

At this juncture, it is necessary to present the methods of data collection and survey sample group. The method of collection was by survey of the student body at Northern New Mexico College. The sample classes were selected at random and no convenience sampling was used. The total number of respondents were a total of 43 individuals from age range of 17 to 44. All the method of collection was by survey of the student body at Northern New Mexico College. The sample classes were selected at random and no convenience sampling was used. The total number of respondents were a total of 43 individuals from age range of 17 to 44. All



NORTHERN

An Exploratory Investigation of Erratic Behavioral Expression in Nominal Individuals: A Study of Eros and Thanatos

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Abstract

In this study the aim will be to understand the interaction between forces of the psyche put forth by Sigmund Freud known as Eros and Thanatos and their relation to a force of self-annihilation known as Death Drive. It is the purpose of this exploratory and qualitative study to identify these three forces in order to understand their effect on the Human psyche and their expression in nominal (healthy, otherwise normal) individuals. The importance for such a study would be far reaching as the ideas being magnified would be pertinent to such ideas as treatment regularity and cohesion. Further, if understood properly at a baseline level, pertinence to treatment styles in both analytical psychology and others could be vastly impacted.

Introduction

The research question to be examined is of true importance: as stated it is; "What, if any, is the explanation for erratic behavioral expression in otherwise self-actualized individuals? What mechanisms might be at work when this erratic behavioral expression (one example is risky behavior) becomes evident? Data collection will largely be qualitative as measured through open-ended questions in survey form. The Surveys itself, and the analyzation of the matter, are to be contrived in a qualitative manner and as such, should be accepted only with the tacit understanding that further quantitative research is needed to absolute solidify such assertions concerning erratic behavioral expression. Though, if the mechanisms can be positively identified in qualitative manner, then the precedence for further research is can be established and further exploratory aspects can be derived to some degree as well.

Theoretical Formulation

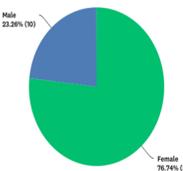
In the study of psychology some very interesting propositions are put forth concerning the nature and function of the human mind. One very interesting and perhaps controversial theory centers around Sigmund Freud (1923) and his proposition of the psychological drives known as Eros, Thanatos, and what is commonly referred to as the "death drive. These forces are in there entirety too expansive to explain here but, simplistically can be understood as the forces behind creativity and self preservation (Eros) and self destruction and self annihilation (Thanatos). The death drive is the labeled process of self destruction during times of self advancement or preservation. It is the purpose of this study to identify these forces in motion on a basic level or to dismiss the function of these operant factors in the human mind. It is postulated by great minds in Psychology that the human mind has both the propensity to connect and create in social circles and the ability to disconnect and destroy specific tendons of social function thereby creating an atrophy or death of sorts.

S. Freud has presented this as a connection between primal drives or forces he identifies as Eros and Thanatos. One force (Eros) is based strongly in sexual drives and expression of creativity, while Thanatos is composed primarily of a wanted need to return to an earlier static inorganic form. Simply stated, it is a instinct that drives humans towards thoughts of death and the associated emotional and psychological states that can accompany this such as terror, a need for social interaction, or validation of mortality through accessing death thought. Freud labeled this instinct the death drive. For the purposes of this study, we will be looking at a selection of literature composed primarily of the stated theoretical content as well as some counterpoint from Freud's contemporary C. Jung concerning any doubts of such a dualistic nature. Data will also be collected through a seven question survey in order to support the possible existence of such a mechanism such as the death drive. The base behavior can be viewed as being normative or conducive to self actualization (Maxwell). What will be gauged will be the presence of a need to return to earlier possibly more unstable states, or what we will call in this study return to state of chaos or disorder. It is theorized that both theory analysis and data will both show the presence of a death drive and further that an explanation for erratic behavior in normative process for adults can start to take shape. If this is correct myriad possibilities can arise in terms of further research and possibly new life can emerge in a theory that some have discounted as simply mystic science. Further, if it is not the case that death drive can be seen in either data or literature analysis then one can put to rest one of the longer standing theories of a great name in psychology.

Data Collection and Methods

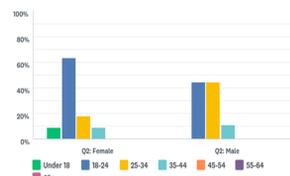
The method of collection was by survey of the student body at Northern New Mexico College. The sample classes were selected at and no convenience sampling was used. The total number of respondents were a total of 43 individuals from age range of 17 to 44. All surveys had a one hundred percent response rate. Below are the population samples by age and gender table number 1 being the sample gender, and table number 2 being the sample age. The surveys issued had a 100% response rate.

Q2 Table 1. Sample Gender



The sample were highly female (76.74%) as can be seen in the pie chart above.

Q3 Table 2. Sample Age



Additionally, the data from this sample show that the ages of the group were relatively young, most falling within the 18-24 age group, whether male or female.

