Presentation Abstract

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Modality of Participation
in-person

Type of Presentation
Oral Presentation

Presentation Title

Script Injunctions, Substance Use, and Psychopathological Risk in Young Adults: Preliminary Findings and Italian Validation of the Script Injunctions Scale

Abstract
Background Within Transactional Analysis, script injunctions are relational messages that may influence personality development, coping patterns, and psychological vulnerability. Although associated with psychopathology, empirical evidence on their role in substance use and psychological distress remains limited. This study aims to investigate associations between script injunctions, psychopathological symptoms, substance use, and coping strategies in young adults, and to contribute to Italian validation of the Script Injunctions Scale. Methods The study will adopt a quantitative, cross-sectional, correlational design. Approximately 250 young adults will be recruited and divided into a clinical group with substance use-related difficulties and a non-clinical comparison group. Participants will be assessed through DSM-5-TR-based screening procedures and addiction measures, including the Measurements in the Addictions for Triage and Evaluation. The Italian version of the Script Injunctions Scale will be administered to evaluate injunctions. Coping strategies will be assessed to explore their moderating role in the relationship between injunctions, psychopathological symptoms, and substance use severity. Psychometric analyses will examine reliability and validity. Expected outcomes Participants in the clinical group are expected to report higher levels of script injunctions and greater psychopathological vulnerability than the non-clinical group. Specific injunctions may be associated with higher substance use severity and psychological distress. Adaptive coping strategies are expected to be more represented in the non-clinical sample, whereas maladaptive coping strategies may be more frequent among participants with substance use-related difficulties. The Italian version of the scale is expected to

show adequate psychometric properties. Conclusions This study may contribute to understanding early script messages in psychopathological risk and substance use among young adults. Findings may support the clinical utility of the Script Injunctions Scale within Transactional Analysis, with implications for assessment, case formulation, and treatment planning. Keywords: Transactional Analysis, Injunctions, Substance Use, Coping Strategies, Validation

Professional Picture

