

Doctoral (PHD) Dissertation
Thesis

**Enlightment of the darkness: the
relationship between personality traits,
impulsivity and malevolent creativity**

Enikő Szabó (Debreceni)

Supervisor: Dr. Nóra Pataky



UNIVERSITY OF DEBRECEN

Doctoral School of Humanities

Debrecen, 2025

Table of Contents

1. Literature overview	4
1.1. Malevolent creativity	4
1.2. Dark Triad	4
1.2.1. Machiavellianism	5
1.2.2. Narcissism	5
1.2.3. Psychopathy	6
1.2.4. Subclinical psychopathy	6
1.2. Self- efficacy	7
1.3. Self-esteem	7
1.4. Impulsivity	8
2. Pilot study - Personality Traits as Predictors of Malevolent Creative Ideation in Offenders	8
2.1. Method	8
2.1.1. Participants	8
2.1.2. Measures	9
2.1.3. Hypothesis	9
2.2. Results	10
2.3. Discussion	12
3. Enlightenment of the darkness, the relationship between malevolent creativity, personality traits and impulsivity	13
3.1. Method	13
3.1.1. Participants	13
3.1.2. Measures	14
3.1.3. Hypothesis	14
3.2. Results	15
3.3. Discussion	19
4. Conclusions	20
5. Bibliography	22

This PhD thesis begins with the premise that a large prisoner population might worsen concerns such as mental health, social isolation, and a lack of constructive outlets for creativity, perhaps leading to the blooming of malevolent creativity.

This thesis includes two key research. The first study is a pilot study that looks into the association between malevolent creative activity and particular qualities such as subclinical narcissism, psychopathy, and Machiavellianism, frequently known as the Dark Triad, efficacy, and self-worth. This type of behaviour of malevolence includes lying, playing tricks, and causing purposeful harm to other people. We proposed to investigate the role that personality has in deceitful and harmful behavior, as well as to offer insight into the psychological mechanisms and underlying motivations that drive people to engage in such conduct.

Simultaneously, in the second stage of the study, we aimed to investigate impulsivity's connection to malevolent creative behaviour, going beyond personality traits like psychopathy and Machiavellianism. Here, we place a great focus on the variations between the three samples: the experimental group - prison population the control group – which includes the normal sample and the police sample.

The overarching aim of this doctoral dissertation is to deepen the understanding of this complex and multifaceted phenomenon by examining the relationship between malevolent creativity and personality traits across multiple population samples. This PhD thesis is the result of a collaboration between the author and leading scholars in the field: David Cropley and Corinna Perchtold-Stefan, whose crucial contributions have expanded the study and increased its potential effect.

1. Literature overview

1.1. Malevolent creativity

Malevolent creativity has been referred to as "*the dark side—creativity that is deliberately planned to damage others*" (p. 106, Cropley et al., 2008). The most obvious settings in which malevolent creativity can be found are in terrorist attacks (September 11, 2001), in war, and in situations where technological innovation is used to intentionally harm others in order to secure victory for those using it.

Research has been carried out on a wider variety of samples, such as prisoners (Bochkova, 2023; Szabo et al., 2022); young offenders (Barbot et al., 2020); and people displaying abnormal conduct (Meshkova & Enikolopov, 2020). Nonetheless, it is clear that most research has concentrated on the general population, with students receiving special attention (Perchtold-Stefan et al., 2022b; Kaufman et.al., 2009).

Recent years have seen a sharp increase in research indicating a strong interest in examining the connections between the DT and malevolent creativity (Gao et. al., 2022; Bedu-Addo et. al., 2023).

1.2. Dark Triad

Breaking from social norms is a common trait among the composite personality trait axis named the Dark Triad (DT), which includes subliminal Machiavellianism, narcissism, and psychopathy. At its core lies callous manipulation (McHoskey, Worzel, Szyarto, 1998). Each characteristic has a specific meaning, and grandiosity, selfishness, and self-orientation are three characteristics that best describe narcissism (Raskin & Hall, 1979). Machiavellianism represents high levels of self-interest, the tendency to take advantage of others, exhibit manipulative behaviour, and the absence of an

ethical attitude or behaviour (Christie & Geis, 1970). The characteristics of psychopathy includes explosive conduct, antisocial behavior, carelessness about others feelings, and absence or remorse (Hare, 1983). Paulhus and Williams (2002) were among the first to identify the constellation of the Dark Triad, noting shared characteristics.

1.2.1. Machiavellianism

Machiavellians are skilled at advancing their own goals, frequently at the expense of others, through deceit and manipulation. Their self-interest pushes them to use deceit and other strategic behaviours in order to control situations and get what they want. Machiavellians are distinguished from people who value empathy and interpersonal relationships in their interactions with others by their goal-oriented style. Evidence shows that because they are good at tactics, they can also anticipate actions incoming, like fraud, being conscious of possible risks and favourable circumstances (Carré, Jones, Mueller, 2020).

1.2.2. Narcissism

Considering the overall state of narcissism theories, we will detail the origins and basis of narcissism, which could be helpful in understanding the mechanism that delays this personality disorder, which has a lifetime prevalence of 6.2% of the population (Mitra, Torrico, & Fluyau, 2024).

Narcissism was found to have a negative correlation with substance dependence in a sample of offenders. In order to preserve their appearance of moral integrity, narcissists have been observed to employ moral disengagement techniques like displacement of

responsibility (Navas et al., 2021) and disproportionality of consequences (Catala & Caparros, 2023).

1.2.3.Psychopathy

Hervey Cleckley, however, provided the first systematic description of psychopathy when he outlined its key characteristics in his 1941 book, *The Mask of Sanity*. In his detailed account, he defined psychopathy as having (at first, later, twenty-one) characteristics that are likely to be present in the general population outside of prison. Cleckley (1941) coined the term "successful psychopath" to describe psychopaths who do not engage in antisocial conduct. The behavioural traits of psychopathy are referred to as the first factor (social deviance), whereas the emotional deficit is captured by the second factor (affective/interpersonal).

