

NR582 **Wednesday, May 26, 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.**

Adult Attachment Styles and Personality Pathology

Kenneth N. Levy, B.A., Yale Psych Institute, P.O. Box 12A Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520

Summary:

Objective: To examine the relationship between attachment difficulties and personality disorders.

Method: 111 male and 106 female non-clinical subjects (ages 17 to 28, median = 19), completed the Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory (MCMI) and the Adult Attachment Questionnaire (AAQ).

Results: Attachment security correlated negatively and avoidance of attachment correlated positively with the Schizoid, Avoidant, Schizotypal, Anxiety, and Dysthymia scales. Secure attachment also correlated negatively with the Passive-Aggressive scale. Anxious ambivalence correlated positively with Schizoid, Avoidant, Dependency, Passive-Aggressive, Schizotypal, Borderline (BPD), Anxiety, Somatoform, and Dysthymia scales. Additionally, 20 subjects (9%) met the cutoff for probable borderline personality disorder (BPD), of which 19 were of insecure attachment, and all eight subjects (4%) who were definite for BPD were of insecure attachment. *Discussion:* Anxious ambivalent attachment is related to measures of borderline, dependent, and passive-aggressive personality disorders and measures of anxiety, somatoform, and dysthymia. Fearful avoidant attachment characterized by a desire for relatedness but fear of intimacy is related to avoidant and schizoid personality disorder. Dismissing avoidant attachment characterized by a denial of the need or desire for intimacy is related to antisocial and paranoid personality disorders. These results are congruent with attachment theory and research.