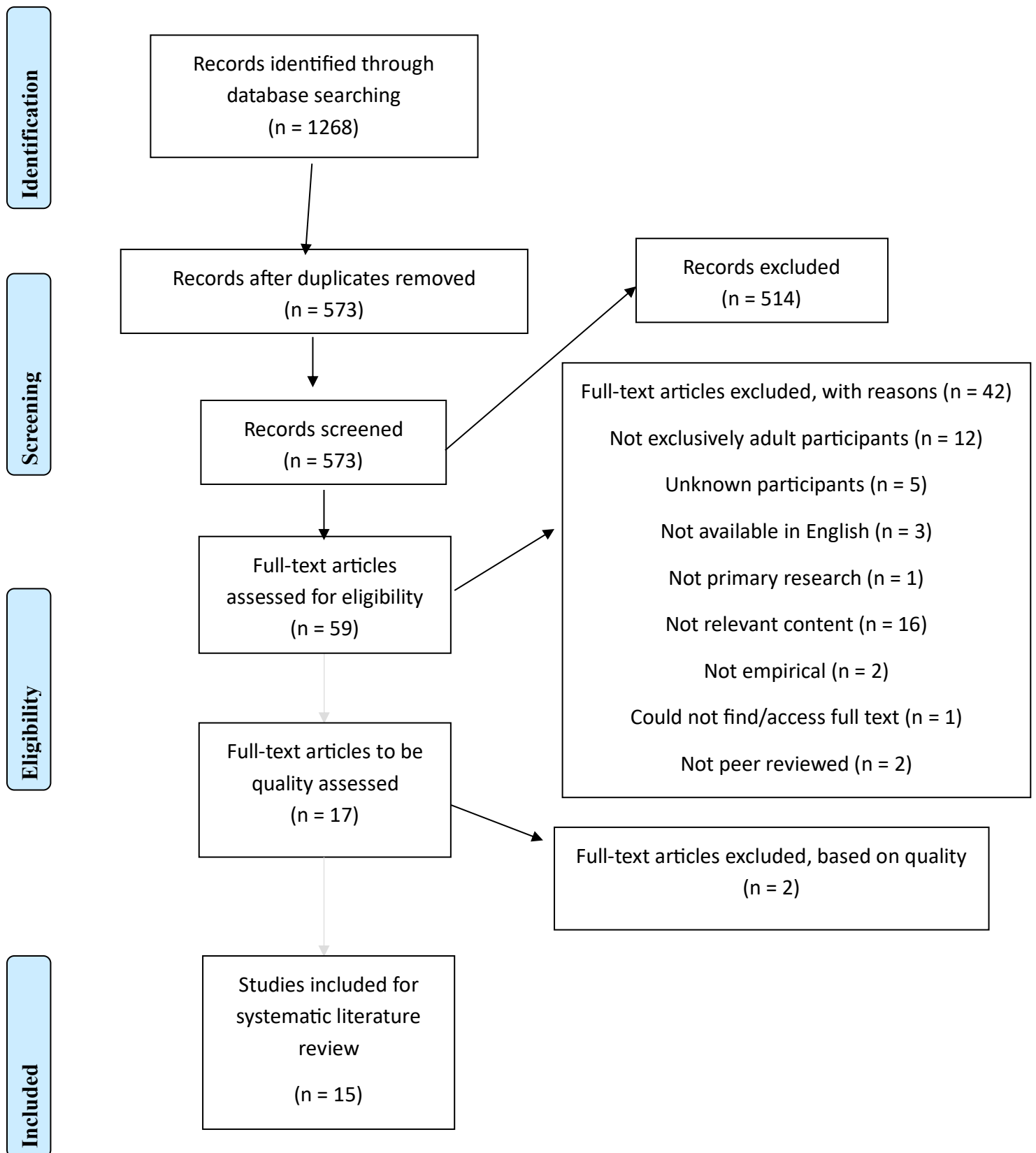
Assessment of Methodological Quality

As with Search 1, the 4 remaining articles were assessed for methodological quality (see Appendix 3 for quality assessment form). All 4 articles were deemed to be of high enough quality to remain within the review, and therefore no further articles were screened out at this stage.

PRISMA flowchart

Collating both Search 1 and Search 2 to provide the most up-to-date summary of all articles synthesised within the subsequent review, please see Figure 1 below.

Figure 1 - PRISMA diagram



Data Synthesis and Analysis

Now that the full text articles had been examined for eligibility and quality assessed, the resulting 15 studies were explored using a narrative synthesis approach. See below for the results of the systematic literature review.

Results

The 15 final articles are listed below in Table 5, and Table 6 summarises the data extracted from the full text articles. Only the findings and conclusions relevant to the research question is included in Table 6 – for example, many of the studies also looked at prevalence rates however this is not relevant to the topic of this systematic literature review.

Table 5 - Full List of Included Studies

Study number	Author/s & Year	Title
1	Agueli, Esposito, Arcidiacono, & Napoli (2023)	Women as bodies: The role of ambivalent sexism and sexual objectification on non-consensual sharing of sexting images
2	Clancy, Klettke, Crossman, Hallford, Howard, & Toumbourou (2021)	Sext dissemination: Differences across nations in motivations and associations
3	Clancy, Klettke, & Hallford (2019)	The dark side of sexting – Factors predicting the dissemination of sexts
4	Clancy, Klettke, Hallford, Crossman, Maas, and Toumbourou (2020)	Sharing is not always caring: Understanding motivation and behavioural associations with sext dissemination
5	Gasso, Forero, Piqueras, & Gomez-Duran (2022)	Psychopathological aspects of sexting and IBSA perpetrators: A brief research report
6	Maas, Cary, Clancy, Klettke, McCauley, & Temple (2021)	Slutpage use among US college students: The secret and social platforms of image-based sexual abuse
7	Pina, Bell, Griffin, & Vasquez (2021)	Image based sexual abuse proclivity and victim blaming: The role of dark personality traits and moral disengagement
8	Pina, Holland, and James (2017)	The malevolent side of revenge porn proclivity: Dark personality traits and sexist ideology
9	Pineda, Martinez-Martinez, Galan, Rico-Bordera, & Piqueras (2023)	The dark tetrad and online sexual victimisation: Enjoying in the distance
10	Sparks, Stephens, & Trendell (2023)	Image-based sexual abuse: Victim-perpetrator overlap and risk-related correlates of coerced sexting, non-consensual dissemination of intimate images, and cyberflashing
11	Walker, Sleath, Hatcher, Hine, & Crookes (2021)	Non-consensual sharing of private sexually explicit media among university students
12	Blais, McArthur, & Goruk (2024)	An examination of technology-facilitated sexual violence perpetration in Canada among a large sample of adults
13	Fido, Rushton, Allen, & Williams	Judgement Differences of Types of Image-Based Sexual Harassment and Abuse Conducted by Celebrity Perpetrators and Victims
14	Henry & Umbach (2024)	Sextortion: Prevalence and correlates in 10 countries

15	Kokkinos, Papioti, Voulgaridou (2025)	Profiling proclivity for technology-facilitated sexual violence through Dark Tetrad traits
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Table 6 - Extraction Table

General		Study characteristics	Participants		Findings and conclusions
<i>Study and Country</i>	<i>Aims and Design</i>	<i>Measures used</i>	<i>Participant characteristics</i>	<i>Data analysis</i>	<i>Findings, conclusions, strengths, limitations, & quality score (in that order)</i>
1 Agueli et al. (2023) Italy	To investigate the relations of benevolent as well as hostile sexism on the perpetration of the non-consensual sharing of sexts, both directly and when mediated by reported sexual objectification Quantitative design Cross-sectional Independent measures	Demographics Interpersonal Sexual Objectification Scale – Perpetration version (ISOS-P) Ambivalent Sexism Inventory (ASI) Sexting Behaviours Questionnaire (SBQ)	2,305 Italian young adults, aged 18–35 Recruited through opportunity snowball sampling	Structural modelling and multigroup mediation modelling	Benevolent sexism was not found to have either a direct or an indirect association with the reported non-consensual sharing of sexts. Additionally, hostile sexism was found to have both a significant and a direct association with the variable of sexual objectification and was also found to have an indirect association with the behaviour of non-consensual sharing of sexts. There were no gender differences in males vs females. The study findings were in line with others in this area. The sample was not probabilistic, the sample had 17% non-heterosexual participants, it was a correlational design (cannot infer causality).

					Quality score – 83.33%
2	To explore whether there are any differences between US and Australian adults in prevalence and motivations of sext dissemination.	Demographics Adapted Sext Dissemination Behaviour Questionnaire Other author-developed questions, such as asking about motivations for sharing sexts, if the individual knew that their image had been shared. Adapted scale for the subjective norms and attitudes. Unconditional Respect for Persons scale (URfP)	1,148 18-29 year olds from the US and Australia Recruited through social media	Descriptive statistics Chi-Squared analysis Bivariate correlations Logistic regressions	Males had significantly greater reported positive attitudes towards the behaviour of dissemination of sexts than females did. Self-reported motivations for dissemination differed by reported gender. The motivation highest in males was that it was “hot” and for women it was “as a joke”. Predictors of sext dissemination included: resident of the US, having actually seeking out the sexts, having experienced their own intimate media disseminated, possessing more positive subjective norms and/or positive mindsets concerning the behaviour of sext dissemination, in addition to a interaction between reported gender and resident country (in that Australian females were found to be more probable than Australian males were to share without consent, and US males were more likely than women for the same). The study adds to the literature base and is the first cross-national study in this area.

The sampling was convenience and not nationally representative, the study relied on self-reports, and the study did not specify if the dissemination was consensual or non-consensual.

Quality score – 91.67%

3	To evaluate both the individual attitudes and the reported subjective norms on sexting behaviour, which is inclusive of the non-consensual dissemination of sexts as well as the three dark triad traits to assess their association with the perpetration of dissemination.	Demographics Author developed questions around sexting behaviour. Adapted scale for the subjective norms and attitudes. Dirty Dozen scale.	505 Australian adults aged 18-55 years old Recruited through convenience sampling.	Descriptive statistics Chi-Squared MANOVA Binomial logistic regression	The four predictors of the non-consensual dissemination of sexts were: Being more sexually active, previously having reported to receive a disseminated sext from elsewhere, intensely normalising that the sexts are often shared without consent or seen by people other than the intended recipient, and possessing deeper positive attitudes about the dissemination of sexts. Most common self-reported motivations for dissemination were minimisation and humour. A predictor of reduced likelihood was having the personal experience of the non-consensual sharing of sexts and experiencing the resulting negative consequences.
Clancy et al. (2019)					
Australia					
	Quantitative design Cross-sectional Independent measures				

					The dark triad traits were associated but not identified to be independent predictors. Positive attitudes or norms about non-consensual dissemination were also associated with dissemination. The sample was large and gender balanced. The sampling was convenience, included only image based sexts not text based, and the survey was anonymous but it may have been desirably responding due to the topic. Quality score – 87.5%
4	Aimed to investigate the motivations in behaviour and responses to sext dissemination behaviours. Quantitative design Cross-sectional Independent measures	Used sext dissemination behaviours questionnaire adapted from previous study in 2019 Dark triad traits as measured by the Dirty Dozen.	691 adults aged 18-35 years old Recruited through social media and Amazon MTurk.	Descriptive statistics Chi-square analysis Independent sample t-tests Binomial multivariate	Those who had disseminated sexts were found to be more likely to be sexually active, and if they were sexually active this would have been from a lower age, had previously requested sexts themselves, had reported to have received disseminated sexts in the past, as well as having self-reported greater dark triad trait levels.

logistical
regressions

It was also found that males and females were similarly likely to share sexts without consent.

Common motivations were attractiveness, unimportance, and humour. For men this was attractiveness, minimisation, seeking attention, and humour. For women, this was humour, attractiveness, minimisation, or to gossip.

Factors associated with dissemination of sexts included: individual had requested the sexts, the individual had previously obtained disseminated sexts, the individual had experienced their own sexts being disseminated, and presenting as higher in narcissistic traits.

Provides further understanding of the complex motivations to share sexts and the sample was large and international.

Convenience sample, cross-sectional and therefore cannot infer the causal findings, possible desirable responding.

Quality score – 87.5%

5	To identify the characteristics of those who perpetrate IBSA, and to inform future intervention and/or prevention programmes.	An adapted version of a Sexting and IBSA scale based on the JOV-Q Spanish version of the LSB-50 Asked about their perpetration of and IBSA in general.	1,370 Spanish college students, aged 18 to 64.	Chi-Square Independent samples t-tests	Perpetrators were more commonly reported to be male, with high psychopathology results (particularly hostility) and also with reported previous IBSA victimisation experiences themselves, and who mostly do so to target friends/acquaintances, to have enjoyment, for a joke, or between partners for flirting. Those with more severe levels of IBSA perpetration had higher levels of psychopathology and hostility.
Gasso et al (2022)					Adds to the literature base of IBSA motivations.
Spain	Quantitative design Cross-sectional Independent measures		Recruited through professors passing the survey to their students.		Non-probabilistic sample and relied on self-report, university students only, no causality as cross-sectional only.
					Quality score – 87.5%
6	To investigate the use of what is referred to as “slutpages” and the associated demographics and behaviours in USA college students.	Demographics Monitoring the Future questionnaire (alcohol use) Author-developed questions about pornography use, social media use, slutpage	1,867 undergraduate students, aged 18-24.	Descriptive statistics Bivariate correlations	Males and younger participants were found to be more likely to engage in the usage of slutpages and associated behaviours than women or older participants – even more so if they contributed to “Greek life” or participated in a university team sport.
Maas et al (2021)					
USA					

	Aimed to identify the prevalence of viewing slutpages, the posting/dissemination of nude media (including either images or videos) and without informed consent, and using what is referred to as “vault apps” for storing or sharing nude images; examine associated with demographic variables, other online activities, alcohol use; describe the nature of and difference in slutpage use between same gender social groups. Quantitative design Cross-sectional Independent measures	visitation, non-consensual nude posting, and vault app use.	Recruited through mass email.	Hierarchical linear regression	Males in a fraternity or playing a team sport were found to have disseminated intimate images/videos online and without informed consent more than males outside of these specific groups or when considering women overall. Frequent consumption of alcohol as well as utilising or viewing pornography more often was also found to be associated with reported slutpage behaviours. Novel for investigating slutpage use and adds to the literature base around posting intimate media on public website. Did not ask for detail about the platforms used, did not ask about slutpage victimisation, not generalisable beyond college students, did not ask about motivations for visiting or posting to these sites. Quality score – 91.67%
7 Pina et al (2021)	To offer additional empirical evidence to support both the reliability and the	Demographics Ambivalent Sexism (ASI)	126 participants aged 18-63.	Exploratory factor analysis	Both sadism and psychopathy were correlated with IBSA proclivity. Sadism was established to be a significant predictor of IBSA proclivity

UK	validity of Pina 2017's results (detailed below in number 8); as well as to both develop and validate a novel Moral Disengagement in Image-Based Sexual Abuse scale (MDiISA); and finally to study the connection between moral disengagement and the tendency to engage in IBSA.	Short Dark Triad (SD3) Sadism (CAST) Moral disengagement (MDiISA) Revenge porn proclivity (RPPS)	Recruited through opportunity sampling through advertising on social media.	Spearman's rank order correlation analysis Regression analysis	when moral disengagement (MD) was removed from model. MD predicted IBSA proclivity and likelihood to blame the victim. Novel study in examination of moral disengagement and IBSA. Relied on self-report questionnaires, which are susceptible to social desirability bias, proclivity does not equal perpetration, there was a small sample size, with a large age range, and cross-sectional design (no causality).
	Quantitative design Cross-sectional Independent measures				Quality score – 87.5%
8	To investigate the reported relationship between the proclivity to participate in revenge porn behaviours and the levels of reported dark triad traits, sadistic inclinations, as well as ambivalent sexism.	Ambivalent Sexism (ASI) Short Dark Triad (SD3) Sadism (CAST) Revenge porn proclivity (RPPS)	100 adults, aged 18-54. Recruited through a community sample on social media.	Descriptive statistics Pearson's correlation Multiple regression	There was a positive association found between a larger proclivity to participate in revenge porn behaviours and elevated levels of ambivalent sexism and the three dark triad traits. Psychopathy was identified to be the only one of the three dark triad traits to independently predict the proclivity to engage in revenge porn. This was a novel study in the area at the time.
Pina et al (2017)					
UK					
	Quantitative design				

	Cross-sectional Independent measures				Social desirability, self-report measures, proclivity does not mean perpetration, no causality, more female than male participants.
					Quality score – 83.33%
9	To examine connections between online sexual victimisation and the dark tetrad, utilising structural equation modelling; explore relationship between OSV perpetrator and the media used in perpetration of these behaviours; analyse differences in traits in the perpetrator and victimised individual which may clarify the reported differences in the traits which most predict these behaviours.	Online sexual victimisation (OSV scale) Short Dark Triad (SD3) Sadistic personality (ASP)	1,988 participants aged 18-74. Recruited through social media.	Descriptive statistics Bivariate analysis Structural equation modelling	OSV/P was predicted the most by sadism, followed by narcissism. Psychopathy was weak predictor of perpetration and victimisation. Men scored higher on DTT. Males tend to commit this behaviour and females tend to be victims. Adds to the literature with the incorporation of sadism to the existing three dark triad traits. Self-report measures, social desirability, 79% were women participants, North American sample. Quality score – 83.33%

	Quantitative design Cross-sectional Independent measures				
10 Sparks et al (2023) UK and Canada	Expand existing knowledge of IBSA behaviours by distinguishing victims, perpetrators, as well as victim-perpetrators Quantitative design Cross-sectional Independent measures	Questions were developed by the authors on image-based sexual abuse experiences Modified IBSA Rape Myth Acceptance Scale (IRMA) Paraphilia Scale Short Dark Triad (SD3) Sexual Compulsivity Scale (SCS) Barratt Impulsivity Scale – Brief (BIS) Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) Drug Abuse Screening Test (DAST)	541 participants, aged 18-25. Recruited from either a university or community sample.	Chi-Square ANOVA Descriptive statistics	Significant overlap with cyberflashing and non-consensual dissemination between victim and perpetration. Victim-perpetrators showed elevated scores on all examined risk-related measures (differed across IBSA behaviours). Provides insight into the factors as related to the various formats of IBSA behaviour that could be further examined in future research. No causality, participants were categorised based on IBSA experience rather than the order of victimisation vs perpetration, relationship context of IBSA not examined, exhibitionism measure was gendered, convenience sampling. Quality score – 87.5%
11 Walker et al (2021)	To explore the reported nature and the prevalence of both consensual and non-	Adapted version of questionnaire to measure non-consensual sharing	391 participants aged 18-25.	Chi-Square MANOVA	Qual motivations for sharing images – for fun/joke, ask for advice/opinion, always share these types of things with their friends, to be able to “show off”, to

UK	consensual sharing of sexually explicit material in UK adults, and identify the reasons for participating in the non-consensual sharing of explicit media.	Other measures developed by the authors around attitudes and subjective norms, questions about consensual and non-consensual sharing, and motivations for non-consensual sharing.	Recruited through three English universities.	ANOVA Confirmatory factor analysis Qualitative – thematic inspired analysis	get some attention, to prove that they had actually received the images, and because they were asked by someone else to share them. Qual motivations for sharing videos – for fun/joke, and to feel sexy. There was no significant association identified between reported gender and the perpetration of non-consensual sharing of intimate material. There was a significant association between perpetration and victimisation. Significant association between coerced sending and victimisation.
	Mixed methods (qualitative and quantitative) Independent measures				This study was the first to explore the reported nature of perpetration and victimisation in the UK, and examined the prevalence according to material type (images vs messages vs videos). Self-report, social desirability, fewer males than females Quality score – 100%
12	To examine technology-facilitated sexual violence perpetration in	Demographics	1,200 participants aged 18-84	Descriptive statistics and comparisons	5.1% of the total sample described engaging in NCDII, with men engaging in this behaviour more than women.

Blais et al (2024)	Canada through three types of TFSV (nonconsensual dissemination of intimate images [NCDII], sexual and gender harassment, and cyberstalking).	Questionnaire adapted from Morelli (2016) for nonconsensual dissemination of intimate images (NCDII).	who must live in Canada		NCDII was more common amongst participants who had a religious affiliation (vs not), reported that religion had somewhat affected their sexual behaviour (vs not), and for those currently using dating apps.
Canada			Recruited from online participant panels via Qualtrics		Large sample size
	Quantitative Cross-sectional Independent measures				Self-report, use of online nonprobability sample
					Quality score – 87.5%
13	Conducted three individual studies to better comprehend the distinctive variances in the judgements held and proclivities to perpetrate/commit	Short Dark Triad (SD3)	237 participants aged 18+	A series of 2x2 ANOVAs and linear regressions	NCSII proclivity was associated with greater psychopathic traits.
Fido et al (2024)	NCSII (nonconsensual capture, the creation of, and the sharing of intimate media) and USII (unsolicited sending). Study 2 is relevant for this SLR.	Judgements of IBSA (image based sexual abuse), with one of four random vignettes with questions around victim blame, anticipated harm, and perceived criminality)	Recruited through social media		3 studies across various areas of IBSA and harassment.
UK		Proclivity to engage in IBSHA (two single-item scales that were percentage based)			Limited to UK only, susceptible to social desirability, lack of causal relationship or longitudinal data
					Quality score – 100%

	Quantitative Cross-sectional with written vignettes Independent measures				
14 Henry and Umbach (2024) Multi-national across 10 countries	To investigate threats to share intimate images to understand adult experiences of sextortion Quantitative Cross-sectional Independent measures	Demographics Sextortion experiences (victimisation and perpetration), developed for this study	16,693 participants aged 18+ across 10 countries (Australia, Denmark, Belgium, Mexico, France, Poland, the Netherlands, Spain, South Korea, and the USA) Recruited through YouGov	Descriptive statistics Pearson's chi-squared Spearman's correlation	Men self-reported perpetration more than women in all countries except South Korea. 85.2% of the sample who had reported perpetration had also reported previous victimisation. Large sample, multinational Difficult to account for differences across countries, cross-cultural differences to the measures, reported to be a very long survey Quality score – 87.5%
15 Kokkinos et al (2025)	To investigate the reported relationship amongst the four dark tetrad traits and the behaviour of technology-	Revenge Porn Proclivity Scale Short Dark Tetrad (SD4) by Paulhus et al (2020)	1,735 university students in Greece	Descriptive statistics	79.7% of sample reported a propensity to accept or normalise behaviours that were associated with TFSV. Men had higher scores on both dark tetrad and revenge porn proclivity in addition to

Greece	facilitated sexual violence (TFSV) Quantitative Cross-sectional Independent measures	Recruited through social media	Internal consistency calculations Pearson correlations CFA LPA	enjoyment (but not revenge porn approval). LPA identified four personality profiles (manipulative narcissists, dominant egocentrics, cold strategists, and balanced individuals) which the former three were associated with perpetration proclivity or acceptance compared to those in the balanced individuals profile. Large sample, can be generalised to other university populations Non-random snowball sampling limits the potential generalisability, based on self-report, SD4 scale is brief and can be considered oversimplified Quality score – 91.67%
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Descriptive Overview of Results

Characteristics of Included Studies

All 15 articles as detailed above were included in the review. Some of the articles had a wider scope than that of the research question (e.g., also investigated prevalence), and therefore details pertaining to irrelevant factors have been omitted and the results only detail the relevant parts from each study. All results as detailed above investigated the perpetration of non-consensual intimate media sharing, albeit different aspects such as personality traits or explicit self-reported motivations.

When considering the study designs, almost all of the studies were quantitative and of a cross-sectional, independent measures design ($n = 14$) – whereby all participants were surveyed at one point in time, completing the survey only once, and the researchers were collecting data based on their responses without influencing the results. One study employed a mixed method design, wherein the quantitative side was as the other studies (cross-sectional, independent measures), but they had also employed qualitative methods to gain a deeper understanding of motivations which were analysed using a thematic analysis framework (Walker et al., 2021). The quantitative studies used a variety of statistical analyses unique to their data and research question.

The majority of studies used pre-validated measures or psychometrics to collect data from the participants, whereas some studies used adapted versions of pre-validated scales or developed their own questions in relation to their research question.

The studies included in this review largely used various terminology to encompass the non-consensual sharing of intimate media such as: the non-consensual sharing of sexting images (Agueli et al., 2023), sext dissemination (Clancy et al., 2021; Clancy et al., 2019;

Clancy et al., 2020), sextortion (Henry & Umbach, 2024), image-based sexual abuse (Gassó et al., 2022; Maas et al., 2021; Pina et al., 2021; Sparks et al., 2023), revenge pornography (Pina et al., 2017), online sexual victimisation (Pineda et al., 2023), non-consensual sharing of private sexually explicit media (Walker et al., 2021), technology-facilitated sexual violence (Blais et al., 2024; Kokkinos et al., 2025), and image-based sexual harassment and abuse (Fido et al., 2024). When filtering for relevance, the focus was on the individual study scope and definitions rather than the terminology used – to investigate when intimate media (videos or images) were shared without consent of the individual featured in them.

The location of the studies included the UK (n = 4), USA (n = 1), Italy (n = 1), Spain (n = 2), Australia (n = 1), Greece (n = 1), Canada (n = 1), or cross-nationally across countries (n = 4).

There was no start date included in the search exclusion criteria due to the contemporary nature of the topic, and therefore the earliest study was published in 2017 with the latest up to 2025.

Characteristics of Participants

The participants largely included university students, or community samples. Ages of participants in the included studies varied greatly, however the ages ranged from 18 to 84 across all of the studies.

Quality of Studies

The quality of included studies was assessed via a quality assessment form rated out of 24 and then given a percentage quality score out of 100%. The quality of included studies ranged from 83.33% to 100%, indicating a good quality of included studies.

Overview of Results

Overall, the included studies looked at various aspects of perpetration of non-consensual sharing of intimate media which are discussed below.

Personality

Several studies investigated whether personality profiles or distinct traits increased the likelihood that an individual would engage in sharing intimate media without consent.

Sexism

Agueli et al. (2023) found that benevolent sexism had no association with the non-consensual sharing of sexting images, whilst hostile sexism had an indirect association with the non-consensual sharing of sexting images when mediated by sexual objectification. Similarly, Pina et al. (2017) found that there was indeed a positive correlation between a behavioural proclivity to engage in NCIMS perpetration and ambivalent sexism.

Dark triad traits – psychopathy, narcissism, and Machiavellianism

Several studies have specifically investigated the possible link between the dark triad traits of psychopathy, narcissism, and Machiavellianism with likelihood to perpetrate the non-consensual sharing of intimate media. While Clancy et al. (2019) found the dark triad traits did not independently relate to the dissemination of sexts, the authors did however find that the dark triad traits were associated with dissemination.

Clancy et al. (2020) found that those who had reported to have disseminated sexts also reported higher levels of the dark triad traits. Pina et al. (2021) identified that both sadism and psychopathy were found to be correlated with image-based sexual abuse proclivity. Pina et al. (2017) also found a positive correlation between NCIMS proclivity and

high scores on all three dark triad traits – though psychopathy was the only trait which was an independent predictor. This finding is further reinforced by Fido et al. (2024) who found that proclivity to engage in the nonconsensual capture, creation, and sharing of intimate images (NCSII) was associated with high psychopathic traits.