1.2.4.Subclinical psychopathy

Individuals high in psychopathy exhibit a bias towards using familiar objects in divergent creativity tests, particularly in contexts where harm-based tendencies are observed, often displaying a willingness to engage in criminal behavior within these assessments.

The fact that psychopaths have issues with the legal system is not surprising (Williams, 2001); research on the subject began with criminals (Cleckley, 1941), and studies have shown that 10% of psychopaths are incarcerated. Furthermore, research indicates that they will only get into a physical altercation if they perceive a physical threat (Jones, Paulhus, 2011a). Psychopathy was the only Dark Triad trait that Azizli et al. (2016) found to be predictive of misconduct.

1.2. Self- efficacy

The assessment of one's ability to carry out the necessary actions to handle future circumstances is the focus of perceived self-efficacy (Badura, 1982), or it could be considered a "belief in one's capability to organise and execute the courses of action required to manage prospective situations" (Bandura, 1997, p. 2). People's choices of activities and settings are influenced by their sense of self-efficacy, and any factor that shapes behavior choices can have a big impact on a person's personal development (Badura, 1978). In one study (Brezina and Topalli, 2012), it was found that nearly half (48%) of the prisoners believed they had been "successful" in their criminal endeavours, indicating a high degree of criminal self-efficacy.

1.3. Self-esteem

According to Rosenberg (1965), self-esteem is the total opinion or mindset that people have about themselves. Investigating the correlation between self-esteem and different prison elements, like thinking errors (Clark, 2020), criminal social identity (Boduszek et al., 2012), early risk factors for violent offenders (Woessner, Schneider, 2013), in connection with the locus of control (Blatier, 2000), executive functioning (Baker, Ireland, 2007), offender attachment styles (Onyedibe, 2011), and coping strategies (Gudjonsson, Sigurdsson, 2003; Marshall et al., 2003), can also aid in our comprehension of the cognitive, social, and behavioral processes of offenders in correctional environments.

Low self-esteem can play a significant role in committing crimes, but there is no predictive relationship between it and recidivism in an inmate recidivist sample study (Ghasimbaklo et al., 2014).

1.4. Impulsivity

One of the first definitions of impulsivity is the inability to restrain inappropriate behaviour, to delay gratification, and to act thoughtfully (Barratt and Patton, 1983). But another definition includes a “predisposition towards rapid, unplanned reactions to internal or external stimuli with diminished regard to the negative consequences of these reactions to the impulsive individual or to others”⁸ (Evenden, 1999). Impulsivity was researched in association with dark personality traits (Malesza, Ostaszewski, 2016; Jones, Paulhus, 2011; Malesza, Kalinowski, 2019). A systematic review (Alford et al., 2020) found that impulsivity is substantially associated with various characteristics in forensic samples, including drug/alcohol intake (Davis et al., 2017), brain traumas (Schwartz, Connolly, & Valgardson, 2017), and sleep problems. Another systematic study on crime indicated that psychopathy, impulsivity, and unfavourable childhood experiences contribute to offences (Tharshini et al., 2021).

2. Pilot study - Personality Traits as Predictors of Malevolent Creative Ideation in Offenders

2.1. Method

The research was carried out from October 14, 2019 to February 28, 2020.

2.1.1. Participants

The scales for this study were completed entirely by 130 male convicts imprisoned at the Oradea Maximum Security Penitentiary. These criminals have committed a variety of crimes, ranging from

traffic offences or financial fraud to misdemeanours or even major felonies like murder. The study included a diverse range of participants, with reported ages spanning from 21 to 66 years.

2.1.2. Measures

Instruments	
Malevolent creativity	The Malevolent Creativity Behaviour Scale (MCBS; Hao et al., 2016) –translated by us
Dark Triad	The Dirty Dozen , developed by Jonason and Webster in 2010 (The Romanian version of the Dirty Dozen was translated by Dragos Iliescu)
Self-esteem	The self-esteem scale , Rosenberg, 1965 (translated into Romanian by Avramescu Răzvan, Ana Maria Oțel, Turtoi Vlad Mosoni, Antonia Mara Diaconiță, Daniel Florea, and Cristina Pavel)
Self-efficacy	The self-efficacy scale , Schwarzer and Jerusalem, 1995 (translated and validated by Roxana Dimache and Coralia Sulea)
Demographical questionnaire	Developed by us

2.1.3. Hypothesis

We developed eight hypotheses. The first posits that individuals who received their first sentence between the ages of 16 and 20 will exhibit malevolent creative ideation. The second hypothesis suggests that inmates serving multiple sentences are more likely to show such ideation. The third proposes that malevolent creative ideation is more common among prisoners who have committed violent offenses. The fourth hypothesis posits that all forms of malevolent creative ideation will be influenced by Machiavellianism. The fifth suggests that narcissism will also predict all types of malevolent creative ideation. The sixth hypothesis states

that psychopathy will predict malevolent creative ideation, while the seventh and eighth suggest that self-esteem and self-efficacy, respectively, will have an impact on it as well.

2.2. Results

Our findings align with the research conducted by Paulus and Willam (2002), confirming the existence of linkage between all three DT traits. The first hypothesis results revealed a statistically significant difference at the $p < .05$ level in scores related to harming others across the three age groups: $F(2, 126) = 6.11, p = .003$.

The second hypothesis, scores for hurting people varied significantly between the four groups at the $p < .05$ level: $F(3, 126) = 6.84, p < .001$.

The initial multiple regression model effectively predicted malevolent creative ideation related to hurting people, as evidenced by a statistically significant outcome, $F(5, 124) = 10.04, p < .001$, with an R^2 of .29. Among the variables considered, only Machiavellianism contributed significantly to the prediction ($p < .001$) (as shown in table 1a).

