The relationship between narcissistic personality traits and risk-taking behavior is mediated by self-monitoring

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This study investigated the hypothesis that narcissistic personality traits affect risk-taking behaviors through self-monitoring. The Narcissistic Personality Inventory Short Version (NPI-S), the Self-monitoring Scale (SM), and the Risk-taking Behavior Scale for Undergraduates (RIBS-U) were administered to 192 university and graduate students. There were three NPI-S factors (“sense of superiority and competence”, “need for attention and praise”, and “self-assertion”), two SM factors (“extraversion” and “other-directedness”), and the single risk-taking factor of the RIBS-U. Covariance structure analysis was then conducted to test whether narcissistic personality traits affect risk-taking behaviors through self-monitoring. Analysis showed that the factors of “sense of superiority and competence” and “need for attention and praise” affected risk-taking behavior through the “other-directedness” factor. However, the “self-assertion” factor was found to have a direct effect on risk-taking behavior.

Keywords: narcissistic personality, self-monitoring, risk-taking behavior, adolescence.