FINDINGS

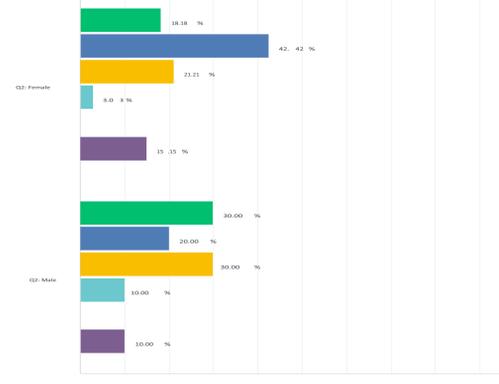
Q4 How much do you agree with the following statements? Answered: 43 Skipped: 0

	NOT AT ALL (1)	A LITTLE BIT (2)	SOMEWHAT (3)	VERY MUCH (4)	A GREAT DEAL (5)	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
want to achieve a high level of success.	0.00%	0.00%	2.33%	25.58%	72.09%	43	4.70
I feel that the pursuit of success is stressful for me.	0.00%	13.95%	32.56%	41.86%	11.63%	43	3.51
I deal with that stress in productive and positive ways.	2.33%	9.30%	53.49%	23.26%	11.63%	43	3.33
deal with that stress in agative and destructive ways.	39.53%	34.88%	23.26%	2.33%	0.00%	43	1.88

Q5 How much do you agree with the following statements about how you handle boredom? Answered: 42 Skipped: 1

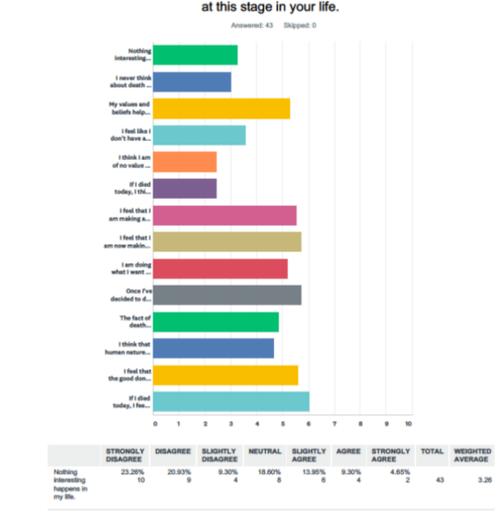
	NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE BIT	SOMEWHAT	VERY MUCH	A GREAT DEAL	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
I feel the pursuit of success is boring for me.	68.75%	12.50%	18.75%	0.00%	0.00%	32	1.50
Q2: Female	22	4	6	0	0	32	1.50
Q2: Male	6	3	1	0	0	10	1.50
When bored, I run out and do something very unusual for me.	43.75%	21.88%	25.00%	6.25%	3.13%	32	2.03
Q2: Female	14	7	8	2	1	32	2.03
Q2: Male	6	3	1	0	0	10	1.50
I deal with that boredom in productive and positive ways.	0.00%	9.38%	37.50%	40.63%	12.50%	32	3.56
Q2: Female	0	3	12	13	4	32	3.56
Q2: Male	0	0	7	3	0	10	3.30
I deal with that boredom in negative and destructive ways.	68.75%	15.63%	9.38%	6.25%	0.00%	32	1.5
Q2: Female	22	5	3	2	0	32	1.5
Q2: Male	4	2	3	1	0	10	2.10

Q7 After you've done something impulsive that you regret, what happens? Answered: 43 Skipped: 0



	NOTHING MUCH	A LITTLE BIT OF DAMAGE IN MY LIFE OCCURS	SOME DAMAGE IN MY LIFE OCCURS	A GREAT DEAL OF DAMAGE IN MY LIFE OCCURS	DAMAGE THAT IS SO STRONG IT CAN'T BE FIXED OCCURS	HOW LIKELY ARE TO YOU CHANGE SO THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN AGAIN?
16	18.18%	42.42%	21.21%	3.03%	0.00%	15.15%
Q2: Female	6	14	7	1	0	10.00%
Q2: Male	3	2	3	1	0	10.00%

Q8 For each of the following statements, circle the number that best describes your feelings, your way of seeing things, or your way of living at this stage in your life. Answered: 43 Skipped: 0



Conclusions

As stated in the introduction of this study, the purpose of this study was, to the best degree possible establish a polarity of forces called Eros and Thanatos comprised of both life and death respectively. As the data has shown with respect to the creative force of Eros having a dualistic and nagging feature of boredom and an innate compulsion toward impulsive destruction, the data would seem to overall support not only the notion of Eros and Thanatos but seems to nod to very specific features. As stated in the findings 64% of women reported a fair level of stress while engaging in Eros based activity while 80% of men reported Eros based activity to be stressful to some degree. It then seems pertinent to mention that only 20% of women surveyed felt they dealt with this stress in productive ways. The statics toward impulsive behavior as well seem in live with the preceding pattern as in women, though boredom was not a frequent issue, when it was incurred during Eros based function a clear tendency toward impulsive behavior with 57% overall reporting infrequent impulsivity and 34% reporting extreme impulsivity. The damage level of the impulsivity was nothing to be ignored as 67% percent felt some degree of damage occurs and 60% of men as well. Overall the trends support a positive correlation between the concepts Eros and Thanatos and the tendency toward destruction during times of creation. It must be noted that the age of the group has an impact on the data as well as one can see from the mortality and life station as nearly 54% of women feeling strongly that life is exciting and 50% of men reporting the same. Mundanity or pedestrian life has yet to reveal itself for the majority of those polled in this study. One would expect mortality awareness to be a factor with 48% of women either neutral or not yet at a station in life where death is a concern as which is only logical with the age of most women polled being 18-24 and in men 18-34 years of age. It is important to note as well where there is a lack of concern in one gender there is a concern in the other with 100% of men already entertaining thoughts of death. Perhaps this is indicative of the higher age range of the men polled in this study. To confirm that more age and gender specific studies of mortality though among men and women need to be conducted. Though the data shows a substantial correlation to the concepts of Eros and Thanatos, it is in no way definitive concerning the absolute nature of these forces. To what degree one is in a casual relation with the other cannot be ascertained from the data presented here. Rather a clear line of delineation is sought. With the data presenting an overall positive relationship it would seem sound to both acknowledge the existence of Eros and Thanatos but to be cautious as to how much of abnormal erratic behavior one can assign to these forces of psyche as they are extremely difficult to dissect and label in their entirety without large amount of both personal and social data to solidify conclusions.

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