

## Self-Criticism and Emotional Numbness: The Mediating Role of Self-Alienation

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### 1. Round 1

#### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

This paragraph lacks recent references supporting the claim regarding PTSD. It may strengthen the argument to add empirical support from the last two years, especially studies that use clinical samples.

Consider reporting the actual number of participants removed (if any) due to outlier criteria, or clearly state that no participants were excluded based on this test.

Please justify the characterization of these scores as “non-clinical.” Is there a known clinical cutoff for the LOSC or CAPS-5 subscales? Clarify your normative frame of reference.

Consider moving this interpretive statement to the discussion section. It introduces causality that should be reserved for analysis beyond bivariate correlations.

The model fit indices are strong, but a justification for the chosen thresholds (e.g., CFI > .95) should be included with citations from methodological sources (e.g., Hu & Bentler, 1999).

The discussion of conceptualizations is strong, but empirical anchoring is needed. Are there specific studies in Mexican populations showing the link between emotional suppression and alienation?

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

### 1.2. *Reviewer 2*

Reviewer:

The model is introduced but not adequately explained. Please provide a clearer operational definition of what constitutes a “high-threshold” and how it connects mechanistically to emotional numbness.

This paragraph would benefit from a clear statement of the study’s hypothesis. It currently alludes to the goal but should explicitly state the mediation hypothesis in testable terms.

Given the study’s Mexican sample, it would enhance credibility to cite validation studies specifically in Latin American populations or similar cultural settings.

It would enhance transparency to mention whether bootstrapping was used to assess the significance of indirect effects, as this is standard in SEM mediation analysis.

Please specify which theoretical model(s) are being referred to here. Vague references to “theoretical models” should be grounded in cited frameworks such as Greenberg’s emotion regulation theory.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.