When considering sadism – which is occasionally included in the dark triad conceptualisation to form the dark tetrad personality traits - Pineda et al. (2023) found that perpetration of online sexual victimisation is associated with the dark tetrad traits; with sadism being the strongest predictor, followed by narcissism. Psychopathy was found to be the weakest predictor (Pineda et al., 2023).

Motivations

Other studies investigated the reported motivations for disclosing non-consensual sharing of intimate media. Clancy et al. (2021) found that overall motivations for “sext” dissemination were: the individual depicted was attractive, it was a joke, it was something to gossip about, it was not thought to be a “big deal”, for bragging, to tease, or to increase perceived social status. When split by gender, Clancy et al. (2021) found that for men most common motivations were reported to be related to attractiveness, bragging, or social status – whereas for women it was reported to be related to gossiping or teasing. Clancy et al. (2020) found that motivations for sext dissemination were reported to be related to attractiveness, humour, or unimportance – which was echoed by further findings from Clancy et al. (2021). Again when split by gender, Clancy et al. (2020) found that the most prominent motivation for men was attractiveness and for women it was humour. Gassó et al. (2022) found that motivations for image-based sexual abuse included to joke/have fun, to flirt with partners, or to target friends. Walker et al. (2021) found that motivations for non-consensually sharing

sexually explicit images were reported as: for fun/as a joke, to gain advice, reported that they would always share “things like this” with their friends/acquaintances, to “show off” to others, to get more attention, to concretely prove that they had received them, or they were asked to do so by other people. For non-consensually sharing explicit videos, motivations were reported as: for fun/a joke, or to feel sexy (Walker et al., 2021).

Gender

The gender differences in the perpetration of the non-consensual sharing of intimate media have been varied across the literature. Both Agueli et al. (2023) and Clancy et al. (2020) report no gender differences between males and females. In Agueli et al. (2023), there were no differences in how much sexism predicted the likelihood to share sexts without consent. Clancy et al. (2020) found that neither men nor women were more likely than the other group to disseminate sexts without consent.

This is in contrast to 6 of the other studies in the area. Gassó et al. (2022), Maas et al. (2021), Pineda et al. (2023), Blais et al. (2024), and Henry and Umbach (2024) all found that men were more likely to post or disseminate intimate media without consent than women. Clancy et al. (2021) also investigated gender differences, but in a comparison across the USA and Australia. Clancy et al. (2021) found that whilst US men were more likely to perpetrate sext dissemination than US women, Australian women were more likely to do so than Australian men – highlighting an interesting cross-national difference. Similarly, Henry and Umbach (2024) conducted a multi-national study across 10 countries and found that men self-reported to perpetrate more than women in all countries, with the exception of South Korea.

Attitudes and subjective norms

Two studies also investigated attitudes and subjective norms concerning non-consensual intimate media sharing. Both Clancy et al. (2019) and Clancy et al. (2021) found that positive attitudes and subjective norms towards the non-consensual dissemination of sexts was predictive of perpetration.

Lifestyle factors

Other lifestyle factors have also been found to be linked to the perpetration of non-consensual intimate media sharing. Clancy et al. (2021) found that requesting sexts and being from the USA (rather than Australia) was predictive of sext dissemination perpetration. Both Clancy et al. (2019) and Clancy et al. (2020) found that being sexually active and receiving disseminated sexts were predictors of non-consensual dissemination. Additionally, Clancy et al. (2020) also found that those who had disseminated sexts were likely sexually active from a younger age, and had requested sexts. Maas et al. (2021) identified several factors which were associated with sharing intimate media without consent: increased pornography, social media, and alcohol use; being in a fraternity; being involved in playing team sports; and engaging with ‘Greek life’. Blais et al. (2024) found that nonconsensual dissemination of intimate images perpetration was more common in participants who reported a religious affiliation (vs not), reported that their religion had somewhat impacted their sexual behaviour (vs not), and those currently using dating apps.

Victim-perpetrator overlap

Finally, when considering the overlap between those who have had their intimate media shared without consent and those who have shared the media – several studies have

investigated the potential overlap (whereby individuals are both victims and perpetrators). Both Clancy et al. (2021) and Clancy et al. (2020) identified that having their own sexts disseminated was a predictor of perpetrating sext dissemination to someone else. This is in contrast to Clancy et al. (2019), who identified that having personal experience of sext dissemination with negative impacts as a result is a predictor of being less likely to engage in the non-consensual sharing of intimate media.

Further support for Clancy et al. (2021) and Clancy et al. (2020) comes from Gassó et al. (2022) and Walker et al. (2021) who found that previous image-based sexual abuse victimisation is associated with perpetration. Sparks et al. (2023) also found substantial overlap in victims and perpetrators of non-consensual dissemination of intimate images. Henry and Umbach (2024) found that 85.2% of those who had reported to perpetrate this behaviour had also reported to have experienced victimisation themselves.

Strengths and Limitations of Included Studies

Strengths of the papers included many of them being novel studies, significantly adding to the literature base around this topic, or having a large sample size. All of the studies included in this review also discussed their limitations, implications for future practice, and indications of potential future research.

Limitations of papers often resulted from the samples being collected out of convenience and therefore making it hard to generalise the results, many of the measures being self-reports (and subjected to social desirability bias), and being cross-sectional (and therefore unable to assess causality or longitudinally). Other studies who investigated proclivity to share intimate media without consent identified that proclivity did not necessarily mean perpetration (Pina et al., 2021; Pina et al., 2017).

Discussion

The main aim of this systematic literature review was to examine all available literature investigating the perpetration of non-consensual intimate media sharing. Results of the literature searching indicated that the studies in this area had investigated various aspects of perpetration or potential perpetration, including personality traits/profiles, self-reported explicit motivations, gender differences, attitudes and subjective norms, lifestyle factors, and the overlap between victims and perpetrators.

Overall, it appears as though the literature identifies several characteristics of those who are likely to or have shared intimate media without consent. These characteristics include personality traits (such as sexism and the dark triad traits of psychopathy, narcissism, and Machiavellianism), being male, having been a victim of non-consensual intimate media sharing, having more positive attitudes towards the sharing of intimate media without consent, and other lifestyle factors (such as alcohol use, team sports, being involved in a fraternity, pornography usage, use of dating apps, and religious affiliation which is reported to impact their sexual behaviour).

As discussed in the introduction to this systematic literature review, there is one prior review whereby the searches were conducted in mid-2022 (Paradiso et al., 2024). The included studies between the two reviews has varied considerably, due to differences in the inclusion criteria, time since Paradiso et al. (2024) conducted their searches, and the focus being split between victimisation AND perpetration – compared to the present review focusing upon solely perpetration. When Paradiso et al. (2024) conducted their searches, 8 of the 15 total studies included in the current review had not yet been published, indicating a significant difference in the studies reviewed and associated findings. When comparing the included studies, only two articles were included in both reviews; Clancy et al. (2019) and Pina et al. (2017). The lack of overlap is likely due to the current review's criteria on only

including studies with the age range from 18 years old, to align with the legal definitions in the UK whereby any intimate media under the age of 18 is classified as indecent images of children (CPS, 2020). Many other studies in the area include adolescents into adulthood and were therefore excluded from this review (see Henry et al., 2019; Karasavva & Forth, 2022; Karasavva et al., 2022; Powell et al., 2018).

Strengths and Limitations of the Current Review

Due to the quality assessment of the included studies, all included studies had over 80% quality rating using the assessment form. This indicates that the data extracted from the included studies is of a good quality and therefore would be a strength for this systematic review. Another strength of this review is that it provides an up-to-date synthesis of the current literature in this area, which could be used to inform future practice or develop prevention strategies.

It is acknowledged by the author that due to time constraints; the retrieved articles could not be dual coded at eligibility stage as was originally planned. However, this was conducted at quality assessment stage with a colleague on the ForenPsyD course reviewing 10% of included articles, which resulted in agreement from both independent reviews. Whilst it is a limitation that this did not also take place at eligibility stage, the inclusion criteria for this review were very specific and thus would mitigate some subjective bias from the author. Additionally, some studies were excluded due to not being available in English and therefore this is also a limitation as those studies may have significantly added to the results of this systematic review.

Due to the contemporary nature of the topic, the author developed the quality assessment form based on exploration of the literature, and considering tools created by CASP and the AXIS (Critical Appraisal Skills Programme, 2024; Downes et al., 2016). The

reason for this was as the systematic review was not being limited to study design to ensure it could capture all available literature, multiple quality assessment forms (one for each study design) could not be reliably compared to each other to ensure a standardised measurement of quality. The author acknowledges that this is a limitation regarding the quality assessment of the eligible studies and leaves this process open to research bias. However, the alternative was having multiple quality assessment forms and therefore this decision was deemed to be the most realistic.

Implications and Future Research

This systematic review adds to the literature base around the non-consensual sharing of intimate media by identifying the latest findings of included studies with regard to what characteristics those who perpetrate (or are likely to perpetrate) may possess. As such, these findings can feed into targeted strategies for prevention, such as psychoeducation around the harms of non-consensual media sharing – especially relevant considering the findings from Clancy et al. (2020) that many participants shared explicit media as they did not think that this would be a big deal. Psychoeducation interventions could include facts regarding the impact of NCIMS on victims to increase potential empathy, but also on the legal ramifications for perpetrators to target those who may have a limited ability to feel empathy for potential victims. Many of the included studies conducted the research on university-age participants, and therefore this could be a rationale for including such psychoeducation prevention efforts as part of university ‘fresher’ week or during university induction. Although outside the scope of this review, psychoeducation workshops may also assist with the victim blaming that many victims of non-consensual intimate media sharing experience (Call, 2021; Huber, 2023).

A limitation of the vast majority of included studies was that they were cross-sectional in design and therefore could not infer causality to any of the variables investigated.

Longitudinal research in this area would be beneficial for future research to fill this gap.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this review systematically identified literature available in the area of non-consensual intimate media sharing which indicates that there are factors or characteristics which are linked to the perpetration or likelihood to perpetrate this form of Image-Based Sexual Abuse (IBSA). The findings from this review may be used to develop and target future prevention efforts, including – but not limited to – the development of psychoeducational workshops to inform individuals of the harm from this form of IBSA as well as the potential implications for themselves (as it is illegal in the UK). Further research in this area should be of a longitudinal nature to assess for causality, which is a limitation of current research.

CHAPTER 3: DARK TRIAD TRAITS, SEX, AND SOCIAL DESIRABILITY AS PREDICTORS OF NON-CONSENSUAL INTIMATE MEDIA SHARING PROCLIVITY, ENJOYMENT, AND APPROVAL IN UK UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Abstract

Non-Consensual Intimate Media Sharing (NCIMS) – defined as the non-consensual sharing of sexually explicit images or videos – is notably increasing in recent years, despite legislative actions to tackle this. This cross-sectional study aimed to investigate if the dark triad traits of narcissism, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy – as well as sex and social desirability – predicted NCIMS proclivity, enjoyment, and approval in UK university students. 653 participants were recruited through Prolific, the University of Birmingham survey circle, and social media. All participants completed various measures to assess self-reported levels of dark triad traits, social desirability, and NCIMS proclivity, enjoyment, and approval. Results showed that the models for each multiple linear regression (NCIMS proclivity, enjoyment, and approval) were statistically significant, though only certain variables were independent predictors for each regression. For proclivity, only psychopathy independently added to the prediction. For enjoyment, significant predictors were sex, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy. For approval, only Machiavellianism added statistically to the prediction. This research adds to the growing literature base around NCIMS, specifically within university students in the UK, and provides strong evidence for the development and implementation of interventions designed to address the likelihood of individuals perpetrating NCIMS.

Introduction

Non-Consensual Intimate Media Sharing (NCIMS) – colloquially known as “revenge pornography”- was originally defined as “the sharing of private, sexual materials, either photos or videos, of another person, without their consent, and with the purpose of causing embarrassment or distress” when first included in the Sexual Offences Act (2003) in 2015 (Ministry of Justice, 2015). There are several terms across the literature for NCIMS, including image-based sexual assault or abuse, intimate image abuse, non-consensual pornography, non-consensual dissemination of intimate media, technology-facilitated sexual abuse, or cyber-rape. The term “revenge pornography” has been widely criticised for the negative connotations associated with it and inferring that the victim must have wronged the perpetrator somehow, resulting in “revenge” which perpetuates victim-blaming attitudes (Henry, McGlynn, et al., 2020b; McGlynn et al., 2017). From its inclusion in the Sexual Offences Act, NCIMS was an offence only if the individual intended to cause embarrassment or distress to the person depicted in the media that had been shared non-consensually. This presented several practical issues in the prosecution and conviction of those responsible due to the requirement to prove the intent (CPS, 2024). This has recently been updated, due to the Online Safety Act (2023), whereby the requirement of the alleged offender to have distributed intimate media without consent WITH intent to cause embarrassment or distress has been removed. These new laws now feature in Section 66B of the Sexual Offences Act, with the following legislative definition, “A person (A) commits an offence if: (A) intentionally shares a photograph or film which shows, or appears to show, another person (B) in an intimate state; (B) does not consent to the sharing of the photograph or film, and; (A) does not reasonably believe that (B) consents”. As this legislation change is relatively recent (January 2024), the majority of literature citing NCIMS would be based upon the previous legal definition unless stated otherwise. This legislative change structures the NCIMS definition in

line with that of rape or other forms of sexual assault within the Sexual Offences Act (2003), which could be considered to evidence the gradual development of understanding regarding the seriousness of these offences and the parallels between technology facilitated “non-contact” sexual offending. Despite this positive change, the definition has still been subjected to caution around implementation; specifically, that the definition of “consent” would be difficult to ascertain from the content alone (McGlynn et al., 2024). UK charity and support organisation Revenge Porn Helpline praised the legislative change, highlighting that the shift will allow for enhanced support for victims, as well as beginning a cultural shift of the severity of intimate image abuse (Revenge Porn Helpline, 2024).

NCIMS is becoming more and more prevalent in the UK, based on statistics from UK law firm Slater and Gordon and charity Revenge Porn Helpline (Revenge Porn Helpline, 2021, 2022; Slater & Gordon, 2021). Similarly, ‘sextortion’ – the practice of intimate media being recorded and used for financial exploitation or coercion – increased by 160% between 2019 and 2020 (Revenge Porn Helpline, 2021, n.d). The prevalence has continued to rise in recent years, with the most recent report from Revenge Porn Helpline reporting that there had been a further 20.9% increase in reports from 2023 to 2024 (Papachristou, 2024).

Research suggests that females are more likely to be victims of NCIMS than males (Branch et al., 2017; Pineda et al., 2023), and males are more likely to be perpetrators of NCIMS than females (Blais et al., 2024; Gassó et al., 2022; Hall & Hearn, 2017; Henry & Umbach, 2024; Maas et al., 2021; Pineda et al., 2023). A recently published scoping review investigated perpetration and victimisation of NCIMS across age ranges from early to mid-adolescence, late adolescence, and young adulthood (Van den Eynde et al., 2025). The authors found that, whilst many studies had suggested that being male would be associated with perpetration and being female would be associated with victimisation, this was somewhat lacking universal consensus (Van den Eynde et al., 2025), which may be due to a

minority of studies in the area finding no association (Agueli et al., 2023; Clancy et al., 2020; Walker et al., 2021). This echoed findings from a systematic literature review in the area which found that males were more likely to perpetrate Image-Based Sexual Abuse (IBSA) behaviours more so than females (Paradiso et al., 2024). This is however contradicted by other research in the area which has found no significant sex or gender differences regarding perpetration (Agueli et al., 2023; Clancy et al., 2020; Walker et al., 2021), or victimisation (Walker et al., 2021). One paper also found that when considering threats to share intimate media, victimisation was higher in men than women (Eaton et al., 2023), which is an interesting finding compared to the literature suggesting that victimisation is higher in women regarding the non-consensual distribution of intimate media (Branch et al., 2017; Pineda et al., 2023). Regardless, on balance of the evidence in this area, it is argued that NCIMS can be considered a form of gender-based online sexual violence (Van den Eynde et al., 2025). The impact on the mental health of female victims of NCIMS has been investigated, finding that victims suffered from trust issues, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptomatology, anxiety, depression and suicidal thoughts (Bates, 2016) likened to that experienced by victims of contact sexual abuse/assault. This impact is echoed by McGlynn et al. (2017) who argue that NCIMS or image-based sexual abuse actually is on a continuum with other types of sexual offending or violence. These harmful outcomes underscore the seriousness of NCIMS and highlight the importance of understanding factors that may predispose individuals to perpetrate it. As with other forms of sexual offending, the literature would suggest that NCIMS is a gendered crime. A large-scale study conducted across Australia, New Zealand, and the UK by Powell et al. (2022) surveyed 6,109 individuals regarding self-reported image-based sexual abuse behaviours and found that male participants were more likely to report engaging in these behaviours both collectively and when considering three distinct forms (taking, sharing, and threatening to share). These

findings further supported Powell et al. (2018) who also identified that males are more likely to self-report perpetration than females. This is further support for research which has identified that males demonstrate more victim-blaming views towards victims of NCIMS than females do (Zvi & Bitton, 2021).

McKinlay and Lavis (2020) found that victims were perceived by others as more promiscuous and worthy of blame if the images were more explicit, specifically by participants who possessed more traditional gender roles. This was further supported by a recent systematic literature review which found that features of hegemonic masculinity – such as sexual dominance, competitiveness, and the objectification of women – were related to likelihood to or actual perpetration of NCIMS (Berlin & Rollero, 2025). While Starr and Lavis (2018) investigated the extent to which individuals tend to blame the NCIMS victim and if this would be mediated by viewing NCIMS as a form of betrayal. Of the three hypothesised factors to predict perceptions of blame and betrayal in their work; medium used for sending the images, the perceiver's level of interpersonal trust, and victim-perpetrator relationship – only the latter two had impacts on victim blame and perceived betrayal (Starr & Lavis, 2018). Results showed that those who had been in a relationship with the perpetrator for a year rather than a month were victim blamed less, and that individuals who were more trusting of others blamed victims less and this could be explained by the mediation of an increase in perceived betrayal (Starr & Lavis, 2018). This research highlights that perceptions of NCIMS are variable and require further examination to determine what other factors may influence this.

More recently, revenge pornography has featured heavily in media culture due to the experiences of those in the public eye. A high-profile court case took place in 2023, with reality TV personality Stephen Bear being convicted of revenge pornography towards ex-girlfriend (who was also a TV personality), Georgia Harrison. Stephen Bear had filmed

Georgia Harrison and himself intimately without her knowledge, and then distributed this online for profit without her consent (BBC News, 2023). Following the highly publicised court case, Stephen Bear received a sentence of 21 months' imprisonment for the distribution of intimate media and voyeurism (Rackham, 2023), as well as 10 years on the sex offender register (Adams & PA Media, 2024), and ordered to pay significant damages (Adams, 2024). Georgia Harrison waived her anonymity for the court case in order to raise awareness and push for legislation changes (Rackham, 2023; Rose, 2024). Love Island reality TV show participant Zara McDermott released a 2021 documentary on her experiences of revenge pornography, which she fell victim to twice; when she was younger and whilst she was on the reality dating show Love Island – highlighting the impact that this had on her (Price & de Gallier, 2021).

Students and Non-Consensual Intimate Media Sharing

University students may be at particular risk. Research into NCIMS prevalence on university campuses found that 10% of those surveyed opportunistically had been victims of NCIMS, most commonly using images shared with a current or former partner (Branch et al., 2017). Additionally, 62.1% of participants felt as though they were pressured to engage in the sending of intimate pictures by their friends (Branch et al., 2017). Similarly, Jaiswal (2021) found that of 100 college students, 12 had reported experiencing NCIMS, or knowing some who did. This is supported by research on university students which suggest that university friendships are part of a support system which even family cannot replicate (Buote et al., 2007) similar to that of friendships in adolescence (Richey & Richey, 1980).

The presence of a “rape culture” within universities has also been investigated by the media, charities, and academics alike. The National Union of Students (NUS) identified that

in 2010, out of the total 2,058 female UK students who participated in the survey, one in seven had reported to have undergone “a serious physical or sexual assault during their time as a student” (NUS, 2010, p. 3) which was then echoed by a follow up in 2019 where one in seven participants had experienced “attempted rape or unwanted sexual intercourse” (NUS, 2019). The Office for National Statistics has reported that 3.4% of women as well as 0.4% of men in the general population had reported to have experienced sexual assault, which is then compared with 6.4% of students (Office for National Statistics, 2017). These numbers highlight that the prevalence of sexual offending is reported to be higher in universities than in the general population.

The current research into UK university students and NCIMS perceptions is rather limited. One study by Gavin and Scott (2019) which utilised 222 UK university students found that there were three main themes regarding perceptions of NCIMS fictional scenarios; the victim’s behaviour (assuming that the victim had control over the scenario in some way), mitigating victim responsibility (normalisation of sexting and the trust within relationships), and minimising the behaviour (expressed through trivialisation or villainising the victims). Gavin and Scott (2019) also found that 55.2% of participants expressed at least some endorsement of victim responsibility for the NCIMS occurring, explicitly linking this to consent for the media to be taken, suggesting that there is a level of acceptance for this behaviour. This study provides evidence to suggest that there is a narrative of NCIMS acceptance, trivialisation, and normalisation within UK universities that warrants further exploration.

Dark Triad Traits and Non-Consensual Intimate Media Sharing

Given the increasing prevalence of NCIMS, it is important to understand who might be at risk of perpetrating such crimes. There is a triad of personality traits known as the Dark Triad Traits; narcissism, Machiavellianism and psychopathy (Paulhus & Williams, 2002). A growing body of evidence supports the dark triad as a fruitful area of inquiry in understanding factors proximal to sexual violence or abuse (Jonason et al., 2017; Mouilso et al., 2013; O'Connell & Marcus, 2016; Wheeler et al., 2002; Zeigler-Hill et al., 2016). Indeed, a recent systematic review and meta-analysis identified that both psychopathy and narcissism were negatively associated with affective empathy, and Machiavellianism was negatively correlated with both cognitive and affective empathy (Shukla & Upadhyay, 2025).

Pina et al. (2017) investigated the reported relationship between the dark triad traits and NCIMS proclivity. A NCIMS proclivity scale was devised, and the results found that there was a significant positive correlation between an enhanced likelihood of engaging in NCIMS and elevated levels of the dark triad traits as well as ambivalent sexism (Pina et al., 2017). Specifically, psychopathy was the only one of the three dark triad traits to independently predict NCIMS proclivity (Pina et al., 2017). These findings suggest that features of the dark triad may be present in disproportionate levels in those demonstrating an increased proclivity to engage in NCIMS. This research was followed up by Pina et al. (2021), who investigated perpetration of Image Based Sexual Abuse (IBSA) and the link between moral disengagement and the dark triad personality traits. In this research, IBSA was defined as NCIMS – but in the wider literature IBSA often encompasses other crimes (such as upskirting or downblousing). Sadism and psychopathy were correlated with IBSA proclivity (Pina et al., 2021). Moral disengagement also predicted IBSA proclivity as well as victim blaming (Pina et al., 2021). This research further builds on previous research supporting the concept that perpetrators of Image Based Sexual Abuse have elevated levels of

the dark triad traits. Both Pina et al. (2017) and (2021) utilised the Revenge Porn Proclivity Scale (Pina et al., 2017) and began to examine the dark triad traits as related to the likelihood that participants would engage in NCIMS behaviours. These studies pave the way for future research to utilise the developed scale in other populations as indicated by the literature.

However, as identified by Pina et al. (2017), research in this area can be vulnerable to social desirability bias due to the sensitive nature of the topic. Pina et al. (2017) therefore recommended that future research incorporate a social desirability measure, such as the Crowne and Marlowe (1960) Social Desirability Scale, as social desirability can influence the way that participants respond to surveys, as they may respond in the way they believe is correct (Lavrakas, 2008).

Rationale

The aim of completing this research is to investigate if high levels of the dark triad traits and high social desirability predict NCIMS proclivity in UK university students. The current study will consider behaviours involving a perpetrator disseminating intimate media without the consent of the person depicted in it and therefore other forms of Image-Based Sexual Abuse (IBSA) such as upskirting, downblousing, or the creation of deep fakes are outside the study scope. This is an important area of research as the prevalence of NCIMS is increasing in recent years (Revenge Porn Helpline, 2021, 2022; Slater & Gordon, 2021) and little is explicitly known about how universities may create a specific environment for its propagation. Building on extant research into the dark triad traits (Pina et al., 2021; Pina et al., 2017) may add to the current understanding of the role factors such as personality may play in those who engage in NCIMS perpetration and those at risk of perpetration. This research will also act on recommendations in existing research to incorporate a measure of

social desirability (Pina et al., 2017) to examine the social desirability of the participant sample, and give insight into the extent to which the participants may be influenced by the atmosphere around them, consequently giving potential insight into the possibility of a rape culture within universities in the UK. If high social desirability is a predictor of NCIMS proclivity, it could lend more evidence to suggest that there is an environment in which this response and these attitudes would be socially desirable. This is hypothesised to be the case due to the high prevalence rate of sexual offending within this population as compared to the general population (NUS, 2010, 2019; Office for National Statistics, 2017). This research could then consequently feed into any interventions or prevention strategies to be targeted at university students to change the narrative of acceptance of NCIMS and/or victim blaming, increase support, and decrease the prevalence of NCIMS on campus. Proposed interventions could be implemented during “fresher’s week” or throughout the university career to target potential victims or perpetrators, as well as possible bystanders. Interventions may consist of education on the implications of NCIMS (legal, social, victim impact) with the aim of reducing the prevalence of NCIMS and highlighting avenues to enhance support of victims. Results from this research may also have implications for future research, specifically for considering other demographic groups which may inform further bespoke interventions.

Hypotheses

Given the above literature on the dark triad traits, social desirability, gender differences, and NCIMS perpetration; the study hypothesises that participants with high levels of narcissism [H1], Machiavellianism [H2], psychopathy [H3], and social desirability [H4] will predict higher NCIMS proclivity, enjoyment, and approval. The study also hypothesised that male participants would score higher on NCIMS proclivity, enjoyment, and approval than female participants [H5].

Methodology

Participants

UK students over the age of 18 have been recruited through opportunity sampling, and any participants who reported they were not UK university students or identified themselves as being under the age of 18 were excluded from the research and filtered from the sample. Participants were recruited through social media as well as posters placed around the University of Birmingham, the University's Participation Pool (SONA), and Prolific (see Appendix 4 for adverts). Participants through Prolific were financially compensated. Participants through SONA were compensated with SONA points. Participants through social media were not compensated.

A priori, sample size power analyses, conducted using G-Power, indicated that a sample of at least 647 participants would achieve sufficient power (Faul et al., 2007), based on small sample sizes, consistent with exploratory nature of the study and the extant literature (Clancy et al., 2019; Muris et al., 2017; Timmermans et al., 2018), and an effect size of .02 alongside an alpha value of .05 to achieve 80% power.

All participants were anonymous. The survey attracted a total sample of 732. After removal of incomplete and ineligible responses, a total sample for analyses of 653 remained; 21.75% (N = 142) males and 78.25% females (N = 511).

Design

A cross-sectional design was utilised. Each participant completed all survey questions once through an online Qualtrics survey, accessible via a link or QR code. The participant information sheet (Appendix 5), consent form (Appendix 6), questions (Appendices 7, 8, 9, and 10) and debrief (Appendix 11) were all conducted online. The participants completed

three questionnaires, as well as demographic questions. The survey was set up using Qualtrics, with bot detection and repeat response settings activated.

