

A study of the effect of age on the personality pathology of a community sample

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This work tried to study the effect of age on personality pathology.

Three hundred and twelve individuals recruited from the community were assessed using part one of the Schedules of Clinical Assessment in Neuropsychiatry (SCAN) used to diagnose psychiatric disorders and subsyndromes, and The Personality Assessment Schedule (PAS) used to detect personality pathology according to four main groups namely the sociopathic group, the inhibited group, the withdrawn group and the dependent group. The results of our study showed that among individuals with no psychiatric disorders or subsyndrome (N=112) personality disorders tended to decrease as the age of individuals advance where as among the group of patients (N=195) personality disorders increased as the age advanced. This was particularly true for individuals with anxiety disorders who showed a statistically significant increase in individuals with inhibited group of personality disorders; while individuals with depressive disorders showed a statistically significant increase in the withdrawn group of personality disorders as age advances. Major personality traits such as social withdrawal and affective lability, which represents predispositions for the occurrence of psychiatric disorders, are unlikely to be changed substantially by advance of age.