

## 2.5. “Personality disorders” as clusters of relational vulnerabilities

Relational vulnerability is a continuous epigenetic dimension of interpersonal psychopathology (“disorders of personality”) manifesting in four main endophenotypic clusters based on (i) disordered HOMEOSTATIC REGULATION (High / Low) and (ii) maladaptive RELATEDNESS (High / Low). Currently used categories (diagnoses) of “personality disorders” correspond to one of the four clusters (See Table RV-4 below)

| RELATIONAL VULNERABILITY<br>(4 clusters) |      | REGULATION                                |                                    |
|--|------|---|------------------------------------|
|  |      | LOW                                       | HIGH                               |
| RELATEDNESS                              | HIGH | Histrionic<br>Dependent                   | Avoidant<br>Obsessive-compulsive   |
|  | LOW  | Borderline<br>Narcissistic<br>Schizotypal | Schizoid<br>Paranoid<br>Antisocial |

*Table RV-4 “Four Clusters of Relational Vulnerability”*

To account for variability and changes in High / Low RELATEDNESS and High / Low REGULATION, a more nuanced distribution involves nine clusters (see Table RV-9 below)

| RELATIONAL VULNERABILITY<br>(9 clusters) |            | REGULATION               |                          |          |
|--|------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
|  |            | LOW                      | LOW / HIGH               | HIGH     |
| RELATEDNESS                              | HIGH       | Histrionic,<br>Dependent | Obsessive-<br>compulsive | Avoidant |
|  | HIGH / LOW | Borderline               | Narcissistic             | Paranoid |
|  | LOW        | Schizotypal              | Antisocial               | Schizoid |

*Table RV-9 “Nine Clusters of Relational Vulnerability”*

To increase conceptual, terminological and clinical clarity of categorization, new labels for the nine clusters (types) of RELATIONAL VULNERABILITY ("Disorders of Personality") are introduced and presented in the Table RV-9-NEW below.

| RELATIONAL VULNERABILITY<br>(9 clusters) |          | REGULATION                |                         |                          |
|--|----------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
|  |          | LOW                       | LOW HIGH                | HIGH                     |
| RELATEDNESS                              | HIGH     | Undermodulated Engaged    | Mismodulated Engaged    | Overmodulated Engaged    |
|  | HIGH LOW | Undermodulated Misengaged | Mismodulated Misengaged | Overmodulated Misengaged |
|  | LOW      | Undermodulated Disengaged | Mismodulated Disengaged | Overmodulated Disengaged |

*Table RV-9-New “New Nine Clusters of Relational Vulnerability”*

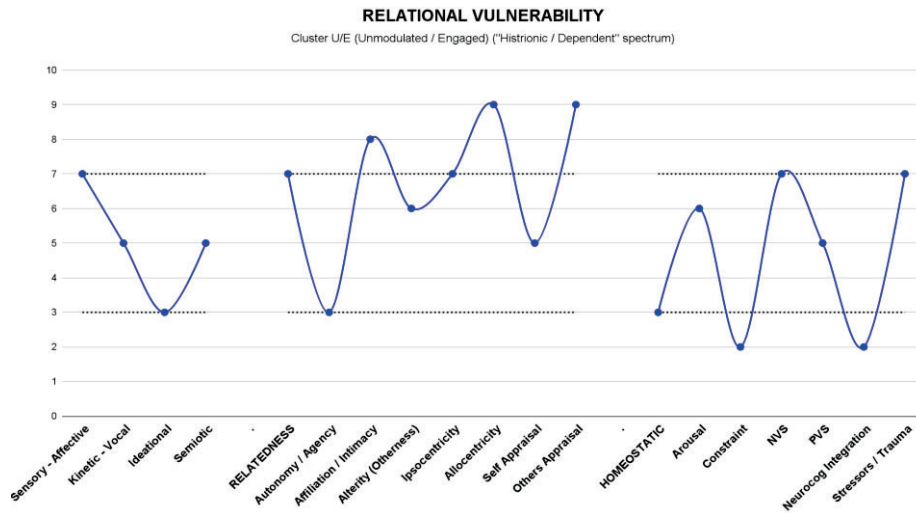
Aggregated profiles illustrating a hypothetical configuration of Relational Vulnerability for the nine clusters (types) are below.

**Cluster U/E**

Undermodulated / Engaged (Low Homeostatic Regulation; High Relatedness) (“Histrionic” / “Dependent” spectrum).

Individuals in the U/E cluster experience themselves (I / Self) as a flow of sensations and feelings rather than as ideation (concepts, ideas). They desire and value affiliation, intimacy and love and tend to avoid autonomy / agency. They are reactive and impulsive and often overwhelmed by negative (aversive) i-states and affects when alone and / or by the positive (pleasurable) ones when in close contact with the desired others. They often dissociate and are cognitively dysregulated, particularly in reaction to interpersonal, attachment and experiential stressors (abandonment, rejection, indifference) and function in a chronic and self-perpetuating

negative feedback loop between their low neurocognitive integration and elevated exposure to stressors.



**Graph RV-U/E-A “Relational Vulnerability (Aggregated) - Undermodulated / Engaged Cluster”**

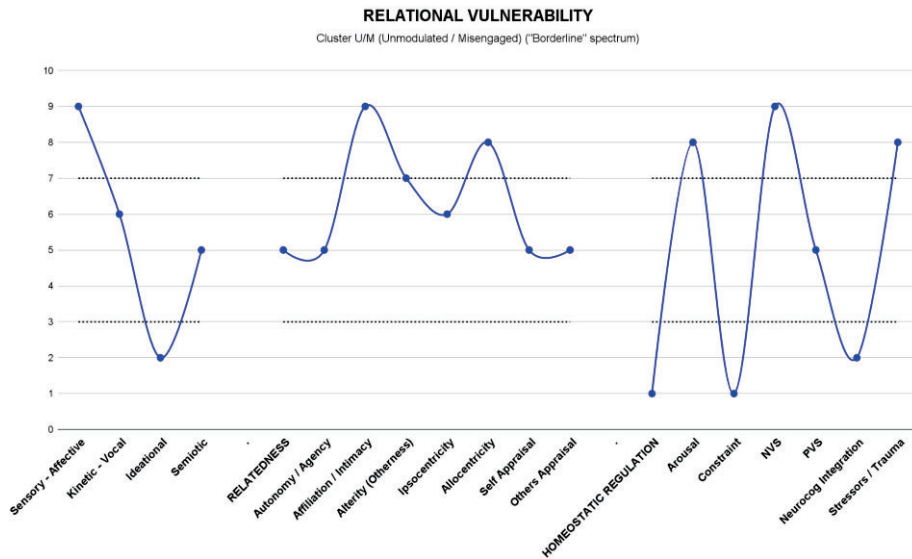
|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>PERSPECTIVAL LOCUS</b>     | Sensoriaffective / (-) Ideational <sup>36</sup>                        |
| <b>RELATEDNESS</b>            | High<br>(+++)<br>Affiliative / Intimate / Allocentric / Valuing others |
| <b>HOMEOSTATIC REGULATION</b> | Low<br>(--)<br>Constraint, (++) NVS, (--) Neurocognitive Integration   |
| <b>STRESSORS</b>              | Elevated<br>(+)<br>Relational / Attachment / Experiential              |

Individuals in the U/E cluster are typically perceived as attractive and unusual (alterity) and their unmodulated and hyper engaged style may easily overwhelm relational availability of others.

