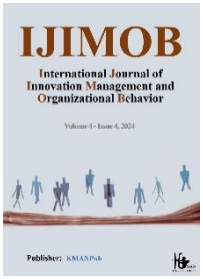
KMAN PUBLISHING INSTITUTE
Journal Website

Article history:
Received 04 June 2024
Revised 05 August 2024
Accepted 10 August 2024
Published online 01 October 2024

International Journal of Innovation Management and Organizational Behavior

Volume 4, Issue 4, pp 223-230



E-ISSN: 3041-8992

Investigating the Relationship Between Kernberg's Personality Organization and Obedience to Authority

Esmaeil. Namdari[1], Karim. Afsharineya[2*], Keyvan. Kakabraee[3], Mokhtar. Arefi[3]

[1] PhD student, Department of Psychology, Kermanshah Branch, Islamic Azad University, Kermanshah, Iran
[2] Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Kermanshah Branch, Islamic Azad University, Kermanshah, Iran
[3] Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Kermanshah Branch, Islamic Azad University, Kermanshah, Iran

*** Corresponding author email address**: k.afsharineya@iauksh.ac.ir

A r t i c l e I n f o

Article type:
Original Research

How to cite this article:
Namdari, E., Afsharineya, K., Kakabraee, K., & Arefi, M. (2024). Investigating the Relationship Between Kernberg's Personality Organization and Obedience to Authority. *International Journal of Innovation Management and Organizational Behavior*, *4*(4), 223-230.
https://doi.org/10.61838/kman.ijimob.4.4.26

A B S T R A C T

Objective: This study aimed to investigate the relationship between Kernberg's personality organization and obedience to authority.

Methodology: The present research is fundamental in terms of its objective and utilizes a mixed-methods approach (qualitative-quantitative) in terms of methodology. The statistical population included all undergraduate psychology students at the Islamic Azad University, Kermanshah Branch, in the 2022-2023 academic year. A convenience sampling method was used to select a class of 30 psychology students as the sample. The quantitative phase of the study was descriptive-correlational, while the qualitative phase employed qualitative content analysis. Spearman's correlation test was conducted using SPSS version 26. Data from the interviews were analyzed using MAXQDA 2022, and categorization was based on thematic analysis. Validity was assessed through respondent validation, and the coding reliability achieved a Kappa coefficient of 0.62. Data collection tools included semi-structured interviews, Kernberg's Personality Organization Inventory, and a researcher-made questionnaire.

Findings: The results of the correlation test indicated a positive and significant correlation at the 99% confidence level between the variables of obedience and the components of personality, lower-level defenses, reality testing, and personality organization. Additionally, thematic analysis identified eight factors underlying obedience and disobedience: guilt, inner conflict, adherence to inner values, absence of inner conflict, respect for authority, the authority's request, trust in authority, and fear of punishment.

Conclusion: It can be concluded that the diversity in obedience and disobedience to authority cannot be explained solely by environmental stimuli. Instead, the interaction between environmental and personality stimuli determines individuals' responses to authoritative commands.

Keywords: *Obedience to authority, Stanley Milgram, Kernberg's personality organization.*

1 Introduction

The trial of Adolf Eichmann, one of Hitler's top leaders during World War II, astonished people worldwide regarding human nature. Eichmann sent millions to concentration camps for extermination. To the public, Eichmann's behavior was brutal and evil, but like many others who have committed atrocities under the guise of duty, Eichmann defended himself by claiming he was just following orders (Arendt, 2006). This response sparked a question in Stanley Milgram's mind: if an experimenter instructed participants to administer electric shocks to another person in a laboratory setting, would they comply? (Milgram, 1963).

