

### **Competition notice**

Project title: **Hormonal underpinnings of narcissism in women: The role of estradiol across the ovulatory cycle**

Research project manager: prof. dr hab. Marcin Zajenkowski

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### **Project description**

Grandiose narcissism is characterized by a strong drive to attain high status and a belief in one's superiority over others. The current project aims to identify a hormonal factor associated with these narcissistic tendencies. Previous studies focused almost entirely on men, testing the relationship between narcissism and testosterone. It has been suggested that for women, the levels of estradiol – not testosterone – are likely to correlate with narcissism. However, this hypothesis has not been tested yet. Therefore, in this study, we hypothesize that narcissism in women would be associated with higher levels of estradiol.

Grandiose narcissism is considered multidimensional, comprising two dimensions: agentic narcissism and antagonistic narcissism. Agentic narcissism is characterized by overly inflated self-views, feelings of grandiosity, an excessive sense of entitlement, and the tendency for self-enhancement and self-promotion to gain admiration from others. Antagonistic narcissism reflects a self-defensive tendency aimed to protect the threatened ego and manifests in the devaluation of others, aggressiveness, and a desire to see others fail. A recent study conducted with a relatively large sample of men has shown that among the dimensions of grandiose narcissism, only agentic narcissism (but not antagonistic) was positively associated with testosterone levels tested from blood.

We expect to find an association of estradiol with both the stable trait of narcissism (agentic dimension) as well as a temporary state of (agentic) narcissism during the menstrual cycle. Additionally, we will assess the behavioral, cognitive, and motivational expressions of narcissism and estradiol. Specifically, we plan to examine participants' views, motivational tendencies, and cognitive functioning. Our study will employ a longitudinal design, with multiple assessments of a group of women during different phases of the menstrual cycle to capture varying estradiol levels. Natural fluctuations in ovarian hormones across the menstrual cycle allow for noninvasive studies of the psychological correlates of estradiol.

### **Requirement**

- Psychology graduate
- Knowledge of applied statistics in psychology
- Knowledge of personality assessment methods

Experience in conducting psychological research, especially in the field of personality and psychoendocrinology.

**Discipline:** psychology

**Admission limit:** 1

### **Recruitment schedule**

- registration of Candidates: 11.07.2024 – 25.07.2024
- qualification procedure: 30.07.2024
- announcement of the ranking list: 1.08.2024
- accepting documents from qualified candidates: 19.08.2024, 2pm
- announcement of the list of accepted candidates: 20.08.2024

### **Recruitment fee**

**200 PLN**

### **Form of the selection procedure**

Evaluation of the following elements shall be taken into account in the selection process:

- The candidate's scientific activities based on their CV or resume, documented with scanned materials attached to the application for admission to the School;
- An interview with the candidate;
- Other achievements.

### **Language of the selection process, including the interview**

The interview shall be carried out in Polish or English – in accordance with the candidate's preferences. If the Polish language is selected, the interview may include parts in English.

### **Required documents**

- 1) indication of the selected discipline in which the candidate plans to pursue education
- 2) a scan of the graduation diploma of uniform master's degree or postgraduate studies or an equivalent diploma obtained under separate regulations. In the case of a diploma equivalent to a uniform master's degree or postgraduate studies graduation diploma, a candidate shall justify such equivalence. In case the diploma was issued in a language other than Polish or English, the candidate shall attach its certified translation;
- 3) a resume or CV outlining the candidate's scientific activity, including scholarly interests and achievements during the five calendar years preceding the application (if a candidate became a

parent during this time, as evidenced by a scan of the child's birth certificate attached to the application, this period shall be extended by two years for each child), including, but not limited to:

- publications,
  - research and organizational work at student research groups,
  - participation in scientific conferences,
  - participation in research projects,
  - awards and honorable mentions,
  - research internships,
  - research skills training programs completed,
  - activities promoting science,
  - activity in science movement representative bodies,
  - average of their university grades,
  - professional career,
  - level of proficiency in foreign languages;
- 4) scans of materials evidencing scientific activity mentioned in their CV and/or resume;
  - 5) a document confirming at least B2 proficiency level in English or a declaration of the level of proficiency in English allowing education at the School;
  - 6) the scan of a declaration by the planned supervisor, confirming their agreement to undertake the duties of a supervisor and of the number of doctoral students, for whom they perform the duties a designated supervisor, in accordance with the template constituting Appendix no.4 to the Resolution no. 17 of the Senate of the University of Warsaw of 20th January 2021 on rules of admission to doctoral schools at the University of Warsaw (the University of Warsaw Monitor of 2024, item 120), the candidate may also attach a scan of their planned supervisor's opinion and opinions of other academics about the candidate and their scientific activity and/or proposed research project;
  - 7) the photograph of a candidate's face that allows for their identification;
  - 8) a declaration confirming whether the candidate was or is a doctoral student or a participant of doctoral studies or whether they have initiated a doctoral dissertation process or whether proceedings to award them a doctoral degree have been initiated – and if yes, the title of their doctoral dissertation or the research project prepared by a candidate, including the name and last name of the candidate's tutor or supervisor;
  - 9) a declaration confirming that they have reviewed the Resolution no. 17 of the Senate of the University of Warsaw of 20th January 2021 on rules of admission to doctoral schools at the University of Warsaw (the University of Warsaw Monitor of 2024, item 120) and Articles 40 and 41 of the Code of Administrative Procedure;

### **Evaluation criteria**

A person who does not hold a doctoral degree and is not a participant in a doctoral school can enter the competition. The competition is conducted by a committee appointed by the head of the entity that is the applicant, in which the research project will be carried out. The committee is composed of the project manager as the chair and at least two individuals appointed by the manager who have the appropriate scientific or professional qualifications. The committee evaluates candidates on a point scale, taking into account their competence to carry out specific tasks in the research project and their previous scientific achievements, developing a ranking of candidates based on the following criteria:

- Competence to carry out specific tasks in the research project (70% of the final assessment):
  - 3 points: very good;
  - 2 points: good;
  - 1 point: weak;

- 0 points: lack of competence.
- Candidate's scientific achievements, including publications in reputable publishers/scientific journals (30% of the final assessment):
  - 4 points: outstanding;
  - 3 points: very good;
  - 2 points: good;
  - 1 point: weak;
  - 0 points: no scientific achievements.

### **Education program**

The education lasts 4 years. It includes obligatory classes and the implementation of an individual research program, carried out under the supervision of a supervisor. Beginning of education – October 1, 2024.

### **Scholarships**

During the four years of study, the PhD student receives a scholarship in the amount of PLN 4266,57 gross per month before a PhD student's mid-term evaluation and PLN 5119,89 gross per month after the PhD student's mid-term evaluation.