<sup>36</sup> Coding: (+) Elevated; (++) High; (+++) Very High; (-) Decreased; (--) Low; (---) Very Low

## Cluster U/M

Undermodulated / Misengaged (Low Homeostatic Regulation; Low-High Relatedness) (“Borderline” spectrum)



*Graph RV-U/M-A “Relational Vulnerability (Aggregated) - Undermodulated / Misengaged Cluster”*

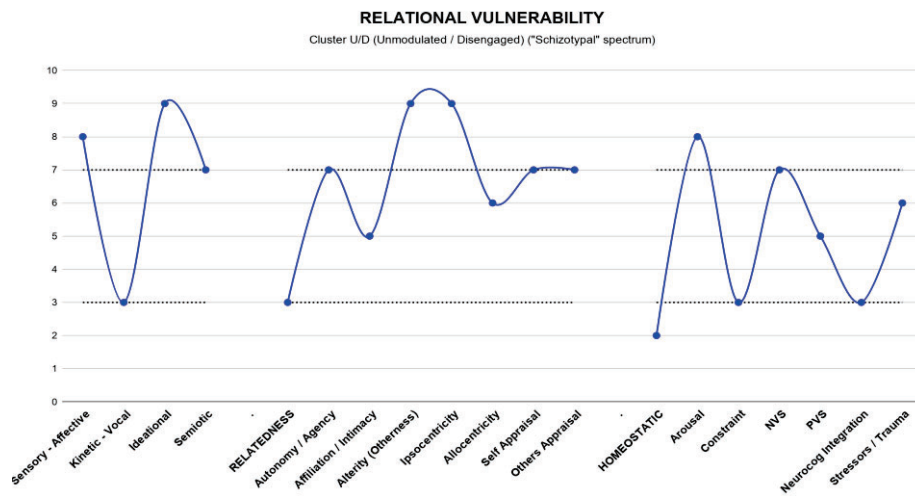
|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>PERSPECTIVAL LOCUS</b>     | Sensoriaffective / (-) Ideational   |
| <b>RELATEDNESS</b>            | Intense, Incoherent (Chaotic),<br>(++) Affiliative / Intimate / Allocentric |
| <b>HOMEOSTATIC REGULATION</b> | Volatile<br>(--) Constraint, (+++) NVS, (--) Neurocognitive Integration     |
| <b>STRESSORS</b>              | High<br>(++) Relational / Attachment / Experiential / Biophysical           |

Individuals in the U/M cluster experience themselves (I / Self) as a flow of intense and volatile sensations and feelings which easily overwhelm capacity for ideation (mentalization). They crave intimacy and love and often pursue relationships willfully (agency) in a violation of their own and others’ boundaries (autonomy). They are reactive and impulsive and

easily overwhelmed by extreme negative (aversive) i-states and affects (anger, anxiety, disgust) when alone or separated from / rejected by desired / loved others. They are vulnerable to affect-driven dissociations and cognitive dysregulation, particularly in reaction to perceived interpersonal, attachment and experiential stressors (abandonment, rejection) resulting in a volatile and self-perpetuating negative feedback loop between their low neurocognitive integration and elevated exposure to multiple stressors. Individuals in the U/E cluster are typically perceived as intense, chaotic and often strange (alterity) and their unmodulated and volatile style is often experienced as aversive resulting in interpersonal rejection and avoidance by others.

### Cluster U/D

Undermodulated / Disengaged (Low Homeostatic Regulation; Low Relatedness) (“Schizotypal” spectrum)



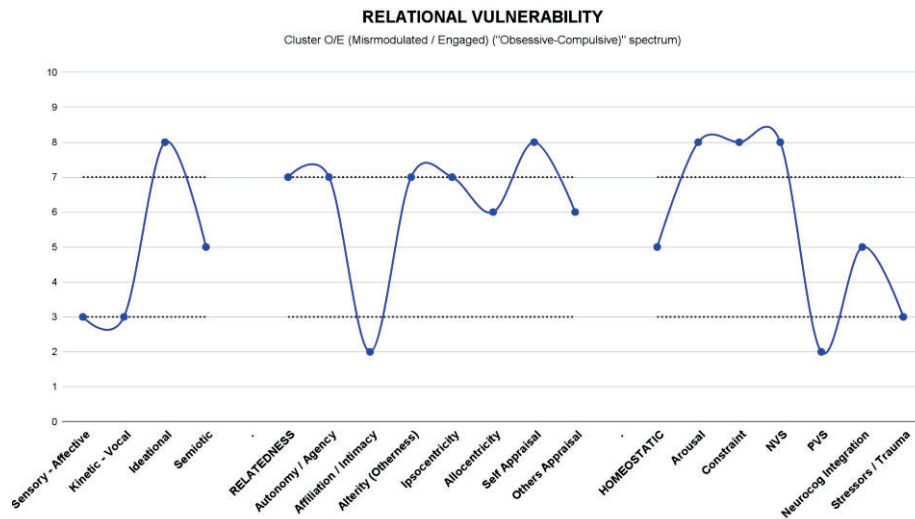
**Graph RV-U/D-A “Relational Vulnerability (Aggregated) - Undermodulated / Disengaged Cluster”**

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>PERSPECTIVAL LOCUS</b>     | Ideational + Sensoriaffective  |
| <b>RELATEDNESS</b>            | Idiosyncratic<br>(+++) Ipsocentricity, (+++) Alterity                        |
| <b>HOMEOSTATIC REGULATION</b> | Reactive<br>(++) Arousal / NVS, (--) Constraint / Neurocognitive Integration |
| <b>STRESSORS</b>              | Elevated<br>(+) Biophysical / Interpersonal / Experiential                   |

Individuals in the U/M cluster experience themselves (I / Self) as a flow of idiosyncratic thoughts and sensations which are not shared with and by others. They protect their relational vulnerability (psychoticism) by distancing, independence and individuality (autonomy / agency) resulting in excessive preoccupation with their own internal world (ipsocentricity) at the cost of participation in the shared, consensual reality. They are very reactive (arousal) but not impulsive (constraint), experience multiple aversive (NVS) i-states and can become associatively (internally) dysregulated (quasi psychotic) in response to sensory, ideational overstimulation and relational / biophysical / experiential stressors. Individuals in the U/E cluster are typically perceived as odd (alterity), creative even if difficult to understand, and their unmodulated idiosyncratic experiences and self-protective disengagement often results in interpersonal isolation and estrangement from others.