The experiment was conducted by initially placing an advertisement in a newspaper, calling for volunteers to participate in a psychology experiment to study the effects of punishment on learning and memory. Forty men, aged 20 to 50, volunteered for the experiment. Each participant was paid $4.50 for their participation. They were told that the experiment aimed to measure the impact of electric shocks on learning and memory performance. However, the true objective, hidden from the participants, was to investigate the extent to which they would obey the experimenter's orders. At the start of the experiment, participants were introduced to another participant, who was actually a confederate of the experimenter. The experiment involved two roles: teacher and learner. Roles were assigned through a rigged draw, ensuring the confederate always played the learner. The experimenter, dressed in a gray lab coat, issued the instructions and was portrayed by an actor. Two rooms separated by a common wall were used, one for the learner (with an electric chair) and the other for the teacher and the experimenter with an electric shock generator. The learner was strapped to the chair, with electrodes attached, and given a list of word pairs to memorize. The task was for the learner to recall the word pairs when prompted by the teacher, who would read the first word of each pair and ask the learner to select the correct match from a list of four options. The experimenter instructed the teacher to administer an electric shock for each incorrect response, increasing the shock level with each mistake. The shock generator had 30 switches ranging from 15 to 450 volts. The confederate deliberately gave wrong answers, prompting the teacher to deliver shocks. Although the shocks were fake, the teacher was unaware of this. At 180 volts, the learner began to plead and scream about the pain and claimed to have a heart condition, asking to stop the experiment. When the teacher hesitated to administer shocks, the experimenter used a series of prompts to encourage continuation (O'Leary et al., 1970).

In the end, the results showed that 69% of participants (teachers) obeyed the experimenter's orders and continued to administer the maximum shock level of 450 volts. Milgram's experiment revealed that the answer to whether individuals would harm others under authority is affirmative (Milgram, 1974). Replications of the experiment produced consistent results (Blass, 1991; Kilham & Mann, 1974; Shanab & Yahya, 1977). Methodological replications in 11 countries, including Spain, Austria, Germany, Jordan, South Africa, Scotland, Australia, India, and Puerto Rico, yielded similar results (Blass, 2012). Virtual versions of the experiment also confirmed the findings (Dambrun & Vatiné, 2010; Slater et al., 2006). Studies involving children showed similar obedience patterns (Shanab & Yahya, 1977). Changing the teacher's role to a mediator for delivering shock instructions did not alter obedience levels, and the results were replicated (Kilham & Mann, 1974). Milgram used the theoretical construct of agentic state to explain obedience, suggesting that obedient individuals relinquish personal responsibility and autonomy, becoming agents executing the authority's wishes. This mechanism is evolutionarily advantageous for group acceptance, a necessity for socially living beings (Milgram & Gudehus, 1974). However, this explanation has several weaknesses. Given the agentic state's applicability to all humans, it fails to account for the varying levels of obedience observed in Milgram's studies, where some participants complied with authority while others did not (Reicher et al., 2012). There is no evidence linking obedience or disobedience to the degree of responsibility acceptance (Mantell & Panzarella, 1976). Although Milgram completed his studies in 1962, his detailed account was not published until 1974, highlighting the gap in theory accompanying his empirical data (Elms, 1995). This gap remains unfilled, and no definitive theory exists to explain obedience or defiance (Blass, 2012). The weakest part of Milgram's work is his theoretical explanation of the experimental data (Blass, 2012). Many studies on obedience, following Milgram, have focused primarily on situational factors, while some have examined personality variables as the main research focus (Elms & Milgram, 1966). For example, the first published study examining the relationship between personality and obedience in the Milgram paradigm was by Elms and Milgram, which found that obedient individuals scored significantly higher on the F scale of the MMPI, indicating authoritarianism, although there was no logical or empirical link between the F scale

IJIMOB
E-ISSN: 3041-8992

and aggression (Elms & Milgram, 1966). In a study by Zeigler-Hill et al. (2013), individuals most reluctant to obey the experimenter's commands had low levels of neuroticism and experienced negative affect during the experiment (Zeigler-Hill et al., 2013). Bègue et al. (2015) found that conscientiousness and agreeableness predicted the intensity of shocks administered to the victim. In Southard's study (2014), conscientiousness significantly correlated with participants' reluctance to obey, with higher conscientiousness linked to lower willingness to comply with the experimenter (Bègue et al., 2015). Participants who refused to follow the experimenter's instructions in Burger, Girgis, and Manning's study (2011) expressed significantly higher personal responsibility and reluctance to continue than those who followed the instructions (Burger et al., 2011).

