

Mat de Moissac Script

Psychology 403

SID # 1222273

- Purpose: To quickly educate the symptoms of Histrionic Personality Disorder and present research that suggests an evolutionary adaptation.

- Setting: Skyview Lounge in HUB. My back will be towards the mall with the filming catching all of the bustle going on behind me. The scene will not change as the camera woman holds the camera steady in one direction the entire film. Noise will be minimal but still there for effect.

- Gone with the Wind video clip (30 seconds for interest peak and familiarity).

- Begin filming.

- Opening remark:

(Mat): Gone with the wind may be an old film, but the personality traits exhibited by its main female character, Scarlett O'Hara, have recently been gaining more attention in the field of psychology. Her behaviour exemplifies someone who has been diagnosed with Histrionic Personality Disorder. Histrionic Personality Disorder, or HPD, is most commonly associated with someone who is known as a drama queen/king or an attention seeker.

- A slide will show this next section as I read out what is written:

(Mat) More specifically, HPD is a pervasive pattern of excessive emotionality and attention seeking, beginning by early adulthood and present in a variety of contexts, as indicated by five (or more) of the following:

1. is uncomfortable in situations in which he or she is not the center of attention
2. interaction with others is often characterized by inappropriate sexually seductive or provocative behavior
3. displays rapidly shifting and shallow expression of emotions
4. consistently uses physical appearance to draw attention to self
5. has a style of speech that is excessively impressionistic and lacking in detail
6. shows self-dramatization, theatricality, and exaggerated expression of emotion
7. is suggestible, i.e., easily influenced by others or circumstances
8. considers relationships to be more intimate than they actually are

- Return to live filming

(Mat) In North America, 9.1% of the population meets the DSM criteria for having a personality disorder. .2%-.9% of the population meets the criteria for HPD. So the question that needs to be asked is this:

What causes HPD to develop and can evolutionary psychology explain its prevalence and adaptive nature?

- Show slide of 2008 report during these next sentences.

(Mat) In the US Department of Health and Human Services Child Maltreatment Report 2008, of the 772,000 “reported” child abuse cases, 71.1% of the cases involved neglect. Of only the reported cases of child abuse, that means that nearly 550,000 children are emotionally neglected by their parents.

- Return to live filming

(Mat) In a study done by Lobbstael, Arntz, and Bernstein, this 2008 report would appear to show troubling findings. Their study “investigated the relationship between five forms of childhood maltreatment, sexual, physical and emotional abuse, emotional and physical neglect, and 10 personality disorders. What they discovered was that neglect was the greatest child abuse related risk factor for developing histrionic personality disorder.

- Show table of results highlighting emotional neglect and HPD during this next sentence.

(Mat) They stated that “the finding that emotional neglect was related to HPD is consistent with the idea that attention seeking is a central dynamic in the genesis of histrionic behaviour (Bornstein, 1999).”

- Return to live video

(Mat) A theory based on the diathesis stress model, biosocial theory, provides an evolutionary psychology explanation between emotional neglect and HPD. The theory states that “the combination of a biological vulnerability to emotional dysregulation and an invalidating environment, for example, abusive parents, leads to borderline personality.” Because HPD has only recently been distinguished as its own personality disorder and because it shares much of its description with borderline personality disorder, biosocial theory and other diathesis stress models appear to be viable explanations for the prevalence of HPD.

To protect one’s self, one’s being, the emotionally neglected child begins to behave in the best way that he/she knows; that is, seeking out every possible behaviour that could attract the attention that they were starved from as children. And if the parents were raised in similar environments with personality traits that are exaggerative, self-seeking, and emotionally suggestible, there is greater risk that an emotionally neglected child could develop HPD. Based on these recent findings, an argument can be made that HPD is actually an evolutionary adaptation as a result of childhood emotional neglect. The emotionally neglected child is, therefore, at risk of an evolutionary adaptation that is falsely beneficial.

- focus away from me towards HUB and slowly fade out

- Estimated time: 4:27 including the opening video clip.