## Cluster M/E

Mismodulated / Engaged (Low-High Homeostatic Regulation; High Relatedness) (“Obsessive-Compulsive” spectrum)



**Graph RV-M/E- A “Relational Vulnerability  
(Aggregated) - Mismodulated / Engaged Cluster”**

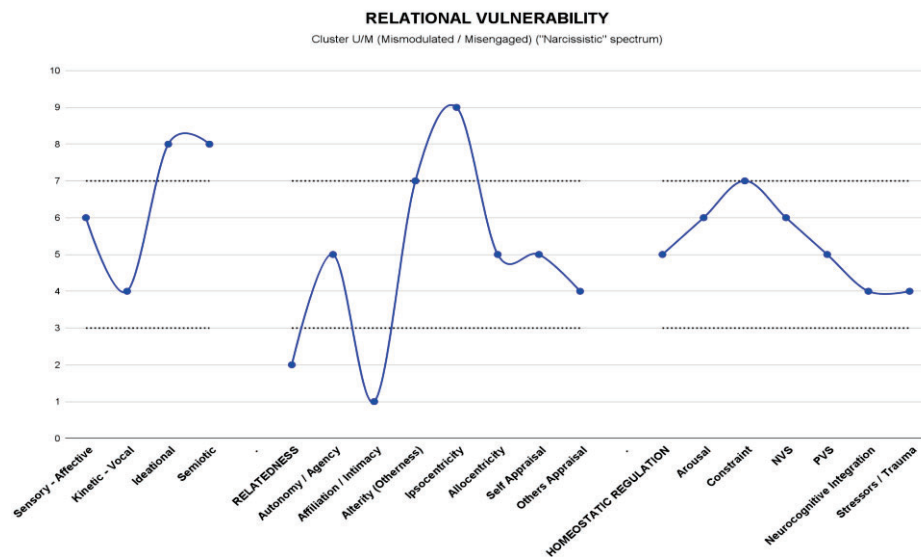
|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>PERSPECTIVAL LOCUS</b>     | Ideational   |
| <b>RELATEDNESS</b>            | Rigid<br>(++) Ipsocentricity, (+++) Self-Appraisal, (---) Affiliation/Intimacy |
| <b>HOMEOSTATIC REGULATION</b> | Eruptive<br>(+++ Arousal / NVS / Constraint, (---) PVS                         |
| <b>STRESSORS</b>              | Decreased<br>(+) Biophysical / Interpersonal                                   |

Individuals in the M/E cluster experience themselves (I / Self) as a flow of (unstoppable, recurrent) thoughts and ideas. They are self-righteous and strive to impose their ideas on others which often results in interpersonal strife (stressors). They are very reactive, driven by intense, mainly

aversive i-states (anger, shame, anxiety, fear) and fluctuate between rigid self-control (constraint) and explosive discharges of pent-up negative emotions. They have very limited capacity for positive i-states (PVS) which they view as trivial or indulgent, affection / intimacy in particular. Individuals in the M/E cluster are typically perceived as driven, controlling / rigid, excessively focused on work and productivity which, combined with their intermittent emotional outbursts often leads to interpersonal conflicts and alienation.

### Cluster M/M

Mismodulated / Misengaged (Low-High Homeostatic Regulation; Low-High Relatedness) (“Narcissistic” spectrum)



*Graph RV-M/M- A “Relational Vulnerability (Aggregated) - Mismodulated / Misengaged Cluster”*

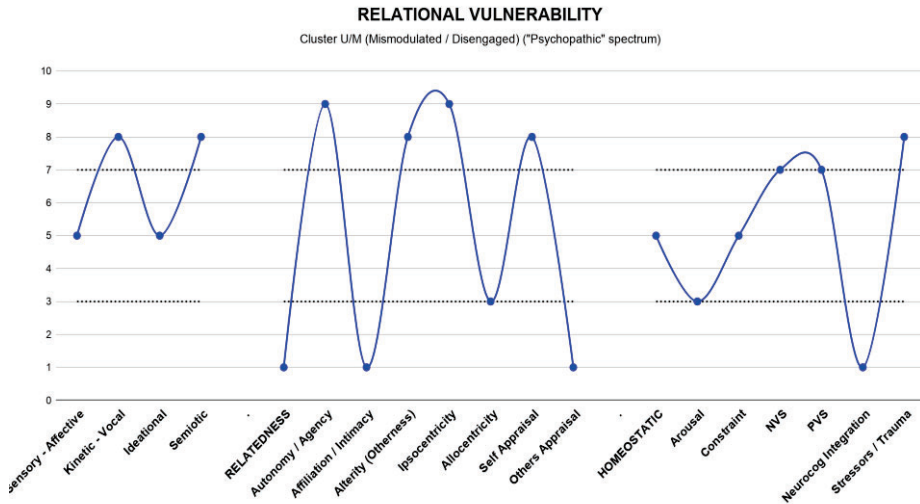
|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>PERSPECTIVAL LOCUS</b>     | Ideational + Semiotic  |
| <b>RELATEDNESS</b>            | Self-centered<br>(+++)<br>Ipsocentricity (+++/-) Self/Other Appraisal, (-) Affiliation |
| <b>HOMEOSTATIC REGULATION</b> | Labile<br>(+) Arousal / PVS / (++) Constraint,   |
| <b>STRESSORS</b>              | Decreased<br>(+) Interpersonal / Experiential  |

Individuals in the M/E cluster experience themselves as a flow of thoughts and ideas and place the I / Self at the center of their consciousness, either in an idealized (grandiose, “I am better than others”) or devalued (defeated, “I am worse than others”) position. Others are typically devalued and disregarded or idealized if needed or desired (part / self-objects). Internal / interpersonal states, including emotions and behaviors maintain and perpetuate the preferred idealized (prideful self-admiration) or devalued (shame, disgust) perspectival / relational position. Either way, they believe they deserve or require to be treated preferentially and react with aggression and anger when it is challenged or not accommodated. Being “like others” is a threat to the I / Self as it violates the lifelong experience of oneself as “different” (“special”).

They have limited capacity for intimacy and empathy and are perceived as self-centered (self-absorbed), inconsiderate or adversarial which often leads to interpersonal conflicts and alienation from others and perpetuates their chronic sense of being misunderstood, mistreated and “different”.

**Cluster M/D**

Mismodulated / Disengaged (Low-High Homeostatic Regulation; Low Relatedness) (“Antisocial” / “Psychopathic” spectrum)



*Graph RV-M/D-A “Relational Vulnerability (Aggregated) - Mismodulated / Disengaged Cluster”*

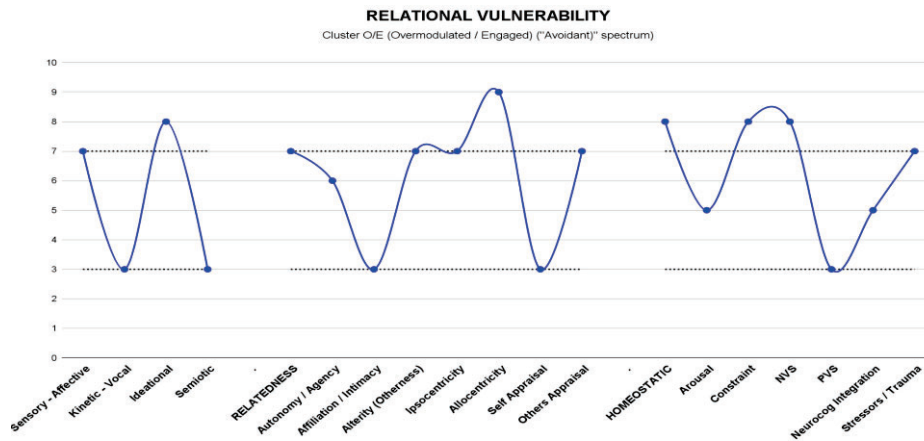
|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>PERSPECTIVAL LOCUS</b>     | Kinetic / Semiotic (Communicative)   |
| <b>RELATEDNESS</b>            | Exploitative / Aggressive<br>(+++)<br>Ipsocentricity / Agency / Autonomy / Alterity / Self-Appraisal<br>(---)<br>Affiliation / Intimacy / Others Appraisal |
| <b>HOMEOSTATIC REGULATION</b> | Volatile<br>(--)<br>Arousal (+/-)<br>Constraint / NVS / PVS, (--)<br>Neurocog Integration  |
| <b>STRESSORS</b>              | High<br>(+++)<br>Biophysical / Societal  |