Table 1a: Standard Multiple Regression – Malevolent Creative Ideation (Hurting People)

Malevolent Creative Ideation (Hurting People)	<i>B</i>	95% CI for <i>B</i>		<i>SE B</i>	β	<i>R</i> ²	ΔR^2
		<i>LL</i>	<i>UL</i>				
Model						.29	.26***
Constant	2.37	-2.79	7.53	2.61			
Machiavellianism	.26***	.16	.38	.06	.43		
Psychopathy	.11	-.01	.24	.07	.16		
Narcissism	.01	-.09	.11	.05	.01		
Self-Esteem	-.05	-.21	.11	.08	-.05		
Self-Efficacy	-.05	-.18	.08	.07	-.06		

With a statistically significant result of $F(5, 124) = 5.63$, $p < .001$, and an R^2 of .18, the second multiple regression analysis successfully predicted malevolent creative ideation related to lying. Self-efficacy ($p < .05$) and Machiavellianism both significantly influenced (as shown in table 1b) the prediction ($p < .001$).

Table 1b: Standard Multiple Regression – Malevolent Creative Ideation (Lying)

Malevolent Creative Ideation (Lying)	<i>B</i>	95% CI for <i>B</i>		<i>SE B</i>	β	R^2	ΔR^2
		<i>LL</i>	<i>UL</i>				
Model						.18	.15***
Constant	-1.56	-6.00	2.87	2.24			
Machiavellianism	.17***	.07	.26	.05	.34		
Psychopathy	.07	-.05	.17	.06	.11		
Narcissism	-.01	-.10	.07	.04	-.02		
Self-Esteem	.03	-.11	.17	.07	.04		
Self-Efficacy	.11*	.00	.26	.06	.18		

2.3. Discussion

Our results only partially supported the notion that prisoners who start their criminal careers early (16–20 years old) will display more of the previously mentioned behaviour, at least for the hurting people subscale of malevolent creative ideation.

The second hypothesis was supported for the hurting people subscale of malevolent creative ideation in association with the greater number of offences committed, possibly because they are forced to cohabit with others who have committed the same or worse crimes, and they will unavoidably learn from others who have greater expertise in rule-breaking due to pressure and social learning circumstances. Aker's social learning theory posits that criminal behavior is acquired through social interactions and reinforcement mechanisms (Watt et al., 2004; Huesmann et al., 2011; Felson, Lane,

2009; Akers, 2002; Akers, 2019; Akers, 2017; Tittle et al., 2012; Cochran et al., 2016; Armstrong, 2017).

Our next hypothesis was only partially supported because Machiavellianism was found to be predictive of lying and hurting others through malevolent creative ideation. Machiavellians can weaken their competitors and bolster their own sphere of influence by disseminating false information or tricking others (O’Hair et al., 1981; Hart et al., 2019; McLeod & Genereux, 2008).

3. Enlightenment of the darkness, the relationship between malevolent creativity, personality traits and impulsivity

3.1. Method

The current study's participants were chosen from three different categories: Oradea Maximum-Security Penitentiary inmates serving their sentences, Romanian citizens, and police officers employed by the penitentiary of Oradea. Data from the adult sample was all gathered simultaneously between March 2022 and January 2024.

3.1.1. Participants

A total of $n = 368$ male participants made up the final sample for our study. These participants included 140 prisoners (average age $M = 36.44$, standard deviation $SD = 10.79$), 122 police officers (average age $M = 34.25$, $SD = 7.69$), and 106 members of the general public (average age $M = 30.20$, $SD = 12.42$). Data from the adult sample was all gathered simultaneously between March 2022 and January 2024.

3.1.2. Measures

Instruments	
Malevolent creativity	The Malevolent Creativity Behaviour Scale (MCBS; Hao et al., 2016) –translated by us
	Malevolent Creativity Test (Perchtold-Stefan et. al. 2021a; translated by us)
Machiavellianism	MACH IV Scale (Christie & Geis, 1970; translation by Gavreliuc et al., 2009)
Psychopathy	Hare PCL-R (Hare, 1991, 2003; translated by Ioan Tia and Daniela Iliescu in 2013, also Dragoş Iliescu, Ioan Tia, and Laura Mohorea)
Impulsivity	BIS-11 (Patton et al., 1995; also see Stanford et al., 2009; translated by Ana Toma)
Demographical questionnaire	Developed by us

3.1.3. Hypothesis

In contrast to the pilot study, in which eight specific hypotheses were formulated, no explicit hypotheses were conceptualized for the main study of this doctoral dissertation. Given that the pilot research was guided by clearly defined hypotheses, a more flexible approach to data analysis was adopted in the major study to allow for the identification of novel associations between malevolent creativity and variables such as Machiavellianism, psychopathy, and impulsivity, incorporating two distinct measures of malevolent creativity. The study deliberately set aside preliminary assumptions in order to enable a deeper exploration of emergent correlations among the examined variables across the three investigated samples.

3.2. Results

Data revealed that groups under examination varied significantly in their Machiavellianism scores, with police officers scoring considerably higher than prisoners ($F_{2,365} = 3.60$, $p = .028$, $\eta^2 = 0.02$). In particular, the mean Machiavellianism score was higher for police officers than for prisoners ($p = .039$).

