

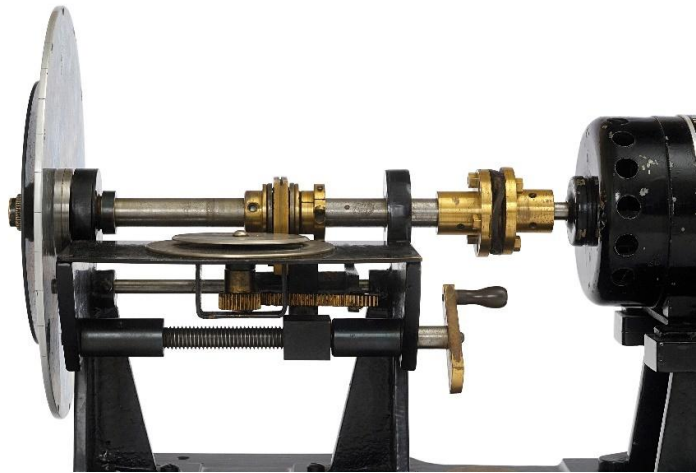
XXVI SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

# EMPIRICAL STUDIES IN PSYCHOLOGY

15 – 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2020.

FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY, UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE

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INSTITUTE OF PSYCHOLOGY  
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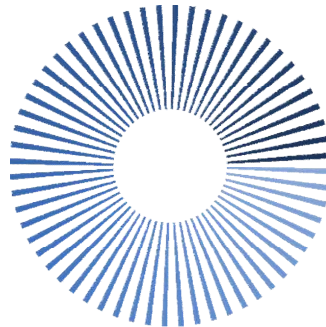
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BELGRADE, 2020

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THERE IS A LIGHT THAT NEVER GOES OUT: LATENT STRUCTURE OF LIGHT TRIAD TRAITS AND THEIR RELATIONS WITH DARK TETRAD

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While the Dark Tetrad (DT) – comprised of Machiavellianism (MC; marked by manipulateness, amorality, calculating behavior), Narcissism (NC; self-promoting behavior, grandiosity, exploitative interpersonal style), Psychopathy (PS; affective deficits, antisocial behavior, impulsivity), and Sadism (SD; cruel and vicious behavior, gaining pleasure when watching other suffer) – is well-established concept, the newly introduced Light Triad is still relatively unknown to scholars. Authors of Light Triad (LT) propose a three-dimension model of benevolent orientation towards others: Faith in Humanity (FH; believing in people's virtuousness and morality), Humanism (HM; positive evaluation of each individual), and Kantianism (KN; treating people as equal). The main aim of this study was to examine the latent structure and psychometric properties of LT traits and their validity in relation to DT traits on the Serbian sample. A total of 410 participants ( $M_{AGE} = 22.82$ ,  $SD_{AGE} = 4.34$ , 77.3% females) took part in the study. Participants completed the Short Dark Triad questionnaire, measuring MC, NC, PS (9 items each), and VAST, measuring SD (16 items), as well as Light Triad Scale, measuring FH, HM, and KN (4 items each). Confirmatory factor analysis has shown that three-factor model of correlated dimensions of Faith in Humanity, Humanism, and Kantianism demonstrates acceptable fit [ $\chi^2(51) = 110.60$ ,  $p < .001$ ,  $CFI = .92$ ,  $TLI = .90$ ,  $RMSEA = .05$ , 90% $CI$ : .04 - .07]. All latent correlations between factors were significant and low to moderate in size, with the highest one between FH and HM ( $r = .65$ ,  $p < .001$ ), and the lowest between FH and KN ( $r = .27$ ,  $p = .004$ ). The first two factors demonstrated fair psychometric properties [FH  $KMO = .80$ ,  $\alpha = .69$ ,  $H^2 = .90$ ; HM  $KMO = .77$ ,  $\alpha = .67$ ,  $H^2 = .88$ ], while KN showed poor psychometric properties [ $KMO = .44$ ,  $\alpha = .47$ ,  $H^2 = .74$ ]. The results have shown that traits of DT accounted for 35% of variance of FH (highest predictive power of MC  $\beta = -.39$ ,  $p < .001$ ), 32% of HM (highest predictive power of PS  $\beta = -.29$ ,  $p < .001$ ), and 41% of KN (highest predictive power of SD  $\beta = -.35$ ,  $p < .001$ ). All relations between dimensions of LT and DT exhibited significant predictive power except one (PS and KN). Our results corroborate the proposed model of three dimensions of LT. Moreover, these dimensions have shown to be distinctive from DT traits. While FH and HM showed good psychometric properties, we propose that KN dimension should be further developed.

**Keywords:** Light Triad, Dark Triad, Dark Tetrad, latent structure, psychometric properties

*Acknowledgement.* The study was supported by the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia (project number 179018).

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Креативни центар



CIP – Katalogizacija u publikaciji  
Narodna biblioteka Srbije, Beograd

PROCEEDINGS OF THE XXIV SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE EMPIRICAL STUDIES IN  
PSYCHOLOGY (26; 2020., Beograd)

[Knjiga rezimea] / XXVI naučni skup Empirijska istraživanja u psihologiji  
15–18. oktobar 2020., Filozofski fakultet, Univerzitet u Beogradu; [organizatori]

Institut za psihologiju i Laboratorija za eksperimentalnu psihologiju – 1. Izd –  
Beograd: Filozofski fakultet, 2020 – 146 str.

Kor. Nasl. – Knjiga rezimea na srp. i engl. jeziku – elektronsko izdanje

ISBN 978-86-6427-163-9

1. Institut za psihologiju (Beograd)
2. Laboratorija za eksperimentalnu psihologiju (Beograd)
- a) Psihologija – Empirijska istraživanja – Knjiga rezimea