Some studies have shown no relationship between obedience and personality dimensions. For example, Burger (2009) found no significant correlation between empathetic concern or desire for control and obedience (Burger, 2009). Similarly, Bocchiaro, Zimbardo, and Van Lange (2012) found no personality correlates with obedience or disobedience (Bocchiaro et al., 2012).

Individual differences in obedience are evident, as both obedience and disobedience occur in most studies under the same situational and stimulus conditions. Therefore, efforts to identify personality correlates of obedience and disobedience aim to explain individual differences in responses to authority systematically (Blass, 2012). Descriptive and dimensional models have been used to predict destructive obedience, yet clinical observations have not found strong links between the Five-Factor Model and personality disorders or aggression (Widiger & Costa Jr, 2013). These models have failed to adequately associate personality traits with personality disorders and aggression (Livesley, 1998). Psychoanalysts have long considered aggression as more than just a learned behavior, viewing it as one of the fundamental biological forces (Freud, 2015). Contemporary psychoanalysts have examined the psychological structures and patterns related to aggression, considering it both in the formation of psychological structures and as a consequence (Caligor & Clarkin, 2010; Kernberg, 2009). Kernberg introduced a psychoanalytic model of personality, the Personality Organization, which addresses the deep psychological dynamics in personality disorders, including repetitive patterns of violence and victimization (Kernberg, 1967). This model focuses on the underlying personality structure behind observable behaviors or motivations (Kovács et al., 2021). Many researchers in psychoanalysis have examined the relationship between Personality Organization and aggression, though few empirical studies exist (Caligor & Clarkin, 2010; Kernberg, 2009; Lenzenweger et al., 2001; Stern et al., 2010). Some studies have found links between Kernberg's Personality Organization and aggression and impulse control issues (Lenzenweger et al., 2001). Numerous studies indicate a relationship between Personality Organization and personality disorders, which are strongly associated with aggression. For instance, there is a link between Borderline Personality Disorder and Kernberg's Personality Organization (Kovács et al., 2021; Skodol et al., 2002). Various studies have confirmed the connection between Borderline Personality Disorder and aggression (Baumann et al., 2020; Martino et al., 2015; Sarkar, 2019).

Thus, this study aimed to identify the link between psychoanalytic perspectives and Stanley Milgram's experimental framework on obedience to authority using Kernberg's Personality Organization Inventory. Therefore, this study's objective was to investigate the relationship between Kernberg's Personality Organization and obedience to authority.

2 Methods and Materials

This research is fundamental in nature and utilizes a mixed-methods approach (qualitative-quantitative). In the qualitative section, the statistical population included all undergraduate psychology students at the Islamic Azad University, Kermanshah Branch, in the 2022-2023 academic year. A convenience sampling method was used, selecting a class of 30 psychology students as the sample, considering that the authority or university professor participating in the experiment was from the psychology department. The sample size was chosen based on Milgram's study, which ranged from 20 to 40 participants. The inclusion criterion was that participants had no prior knowledge of Milgram's experiment, hence second-semester psychology students were selected. The research instrument for this phase was a semi-structured interview, with questions guided and asked until theoretical saturation was achieved, influenced by Kernberg's personality theory. Data from the interviews were analyzed using MAXQDA 2022 through coding, and categorization was based on thematic analysis. Validity was checked via respondent validation. To ensure coding accuracy and confirm the reliability of the findings, a second

IJIMOB
E-ISSN: 3041-8992

evaluator was used to recode the findings, resulting in the removal of one code out of eleven. Cohen's kappa coefficient formula in SPSS version 26 was used to confirm reliability, with a resulting agreement level of 0.62, indicating 62% agreement between evaluators in coding. In the quantitative section, the entire statistical population, given its small size, was selected as the research sample. SPSS version 26 was used for data analysis, and Spearman's nonparametric test was used to calculate the correlation between obedience (a binary and nominal variable) and Kernberg's Personality Organization components.

