

Popular science summary

Probably, most people hearing about a narcissistic person imagine someone who is self-absorbed, selfish and self-admiring. In addition to that, one might think of such person to be entitled, exploitative, striving to be admired no matter what the cost. Such first impressions are of course accurate – all of them are describing the way of functioning of a grandiose narcissist. However, there is also a qualitatively different form of narcissisms, much less obvious, which in the literature is called as vulnerable narcissism. On the one hand, such person does not remind the prototypical example of grandiose narcissist. Contrary to him, such person is withdrawn, has unrealistic expectations that other people would realize untold wishes, is filled with anxiety and constantly experience either what happened and what may happen. Despite such significant differences, there are also many similarities. Vulnerable narcissist as well has hostile attitudes towards other people, but thinks other are hostile to him. He envies any successes of other people and looks everywhere as others might want to hurt him. In the scientific literature, grandiose narcissist is known much better, while the vulnerable narcissist – remains in some measure hidden. The current project aims to create a profile of vulnerable narcissists intra- and inter-personal functioning.

To realize such goal, four separate studies organized around two areas (i.e., intra- and inter-personal relations) were planned. In regard to the first area, we want to know how vulnerable narcissism studied many times day by day influence functioning of a person (e.g., his self-esteem). Moreover, we are interested to know how the fluctuations between different strategies occur. In regard to the second area, we want to know how vulnerable narcissism influence knowing people “at the first sight”. Is it helpful or is it on the contrary? And how does it influence social relations in the longer perspective? Are vulnerable narcissists able to maintain relations with other people? We expect that this project would enable us to answer on all these questions. We will sketch a psychological portrait of the vulnerable narcissist, which would allow to better understand how such people live with themselves and with others.