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The Durand Adaptive Psychopathic Traits Questionnaire: Development and Validation

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ABSTRACT

Although the term *psychopathy* is embedded with negativity, evidence points to the existence of another form of psychopathy, which involves adaptive traits such as stress and anxiety immunity, remarkable social skills, noteworthy leadership ability, and an absence of fear. The newly developed Durand Adaptive Psychopathic Traits Questionnaire (DAPTQ) aims to assess adaptive traits known to correlate with the psychopathic personality. Validation of the questionnaire among 765 individuals from the community gave support to a 9-factor solution: Leadership, Logical Thinking, Composure, Creativity, Fearlessness, Money Smart, Focus, Extroversion, and Management. The DAPTQ and its 9 subscales demonstrated good internal consistency reliability in a community sample (.68–.88). Convergent validity and divergent validity were supported by administering the DAPTQ alongside established measures of the psychopathic personality. Overall, these findings support the potential of the DAPTQ as an instrument for measuring psychopathy-associated adaptive traits. Limitations of this study and potential directions for future research are also discussed. Further studies are needed to validate the DAPTQ and its subscales against a wider range of personality traits and behaviors.

ARTICLE HISTORY


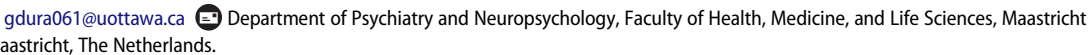
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Many researchers describe psychopathy as a severe personality disorder characterized by emotional detachment, callousness, lack of empathy, impulsivity, social deviance, and poor behavioral control (Gao & Tang, 2013; López, Poy, Patrick, & Moltó, 2013; Tassy, Deruelle, Mancini, Leistedt, & Wicker, 2013). The vast majority of studies on psychopaths have been conducted on inmates, leading to this standard negative description of psychopathy (Berg et al., 2013). However, some theoretical models of psychopathy include an adaptive component. For instance, the triarchic model of psychopathy describes the concept of psychopathy in terms of disinhibition, meanness, and boldness (Patrick, Fowles, & Krueger, 2009). Whereas disinhibition and meanness assess maladaptive aspects of psychopathy, the construct of boldness refers to adaptive traits such as fearlessness, stress immunity, bravery, and social charm. Thus, this model suggests that psychopathy should be seen as a combination of maladaptive and adaptive traits (Polaschek & Daly, 2013). However, not every diagnostic tool includes this combination of traits.

The diagnosis of psychopathy is commonly achieved through the use of the Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-R; Hare, 1991, 2003). The PCL-R, which is the most common and well-validated tool for assessing psychopathy, is a time- and resource-consuming procedure requiring a one-on-one interview by a certified assessor for approximately 90 min (Ray, Weir, Poythress, & Rickelm, 2011). Factor analysis of the PCL-R identified two-dimensional constructs reflecting two variants of psychopathy. Primary

psychopathy (Factor 1) is associated with emotional and interpersonal traits, which include callousness, remorseless exploitation of others, and lack of empathy. Secondary psychopathy (Factor 2) is associated with the social deviance traits of psychopathy, which include criminal and impulsive features, along with anxiety and neuroticism (Dunlop et al., 2011). Although the PCL-R is well-validated, its use is mostly restricted to forensic and criminal populations. Indeed, the checklist mainly focuses on the traits found in psychopathic criminals, and might therefore not necessarily apply to the general population (Hall & Benning, 2006; Ray et al., 2011).

The Psychopathic Personality Inventory (PPI) is an alternative to the PCL-R, assessing psychopathic traits on eight subscales using a self-report questionnaire (Lilienfeld & Andrews, 1996). The PPI is also divided into two facets, Fearless Dominance (PPI-I) and Impulsive Antisociality (PPI-II). PPI-I is related to boldness and includes adaptive traits such as social poise, anxiety and stress immunity, and interpersonal boldness; whereas PPI-II is associated with a combination of disinhibition and meanness. This classification method of psychopathic characteristics is different from the PCL-R, as Factor 1 of the PCL-R mostly captures elements of meanness and very few elements of boldness (Dunlop et al., 2011; Polaschek & Daly, 2013). Although PPI-I assesses several adaptive characteristics related to the psychopathic personality, the questionnaire measures only a portion of adaptive traits known to correlate with psychopathy.

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The term *successful psychopath* refers to individuals who possess several core traits of psychopathy (e.g., lack of empathy, high dominance), but who lack pervasive traits found mostly in secondary psychopathy, such as aggressive externalizing behaviors (Cleckley, 1941; López et al., 2013; Patrick, 2007). The idea behind the concept of successful psychopathy is highly debated in the scientific community. Some researchers describe successful psychopaths as ruthless and irresponsible individuals who abuse others to climb to the top of an organization (Boddy, 2014; Boddy, Miles, Sanyal, & Hartog, 2015). However, other researchers focus on the potential links between PPI-I and adaptive behaviors, which include characteristics such as fearlessness, leadership, stress and anxiety immunity, and social dominance (Camp, Skeem, Barchard, Lilienfeld, & Poythress, 2013; Smith, Watts, & Lilienfeld, 2014). Successful psychopathy can be interpreted by three models (Hall & Benning, 2006; Lilienfeld, Watts, & Smith, 2015). First, the *differential-severity model* conceptualizes successful psychopathy as a milder form of psychopathy. Hypothesizing that psychopathy is a unitary construct, successful and unsuccessful psychopathy represent the same disorder, with only a difference in intensity. Second, the *moderated-expression model* presumes that successful psychopathy is an atypical manifestation of psychopathy due to the emergence of protective factors diminishing the effect of maladaptive outcomes related to psychopathy. Third, the *differential-configuration model* presumes that successful and unsuccessful psychopathy share the same core personality traits (antagonism), but successful psychopathy is related to boldness, extraversion, and conscientiousness, whereas unsuccessful psychopathy is related to impulsivity and low conscientiousness (Mullins-Sweatt, Glover, Derefinco, Miller, & Widiger, 2010).