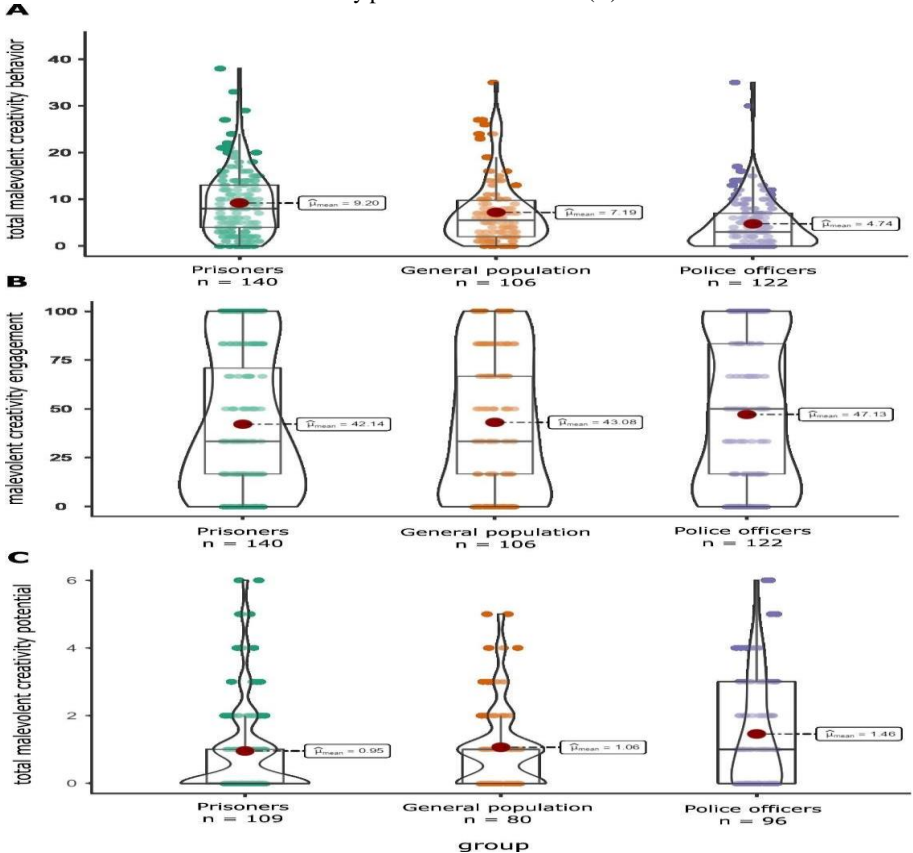
The groups differed significantly in terms of overall impulsivity ($F_{2,365} = 23.28$, $p < .001$, $\eta^2 = 0.11$). The p values of the general public and police officers were both .157, whereas the p values of prisoners were higher than those of non-prisoners (p 's $< .001$).

Particularly, compared to police officers ($p < .001$) and, to a lesser degree, the general population ($p = .064$), prisoners reported a higher level of malevolent creativity behavior (on MCBS) in their daily lives. The study found that prisoners reported a higher level of malevolent creative behavior aimed at harming people ($p = .003$) compared to police officers. In addition, compared to police officers ($p < .001$) and the general public ($p = .004$), prisoners reported participating in more malevolent creative behavior related to lying. Furthermore, when comparing the MCBS subscale of playing tricks between prisoners and police officers, the former reported significantly higher malevolent creativity behavior in this area ($p = .001$), while the latter showed no significant difference from the former ($p = .153$). Interestingly, compared to police officers, the general public reported more lying on the MCBS ($p < .001$; $F_{2,365} = 25.85$, $p < .001$, $\eta^2 = 0.12$). Police officers and the general public did not significantly differ in their use of playing tricks ($p = .436$; $F_{2,365} = 5.79$, $p = .003$; $\eta^2 = 0.03$).

Interestingly, the Malevolent Creativity Test (MCT) revealed no significant group differences regarding the willingness to

participate in malevolent creativity, either in relative terms ($F_{2,365} = 0.68, p = .508, \eta^2 < 0.01$) or absolute terms (no/yes; $X^2 = 0.36, p = .836$).

Figure 1. Group differences for total malevolent creativity behavior as self-reported on the MCBS (A), for malevolent creativity engagement on the MCT (B), and for total malevolent creativity potential on the MCT (C).



Through ANOVA analysis, a significant group difference in total malevolent creativity potential was found ($F_{2,282} = 3.45, p = .033, \eta^2 = 0.02$). In particular, when participants were compared between groups, the results showed that prisoners performed worse on the Malevolent Creativity Test (MCT) than police officers did (p

=.046), but there was no significant difference between the prison population and the general population ($p = .839$).

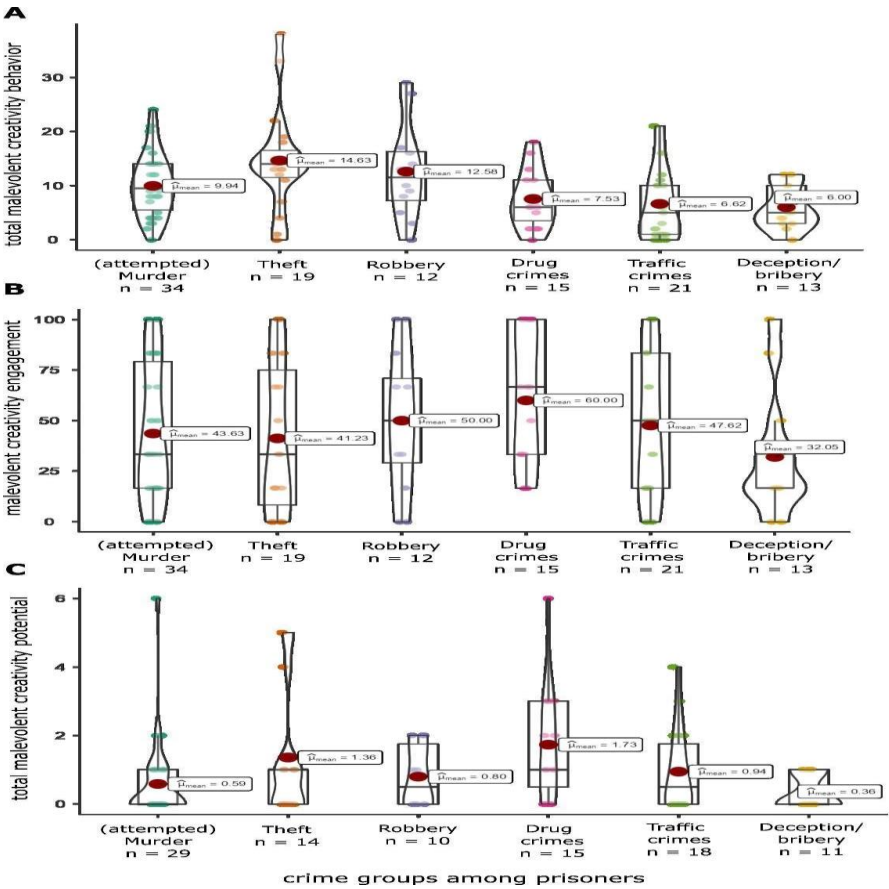
Table 2. Anova results for group differences in different aspects of malevolent creativity

