

Abstract

Negative schema has been considered a core process in the formation of paranoia. This research investigated the various pathways between paranoia and negative schemas about self and other. We also examined whether anxiety or depression can mediate the relationships between negative schemas and paranoia. As paranoia of the non-clinical populace is the subject matter of our concern, a total of 2089 participants without self-pronounced psychiatric diagnosis were recruited. This research was conducted with SPSS (version 27.0 for Mac) and its PROCESS macro (version 4.0) for mediation analysis. Pearson's correlation analysis, and t-tests were performed to identify any covariates between sample characteristics and the mediators. A moderate correlation between negative schemas and paranoia has been demonstrated. Also, negative affect such as anxiety and depression were found to mediate the pathway between negative -self and other schemas and paranoia significantly, with depression being a more influential mediator than anxiety.