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Introduction

Self-defining memories (SDMs) are autobiographical memories which contribute to explain and understand the construct of identity. Using the Singer and Blagov classification system (2000-2001), SDMs can be described through three dimensions: specificity, meaning and affect.

The aim of this study was to characterize the SDMs of people suffering from **antisocial personality disorder (ASPD)** and who have committed crime. Person suffering from ASPD are classically defined as impulsive, egocentric, aggressive, reckless, with a lack of empathy , and with no consideration for the safety or the needs of others. Also, they have commonly experienced traumatic events during their lifetime.

Methods

Participants : 12 men suffering from ASPD (mean age =42.86, sd=9.45)		
	n	Mean age
Murderers	5	46,13 (sd=11.24)
Thieves	3	47 (sd=10.6)
Sexual offenders	4	41.9 (sd=12.85)

Procedure
• After clinical assessment, participants recruited in a Belgian forensic hospital, were asked to retrieve 5 SDMs. Three independent investigators carried out the categorizations of the SDMs ; the interrater reliability coefficients were satisfactory and comprised between moderate and substantial agreement (specificity: k = 0.7; affect: k = 0.54; integrative meaning: k = 0.49).

SDMs categorization :
• Specific SDMs: Unique occurrence and brief duration.
   Type 1: pure specific
   Type 2: specific SDM with generalization
   Type 3: specific SDM with several events

• Integrative SDMs: meaning/learning expressed in connection with the SDMs

• Positive SDMs: use of positive emotional words
• Negative SDMs: use of negative emotional words
• Neutral SDMs: without emotional words
• Mixed SDMs : use of positive and negative emotional words

Results

SDM's characterization

Specificity
- Specific
- General

Meaning
- Integrative
- Non-Integrative

Valence
- Positive
- Negative
- Neutral
- Mixed

Distribution of the specific SDMs according to their type

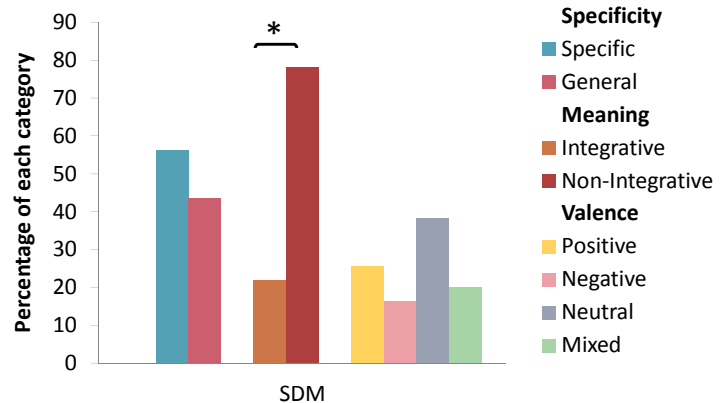- type 1
- type 2
- type 3

Conclusion

Our findings suggest that people suffering from ASPD would not present an over generality bias but seem to have difficulties to select single event memory. Our preliminary results showed that most of their SDMs are neutral although they often recall violent or traumatic events. Finally, the majority of the SDMs were non-integrative as if the participants had major difficulties to express meaning about their memories.
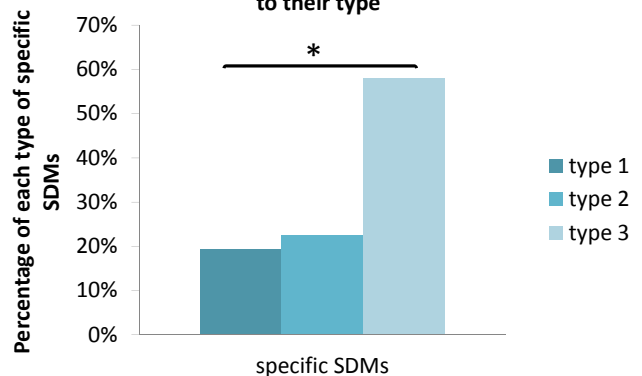
Take home message
Low Integrative dimension and difficulties in selecting specific single-events are likely to play a main role in the subjective experience of the past of people suffering from ASPD.

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