

If we recall a situation in which we were angry at someone, there is a high chance that we expressed our feelings using words associated with (low) intelligence such as “stupid,” or “idiot”. On the other hand, we are surrounded by objects that are “smart” or “intelligent.” It seems that “intellectual” language is an important part of our everyday experience. A long research tradition on intelligence supports the idea that cognitive ability is a substantial predictor of various outcomes that lead to life success such as work and school achievement, better health, or longevity. However, many studies indicate that not only our actual level of cognitive ability but also what we *think* about intelligence plays an important role in our lives. It has been suggested that cognitive ability became a central concept in modern (especially Western) society, and subjectively assessed intelligence (SAI) was found to be associated with higher well-being, self-confidence, academic achievements, but also as a factor used to threaten someone’s self-esteem (e.g. stereotype threat). One of the reasons for this fact might stem from how people understand and use the concept of intelligence: to increase their self-confidence, and to belittle others, which, in turn, might result in positive feelings. The current project investigates the hypothesis that the lay concept of intelligence is primarily associated with narcissistic superiority.

In the project, six studies are planned exploring four broad areas of subjective intelligence and its relation to narcissistic feeling of superiority. First, it examines the nature of such beliefs, for instance, by testing whether the positive feedback on IQ increases temporarily state narcissism. Second, it explores why narcissism is the strongest correlate of SAI and how it differs from other *determinants* of SAI. Moreover, various *processes* of biased perception of intelligence are examined along with their potential interactions with determinants. Third, the project examines potential *source* of the narcissistic aspect in subjective intelligence, such as the testosterone level. Finally, it explores the possible reduction of biased perception and *consequences* of adequate estimation of intelligence.