Materials

Participants were asked demographic questions including their gender, age, ethnicity, University, and whether they were an undergraduate or postgraduate student. These demographics were collected to understand the participant sample to enable reflections in the study discussion on the participant pool, as well as a sample verification. See Appendix 7 for questions.

The dark triad traits were measured with the Short Dark Triad (SD3) scale (Jones & Paulhus, 2013), with three individual sub-scales – psychopathy, narcissism and Machiavellianism. The sub-scales have nine items, on a five-point Likert scale ranging from *strongly disagree* to *strongly agree*, with five questions that are reverse-scored. The higher the individual scores on the individual traits the higher the score will be. There is a minimum possible score of 27 and a maximum possible score of 135. The Cronbach's Alpha internal consistency reliabilities for each of the subscales are .71, .77 and .80 individually (Jones & Paulhus, 2013), which suggests a good level of internal consistency. The SD3 was chosen as opposed to the full length scale in order to reduce participant fatigue, as the participants had three questionnaires in total to contribute to. See Appendix 8 for scale.

Social desirability was measured by the shortened form of the Marlowe-Crowne Social Desirability scale (Crowne & Marlowe, 1960). The full length and original scale is 33 items, so the shorter 13 item version developed by Reynolds (1982) was selected to avoid participant fatigue. All items are scored as either true or false and if the selected response equals the pre-defined socially desirability score it is scored 1, otherwise it is scored as 0. The

minimum possible score is 0 and the maximum is 13. The Cronbach's Alpha reliability is .76 (Reynolds, 1982), which suggests good internal consistency. The higher the score, the more socially desirable the individual has responded. See Appendix 9 for scale.

The Revenge Porn Proclivity Scale (RPPS) developed by Pina et al. (2017) assessed NCIMS proclivity. This scale consists of five gender-neutral scenarios where the participant is the central individual which describe the non-consensual distribution of explicit images and the motivation for doing so. After each scenario, there was one proclivity question using a 5-point Likert scale from *definitely would not do the same* to *definitely would do the same* in that situation. This is then followed by further questions to gauge emotions of excitement, control, blame, amusement, anger and regret respectively towards the behaviours depicted in each of the scenarios, split into two different subscales; NCIMS enjoyment and NCIMS approval. These questions were rated using a 5-point Likert scale from *not at all* to *very* for each emotion. The overall proclivity score is calculated by the sum of the five proclivity questions after each scenario. Cronbach's Alpha reliability for this scale was calculated to be .76 (Pina et al., 2017), suggesting good internal consistency. The NCIMS enjoyment subscale score is calculated using the sum score of the Likert scale responses for excitement, control and amusement with an Alpha reliability of .87 (Pina et al., 2017). The NCIMS approval subscale score is calculated using the sum score of the Likert scale responses for blame, anger and regret (reverse scored) with an Alpha reliability of .80 (Pina et al., 2017). The higher the scores on the three scales; the higher the individual scores on that measure. Therefore, each participant would get three scores on Revenge Porn Proclivity, Enjoyment, and Approval. See Appendix 10 for scale.

Procedure

Advertisements were posted around the University of Birmingham and on social media. The study was also advertised through Prolific. Participants were able to either click the link or scan the QR code which guided them to a participant information sheet, then a consent form. Following this, they clicked through to the following page which had the various survey questions. The various measures were presented in the order described above in the Materials section. Once they had answered those, they were taken to a debrief page. Throughout the survey, “NCIMS” was referred to as the “sharing of intimate media”.¹

Ethical issues

This study has followed all ethical guidelines from the BPS (Code of Human Research Ethics, Internet-Mediated Research guidelines, Practice Guidelines; BPS, 2017a; BPS, 2017b, 2018, 2021) and the University Research Ethics and Integrity Processes (University of Birmingham, n.d). Ethical approval was granted by the University of Birmingham Ethics Committee in July 2023.

One ethical concern considered within this piece of research was the potentially sensitive subject matter of NCIMS. This topic could be incredibly distressing for all participants and has the potential to cause psychological harm. Additionally, the term “revenge porn” has negative connotations and is against the law in the UK. To mitigate the risks of both causing harm to participants or potential participants and biasing their responses by framing revenge porn negatively – on all participant-facing documentation it was referred

¹ 07/07/2025 – During final proof reading ahead of thesis submission, it was identified that one iteration of the term “revenge porn” remained within part of the consent form from a previous version. This was accidental, and the consent form was approved by the ethics panel in its current edition. This was not noticed until the date specified, but in order to demonstrate best ethical practices this footnote has been included to acknowledge this oversight. No participants raised any concerns throughout or after completion of the research.

to as “sharing of intimate media”. This terminology may have been perceived as less negative and therefore is less likely to discourage participants being honest in their responses, as well as less triggering for anyone who may view the adverts. Additionally, the advertisements, participant information sheet, and debrief all had links to support organisations should any viewers or participants need them. Similarly, the adverts and participant information sheet also state that anyone who has been affected by the sharing of intimate media should not take part in order to reduce the risk of re-traumatisation.

Individuals might be curious about their scores on the dark triad scale as these traits are generally described as unpleasant and therefore if a participant was made aware that they had higher scores on the traits, it could negatively impact their mental wellbeing. To mitigate this, the dark triad traits were not cited to the participants and refers only to personality traits. Participants were not able to request their own scores from any of the measures used.

Participant anonymity was fully maintained within this research. Each participant was asked to create a unique ID which they could use within the following 14 days after participating to remove their participation data before analysis was conducted.

Analysis

Descriptive statistics were computed to describe the sample, followed by statistics analysing the endorsement of NCIMS, specifically the percentage of the sample which showed endorsement of NCIMS proclivity, enjoyment, and approval. Three multiple linear regressions and their assumptions were conducted, one for each dependent variable; NCIMS proclivity, NCIMS enjoyment, and NCIMS approval. This form of analysis was selected to be somewhat in line with Pina et al. (2017) who conducted three exploratory multiple linear regressions with similar variables and was deemed appropriate for the present study and its

included variables. All three multiple linear regressions included the independent variables of Machiavellianism, narcissism, psychopathy, sex, and social desirability. The Bonferroni correction was applied throughout to account for type 1 error rates. The internal consistency reliability of all measures specific to this sample were also calculated.

Results

Sample scale reliability

The internal consistency reliability for the scales utilised within this research were calculated using Cronbach's alpha based on the present sample and compared to the original reported reliability by the scale developers. The Short Dark Triad (SD3) scale consisted of three subscales for each trait, which computed the following: Machiavellianism (.75), narcissism (.74), and psychopathy (.72). This is compared to original reported reliabilities of .80, .77, and .71 respectively (Jones & Paulhus, 2013). Although not provided in the original scale development, the calculated alpha for the SD3 scale within this sample was .85. For the Short Social Desirability Scale (SSDS), the calculated alpha was .65, as compared with .76 in the original scale development study (Reynolds, 1982). Whilst .70 is often considered the threshold for good internal consistency, literature suggests that .65 is an adequate figure (Vaske et al., 2017). For the Revenge Porn Proclivity (RPP) scale, the calculated alphas for the three subscales were as follows: proclivity (.85), enjoyment (.87) and approval (.77), compared to the original reported alphas of .76, .87, and .80 respectively (Pina et al., 2017).

Descriptive statistics

Descriptive statistics are computed for the sample, and can be seen below in Table 7, with SPSS outputs in Appendix 12.

Table 7 - Means (M) and Standard Deviations (SD) for Each Variable

Variable	M	SD
Narcissism	23.0	5.36
Machiavellianism	27.4	5.25
Psychopathy	18.8	5.10
Social Desirability	6.43	2.64
NCIMS Proclivity	5.78	2.18
NCIMS Enjoyment	26.19	9.13
NCIMS Approval	37.36	8.84

Endorsement of NCIMS

Consistent with other proclivity research in the area (Pina et al., 2021; Pina et al., 2017), only participants who scored the minimum possible on the proclivity measure (a score of 1 on each of the 5 proclivity questions, totalling 5) were considered to have no endorsement of NCIMS proclivity. Therefore, 23.1% (n = 151) of participants presented with at least some proclivity to NCIMS perpetration. This method was also applied to NCIMS enjoyment and NCIMS approval (a score of 5 on each of the 3 measures making up the subscales, totalling 15 across each two subscales). 86.7% (n = 566) of participants endorsed some NCIMS enjoyment, and 99.2% (n = 648) of participants endorsed some NCIMS approval.

Table 8 - Sample Endorsement of NCIMS

	Proclivity	Enjoyment	Approval
<i>n</i>	151	566	648
%	23.1%	86.7%	99.2%

Multiple linear regression analyses

A series of multiple linear regression analyses were conducted to predict (1) NCIMS proclivity, (2) NCIMS enjoyment, and (3) NCIMS approval respectively by entering the independent variables; Machiavellianism, narcissism, psychopathy, social desirability, and sex.

For all three multiple linear regression analyses assumptions were met: linearity, independence of residuals, homoscedasticity, multicollinearity, and normality. For each regression, there were some residuals greater than ± 3 standard deviation, however there were no high leverage values, so these were kept in the analyses. Consistent with multiple comparisons for exploratory studies, Bonferroni corrections were applied to the main regression analyses, bringing about a new critical alpha value of .016. See Appendix 12 for SPSS outputs.

NCIMS proclivity

The overall model was significant, $F(5, 647) = 16.05, p < .001$, with an adjusted $R^2 = .103$, explaining 11% of variance, indicating a small effect size (Cohen, 2013). Only psychopathy contributed uniquely to the prediction ($\beta = .27, p < .001$). Neither Machiavellianism, narcissism, sex, nor social desirability reached significance in the final model.

Table 9 - MLR Results for NCIMS Proclivity

NCIMS Proclivity	<i>B</i>	95% CI for <i>B</i>		<i>SE B</i>	β	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>R</i> ²	Adj. <i>R</i> ²
		<i>LL</i>	<i>UL</i>						
Model								.110	.103
(Constant)	3.04	1.85	4.24	.61		4.99	<.001		
Sex	.37	-.03	.78	.21	.07	1.82	.07 ^t		
Machiavellianism	.000	-.04	.04	.02	.001	.02	.99		
Narcissism	.02	-.01	.06	.02	.06	1.38	.17		
Psychopathy	.12*	.08	.16	.02	.27	5.65	<.001		
Social desirability	-.01	-.08	.06	.03	-.01	-.33	.74		

Note. Model = “Enter” method in SPSS Statistics; *B* = unstandardised regression coefficient; CI = confidence interval; *LL* = lower limit; *UL* = upper limit; *SE B* = standard error of the coefficient; β = standardised coefficient; *R*² = coefficient of determination; Adj. *R*² = adjusted *R*². * = $p < .001$. ^t = trending towards significance.

NCIMS enjoyment

The second regression was significant, $F(5, 647) = 19.24, p < .001$, adjusted $R^2 = .123$, explaining 12.9% of shared variance, again reflecting a small effect size (Cohen, 2013). Psychopathy ($\beta = .17, p < .001$), Machiavellianism ($\beta = .15, p < .001$), and being male ($\beta = .08, p = .038$) emerged as significant predictors of enjoyment. Narcissism and social desirability did not predict unique variance.

Table 10 - MLR Results for NCIMS Enjoyment

NCIMS Enjoyment	<i>B</i>	95% CI for <i>B</i>		<i>SE B</i>	β	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>R</i> ²	Adj. <i>R</i> ²
		<i>LL</i>	<i>UL</i>						
Model								.129	.123
(Constant)	10.67*	5.7	15.64	2.53		4.22	<.001		
Sex	1.78**	.1	3.45	.85	.08	2.08	.04		
Machiavellianism	.27*	.12	.42	.08	.15	3.46	<.001		
Narcissism	.11	-.03	.25	.07	.06	1.53	.13		
Psychopathy	.31*	.15	.48	.09	.17	3.68	<.001		
Social desirability	-.09	-.36	.19	.14	-.03	-.63	.53		

Note. Model = “Enter” method in SPSS Statistics; *B* = unstandardised regression coefficient; CI = confidence interval; *LL* = lower limit; *UL* = upper limit; *SE B* = standard error of the coefficient; β = standardised coefficient; *R*² = coefficient of determination; Adj. *R*² = adjusted *R*². * = *p* < .001 ** = *p* .05”

NCIMS approval

The final model was also significant, $F(5, 647) = 14.05, p < .001$, adjusted $R^2 = .091$, explaining 9.8% of shared variance, again reflecting a small effect size (Cohen, 2013).

Machiavellianism ($\beta = .22, p < .001$) was the only significant predictor, whereas narcissism, psychopathy, social desirability, and sex did not uniquely contribute.

Table 11 - MLR Results for NCIMS Approval

NCIMS Approval	<i>B</i>	95% CI for <i>B</i>		<i>SE B</i>	β	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>R</i> ²	Adj. <i>R</i> ²
		<i>LL</i>	<i>UL</i>						
Model								.098	.091
(Constant)	22.49*	17.59	27.38	2.49		9.02	<.001		
Sex	.09	-1.56	1.74	.84	.004	.1	.92		
Machiavellianism	.37*	.22	.52	.08	.22	4.91	<.001		
Narcissism	.19	-.02	.26	.07	.07	1.65	.1		
Psychopathy	.13	-.04	.29	.08	.07	1.52	.13		
Social desirability	-.07	-.35	.2	.14	-.02	-.53	.59		

Note. Model = "Enter" method in SPSS Statistics; *B* = unstandardised regression coefficient; CI = confidence interval; *LL* = lower limit; *UL* = upper limit; *SE B* = standard error of the coefficient; β = standardised coefficient; *R*² = coefficient of determination; Adj. *R*² = adjusted *R*². * = *p* < .001"

Discussion

The aim of this study was to investigate if sex, social desirability, and the dark triad traits of narcissism, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy predicted participants' self-reported NCIMS proclivity, enjoyment, and approval in UK university students. The study also aimed to investigate NCIMS endorsement, namely if participants demonstrated some endorsement of NCIMS proclivity, enjoyment, or approval. The results of the study showed that the collective model of elevated levels of narcissism, Machiavellianism, psychopathy, social desirability, and being male significantly predicted NCIMS proclivity, enjoyment, and approval respectively. However, independently only some of the variables significantly contributed to the predictions. Meanwhile, only psychopathy independently contributed to shared variance with proclivity to engage in NCIMS. For enjoyment, only sex, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy added statistically significantly to the prediction. For approval, only Machiavellianism added to the prediction. Therefore, all five hypotheses were partially supported. Regarding NCIMS endorsement, the majority of participants demonstrated at least some NCIMS enjoyment (86.68%) and NCIMS approval (99.23%). 23.12% demonstrated at least some proclivity to NCIMS perpetration.

The Cronbach's alpha calculations for this sample for each scale were somewhat in line with the original scale developers reported reliability. All were above .70, with the exception of the Short Social Desirability Scale (SDSS) with an alpha of .65 compared to the original scale's .76. That being said, the reliability calculations for all other scales utilised suggests a good amount of reliability within this sample. This would suggest that the measures used within the study with this population achieved relatively good reliability and therefore there is support for these measures to be used in future research with this population.

The findings of this research are somewhat in line with other research in the area among other populations (Gunnöo et al., 2023; Pina et al., 2021; Pina et al., 2017; Pineda et al., 2022). Psychopathy's link to both proclivity and enjoyment parallels established findings regarding impulsive, callous tendencies and interpersonal aggression (Jonason et al., 2013; O'Connell & Marcus, 2016). Meanwhile, Machiavellianism is often characterised by manipulation, exploitation, and deceit (Christie & Geis, 1970; Monaghan et al., 2016), which may manifest in deliberate sharing of intimate images or minimisation of victim suffering.

Interestingly, narcissism, despite theoretical associations with exploitation, did not uniquely predict any of the NCIMS dimensions once the other traits were accounted for. This may suggest that narcissistic motivations alone (e.g., seeking admiration or validation) do not necessarily align with the more callous or calculating aspects of NCIMS perpetration.

The finding relating to the dark triad traits collectively being associated with NCIMS proclivity, enjoyment, and approval could be explained by the core characteristics of those three personality traits such as a lack of empathy (Jonason et al., 2013) which may result in limited ability to empathise with victims and/or potential victims of NCIMS perpetration. This may be reinforced by common beliefs that NCIMS is a less severe form of sexual abuse than other crimes such as rape or sexual assault, despite movements in recent years to suggest that image-based sexual abuse is on a continuum with additional forms of sexual violence (McGlynn et al., 2017), legislation changes to include and expand on the legal definitions of NCIMS (CPS, 2024), and public opinion shifting from "sex scandal" to "sex crime" (Henry, McGlynn, et al., 2020b). The inclusion of being male within the significant multiple linear regression model is in line with previous research, suggesting that NCIMS perpetration is largely a gendered crime with women most likely to be victims and men most likely to be perpetrators (Branch et al., 2017; Hall & Hearn, 2017), as well as men holding less negative

views of NCIMS perpetration (Lageson et al., 2019), and more victim blame (Attrill-Smith et al., 2021).

The overall findings around NCIMS endorsement, with the vast majority of participants showing some NCIMS enjoyment and approval – could be explained by the “just world” theory – the belief that people will “get what they deserve” (Lerner & Miller, 1978). The nature of NCIMS as is depicted in this study; not including any other forms of the broader terminology included within image-based sexual abuse such as upskirting or downblousing; would imply that the victims of NCIMS perpetration would have taken the images or media themselves and sent to someone else, before the media was then shared more widely without consent. Therefore, some individuals may buy into the belief that it is the victim’s fault for producing and sending the media in the first place and thus present with more blame towards the victim. The concept of “just world” theory has been widely discussed in relation to contact sexual offending such as rape (Grubb & Turner, 2012), but has recently begun to be discussed in the context of NCIMS (Attrill-Smith et al., 2021; McKinlay & Lavis, 2020).

In line with previous findings regarding endorsement of these behaviours (Pina et al., 2017), proclivity of NCIMS (23.1%) was endorsed significantly less than enjoyment (86.7%) or approval (99.2%). This may suggest that participants would have a tolerance or normalisation of NCIMS but not openly report a willingness to engage with this behaviour.

Limitations

Due to the anonymity of the research, it was not possible to conclusively enforce exclusion criteria. To mitigate this, the survey specifically asked which University the participant attended to ensure that the University is within the UK and increase the likelihood

that the participants were in fact from the UK. If the University listed was outside the UK, the participant data was excluded from the analysis. However, allowing participants free text to enter their university resulted in some participants using acronyms that could be attributed to multiple UK universities – for example, UoB could mean University of Birmingham or University of Bristol. This information was not necessary for the aim of the research, however it would have allowed for exploratory analyses comparing endorsement of NCIMS across UK universities.

Additionally, all data was based upon participant self-report which is subject to limitations which may have influenced the reliability of the data collected (Lavrakas, 2008). The topic of this research could be considered as controversial, given that NCIMS is against the law in the UK (CPS, 2024). This may therefore have impacted the honesty in responses given by the participants and thus the accuracy of the research. This may be particularly relevant given the findings regarding proclivity (23.1%) being endorsed less than enjoyment (86.7%) and approval (99.2%), suggesting that whilst the participants were somewhat accepting of NCIMS in this sample, this did not go as far as answering the proclivity questions affirmatively. This could be due to the overt and confronting nature of the proclivity question (“Would you have done the same?”), and with social desirability playing a role the participants who may have considered acting similarly to that depicted in the various scenarios, may have censored their answers to the proclivity question, perhaps resulting in an underrepresentation of the true levels of proclivity within the sample. However, self-report was deemed the most appropriate form of data collection and was mitigated somewhat by the anonymity of participants.

There may also have been some inequality across participants, as some participants were paid in cash (through Prolific) or credits (through University of Birmingham survey circle), whilst participants from social media were not. This was addressed in the participant

information and consent form to ensure that all participants were fully informed of who would receive what incentive and therefore could make an educated decision on whether to participate based upon this.

Finally, there was a limited number of males in this research, with only 21.75% of the sample being male. The sample was collected opportunistically, and therefore this could provide an explanation for the skewed sampling. Consequently, there may be limitations in generalising this sample to the wider public or other UK university students.

Implications

This research and its findings emphasise the potential utility of targeted psychoeducation or interventions around NCIMS in UK universities to reduce perpetration of this behaviour. Given that the dark triad traits are linked to lack of empathy, bystander intervention programmes have potential to be utilised as a result of this research to reduce NCIMS perpetration as they have been found to increase victim empathy (Foubert & Perry, 2007). It would also provide an opportunity to disseminate information regarding clear reporting pathways to support victims in seeking support and reporting NCIMS behaviours. Additionally, psychoeducational content around not only the true impact of NCIMS on the victims – but also on the impact for perpetrators if prosecuted may reduce the likelihood of NCIMS proclivity. This psychoeducation would dispel myths that may be held that NCIMS is not as damaging to victims as physical sexual abuse which is supported by the literature (McGlynn et al., 2017), as well as identifying the possible consequences (e.g., criminal charges, reputational harm, academic sanctions) to target those who may lack empathy for others but remain concerned about their own welfare and future which is likely not congruent with incarceration – such as those who have psychopathic or Machiavellian tendencies. This

may encourage potential perpetrators to avoid such behaviours to mitigate any self-risk and damage to their future, even if they do not find themselves concerned with the impact on potential victims. Such interventions could be implemented during “freshers” week, targeting all new students to UK universities, as well as continuing to be present throughout the academic year and progression through university courses. These interventions may be developed with the aim of reducing NCIMS prevalence within this population, through increasing empathy for potential victims as well as awareness of consequences for perpetrators. It would also provide opportunities for interventions to be tailored to each university and raise awareness of pathways to support or reporting, should NCIMS occur. By implementing these interventions university-wide, it could be hoped that any culture present that is supportive or accepting of NCIMS proclivity would be shifted, resulting in enhanced peer-to-peer support and reduced victim blaming.

This research contributed to the literature base around NCIMS perpetration, specifically in UK university students. Through computation of the Cronbach’s Alpha reliability, this research has further validated some of the scales within the UK university student population which had good Alpha reliabilities; the Short Dark Triad scale as a whole (.85) as well as the Revenge Porn Proclivity Scale (RPPS) with three subscales of proclivity (.85), enjoyment (.87) and approval (.77).

Future Directions

In future, further research should aim to have a more balanced split of participants across sex as this research was weighted heavily towards females. This is particularly relevant given the literature around gender differences when considering NCIMS perpetration and differences in narratives around this (Attrill-Smith et al., 2021; Branch et al., 2017;

Lageson et al., 2019). As well as this, for comparison across universities it would be more effective to not have free text to input the name of the University due to acronyms possibly referring to multiple universities.

As discussed above in the *Implications* section, future directions should include the development of a targeted intervention around NCIMS in UK universities which should be evaluated using a robust psychometric tool to inform the intervention piloting and development to ensure more effective implementation. At present, there is a limited number of applicable psychometrics based on UK populations of young adults which evaluate the aspects a proposed intervention should target, such as victim blaming, rape myth acceptance, and bystander intervention. Development and validation of such measures would support the evaluation of any interventions in this area.

Future research would also benefit from taking an expanded focus to include other forms of image-based sexual abuse – such as upskirting or downblousing – to continue refining our understanding of these behaviours and potentially inform broader policies to combat online sexual violence, specifically within the UK university student population.

The data for this study was collected prior to the new legislation coming into effect in January 2024, and thus future research may benefit from evaluating a shift in the public perception of NCIMS. Of particular interest may be consideration of the victim blaming in cases of NCIMS, which could be directly compared to prior findings suggesting the victim blaming is rife within this offence type (McKinlay & Lavis, 2020; Starr & Lavis, 2018). Due to the legislation change regarding removal of the requirement to prove intent to cause distress or embarrassment, it is possible that this change will influence how victims of NCIMS are viewed more widely. Additionally, it would be interesting to ascertain

endorsement of NCIMS with data collected following the legislative changes which came into effect in early 2024, to identify if enjoyment and approval would have reduced.

Conclusion

This study highlighted that the Dark Triad traits – particularly psychopathy and Machiavellianism – and male sex predict distinct dimensions of NCIMS perpetration (proclivity, enjoyment, and approval) among UK university students. A high overall endorsement of NCIMS enjoyment and approval highlights the pressing need for interventions that address harmful normative attitudes. These findings provide strong empirical support for developing targeted programmes on university campuses aimed at mitigating NCIMS perpetration and improving awareness of its emotional, legal, and social ramifications.

CHAPTER 4: THE DIRTY DOZEN: A PSYCHOMETRIC CRITIQUE

Abstract

This psychometric critique aims to evaluate the Dirty Dozen (Jonason & Webster, 2010) psychometric against the standards of a good quality test, and provide a brief comparison to another concise psychometric measuring the same construct, the Short Dark Triad (SD3). The Dirty Dozen is a 12-item self-report psychometric which assesses levels of the Dark Triad Traits; psychopathy, narcissism, and Machiavellianism. Overall, the literature would suggest that the Dirty Dozen is an adequate brief and concise measure of the Dark Triad Traits without utilising the full 91-item versions of the individual constructs. However, researchers aiming to investigate this phenomenon may wish to consider the use of the SD3 instead due to findings suggesting that it may be superior in some areas when compared to the Dirty Dozen.

Introduction

Good quality psychometrics are central to high quality research which has far-reaching impacts in various academic and practice settings. A good quality psychometric should have the following four characteristics as according to Kline (1986); based on interval or ratio data, is reliable, is valid, and has appropriate norms. The following critique will aim to evaluate the Dirty Dozen psychometric against these characteristics, to provide an up-to-date critical evaluation on its usefulness and applicability in future research. This critique will also consider a more recently developed psychometric which measures the same construct, the Short Dark Triad (SD3), in comparison to the Dirty Dozen. The critique will be of interest to researchers selecting an appropriate high quality psychometric to conduct research in the area of the Dark Triad Traits, which are three related, but distinctive, personality traits; narcissism, psychopathy, and Machiavellianism (Jonason & Webster, 2010). These three traits are connected together in a conceptual model termed the Dark Triad Traits (Paulhus & Williams, 2002).

Narcissism has been of particular interest in academic literature since the inclusion of Narcissistic Personality Disorder in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders Third Edition (DSM-III) in 1980 (Bursten, 1982). Narcissism as a personality trait has been characterised simply as an elevated self-importance, sense of entitlement, and tendency of interpersonal exploitation (Lee et al., 2013). This interest culminated in the development of a self-report psychometric to assess levels of narcissism called the Narcissistic Personality Inventory (Raskin & Hall, 1979). Whilst this measure did not aim to be diagnostic in nature when considering the presence of Narcissistic Personality Disorder in the DSM-III (Raskin & Hall, 1979), it has subsequently become a frequently utilised psychometric in academic literature (Ackerman et al., 2016; Ackerman et al., 2011) and been correlated with the aforementioned diagnosis (Miller et al., 2009). Underpinning the Dirty

Dozen's development, the Narcissistic Personality Inventory has been criticised for its dichotomous nature (Comrey, 1973, as cited in Jonason & Webster, 2010), calling its validity into question.