Individuals in the M/D cluster experience themselves as corporeal movement and vocalization (speech), tangible (utilitarian, spatiotemporal) and / or communicative (performative, semantic). The I / Self are at the center of their consciousness, construed as action employed primarily to

effect (control) events and relations. They strive to be independent (autonomy), controlling (agency) and have very limited capacity for empathy, intimacy and attachment (affiliation), others are disregarded, devalued and instrumentally exploited in the pursuit of goals and interests. They are typically unemotional but can become enraged and behaviorally explosive when frustrated or thwarted. They fluctuate between conflicting positive and negative i-states and their poorly integrated cognitions and behaviors often violate societal norms and interpersonal expectations resulting in multiple biophysical and legal stressors and trauma (injuries, crime, incarceration). Individuals in the M/D cluster are perceived by others as inconsiderate, exploitative, aggressive or dangerous resulting in interpersonal rejection, alienation, violence and crime which further perpetuates the impossibility and failure of mutual relationality and their self-centered, action-based, dysregulated and disaffiliative (disassociated) position.

### Cluster O/E

Overmodulated / Engaged (High Homeostatic Regulation; High Relatedness) (“Avoidant” spectrum).



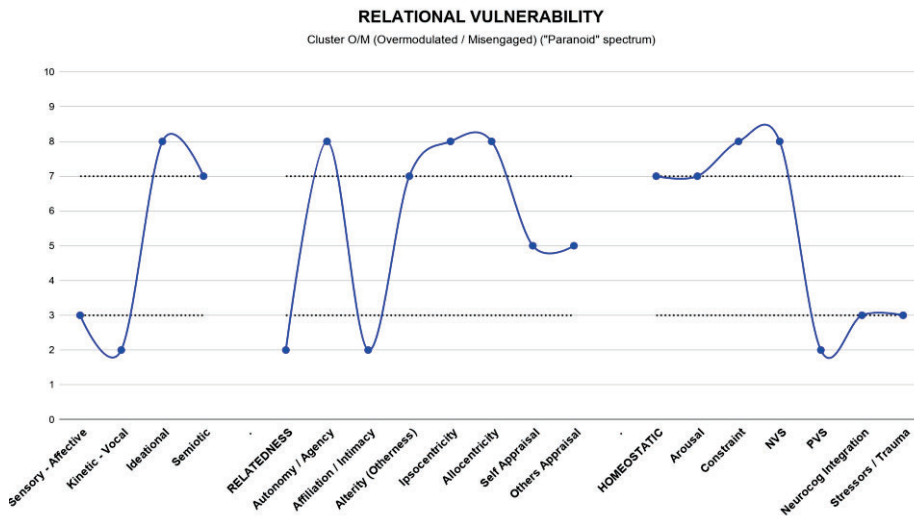
*Graph RV-O/E-A “Relational Vulnerability (Aggregated) - Overmodulated / Engaged Cluster”*

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>PERSPECTIVAL LOCUS</b>     | Ideational / Sensoriaffective  |
| <b>RELATEDNESS</b>            | High, Attuned<br>(+++) Ipsocentricity / Allocentricity; (++) / Others Appraisal / Alterity<br>(--) Affiliation / Intimacy / Self-Appraisal |
| <b>HOMEOSTATIC REGULATION</b> | High, Controlled<br>(+++) Constraint / NVS; (--) PVS   |
| <b>STRESSORS</b>              | Elevated<br>(++) Experiential  |

Individuals in the O/E cluster experience themselves ( I / Self) as a flow of thoughts and feelings. They place themselves and their standing (position) among others at the center of their consciousness. They tend to undervalue themselves and desire affiliation and intimacy with idealized others who are desired and feared at the same time. They are reluctant to initiate contact and engage with others in order to shelter themselves from typical relational interpersonal challenges (conflict, competition, rejection). Intense i-states (desires, fears) are private, controlled and predominantly negative (anxiety, worry) at the cost of the positive ones (pleasure). Individuals in the O/E cluster are perceived by others as reluctant to engage, shy, aloof or strange which further exacerbates their relational isolation and interpersonal fears and anxiety.

## Cluster O/M

Overmodulated / Misengaged (High Homeostatic Regulation; Low-High Relatedness) (“Paranoid” spectrum).



*Graph RV-O/M-A “Relational Vulnerability (Aggregated) - Overmodulated / Misengaged Cluster”*

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>PERSPECTIVAL LOCUS</b>     | Ideational / Semiotic   |
| <b>RELATEDNESS</b>            | Adversarial, Vigilant<br>(+++)<br>Ipsocentricity / Allocentricity / Autonomy / Agency / Alterity; (---)<br>Affiliation / Intimacy |
| <b>HOMEOSTATIC REGULATION</b> | High, Controlled<br>(+++)<br>Constraint / NVS; (---)<br>PVS   |
| <b>STRESSORS</b>              | Elevated<br>(++)<br>Interpersonal   |

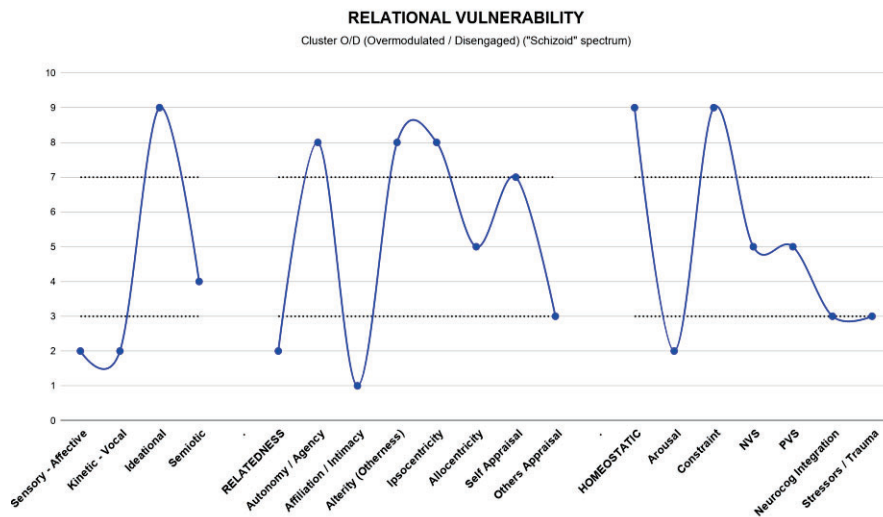
Individuals in the O/M cluster experience themselves ( I / Self) as a flow of intensely focused thoughts and expressive / communicative behaviors revolving around protecting their standing (position) among others which is the main focus of their consciousness. They either devalue or idealize

themselves and tend to demonize others who are feared as imaginary competitors, threats or oppressors. Interpersonal vigilance, separateness (disassociation) and counterdependence are in conflict with the desire for love and intimacy and serve to preempt any real or fictional challenges or dangers associated with the presence of others.

