**Psychopathy and Cyber Deception among Women**

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**The Current Study**

The online arena provides fertile ground for deception. According to a review of the literature, there is a lack of empirical studies examining the online behavior of psychopathic individuals, particularly studies focusing on psychopathic women. **The underlying assumption of the current study assumes that psychopathic women with high scores in Factor 1 will tend to engage more in lying, however, will also be perceived as more credible compared to non-psychopathic women.**

**Results**

**Study 1**

A Chi-Square independence Test showed a significant relationship (*ꭓ²* (1, *N*=97) = 4.322, *Phi* =0.211, *p*<.05 between psychopathy and lying on candidacy forms, according to which 77.8% of all liars were psychopaths, compared to 22.2% in the control group.

**In fact, the study findings show that psychopathic women lie more than non-psychopathic women.**

**Study 2**

An independent samples t-test was conducted for with primary psychopathic group (*M*=1.67, *SD*= 3.93) compared to the control group (*M*=-0.18, *SD*= 4.03), *t* (95) = 2.13, *p* < .05.

**It was found that the justifications of primary psychopathic women were perceived as more credible.**

**Conclusions**

It can be concluded that if an individual who has been identified as a primary psychopath is placed in a situation where they are offered the opportunity to provide false information and use manipulation to achieve their goal, they could create a highly appealing false identity to carry out their criminal intentions. This could allow them to evade legal action and blend in seamlessly with the community.

**Method**

**Study 1**

The purpose of the first study had been to compare primary psychopathic women to non-psychopathic women and to examine whether the former tend to lie more than the latter. 292 female participants completed an LPSP (Levenson's Primary and Secondary Psychopathy scales) questionnaire and a personal and sociodemographic questionnaire. Participants were sent a link that included an advert offering a lucrative job. They were required to answer a short questionnaire which included personal details and had to explain why they are suitable for the job. In the online part of the study, 67 primary psychopath women and 30 non-psychopath women were identified.

**Study 2**

The purpose of the second study had been to examine how the credibility of primary psychopathic women is perceived, compared to that of the control group. The research population (the judges) included 300 participants. Judges were told that some candidates provided their actual details, while others provided false details. Judges were then asked to access the credibility of the explanations written by the participants. Afterward, they were asked to rate their level of confidence in their own judgment, on a scale of 1-6, where 1 indicated a very low level of confidence and 6 indicated a very high level of confidence. Finally, they were asked to provide a narrative explanation of their judgment.

**Gender Differences in Psychopathy**

**Biological differences** such as body structure and size cause women to rely less on physical aggressiveness and instead tend to choose manipulation as a means to achieve their goals.

**Gendered socialization** and social expectations from women can also help explain differences between male and female psychopaths. Women are considered more flirtatious than men, a fact that can serve as a successful strategy for achieving their objectives.

The topic of psychopathy and deception has been extensively studied and supported by clinical and theoretical evidence. Research indicates that individuals with psychopathy tend to lie more frequently and for a wider range of reasons than those without the disorder. Deception is a defining characteristic of psychopathy, as those with the disorder often use it to achieve their desired goals. Studies have shown that psychopaths typically lie to advance their own personal objectives and impress those around them. They also tend to take pride in their ability to deceive without being detected.

**Primary and Secondary Psychopathy**

There are two subtypes of psychopathy – Primary and Secondary.

The primary subtype, also known as Factor 1, focuses on emotional and interpersonal traits such as narcissism, shallow affect, pathological lying, and lack of empathy.

The secondary subtype, also known as Factor 2, tends to focus on more behavioral aspects such as impulsiveness, irresponsibility, and behavioral issues.

**Introduction**

The study examines the relationships between online fraud and the tendency towards psychopathy among women and the perceived reliability level towards online fraud perpetrated by primary psychopathic women compared to women who are not psychopaths.