		Prisoners	Police officers	General population	Anova results				
		M (SD)	M (SD)	M (SD)	df	Error	F	p	η^2
	Total Score	9.20 (7.00)	4.74 (5.58)	7.19 (6.87)			15.25	<.001	0.08
Malevolent Creativity Behavior (MCBS)	Hurting	2.94 (3.60)	1.67 (2.62)	2.60 (3.60)			4.99	.007	0.03
	Lying	3.89 (3.28)	1.51 (2.01)	2.71 (2.43)	2	365	25.85	<.001	0.12
	Tricks	2.38 (2.04)	1.56 (1.73)	1.88 (2.13)			5.79	.003	0.03
	Engagement (%)	42.14 (35.62)	47.13 (37.34)	43.08 (35.18)			0.68	.508	<0.01
Malevolent Creativity Performance (MCT)	Total Score	0.95 (1.40)	1.46 (1.58)	1.06(1.22)			3.45	.033	0.02
	Malevolence	1.09 (0.80)	1.11 (0.80)	1.07 (0.76)	2	282	0.07	.931	<0.01
	Originality	0.91 (0.66)	1.10 (0.78)	0.98 (0.68)			1.81	.166	0.01

Further analyses revealed that although there were significant differences in the overall MC score, with no group differences in MCT originality ($F_{2,282} = 1.81, p = .166, \eta^2 = 0.01$) or MCT malevolence ($F_{2,282} = 0.07, p = .931, \eta^2 < 0.01$). It was shown a positive association between the total malevolent creativity behavior with the length of sentences ($r = 0.18, p = 0.037$), the number of prior incarcerations ($r = 0.30, p < 0.001$), and the number of crimes committed ($r = 0.32, p < 0.001$). The length of a prison sentence is negatively correlated ($r = -0.23, p = 0.022$) with total malevolent creativity potential. Malevolent creativity behavior was found to be more prominent among prisoners serving sentences for theft ($p = 0.018$ compared to murder, $p = 0.003$ compared to drug-related

crimes, $p < 0.001$ compared to traffic-related crimes, $p < 0.001$ compared to deception/bribery) and robbery ($p = 0.058$ compared to drug-related crimes, $p = 0.017$ compared to traffic-related crimes, $p = 0.017$ compared to deception/bribery). Malevolent creative behavior and Machiavellianism showed a negative correlation ($r = -0.09$ to -0.17).

Figure 2. Differences for prisoner subgroups for (A) malevolent creativity behavior, (B), malevolent creativity engagement, and (C) total malevolent creativity potential.



On the other hand, characteristics of impulsiveness and psychopathy exhibited positive correlations (ranging from 0.14 to 0.53). Psychopathy (factor 1: $r = 0.13$, total: $r = 0.11$) and attentional impulsiveness ($r = 0.13$) were found to be correlated with willingness to engage in malevolent creativity on the Malevolent Creativity Test (MCT). There was a negative correlation (ranging from -0.19 to -0.24) between malevolent creativity potential and Machiavellianism, indicating that people with higher levels of Machiavellian traits may have a lower potential for malevolent creativity.

All personality traits showed positive correlations with MCT malevolence, with the exception of nonplanning impulsiveness (correlations ranging from 0.15 to 0.19).

3.3. Discussion

We discover that, when compared to police officers and the general public, prisoners reported higher scores on the Malevolent Creativity Behavior Scale (MCBS) lying subscale. MC potential and MC behavior were found to be negatively correlated, confirms that MC potential could be a necessary condition for participating in MC behavior, highlighting the importance of Hunter et al.'s malevolent innovation transformation framework (2022).

There is evidence that supports our findings that police officers scored the lowest among the three samples for malevolent creative behaviour in daily life. According to our results counted for Machiavellianism, this finding is supported by other studies; police officers scored higher on Machiavellianism compared to inmate offenders, which is consistent with the differences in Machiavellianism that were observed in other studies conducted with police officers (Semrad, Scott-Parker, 2019; Anatolyevich, and Aleksandrovna, 2020). Also, impulsivity varies between samples,

with the prisoner sample having a higher level of impulsivity (Janse et al., 2022; Příhodová et al., 2023).

Younger prisoners' greater propensity for misconduct within correctional facilities may help explain why, in the present study, younger inmates exhibited higher levels of malevolent creative behavior (Gryphon & Hepburn, 2006; McReynolds & Wasserman, 2008; Walters & Schlauch, 2008; Camp et al., 2003) and were more frequently subjected to disciplinary actions (Tewksbury et al., 2014). These findings are consistent with the broader literature identifying early age as a static risk factor predictive of recidivism (Papp et al., 2018; Goodley et al., 2021; Grieger & Hosser, 2013; Caudy et al., 2013; Labrecque et al., 2014).

Numerous studies have established a positive association between Machiavellianism and malevolent creativity (Jonason et al., 2017; Geng et al., 2024; Jia et al., 2020; Gao et al., 2022). However, in contrast to these findings, the present study identified an unexpected negative correlation between Machiavellianism and malevolent creativity within the examined samples.

Furthermore, the results of this study corroborate prior research demonstrating a positive relationship between psychopathy, as a component of the Dark Triad, and malevolent creativity (Jonason et al., 2017; Geng et al., 2024; Jia et al., 2020; Gao et al., 2022; Japp, 2023; Batey et al., 2022).

4. Conclusions

This study constitutes a pioneering contribution to psychological research within the Romanian judicial and correctional systems, addressing a significant gap in the existing literature on malevolent creativity among incarcerated individuals and correctional staff. The rising prevalence of dysfunctional behavior in

prison settings—and its demonstrable impact on recidivism—underscores the urgency of this issue, which carries substantial implications for both societal welfare and economic stability.

The findings presented in these two studies meaningfully extend the current body of knowledge on malevolent behavior. Across both investigations, incarcerated individuals consistently reported higher levels of malevolent creative behavior in everyday contexts, particularly on the Lying subscale. This pattern suggests that such behavior may, to some extent, serve as an adaptive strategy within the prison environment, potentially facilitating access to various privileges or material resources during incarceration.