I-states are very intense (desires, fears, anger), volatile (explosive) but well controlled, predominantly negative (aggressive, hostile) at the cost of the positive ones (pleasure, affiliation) and can derail towards neurocognitive dysregulation (psychoticism). Individuals in the O/M cluster are perceived by others as antagonistic, belligerent and aversive which exacerbates their relational alienation, fears and enmity and further perpetuates interpersonal strife (stressors)

### Cluster O/D

Overmodulated / Disengaged (High Homeostatic Regulation; Low Relatedness) (“Schizoid” spectrum )



*Graph RV-O/D-A “Relational Vulnerability (Aggregated) - Overmodulated / Disengaged Cluster”*

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>PERSPECTIVAL LOCUS</b>     | Ideational  |
| <b>RELATEDNESS</b>            | Low, Detached<br>(+++) Ipsocentricity / Autonomy / Agency / Alterity; (++) Self Appraisal (---) Affiliation / Intimacy; |
| <b>HOMEOSTATIC REGULATION</b> | Impassive<br>((---) Arousal; (+++) Constraint   |
| <b>STRESSORS</b>              | Low<br>(++) Interpersonal   |

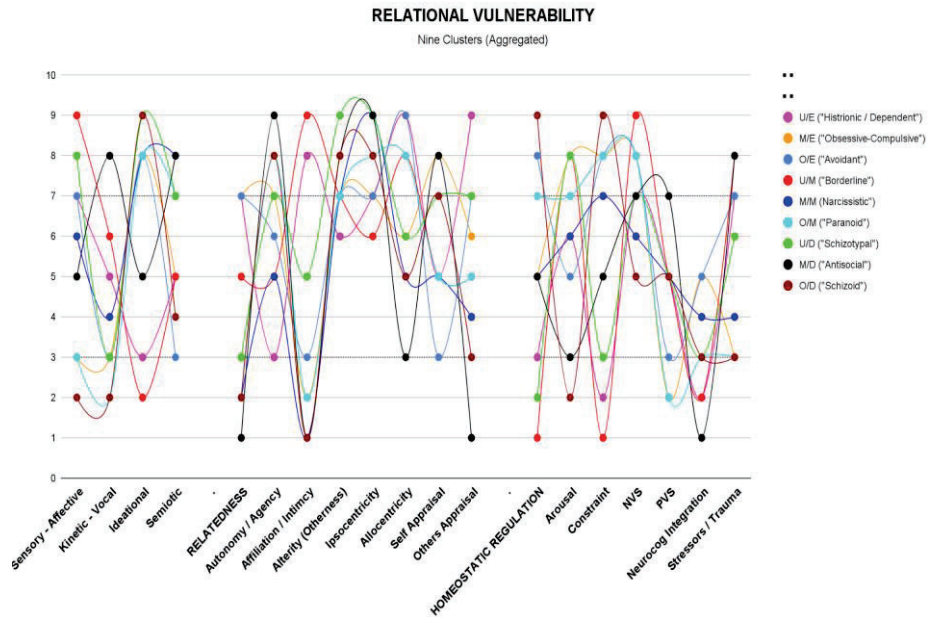
Individuals in the O/D cluster experience themselves ( I / Self) as a flow of abstract thoughts and ideas. They are focused on and value themselves, are preoccupied with concepts (ideas) and imagination, and like to be left alone. Self-determination, independence and intellectual pursuits are preferred over emotional or physical contact, affiliation and intimacy with others.

They are typically taciturn, constrained and often dissociated (split-off) from desires and affects. Low intensity i-states are mainly ideational with minimal biophysical, behavioral or interpersonal participation.

Individuals in the O/D cluster are perceived by others as aloof, cold, self-absorbed and odd which perpetuates mutual disassociation and relationally distancing.

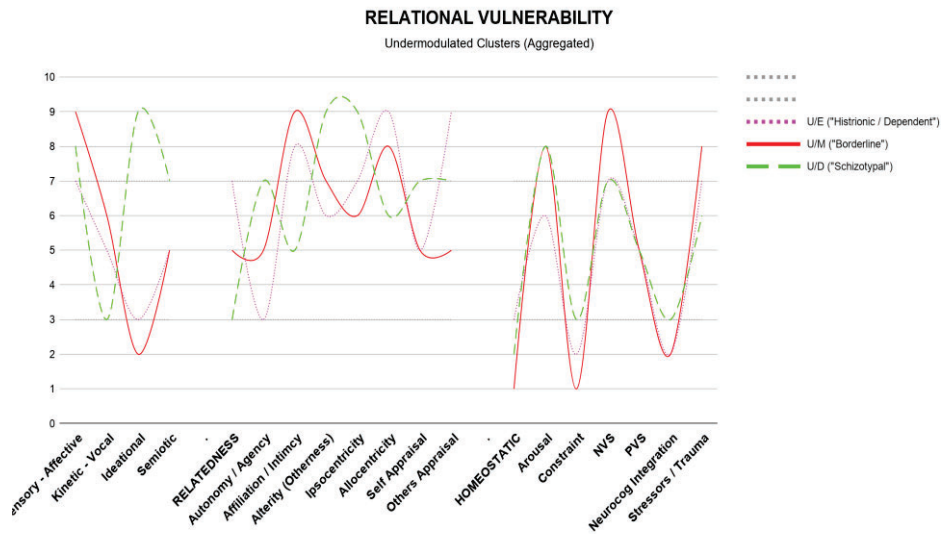
### 2.5.1. Differential contrasts among clusters

Differences in relational vulnerability (contrasts, “differential diagnosis”) among the nine clusters (all and selected) are presented in Graphs RV-A-D (1-9) below.



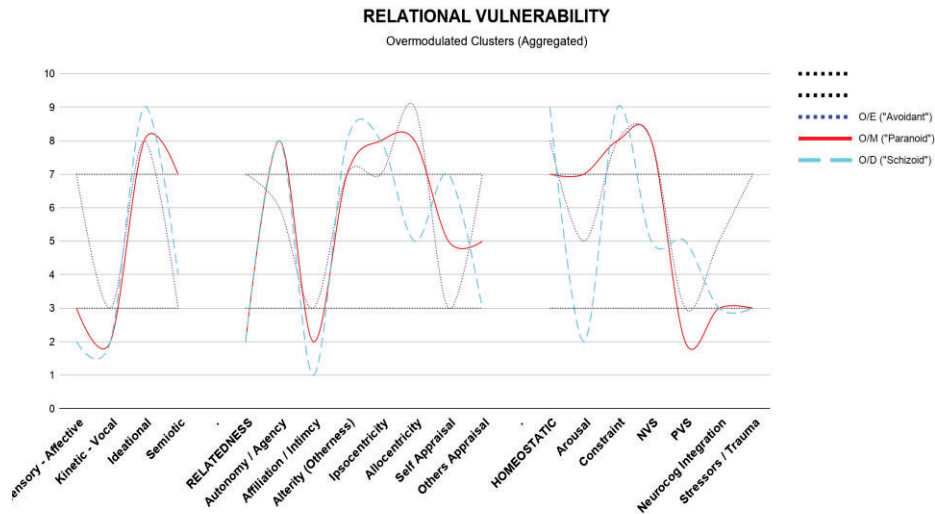
**Graph RV-A-D “Relational Vulnerability (Aggregated) - All Clusters - Differential Contrasts”**

Distribution of all nine clusters covers a full range (1-9) on several aggregated dimensions except for Alterity (otherness, outliers) (all clusters  $\geq 6$ ), Negative Valence Systems (NVS) (all clusters  $\geq 5$ ) and Neurocognitive Integration (all clusters  $\leq 5$ ) (psychoticism, dissociation). The variability is greatest for (i) the “sensoriaffective” aspect of perspectival locus (mode) (High for the U/M “borderline” cluster, Low for the O/D “schizoid cluster”, (ii) “affiliation / intimacy” (High for the U/M “borderline” cluster, Low for the M/M “narcissistic”, M/D “antisocial” and O/D “schizoid” clusters and (iii) “homeostatic regulation” and “constraint” (High for O/D “schizoid”, Low for the U/M “borderline” clusters).