A number of studies have identified several adaptive traits related to PPI-I, which could be related to successful psychopaths. To identify these studies, an online search of the Medline and PsycINFO databases was conducted using the following keywords: [(“Psychopathy” OR “Psychopathic traits” OR “Psychopathic Personality Inventory”). Studies were selected based on whether they showed at least one significant correlation between an adaptive trait and psychopathy or psychopathic personality traits within participants. The term *adaptive trait* is defined as a trait that maximizes an individual’s survival probability within a set environment.

Three types of adaptive characteristics emerged from the aforementioned studies. Social characteristics include high levels of social charm, great leadership abilities, notable displays of heroism, the ability to discard unnecessary relationships, and good management strategies (Babiak, Neumann, & Hare, 2010; Dunlop et al., 2011; Gervais, Kline, Ludmer, George, & Manson, 2013; Hall, Benning, & Patrick, 2004; Lilienfeld, Latzman, Watts, Smith, & Dutton, 2014; Smith, Lilienfeld, Coffey, & Dabbs, 2013). Characteristics related to protective features include low levels of anxiety and stress, little nervousness, and absence of fear, both physical and psychological (Camp et al., 2013; Dindo & Fowles, 2011; Dunlop et al., 2011; Gao & Tang, 2013; Hall et al., 2004; López et al., 2013; Uzieblo, Verschuere, Van den Bussche, & Crombez, 2010; Zágon & Jackson, 1994). Characteristics related to personal features include boldness, low impulsivity, low provoked aggression, willingness to take calculated risks, absence of irrationality, strategic thinking, innovation, high self-esteem,

superior cognitive focus, and sensitivity to reward (Babiak et al., 2010; Baskin-Sommers, Zeier, & Newman, 2009; Camp et al., 2013; Dunlop et al., 2011; Durand, 2016; Eisenbarth, Lilienfeld, & Yarkoni, 2015; Falkenbach, Howe, & Falki, 2013; Hicks, Markon, Patrick, Krueger, & Newman, 2004; Ray et al., 2011; Takahashi, Takagishi, Nishinaka, Makino, & Fukui, 2014; Uzieblo et al., 2010). Altogether, these characteristics seem to be correlated with a high display of Factor 1 traits as defined by the PPI.

Although these characteristics are considered adaptive and linked to PPI-I, it is unknown how they interact with each other. It is possible that different patterns among these characteristics lead to the existence of subtypes within PPI-I. Furthermore, the spectrum of adaptive characteristics assessed by the PPI is limited. Thus, the purpose of this article is to describe the development and initial validation of the Durand Adaptive Psychopathic Traits Questionnaire (DAPTQ), a newly developed self-report measure assessing adaptive traits known to correlate with the psychopathic personality as defined by the PPI. This questionnaire is not intended to diagnose or assess the presence of psychopathy. This article outlines the construction of the DAPTQ and its subscales, reports the DAPTQ’s basic psychometric properties, and describes the validity of scores on the questionnaire in multiple samples.

Study 1: Test development and preliminary psychometric properties

Participants

The initial construction of the test spanned two rounds of item writing and selection, data collection, and analyses. The first sample consisted of 118 participants and the second sample consisted of 305 participants. Participants of both samples were recruited on social media and websites dedicated to psychological research (e.g., callforparticipants.com, onlinepsychresearch.co.uk). Participants were invited to take part in the study if they were fluent in English and over 18 years old. To assess for potential deviant responses, I examined PPI-SF data through Variable Response Inconsistency (VRIN). The purpose of this statistical procedure, which was modeled after Tellegen’s (1982) VRIN scale, and later adapted to the PPI by Lilienfeld and Widows (2005), is to examine the inconsistencies within 10 pairs of highly correlated items from the PPI-SF. For each of the 10 pairs, the score obtained on the first item is subtracted from the second item, and the differences of the 10 pairs are summed to give a total score. A higher score signifies greater variability within similar questions expecting similar answers. A cutoff of 8, which corresponds to 3 *SD* of the VRIN score above its mean ($M = 2.50$, $SD = 1.95$), was used to identify outliers. Using this method, I was able to identify 6 outliers in the first sample and 14 outliers in the second with a $VRIN \geq 8$. Analyses were performed on the responses of the remaining 112 participants (72 men and 40 women, $M = 26.0$ years old, $SD = 9.23$) of the first sample and 291 participants (186 men and 105 women, $M = 25.3$ years old, $SD = 8.40$) of the second sample. No other demographics besides age and sex were recorded in Study 1. All participants gave informed consent before participating in any part of the study. This series of studies was approved by the University of Maastricht Psychology

and Neuroscience Department's Ethics Committee (Case ECP-157-03-10-2015).

