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Narcissism and Borderline as (Post)Modern Personality Disorders or Disorders in Adaptation to Changes Occuring in the Contemporary World

The aim of this presentation is to focus on contemporary social determinants of two personality styles and level of its organization disorders: narcissism and borderline. I consider these disorders to be as characteristic for our times as neurotic personality was for the fifties. I will present contemporary cultural-civilizational changes with emphasis on the fluid self (Lifton) and pastiche personality (Gergen). I will comment upon the culture of individualism and the millennial generation in the context of patterns presented in social media as the standards of ideal state. Referring to the evidence of empirical research on both of the aforementioned disorders I will argue that the symptomatology of narcissism is connected to the dimension of competence, whereas the symptomatology of borderline is connected to the disorder of functioning in a community. The first disorder is an attempt (not infrequently successful) at matching the tempo of modern lifestyles, the second is a failure in adaptation. The leitmotif of my lecture will be the observation of the search for identity and focusing on the disfigured results of this attempts.