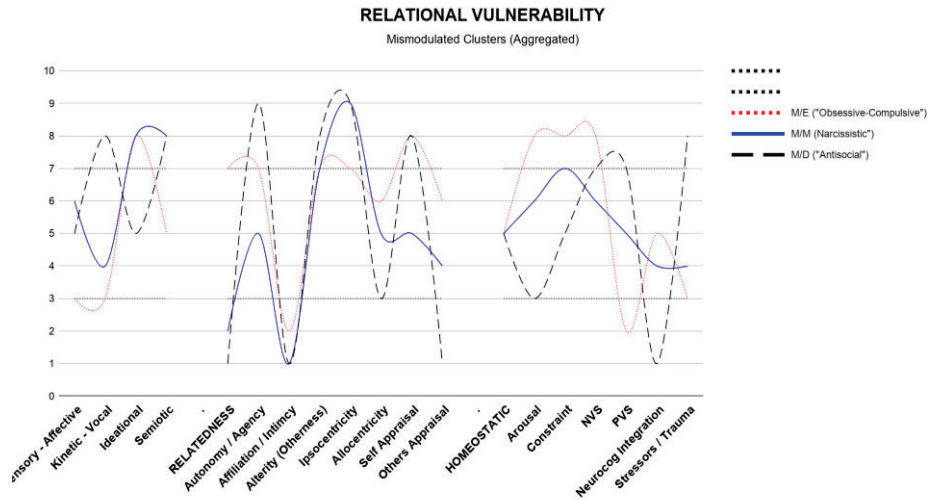
**Graph RV-A-D-U “Relational Vulnerability (Aggregated) - Differential-Undermodulated Clusters”**

Within the “Undermodulated” spectrum, the main contrast is in the significance of the “ideational” mode (Perspectival Locus) in formation of the I / Self (7) - “High” for the U/D (“Schizotypal”), “Decreased” for the U/E (“Histrionic / Dependent”) and “Low” for the U/M (“Borderline”) clusters. Secondary differential contrasts are in “Relatedness” (4), “Autonomy / Agency” (4), “Affiliation / Intimacy” (4), “Appraisal of others” (4), “Kinetic / Vocal” aspects of the I / Self (3), “Alterity” (3), “Ipsocentricity” (3) and “Allocentricity” (3). There are no significant differential contrasts in any aspect of homeostatic regulation within the “Undermodulated” (dysregulated) cluster.



*Graph RV-A-D-O "Relational Vulnerability (Aggregated) - Differential- Overmodulated Clusters"*

Within the "Overmodulated" cluster, the main contrasts are in (i) the "Sensoriaffective" mode (5) - "Elevated" for the "O/E" ("Avoidant"), "Decreased" for the "O/M" (Paranoid) and "Low" for "O/D" ("Schizoid) clusters , (ii) "Relatedness" (5) "Elevated" for the "O/E" ("Avoidant"), "Low" for the "O/M" (Paranoid) and "O/D" ("Schizoid) clusters; and (iii) "Arousal" (5) - "Elevated" for the "O/M" ("Paranoid") and "Low" the "O/D" ("Schizoid) clusters. Secondary contrasts are in the "semiotic" mode (4), "Allocentricity" (4), "Self-Appraisal" (4), "Exposure to Stressors / Trauma" (4) and "NVS" / "PVS" (3)

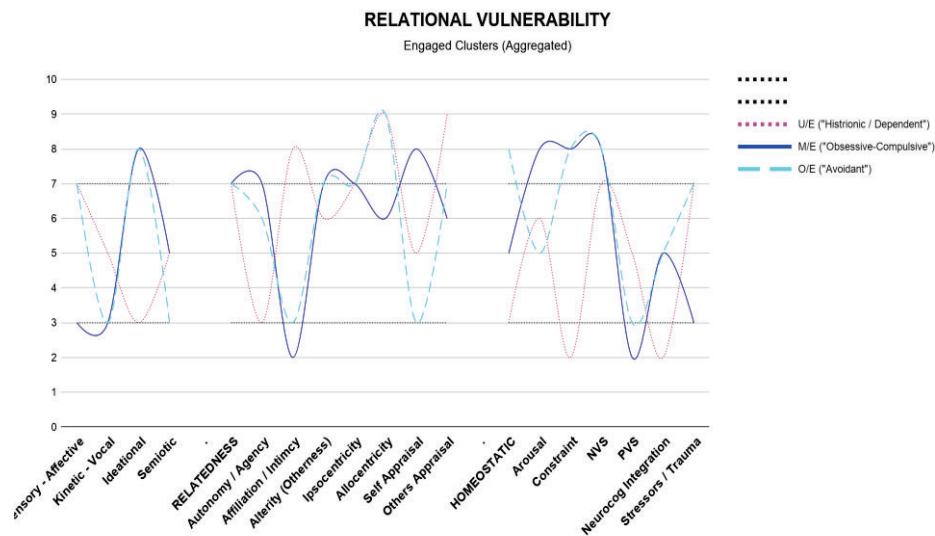


**Graph RV-A-D-M** “Relational Vulnerability (Aggregated) - Differential- Mismodulated Clusters”

Within the Mismodulated Cluster, the main contrasts are in (i) “Relatedness” (6) - “Low” for the M/D (“Antisocial”) and M/M (“Narcissistic”) clusters, “Elevated” for the M/E (“Obsessive-Compulsive”) cluster; (ii) “Kinetic/Vocal” mode (5) - “High” for the M/D and “Decreased” for the M/E clusters; (iii) “Appraisal of Others” (5) - “Low” for the M/D cluster; (iv) Arousal (5) “High” for the M/E, “Decreased” for the M/D clusters; (v) “PVS” (5) “High for the M/D and “Low” for the M/E clusters and (vi) “Exposure to Stressors / Trauma” - “High” for the M/D and “Decreased” for the M/E clusters.

Secondary contrasts are in “Agency / Autonomy” (4); “Neurocognitive Integration” (4); Ideational” and “Semiotic” modes (3); “Allocentricity” (3); “Self-Appraisal” (3) and “Constraint” (3).

