A Multi-Method Examination of the Links between ADHD and Personality Disorder

Understanding the existing comorbid relationship between ADHD and Personality Disorders (PDs) may be useful for examining the developmental antecedents and origins of PDs, as well as the outcomes of ADHD. Existing research has been limited by possible selection bias related to clinical samples, PD models of questionable validity, and self-report biases. This study examined the relationship of childhood ADHD symptoms with adult personality traits and disorders using a university sample, including individuals pre-screened for elevated childhood ADHD symptoms. 439 undergraduates completed retrospective reports of their ADHD symptoms as a child (WURS-k), and current ratings of ADHD symptoms (ASRS). They also completed PD measures assessing both traditional categories (e.g., PDQ-4) and DSM-5 Section III dimensional trait model (e.g., PID-5). In order to overcome potential biases in self-report, 161 parents of the participants also provided ratings of childhood and adult ADHD symptoms, as well as adult personality traits.