Kernberg's Personality Organization Inventory: This study used the 37-item form of Kernberg's Personality Organization Inventory (Lenzenweger et al., 2001). The factorial structure of this inventory includes three dimensions: reality testing, lower-level defenses, and identity integration. In Kernberg's Personality Organization model, the sum of these three factors indicates overall personality vulnerability. In Iran, the factorial structure and validity of this questionnaire were examined by Al Behbahani and Mohammadi (2007). Reliability coefficients for the total inventory and the dimensions of lower-level defenses, identity integration, and reality testing were 0.90, 0.82, 0.68, and 0.91, respectively (Arbab et al., 2020).

3 Findings and Results

The sample characteristics of the study revealed that out of 30 participants, 10 were male and 20 were female. All participants were undergraduate students, with 28 individuals in the age range of 20-28 years (93.3%), 1 individual in the age range of 29-36 years (3.3%), and 1 individual in the age range of 37-44 years (3.3%).

During the open coding process, 131 primary codes were generated from the 30 conducted interviews. These were then subjected to an initial classification of the data. The categories derived from open coding were merged based on orientations, appropriateness, nature, and semantic load, resulting in two main categories: obedience and disobedience, and eight conceptual categories or subcategories titled: guilt, internal conflict, adherence to internal values, lack of internal conflict, respect for authority, desire for authority, trust in authority, and fear of punishment. Each of these dimensions is explained below.

Table 1

Frequency of Open Codes Related to Factors of Obedience and Disobedience to Authority

Main Category	Conceptual Categories	Sample of Open Codes	Frequency
Disobedience to Authority	Guilt	I had a feeling like guilt; the face of the person was always in front of my eyes. I had severe guilt.	17
	Internal Conflict	At first, I rejected it, but later I regretted it. I wanted to reject it but couldn't. Honestly, I didn't want to reject it, but I also couldn't say no to you.	21
	Adherence to Internal Values	This request was contrary to ethics and justice. Your request was outside of ethical boundaries. This action was unjust.	3
	Fear of Punishment	I was afraid that you would be upset if I didn't reject it and would deduct marks from me at the end of the term. I feared that you might not support me this semester.	3
	Trust in Authority	I trusted you and your words because I believe you have a logical reason. Since I trust you and consider you a logical person, I followed your instructions. I thought you had a specific reason for rejecting.	13
Obedience to Authority	Lack of Internal Conflict	I marked the questions in a way that didn't meet the conditions. According to the interview checklist, it met the conditions, but because you said so, I marked the checks the other way.	32
	Respect for Authority	You would be upset with me if I didn't reject it. I'm sorry if I upset you. I didn't want to make you upset.	17
	Desire for Authority	Honestly, your request had a big impact on me. You asked me to do it. Because you asked, I did it.	22

3.1 Factors of Disobedience to Authority

Internal Conflict: According to Table 1, internal conflict with a frequency of 21 codes was the most significant factor in disobeying authority's request. Internal conflict refers to a state where participants saw themselves at a crossroads, needing to choose between following the authority's request to reject a loan application and their personal judgment that the applicant was eligible for the loan, which ultimately led to disobedience. For example, Participant 1 said: "I wanted to reject it but couldn't do it. I felt it was not right to reject it."

Guilt: The second factor with a frequency of 17 codes was guilt, reported by participants 2, 3, 6, 7, 14, 16, 17, 19, 22, 23, 25, 29, and 30. This internal feeling was described as

IJIMOB
E-ISSN: 3041-8992

guilt or remorse, causing participants to consider the applicant's condition and disobey the authority's request. For instance, Participant 16 said: "Something inside me wouldn't let me reject it; I felt it would harm them."

Adherence to Internal Values: The third factor with a frequency of 3 codes was adherence to internal values, reported by participants 1, 2, and 3. They initially disagreed with the authority's request, considering it unethical and based their decision on internal moral values rather than external stimuli. For example, Participant 3 said: "This request was contrary to ethics and justice."