Maybe because prisoners are good at deception detection, they are also masters at deception making, although they perform worse when it comes to identifying the truth (Hartwig et al., 2004).

The relevance of these findings lies in their potential applications within risk assessment, clinical practice, and intervention strategies aimed at managing impulsive behavior and associated difficulties among individuals exhibiting dark personality traits. A nuanced understanding of malevolent creative behavior and its consequences is essential for informing future efforts, particularly those focused on the development of targeted therapeutic approaches and rehabilitation programs that address the underlying psychological and social drivers of criminal conduct.

5. Bibliography

- Akers, R. (2017). *Social learning and social structure: A general theory of crime and deviance*. Routledge.
- Akers, R. L. (2002). A social learning theory of crime. *Criminological theories: Bridging the past to the future*, 135-143.
- Akers, R. L., & Jennings, W. G. (2019). The social learning theory of crime and deviance. *Handbook on crime and deviance*, 113-129.
- Armstrong, T. A. (2017). The effect of learning on crime: Contrasting a general theory of crime and social learning theory. In *Control theories of crime and delinquency* (pp. 39-52). Routledge.
- Azizli, N., Atkinson, B. E., Baughman, H. M., Chin, K., Vernon, P. A., Harris, E., & Veselka, L. (2016, January). Lies and crimes: Dark Triad, misconduct, and high-stakes deception. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 89, 34–39. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2015.09.034>
- Baker, S. F., & Ireland, J. L. (2007, November). The link between dyslexic traits, executive functioning, impulsivity and social self-esteem among an offender and non-offender sample. *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, 30(6), 492–503. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijlp.2007.09.010>
- Bandura, A. (1978). Reflections on self-efficacy. *Advances in behaviour research and therapy*, 1(4), 237-269.
- Bandura, A. (1982). Self-efficacy mechanism in human agency. *American psychologist*, 37(2), 122.
- Bandura, A. (1997). *Self-efficacy: The exercise of control*. New York: Freeman. Bandura, A., Caprara, G. V., Barbaranelli, C., Gerbino, M., & Pastorelli, C. (2003, May). Role of Affective

Self-Regulatory Efficacy in Diverse Spheres of Psychosocial Functioning. *Child Development*, 74(3), 769–782.<https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8624.00567>

- Barratt, E. S., & Patton, J. H. (1983). Impulsivity: cognitive, behavioral and psychophysiological correlates. In M. Zuckerman (Ed.), *Biological bases of sensation seeking, impulsivity and anxiety* (pp. 77–116). Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum
- Batey, M., Hughes, D., Mosley, A., Owens, C., & Furnham, A. (2022, October). Psychopathy and Openness-to-experience as predictors of malevolent and benevolent creativity. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 196, 111715.<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2022.111715>
- Bedu-Addo, P. K. A., Mahama, I., Amoako, B. M., Amos, P. M., & Antwi, T. (2023). Neglectful Parenting and Personality Traits as Predictors of Malevolent Creativity among Ghanaian Tertiary Education Students. *Creative Education*, 14(02), 232–244. <https://doi.org/10.4236/ce.2023.142016>
- Blatier, C. (2000, February). Locus of Control, Causal Attributions, and Self-Esteem: A Comparison between Prisoners. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 44(1), 97–110.<https://doi.org/10.1177/0306624x00441009>
- Bochkova, M. N. (2023). Features of the Relationship of Malevolent Creativity and Understanding of One's Own Emotions. *ПСИХОЛОГИЯ И ПРАВО*, 13(3), 136.
- Boduszek, D., Adamson, G., Shevlin, M., Mallett, J., & Hyland, P. (2012, May 18). Criminal Social Identity of Recidivistic Prisoners: The Role of Self-Esteem, Family and Criminal Friends. *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology*, 28(1), 15–25. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11896-012-9105-7>

- Brezina, T., & Topalli, V. (2012, April 9). Criminal Self-Efficacy. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 39(8), 1042–1062. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0093854812438345>
- Brugués, G., & Caparrós, B. (2021, May 26). Dysfunctional personality, Dark Triad and moral disengagement in incarcerated offenders: implications for recidivism and violence. *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law*, 29(3), 431–455. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13218719.2021.1917011>
- Carré, J. R., Jones, D. N., & Mueller, S. M. (2020, August). Perceiving opportunities for legal and illegal profit: Machiavellianism and the Dark Triad. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 162, 109942. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2020.109942>
- Caudy, M. S., Durso, J. M., & Taxman, F. S. (2013, November). How well do dynamic needs predict recidivism? Implications for risk assessment and risk reduction. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 41(6), 458–466. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2013.08.004>
- Christie, R., & Geis, F. (1970) *Studies in Machiavellianism*. New York: Academic Press
- Clark, J. M. (2020). Self-Esteem as a Predictor for Thinking Errors in Prison Inmates (Doctoral dissertation, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology).
- Cleckley, H. M. (1941, January 1). The Mask of Sanity. An Attempt to Reinterpret the So-called Psychopathic Personality. http://books.google.ie/books?id=RDDzzwEACAAJ&dq=The+Mask+of+Sanity.+Revised+Edition&hl=&cd=2&source=gbs_api
- Cochran, J. K., Maskaly, J., Jones, S., & Sellers, C. S. (2016, July 9). Using Structural Equations to Model Akers' Social Learning Theory With Data on Intimate Partner Violence. *Crime &*

