Título Prediction of Trolling Behavior from Dark Personality, Problematic Use of Internet, and Sex

Tipo de Producto Poster

Autores Pablo C. González; Matias Cabrera; German A. Montejano; Agustina F. Germanowicz; Juan I. López; Santiago Resett

Congreso: Association for Psychological Science Conference, San Francisco, Mayo 2018

Código del Proyecto y Título del Proyecto

A18S16 - Perfiles de personalidad y uso indebido de Internet: una perspectiva del fenómeno Trolling

Responsable del Proyecto

González Caino, Pablo Christian

Línea

Psicología Educacional y del Desarrollo

Área Temática

Psicología

Fecha

Mayo 2018

INSOD
Instituto de Ciencias Sociales y Disciplinas
Proyectuales

FUNDACIÓN
UADE

Prediction of trolling from dark personality, problematic use of internet, and sex

FUNDACIÓN UADE
CONICET

Authors: Pablo C. González Caino (UADE-CONICET); Matias Cabrera; German A. Montejano; Agustina F. Germanowicz; Juan I. Lopez; Santiago Resett (UADE-CONICET)

1. Abstract

New technologies have brought a lot of benefits to our daily lives, but also some new negative issues, like internet trolling. Results showed that par of dark personality (sadism and psychopathy), problematic use of new technologies and being in the male group were predictors of Trolling behavior.

2. Introduction

New technologies have been characterized for bringing a whole of positive advances in many different ways in our daily lives, but these advances have a negative outcome too, like internet addiction, cyberbullying and trolling. Trolling is the practice of behaving in a deceptive, destructive or disruptive manner on the internet, with no instrumental purpose (Buckels, E., Trapnell, P., & Paulhus, D. 2014). It is an important risk factor for the mental health of both aggressors and victims. **In Latin America, and despite its big relevance, almost none research had been done on the subject. This study focuses on the prediction of trolling behavior from sex, problematic use of internet and dark personality (machiavellianism, psychopathy, and narcissism).**

3. Method

3.1 Participants
437 Argentinian adults, both sexes (66% female) with a mean age of 24 years old.

3.2 Measures
All measures were taken by an online battery in the following order:
- **A sociodemographic questionnaire**
- **Assessment of Internet Trolling (Buckels, E., Trapnell, P., & Paulhus, D.2014).**
- **Short Dark Triad Scale (Paulhus, D., & Jones, D.2015)**
- **Varieties of Sadistic Tendencies (Paulhus, D., & Jones, D.2015)**
- **Problematic use of new technologies (Andreassen, C. S.2016).**

4. Analysis

A hierarchical regression analysis was performed to predict trolling behavior, placing in the first block dark personality scores (Machiavellianism, psychopathy, and narcissism) plus sadistic tendencies scores (direct and vicarious sadism) and in the second block, total scores of problematic use of new technologies (symptomatology and dysfunctionality) and sex (0 = male; 1 = female).

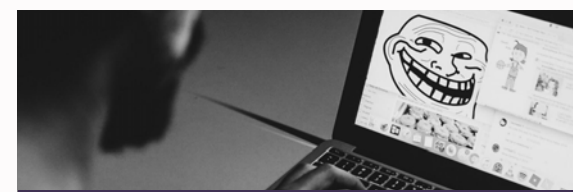|	Model 1			Model 2		
	B	SE B	β	B	SE B	β
Machiavellianism	.082	0.57	.064	.084	.056	.065
Narcissism	-.019	.058	-.013	-.038	.059	-.027
Psychopathy	.186	.054	.182	.174	.054	.170
Vicarious Sadism	.365	.054	.282	.280	.060	.216
Direct Sadism	.346	.062	.286	.330	.062	.272
EAII Symptomatology				-.043	.056	-.035
EAII Dysfunctionality				.394	.130	.136
Sex				-1.406	.529	-.111
R2		.412			.406	
F for change in R2		.435			.424	

5. Results

Results showed that :
The first block predicted 28% of the variance and with the second block the prediction scale up to 42% being significative (p < .001).

5.1 Significant predictors

PSYCHOPATY (t = 3.24, ß = .17, p < .001)
VICARIOUS SADISM (t = 4.68, ß = .28, p < .001)
DIRECT SADISM (t = 5.35, ß = .33, p < .001)
BEING MALE (t =-2.66, ß = -.11, p < .008)
DYSFUNCTIONAL USE OF INTERNET (T = 3.04, ß = .14, P < .003)

RESULTS SUGGEST THAT PROBLEMATIC USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES IS A RISK FACTOR ABOVE AND BEYOND DARK PERSONALITY

2. Discussion

- Currently, trolls are found in multiple social networks and diverse apps (March, E., & Natalie, S. 2017).

- The current findings suggest that individuals that engage in trolling behaviors on Facebook® are characterized by a lack of empathy, disregard for others and enjoyment of others distress (as indicated by high levels of sadism and psychopathy,) and are driven by gaining negative power and influence over others.(March, E. & Craker, N. 2016).

- Understanding the effects of specific types of trolling may also allow us to design measures better targeted to the specific behaviors (Cheng, J., Bernstein, M., Danescu-Niculescu-Mizil, C. & Leskovec, J. 2017).

- Rather than banning all users who troll and violate community norms, also considering measures that mitigate the situational factors that lead to trolling may better reflect the reality of how trolling occurs (Cheng, J., Bernstein, M., Danescu-Niculescu-Mizil, C. & Leskovec, J. 2017).

- The literature suggests that real-world personality can predict virtual-world behavior (Hughes, C. 2015).

- **Future longitudinal studies should exam how the relation between dark personality, problematic use of Internet and trolling is.**

References
Andreassen, C. S. (2016). The relationship between addictive use of social media and video games and symptoms. Psychology of Addictive Behaviors, 252-262.
Buckels, E., Trapnell, P. & Paulhus, D. (2014). Trolls just want to have fun. Personality and Individual Differences, 97-102.
Cheng, J., Bernstein, M., Danescu-Niculescu-Mizil, C. & Leskovec, J. (2017). Anyone Can Become a Troll: Causes of trolling behavior in online discussions. In Proceedings of the 2017 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing, 1217-1230.
Hughes, C., Hughes, B., Griffin, E. L. & Worthington, J. (2015). A measure of social behavior in team-based, multiplayer online games: The Sociality in Multiplayer Online Games (SMOG) scale. Computers in Human Behavior, 386-395.
March, E. & Craker, N. (2016). The dark side of Facebook®: The Dark Tetrad, negative social potency, and trolling behaviours. Personality and Individual Differences, 79-84.
March, E. & Natalie, S. (2017). Constructing the cyber-troll: Psychopathy, sadism, and empathy. Personality and Individual Differences, 69-72.
Paulhus, D. & Jones, D. (2015). Measures of dark personalities. Measures of personality and social psychological constructs, 562–594.

Contact
Gonzalez Caino, Pablo
pablogonzalez@uade.edu.ar