Psychopathy has been described as a tendency of callous, selfish, and remorseless usage of other people, and a habitually unstable and antisocial lifestyle (Hare, 2003). The original Psychopathy Checklist (PCL) was later revised into what is commonly used today to assess levels of psychopathy, the Psychopathy Checklist Revised (PCL-R), both structured professional judgement tools and widely used in forensic populations (Brazil & Forth, 2016). The current PCL-R version is the Second Edition (Hare, 2003). The PCL and PCL-R were designed to be administered by trained professionals using their own judgement and knowledge alongside evidence-based factors correlated with psychopathy and underpinned by research (Hare, 2003). The original psychometric version, the Self-Report Psychopathy scale (SRP) was developed in 1985 and consisted of 29 items designed to correlate with the original PCL (Hare, 1985). This has subsequently been revised several times, most recently with the development of the SRP-III in 2016 (Paulhus et al., 2016). The SRPs were designed to correlate with the PCL and PCL-R and their identified facets of psychopathy, and to assess for subclinical levels of psychopathy. At the time of the Dirty Dozen's development, the current version of the SRP was the SRP-III (Williams et al., 2003).

Machiavellianism was first coined in 1970 and named as such after Niccolo Machiavelli and has been characterised as a tendency to deceive, exploit, manipulate, or not trust others (Christie & Geis, 1970; Monaghan et al., 2016; Wilson et al., 1996). Christie and Geis (1970) developed the MACH-IV psychometric to measure levels of Machiavellianism, which quickly became one of the most popular psychometrics to assess this phenomenon (Monaghan et al., 2016; Rauthmann & Will, 2011). Despite being widely used in academic literature and research, the MACH-IV faced criticism regarding its validity (specifically,

insufficient content and construct validity) and susceptibility to social desirability (Rauthmann & Will, 2011).

The Dark Triad Traits have been extensively researched since 2002 throughout various contexts and for a wide variety of purposes. Whilst each of the three traits is distinctive and widely researched in their own right, the combination into the Triad model has allowed for further academic literature on those with a comorbidity of the traits. A 2019 bibliometric analysis found that following analysis of 505 journal articles, core themes of research included the psychometric assessment of the traits, comparisons with existing personality models, alignment with an evolutionary-based life history theory, and individual differences (gender, evolutionary psychology) which suggests that dark triad traits have been extensively researched (Dinić & Jevremov, 2021). A review of the Dark Triad Trait literature was conducted and found that there were an extensive variety of outcome domains utilising the concept of the Traits; workplace or employment behaviour, educational or academic behaviour, mating (relationship) behaviour, interpersonal behaviour or interactions, and antisocial or criminal behaviour (Furnham et al., 2013). Often the dark triad traits have been used to further understand antisocial and criminal behaviour in a variety of contexts (e.g., sexual offending, violent offending, interpersonal difficulties, workplace difficulties) and the use of a singular measure (rather than individual measures for each of the three traits) has been widely utilised (Dinić & Jevremov, 2021; Furnham et al., 2013; Jonason et al., 2017; Jonason & Webster, 2010; Jones & Paulhus, 2013; Jones & Paulhus, 2010).

The Dirty Dozen

When the Dark Triad Traits were first linked in 2002, the individual measures needed to assess all three included personality traits were extensive and subject to their own

criticisms, as detailed above (Jonason & Webster, 2010; Paulhus & Williams, 2002). As the Dirty Dozen authors reported, the most utilised scales to assess for narcissism, psychopathy, and Machiavellianism would consist of 91 items across the three scales measuring each personality trait respectively (Jonason & Webster, 2010). The authors also highlighted limitations of the current measures used to assess for Machiavellianism and narcissism which their psychometric aimed to address, as discussed above in the *Introduction* (Jonason & Webster, 2010).

The final Dirty Dozen psychometric consisted of 12 items, four items per trait. The Dirty Dozen had three subscales (for psychopathy, narcissism, and Machiavellianism), as well as combining these subscales to provide an overall score (Jonason & Webster, 2010). The psychometric did not need to be completed in conjunction with a manual, and is based entirely on self-report from the participant (Jonason & Webster, 2010). Specialist training beyond psychological psychometric administration is not required to utilise the Dirty Dozen scale, and the items are widely available from the original 2010 paper (Jonason & Webster, 2010). As it only contains 12 items which are scored on a Likert scale from 1 (*disagree strongly*) to 9 (*agree strongly*), the administration time is estimated to be short. A high score on the Dirty Dozen and its subscales, indicates a higher score on that trait and/or all three traits combined - scores are calculated through summing the total for each item on its respective subscale and overall (Jonason & Webster, 2010). Given that the rules of administration and scoring are clear and without administrator judgement required, the Dirty Dozen psychometric can be considered standardised.

Use in assessment and research

Prior to the development of the alternative brief measure of the Dark Triad Traits - the Short Dark Triad (SD3) scale (Jones & Paulhus, 2013) - the Dirty Dozen psychometric was used extensively in academic research investigating the Dark Triad Traits with a need for a shorter scale than using the full measures, as it was the only brief measure of this phenomenon (Jones & Paulhus, 2013). This had the benefit of reducing participant fatigue which was of particular interest in studies which had multiple psychometrics to be completed, therefore increasing the accuracy of responses (Jonason & Webster, 2010). Before the SD3, the Dirty Dozen was the only published psychometric which could assess levels of all three Dark Triad Traits without utilising the extensive 91-item versions (Jones & Paulhus, 2013). The Dirty Dozen, as with the psychometrics for the three individual traits, was not designed to be diagnostic in nature working with clinical samples.

Reliability

Kline (1986) defines reliability as having two meanings, if a test is self-consistent, and if a test obtains the same score for each subject over time (given other extraneous variables remain the same).

Internal reliability

Internal reliability, or internal consistency reliability, in psychometric testing is when the items within the psychometric are constant with each other and evaluate the same construct (Kline, 1986). A commonly reported statistic to communicate this is Cronbach's alpha, reported as α . Literature suggests that a Cronbach's alpha of .8 or above would suggest

good internal reliability (Carmines & Zeller, 1979; Lance et al., 2006), but a minimum of .7 is acceptable (Kline, 1986; Nunnally, 1978).

When considering the Dirty Dozen psychometric, the original authors reported the overall Cronbach's alpha to be $\alpha = .86$, which suggests a good level of reliability (Jonason & Webster, 2010). The individual subscales were reported as follows; psychopathy ($\alpha = .77$), Machiavellianism ($\alpha = .79$), and narcissism ($\alpha = .84$), also suggestive of a good level of reliability (Jonason & Webster, 2010).

In a comparison paper for the development of a similar brief Dark Triad Traits measure, the Short Dark Triad (SD3), it is reported that the Dirty Dozen obtained Cronbach's alpha scores ranging from .73 to .78, which is lower than the original scale authors reported in their development paper (Jones & Paulhus, 2013), but is acceptable nonetheless.

Test-retest reliability

Test-retest reliability has been described as when the same subject scores the same on a test if the salient aspects that the test is measuring have not changed over time when retested (Kline, 1986). Test-retest reliability is of particular interest regarding brief psychometrics such as the Dirty Dozen, as it has been reported that test-retest reliability is more appropriate than internal consistency, measured by Cronbach's alpha, for assessing reliability given that each construct may have fewer items and therefore not as much overlap as longer psychometrics (Carmines & Zeller, 1979; Gosling et al., 2003; Jonason & Webster, 2010). The minimum figure for a satisfying test-retest value is .7 (Kline, 1986).

The original authors reported the Dirty Dozen test-retest reliability to be .89 for the scale overall, and ranged from .76 and .87 for the three subscales across a three-week period (Jonason & Webster, 2010). When corrected using the Heise (1969) formula for three time

points, the test-retest reliability was .91 for the Dirty Dozen overall, and ranged from .76 to .87 for the three subscales (Jonason & Webster, 2010). The data from all complete responses ($n = 60$, rather than the full $n = 96$) was then analysed using structural equation models among latent variables and found that the scores were .94 for the Dirty Dozen overall, and ranging from .67 to .92 for the three subscales (Jonason & Webster, 2010). Jonason and Webster (2010) then finally reran the aforementioned analyses using all $n = 96$ data and produced .97 for the Dirty Dozen overall, and ranging from .79 to .91 for the three subscales.

Ultimately, the authors used Fisher's r -to- z transformation to average across the four aforementioned test-retest correlations to generate what they refer to as grand mean test-retest correlations; .93 for the Dirty Dozen overall, and ranging from .74 to .89 for all three subscales (Jonason & Webster, 2010). These results suggest that the Dirty Dozen psychometric had relatively good test-retest reliability.

Interrater reliability

Interrater reliability has been defined as when a test is administered to multiple individuals and results are then scored by multiple raters and assessed with how much the rater judgements correlate with each other (Raykov & Marcoulides, 2011).

As the Dirty Dozen psychometric is scored on a Likert scale, with the item scores simply summed, there is no room for rater error or judgement presuming raters were following the scoring guidelines. Therefore, the original authors and subsequent publications utilising the Dirty Dozen have not reported interrater reliability.

Parallel form reliability

Parallel form reliability, also known as alternate form reliability, is when parallel or equivalent items are administered for the same construct and obtain comparable results (Kline, 1986; Raykov & Marcoulides, 2011). Raykov and Marcoulides (2011) suggest that the appropriate coefficient of equivalence would exceed at least .8 but ideally .9 if researchers would like to use the two tests interchangeably, which may be the case to mitigate confounding effects when a test must be administered twice.

Whilst personality profiles can change across the lifespan, they are often thought to be relatively static or stable (Bleidorn et al., 2022), and therefore there would be limited benefits in administering the Dirty Dozen psychometric twice given its construct and therefore the original authors and subsequent authors utilising the Dirty Dozen have not reported parallel form reliability.

Validity

Broadly speaking, validity in psychometric testing is when a test evaluates what it claims to assess – of which there are a variety of ways to measure this (Kline, 1986; Raykov & Marcoulides, 2011).

Face validity

Face validity has been described as when a test appears to measure what it reports to at face value, with the purpose of appearing valid to the psychometric participants (Kline, 1986; Raykov & Marcoulides, 2011).

When reviewing the items of the Dirty Dozen, provided in Appendix 13, even someone with little knowledge of the area of the Dark Triad Traits could identify that the psychometric was attempting to assess personality traits and therefore may perceive it to be valid at face value if informed what the measure was due to assess.

Criterion validity

Criterion validity has been defined broadly as “the extent to which one can predict subject scores on another variable or criterion of interest from the scores on that instrument” (Raykov & Marcoulides, 2011, p. 185), and can be considered as concurrent validity or predictive validity. Concurrent validity stems from the comparison of a psychometric with another, already validated, psychometric that is measuring the same construct through a correlation (Kline, 1986), at the same time or shortly afterwards (Raykov & Marcoulides, 2011). Predictive validity is when two test results from different occasions are correlated (Kline, 1986), thus performance on the first test may be related to performance on another test in the future (Raykov & Marcoulides, 2011).

In the development paper of the Short Dark Triad (SD3) – an alternative brief measure of the Dark Triad Traits – the concurrent validity of the SD3 and Dirty Dozen were reported. The authors found that the SD3 had superior concurrent validity across all three subscales when compared to their full length, gold standard measures for each of the three traits respectively ranging from .82 to .92 (Jones & Paulhus, 2013). They report that the Dirty Dozen had more modest correlations ranging from .46 to .56 (Jones & Paulhus, 2013).

Content validity

Content validity has been described as when the items within a test are reflective of the subject or phenomenon being evaluated, and is particularly relevant in topic areas when the subject is very clear (Kline, 1986). Typically, evaluating a test for content validity is done through a qualitative approach, comparing the test to its theoretical foundations, by an independent party who was not instrumental in the test development process (Raykov & Marcoulides, 2011).

The Dirty Dozen psychometric was developed on the basis of the Dark Triad Traits theoretical concept linking together three distinctive personality traits; psychopathy, narcissism, and Machiavellianism. By the time the Dirty Dozen psychometric was developed (Jonason & Webster, 2010), there was already a wealth of literature underpinning the Dark Triad Traits model since its conception in the early 2000s (Paulhus & Williams, 2002). The Dirty Dozen authors reported that Google Scholar results regarding “Dark Triad” went from one article in 2002 to over 38 in 2009 (Jonason & Webster, 2010). A bibliometric analysis conducted over the span from 2002 to 2018 identified that academic and research interest in the Dark Triad model had been growing since its conception and centred around four clusters; the Dark Triad traits, measurement (including psychometrics), personality models, and gender differences (Dinić & Jevremov, 2021). The authors reported that within the measurement cluster, the psychometrics most commonly researched included both the Dirty Dozen and the Short Dark Triad (SD3) psychometrics (Dinić & Jevremov, 2021). Of particular note are the various debates that have occurred in the years since the Dark Triad model was conceptualised, regarding the makeup of dark personality traits. For example, there has been an extension of the Dark Triad model, by adding Sadism to create the Dark Tetrad (Međedović & Petrović, 2015), but this was criticised for sadism being too closely connected to psychopathy (Johnson et al., 2019). Similarly, Marcus and Zeigler-Hill (2015)

had suggested a larger category of the “Big Tent” of dark personality traits which would incorporate traits based on problematic outcomes associated with them, but this was criticised for being too broad, as many traits could be associated with negative outcomes (Kowalski et al., 2021). Thus, the academic field regarding dark personality traits has continued to conduct research using the Dark Triad model, rather than replacing this with more recent conceptualisations of dark personality traits.

In the development of the Dirty Dozen items, the authors selected 22 items from a pool of items from already existing psychometrics to assess the individual three traits that they perceived to be most in line with the theoretical underpinnings of each construct based on their knowledge of the individual traits and Dark Triad Trait model (Jonason & Webster, 2010). They then finalised this with 12 items, four for each of the three scales as a result of factor analysis, detailed further below in *Construct Validity*. In the original development article, there is evidence that the authors conducted a review of the literature surrounding the three individual traits, the Dark Triad Traits model, and the existing psychometrics to assess levels of these three traits to underpin the development of their novel psychometric to assess all three traits as a unit, in line with the Dark Triad Traits conceptual model (Jonason & Webster, 2010). There is not however any evidence of a robust and comprehensive review of the existing literature or psychometrics, such as a systematic literature review, beyond which is reported in the brief journal article paper.

The Dirty Dozen has been criticised, specifically regarding its psychopathy subscale, by Miller et al. (2012), who report that the subscale is more strongly related to the Factor 1 traits of psychopathy, rather than Factor 2. This would suggest that the Dirty Dozen does not provide a comprehensive reflection of the dark triad construct if it does not represent both Factors of the original psychopathy model, suggesting poor content validity.

Construct validity

Construct validity is when a psychometric measures what it intends to, and does not measure something it should not (Cronbach & Meehl, 1955; Kline, 1986). Construct validity can be considered as convergent validity (two similar constructs correspond with each other) and divergent/discriminant validity (two dissimilar constructs do not correspond with each other).

The Dirty Dozen was developed from 22 items that are reported to be inspired by the full length original Dark Triad scales that the authors assessed as most theoretically central to each of the three constructs (Jonason & Webster, 2010). Using principal component analysis (PCA), the authors selected the final items for each of the three trait subscales using Eigenvalues greater than one, and the final four items with the strongest loadings for each trait were ultimately selected (Jonason & Webster, 2010). The factor structure was then analysed, and three factors emerged in line with the three Dark Triad Traits of narcissism, psychopathy, and Machiavellianism (Jonason & Webster, 2010). Through confirmatory factor analysis (CFA), the authors then found that the three-dimensional model was a better fit than the one-dimensional model (Jonason & Webster, 2010).

A large sample study investigated the Dirty Dozen psychometric, and investigated factor structure using confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) as well as convergent validity to other previous psychometrics of the individual traits (Kajonius et al., 2016). They found that the Dirty Dozen did converge moderately with the singular Dark Triad scales, but posited that the Dirty Dozen was a scale which conceptualised Machiavellianism and psychopathy rather than narcissism (Kajonius et al., 2016).

The original authors compared the Dirty Dozen items with the original measures of the Dark Triad and found that there was a consistent pattern of both convergent and discriminant validity (Jonason & Webster, 2010). It is reported that the 31-item measure of psychopathy was correlated more strongly with the Dirty Dozen version of the Machiavellianism scale (.44) than psychopathy (.42), and the psychopathy measure was more strongly correlated with the full Dirty Dozen overall (.51) than with the full 91-item Dark Triad Trait measure (.47) – but overall suggested an expected convergent and discriminant validity (Jonason & Webster, 2010).

Additionally, the authors reported that the Dirty Dozen measures were related to disagreeableness, low levels of conscientiousness, sociosexuality, aggression, and were more highly correlated with short-term mating than long-term – all of which is consistent with the nomological underpinnings of the Dark Triad Traits of personality (Jonason et al., 2010; Jonason et al., 2009; Jonason & Webster, 2010; Jones & Paulhus, 2010; Paulhus & Williams, 2002; Webster & Bryan, 2007), suggesting convergent validity using these constructs for comparison. Regarding discriminant validity, Jonason and Webster (2010) found that the Dirty Dozen was not correlated overall with self-esteem level nor self-esteem stability suggesting discriminant validity as the authors would not have expected a correlation between the Dirty Dozen and self-esteem measures.

Further research utilising the Dirty Dozen has found problematic correlations between the Machiavellianism subscale and short-term orientation (e.g., impulsiveness), which goes against the theoretical underpinnings of the Machiavellian conception (Christie & Geis, 1970; Jones & Paulhus, 2013; Jones & Paulhus, 2009). Additionally, research found that when correlating with the MACH-IV psychometric (investigating levels of Machiavellianism), both the Machiavellianism and psychopathy subscales of the Dirty Dozen were correlated to the MACH-IV, with psychopathy correlating more strongly than Machiavellianism (Rauthmann,

2013). This would suggest poor convergent and discriminant validity, as the Machiavellianism subscale of the Dirty Dozen should correlate the most with the MACH-IV, not the psychopathy subscale.

Normative data

In the development of the original scale, participants to provide the data for the validation of the Dirty Dozen were psychology or social science students from the Southeastern United States recruited through convenience sampling (Jonason & Webster, 2010). There were a total of 1,085 students across the four studies included to validate the measure (Jonason & Webster, 2010). There were however no formal norms provided in the development article with percentiles or standard scores. This is likely due to the Dirty Dozen's primary goal being a screening tool for use in research and academia, as opposed to in clinical or diagnostic use, as an alternative to the over 90-items that would have been utilised previously to capture all three subscales (Jonason & Webster, 2010).

Comparison to the Short Dark Triad (SD3)

Following the development of the Dirty Dozen (Jonason & Webster, 2010), another shortened psychometric was developed to measure the same three dark triad traits of narcissism, psychopathy, and Machiavellianism called the Short Dark Triad (SD3) by Jones and Paulhus (2013). One of the authors of the SD3, Delroy Paulhus, was also instrumental in the development of the Dark Triad Traits as a concept (Paulhus & Williams, 2002). The SD3, like the Dirty Dozen, was designed to be a brief measure but criticised the Dirty Dozen for being too short with merely four items per construct (Jones & Paulhus, 2013) and cited papers critiquing its usefulness (Lee et al., 2013; Miller et al., 2012; Rauthmann, 2013). The

SD3 was slightly longer than the Dirty Dozen, with nine items across each of three subscales, totalling 27 items overall. The SD3 authors report Cronbach's alphas of .68 (narcissism), .72 (psychopathy), and .74 (Machiavellianism), which suggest a moderate level of internal consistency (Jones & Paulhus, 2013).

Dragostinov and Möttus (2023) examined the test-retest reliability and construct validity of both the Dirty Dozen and SD3 and identified that both had higher levels of test-retest reliability than was represented in papers that only evaluated internal consistency, suggesting that the reported reliability of both scales had been somewhat underestimated. Regarding construct validity, both scales were identified to have weak discriminant validity regarding psychopathy and Machiavellianism subscales (Dragostinov & Möttus, 2023), which suggests that these constructs should be re-evaluated if future concise measures are developed to assess levels of Dark Triad traits. An independent paper directly compared the two measures, the Dirty Dozen and Short Dark Triad (SD3), and assessed their respective validity (convergent, discriminant, incremental, and criterion) and ultimately found that the SD3 overall was superior in convergent and incremental validity (Maples et al., 2014). The authors also concluded that whilst the two scales were similar in regard to their discriminant and criterion validity, the SD3 was recommended to researchers over the Dirty Dozen if a succinct measure of the Dark Triad Traits was required (Maples et al., 2014).

Conclusion

Overall, the original scale authors posit that the Dirty Dozen walks the line between both efficiency as well as accuracy (Jonason & Luévano, 2013) for the purpose of assessing the Dark Triad traits of narcissism, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy; and the literature would largely agree. The Dirty Dozen provides a concise measurement of this construct to be

used in research with the benefits of reducing participant fatigue, especially when compared to the original three measures totalling 91 items to be completed.

Psychometric properties of the Dirty Dozen have reported good internal consistency reliability ($\alpha = .86$), strong test-retest reliability at .93, moderate concurrent validity ranging from .46 to .56, and divergent validity when compared to measures of self-esteem (Jonason & Webster, 2010; Jones & Paulhus, 2013). The items appear valid upon assessing face validity and were grounded in a thorough review of the literature of an already established research base into the Dark Triad traits individually (Jonason & Webster, 2010). Whilst the Dirty Dozen did demonstrate good convergent validity regarding disagreeableness, low levels of conscientiousness, sociosexuality aggression, and short term mating – it did however demonstrate problematic convergent validity within the construct of the Dark Triad itself when the full-length measure of psychopathy was reported to be more strongly correlated with the Dirty Dozen Machiavellianism subscale (Jonason & Webster, 2010). This was further evidenced by other research which also found that the Dirty Dozen psychopathy subscale correlated more strongly with the full-length MACH-IV than the Machiavellianism subscale did (Rauthmann, 2013). This could be potentially explained by criticisms citing that the psychopathy subscale is more strongly related to Factor 1 traits of psychopathy than Factor 2 (Miller et al., 2012), thus may be less representative of the psychopathy construct as a whole.

Whilst the Dirty Dozen remains a satisfactory psychometric for use in academic research regarding the Dark Triad traits, researchers wishing to utilise a concise measure for this purpose may also wish to consider the Short Dark Triad (SD3; Jones & Paulhus, 2013) instead, given indications that the SD3 has superior convergent and incremental validity to the Dirty Dozen and similar discriminant and criterion validity (Maples et al., 2014).

CHAPTER 5: GENERAL DISCUSSION

The aim of this thesis was to explore the perpetration of Non-Consensual Intimate Media Sharing (NCIMS) through a systematic review of the literature in this area, conduct an empirical research project investigating NCIMS perpetration and associated risk factors within the UK University student population, and evaluate a measure of personality traits which have been linked in the literature with NCIMS perpetration. Key findings from the respective thesis chapters are summarised below.

Key findings from Chapter 2: A Systematic Review of the Literature

Chapter 2 sought to systematically review all the literature in the area regarding the perpetration of NCIMS in adults up until March 2025, specifically relating to characteristics, factors, personality traits/profiles, or motivations related to engaging in NCIMS behaviours. Papers were subjected to relevant inclusion and exclusion criteria, and subsequently quality assessed to a standard of 80% or above. The final 15 articles included in the review provided narrative results relating to several factors which were associated with the perpetration, or potential to perpetrate, NCIMS. These factors included: personality traits (such as the dark triad or tetrad traits or sexism), gender differences (males more likely to perpetrate than women), possession of more positive attitudes and subjective norms towards NCIMS, lifestyle factors (such as alcohol, pornography, or social media use), or victim-perpetrator overlap (in that those who disseminate intimate media without consent are likely to be victims of the same). Recommendations for future research in the area and implications are discussed below in the **Implications for Practice and Future Research** section.

Key findings from Chapter 3: Empirical Research

The aim of Chapter 3 was to conduct empirical research on risk factors associated with the perpetration of NCIMS in a population of UK adult University students, as well as descriptively assess endorsement of possible NCIMS behaviours. Specifically, the study investigated three facets of potential for NCIMS perpetration: proclivity, enjoyment, and approval through inclusion of the Dark Triad traits (narcissism, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy), social desirability, and biological sex. Three multiple linear regressions found that the independent variables were predictive of NCIMS proclivity, enjoyment, and approval respectively. For each facet of possible perpetration, different variables were independent predictors; NCIMS proclivity – psychopathy; NCIMS enjoyment – sex, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy; NCIMS approval – Machiavellianism. Regarding endorsement, the majority of participants demonstrated at least some proclivity to NCIMS perpetration (23.12%). Most striking however, is that the majority of participants demonstrated NCIMS enjoyment (86.68%) and NCIMS approval (99.23%). Future research and implications from this research are discussed below in the **Implications for Practice and Future Research** section.

Key findings from Chapter 4: Psychometric Critique

Chapter 4 evaluated a psychometric measure of the Dark Triad traits of narcissism, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy – the Dirty Dozen. This is an alternative measure to the one selected for the empirical research conducted in Chapter 3 – the Short Dark Triad (SD3) – and comparisons are made between the two measures. Both measures are identified as being more succinct versions to assess the three Dark Triad traits collectively, especially when the alternative is administration of three full length measures for each individual trait

which is not conducive to research with multiple variables or scales due to increasing risk of participant fatigue.

This chapter reflected upon the reliability and validity of the Dirty Dozen psychometric, identifying strengths and weaknesses throughout. Due to these identified weaknesses, it is suggested that the SD3, while not without limitations, also be considered for assessing the Dark Triad traits in research.

Overall Discussion

This thesis aimed to explore the perpetration of NCIMS and the findings of which can be linked back to the use of terminology in this area, measures utilised to assess proclivity of this behaviour, and identification of risk factors for the perpetration of NCIMS.

As identified in the Introduction to this thesis, the terminology used within this area has varied significantly and evolved as the academic interest has increased, legislative changes have been implemented, and further consideration has been given to potential victim-blaming connotations from initial terms such as “Revenge Pornography”. This was further acknowledged throughout Chapter 2, whereby all eligible papers had to be screened on the basis of the definition the authors of that specific paper had utilised, rather than terminology alone, given the difficulties in synthesising the behaviour of interest in this thesis into a unanimously used and clearly identifiable term. This is likely to be an ongoing methodological issue in this area, and thus clear terms which encompass the scope of the behaviour under the terminological umbrella would be beneficial in future research papers. For example, this thesis has utilised the term Non-Consensual Intimate Media Sharing (NCIMS) to convey the scope and limits to the behaviour in question.

The empirical research conducted within Chapter 3 of this thesis employed a measure of proclivity to perpetrate NCIMS behaviours, the Revenge Porn Proclivity Scale (Pina et al., 2017), which was first developed almost a decade ago. The findings regarding endorsement of NCIMS - proclivity, enjoyment, and approval – mirror that of Pina et al. (2017) with proclivity remaining lower than the enjoyment and approval subscales. Consideration should be given to the nature of the endorsement questions, such that any endorsement above categorical disagreement (e.g., a score of 1 out of 5) would be considered some endorsement of the behaviours depicted in the vignettes. Whilst this may be the reason that enjoyment and approval endorsement was so high in this sample (86.7% and 99.2% respectively), it could be argued that any endorsement other than complete disagreement to a criminal and harmful behaviour such as NCIMS is problematic and therefore should be captured in academic research. Additionally, the enjoyment and approval subscales of the Revenge Porn Proclivity Scale (Pina et al., 2017) were derived from a combination of other variables in relation to the vignettes. Enjoyment was comprised of excitement, control, and amusement; approval was comprised of blame, anger, and reverse scored regret (Pina et al., 2017). Pina et al. (2017) labelled both subscales as enjoyment or approval, which has the potential to be somewhat misleading about what they measure, but when considered as they have been in this research, they would still provide a helpful insight into the potential normalisation or acceptance of NCIMS behaviours based upon the individual components they are comprised of.