- Davis, J. P., Dumas, T. M., Berey, B. L., Merrin, G. J., Cimpian, J. R., & Roberts, W. (2017). Effect of victimization on impulse control and binge drinking among serious juvenile offenders from adolescence to young adulthood. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 46(7), 1515–1532
- Evenden, J. L. (1999, October 21). Varieties of impulsivity. *Psychopharmacology*, 146(4), 348–361. <https://doi.org/10.1007/pl00005481>
- Felson, R. B., & Lane, K. J. (2009, September 10). Social learning, sexual and physical abuse, and adult crime. *Aggressive Behavior*, 35(6), 489–501. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ab.20322>
- Gao, Z., Lu, K., & Hao, N. (2023, January 1). Transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) targeting the postcentral gyrus reduces malevolent creative ideation. *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*, 18(1). <https://doi.org/10.1093/scan/nsad019>
- Gao, Z., Qiao, X., Xu, X., & Hao, N. (2022). Darkness within: The internal mechanism between Dark Triad and malevolent creativity. *Journal of Intelligence*, 10(4), 119. <https://doi.org/10.3390/jintelligence10040119>
- Geng, Y., Shi, Y., Hu, W., Jin, W., Zhang, Y., & Zhan, T. (2024, March 21). Fight Injustice with Darkness: The Effect of Early Life Adversity on Malevolent Creativity Behavior. *The Journal of Creative Behavior*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jocb.648>
- Ghasembaklo U, Mohammadyari G, Mahmodzadeh M, Mohammadzadeghan R, Mokhtari M. The relationship of social support and self-esteem with recidivism among prisoners. *J Research Health* 2014; 4 (3) :818-826

- Grieger, L., & Hosser, D. (2013, December 19). Which Risk Factors are Really Predictive? *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 41(5), 613– 634.<https://doi.org/10.1177/0093854813511432>
- Gudjonsson, G. H., & Sigurdsson, J. F. (2003, April). The Relationship of Compliance with Coping Strategies and Self-Esteem. *European Journal of Psychological Assessment*, 19(2), 117–123. <https://doi.org/10.1027//1015-5759.19.2.117>
- Hao, N., Tang, M., Yang, J., Wang, Q., & Runco, M. A. (2016, May 18). A New Tool to Measure Malevolent Creativity: The Malevolent Creativity Behavior Scale. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 7.<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2016.00682>
- Hare, R. D. (1983). *Without conscience: The disturbing world of the psychopaths among us*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster
- Hartwig, M., Granhag, P. A., Strömwall, L. A., & Andersson, L. O. (2004, March). SUSPICIOUS MINDS: CRIMINALS' ABILITY TO DETECT DECEPTION. *Psychology, Crime & Law*, 10(1), 83– 95.<https://doi.org/10.1080/1068316031000095485>
- Huesmann, L. R., Dubow, E. F., & Boxer, P. (2011). The transmission of aggressiveness across generations: Biological, contextual, and social learning processes.
- Japp, Payge, "THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DARK TRIAD TRAITS, AGGRESSION, AND MALEVOLENT CREATIVITY IN MALES AND FEMALES" (2023). *Psychology Theses, Dissertations, and Student Creative Activity*. 2. <https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/psychstudent/2>
- Jia, X., Wang, Q., & Lin, L. (2020, December 16). The Relationship Between Childhood Neglect and Malevolent Creativity: The Mediating Effect of the Dark Triad Personality. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 11.<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2020.613695>

- Jonason, P. K., & Webster, G. D. (2010, June). The dirty dozen: A concise measure of the dark triad. *Psychological Assessment*, 22(2), 420–432. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0019265>
- Jonason, P. K., Girgis, M., & Milne-Home, J. (2017, January 24). The Exploitive Mating Strategy of the Dark Triad Traits: Tests of Rape-Enabling Attitudes. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 46(3), 697–706. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-017-0937-1>
- Jones, D. N., & Paulhus, D. L. (2011, October). The role of impulsivity in the Dark Triad of personality. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 51(5), 679–682. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2011.04.011>
- Kaufman, J. C., BAER, J., & COLE, J. C. (2009, December). Expertise, Domains, and the Consensual Assessment Technique. *The Journal of Creative Behavior*, 43(4), 223–233. <https://doi.org/10.1002/j.2162-6057.2009.tb01316.x>
- Labrecque, R. M., Smith, P., Lovins, B. K., & Latessa, E. J. (2014, February 17). The Importance of Reassessment: How Changes in the LSI-R Risk Score Can Improve the Prediction of Recidivism. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, 53(2), 116–128. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10509674.2013.868389>
- Malesza, M., & Kalinowski, K. (2019, July 2). Willingness to share, impulsivity and the Dark Triad traits. *Current Psychology*, 40(8), 3888–3896. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-019-00351-5>
- Marshall, W., Marshall, L., Sachdev, S., & Kruger, R. L. (2003, July). Distorted Attitudes and Perceptions, and Their Relationship With Self-Esteem and Coping in Child Molesters. *Sexual Abuse*, 15(3), 171–181. <https://doi.org/10.1177/107906320301500302>

- McHoskey, J. W., Worzel, W., & Szyarto, C. (1998). Machiavellianism and psychopathy. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, 74(1), 192.
- Meshkova, N. V., & Enikolopov, S. N. (2020). Creativity and deviance: The present state of the issue in psychology. *Psychology and Law*, 10(3), 86-107.
- Mitra, P., Torrico, T. J., & Fluyau, D. (2024, March 1). *Narcissistic Personality disorder*. StatPearls - NCBI Bookshelf. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK556001/>
- Navas, M. P., Maneiro, L., Cutrín, O., Gómez-Fraguela, J. A., & Sobral, J. (2021, November 3). Sexism, Moral Disengagement, and Dark Triad Traits on Perpetrators of Sexual Violence Against Women and Community Men. *Sexual Abuse*, 34(7), 857-884. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10790632211051689>
- O'Hair, H. D., Cody, M. J., & McLaughlin, M. L. (1981). Prepared lies, spontaneous lies, Machiavellianism, and nonverbal communication. *Human Communication Research*, 7(4), 325-339.
- Onyedibe, M. C. C. (2011). Attachment style and self-esteem as Predictors of Psychopathic behaviour among male Prison inmates. *Nigerian Journal of Psychological Research*, 7.
- Paulhus, D. L., & Williams, K. M. (2002, December). The Dark Triad of personality: Narcissism, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy. *Journal of Research in Personality*, 36(6), 556–563. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0092-6566\(02\)00505-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0092-6566(02)00505-6)
- Perchtold-Stefan, C. M., Fink, A., Rominger, C., & Papousek, I. (2022). Social exclusion increases antisocial tendencies: Evidence from retaliatory ideation in a malevolent creativity task. *Psychology of Aesthetics Creativity and the Arts*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/aca0000500>