3.2 Factors of Obedience to Authority

Lack of Internal Conflict: The most significant reason for obedience, with a frequency of 32 codes, was a lack of internal conflict. Participants 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 18, 20, 21, 24, 26, and 28 did not consider the applicant's conditions and focused solely on the authority's request. In some cases, even the applicant's information was distorted to make them appear ineligible. For instance, Participant 9 said: "According to the interview checklist, they met the conditions, but because you said so, I marked the checks the other way."

Desire for Authority: The second reason for obedience, with a frequency of 22 codes, was the authority's request itself. Most responses about the reason for obedience referred to the authority's request. This was similar to Adolf Eichmann's explanation at the Nuremberg Trials: "I was just following orders".

Respect for Authority: Respect for authority, with a frequency of 17 codes, was another reason for obedience from the perspective of participants 7, 8, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 22, 23, 27, and 30. Some participants mentioned that disobeying the authority or teacher would be disrespectful and might upset the authority. For example, Participant 13 said: "I didn't want you to be upset with me."

Trust in Authority: Trust in authority, with a frequency of 13 codes, was another reason for obedience. Participants 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 18, 20, and 23 considered the authority as reliable and deemed their request logical. For example, Participant 8 said: "I trusted you and considered you logical, so I followed your request."

Fear of Punishment: Fear of punishment, with a frequency of 3 codes, was the least frequent reason for obedience and was mentioned by participants 11, 12, and 27, who feared punishment from the authority. For example, Participant 11 said: "I was afraid that you would be upset if I didn't reject it and would deduct marks from me at the end of the term."

In the second part of the experiment, before interviewing each participant with the second applicant, the authority (class instructor) asked participants to reject the applicant's request, while the applicant was presented in a manner that made them eligible for the loan. Out of 30 participants, 25 obeyed the authority's request and rejected the applicant's request. After completing the interviews, 9 participants who had initially obeyed the instructor's orders reconsidered and requested the approval of the loan application.

Table 2

Descriptive Statistics of Kernberg's Personality Organization

Personality Component	Number of Participants	Mean	Standard Deviation
Personality Organization	30	76.3	19.5
Reality Testing	30	32.2	9.4
Lower-level Defenses	30	22.2	6.5
Identity Integration	30	21.9	5.1

Table 3

Correlation Between Study Variables

Variables	Obedience	Sig.
Personality Organization	.57**	.00
Reality Testing	.56**	.00
Lower-level Defenses	.62**	.00
Identity Integration	.34	.09

*p < .05, **p < .01

IJIMOB
E-ISSN: 3041-8992

According to Table 3, there is a significant positive correlation between obedience and the components of personality, specifically lower-level defenses, reality testing, and personality organization, at the 99% confidence level and 1% error rate. This indicates that participants who disobeyed authority had lower scores in personality vulnerability. Additionally, the table shows that there is no significant correlation between identity integration and obedience.

4 Discussion and Conclusion

The aim of the present study was to examine the relationship between Kernberg's Personality Organization and obedience to authority and to explain the reasons for obedience to authority through both quantitative and qualitative methods. In the quantitative phase, correlation test results indicated that the components of Kernberg's Personality Organization, reality testing, and lower-level defenses, as well as the overall personality organization score, had a significant positive correlation with obedience or disobedience to authority's request. These findings are consistent with studies (Burger et al., 2011; Elms & Milgram, 1966; Zeigler-Hill et al., 2013) that linked obedience with personality components, while other studies (Bocchiaro et al., 2012; Milgram, 1963) considered environmental and social factors. Many studies on obedience show that both obedience and disobedience occur simultaneously depending on the situation and stimulus (Blass, 2012). This suggests that an interactive model between personality components and environmental stimuli determines individual responses to authority's orders.

