

**Dependent and Self-Critical Personality Disorders**

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**Summary:**

*Objective:* To investigate the relationship between anaclitic dependency and self-critical depression and DSM-III-R personality disorders.

*Method:* Seventy-six severely disturbed adolescent and young adult inpatients were assessed reliably with the Personality Disorder Examination and also completed the Depressive Experiences Questionnaire. Subjects were 39 males and 37 females, average age = 19.8 years (S.D. = 5.7).

*Results:* As predicted, anaclitic dependency was positively and significantly related to criteria met for borderline ( $r = .22, p < .03$ ), histrionic ( $r = .30, p < .02$ ), and dependent ( $r = .39, p < .002$ ) personality disorders and significantly negatively correlated with criteria for schizoid personality disorder. ( $r = -.31, p < .01$ ). Self-criticism, as predicted, was significantly related to the number of criteria met for schizoid ( $r = .29, p < .03$ ), schizotypal ( $r = .27, p < .04$ ), borderline ( $r = .30, p < .01$ ), and narcissistic ( $r = .33, p < .03$ ) personality disorders. Additionally, the differences between the correlations of these various personality disorders with anaclitic dependency and self-criticism were significant.

*Conclusions:* The anaclitic dependency—self-critical distinction appears to have greater generality beyond its usefulness of differentiating between two types of depression and appears to a useful basis for the conceptualization of psychopathology.