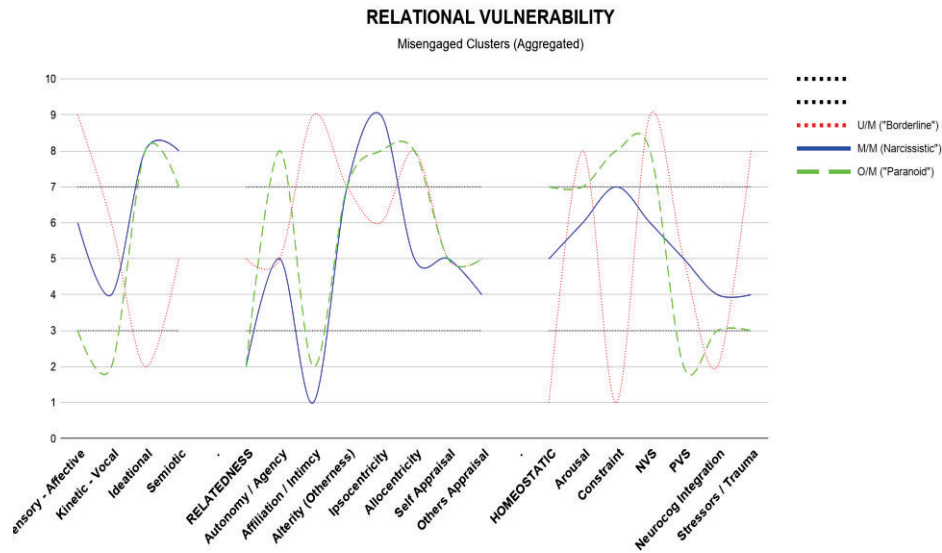
The large number of contrasts within the Mismodulated clusters (mainly between the M/D (“Antisocial”) and the M/E (“Obsessive-Compulsive”), suggests that, beyond the volatility / lability of regulatory modulation, the two clusters have little in common.



**Graph RV-A-D-E “Relational Vulnerability (Aggregated) - Differential- Engaged Clusters”**

Within the Engaged clusters, the main contrasts are in (i) “Constraint” (6) - “Low” for the U/E (“Histrionic”) and “High” for the M/E (“Obsessive-Compulsive”) and U/E (“Histrionic”) clusters; (ii) “Affiliation / Intimacy” (6) - “Low” for the M/E (“Obsessive-Compulsive”), “Decreased” for the O/E (“Avoidant”) and “High” for the U/E (“Histrionic”) cluster; (iii) “Ideational” mode - “High” for the O/E (“Avoidant”) and M/E (“Obsessive-Compulsive”) and “Low” for the U/E (“Histrionic”) clusters; (iv) “Homeostatic Regulation” (5) “High” for the O/E (“Avoidant”) and “Decreased” for the U/E (“Histrionic / Dependent”) clusters and (v) “Self-Appraisal” - “Low” for the O/E (“Avoidant”) and “High” for the M/E (“Obsessive-Compulsive”) clusters.

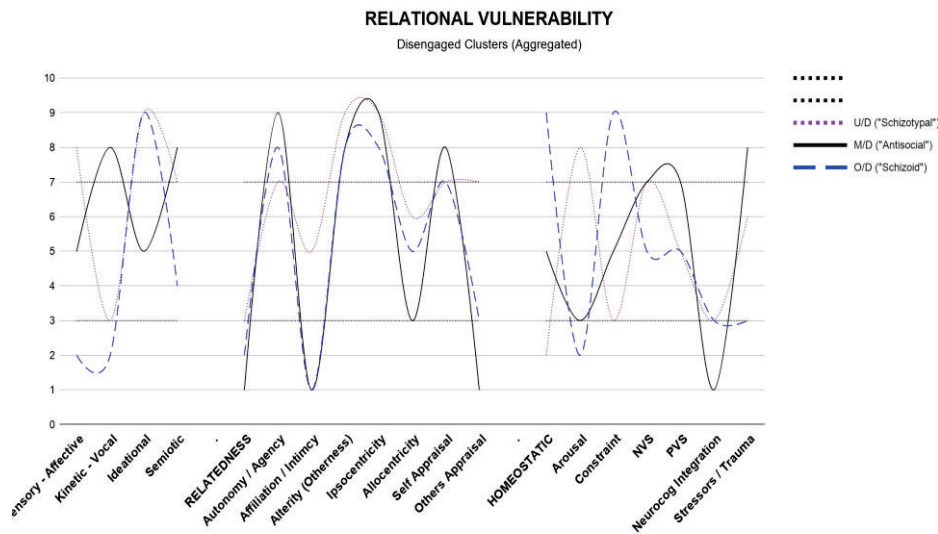
Secondary contrasts are in “Sensoriaffective” mode (4); “Autonomy / Agency” (4); “Exposure to Stressors / Trauma” (4); “Allocentricity” (3), “Appraisal of Others” (3); “Arousal” (3); “PVS” (3) and “Neurocognitive Integration” (3).



**Graph RV-A-D-M “Relational Vulnerability**  
*(Aggregated) - Differential- Misengaged Clusters”*

Within the Misengaged cluster the main contrasts are in the (i) “Affiliation / Intimacy” (8) “Very High” for the U/M (“Borderline”) and “Very Low” for the O/M (“Paranoid”) and the M/M (“Narcissistic”) clusters; (ii) “Constraint” (7) - “Very Low” for the U/M (“Borderline”) and “Elevated”/“High” for the M/M (“Narcissistic”) and the O/M (“Paranoid”) clusters, respectively; (iii) “Sensoriaffective” mode (6) - “Very High” for the U/M (“Borderline”) and “Decreased” for the O/M (“Paranoid”) clusters; (iv) “Ideational” mode (6) - “High” for the O/M (“Paranoid”) and the M/M (“Narcissistic”) and “Low” for the U/M (“Borderline”) clusters; (v) “Allocentricity” (6) - “High” for the U/M (“Borderline”) and the O/M (“Paranoid”) and “Low” for the M/M (“Narcissistic”) clusters, (vi) “Homeostatic Regulation” - “Very Low” for the U/M (“Borderline”), “Elevated” for the O/M (“Paranoid”) clusters and (vii) “Exposure to Stress / Trauma” (5) “High” for the U/M (“Borderline”) and “Decreased” for the O/M (“Paranoid”) clusters;

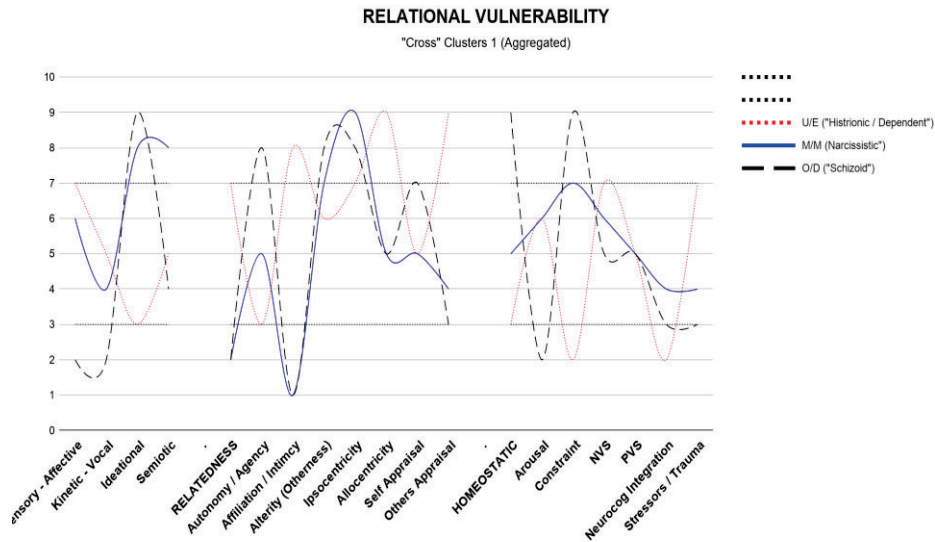
Secondary contrasts (3 or 4) are present in all other aspects except for “Alterity (Otherness)” and “Self-Appraisal” (0), “Appraisal of Others” (1); “Arousal” and “Neurocognitive Integration” (2).