The findings from this thesis will further research in the area of NCIMS perpetration, by providing insight into the motivations, personality profiles, and characteristics associated with the enhanced likelihood of engaging in this behaviour. Through completion of the Systematic Literature Review and Empirical Research, this thesis has identified that there are risk factors for increased likelihood to perpetrate NCIMS such as personality traits (dark triad or tetrad traits, sexism), gender differences (males more likely to perpetrate NCIMS than

women), possession of more positive attitudes and subjective norms towards NCIMS, lifestyle factors (alcohol, pornography use, social media usage), and previous victimisation of NCIMS.

Implications for Practice and Future Research

This thesis sought to further the understanding of NCIMS behaviours to both synthesise the already available literature in the area as well as empirically investigating and contributing to it.

Both the empirical research study and systematic literature review support the future development and implementation of psychoeducational interventions to reduce the prevalence of this behaviour. As discussed in detail in Chapter 3, future interventions could be developed from the bystander intervention literature which has evidence to support increasing victim empathy as a result (Foubert & Perry, 2007), combined with psychoeducation around the consequences of NCIMS behaviours – both to a potential perpetrator by way of legal or social implications for themselves, as well as highlighting the true impact on potential victims, as this is an offence type that has a tendency to be minimised due to the nature of the activity being primarily non-contact. It would also provide an opportunity to inform victims of appropriate reporting pathways and provide reassurance and validation to those who may have experienced NCIMS, possibly giving courage for victims to report. For University students, a population which NCIMS may be particularly prevalent, implementation of these interventions in “Freshers week” may provide the access to students required to ensure that as many students as is feasible receive the intervention. By targeting this population collectively, it is possible that it will shift the culture on University campuses and provide a societal influence to decrease the prevalence of this behaviour.

Chapter 3 also provided additional validation for the psychometric measures utilised within the UK University student population, as evidenced by the internal consistency calculations being considered good for the Short Dark Triad (SD3) scale ($\alpha = .85$), and Revenge Porn Proclivity Scale subscales of proclivity ($\alpha = .85$), enjoyment ($\alpha = .87$), and approval ($\alpha = .77$).

As a result of the systematic literature review, this thesis recommends that future research complete longitudinal research to assess for causality, a limitation in the current literature base. Additionally, the interventions to target NCIMS behaviours as described above would benefit from future research developing and validating a robust psychometric tool to inform intervention development, piloting, and assessment of effectiveness. Future research may also benefit from considering wider Image-Based Sexual Abuse behaviours, such as upskirting or downblousing, as well as behaviours more recently prevalent such as “deep fakes” and artificial intelligence created media. Future research would also benefit from comparison of existing UK-based research regarding attitudes towards NCIMS (such as victim-blaming) to more recently conducted research to assess for any shifts in these beliefs since the new legislative change came into effect in January 2024. Other research suggests that legislation may impact on attitudes towards victims, as evidenced by a recent study comparing views of those in the UK and Norway, the latter of which had not criminalised NCIMS behaviours at the time of data collection (Fido et al., 2025). Fido et al. (2025) identified that Norwegian participants perceived NCIMS to have less negative victim-impact than UK participants, suggesting there is a link between legislation and attitudes of the general population.

Conclusions

In conclusion, this thesis presents a comprehensive understanding of Non-Consensual Intimate Media Sharing perpetration, or likelihood to perpetrate, as of 2025. Several factors have been identified to be linked to proclivity to perpetrate NCIMS, which underpin the need for the development and implementation of prevention measures to reduce the prevalence of this harmful behaviour.

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APPENDIX

Appendix 1 – Email to experts in the field

Dear XXX,

I hope you are well.

I'm Charlotte and a Trainee Forensic Psychologist at the University of Birmingham. I am currently working on a systematic literature review for my doctorate thesis exploring the perpetration of image-based sexual abuse (IBSA) / revenge pornography / the non-consensual sharing of intimate media.

I'm aware that you are well published in this area, and therefore I was wondering if you could direct me to any studies or research that you are aware of which focus on the perpetration of IBSA – not so much around the impact of victimisation or prevalence, but the characteristics, risk factors, or profiles of those who perpetrate or are likely to perpetrate IBSA.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email,

Charlotte Kite

Appendix 2 – Data Extraction Form

Data extraction field	Information extracted
Author/s	
Year	
Study title	
Country	
Quantitative or Qualitative	
Aims of the study	
Participants or Population	
Design and Methods	
Data Analysis	
Results and conclusions drawn	
Strengths, limitations, and implications for future research	

Any observations or additional comments	
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Appendix 3 – Quality Assessment Form

Paper			
Scoring scale	Yes - 2 Partial/Some - 1 No or Unknown - 0		
Questions of Study Quality		Scoring	Any Comment/s
General			
1	Did the study address a clear issue or gap in the literature?	Yes Partial/Some No Unknown	
2	Were the research aims/objectives/questions clear?	Yes Partial/Some No Unknown	
Methodology			
1	Did the author/s use an appropriate method to address the aims?	Yes Partial/Some No Unknown	
2	Was the sample size justified and/or calculated?	Yes Partial/Some No Unknown	
3	Were the target participants or population clearly defined?	Yes Partial/Some No Unknown	
4	Did the author/s describe the procedures adopted to ensure ethicality – such as consent, confidentiality, anonymity?	Yes Partial/Some No Unknown	
5	Were the measures used described in detail – including reporting the reliability and/or validity?	Yes Partial/Some No Unknown	
6	Were the measures selected appropriate for answering the research question/s?	Yes Partial/Some No Unknown	
Results			
1		Yes Partial/Some	

	Were the results of the study clear and/or do they answer the research question/s?	No		
		Unknown		
2	Was the analysis used appropriate for the data and study design?	Yes		
		Partial/Some		
		No		
		Unknown		
Discussion				
1	Were implications from the research to practice discussed?	Yes		
		Partial/Some		
		No		
		Unknown		
2	Was ethical approval obtained?	Yes		
		Partial/Some		
		No		
		Unknown		

Total score (out of a possible 24):

Percentage:

Appendix 4 – Study advertisements

Poster for the university:

Research study on personality and
the sharing of intimate media
PARTICIPANTS NEEDED



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

**Are you a UK
Student?**

QR code here

www.LINKHERE.co.uk

If you:

- Are over 18 years old
- Are currently a UK student
- Can spare 15 minutes to complete a short survey
- Not been affected by the sharing of intimate media

Scan this QR code or follow this link to complete the survey

If you need support:

 Samaritans - 116 123

Contact:

 cxk273@student.bham.ac.uk

Text description for Prolific and the University Participation Pool

Prolific description

This study is investigating personality profiles as predictors of likelihood to engage in the sharing of intimate media. To participate, you must be a UK student, over 18 years of age, and not have been affected by the sharing of intimate media.

As thanks for your participation, you will be compensated £1.50.

University Participation Pool description

This study is investigating personality profiles as predictors of likelihood to engage in the sharing of intimate media. To participate, you must be a UK student, over 18 years of age, and not have been affected by the sharing of intimate media.

As thanks for your participation, you will be compensated with 0.25 participation points (i.e., at the rate of one point per hour of participation).

Appendix 5 – Participant information sheet

You are invited to take part in research examining the predictors of likelihood to share intimate media. Charlotte Kite, a Trainee Forensic Psychologist at the University of Birmingham, is leading this project.

Before you take part, it is important that you understand why the research is being conducted and what this will involve – please read the following information carefully. Please ensure you are sitting comfortably in a suitable work space.

Project Title

Personality traits as predictors of likelihood to share intimate media.

Purpose of the project

The purpose of the study is to evaluate distinct personality profiles as predictors of likelihood to share intimate media. This study will be completed online, in a survey format.

Why have I been selected to take part?

You are invited to take part in this research as you are a UK student, over the age of 18.

What are the benefits to taking part in this study?

If you are accessing this study through Sona Systems at the University of Birmingham, you will receive a participation point for each hour of participation.

If you are accessing this study through Amazon Mechanical Turk (MTurk) or Prolific, you will be compensated in line with the recommended pay scales (i.e., £1.50 for 15 mins).

If you are accessing this study through independent study advertisements such as posters or social media posts, you will not be financially compensated. This so your responses can remain anonymous.

By sharing your answers to the survey questions with us, you are helping Charlotte Kite and researchers at the University of Birmingham to better understand the sharing of intimate media.

Are there any risks to taking part?

This study has been reviewed and approved by the University of Birmingham's Ethics Committee. There are no significant risks associated with participation.

Invitation to participate

Participation is **voluntary**, and there is no penalty for choosing not to complete the survey.

You are free to withdraw at any time by closing the window before submission, and for up to 14 days following completion. After this date, it will be impossible to withdraw the data as analysis will already have begun.

It is expected that the online survey will take no more than 15 minutes to complete. This will involve answering a number of survey questions at a time convenient for you.

Any questions regarding participation can be directed to the researcher, Charlotte Kite at cxk273@student.bham.ac.uk.

Confidentiality, Anonymity and Data Security

Your data will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016 and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Participants' data will be treated as anonymous. No identifiable data will be collected.

The data is only accessible by the researcher (Charlotte Kite) and the researchers' supervisor (Dr Melissa Colloff). The data will be stored on the University of Birmingham's Research Data Store, with the anonymised data backed up to a password-protected USB memory drive.

Following completion of the project, the anonymised data will be archived with the University for five years. Anonymised data may be shared or made available on an open-access repository for other researchers in the future.

Data Protection Rights

The University of Birmingham is a Data Controller for the information you provide. You have the right to access information held about you. Your right of access can be exercised in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018. You also have other rights including rights of correction, erasure, objection, and data portability. For more details, including the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office, please visit www.ico.org.uk. Questions, comments and requests about your personal data can also be sent to the Information Compliance Manager at dataprotection@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

If you wish to withdraw your data from the study

If you wish to withdraw part way through the study, simply close the internet browser window and incomplete responses will be excluded from the data.

If you wish to withdraw your data after submission, you will be invited to create a unique ID which can be quoted when emailing the researcher to remove data. At this point the data will no longer be anonymised as the researcher will have access to the participants' email address.

What will happen with the results of this study?

Data from individual participants will remain anonymous.

The results of this research will be included in the doctoral thesis of the researcher and subsequently published on the Thesis Repository.

Results may also be published in articles, reports, and presentations.

Feedback regarding an individuals' scores on the measures will not be provided. However, participants may request a summary of the study results as a whole to be emailed to them upon conclusion of the research. In this case, email addresses will be stored on a password-protected word document and deleted following successful sending of the results.

To request a summary of the study results, participants may email the lead researcher directly at cxk273@student.bham.ac.uk. Your email address will not be linked in any way to the study data and therefore the study data will remain anonymous.

Complaints

If you are dissatisfied with any aspect of this research, please contact the lead researcher Charlotte Kite at cxk273@student.bham.ac.uk. If unresolved, contact the research supervisor Dr Melissa Colloff at m.colloff@bham.ac.uk.

If you would like to complain to someone who is external from the research team, please contact s.l.cottam@bham.ac.uk.

Support

If reading about this research has affected you, please see below for some support organisations:

Revenge Porn Helpline:

0345 6000 459

help@revengepornhelpline.org.uk

Samaritans:

116 123

Contact details

Charlotte Kite, Lead Researcher, University of Birmingham – cxk273@student.bham.ac.uk

Dr Melissa Colloff, Research Supervisor, University of Birmingham – m.colloff@bham.ac.uk

Appendix 6 – Consent form

Title of the research

Personality traits as predictors of likelihood to engage in revenge porn.

Fair Processing Statement

This information is being collected as part of a research project concerned with revenge porn by the Department of Psychology in the University of Birmingham. The information which you supply and that which may be collected as part of the research project will be entered into a filing system or database and will only be accessed by authorised personnel involved in the project. The anonymised data may be made open access on websites such as the OSF (<https://osf.io>). The information will be retained by the University of Birmingham and will only be used for the purpose of research, and statistical and audit purposes. By supplying this information you are consenting to the University storing your information for the purposes stated above. The information will be processed by the University of Birmingham in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998. No identifiable personal data will be published.

This project has been reviewed and approved by the University of Birmingham's Ethics Committee.

Statements of understanding/consent

- I confirm that I have read and understand the participant information sheet for this study. I have had the opportunity to ask questions if necessary and have had these answered satisfactorily.
- I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw within 14 days without giving a reason. If I withdraw my data will be removed from the study and destroyed.

- I understand that my personal data will be processed for the purposes detailed above, in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.
- I understand that in future my anonymised data may be shared or made openly available following the completion of this research. The anonymised data may be made open access on websites such as the OSF (<https://osf.io/>).
- I confirm I am over the age of 18 and have not been affected by the sharing of intimate media.
- Based on the above, I agree to take part in this study.

Please tick the box or proceed to the next page to confirm you have read and consent to the above:

Thank you for agreeing to take part in this research – your help is very much appreciated.

Appendix 7 – Demographic questions

This study is completely anonymous, so feel free to answer the questions honestly.

1. How old are you?
2. What is your sex?
 - a. Male
 - b. Female
 - c. Other: _____
3. What is your race/ethnicity?
 - a. White or European
 - b. Latin or Hispanic
 - c. Black, African or Caribbean
 - d. Asian
 - e. Mixed
 - f. Other: _____
4. Are you a **current** UK student?
 - a. Yes, Undergraduate
 - b. Yes, Postgraduate
 - c. No [If no, the survey ends].
5. Where are you currently studying?

Appendix 8 – Short Dark Triad Scale

The Short Dark Triad (SD3) Scale items are published in Jones and Paulhus (2013) and are available from: Jones, D., & Paulhus, D. (2013). Introducing the Short Dark Triad (SD3): A brief measure of dark personality traits. *Assessment*, 21(1), 28-41.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/1073191113514105>

Appendix 9 – Short Social Desirability Scale

The Short Social Desirability Scale items are published in Reynolds (1982) and are available from: Reynolds, W. (1982). Development of reliable and valid short forms of the marlowe-crowne social desirability scale. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 38(1), 119-125.

[https://doi.org/10.1002/1097-4679\(198201\)38:1<119::AID-JCLP2270380118>3.0.CO;2-I](https://doi.org/10.1002/1097-4679(198201)38:1<119::AID-JCLP2270380118>3.0.CO;2-I)

Appendix 10 – Revenge Porn Proclivity Scale

The Revenge Porn Proclivity Scale items are published in Pina et al. (2017) and are available from: Pina, A., Holland, J., & James, M. (2017). The Malevolent Side of Revenge Porn Proclivity: Dark Personality Traits and Sexist Ideology. *International Journal of Technoethics*, 8(1), 30-43. <https://doi.org/10.4018/ijt.2017010103>

Appendix 11 – Debrief

Thank you for taking part in this research.

Please create a unique ID in the box below and make a note of it should you wish to withdraw in future.

The unique ID should **not** contain any identifiable information.

If you are completing this study through Prolific, please make a note of this code to receive compensation.

If you wish to withdraw your data, you have 14 days from completion to email cwk273@student.bham.ac.uk with the Unique ID and the information will be destroyed and removed from the research.

After 14 days, data analysis will already have begun so withdrawal will no longer be possible.

If this research has affected you, please see below for some support organisations:

Revenge Porn Helpline:

0345 6000 459

help@revengepornhelpline.org.uk

Samaritans:

Thank you for your participation.

If you have any concerns about any aspect of this research, please contact the lead researcher Charlotte Kite at cxk273@student.bham.ac.uk. If unresolved, contact the research supervisor Dr Melissa Colloff at m.colloff@bham.ac.uk.

Appendix 12 – SPSS Outputs

Multiple linear regression – NCIMS proclivity

Descriptive statistics

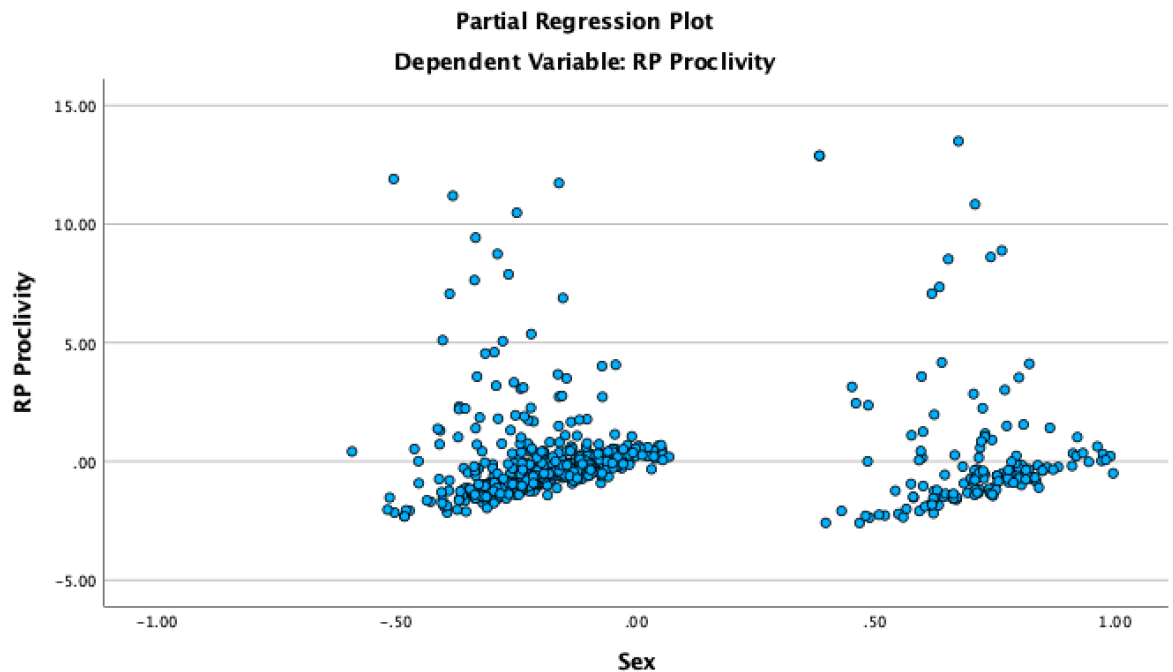
Descriptive Statistics

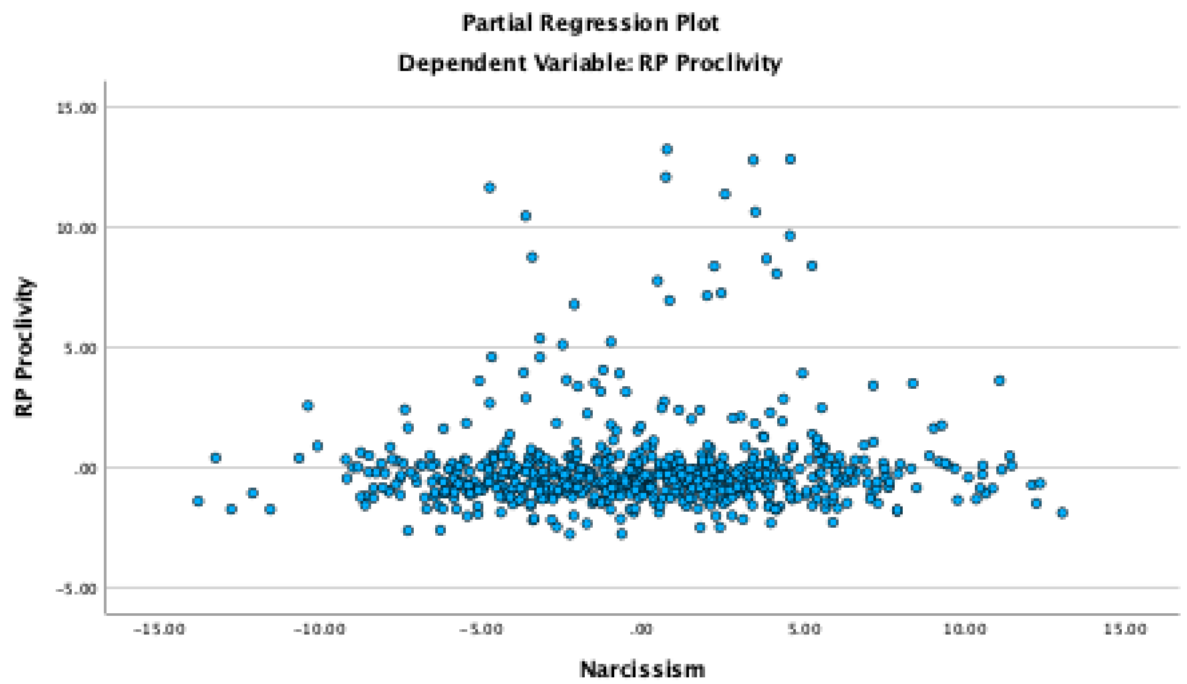
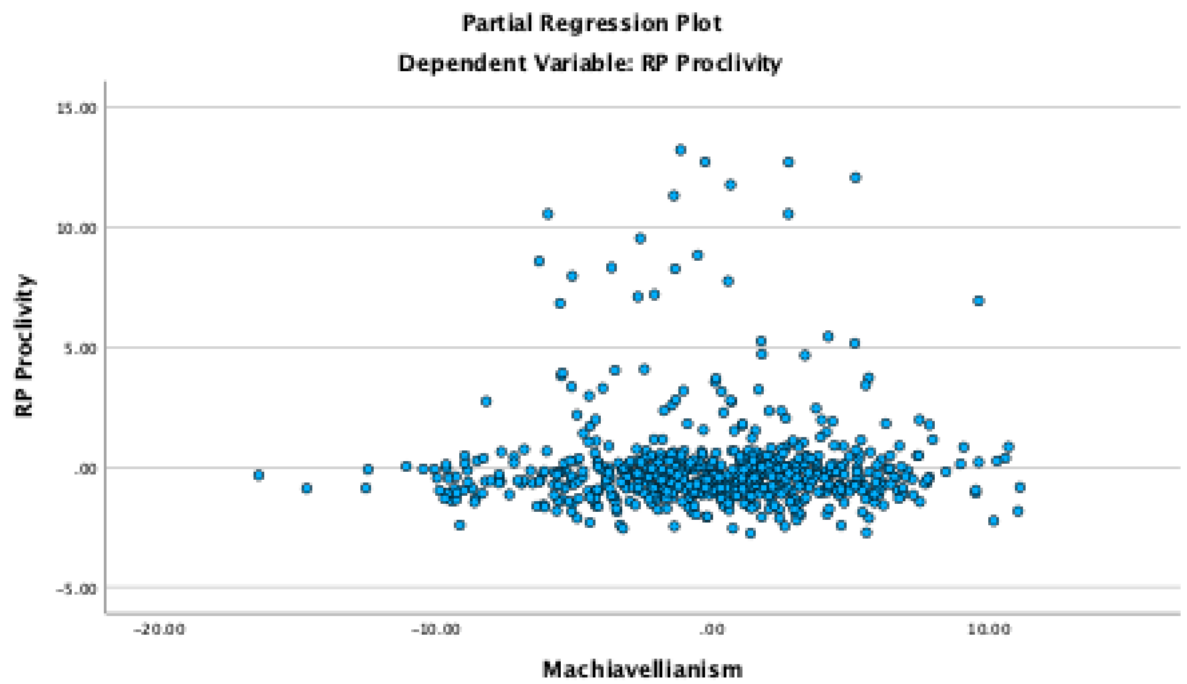
	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
RP Proclivity	5.7825	2.17808	653
Sex	.2175	.41283	653
Machiavellianism	27.4028	5.25063	653
Narcissism	23.0046	5.36161	653
Psychopathy	18.8208	5.09270	653
Social Desirability	6.4319	2.64001	653

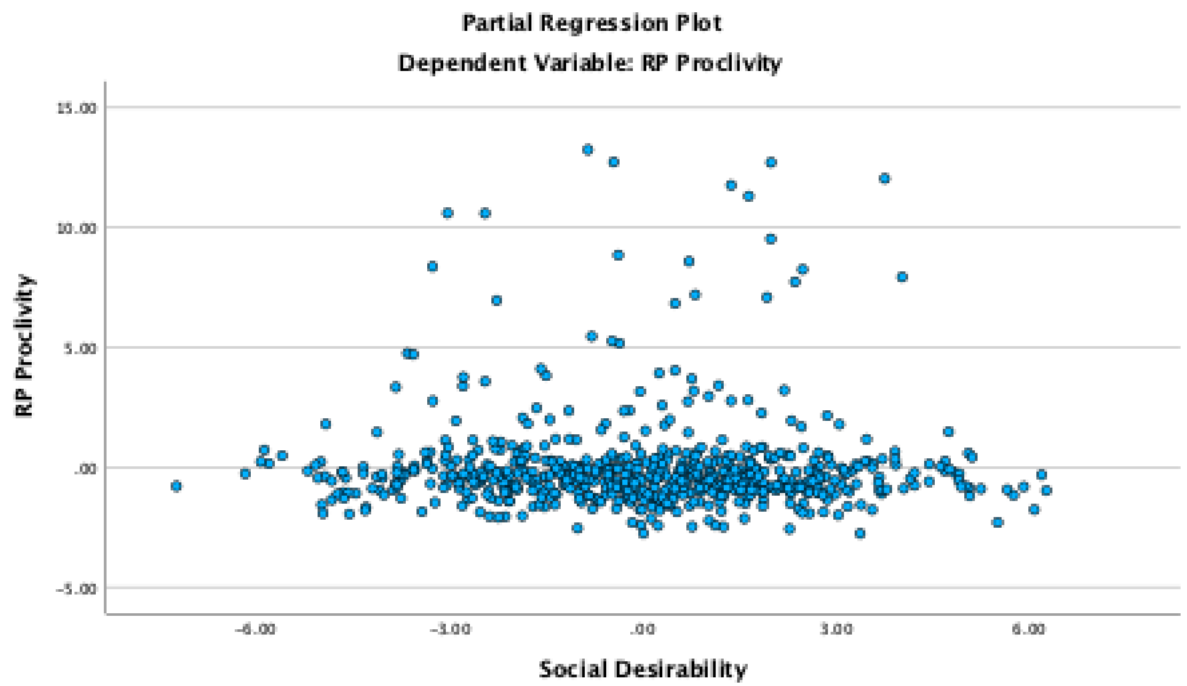
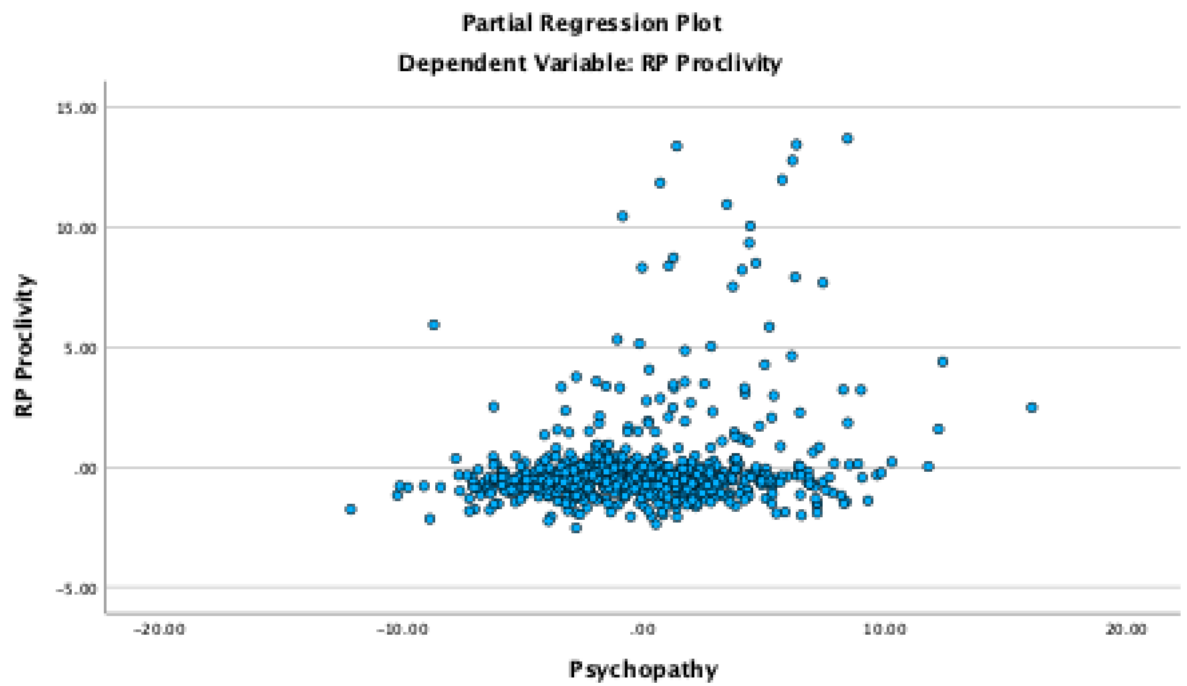
Assumptions