Kernberg (2009) views personality as a psychological structure with stable, repetitive, and predictable patterns activated in various situations, categorized into healthy, neurotic, borderline, and psychotic levels based on maturity and health. Personality components determine human reactions to environmental stimuli (Kernberg, 2009). In healthy and neurotic organizations, the formation of the superego creates a reflective space between environmental stimuli and responses, with decisions based on moral values aimed at preventing harm to others. Conversely, in borderline and psychotic organizations, behavior and decision-making are focused on personal security, with reflection replaced by rapid action and self-centeredness. In this study, participants who disobeyed authority had lower overall personality organization scores, leading to internal conflict when considering the applicant's conditions and ultimately disobeying authority based on internal values. They cited internal factors like guilt, adherence to ethics, and internal conflict as reasons for disobedience, consistent with Zeigler-Hill et al. (2013) and Bègue et al. (2015), who found negative affect and conscientiousness related to reluctance to obey (Bègue et al., 2015; Zeigler-Hill et al., 2013). Other studies also found a relationship between low personality organization levels and aggression, impulse control issues, and self-centered behavior (Látalová & Praško, 2010; Martino et al., 2015).

Low-level defenses were another factor correlated with obedience. Freud (1920/1995) considered the frequency of defense mechanisms as a key variable in understanding personality, pathology, and adaptation, a hypothesis supported by extensive research (Vaillant, 2000). Defense mechanisms range from high-level defenses, indicating personality growth and psychological security, to low-level defenses, shaping an individual's relationship with an insecure world for survival (Drapeau et al., 2011). In this study, obedient participants used more low-level defenses, focusing on personal security and relationship with the authority rather than the applicant's conditions. This aligns with studies linking low-level defenses to aggression (Martino et al., 2015; Sarkar, 2019).

Reality testing, which reflects unaltered interaction with the surrounding world, was another component where obedient participants showed more impairment. Low reality testing indicates an insecure connection with the world based on internal anxiety and needs. Obedient participants scored lower in reality testing than disobedient ones, focusing solely on personal conditions during decision-making. This aligns with the qualitative findings where obedient participants cited fear of punishment and fulfilling authority's desires, not experiencing conflict between authority's request and applicant's conditions.

To answer Milgram's fundamental question, whether individuals are willing to harm others to obey authority, the study suggests that personality organization's impairment predisposes individuals to aggression. Individuals with impaired personality organization have lower agency and autonomy and less resistance to harming others. Conversely, those with less personality impairment experience higher agency and consider the victim's conditions, deciding to disobey authority. Therefore, variations in obedience and disobedience cannot be solely explained by environmental stimuli; rather, the interaction between environmental and personality stimuli determines individual responses to authority's orders.

IJIMOB
E-ISSN: 3041-8992

One limitation is the small number of studies addressing this topic. Additionally, the sample was limited to students, which might not generalize to other populations. Another limitation is the potential fatigue of respondents due to the two-phase study, possibly affecting their responses to interviews and questionnaires.

Authors' Contributions

All authors have contributed significantly to the research process and the development of the manuscript.

Declaration

In order to correct and improve the academic writing of our paper, we have used the language model ChatGPT.

Transparency Statement

Data are available for research purposes upon reasonable request to the corresponding author.

Acknowledgments

We would like to express our gratitude to all individuals helped us to do the project.

Declaration of Interest

The authors report no conflict of interest.

Funding

According to the authors, this article has no financial support.

Ethical Considerations

In this research, ethical standards including obtaining informed consent, ensuring privacy and confidentiality were observed.

References

Arbab, H., Mirzahosini, H., & Monirpoor, N. (2020). Predicting the Substance Use Relapse according to Childhood Trauma: Mediating Role of Object Relations Alienation, Borderline Personality Organization & Depression. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, *11*(4), 1-12. https://doi.org/10.22075/jcp.2020.19478.1806

Arendt, H. (2006). *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A report on the banality of evil*. Penguin. https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/eichmann-in-jerusalem-hannah-arendt/1100216159

Baumann, E., Schmidt, A. F., Jelinek, L., Benecke, C., & Spitzer, C. (2020). Implicitly measured aggressiveness self-concepts in women with borderline personality disorder as assessed by an Implicit Association Test. *Journal of Behavior Therapy and Experimental Psychiatry*, *66*, 101513. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbtep.2019.101513

