



**HAL**  
open science

## Characterization of Self-defining memories in antisocial personality disorder

Audrey Lavalée, Marie-Charlotte Gandolphe, Xavier Saloppé, Thierry H. Pham, Jean-Louis Nandrino

### ► To cite this version:

Audrey Lavalée, Marie-Charlotte Gandolphe, Xavier Saloppé, Thierry H. Pham, Jean-Louis Nandrino. Characterization of Self-defining memories in antisocial personality disorder. XVI European Congress of Psychology, Jul 2019, Moscou (Fédération de Russie), Russia. hal-04315994

**HAL Id: hal-04315994**

**<https://hal.univ-lille.fr/hal-04315994>**

Submitted on 19 Jan 2024

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

A.Lavallee 1,2\*; M.G. Gandolphe 1; X. Saloppé 1,3,4; T. Pham 2,3 & J.L. Nandrino 1

\*Contact : [audrey.lavallee@univ-lille.fr](mailto:audrey.lavallee@univ-lille.fr)

1: University of Lille, SCALab UMR CNRS 9193 (France); 2: UMons (Belgium); 3: Research center in social defense of Tournai (Belgium); 4: Psychiatric hospital of Saint Amand les eaux (France)

## 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

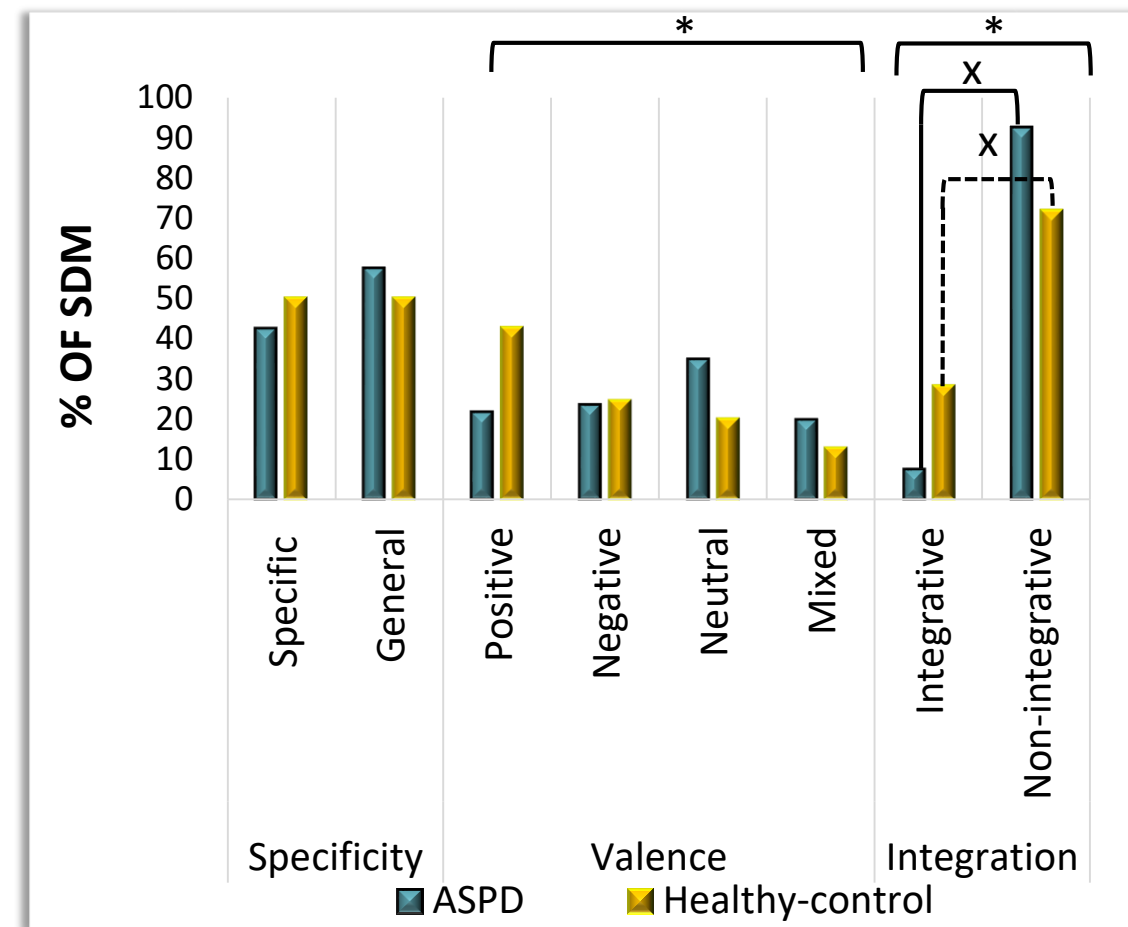
