Specific facets of positive affect and their relations with psychopathology

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INTRODUCTION

Assessment of positive affect
- Most self-report research only uses measures of general positive affect.
- Little research has examined the specific, lower-order structure of positive affect.
- There is no consensus on the specific facets of positive affect.

Positive affect and psychopathology
- Relating specific facets of positive affect to psychopathology can improve our understanding of the nature of positive mood dysfunction in disorders such as depression, social anxiety, and mania.

Current Study
- The facet-level structure of trait positive affect was examined through factor analysis (principal axis factoring and varimax rotation). The facets obtained in this analysis were related to symptoms of several forms of psychopathology.
  - Facets of positive affect were modeled using the same battery of self-report questionnaires in both student and online community samples.
  - Specific positive affect facets were related to scales from the second version of the Inventory of Depression and Anxiety Symptoms, a measure with a wide range of symptom scales.

METHOD

Participants:
N=451 online community sample
- 60.5% White, 28.2% Asian; 54.8% Male; 78% living in the US, 20% living in India; mean age of 32.94 years (SD= 10.19)
N=436 University of Notre Dame student sample
- 78.7% White, 10.6% Asian; 58.7% Female; mean age of 19.36 years (*SD*= 1.29)

Positive affect/Personality Measures: TAI, PANAS-X, MACL, DES, DISI, PUM, IPIP scales (all self-report)

Psychopathology Measures: IDAS-II (self-report)

RESULTS

Table 1
Factor analysis of PA scales in online sample

	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3
PANAS-X Joviality	**.85**	.25	.24
MACL Elation	**.84**	.17	.24
PANAS-X Self-Assurance	**.80**	.05	.47
MACL Vigor	**.79**	.10	.20
PANAS-X Attentiveness	**.77**	.24	-.06
DES Joy	**.68**	.30	.16
MACL Surgency	**.66**	.16	.40
MACL Social Affection	.59	.57	.10
TAI Vigor	.58	.29	.31
PANAS-X Serenity	.56	.19	.14
DIS-I Goal Orientation	.54	.30	-.04
TAI Attentiveness	.53	.26	-.23
MACL Concentration	.50	.08	.14
DES Interest	.50	.11	.21
DIS-I Order	.44	.24	-.21
DIS-I Considerateness	.18	**.84**	-.08
IPIP Warmth	.29	**.84**	.05
IPIP Agreeableness	.15	**.83**	-.19
TAI Joviality	.34	**.74**	.15
IPIP Excitement Seeking	.21	.07	**.84**
DIS-I Risk Taking	.15	.01	**.84**
TAI Experience Seeking	.36	.04	**.80**
PUM	-.01	-.19	.49

Factor Structure
- Three distinct factors emerge in this sample.
  - The first factor (Joy) seems to be a blend of elation and energy.
  - The second factor represents interpersonal warmth.
  - The third is best described as excitement seeking.

RESULTS

Table 2
Factor analysis of PA scales in student sample

	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3
PANAS-X Joviality	**.78**	.38	.10
PANAS-X Self-Assurance	**.78**	.02	.40
MACL Elation	**.77**	.24	.05
PANAS-X Attentiveness	**.76**	.20	-.21
MACL Vigor	**.67**	.11	.13
MACL Surgency	**.64**	.22	.41
MACL Concentration	.56	.08	-.04
MACL Social Affection	.54	.54	.01
DES Interest	.47	.23	-.03
PANAS-X Serenity	.46	.18	.16
DIS-I Goal Orientation	.46	.33	-.30
TAI Attentiveness	.44	.08	-.34
DIS-I Order	.16	.07	-.37
IPIP Warmth	.25	**.82**	-.01
IPIP Agreeableness	.08	**.80**	-.18
TAI Joviality	.21	**.79**	.04
DIS-I Considerateness	.16	**.78**	-.04
DES Joy	.47	.53	-.03
TAI Vigor	.36	.36	-.06
IPIP Excitement Seeking	.19	.16	**.79**
DIS-I Risk Taking	.24	-.01	**.79**
TAI Experience Seeking	.18	-.10	**.77**
PUM	-.13	-.27	.38

Factor Structure
- A very similar factor structure emerges in this sample.
  - The factor loadings are very similar, as scales with the highest loadings in the first sample generally have the highest loadings in this sample. The cross-loadings are similar as well.

RESULTS

Table 3
Relations between online sample PA factor scores and IDAS scales

	Joy	Warmth	Excitement Seeking
IDAS Social Anxiety	-.07	-.23	-.07
IDAS Dysphoria	**-.27**	**-.30**	.20
IDAS Mania	.21	-.18	**.37**
IDAS Euphoria	**.61**	.01	**.36**

Table 4
Relations between student sample PA factor scores and IDAS scales

	Joy	Warmth	Excitement Seeking
IDAS Social Anxiety	**-.25**	**-.29**	.03
IDAS Dysphoria	**-.28**	-.22	.12
IDAS Mania	.01	-.18	.15
IDAS Euphoria	**.44**	-.06	.23

Relations with PA and psychopathology
- Social Anxiety
  - Relations are low to moderate, although the Joy and Warmth factors seem to have stronger negative relations.
- Dysphoria/Depression
  - Joy and Warmth have low to moderate negative relations.
- Mania
  - Excitement Seeking has a moderate positive correlation with mania in the online sample.
- Euphoria
  - Relates positively to both Joy and Excitement Seeking.

DISCUSSION & IMPLICATION

Summary and Future Directions
- Results of these analyses indicate a three-factor structure.
- The three emergent factors generally had low correlations with the IDAS psychopathology scales, although several of the correlations in provide evidence for specificity.
  - Future research with other measures of positive affect and psychopathology would be useful to corroborate these results.