Measures

Psychopathic Personality Inventory–Short Form

The PPI–SF (Lilienfeld & Widows, 2005) is a self-report questionnaire of 56 items assessing psychopathic traits on eight subscales derived from the original PPI. A total score is given, along with a score for each subscale: Machiavellian Egocentricity, Social Potency, Fearlessness, Coldheartedness, Impulsive Nonconformity, Blame Externalization, Carefree Nonplanfulness, and Stress Immunity. The scales are divided into two factors. PPI–I is made up of Stress Immunity, Social Potency, and Fearlessness. PPI–II is made up of Blame Externalization, Machiavellian Egocentricity, Carefree Nonplanfulness, and Impulsive Nonconformity. Coldheartedness is not under either factor. This questionnaire has been used in several studies to assess psychopathic traits in the general population and is considered to be a well-validated instrument (Benning, Patrick, Hicks, Blonigen, & Krueger, 2003; Patrick, Edens, Poythress, Lilienfeld, & Benning, 2006). Previous investigations demonstrated good convergent validity of the PPI–SF subscales with other measures of the psychopathic personality such as the Triarchic Psychopathy Measures (Hall et al., 2014) and the Elemental Psychopathy Assessment (Lynam et al., 2011).

Levenson Self-Report Psychopathy

The Levenson Self-Report Psychopathy (LSRP; Levenson, Kiehl, & Fitzpatrick, 1995) is a self-report questionnaire of 26 items assessing psychopathic attitudes and beliefs. The scale was designed using the same factors as the PCL–R for use in noninstitutional settings. This test is structured around the PCL–R's Factor 1 and Factor 2. The Factor 1 subscale assesses elements of meanness such as proneness to lying, lack of empathy, and manipulative behaviors. The Factor 2 subscale assesses elements of disinhibition such as impulsivity, proneness to frustration, lack of goals, and emotional negativity. Previous studies have supported the convergent and discriminant validity of scores on both scales (Brinkley, Schmitt, Smith, & Newman, 2001; Ross, Bye, Wrobel, & Horton, 2008). However, due to the low correlation between the PCL–R and the PPI, LSRP Factor 1 correlates poorly with PPI–I ($r = .08$; Ross, Benning, Patrick, Thompson, & Thurston, 2009). Alternatively, LSRP Factor 2 has been shown to correlate strongly with PPI–II ($r = .63$; Ross et al., 2009). These results support the divergent validity between Factor 1 and PPI–I, while supporting the convergent validity between Factor 2 and PPI–II.

Procedure

I first identified the 19 constructs, which assess adaptive traits, based on the findings reported in the introduction. Once these constructs were established, 10 items were written for each construct. All 19 adaptive traits can be found in Table 1. Half of these items were written in the negative form for reverse coding. Items were answered using a six-option (*strongly disagree, disagree, slightly disagree, slightly agree, agree, strongly agree*)

Table 1. Principal constructs targeted during Study 1.

Social characteristics	Personal characteristics
1. Social charm	10. Boldness
2. Leadership abilities	11. Cautiousness
3. Heroism	12. Low provoked aggression
4. Management abilities	13. Calculated risks
5. Discarding relationships with no respect	14. Rational thinking
6. Discarding relationships with no common grounds	15. Strategic thinking
Protective characteristics	16. Innovative thinking
7. Anxiety immunity	17. High self-esteem
8. Stress immunity	18. Superior focus
9. Fear immunity	19. Reward sensitivity

Note. Babiak et al. (2010): 1, 2, 15, 16; Baskin-Sommers et al. (2009): 18; Camp et al. (2013): 9, 12; Dindo and Fowles (2011): 9; Dunlop et al. (2011): 1, 8, 10; Durand (2016): 12, 17; Eisenbarth et al. (2015): 9, 19; Falkenbach et al. (2013): 12, 17; Gao and Tang (2013): 7; Gervais et al. (2013): 5, 6; Hall et al. (2004): 2, 8; Hicks et al. (2004): 11, 15; Lilienfeld et al. (2014): 4; López et al. (2013): 9; Ray et al. (2011): 12; Smith et al. (2013): 3; Takahashi et al. (2014): 13; Uzieblo et al. (2010): 8, 9, 14; Zágon and Jackson (1994): 7.

Likert-type format to avoid any bias of central tendency (Guilford, 1954).

The first sample of participants was invited to fill in the 190-item DAPTQ, the PPI–SF, and the LSRP. To assist in identifying the most appropriate items for each construct, Cronbach's alpha analyses were performed for each group of 10 items in all 19 adaptive traits' subscales. After examination of the Cronbach's alpha by deleting the item, the four items with the weakest relationship within their respective subscales were removed, leaving a total of 114 items. The second group of participants was then invited to complete the 114-item DAPTQ along with the PPI–SF and the LSRP. Cronbach's alpha analyses were performed for each construct in the second sample's results to remove the two least correlated items of each construct. This left the four most correlated items for each construct. The removal of six items by construct ensured the homogeneity of each construct, leaving out potential nonrelated items. Two-tailed Pearson correlations supported the presence of weak to strong correlations among all scales, with the exception of Discarding relationships with no respect. Items pertaining to that scale were removed from the questionnaire. The remaining 72 items (49 keyed positively, 23 keyed negatively) were randomized once again, which was followed by recruitment for Study 2.

Study 2: Test validation and psychometric properties from a community sample

Participants

Eight hundred and nine ($N = 809$) individuals from the community were recruited once again via social media and websites dedicated to psychological research for the validation of the DAPTQ. Potential participants were required to not have participated in a previous phase of the DAPTQ's development, be over 18 years old, be fluent in English, and not be receiving treatment from a mental health care professional. To improve the reliability of the results, I used a more conservative VRIN cutoff corresponding to 2 SD above the mean, corresponding once again to 8 ($M = 2.76$, $SD = 2.21$). A total of 25 individuals were removed from subsequent analyses due to a VRIN ≥ 8 on

the PPI-SF. Further analyses of standard deviation through examination of the stem-and-leaves plot selected a total of 19 additional outliers, leaving a final sample of 765 individuals. The final sample consisted of 519 men and 246 women. The location of most participants was Europe (53%), followed by North America (23%), Asia (11%), South America (6%), and Africa (4%). Regarding education level, the largest group among participants was college dropouts (27%). For the remaining participants, the most common education levels completed or in progress were college (26%), high school (19%), master's degree (14%), and technical school (6%). Regarding ethnic composition, most participants were White (76%), followed by Hispanic (8%), Asian (11%), or other (5%). Participants' mean age was 24.5 years ($SD = 6.87$).

