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Characterization of Self-defining memories in antisocial personality disorder

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INTRODUCTION

Self-defining memories (SDMs) are highly significant autobiographical memories which has been described as particularly relevant in pursuit of personal goals. SDMs are distinguished from other autobiographical memories because they are specifically associated with the sense of personal identity and continuity in one's individual history. Several studies have identified modification in SDM construction in different pathological populations such as people with depression or post-traumatic syndrome. According to the numerous aversive events experienced by individuals with antisocial personality disorder (ASPD), and because of their difficulties to integrate their past events, **the present study investigated the characterization of SDMs in individuals with ASPD. The aim was to understand how persons with ASPD used and recalled significant events of their past.**

METHOD

Participants

22 inpatients in forensic hospital with ASPD and 22 healthy control men

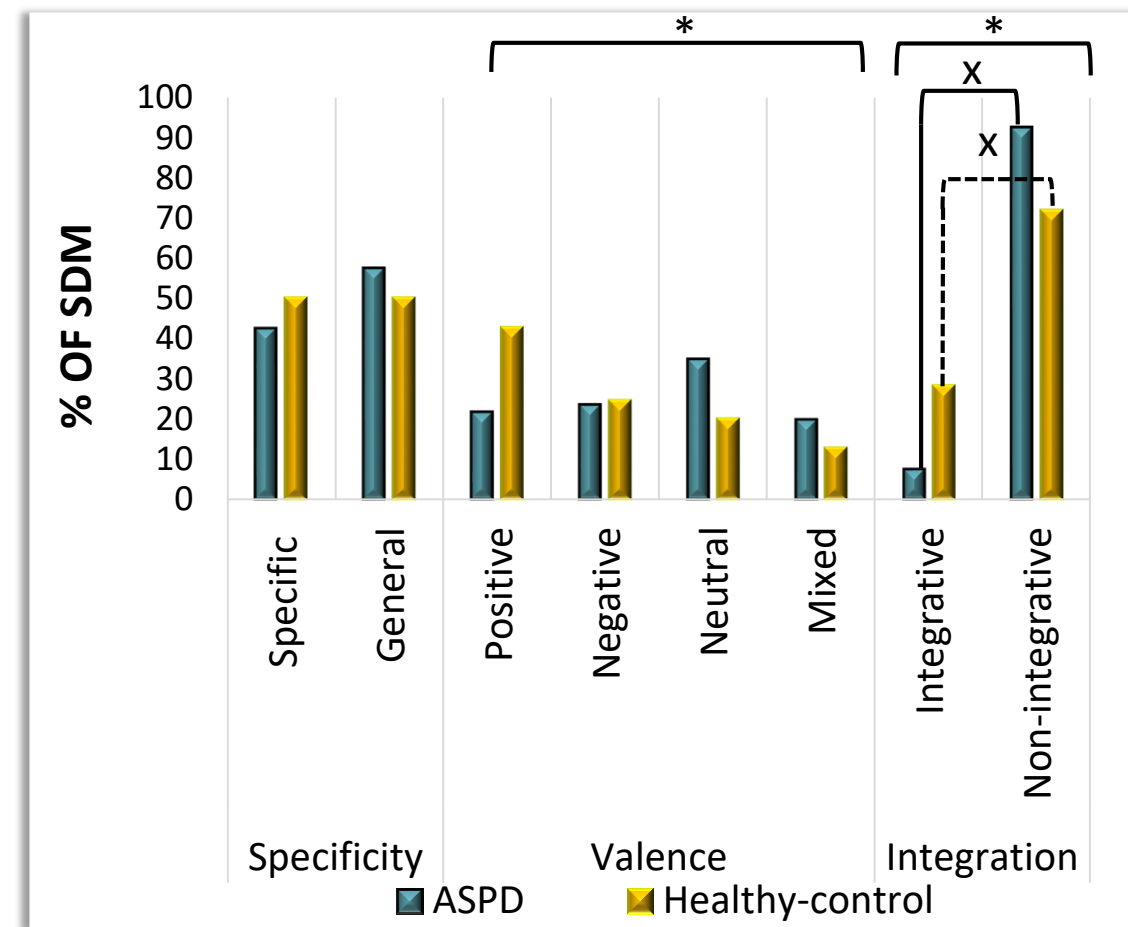
Procedure

Participants were asked to retrieved 5 SDMs. The SDMs were characterized *a posteriori* by three independent investigators.