Bègue, L., Beauvois, J.-L., Courbet, D., Oberlé, D., Lepage, J., & Duke, A. A. (2015). Personality Predicts Obedience in a Milgram Paradigm. *Journal of personality*, *83*(3), 299-306. https://doi.org/10.1111/jopy.12104

Blass, T. (1991). Understanding behavior in the Milgram obedience experiment: The role of personality, situations, and their interactions. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, *60*(3), 398-413. https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.60.3.398

Blass, T. (2012). A Cross-Cultural Comparison of Studies of Obedience Using the Milgram Paradigm: A Review. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, *6*(2), 196-205. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1751-9004.2011.00417.x

Bocchiaro, P., Zimbardo, P. G., & Van Lange, P. A. M. (2012). To defy or not to defy: An experimental study of the dynamics of disobedience and whistle-blowing. *Social Influence*, *7*(1), 35-50. https://doi.org/10.1080/15534510.2011.648421

Burger, J. M. (2009). Replicating Milgram: Would people still obey today? *American psychologist*, *64*(1), 1-11. https://doi.org/10.1037/a0010932

Burger, J. M., Girgis, Z. M., & Manning, C. C. (2011). In Their Own Words: Explaining Obedience to Authority Through an Examination of Participants' Comments. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, *2*(5), 460-466. https://doi.org/10.1177/1948550610397632

Caligor, E., & Clarkin, J. F. (2010). An object relations model of personality and personality pathology. *Psychodynamic psychotherapy for personality disorders: A clinical handbook*, 3-35. https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=NSyiH7xM7FQC&oi=fnd&pg=PA3&dq=29.+Caligor+E.+An+object+relations+model+of+personality+and+personality+pathology.+In:+Clarkin+JF,+editor.+Psychodynamic+psychotherapy+for+personality+disorders:+A+clinical+handbook.+Arlington,+VA,+US:+American+Psychiatric+Publishing,+Inc.%3B+2010.+pp:+3-35.&ots=fmeE6yYb2f&sig=DRM4c2ow4vRaYpGpOzubEZySD9k

Dambrun, M., & Vatiné, E. (2010). Reopening the study of extreme social behaviors: Obedience to authority within an immersive video environment. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, *40*(5), 760-773. https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.646

Drapeau, M., Thompson, K., Petraglia, J., Thygesen, K. L., & Lecours, S. (2011). Defense mechanisms and gender: An examination of two models of defensive functioning derived from the Defense Style Questionnaire. *International journal of psychology and psychological therapy*, *11*(1), 149-155. https://www.redalyc.org/pdf/560/56017110006.pdf

Elms, A. C. (1995). Obedience in Retrospect. *Journal of Social Issues*, *51*(3), 21-31. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1540-4560.1995.tb01332.x

Elms, A. C., & Milgram, S. (1966). Personality characteristics associated with obedience and defiance toward authoritative command. *Journal of Experimental Research in Personality*. https://psycnet.apa.org/record/1967-04552-001

Freud, S. (2015). Beyond the pleasure principle. *Psychoanalysis and History*, *17*(2), 151-204. https://www.euppublishing.com/doi/full/10.3366/pah.2015.0169

E-ISSN: 3041-8992

Kernberg, O. (1967). Borderline Personality Organization. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, *15*(3), 641-685. https://doi.org/10.1177/000306516701500309

Kernberg, O. (2009). The concept of the death drive: A clinical perspective. *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, *90*(5), 1009-1023. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1745-8315.2009.00187.x

Kilham, W., & Mann, L. (1974). Level of destructive obedience as a function of transmitter and executant roles in the Milgram obedience paradigm. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, *29*(5), 696-702. https://doi.org/10.1037/h0036636

Kovács, L. N., Schmelowszky, Á., Galambos, A., & Kökönyei, G. (2021). Rumination mediates the relationship between personality organization and symptoms of borderline personality disorder and depression. *Personality and individual differences*, *168*, 110339. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2020.110339

Látalová, K., & Praško, J. (2010). Aggression in Borderline Personality Disorder. *Psychiatric Quarterly*, *81*(3), 239-251. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11126-010-9133-3