Procedure

Participants were invited to complete the latest version of the DAPTQ, along with the PPI-SF and the LSRP. Completion of the questionnaire was performed on the Qualtrics Web platform. Only the data from participants who had answered 100% of the questions were recorded, and hence there were no missing data. Prior to performing a factor analysis, I investigated the distributions of the DAPTQ items in the sample. All 72 items had values between -1.016 and 1.275 for skewness and between -1.219 and 1.212 for kurtosis, supporting the normal distribution of all items in the sample. Additionally, all response options on all items were used. An exploratory factor analysis (EFA; maximum likelihood method with direct oblimin rotation) was conducted on the 72 items of the DAPTQ to determine the number of subscales within the DAPTQ. Using O'Connor's (2000) SPSS syntax, a parallel analysis using principal components analysis was conducted using permutations of the original data set (N of parallel data sets = 1,000; percentile = 95th). This analysis supported retaining the first 11 factors of the EFA, as the eigenvalue of the 12th factor (1.266) was under the cutoff established by the analysis for the aforementioned factor (1.350). Items retained in the final version of the DAPTQ loaded .3 or greater on their targeted factor while not loading .3 or greater on any other factor.

Results and discussion

DAPTQ subscales

The 11-factor EFA solution accounted for 53.37% of the variance. The eigenvalues of these 11 factors ranged between 11.46 and 1.39. The 11 subscales of the DAPTQ, the final number of items for each subscale, a sample item for each subscale, Cronbach's alpha, eigenvalues, and cumulative variance in percentage are shown in Table 2. Out of the original 72 items, 48 items were successfully distributed among the factors.

Sex differences

A multivariate analysis of variance identified several gender differences on the DAPTQ and other questionnaires. Men ($M = 176.15$, $SD = 23.77$) scored higher than women ($M = 164.89$, $SD = 22.29$) on the DAPTQ total score, $F(1, 764) = 38.93$, $p < .001$, $r = .24$, as well as on five other factors: Logical Thinking, men, $M = 21.96$, $SD = 4.46$; women, $M = 20.73$,

Table 2. Durand Adaptive Psychopathic Traits Questionnaire subscales, sample items, Cronbach's alpha, eigenvalues, and variance.

Scales	α	Eigenvalues	Cumulative % of variance
Leadership (4 items) People often follow my lead. (True)	.82	11.46	15.92
Logical Thinking (5 items) I prefer to act first and think later. (False)	.80	6.02	24.28
Composure (6 items) I rarely worry. (True)	.86	4.20	30.11
Creativity (4 items) I am the most creative one out of my friends. (True)	.85	3.53	35.00
Fearlessness (6 items) Dangerous situations frighten me. (False)	.84	2.76	38.84
Similarity (3 items) It is important that my friends are like me. (True)	.76	2.21	41.90
Money smart (3 items) I am a reckless money spender. (False)	.79	1.91	44.55
Focus (4 items) I can't be distracted easily. (True)	.78	1.74	46.97
Extroversion (6 items) I can effortlessly mingle with any group. (True)	.83	1.66	49.27
Consequentialism (4 items) The ends justify the means. (True)	.64	1.55	51.43
Management (3 items) I feel like I have very poor management skills. (False)	.68	1.39	53.37

$SD = 4.53$; $F(1, 764) = 12.70$, $p < .001$, $r = .14$; Composure, men, $M = 21.94$, $SD = 6.29$; women, $M = 18.25$, $SD = 6.84$; $F(1, 764) = 54.41$, $p < .001$, $r = .27$; Fearlessness, men, $M = 23.72$, $SD = 5.84$; women, $M = 20.32$, $SD = 5.92$; $F(1, 764) = 55.96$, $p < .001$, $r = .28$; Extroversion, men, $M = 20.52$, $SD = 6.54$; women, $M = 19.07$, $SD = 6.53$; $F(1, 764) = 8.32$, $p = .004$, $r = .11$; and Consequentialism, men, $M = 11.62$, $SD = 3.97$; women, $M = 9.84$, $SD = 3.03$; $F(1, 764) = 36.10$, $p < .001$, $r = .24$. Alternatively, women scored higher than men on one factor, namely Creativity: men, $M = 14.95$, $SD = 4.62$; women, $M = 16.32$, $SD = 4.61$; $F(1, 764) = 14.79$, $p < .001$, $r = .15$. Men also received a higher PPI-SF total score: men, $M = 134.72$, $SD = 13.97$; women, $M = 127.47$, $SD = 14.45$; $F(1, 764) = 44.0$, $p < .001$, $r = .25$; and LSRP total score: men, $M = 55.70$, $SD = 10.20$; women, $M = 50.94$, $SD = 9.54$; $F(1, 764) = 38.0$, $p < .001$, $r = .23$. These findings are consistent with previous results demonstrating that psychopathic traits, including adaptive psychopathic traits, are more common among men than women (Lilienfeld & Andrews, 1996).