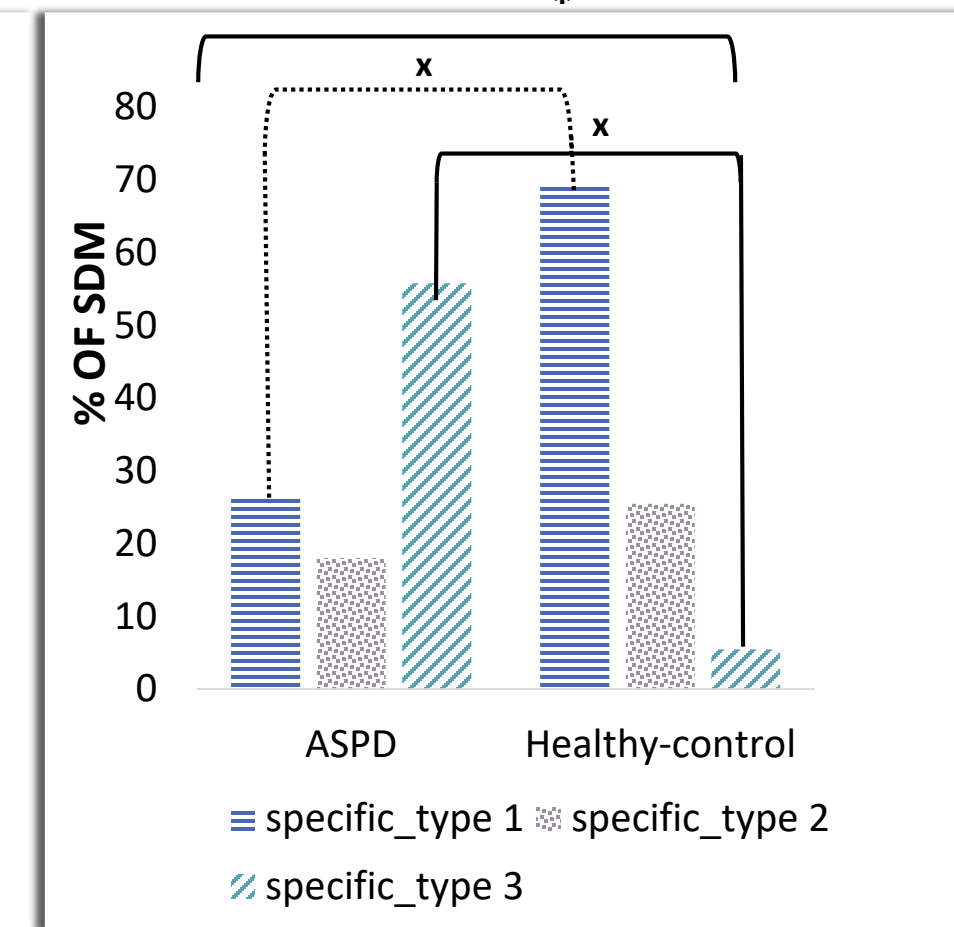
<p>Specificity A specific SDM = brief event with unique occurrence <i>Kappa coefficient = 0.66</i> Type 1 = pure specific event Type 2 = specific event with generalization Type 3 = multiple single event <i>Kappa coefficient = 0.71</i> <i>Singer & Blagov (2000,2001)</i></p>	<p>Integration An integrated SDM = SDM containing meaning making <i>Kappa coefficient = 0.63</i> <i>Singer & Blagov (2000,2001)</i></p>
	<p>Valence Positive, Negative, Neutral, Mixed Based on the use of emotional words in the telling <i>Kappa coefficient = 0.74</i> <i>Nandrino & Gandolphe (2017)</i></p>

RESULTS

Percentage of SDM according to the Specificity, Integration and Valence categories and according of the ASPD and the Healthy-control samples.



Percentage of SDM according to the type of specific SDMs of the ASPD and the Healthy-control samples



*: significant chi-square test ; x: variations superior to the value criteria +/-2 from the chi-square residual test

DISCUSSION

An **impairment in the retrieval of specific single event** and to make a selection in their SDMs has been observed in participants with **APSD**. They have also difficulties **to take lesson about their past**.

We argued that their inabilities to recall specific single event and to integrate their SDM could impair their **narrative identity**. The narrative identity is fundamental to the have a continuity in the life-story and to imagined coherent future life goals (McAdams & McLean, 2013). The integration impairment observed with person with ASPD is consistent with literature about persons with traumatic dissociation and could be associated with a lower level of mental health and well-being.

Thus we argued that the clinical interventions with people with APSD should give careful consideration to the integration of their significant life events

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