- Raskin, R. N., & Hall, C. S. (1979). A narcissistic personality inventory. *Psychological reports*, 45(2), 590-590.
- Rosenberg, M. (1965). Rosenberg self-esteem scale (RSE). *Acceptance and commitment therapy. Measures package*, 61(52), 18.
- Schwartz, J. A., Connolly, E. J., & Valgardson, B. A. (2017). An evaluation of the directional relationship between head injuries and subsequent changes in impulse control and delinquency in a sample of previously adjudicated males. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 56, 70–80.
- Schwarzer, R., & Jerusalem, M. (1995). Generalized Self-Efficacy scale. In J. Weinman, S. Wright, & M. Johnston, *Measures in health psychology: A user's portfolio. Causal and control beliefs* (pp. 35-37). Windsor, UK: NFER-NELSON.
- Szabó, E., Körmendi, A., Kurucz, G., Cropley, D., Olajos, T., & Pataky, N. (2022, July 21). Personality Traits as Predictors of Malevolent Creative Ideation in Offenders. *Behavioral Sciences*, 12(7), 242. <https://doi.org/10.3390/bs12070242>
- Tharshini, N. K., Ibrahim, F., Kamaluddin, M. R., Rathakrishnan, B., & Che Mohd Nasir, N. (2021). The link between individual personality traits and criminality: A systematic review. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(16), 8663. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18168663>
- Tittle, C. R., Antonaccio, O., & Botchkovar, E. (2012, March 1). Social Learning, Reinforcement and Crime: Evidence from Three European Cities. *Social Forces*, 90(3), 863–890. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/sor020>
- Watt, B., Howells, K., & Delfabbro, P. (2004, March 1). Juvenile Recidivism: Criminal Propensity, Social Control and Social

Learning Theories. *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law*, 141–153.
<https://doi.org/10.1375/1321871041336055>

Woessner, G., & Schneider, S. (2013, April). The role of self-control and self-esteem and the impact of early risk factors among violent offenders. *Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health*, 23(2), 99–112. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cbm.1863>



Registry number: DEENK/126/2025.PL
Subject: PhD Publication List

Candidate: Enikő Szabó
Doctoral School: Doctoral School of Human Sciences
MTMT ID: 10099943

List of publications related to the dissertation

Hungarian book chapters (2)

1. **Szabó, E.**, Pataky, N.: A börtönanácsadás folyamata; tanácsadó és kliens kapcsolat, és az esetvezetés szempontjai.
In: Fejezetek a tanácsadás alkalmazott területeiből a perinatális időszaktól a felnőttkorig / szerk. Pataky Nóra, Debreceni Egyetemi Kiadó Debrecen University Press, Debrecen, 91-101, 2024. ISBN: 9789636151591
2. **Szabó, E.**: Bevezetés a börtönanácsadásba.
In: Fejezetek a tanácsadás alkalmazott területeiből a perinatális időszaktól a felnőttkorig. Szerk.: Pataky Nóra, Debreceni Egyetemi Kiadó Debrecen University Press, Debrecen, 83-91, 2024. ISBN: 9789636151591

Foreign language Hungarian book chapters (1)

3. **Szabó, E.**, Körmendi, A., Pataky, N.: A kreativitás pozitív és negatív aspektusainak a lelki egészségre gyakorolt hatásai.
In: A prevenció és intervenció szempontjai a klinikai pszichológiai kutatásokban. Szerk.: Almássy Zsuzsanna Katalin, Héjja-Nagy Katalin, Debreceni Egyetemi Kiadó, Debrecen, 79-88, 2023. ISBN: 9789636150921

Foreign language scientific articles in international journals (2)

4. Perchtold-Stefan, C. M., **Szabó, E.**, Rominger, C., Fink, A., Opris, L., Pataky, N.: Criminal Genius or Everyday Villain? A Comparison of Malevolent Creativity Among Prisoners, Police Officers, and the General Population.
J. Creative Behav. 58 (4), 676-695, 2024. ISSN: 2162-6057.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1002/jocb.1512>
IF: 2.8 (2023)
5. **Szabó, E.**, Körmendi, A., Kurucz, G., Crolepy, D., Olajos, T., Pataky, N.: Personality Traits as Predictors of Malevolent Creative Ideation in Offenders.
Behavioral Sciences. 12 (7), 1-20, 2022. EISSN: 2076-328X.
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/bs12070242>
IF: 2.6





Other journal articles (1)

6. Szabó, E., Pataky, N., Körmendi, A.: A kreativitás feltáratlan oldala: a rosszindulatú kreatív viselkedés és annak mérőeszközei.
Psychiatr Hung. 38, 28-40, 2023. ISSN: 0237-7896.

List of other publications

Foreign language scientific articles in international journals (1)

7. Perchtold-Stefan, C. M., Fink, A., Rominger, C., Szabó, E., Papousek, I.: Enjoying others' distress and indifferent to threat?: Changes in prefrontal-posterior coupling during social-emotional processing are linked to malevolent creativity.
Brain Cogn. 163, 1-10, 2022. ISSN: 0278-2626.
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.bandc.2022.105913>
IF: 2.5

Foreign language conference proceedings (2)

8. Szabó, E., Szabó, K.: How personality disorders influence burn murder cases: a multiple case study.
In: *Mind, Body and Behaviour: New trends and prospects in Health, Education and Social Sciences.* Ed.: Vasile M, Editura Universitara, Bucuresti, 257-263, 2019. ISBN: 9786062808457
9. Szabó, E., Szabó, K.: The dark side of creativity and personality traits among prisoners: an exploratory study.
In: *Modern Research in psychology : Rethinking research collaborative.* Ed.: Marelina Milcu, Editura Universitara, Bucuresti, 225-232, 2019. ISBN: 9786062810337

Total IF of journals (all publications): 7,9

Total IF of journals (publications related to the dissertation): 5,4

The Candidate's publication data submitted to the Tudóstér have been validated by DEENK on the basis of the Journal Citation Report (Impact Factor) database.



02 April, 2025