Internal consistency reliability

The internal consistency reliability of the DAPTQ total score, as assessed by Cronbach's alpha, was .86. The internal consistency reliability of this sample on the 11 factors of the DAPTQ ranged from .64 to .86. In comparison, the internal consistency reliability of the PPI-SF total score from this study was .76, and its eight subscales' internal consistency reliability ranged from .53 to .87. The internal consistency reliability of the LSRP was .85. Deeper examination of the subscales' Cronbach's alphas

Table 3. Intercorrelations between the Durand Adaptive Psychopathic Traits Questionnaire (DAPTQ) subscales.

Scales	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	<i>M</i> (<i>SD</i>)
DAPTQ												
1. DAPTQ total												172.52 (23.88)
2. Leadership	.61**											14.96 (3.98)
3. Logical Thinking	.37**	.02										21.56 (4.51)
4. Composure	.64**	.19**	.26**									20.75 (6.69)
5. Creativity	.34**	.21**	-.04	0								15.38 (4.66)
6. Fearlessness	.59**	.31**	.01	.36**	.12**							22.62 (6.07)
7. Similarity	.01	-.02	-.02	-.14**	0	-.11**						9.69 (3.34)
8. Money Smart	.31**	-.01	.39**	.15**	.05	-.04	-.03					11.82 (3.54)
9. Focus	.57**	.21**	.32**	.35**	.12**	.21**	-.05	.25**				13.10 (4.00)
10. Extroversion	.56**	.52**	-.13**	.25**	.18**	.28**	-.20**	-.05	.13**			20.05 (6.56)
11. Consequentialism	.39**	.27**	-.03	.09*	-.04	.31**	.13**	-.05	.06	.19**		11.04 (3.91)
12. Management	.59**	.36**	.34**	.37**	.10**	.14**	-.09*	.30**	.47**	.23**	.11**	11.50 (2.92)

Note. *N* = 765.

p* < .05. *p* < .01, two-tailed.

did not identify any items the removal of which would significantly increase the overall internal consistency reliability.

Correlations among the DAPTQ, the PPI-SF, and the LSRP

The intercorrelations among the 11 DAPTQ factors are shown in Table 3. Ten out of the 11 subscales moderately to strongly correlated with the DAPTQ total score ($r = .31-.64$). Similarity did not display any correlation with the DAPTQ total, and very few weak correlations with other factors ($r = -.09$ to $-.20$).

The descriptive data and the correlations between the DAPTQ and its factors with the PPI-SF and the LSRP can be examined in Tables 4 and 5. The DAPTQ was moderately correlated with the PPI-SF total score ($r = .46$). Closer examination of the PPI-SF's subscales revealed that scores on Social Potency, Carefree Nonplanfulness, and Stress Immunity subscales showed the strongest correlations with the DAPTQ, whereas Fearlessness, Coldheartedness, Impulsive Nonconformity, Blame Externalization, and Machiavellian Egocentricity had the weakest correlations. PPI-I showed a strong positive correlation with the DAPTQ, which was not found on PPI-II. This is consistent with the presumed adaptive nature of PPI-I individuals. The LSRP total score did not show any correlation

with the DAPTQ. LSRP Factor 1 showed a weak positive correlation with DAPTQ, and LSRP Factor 2 showed a moderate negative correlation.

Examination of the DAPTQ's subscales demonstrated several strong correlations supporting the subscales' validity. First, Leadership was highly correlated with Social Potency ($r = .57$). Second, Composure correlated highly with Stress Immunity ($r = .61$) and PPI-I ($r = .49$). Third, Fearlessness correlated strongly with the fearlessness subscale of the PPI-SF ($r = .59$), PPI-I ($r = .65$), and PPI-SF total ($r = .62$). Fourth, Extroversion was strongly correlated with Social Potency ($r = .77$) and PPI-I ($r = .58$). Fifth, Consequentialism showed strong correlations with Machiavellian Egocentricity ($r = .52$), LSRP Factor 1 ($r = .66$), and LSRP Total ($r = .59$). Finally, Management was highly negatively correlated with Carefree Nonplanfulness ($r = -.47$) and LSRP Factor 2 ($r = -.49$).

Due to the lack of correlation between the Similarity factor and the DAPTQ total score, alongside the lack of moderate to strong correlations between Similarity and the PPI-SF or the LSRP, the three items pertaining to similarity were removed. The remaining 45 items (27 keyed positively, 18 keyed negatively) were randomized before starting Study 3.

Table 4. Descriptive data.

	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>
PPI-SF		
Machiavellian Egocentricity	16.20	3.94
Social Potency	17.50	3.65
Fearlessness	17.69	5.26
Coldheartedness	14.29	4.15
Impulsive Nonconformity	17.47	3.76
Blame Externalization	15.38	5.10
Carefree Nonplanfulness	14.99	3.01
Stress Immunity	18.83	3.38
PPI-I	54.03	9.02
PPI-II	64.06	9.48
Total	132.38	14.51
LSRP		
Factor 1	32.45	8.14
Factor 2	21.72	4.10
Total	54.17	10.23

Note. *N* = 765. PPI-SF = Psychopathic Personality Inventory-Short Form; PPI-I = Fearless Dominance; PPI-II = Impulsive Antisociality; LSRP = Levenson Self-Report Psychopathy scale.

Study 3: Validation of the DAPTQ subscales

Participants

The DAPTQ and its subscales were further validated in a sample of 133 individuals from the community (44 men, 89 women) recruited once again from social media and websites dedicated to psychological research. As in Study 2, participants were instructed to not participate if they had participated in a previous phase of the development of the DAPTQ. Participants were mostly located in Europe (53%), North America (26%), Asia (12%), Africa (4%), South America (3%), and Oceania (2%). Regarding education level, participants were mostly college graduates (29%). Following this, the most common education levels were master's degree (28%), college dropout (23%), doctoral degree (7%), or other (13%). Regarding ethnicity, participants were mostly White (77%), Asian (15%), or other (8%). The mean age of the participants was 27.8 ($SD = 10.47$) years old.