### Procedure

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

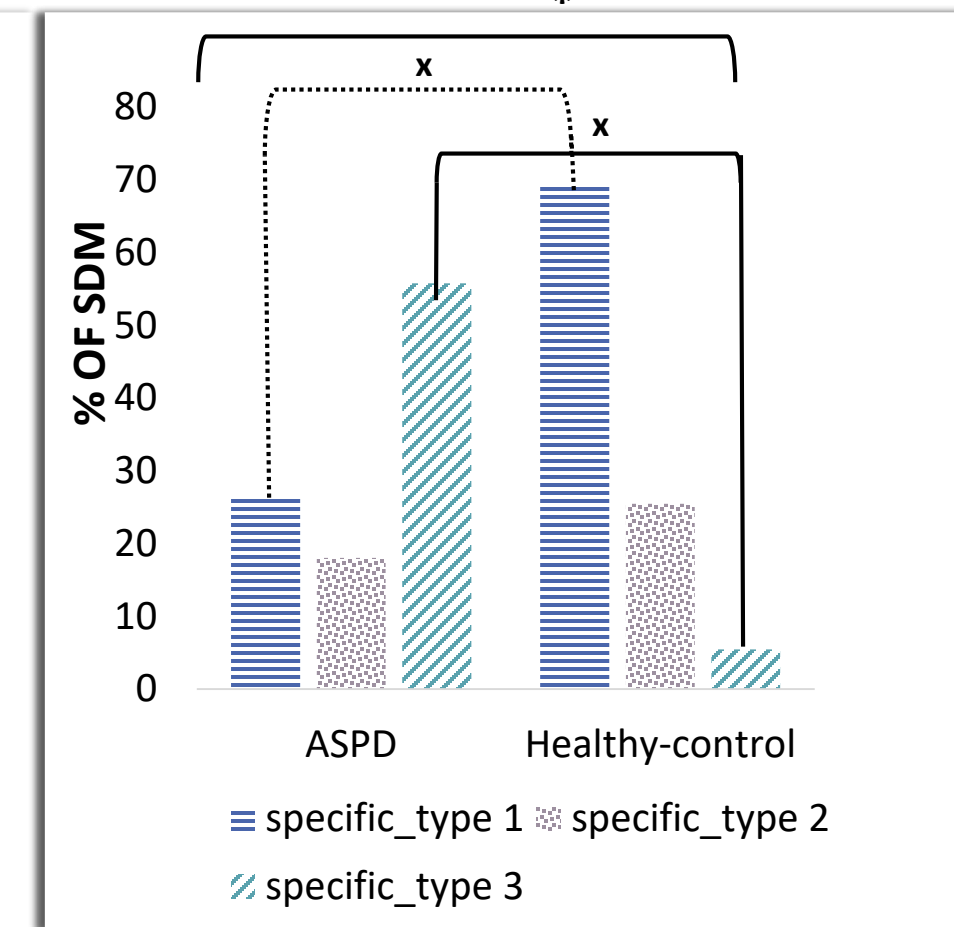
<p><b>Specificity</b> A specific SDM = brief event with unique occurrence <i>Kappa coefficient = 0.66</i> Type 1 = pure specific event Type 2 = specific event with generalization Type 3 = multiple single event <i>Kappa coefficient = 0.71</i> <i>Singer &amp; Blagov (2000,2001)</i></p>	<p><b>Integration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

## REFERENCES

- Nandrino, J., & Gandolphe, M. (2017). Characterization of Self-Defining Memories in Individuals with Severe Alcohol Use Disorders After Mid-Term Abstinence: The Impact of the Emotional Valence of Memories. *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, 41(8), 1484–1491.
- Singer, J A, & Blagov, P. S. (2001). Classification system and scoring manual for self-defining memories. New London, CT: Department of Psychology, Connecticut College.
- McAdams, D. P., & McLean, K. C. (2013). Narrative identity. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 22(3), 233–238.