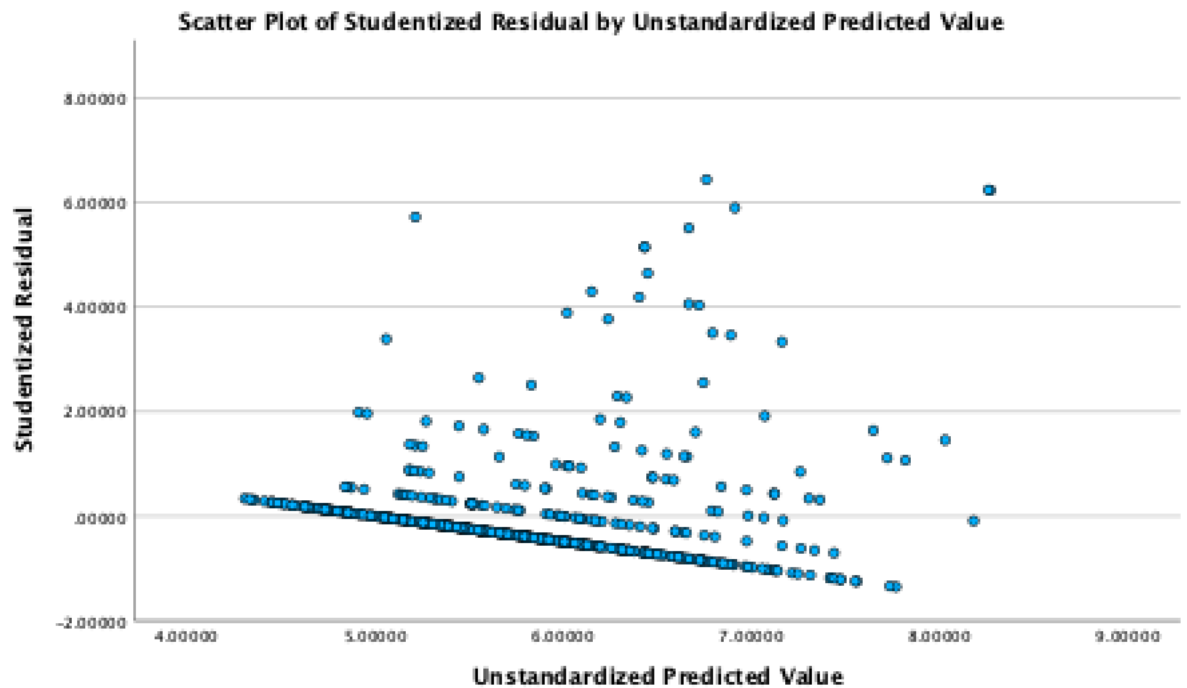
Linearity

Partial regression plots and plot of studentised residuals against the predicted values.









Independence of residuals

Durbin-Watson statistic.

Model Summary^b

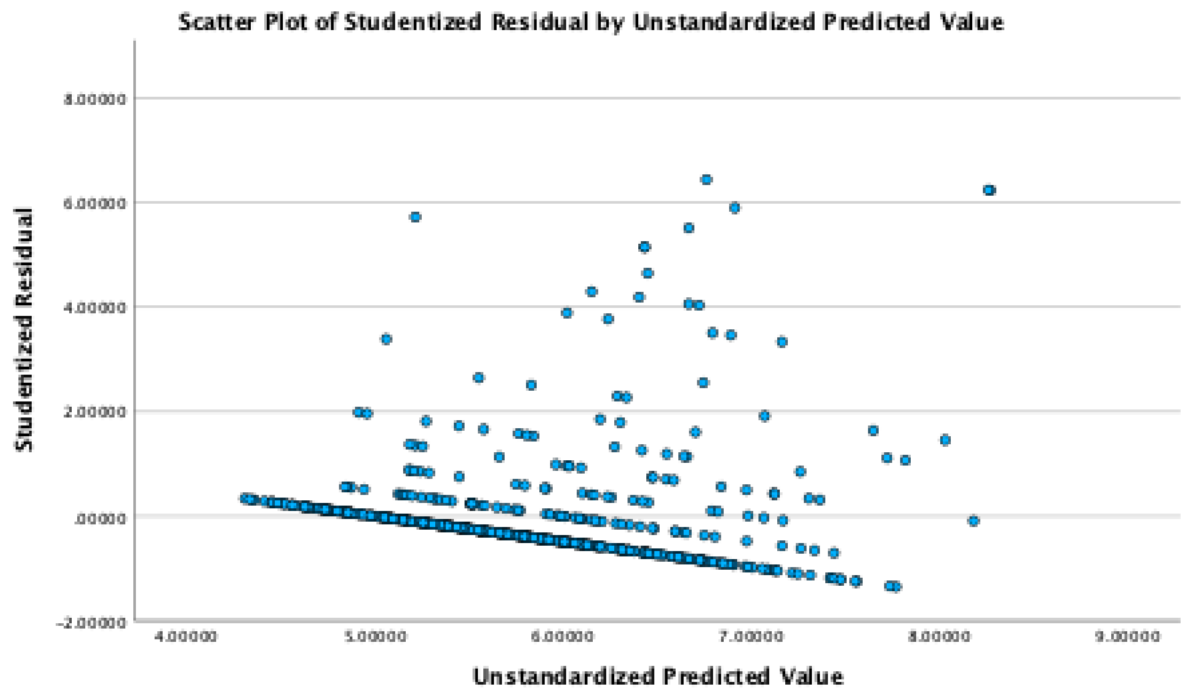
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.332 ^a	.110	.103	2.06234	2.043

a. Predictors: (Constant), Social Desirability, Sex, Narcissism, Machiavellianism, Psychopathy

b. Dependent Variable: RP Proclivity

Homoscedasticity

Assessed by plot of studentised residuals against unstandardised predicted values.



Multicollinearity

No independent variable correlations of greater than 0.7.

Correlations							
		RP Proclivity	Sex	Machiavellianism	Narcissism	Psychopathy	Social Desirability
Pearson Correlation	RP Proclivity	1.000	.155	.175	.191	.321	-.117
	Sex	.155	1.000	.219	.146	.278	-.043
	Machiavellianism	.175	.219	1.000	.384	.490	-.325
	Narcissism	.191	.146	.384	1.000	.447	-.073
	Psychopathy	.321	.278	.490	.447	1.000	-.356
	Social Desirability	-.117	-.043	-.325	-.073	-.356	1.000
Sig. (1-tailed)	RP Proclivity	.	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	.001
	Sex	.000	.	.000	.000	.000	.138
	Machiavellianism	.000	.000	.	.000	.000	.000
	Narcissism	.000	.000	.000	.	.000	.031
	Psychopathy	.000	.000	.000	.000	.	.000
	Social Desirability	.001	.138	.000	.031	.000	.
N	RP Proclivity	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Sex	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Machiavellianism	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Narcissism	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Psychopathy	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Social Desirability	653	653	653	653	653	653

No tolerance values of less than 0.1 or VIF values of greater than 10.

Coefficients ^a													
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B		Correlations			Collinearity Statistics	
		B	Std. Error	Beta			Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Zero-order	Partial	Part	Tolerance	VIF
1	(Constant)	3.044	.610		4.989	<.001	1.846	4.241					
	Sex	.374	.205	.071	1.821	.069	-.029	.777	.155	.071	.068	.908	1.102
	Machiavellianism	.000	.019	.001	.016	.987	-.036	.037	.175	.001	.001	.684	1.461
	Narcissism	.024	.017	.059	1.377	.169	-.010	.058	.191	.054	.051	.748	1.337
	Psychopathy	.115	.020	.269	5.651	<.001	.075	.155	.321	.217	.210	.605	1.653
	Social Desirability	-.011	.034	-.013	-.326	.744	-.077	.055	-.117	-.013	-.012	.820	1.220

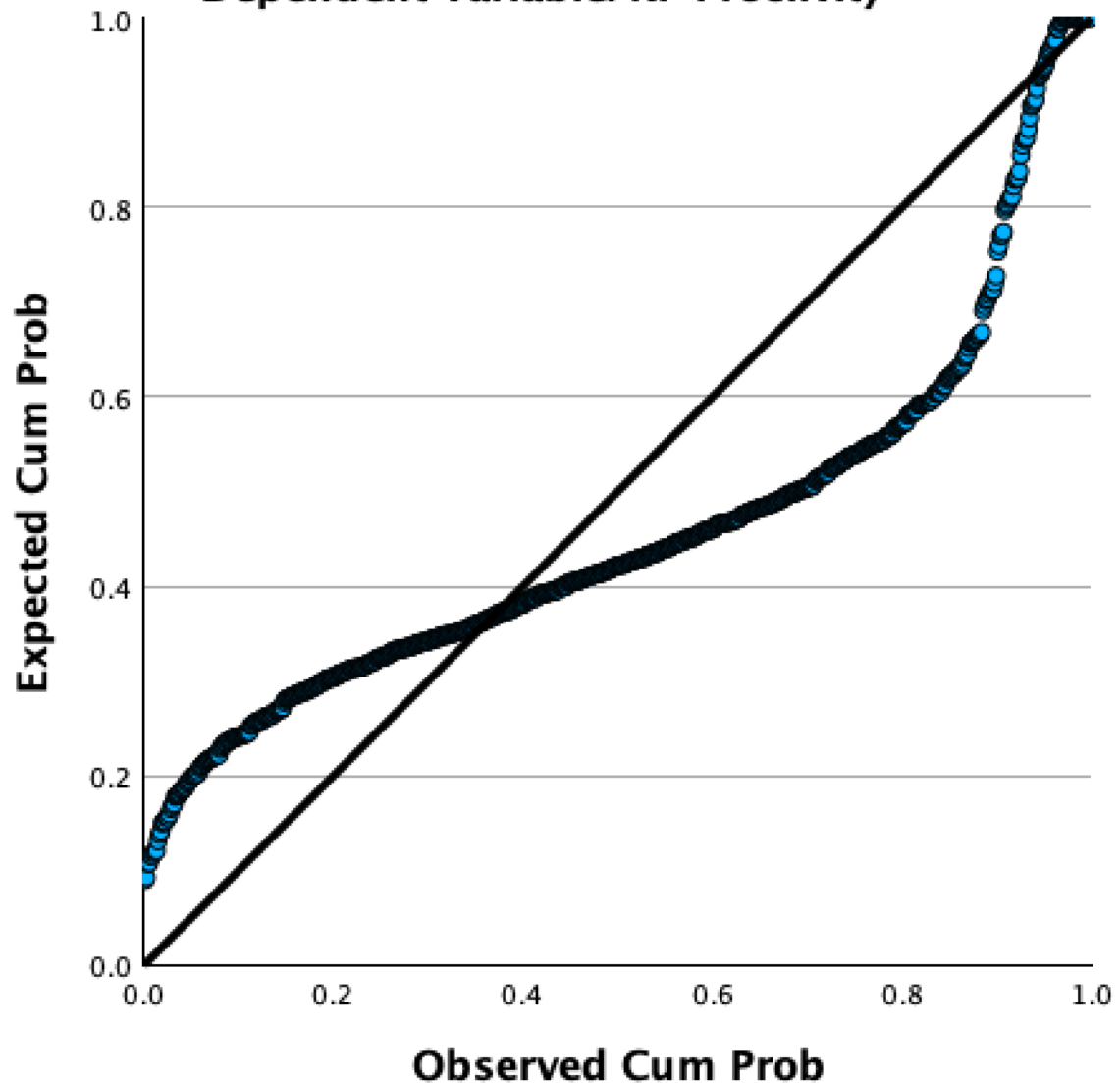
a. Dependent Variable: RP Proclivity

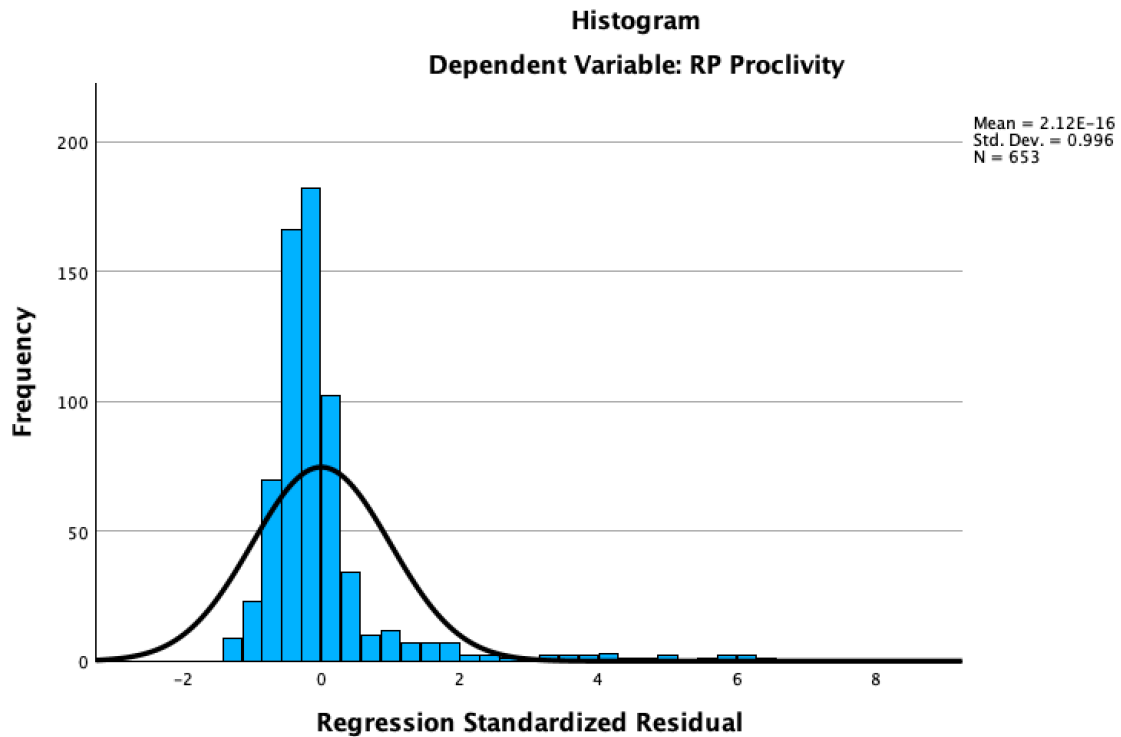
Normality

As assessed by P-P Plot and histogram

Normal P-P Plot of Regression Standardized Residual

Dependent Variable: RP Proclivity





MLR output

		Correlations					
		RP Proclivity	Sex	Machiavellianism	Narcissism	Psychopathy	Social Desirability
Pearson Correlation	RP Proclivity	1.000	.155	.175	.191	.321	-.117
	Sex	.155	1.000	.219	.146	.278	-.043
	Machiavellianism	.175	.219	1.000	.384	.490	-.325
	Narcissism	.191	.146	.384	1.000	.447	-.073
	Psychopathy	.321	.278	.490	.447	1.000	-.356
	Social Desirability	-.117	-.043	-.325	-.073	-.356	1.000
Sig. (1-tailed)	RP Proclivity	.	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	.001
	Sex	.000	.	.000	.000	.000	.138
	Machiavellianism	.000	.000	.	.000	.000	.000
	Narcissism	.000	.000	.000	.	.000	.031
	Psychopathy	.000	.000	.000	.000	.	.000
	Social Desirability	.001	.138	.000	.031	.000	.
N	RP Proclivity	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Sex	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Machiavellianism	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Narcissism	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Psychopathy	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Social Desirability	653	653	653	653	653	653

Variables Entered/Removed^a

Model	Variables Entered	Variables Removed	Method
1	Social Desirability, Sex, Narcissism, Machiavellianism, Psychopathy ^b	.	Enter

a. Dependent Variable: RP Proclivity

b. All requested variables entered.

Model Summary^b

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.332 ^a	.110	.103	2.06234	2.043

a. Predictors: (Constant), Social Desirability, Sex, Narcissism, Machiavellianism, Psychopathy

b. Dependent Variable: RP Proclivity

ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	341.263	5	68.253	16.047	<.001 ^b
	Residual	2751.858	647	4.253		
	Total	3093.121	652			

a. Dependent Variable: RP Proclivity

b. Predictors: (Constant), Social Desirability, Sex, Narcissism, Machiavellianism, Psychopathy

Coefficients ^a													
		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients			95.0% Confidence Interval for B		Correlations			Collinearity Statistics	
Model		B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Zero-order	Partial	Part	Tolerance	VIF
1	(Constant)	3.044	.610		4.989	<.001	1.846	4.241					
	Sex	.374	.205	.071	1.821	.069	-.029	.777	.155	.071	.068	.908	1.102
	Machiavellianism	.000	.019	.001	.016	.987	-.036	.037	.175	.001	.001	.684	1.461
	Narcissism	.024	.017	.059	1.377	.169	-.010	.058	.191	.054	.051	.748	1.337
	Psychopathy	.115	.020	.269	5.651	<.001	.075	.155	.321	.217	.210	.605	1.653
	Social Desirability	-.011	.034	-.013	-.326	.744	-.077	.055	-.117	-.013	-.012	.820	1.220

a. Dependent Variable: RP Proclivity

Collinearity Diagnostics ^a									
Model	Dimension	Eigenvalue	Condition Index	Variance Proportions					
				(Constant)	Sex	Machiavellianism	Narcissism	Psychopathy	Social Desirability
1	1	5.041	1.000	.00	.01	.00	.00	.00	.00
	2	.726	2.636	.00	.91	.00	.00	.00	.01
	3	.164	5.546	.00	.03	.01	.01	.04	.53
	4	.030	13.031	.03	.00	.07	.99	.14	.01
	5	.028	13.488	.06	.02	.29	.00	.80	.13
	6	.012	20.223	.91	.03	.63	.00	.01	.32

a. Dependent Variable: RP Proclivity

Multiple linear regression – NCIMS enjoyment

Descriptive statistics

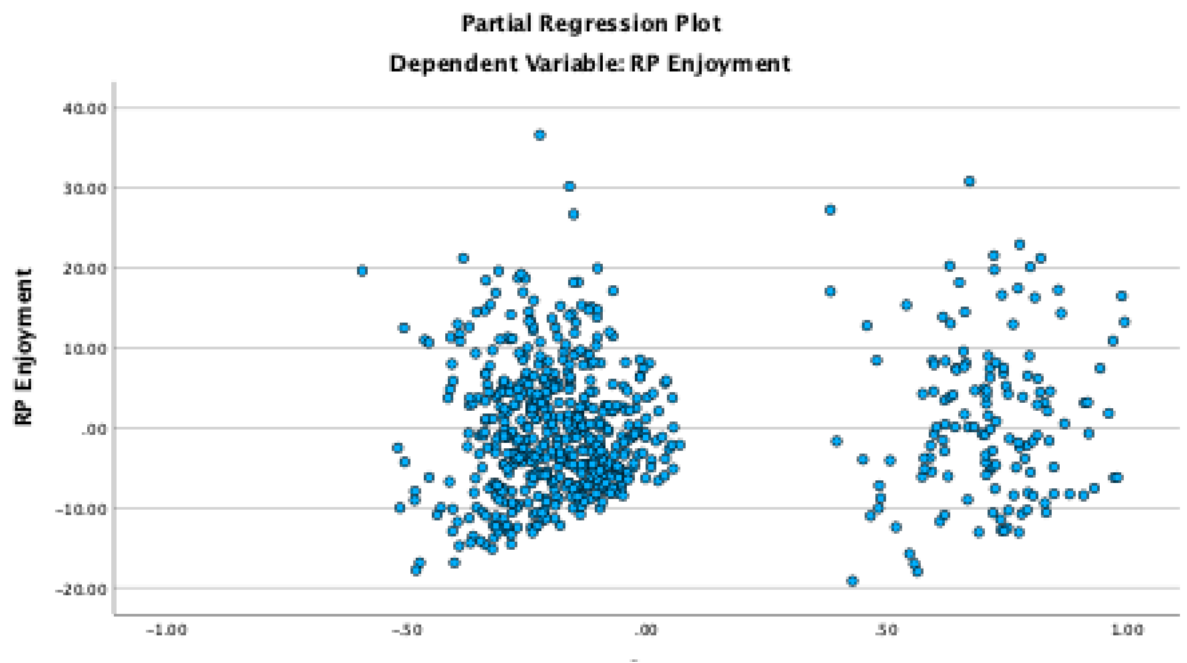
Descriptive Statistics

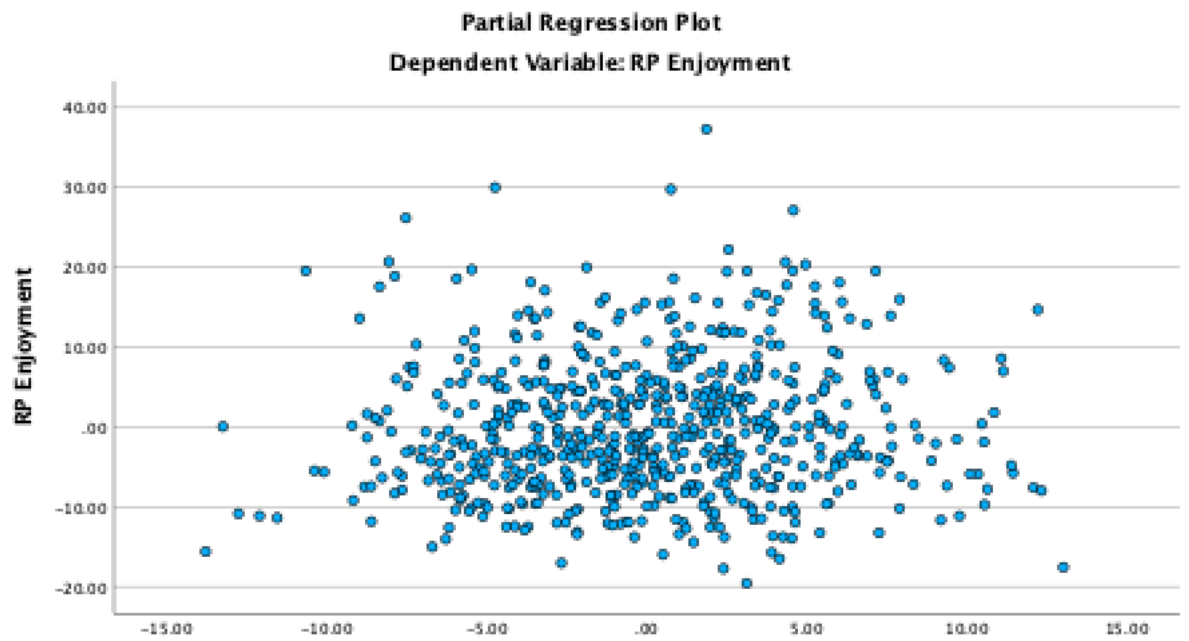
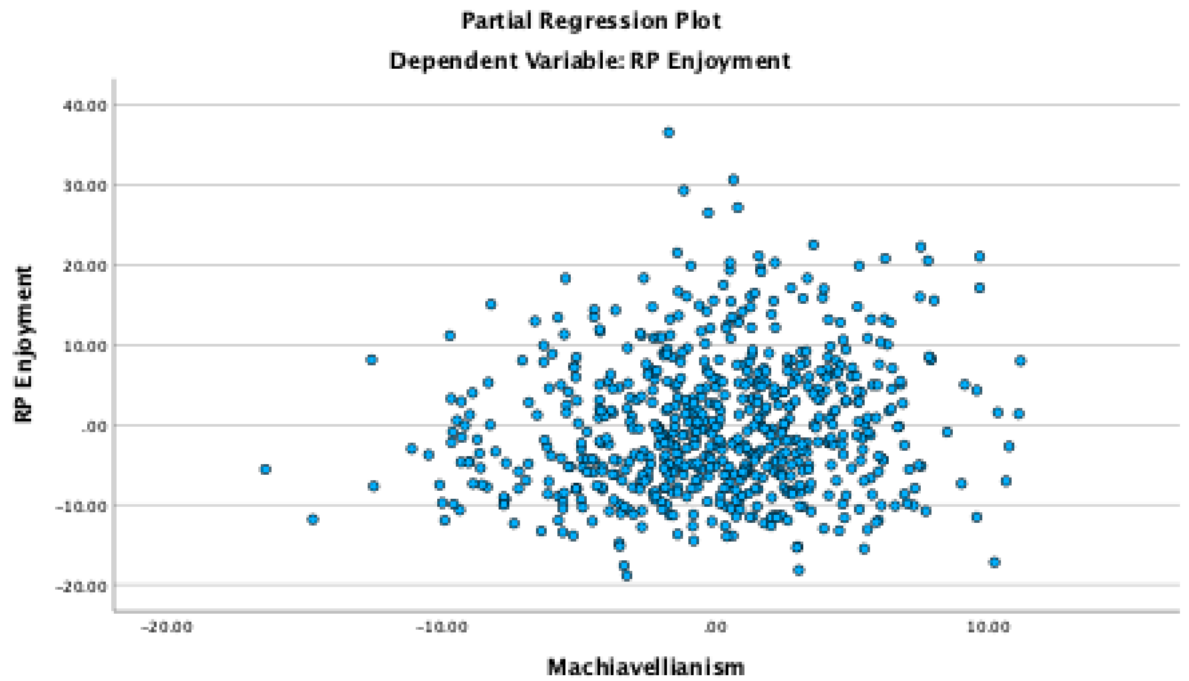
	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
RP Enjoyment	26.1899	9.13418	653
Sex	.2175	.41283	653
Machiavellianism	27.4028	5.25063	653
Narcissism	23.0046	5.36161	653
Psychopathy	18.8208	5.09270	653
Social Desirability	6.4319	2.64001	653