Table 5. Correlations between the Durand Adaptive Psychopathic Traits Questionnaire (DAPTQ), the Psychopathic Personality Inventory–Short Form (PPI–SF), and the Levenson Self-Report Psychopathy scale (LSRP) by their respective subscales.

Scales	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	α
PPI–SF													
Mach Ego	.09*	.16**	-.20**	-.02	-.03	.19**	.18**	-.23**	-.13**	.10**	.52**	-.15**	.70
Social Potency	.56**	.57**	-.05	.31**	.21**	.33**	-.20**	-.02	.16**	.77**	.15**	.29**	.59
Fearlessness	.34**	.22**	-.09*	.24**	.07	.59**	-.13**	-.06	.05	.26**	.22**	.03	.79
Coldheartedness	.25**	.01	.30**	.27**	-.05	.11**	-.04	.22**	.19**	-.02	.11**	.20**	.68
Impul Nonconfor	.22**	.16**	-.08*	.11**	.22**	.37**	-.04	-.05	-.01	.15**	.12**	-.10**	.58
Blame External	-.03	.11**	-.15**	-.23**	.03	.22**	.11**	-.13**	-.05	-.06	.21**	-.15**	.87
Carefree Nonplan	-.46**	-.35**	-.39**	-.10**	.21**	-.17**	-.03	-.24**	-.32**	-.12**	-.15**	-.47**	.53
Stress Immunity	.61**	.27*	.33**	.61**	.09	.46**	-.24**	.17**	.37**	.30**	.06	.39**	.53
PPI–I	.66**	.46**	.06	.49**	.16**	.65**	-.24**	.02	.23**	.58**	.21**	.28**	.77
PPI–II	-.04	.08*	-.32**	-.12**	.02	.29**	.11**	-.27**	-.19**	.03	.33**	-.33**	.75
Total	.46**	.34**	-.09*	.31**	.10**	.62**	-.10*	-.10**	.08*	.37**	.38**	.02	.77
LSRP													
Factor 1	.23**	.14**	-.03	.14**	-.09*	.28**	.09*	-.10**	.02	.05	.66**	0	.88
Factor 2	-.31**	-.10**	-.35**	-.24**	-.16**	.08*	.07	-.34**	-.32**	-.10**	.17**	-.49**	.64
Total	.06	.07	-.16**	.01	-.13**	.26**	.09**	-.21**	-.12**	0	.59**	-.19**	.85

Note. $N = 765$. Mach Ego = Machiavellian Egocentricity; Impul Nonconfor = Impulsivity Nonconformity; Blame External = Blame Externalization; Carefree Nonplan = Carefree Nonplanfulness.

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$, two-tailed.

Measures

Big Five Inventory

The Big Five Inventory (BFI; John, Donahue, & Kentle, 1991) is a 44-item questionnaire assessing the Big Five components of personality (Goldberg, 1992). The questionnaire gives five subscale scores: Openness, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness, and Neuroticism. Respondents answer to what extent they agree with a particular characteristic (“I see myself as someone who is...”). Examples include talkative (Extraversion), helpful and unselfish with others (Agreeableness), does a thorough job (Conscientiousness), depressed, blue (Neuroticism), and original, comes up with new ideas (Openness). Items are rated on a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (*strongly disagree*) to 5 (*strongly agree*).

Rational–Experiential Inventory

The Rational–Experiential Inventory (REI; Pacini & Epstein, 1999) is a 40-item questionnaire assessing preferences for information processing (rational style and experiential style). The rational style assesses the usage of a conscious, analytical approach. Alternatively, the experiential style assesses the usage of a preconscious, affective, holistic approach. The REI is divided into four subscales, two for each approach. Rational ability refers to the ability to think analytically (“I have a logical mind”). Rational engagement refers to the reliance and enjoyment of analytical thinking (“I enjoy intellectual challenges”). Experiential ability refers to the ability of experiencing intuitive impressions and feelings (“I believe in trusting my hunches”). Experiential engagement refers to the enjoyment of relying on feelings to make decisions (“I like to rely on my intuitive impressions”). Items are rated on a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (*strongly disagree*) to 5 (*strongly agree*).

Jackson Personality Inventory Risk Taking Scale

The Jackson Personality Inventory Risk Taking scale (JPI–RT; Jackson, 1976) is a personality assessment measuring various core traits of the personality, such as openness, neuroticism, extraversion, trustworthiness, and organization. The JPI–RT

includes the 20 items related to risk taking from the original 320 items of the JPI. The scale uses a true–false format, and assesses preferences for risky behaviors.

Perceived Stress Scale–10-item version

The Perceived Stress Scale–10-item version (PSS–10; Cohen & Williamson, 1988) is a 10-item self-report questionnaire assessing how an individual can be stressed over everyday situations. The questionnaire is rated on a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 0 (*never*) to 4 (*very often*). Participants are asked to answer based on their general feelings and thoughts from the last month (e.g., “In the last month, how often have you been upset because of something that happened unexpectedly?”).

State–Trait Anxiety Inventory–Trait version

The State–Trait Anxiety Inventory–Trait version (STAI; Spielberger, Gorsuch, & Lushene, 1970) is a 40-item questionnaire assessing anxiety through a 4-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (*almost never*) to 4 (*almost always*). The Y2 scale includes 20 items and focuses on how anxious an individual is in everyday life. Participants are asked to answer how they generally feel about statements such as “I lack self-confidence,” and “I am a steady person.”

