Results

Factors | ASD/Negative Schizotypy
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Low Social Skill | 0.844 | -0.068
Constricted Affect | 0.291 | 0.266
No Close Friends | 0.779 | 0.288
Low Communication | 0.736 | 0.228
Excessive Anxiety | 0.712 | 0.072
Excessive Social Anxiety | 0.708 | 0.274
Odd Speech | 0.579 | -0.580
Suspiciousness | 0.537 | 0.572
Odd or Eccentric Behavior | 0.454 | 0.477
Attention to Detail | 0.056 | 0.402
Odd Beliefs or Magical Thinking | 0.091 | 0.728
Ideas of Reference | 0.256 | 0.811
Unusual Perceptual Experiences | 0.146 | 0.845

For the factor analysis, low social skill, low attention switching, poor communication, excessive social anxiety, no close friends, and constituted affect had all high loadings on the first factor. Ideas of reference, odd beliefs or magical thinking, and unusual perceptual experiences loaded onto the second factor. Odd or eccentric behavior, odd speech, and suspiciousness were equally weighted on both factors. Based on the loadings included in each factor, we named the first factor Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)/negative schizotypy, as this encapsulated the behaviors of these disorder. The second factor was named positive schizotypy, as the three main loadings are indicative of positive schizotypal traits (Kaufman & Paul, 2014).

As seen by the two factors’ correlations with personality as tested by the 107 participants, there are some personality traits with which the factors converge and others that diverge. Specifically, both factors have significant positive correlations with conscientiousness and introversion/schizotypy. The ASD/negative schizotypy factor has significant negative correlations with each of the big five personality factors. The positive schizotypal factor also shows a significant positive correlation with openness/intellectual.

The domain of the CASQ that were significantly positively correlated with the ASD/negative schizotypal factor were music composition, dance, architecture, creative writing, humor, and total achievement. The only domain that showed a statistically significant correlation with the ASD/negative schizotypal factor was humor in the negative direction. Creative identity showed the strongest correlations of all of the domains tested especially with the ASD/negative schizotypal factor showing a strong negative correlation, and positive schizotypal a small but significant positive correlation. Everyday creativity’s artistic measures showed higher correlations with both the ASD/negative schizotypal factor and the positive schizotypal factor than the intellectual achievement sub-measures.

Discussion and Conclusions

Beginning with the factor analysis loadings, the individual tests of the ASQ and SPQ were analyzed and condensed to two major factors. This led to a more meaningful comparison of the two distinct sub-categories of schizotypy: the negative and positive symptoms. This pattern is seen in clinical schizotypia, and schizotypy also displays this duality with negative schizotypal symptoms representing a deficit in normal behaviors, and positive traits representing the addition of an abnormal trait (Kaufman & Paul, 2014). The positive schizotypal traits are most significant in regards to creativity (Lindell, 2014). We found that these positive traits are unique to the spectrum characteristic of schizotypy apart from ASD. By performing the factor analysis, we saw that the deficit seen in negative schizotypy align well with those traits associated with the autism spectrum. Because of this alignment and overlap between the ASQ and SPQ, any individual’s score on either the ASQ or SPQ was not significant.

As with the individual tests, the correlation matrix for the two factors was: 0.728** (for the ASD/negative schizotypal factor; positive schizotypal factor). This demonstrates the strong relationship between the two factors. This finding supports the idea of a duality, with negative schizotypal traits representing a deficit in normal behaviors, and positive traits representing the addition of an abnormal trait (Kaufman & Paul, 2014).

To start with creative identity, the ASD/negative schizotypal factor was significantly negatively correlated. This indicates that individuals scoring high on this factor did not self-identify as being creative or having significant creative ability. The positive schizotypal factor, however, showed significant positive correlation with creative identity, showing that individuals self-identify as being creatively able and disposed. These self-ratings of creativity are meaningful because of how well they align with our other measures of creativity.

The overall trend of the ASD/negative schizotypal factor showing negative correlations with creativity and the positive schizotypal factor showing positive correlations confirms one aspect of my hypothesis—the ASD/negative schizotypal factor is positively correlated with negative schizotypal traits, and the positive schizotypal factor is negatively correlated with creativity and negative schizotypal traits. When we conducted an exploratory factor analysis on our data, we found two distinct factors. The second factor was named positive schizotypy, as the three main loadings are indicative of positive schizotypal traits (Kaufman & Paul, 2014). As seen by the two factors’ correlations with personality as tested by the 107 participants, there are some personality traits with which the factors converge and others that diverge. Specifically, both factors have significant positive correlations with conscientiousness and introversion/schizotypy. The ASD/negative schizotypy factor has significant negative correlations with each of the big five personality factors. The positive schizotypal factor also shows a significant positive correlation with openness/intellectual.

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