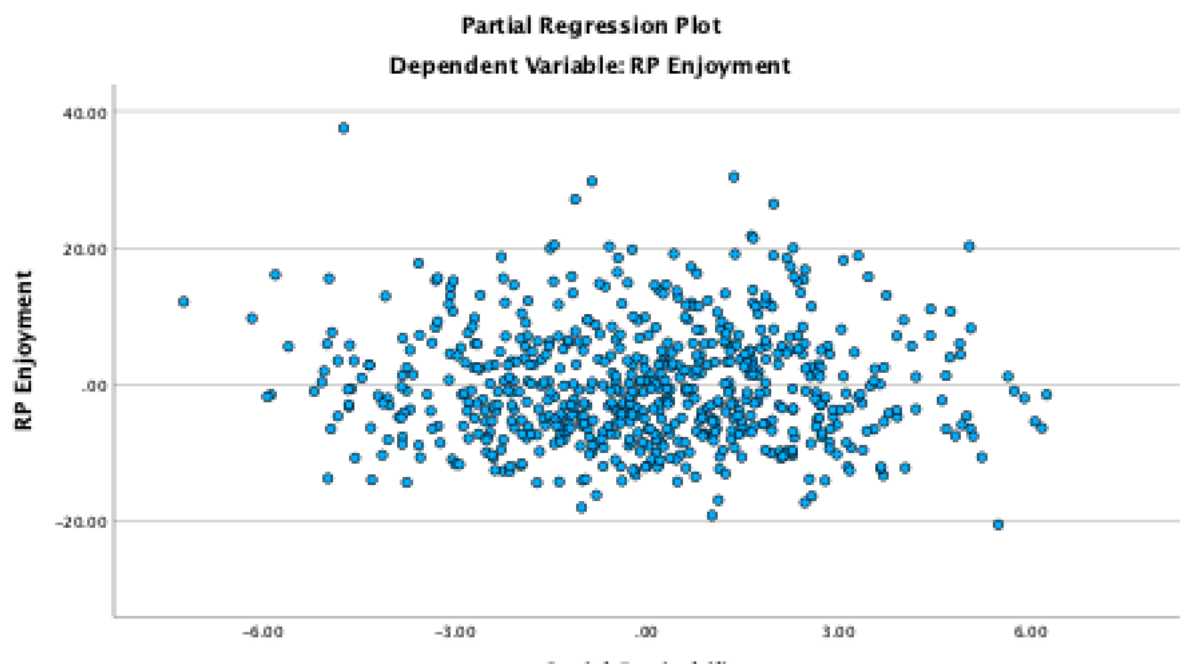
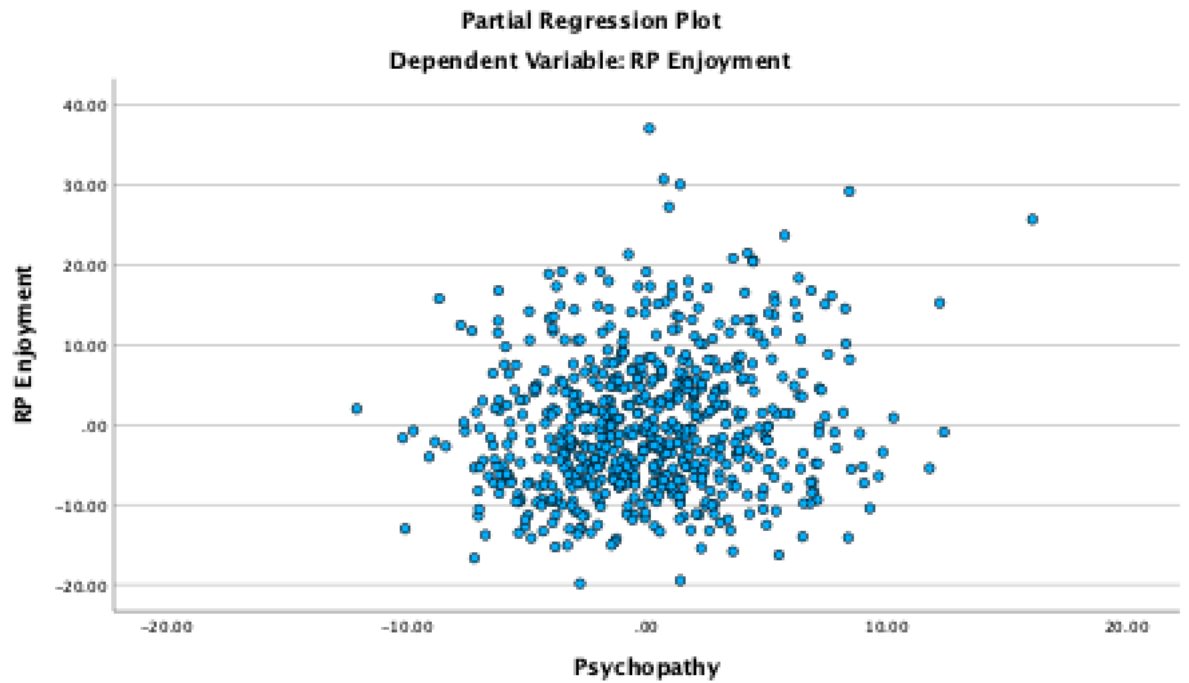
Assumptions

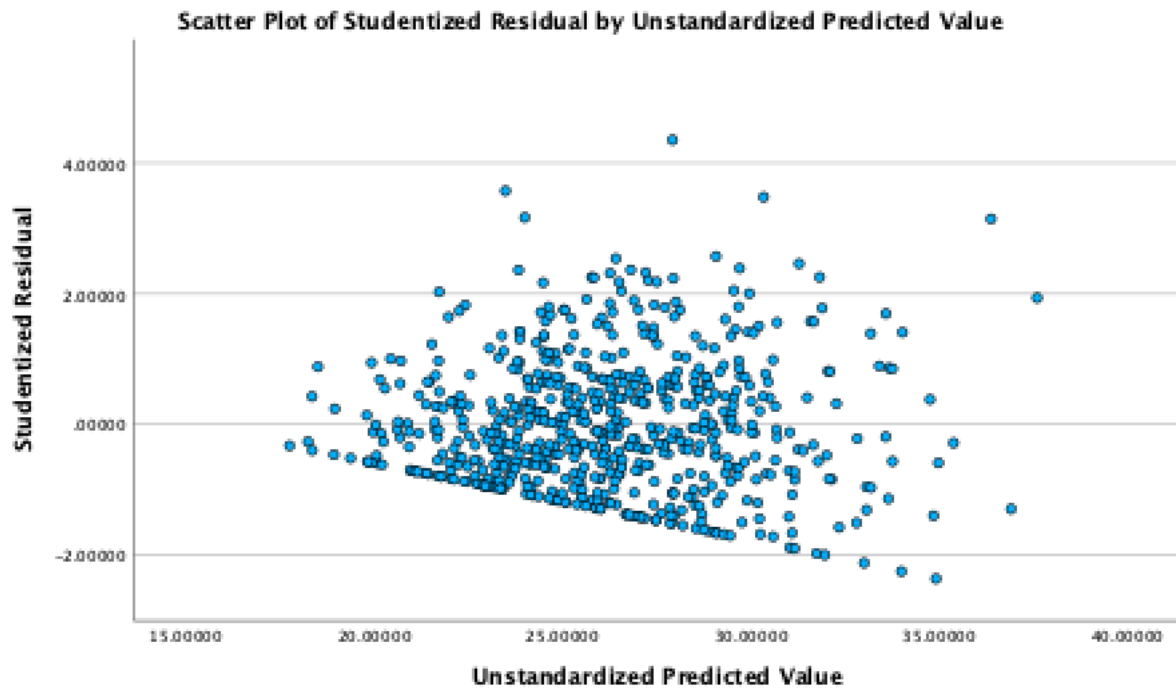
Linearity

Partial regression plots and plot of studentised residuals against the predicted values.









Independence of residuals

Durbin-Watson statistic.

Model Summary^b

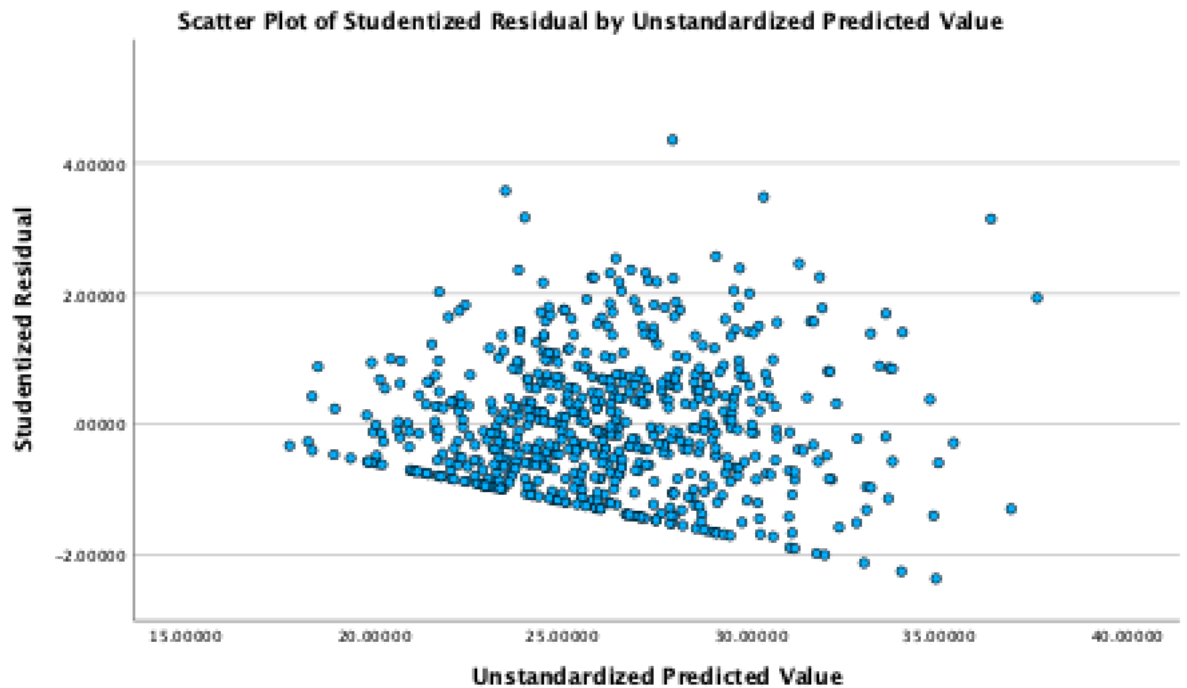
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.360 ^a	.129	.123	8.55552	1.983

a. Predictors: (Constant), Social Desirability, Sex, Narcissism, Machiavellianism, Psychopathy

b. Dependent Variable: RP Enjoyment

Homoscedasticity

Assessed by plot of studentised residuals against unstandardised predicted values.



Multicollinearity

No independent variable correlations of greater than 0.7

Correlations							
		RP Enjoyment	Sex	Machiavellianism	Narcissism	Psychopathy	Social Desirability
Pearson Correlation	RP Enjoyment	1.000	.172	.289	.215	.309	-.145
	Sex	.172	1.000	.219	.146	.278	-.043
	Machiavellianism	.289	.219	1.000	.384	.490	-.325
	Narcissism	.215	.146	.384	1.000	.447	-.073
	Psychopathy	.309	.278	.490	.447	1.000	-.356
	Social Desirability	-.145	-.043	-.325	-.073	-.356	1.000
Sig. (1-tailed)	RP Enjoyment	.	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001
	Sex	.000	.	.000	.000	.000	.138
	Machiavellianism	.000	.000	.	.000	.000	.000
	Narcissism	.000	.000	.000	.	.000	.031
	Psychopathy	.000	.000	.000	.000	.	.000
	Social Desirability	.000	.138	.000	.031	.000	.
N	RP Enjoyment	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Sex	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Machiavellianism	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Narcissism	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Psychopathy	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Social Desirability	653	653	653	653	653	653

No tolerance values of less than 0.1 or VIF values of greater than 10.

Model		Coefficients ^a						Correlations			Collinearity Statistics	
		Unstandardized Coefficients B	Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B Lower Bound Upper Bound	Zero-order	Partial	Part	Tolerance	VIF
1	(Constant)	10.671	2.531		4.217	<.001	5.702 15.640					
	Sex	1.775	.852	.080	2.084	.038	.103 3.448	.172	.082	.076	.908	1.102
	Machiavellianism	.267	.077	.153	3.458	<.001	.115 .418	.289	.135	.127	.684	1.461
	Narcissism	.110	.072	.065	1.528	.127	-.031 .252	.215	.060	.056	.748	1.337
	Psychopathy	.311	.085	.173	3.677	<.001	.145 .477	.309	.143	.135	.605	1.653
	Social Desirability	-.089	.140	-.026	-.634	.526	-.364 .186	-.145	-.025	-.023	.820	1.220

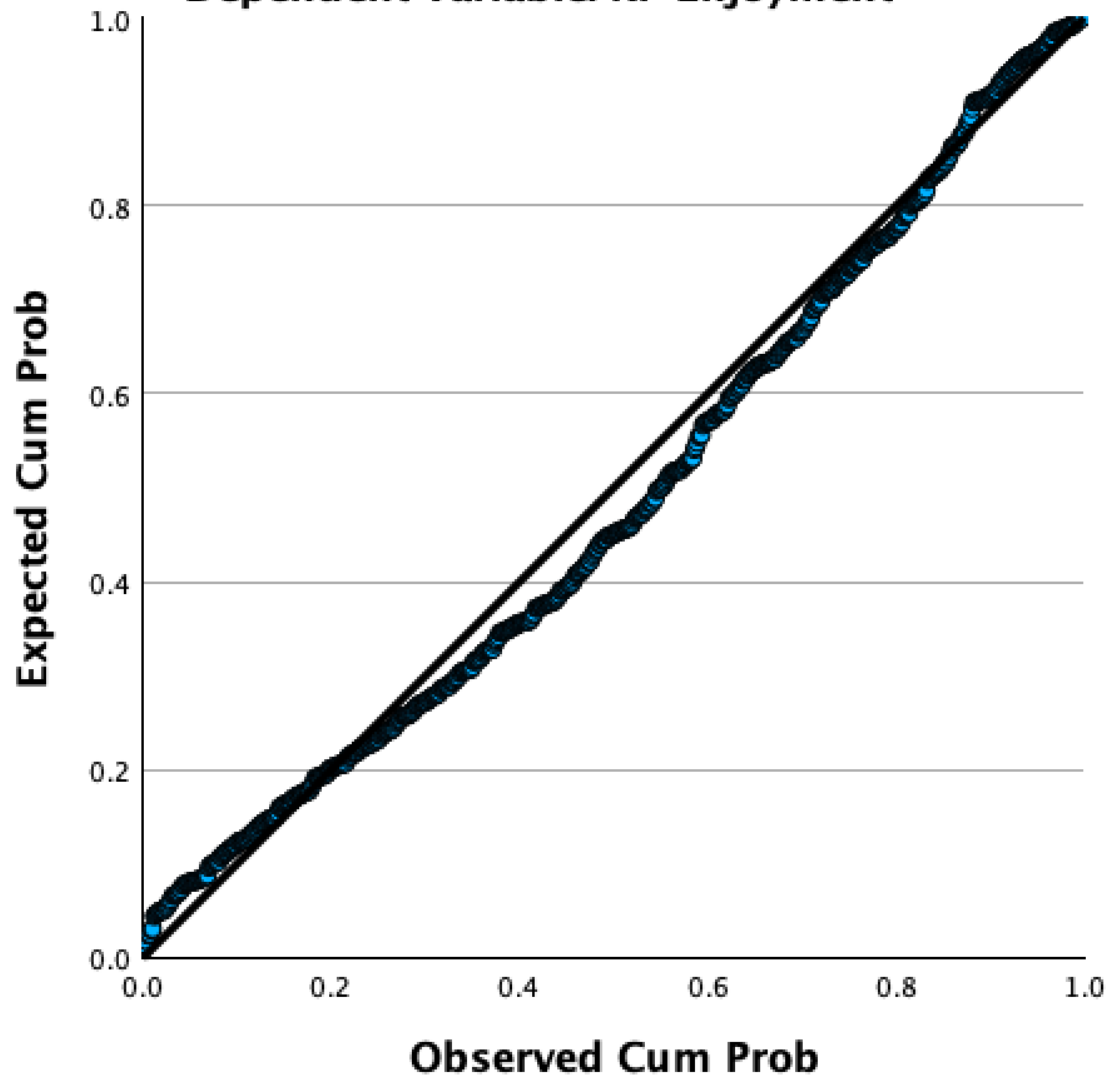
a. Dependent Variable: RP Enjoyment

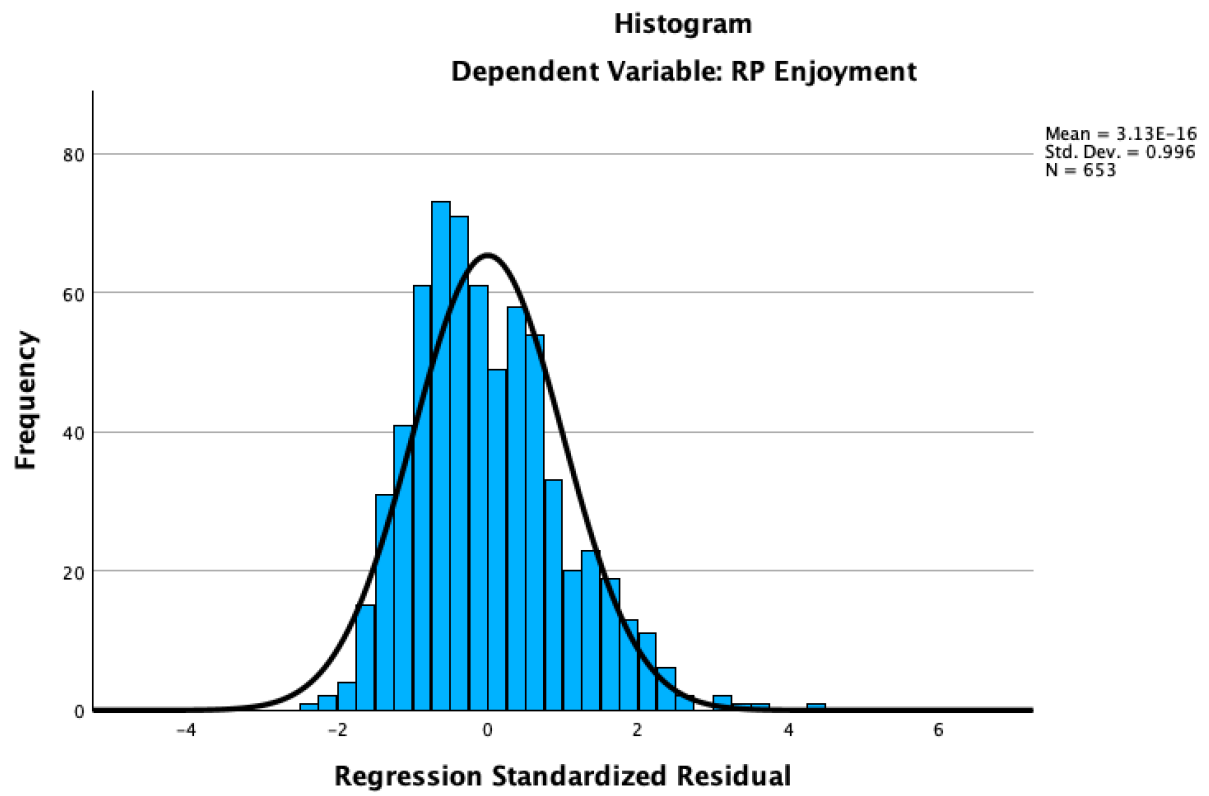
Normality

As assessed by P-P Plot and histogram

Normal P-P Plot of Regression Standardized Residual

Dependent Variable: RP Enjoyment





MLR output

Correlations

		RP Enjoyment	Sex	Machiavellianism	Narcissism	Psychopathy	Social Desirability
Pearson Correlation	RP Enjoyment	1.000	.172	.289	.215	.309	-.145
	Sex	.172	1.000	.219	.146	.278	-.043
	Machiavellianism	.289	.219	1.000	.384	.490	-.325
	Narcissism	.215	.146	.384	1.000	.447	-.073
	Psychopathy	.309	.278	.490	.447	1.000	-.356
	Social Desirability	-.145	-.043	-.325	-.073	-.356	1.000
Sig. (1-tailed)	RP Enjoyment	.	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001
	Sex	.000	.	.000	.000	.000	.138
	Machiavellianism	.000	.000	.	.000	.000	.000
	Narcissism	.000	.000	.000	.	.000	.031
	Psychopathy	.000	.000	.000	.000	.	.000
	Social Desirability	.000	.138	.000	.031	.000	.
N	RP Enjoyment	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Sex	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Machiavellianism	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Narcissism	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Psychopathy	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Social Desirability	653	653	653	653	653	653

Variables Entered/Removed^a

Model	Variables Entered	Variables Removed	Method
1	Social Desirability, Sex, Narcissism, Machiavellianism, Psychopathy ^b	.	Enter

a. Dependent Variable: RP Enjoyment

b. All requested variables entered.

Model Summary^b

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.360 ^a	.129	.123	8.55552	1.983

a. Predictors: (Constant), Social Desirability, Sex, Narcissism, Machiavellianism, Psychopathy

b. Dependent Variable: RP Enjoyment

ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	7040.029	5	1408.006	19.236	<.001 ^b
	Residual	47358.424	647	73.197		
	Total	54398.453	652			

a. Dependent Variable: RP Enjoyment

b. Predictors: (Constant), Social Desirability, Sex, Narcissism, Machiavellianism, Psychopathy

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B		Correlations			Collinearity Statistics	
		B	Std. Error	Beta			Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Zero-order	Partial	Part	Tolerance	VIF
1	(Constant)	10.671	2.531		4.217	<.001	5.702	15.640					
	Sex	1.775	.852	.080	2.084	.038	.103	3.448	.172	.082	.076	.908	1.102
	Machiavellianism	.267	.077	.153	3.458	<.001	.115	.418	.289	.135	.127	.684	1.461
	Narcissism	.110	.072	.065	1.528	.127	-.031	.252	.215	.060	.056	.748	1.337
	Psychopathy	.311	.085	.173	3.677	<.001	.145	.477	.309	.143	.135	.605	1.653
	Social Desirability	-.089	.140	-.026	-.634	.526	-.364	.186	-.145	-.025	-.023	.820	1.220

a. Dependent Variable: RP Enjoyment

Collinearity Diagnostics^a

Model	Dimension	Eigenvalue	Condition Index	Variance Proportions					
				(Constant)	Sex	Machiavellianism	Narcissism	Psychopathy	Social Desirability
1	1	5.041	1.000	.00	.01	.00	.00	.00	.00
	2	.726	2.636	.00	.91	.00	.00	.00	.01
	3	.164	5.546	.00	.03	.01	.01	.04	.53
	4	.030	13.031	.03	.00	.07	.99	.14	.01
	5	.028	13.488	.06	.02	.29	.00	.80	.13
	6	.012	20.223	.91	.03	.63	.00	.01	.32

a. Dependent Variable: RP Enjoyment

Multiple linear regression – NCIMS approval

Descriptive statistics

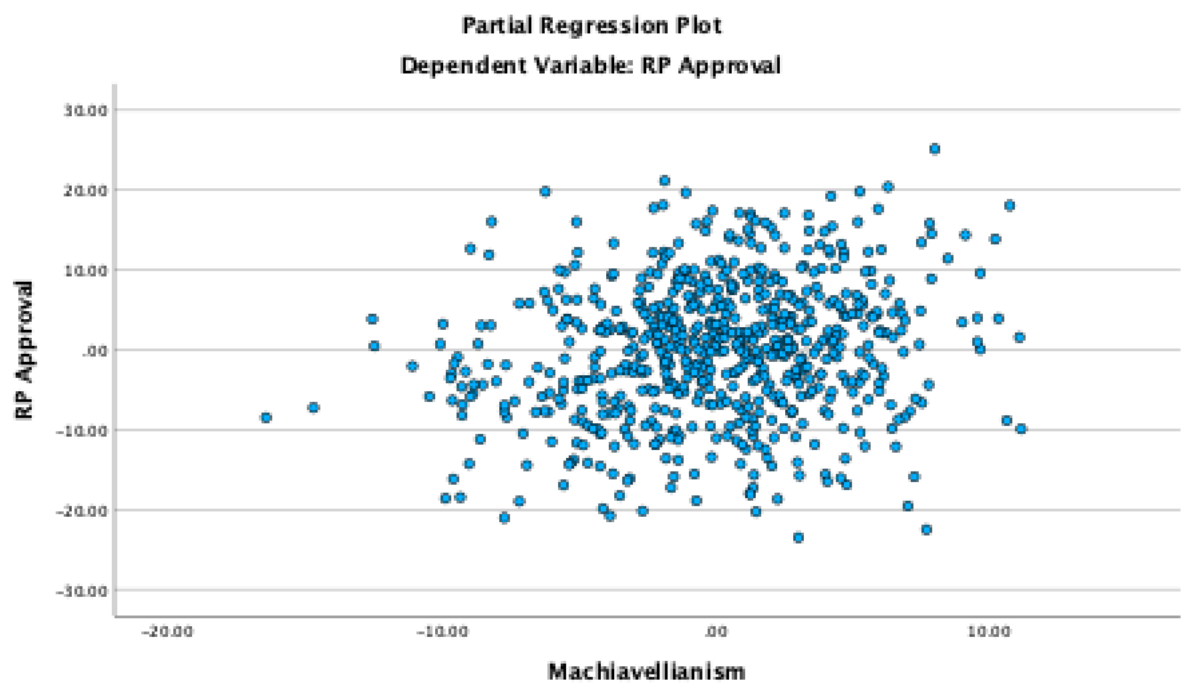
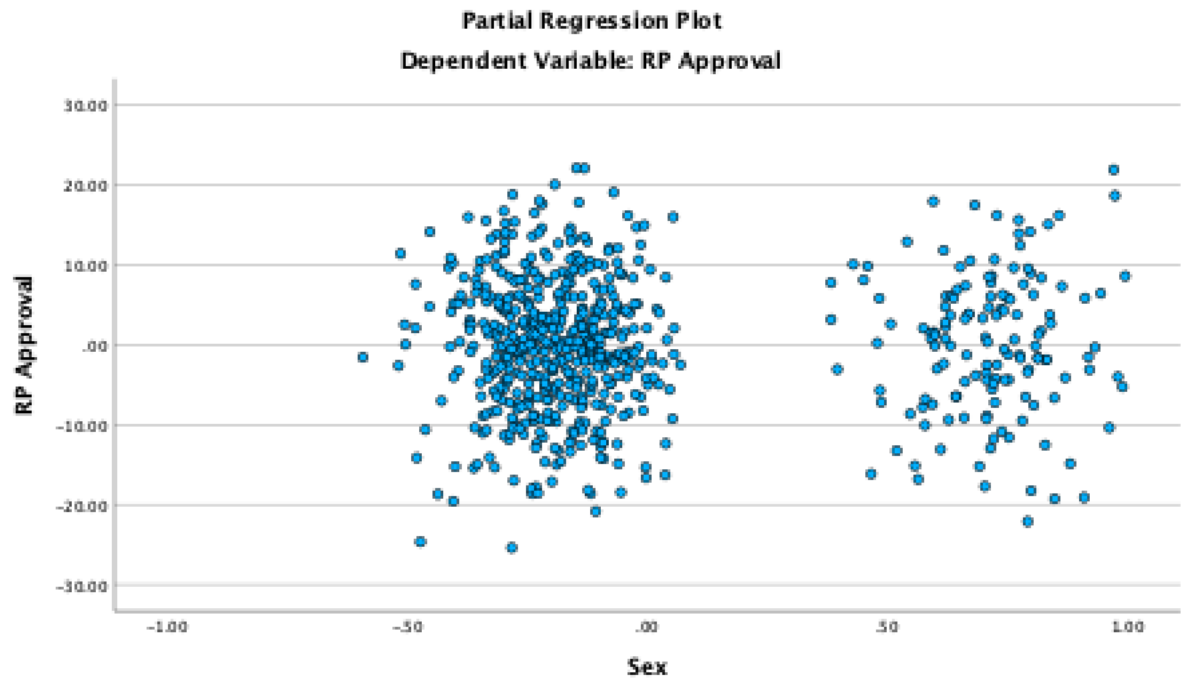
Descriptive Statistics