Results and discussion

The intercorrelations among the 10 DAPTQ subscales were once again computed and are shown in Table 6. Once again, all but one of the DAPTQ factors correlated moderately to strongly with the DAPTQ total score ($r = .37$ – $.68$). Whereas Consequentialism displayed a correlation of $r = .39$ with the DAPTQ total score in Study 2, the factor failed to correlate significantly with the total score in Study 3. The DAPTQ and its subscales displayed good internal consistency reliability, ranging from $\alpha = .63$ to $.89$.

The descriptive data and the correlations between the DAPTQ and the BFI, the REI, the JPI–RT, the PSS–10, and the STAI–Y2 are shown in Tables 7 and 8. The DAPTQ total score showed moderate to strong positive correlations with all

Table 6. Inter-correlations between the Durand Adaptive Psychopathic Traits Questionnaire (DAPTQ) subscales.

Scales	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	<i>M (SD)</i>
DAPTQ											
1. DAPTQ Total											153.42 (22.51)
2. Leadership	.60**										13.39 (4.19)
3. Logical Thinking	.41**	.10									20.88 (4.48)
4. Composure	.68**	.22*	.28**								18.11 (6.91)
5. Creativity	.37**	.18*	.06	.17*							16.01 (4.55)
6. Fearlessness	.39**	.15	-.07	.15	-.06						19.98 (5.71)
7. Money Smart	.38**	-.06	.29**	.21*	.20*	-.08					12.54 (3.41)
8. Focus	.53**	.27**	.21*	.32**	.05	.14	.27**				12.25 (3.98)
9. Extroversion	.62**	.53**	.02	.24**	.23**	.13	.07	.12			18.75 (6.18)
10. Consequentialism	.10	.16	-.10	-.11	-.27**	.21*	-.22*	-.13	.12		10.10 (3.38)
11. Management	.67**	.36**	.28**	.50**	.15	.01	.42**	.48**	.32**	-.03	11.38 (2.95)

Note. $N = 133$.

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$, two-tailed.

measurements of the BFI, with the exception of a strong negative correlation with Neuroticism. Strong positive correlations were also found between the DAPTQ and the two rational scales of the REI, demonstrating the analytical nature of individuals high on the DAPTQ. A weak correlation was also found between the DAPTQ and experiential ability. The JPI-RT showed a weak correlation with the DAPTQ, and the measures of stress and anxiety (PSS-10 and STAI-Y2) both showed a strong negative correlation with the DAPTQ.

Examination of the DAPTQ's subscales further supports their validity to measure their respective constructs. First, Leadership correlated strongly with Extroversion ($r = .58$). Second, Logical Thinking was strongly correlated with Rational Ability ($r = .61$), and highly negatively correlated with Experiential Engagement ($r = -.47$). Third, Composure was highly negatively correlated with Neuroticism ($r = -.85$), PSS-10 ($r = -.65$), and STAI-Y2 ($r = -.75$). Fourth, Creativity showed a strong correlation with Openness ($r = .65$). Fifth, Fearlessness displayed a strong correlation with JPI-RT ($r = .54$). Sixth, Focus highly correlated with Conscientiousness ($r = .53$). Seventh, Extroversion correlated strongly with the Extroversion scale of the BFI ($r = .76$). Finally, Management

displayed a strong correlation with Conscientiousness ($r = .66$), and strong negative correlations with Neuroticism ($r = -.50$) and STAI-Y2 ($r = -.60$).

Similar to the removed construct of Similarity from Study 2, Consequentialism was not correlated with the DAPTQ total score. Additionally, the correlations obtained between Consequentialism and other measurements, such as the PSS-10 and the STAI-Y2, were contrary to theory. The four items related to the construct were therefore removed. The remaining 41 items (24 keyed positively, 17 keyed negatively) were randomized once again and form the final version of the DAPTQ.

General discussion

The purpose of these studies was to develop and validate a new questionnaire for assessing adaptive traits known to correlate with the psychopathic personality. The aforementioned studies' results confirm the adequacy of the DAPTQ in various samples, as well as providing support for the subscales' validity. The DAPTQ demonstrated good internal consistency reliability for its total score and all its subscales for all samples, as well as strong correlations with well-established assessments of the psychopathic personality and with other personality measures.

As expected, the DAPTQ was highly positively correlated with PPI-I and weakly positively correlated with LSRP Factor 1. Alternatively, the DAPTQ was not correlated with PPI-II and moderately negatively correlated with LSRP Factor 2. These results stem from the difference in the conceptual definition of psychopathy by each questionnaire. The PPI defines psychopathic traits by adhering to the differential configuration model. PPI-I focuses on adaptive traits only, whereas PPI-II focuses on maladaptive outcomes (Skeem, Polaschek, Patrick, & Lilienfeld, 2011). Although both PPI-I and PPI-II assess fundamentally different psychopathic traits, the LSRP assesses maladaptive outcomes on both of its factors without taking into account any form of adaptive behaviors. The weak correlation between the DAPTQ and LSRP Factor 1 further supports the divergent validity of the scale, demonstrating the inability of the LSRP to assess adaptive outcomes in psychopathic individuals. Alternatively, the moderate negative relationship between the DAPTQ and LSRP Factor 2 supports the maladaptive behaviors assessed by the LSRP and its opposition to the adaptive traits assessed by the DAPTQ.

Table 7. Descriptive data.

