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Personality and psychopathology: Comparison of the correlation patterns on the Freiburg Personality Inventory (FPI-R) and Brief Symptom Inventory (BSI)

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The objectives of this study were to investigate the correlations between personality traits and psychopathology clusters in the sample of Croatian female and male university students.
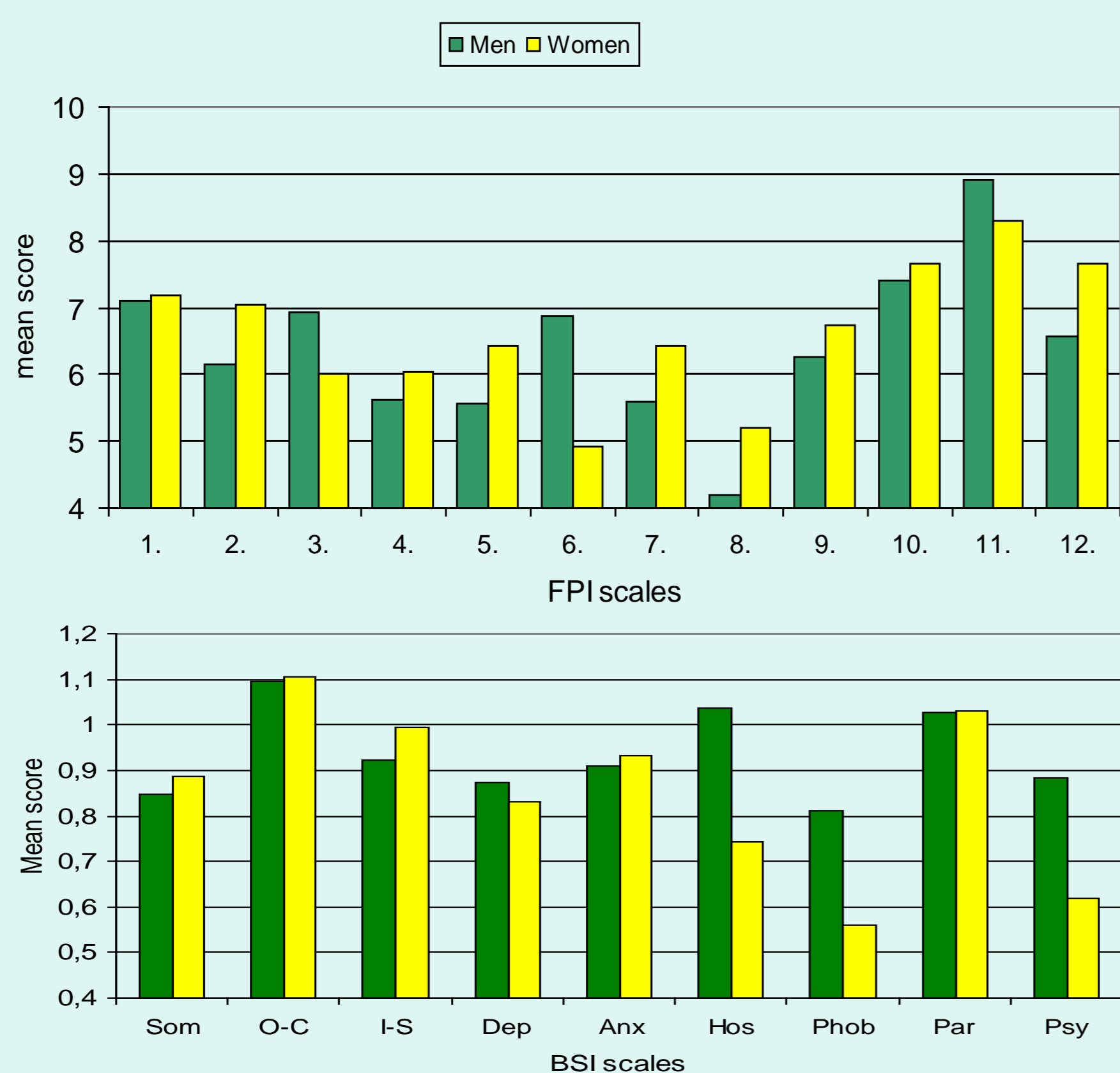
BSI (Derogatis & Spencer, 1982; Štribić, 2005) contains 53 items rated on a 5-point scale (from *0=not at all to 4*= extremely) to reflect respondents' distress during the previous week. 49 items are designed to measure 9 specific types of problems: **1. Somatization; 2. Obsessive-compulsive problems; 3. Interpersonal sensitivity; 4. Depression; 5. Anxiety, 6. Hostility; 7. Phobic anxiety; 8. Paranoid ideation and 9. Psychoticism.** The remaining 4 items do not load on any individual subscale but contribute to 3 global indexes of distress: **The Positive Symptom Total (PST), The Positive Symptom Distress Index (PSDI) and Global Severity Index (GSI).**