Lenzenweger, M. F., Clarkin, J. F., Kernberg, O. F., & Foelsch, P. A. (2001). The Inventory of Personality Organization: Psychometric properties, factorial composition, and criterion relations with affect, aggressive dyscontrol, psychosis proneness, and self-domains in a nonclinical sample. *Psychological assessment*, *13*(4), 577-591. https://doi.org/10.1037/1040-3590.13.4.577

Livesley, W. J. (1998). Suggestions for a Framework for an Empirically Based Classification of Personality Disorder. *The Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, *43*(2), 137-147. https://doi.org/10.1177/070674379804300202

Mantell, D. M., & Panzarella, R. (1976). Obedience and Responsibility. *British Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology*, *15*(3), 239-245. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.2044-8260.1976.tb00030.x

Martino, F., Caselli, G., Berardi, D., Fiore, F., Marino, E., Menchetti, M., Prunetti, E., Ruggiero, G. M., Sasdelli, A., Selby, E., & Sassaroli, S. (2015). Anger rumination and aggressive behaviour in borderline personality disorder. *Personality and Mental Health*, *9*(4), 277-287. https://doi.org/10.1002/pmh.1310

Milgram, S. (1963). Behavioral Study of obedience. *The Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology*, *67*(4), 371-378. https://doi.org/10.1037/h0040525

Milgram, S., & Gudehus, C. (1974). Obedience to authority. In: Harper New York.

O'Leary, C. J., Willis, F. N., & Tomich, E. (1970). Conformity under Deceptive and Non-Deceptive Techniques. *The Sociological Quarterly*, *11*(1), 87-93. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1533-8525.1970.tb02077.x

Reicher, S. D., Haslam, S. A., & Smith, J. R. (2012). Working Toward the Experimenter: Reconceptualizing Obedience Within the Milgram Paradigm as Identification-Based Followership. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, *7*(4), 315-324. https://doi.org/10.1177/1745691612448482

Sarkar, J. (2019). Borderline personality disorder and violence. *Australasian Psychiatry*, *27*(6), 578-580. https://doi.org/10.1177/1039856219878644

Shanab, M. E., & Yahya, K. A. (1977). A behavioral study of obedience in children. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, *35*(7), 530-536. https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.35.7.530

Skodol, A. E., Gunderson, J. G., Pfohl, B., Widiger, T. A., Livesley, W. J., & Siever, L. J. (2002). The borderline diagnosis I: psychopathology, comorbidity, and personaltity structure. *Biological Psychiatry*, *51*(12), 936-950. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0006-3223(02)01324-0

Slater, M., Antley, A., Davison, A., Swapp, D., Guger, C., Barker, C., Pistrang, N., & Sanchez-Vives, M. V. (2006). A virtual reprise of the Stanley Milgram obedience experiments. *PLoS One*, *1*(1), e39. https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0000039s

Stern, B. L., Caligor, E., Clarkin, J. F., Critchfield, K. L., Horz, S., MacCornack, V., Lenzenweger, M. F., & Kernberg, O. F. (2010). Structured Interview of Personality Organization (STIPO): Preliminary Psychometrics in a Clinical Sample. *Journal of Personality Assessment*, *92*(1), 35-44. https://doi.org/10.1080/00223890903379308

Vaillant, G. E. (2000). Adaptive mental mechanisms: Their role in a positive psychology. *American psychologist*, *55*(1), 89-98. https://doi.org/10.1037/0003-066X.55.1.89

Widiger, T. A., & Costa Jr, P. T. (2013). Personality disorders and the five-factor model of personality: Rationale for the third edition. In *Personality disorders and the five-factor model of personality, 3rd ed.* (pp. 3-11). American Psychological Association. https://doi.org/10.1037/13939-001

Zeigler-Hill, V., Southard, A. C., Archer, L. M., & Donohoe, P. L. (2013). Neuroticism and Negative Affect Influence the Reluctance to Engage in Destructive Obedience in the Milgram Paradigm. *The Journal of Social Psychology*, *153*(2), 161-174. https://doi.org/10.1080/00224545.2012.713041