

Helicopter Parenting: Correlations and Mediations with Creativity and Narcissism

Gabby Henriksen, Dr. Andrea Francis, and Dr. Mareike Wieth

During this summer, I dedicated my research to the Psychological science realm, honing in on possible correlations between helicopter parenting, creativity, and narcissism. This project was a continuum of a previous Albion College thesis that focused on the overcreativity bias (thinking you're more creative than you actually are) in young adults who have perceived helicopter parents. My faculty advisors and I wanted to replicate the previous findings from the aforementioned thesis and then further investigate the relationship between helicopter parenting and creativity by figuring out what the mediator/moderator variable is. We hypothesized that those reporting greater helicopter parenting will show greater levels of narcissism which predicts a greater overcreativity bias.

Once we collected our data, we scored and analyzed the responses from each participant and found several significant correlations. Perceived helicopter parenting was significantly negatively correlated with convergent creativity (the ability to think of the best and final way to be creative in a situation [$r = -.293, p < .001$]) and divergent creativity (the ability to think of all the ways to be creative in a situation [GHPS: $r = -.117, p = .045$]). Perceived helicopter parenting was also significantly positively correlated with beliefs about one's own creativity (GHPS: $r = .166, p = .004$). Therefore, we replicated the previous findings of an overcreativity bias in young adults who have perceived helicopter parenting. Lastly, perceived helicopter parenting was strongly positively correlated with narcissism ($r = .274, p = .004$) (see Correlations Table 1).

After looking at the correlations between each variable, we had to find out if narcissism mediated or moderated the relationship between helicopter parenting and creativity. We then ran a mediation analysis (SPSS bootstrapping) and found that narcissism mediates the relationship

between helicopter parenting and divergent creativity with a significant indirect effect ($\beta = -1.15$, $SE = .3096$, $p < .001$), but not for convergent creativity or beliefs about creativity ($\beta = -.149$, $SE = .121$, 95% CI = $-.433, .046$) (see Correlations Table 2).

Since our results are significant and exciting, we are currently in the process of typing up a paper for publication purposes. I also hope to continue this topic of study even more for my senior honors thesis by including a substance use frequency variable into the mix and presenting those results at the Elkin Isaac Research Symposium and other psychological research conferences nationwide in Spring 2020.

My summer research experience has reassured me that psychological research is what I'm really passionate about. I've also been able to delve deeper into the ins and outs of the research process and work my way through the trials and tribulations research sometimes has. Thank you to the Hyde Fellows in Student and Faculty Research for providing me with this opportunity to expand my research horizons and solidify my love for psychological research, I wouldn't have been able to have this experience without your support.

Correlations Table 1

	Mean (SD)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. General Helicopter Parenting Scale	2.936 (.647)	—							
2. Helicopter Parenting Behaviors Survey	2.422 (.627)	.510**	—						
3. Convergent Creativity	4.320 (2.619)	-.202**	-.291**	—					
4. Divergent Creativity: Creative Uses	3.983 (2.799)	-.117*	-.167**	.359**	—				
5. Scholarly	3.493 (.676)	-.021	-.058	-.005	.165**	—			
6. Performance	2.989 (.999)	.166**	.107 [†]	-.202**	-.062	.431**	—		
7. Science/ Mechanical	3.075 (.880)	.110 [†]	.156**	-.126*	-.016	.351**	.405**	—	
8. Artistic	3.351 (.876)	.073	.073	-.057	.077	.425**	.605**	.401**	—
9. Self/Everyday	3.568 (.584)	-.012	-.049	.002	.118*	.610**	.375*	.276**	.477**

[†] indicates marginal significance at .07 level

* indicates significance at the .05 level

** indicates significance at the .01 level

Correlations Table 2

	Mean (SD)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1. Modified Helicopter Parenting Behaviors Scale	2.638 (.814)	—								
2. Convergent Creativity	4.307 (2.854)	-.376*	—							
3. Divergent Creativity: Creative Uses	5.075 (4.042)	-.182*	.198*	—						
4. Divergent Creativity: Ambiguous Images	8.233 (3.84)	-.124	.212*	-.577**	—					
5. Narcissism	3.54 (.271)	.318**	-.214**	-.255**	-.205*	—				
6. Scholarly	3.399 (.641)	.174 [†]	-.227*	-.060	-.107	.192*	—			
7. Performance	3.135 (.936)	.253*	-.245**	-.078	-.153	.274**	.564**	—		
8. Science/Mechanical	3.264 (.883)	.244**	-.171 [†]	-.161	-.301**	.209*	.600**	.633*	—	
9. Artistic	3.322 (.840)	.309**	-.233*	.031	-.046	.054	.569**	.703**	.547**	—
10. Self/Everyday	3.585 (.601)	.131	-.106	-.126	-.119	.072	.650**	.423**	.505**	.427**

[†] indicates marginal significance at .07 level
 * indicates significance at the .05 level
 ** indicates significance at the .01 level