	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>
BFI subscales		
Extroversion	21.30	6.61
Agreeableness	32.72	5.88
Conscientiousness	30.35	6.20
Neuroticism	25.00	7.71
Openness	38.09	6.31
REI subscales		
Rational Ability	38.31	6.47
Rational Engagement	38.96	6.19
Experiential Ability	33.06	6.45
Experiential Engagement	31.48	6.80
JPI-RT		
Total	6.06	4.08
PSS-10		
Total	18.30	7.69
STAI-Y2		
Total	47.15	13.26

Note. $N = 133$. BFI = Big Five Inventory; REI = Rational-Experiential Inventory; JPI-RT = Jackson Personality Inventory Risk Taking scale; PSS-10 = Perceived Stress Scale-10-item version; STAI-Y2 = State-Trait Anxiety Inventory-Trait version Y2 scale.

Table 8. Correlations between the DAPTQ, the BFI, the REI, the JPI-RT, the PSS-10, and the STAI-Y2.

Scales	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	α
BFI subscales												
Extroversion	.54**	.58**	-.08	.17*	.21*	.18*	.05	.19*	.76**	.09	.32**	.83
Agreeableness	.31**	-.01	.07	.26**	.10	.10	.24**	.29**	.28**	-.18*	.30**	.78
Conscientiousness	.44**	.31**	.23**	.18*	.08	-.07	.40**	.53**	.16	-.04	.66**	.80
Neuroticism	-.67**	-.22*	-.37**	-.85**	-.22*	-.13	-.26**	-.28**	-.27**	.08	-.50**	.88
Openness	.39**	.28**	.10	.16	.65**	.09	.11	.12	.30**	-.20*	.16	.79
REI subscales												
Rational Ability	.44**	.30**	.61**	.19*	.05	.16	.24**	.25**	.13	0	.32**	.86
Rational Engagement	.46**	.33**	.39**	.14	.18*	.21*	.17	.18*	.33**	.01	.29**	.82
Exp Ability	.24**	.25**	-.16	.04	.09	.30**	-.09	.13	.19*	.19*	.16	.87
Exp Engagement	.03	.10	-.47**	-.03	.18*	.18*	-.15	.01	.13	.05	.05	.87
JPI-RT												
Total	.32**	.32**	-.12	.13	.04	.54**	-.24**	.04	.32**	.21*	.01	.80
PSS-10												
Total	-.50**	-.19*	-.31**	-.65**	-.15	-.04	-.23**	-.32**	-.18*	.22**	-.44**	.89
STAI-Y2												
Total	-.64**	-.24**	-.32**	-.75**	-.27**	-.03	-.36**	-.32**	-.30**	.22*	-.60**	.95

Note. $N = 133$. 1 = DAPTQ total; 2 = Leadership; 3 = Logical Thinking; 4 = Composure; 5 = Creativity; 6 = Fearlessness; 7 = Money Smart; 8 = Focus; 9 = Extroversion; 10 = Consequentialism; 11 = Management. DAPTQ = Durand Adaptive Psychopathic Traits Questionnaire; BFI = Big Five Inventory; REI = Rational-Experiential Inventory; Exp = Experiential; JPI-RT = Jackson Personality Inventory-Risk Taking scale; PSS = Perceived Stress Scale; STAI-Y2 = State-Trait Anxiety Inventory-Trait version. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$, two-tailed.

By selecting a wide range of adaptive traits known to correlate with the psychopathic personality and developing an assessment specific to these traits, it was possible to investigate the relationship between them. The first factor refers to the leadership attributes of an individual and the perception of others to one's role as a leader. The second factor assesses the preference of an individual to act logically and rationally, rather than acting emotionally. The third factor relates to the ability to remain calm in most situations, including stressful scenarios. The fourth factor assesses creative thinking and a "think outside the box" mentality. The fifth factor encompasses the fearless nature associated with psychopathic individuals. The sixth factor assesses the tendency of an individual to efficiently manage money. The seventh factor refers to one's ability to stay focused despite potential distractions. The eighth factor assesses extroversion and the charismatic attitudes of an individual. The last factor encompasses the ability of an individual to manage a group of tasks or individuals. Together, these nine factors showcase the traits through which PPI-I individuals benefit the most in comparison to the general population.

Whereas several of the previously mentioned adaptive traits have been studied extensively in relation to the psychopathic personality (e.g., leadership, composure, fearlessness, extroversion), some other traits (e.g., creativity, management, money smart) have not been studied in detail in the field of psychopathy. Considering the numerous correlations reported between these traits and various components of the psychopathic personality, it is of interest to further investigate their role and influence in psychopathic individuals.

As previously mentioned, although this test assesses the adaptive traits found in Factor 1 psychopathic individuals, as defined by the PPI, it should not be seen as a psychopathy measurement for several reasons. First, the diagnosis of psychopathy is a combination of Factor 1 and Factor 2 as defined by the PCL-R, and this test focuses exclusively on traits related to PPI-I (Patrick et al., 2009). The questionnaire can therefore only assess a portion of psychopathy-related traits, which is under a lot of debate regarding its validity with the concept of

psychopathy (Lilienfeld et al., 2012; Lynam & Miller, 2012; Miller & Lynam, 2012). Furthermore, this questionnaire has not been validated for use in criminal populations, despite the propensity of psychopaths in criminal settings (Polaschek & Daly, 2013). In conclusion, the DAPTQ should solely be used to assess an individual's adaptive characteristics in noncriminal populations until further validation.

Although these findings are highly encouraging, additional construct validation is needed to further assess the validity of each subscale. The DAPTQ also needs to be administered against measures of social potency, leadership, creativity, logical reasoning, propensity to take calculated risks, goal-driven behavior, and display of aggression scales. Although some of these components were included in this study and the findings were encouraging with regard to establishing the validity of the DAPTQ's subscales, further validation against alternative measures of personality is recommended.

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