

Life stories, self-concept and attachment, part 2 (#45812)

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1) Have any data been collected for this study already?

No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?

Main hypotheses

1. There will be an interaction between group and time such that participants who write about chapters in their own and their parents' life stories will increase in state self-esteem from time 1 to time 2, whereas this will not be the case for participants who write about historical events. We expect no significant interactions for mood.

2. Higher scores on the admiration subscale will be related to more positive and less negative ratings and content coding of personal life stories (on all eight characteristics)

3. Higher scores on the rivalry subscale will be related to less positive and more negative ratings and content coding of parents life stories (on all eight characteristics)

4. Higher scores on parent attachment will be related to more positive and less negative personal and parents' life stories (on all eight characteristics).

Secondary hypotheses

1. Personal life stories will be more positive and less negative than parents' life stories on all eight characteristics.

2. More positive and less negative personal and parents' life stories will be related to higher self-esteem, more positive mood and less negative mood (for all eight characteristics).

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.

A measure of state self-esteem based on Rosenberg's self-esteem scale, previously validated in Steiner et al (2019).

A state version of the positive and negative affect schedule.

Eight life story characteristics: Self-rating of chapters on emotional tone and self-event connections (four questions), content coding of (a) chapters on agency and communion themes following Adler et al.s coding manual and (b) positive and negative self-event connections following the coding manual from Cox & McAdams (four dimensions of content coding).

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?

3 conditions: 1) Writing about 3 chapters in own life story, 2) writing about 3 chapters in the life story of the parents they feel closest to, and 3) writing about 3 historical events.

Before and after the manipulation, participants complete measures of self-esteem and mood.

In addition, as individual difference measures, we include:

The narcissistic admiration and rivalry questionnaire.

The inventory of parent attachment.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.

To test the first hypothesis we will use 2-way mixed ANOVAs with condition as the between subjects variable and time as the within subjects variable.

Self-esteem and mood will be dependent variables. We will use 3 follow-up within subjects t-tests to examine whether participants in the personal and parents' life stories conditions increase significantly in self-esteem from time 1 to time 2, whereas this is not the case for participants in the historical event condition.

To examine relations between narcissism and life stories, we will use Pearson's correlations.

To examine relations between attachment and life stories, we will use Pearson's correlations.

To compare personal and parents' life stories, we will use between subjects t-tests with person as grouping variable and the life story measures as dependent variables.

To examine relations between state measures of self-esteem and mood on the one hand and life story characteristics on the other hand, we will use a series of Pearson's correlations.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.

The open text field descriptions of life stories and historical events will be screened and if participants have not followed instructions, they will be excluded.
If participants have completed fewer than half the items on a given scale they will be excluded from analyses involving that scale.
If participants fail attention checks, they will be excluded.

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.

We will recruit participants who participate in a research methods course and their peers. We plan to include up to 100 participants in each condition. As there is a deadline for the end of data collection (because students are given the data set and required to write a report based on the data as a part of the course), we will discontinue data collection after the deadline and analyse data.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)

We plan to explore whether narcissism and attachment correlate with improvement in self-esteem after the experimental manipulation.
We will run linear regression models and regress the eight life stories indicators on the rivalry subscale, the admiration subscale, and the attachment measure.