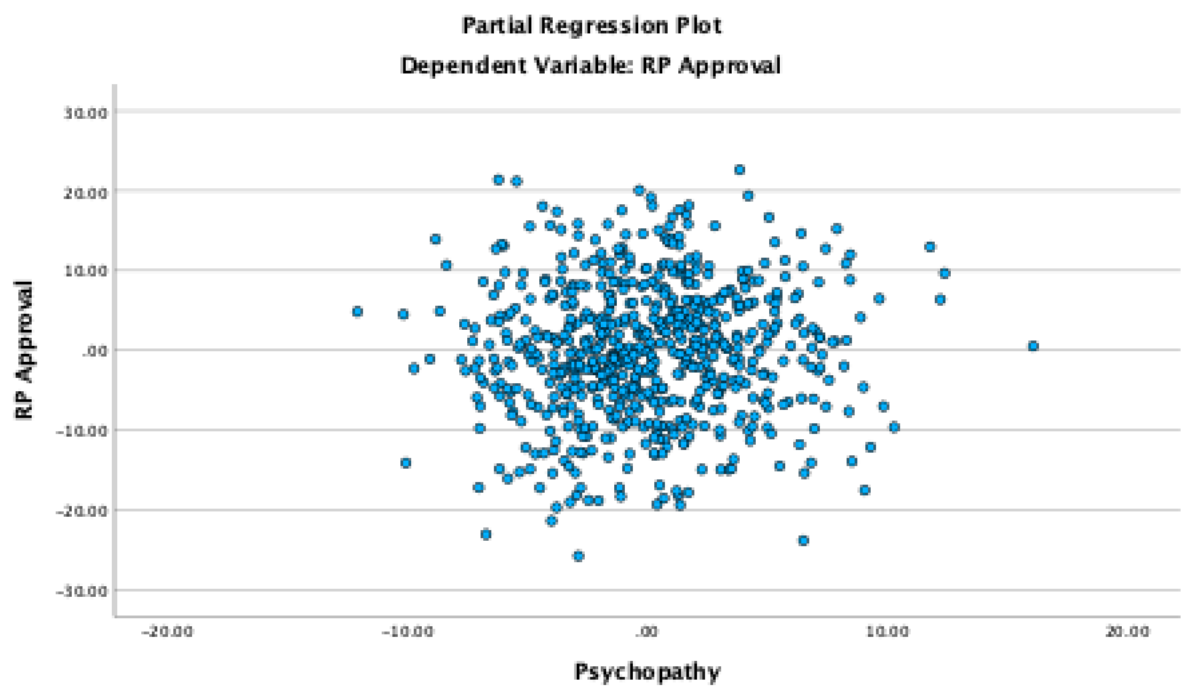
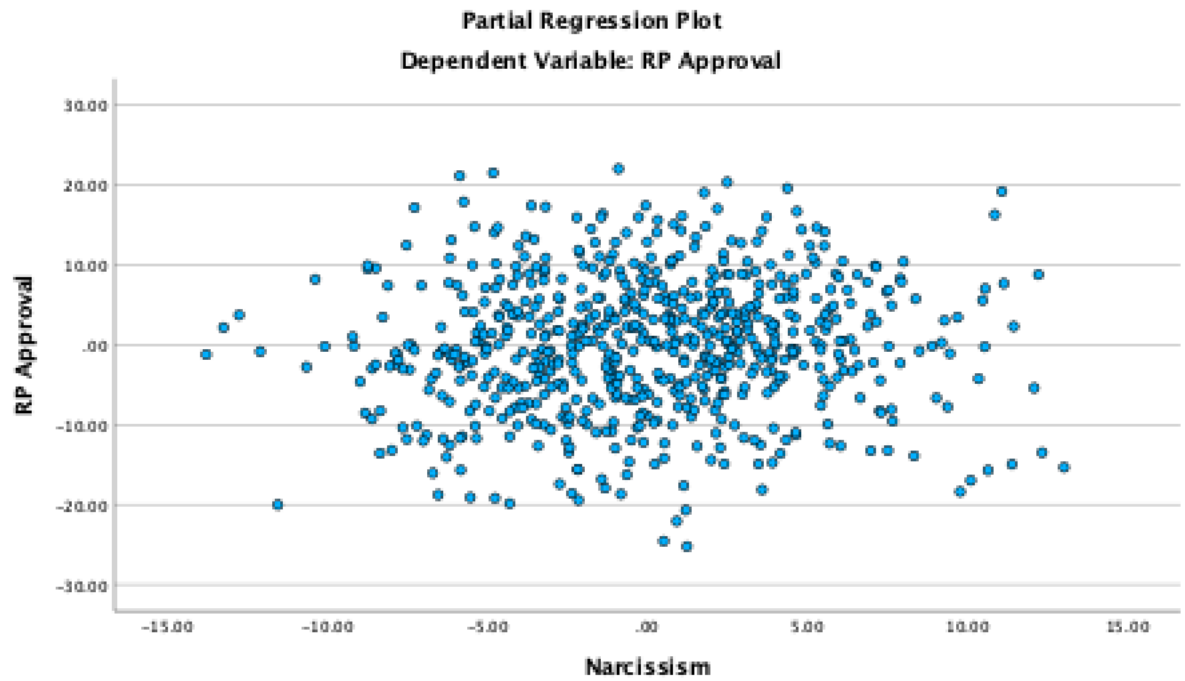
	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
RP Approval	37.3568	8.84424	653
Sex	.2175	.41283	653
Machiavellianism	27.4028	5.25063	653
Narcissism	23.0046	5.36161	653
Psychopathy	18.8208	5.09270	653
Social Desirability	6.4319	2.64001	653

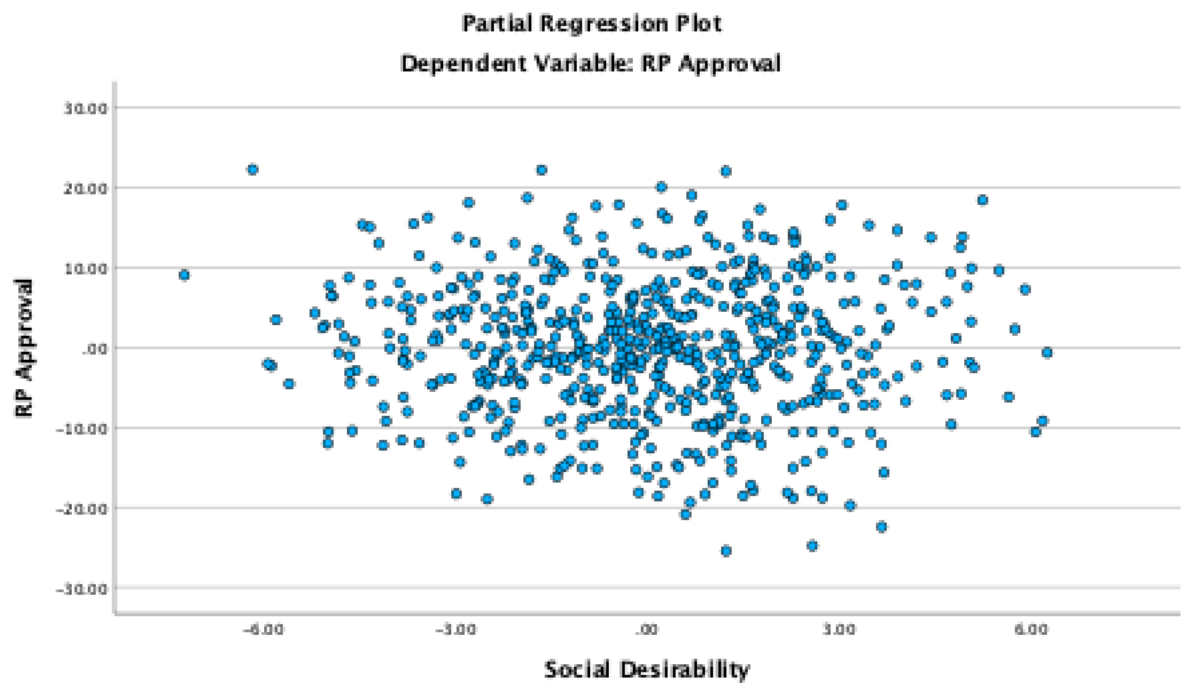
Assumptions

Linearity

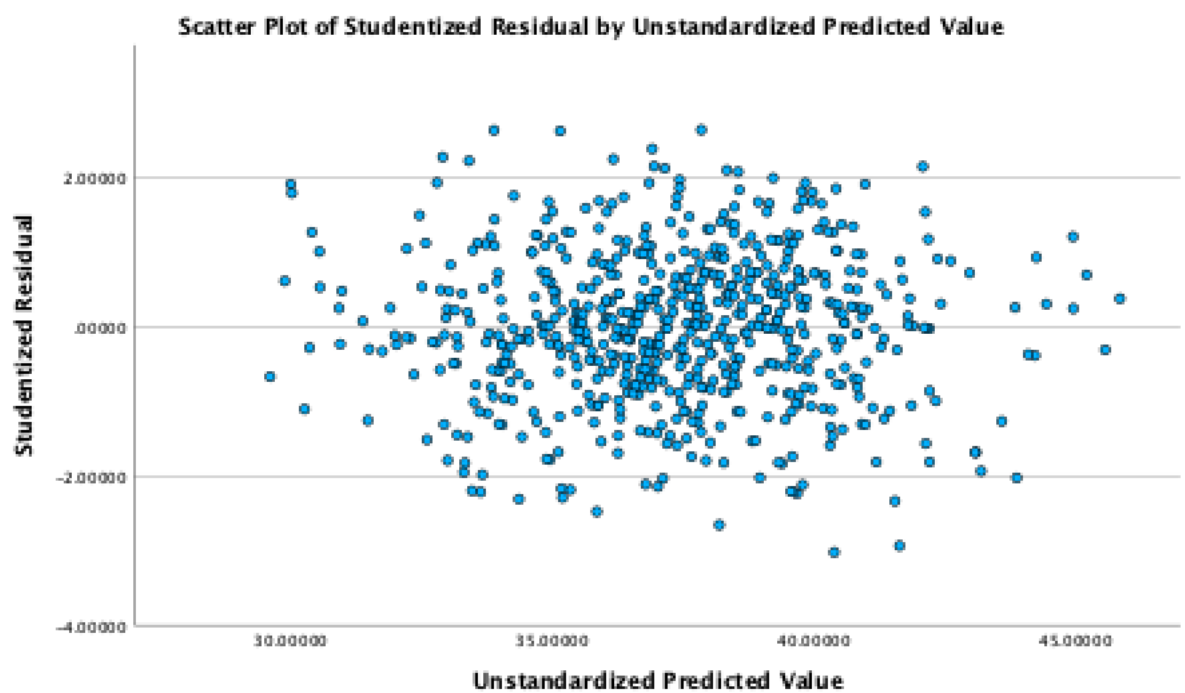
Partial regression plots and plot of studentised residuals against the predicted values.







Graph



Independence of residuals

Durbin-Watson statistic.

Model Summary^b

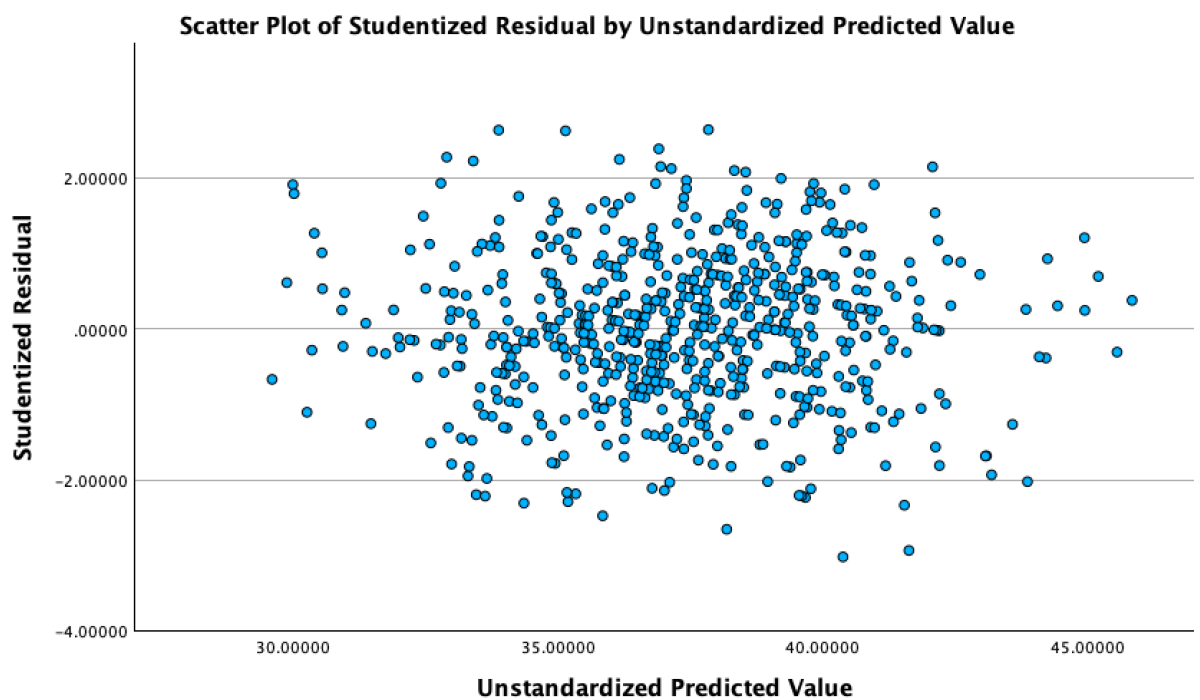
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.313 ^a	.098	.091	8.43236	2.057

a. Predictors: (Constant), Social Desirability, Sex, Narcissism, Machiavellianism, Psychopathy

b. Dependent Variable: RP Approval

Homoscedasticity

Assessed by plot of studentised residuals against unstandardised predicted values.



Multicollinearity

No independent variable correlations of greater than 0.7

Correlations							
		RP Approval	Sex	Machiavellianism	Narcissism	Psychopathy	Social Desirability
Pearson Correlation	RP Approval	1.000	.084	.293	.191	.222	-.125
	Sex	.084	1.000	.219	.146	.278	-.043
	Machiavellianism	.293	.219	1.000	.384	.490	-.325
	Narcissism	.191	.146	.384	1.000	.447	-.073
	Psychopathy	.222	.278	.490	.447	1.000	-.356
	Social Desirability	-.125	-.043	-.325	-.073	-.356	1.000
Sig. (1-tailed)	RP Approval	.	.016	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001
	Sex	.016	.	.000	.000	.000	.138
	Machiavellianism	.000	.000	.	.000	.000	.000
	Narcissism	.000	.000	.000	.	.000	.031
	Psychopathy	.000	.000	.000	.000	.	.000
	Social Desirability	.001	.138	.000	.031	.000	.
N	RP Approval	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Sex	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Machiavellianism	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Narcissism	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Psychopathy	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Social Desirability	653	653	653	653	653	653

No tolerance values of less than 0.1 or VIF values of greater than 10.

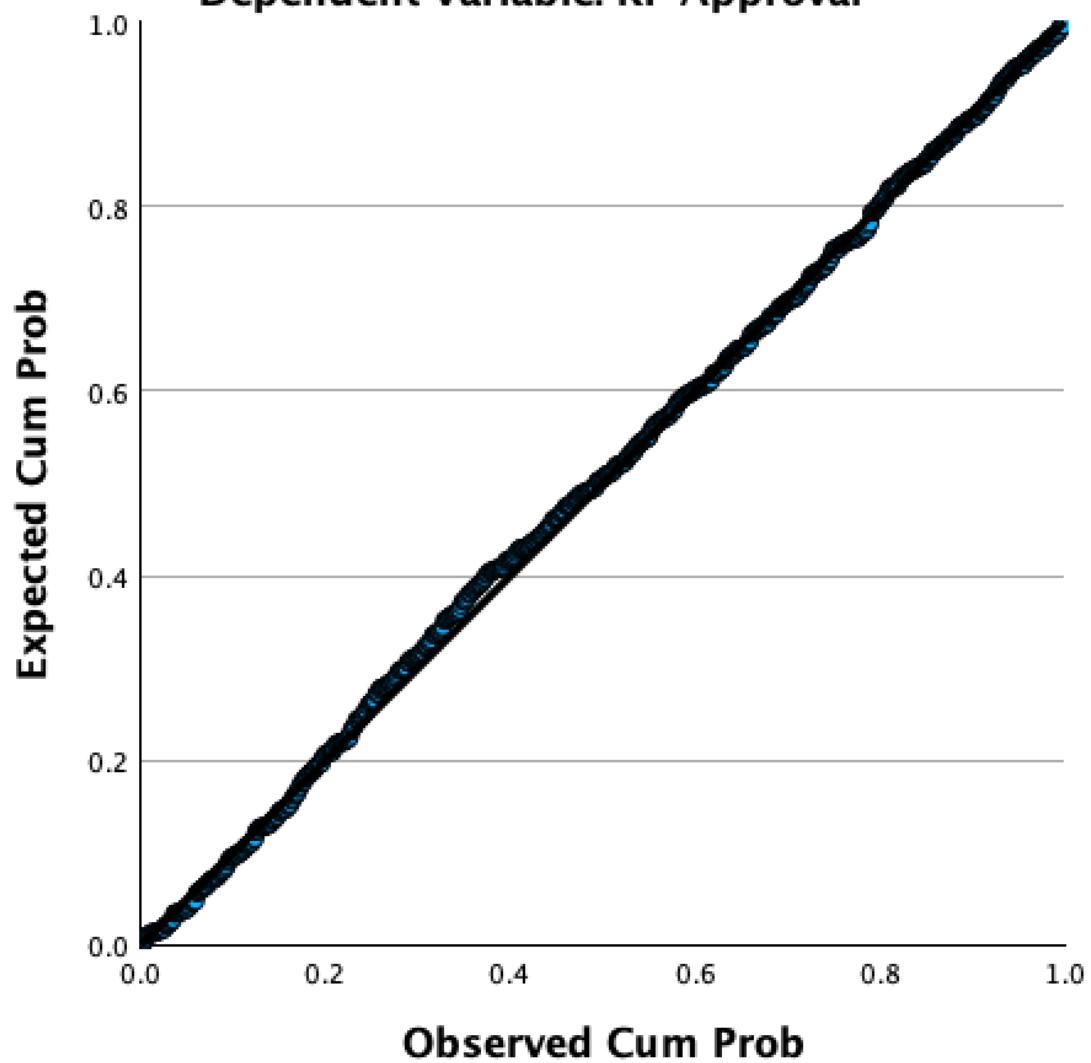
Coefficients ^a												
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients B	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B		Correlations			Collinearity Statistics	
						Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Zero-order	Partial	Part	Tolerance	VIF
1	(Constant)	22.485		9.015	<.001	17.587	27.382					
	Sex	.087	.840	.104	.917	-1.561	1.736	.084	.004	.004	.908	1.102
	Machiavellianism	.374	.076	.222	4.914	<.001	.224	.293	.190	.183	.684	1.461
	Narcissism	.118	.071	.071	1.652	.099	-.022	.191	.065	.062	.748	1.337
	Psychopathy	.127	.083	.073	1.519	.129	-.037	.222	.060	.057	.605	1.653
	Social Desirability	-.074	.138	-.022	-.533	.594	-.345	-.125	-.021	-.020	.820	1.220

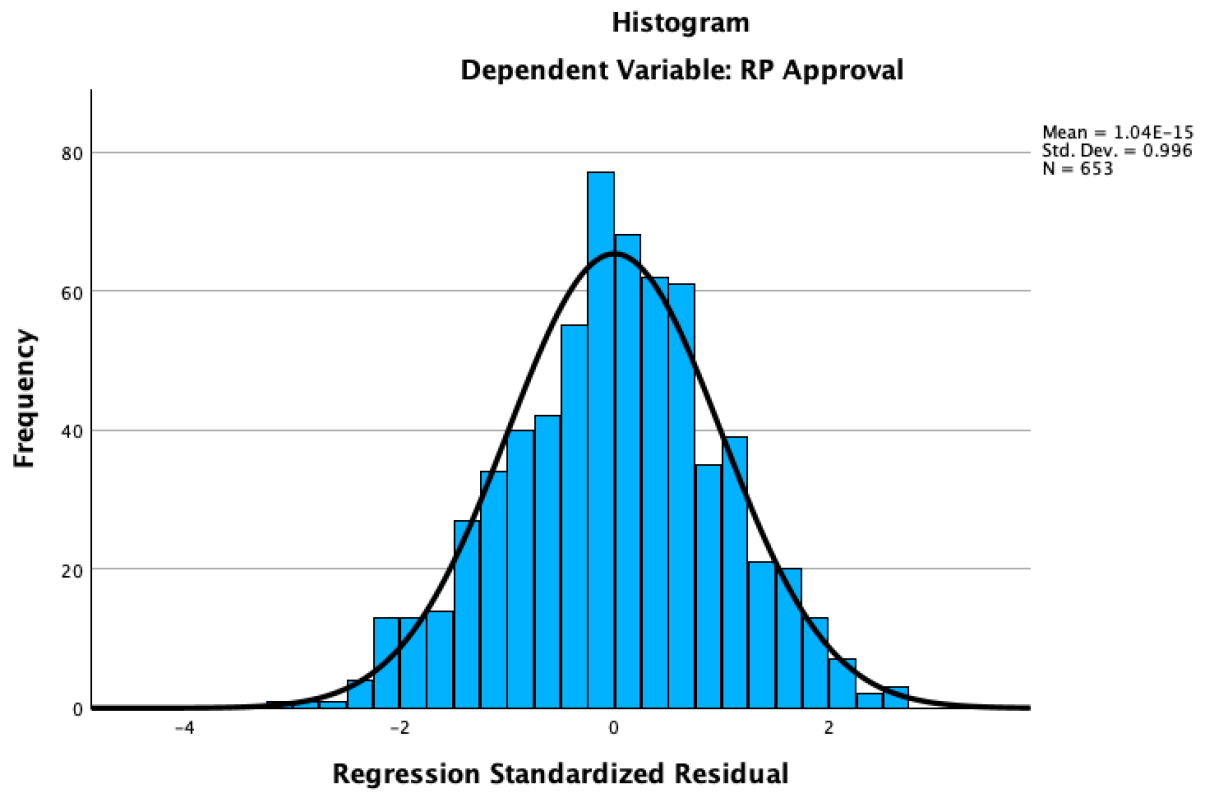
a. Dependent Variable: RP Approval

Normality

As assessed by P-P Plot and histogram

Normal P-P Plot of Regression Standardized Residual
Dependent Variable: RP Approval





MLR output

Correlations

		RP Approval	Sex	Machiavellianism	Narcissism	Psychopathy	Social Desirability
Pearson Correlation	RP Approval	1.000	.084	.293	.191	.222	-.125
	Sex	.084	1.000	.219	.146	.278	-.043
	Machiavellianism	.293	.219	1.000	.384	.490	-.325
	Narcissism	.191	.146	.384	1.000	.447	-.073
	Psychopathy	.222	.278	.490	.447	1.000	-.356
	Social Desirability	-.125	-.043	-.325	-.073	-.356	1.000
Sig. (1-tailed)	RP Approval	.	.016	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001
	Sex	.016	.	.000	.000	.000	.138
	Machiavellianism	.000	.000	.	.000	.000	.000
	Narcissism	.000	.000	.000	.	.000	.031
	Psychopathy	.000	.000	.000	.000	.	.000
	Social Desirability	.001	.138	.000	.031	.000	.
N	RP Approval	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Sex	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Machiavellianism	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Narcissism	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Psychopathy	653	653	653	653	653	653
	Social Desirability	653	653	653	653	653	653

Variables Entered/Removed^a

Model	Variables Entered	Variables Removed	Method
1	Social Desirability, Sex, Narcissism, Machiavellianism, Psychopathy ^b	.	Enter

a. Dependent Variable: RP Approval

b. All requested variables entered.

Model Summary^b

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.313 ^a	.098	.091	8.43236	2.057

a. Predictors: (Constant), Social Desirability, Sex, Narcissism, Machiavellianism, Psychopathy

b. Dependent Variable: RP Approval

ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	4995.085	5	999.017	14.050	<.001 ^b
	Residual	46004.777	647	71.105		
	Total	50999.862	652			

a. Dependent Variable: RP Approval

b. Predictors: (Constant), Social Desirability, Sex, Narcissism, Machiavellianism, Psychopathy

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B		Correlations			Collinearity Statistics	
		B	Std. Error				Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Zero-order	Partial	Part	Tolerance	VIF
1	(Constant)	22.485	2.494		9.015	<.001	17.587	27.382					
	Sex	.087	.840	.004	.104	.917	-1.561	1.736	.084	.004	.004	.908	1.102
	Machiavellianism	.374	.076	.222	4.914	<.001	.224	.523	.293	.190	.183	.684	1.461
	Narcissism	.118	.071	.071	1.652	.099	-.022	.257	.191	.065	.062	.748	1.337
	Psychopathy	.127	.083	.073	1.519	.129	-.037	.290	.222	.060	.057	.605	1.653
	Social Desirability	-.074	.138	-.022	-.533	.594	-.345	.198	-.125	-.021	-.020	.820	1.220

a. Dependent Variable: RP Approval

Collinearity Diagnostics^a

Model	Dimension	Eigenvalue	Condition Index	Variance Proportions						
				(Constant)	Sex	Machiavellianism	Narcissism	Psychopathy	Social Desirability	
1	1	5.041	1.000	.00	.01	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
	2	.726	2.636	.00	.91	.00	.00	.00	.00	.01
	3	.164	5.546	.00	.03	.01	.01	.04	.53	
	4	.030	13.031	.03	.00	.07	.99	.14	.01	
	5	.028	13.488	.06	.02	.29	.00	.80	.13	
	6	.012	20.223	.91	.03	.63	.00	.01	.32	

a. Dependent Variable: RP Approval

Appendix 13 – Dirty Dozen items and scoring information

The Dirty Dozen Scale items are published in Jonason and Webster (2010) and are available from: Jonason, P. K., & Webster, G. D. (2010). The dirty dozen: a concise measure of the dark triad. *Psychological assessment*, 22(2), 420-432. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0019265>

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<https://doi.org/10.3390/bs15060781>

The full article is available from: Kite, C., Murphy, A., & Colloff, M.F. (2025). Dark Triad Traits, Sex, and Social Desirability as Predictors of Non-Consensual Intimate Media Sharing Proclivity, Enjoyment, and Approval in UK University Students. *Behavioral Sciences*, 15(6), 781. <https://doi.org/10.3390/bs15060781>

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