FPI-R and BSI female and male profiles

RESULTS

For the comparison of male and female groups, the one-way analysis of variance **(ANOVA)** was applied. The males significantly (p<0,05) distinguished from females in **8 out of 12 FPI** subscales: social orientation, achievement orientation, irritability, aggressiveness, strain, somatic complaints, extraversion and emotionality; and **3 out of 9 BSI** subscales: hostility, phobic anxiety and psychoticism.

Method: The research was carried out on a sample of 302 Croatian university students ranging in age from 19 to 27 years old (M=21,25; SD=1,56). Two self report measures were administered: Freiburg Personality Inventory (FPI-R) and Brief Symptom Inventory (BSI). The inventories were anonymous and administered in groups of 20 to 100 students. Confidentiality of the data was assured. Upon completion of the study a counseling service was offered to the students who had participated.

FPI-R (Fahrenberg et al. 2008) consists of 138 dichotomous items designed to measure 12 personality traits: **1. Life satisfaction; 2. Social Orientation; 3. Achievement orientation; 4. Inhibition, 5. Irritability; 6. Aggressiveness; 7. Strain; 8. Somatic complaints; 9. Health concerns; 10. Frankness; 11. Extraversion; 12. Emotionality**

Correlations between FPI-R and BSI subscale scores in male and female subgroups

MALES (N=132)											
FPI –BSI	SOM	O-C	I-S	DEP	ANX	HOS	PHOB	PAR	PSY	GSI	PST	PSDI
1	-0,18	-0,32	-0,28	-0,35	-0,22			-0,26	-0,30	-0,27	-0,29	-0,20
2												
3												
4	0,23	0,29	0,26	0,22	0,24		0,20	0,30	0,19	0,25	0,25	0,20
5	0,24	0,19	0,21		0,27	0,35	0,19	0,17		0,23	0,22	0,24
6	0,24				0,21	0,29	0,22	0,20		0,19		0,20
7	0,36	0,26	0,26	0,25	0,30	0,32	0,25	0,35	0,25	0,32	0,30	0,33
8	0,53	0,39	0,34	0,43	0,48	0,45	0,44	0,42	0,45	0,48	0,42	0,44
9	0,29				0,21	0,21	0,26	0,20		0,20	0,19	0,19
10												0,19
11												
12	0,48	0,42	0,38	0,36	0,47	0,45	0,38	0,47	0,38	0,46	0,44	0,50

FEMALES (N=170)											
FPI –BSI	SOM	O-C	I-S	DEP	ANX	HOS	PHOB	PAR	PSY	GSI	PST	PSDI
1	-0,26	-0,48	-0,44	-0,59	-0,48	-0,34	-0,31	-0,39	-0,41	-0,52	-0,48	-0,40
2												
3												
4		0,17	0,26	0,17							0,19	
5	0,26	0,38	0,35	0,36	0,44	0,50	0,33	0,33	0,29	0,45	0,39	0,39
6	0,26	0,26		0,19	0,27	0,43	0,18	0,30		0,31	0,30	0,28
7	0,35	0,39	0,38	0,40	0,48	0,34	0,27	0,39	0,28	0,46	0,41	0,35
8	0,62	0,42	0,40	0,36	0,54	0,38	0,39	0,32	0,35	0,54	0,56	0,32
9		-0,18										-0,24
10	0,28	0,38	0,33	0,37	0,37	0,34	0,34	0,40	0,35	0,44	0,44	0,31
11												
12	0,45	0,52	0,57	0,59	0,62	0,53	0,47	0,53	0,50	0,67	0,63	0,50

Only significant correlations are presented (p<0,05)

The **correlations** between all observed indicators (12 variables from FPI-R and 9 variables from BSI) were calculated separately for males and females. There are a few aspects of the matrix that are worth mentioning: first, it is notable that in both, females and males participants, social orientation, achievement orientation and extraversion do not correlate with any BSI symptom cluster and, as expected, the highest correlations were between emotionality and all BSY symptoms clusters. Furthermore, the somatic complaints show highest correlations with all BSI clusters, both in female and male students. In females, higher results in BSI are connected with less life satisfaction and with less willingness to be conformist.