

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL BASIS OF FANSHIP AND ITS REPERCUSSIONS ON WELL-BEING

The nature of fanship remains nuanced and dependent on many different factors. This study aims to identify the attributes of fans and create a clear picture of how one is without bias or prejudice.

AUTHORS
Jennifer AlHarouny
Marianne El Khoury

AFFILIATION
Lebanese American University
(LAU)

INTRODUCTION

Previous research has found links between loneliness, self-esteem, fanship, celebrity worship (CW) and well being.

The hypotheses formulated are:

- Well being and fanship will be positively correlated.
- Celebrity fans will score higher on CW.
- Women will be more likely to score higher on levels of fanship and CW.
- Loneliness and self-esteem will predict fanship and CW.

OBJECTIVE

The aim of this study is to identify the predictors of fanship and its potential relationship to well being.

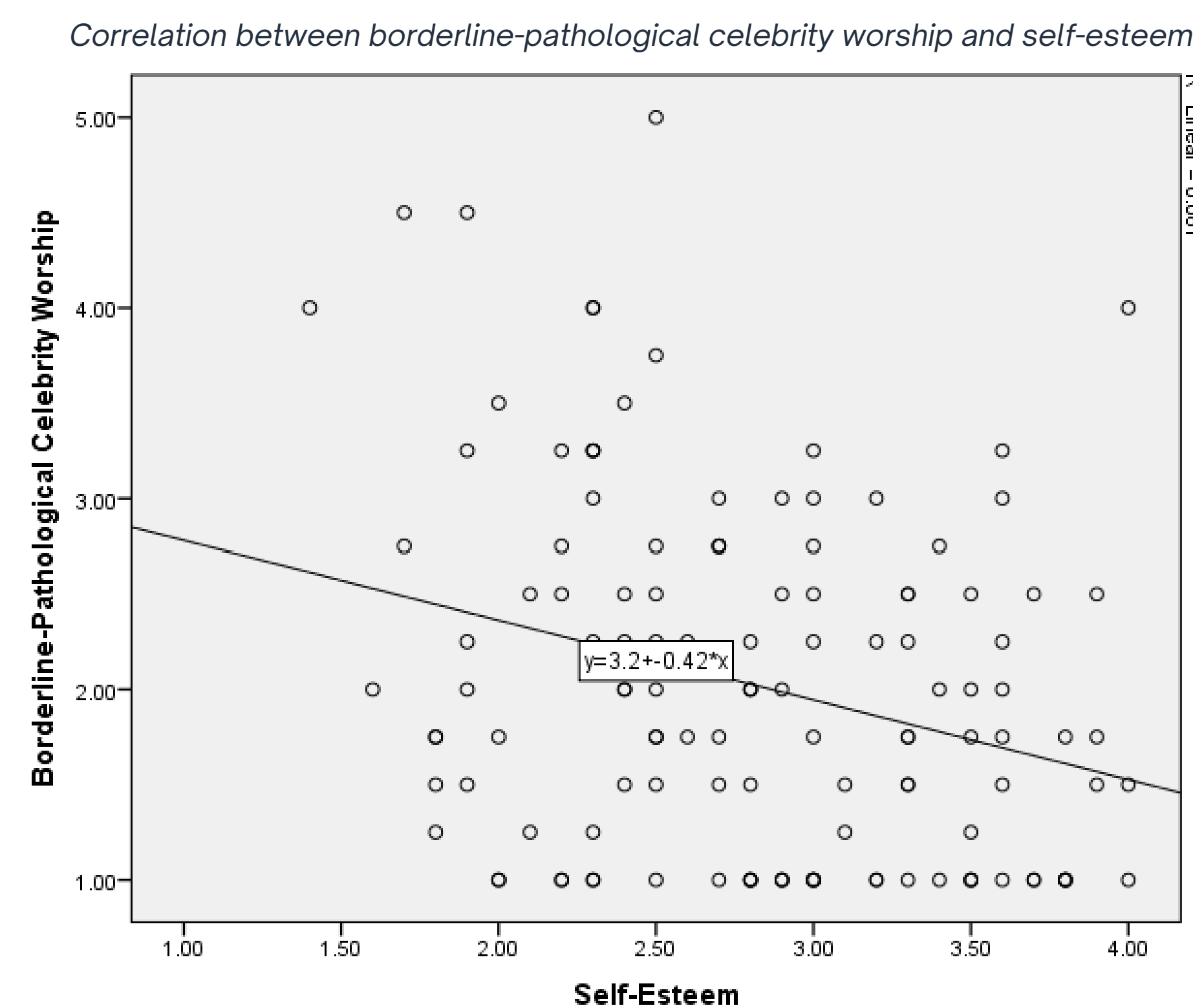
ANALYSIS

Bivariate correlations were run in order to study the intercorrelations among the study's variables.

Additionally, **independent sample t-tests** were conducted to test for gender differences in fanship.

ANOVA was also run to check for differences in fanship among different types of fans.

Finally, **linear regression analyses** were conducted to study the possible predictors of fanship.



METHODOLOGY

An online survey was sent out and 166 participants filled it out. They were Lebanese (82.5%) and non-Lebanese (17.5%) individuals between the ages of 18 and 61 years old.

The survey included the following scales:

- Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale
- Revised UCLA Loneliness Scale
- Celebrity Attitude Scale
- Fanship Scale
- Display of Fanship
- WHO-5 Well-being Index

RESULTS/FINDINGS

- Self-esteem was found to negatively correlate with entertainment-social and borderline-pathological celebrity worship.
- Loneliness was positively correlated with entertainment-social and borderline-pathological celebrity worship.
- Both loneliness and self-esteem did not predict fanship but did predict celebrity worship.
- Women reported higher levels of celebrity worship than men.
- Fans of celebrities reported higher levels of celebrity worship and fanship in comparison with other kinds of fans.

IMPORTANT!!!!

Limitations are present and further research is always necessary!

CONCLUSION

The obtained results may contribute to a better understanding of the underlying factors behind fanship as well as the associations that accompany it.

This helps clear misunderstandings on the nature of fans, disprove the negative social image attributed to them, and decrease the prejudice that surrounds them in social contexts.

Nevertheless, it is also important to highlight the importance of being aware of the signs of pathology that some fans may possess, as well as the possible causes behind the pathological behavior.

RELATED LITERATURE

- Brooks, S. K. (2018). FANatics: Systematic literature review of factors associated with celebrity worship, and suggested directions for future research. *Current Psychology*, 40(2), 864–886.
- Laffan, D. A. (2020). Positive Psychosocial Outcomes and Fanship in K-Pop Fans: A Social Identity Theory Perspective. *Psychological Reports*, 124(5), 2272–2285.
- Reysen, S., Plante, C. N., Roberts, S. E., & Gerbasi, K. C. (2022). Social Activities Mediate the Relation between Fandom Identification and Psychological Well-Being. *Leisure Sciences*, 1–21.