**Graph RV-A-D-D “Relational Vulnerability**  
*(Aggregated) - Differential- Disengaged Clusters”*

Within the Disengaged Cluster, the main contrasts are in (i) “Homeostatic Regulation” (7) - “Very High” for the O/D (“Schizoid”), “Low” for the U/D (“Schizotypal”) clusters; (ii) “Sensoriaffective” mode (6) “High” for the U/D (“Schizotypal”), “Low” for the O/D (“Schizoid”) clusters; (iii) “Kinetic / Vocal” mode - “High” for the M/D (“Antisocial”), “Low” for the O/D (“Schizoid”); (iv) “Appraisal of Others” (6) - “Very Low” for the M/D (“Antisocial”) and “Elevated for the U/D (“Schizotypal”) clusters; (v) “Arousal” (6) - “High” for the U/D (“Schizotypal”), “Low” for the O/D (“Schizoid”) clusters and (vi) “Constraint” - “Very High” for the O/D (“Schizoid”) and “Decreased” for the U/D (“Schizotypal”) clusters and (vii) “Exposure to Stressors / Trauma” (5) - “High” for the M/D (“Antisocial”), “Decreased” for the O/D (“Schizoid”) clusters.

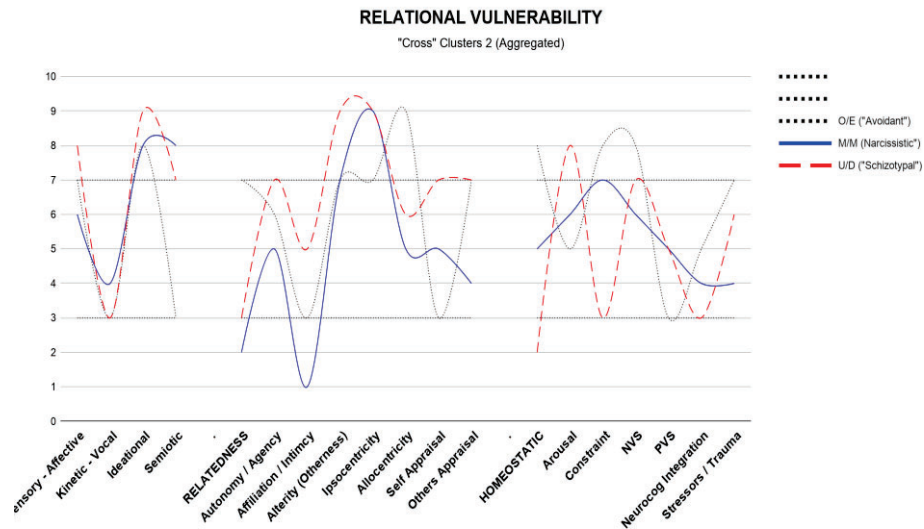
Secondary contrasts include “Ideational” mode (4), “Affiliation / Intimacy” (4), Semiotic” mode (3), “Allocentricity” (3).



**Graph RV-A-D-C1 “Relational Vulnerability**  
(Aggregated) - Differential- ‘Cross’ Clusters 1”

The “cross-clusters 1” contrasts are mainly between the U/E (“Histrionic”) and the O/D (“Schizoid”) clusters, with the M/M (“Narcissistic”) cluster oscillating between the two. The highest contrasts are in “Affiliation / Intimacy” (7); “Constraint” (7); “Ideational” mode (6); “Appraisal of Others” (6) and “Homeostatic Regulation” (6).

The smallest contrasts are in “PVS” (0), (neutral / mid-range for O/D “Schizoid”, variable +/- for the U/E “Histrionic” and the M/M “Narcissistic”), “Alterity (Otherness)” (2); “Ipsocentricity” (2) “Self-Appraisal” (2); “NVS” (2); “Neurocognitive Integration” (2).



**Graph RV-A-D-C2 “Relational Vulnerability  
(Aggregated) - Differential- ‘Cross’ Clusters 2”**

The largest contrasts within the “cross-clusters 2” differential are in “Homeostatic Regulation” (6) - “Low” for the U/D (“Schizotypal”), “High” for the O/E (“Avoidant”) clusters and in “Semiotic” mode - “Low” for the O/E (“Avoidant”), “High” for the M/M (“Narcissistic”) clusters. The smallest contrasts are in “Kinetic / Vocal” and “Ideational” modes (1), “Sensoriaffective” mode (2); “Autonomy / Agency (2); “Alterity” (2), “Ipsocentricity” (2); “NVS” (2); “PVS” (2) and “Neurocognitive Integration” (2)

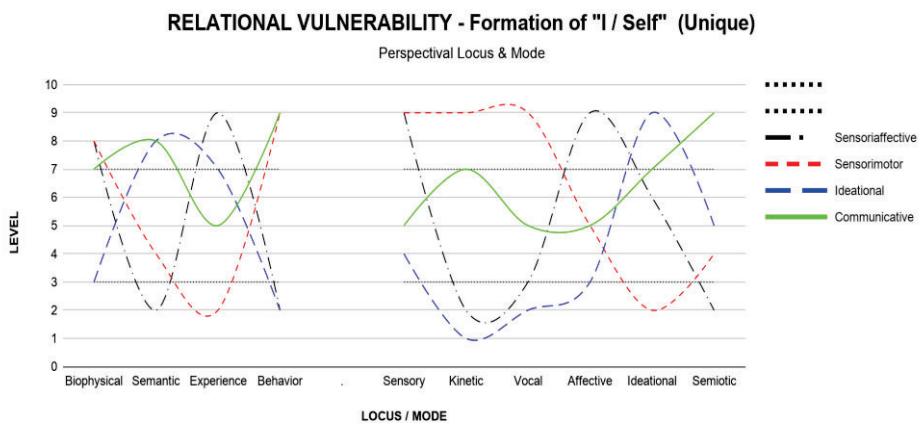
### 2.5.2. Within-cluster variability - individual configurations

While clusters represent groups (cohorts, types) of people with similar patterns of relational vulnerabilities, the within-cluster variability delineates differences among unique individuals (“individual differences”).

The individuality (i) is based on and reflects the uniqueness of one’s perspectival locus and relational position; (ii) manifests across the entire

spectrum of one’s interpersonal / intersubjective / relational life (formation of the I / Self, Homeostatic Regulation, Relatedness, Stressors/ Trauma) and (iii) can be conceptualized as a distinct configuration (profile, sequence) of numerical values across all domains / aspects of relational vulnerability unique for each individual.

The within-cluster individual variability unfolds along the epigenetic pathways of the four prototypical perspectival loci / modes of I / Self formation - (i) sensoriaffective (Sensatio, ergo sum); (ii) sensorimotor (Facio, ergo sum); (iii) ideational (Cogito, ergo sum) and (iv) semiotic (Communicare, ergo sum). Each perspectival locus reflects a unique formation of the I / Self and resultant individual pattern of relational vulnerability. The experience and formation of the I / Self (and others) can be primarily (i) a flow of sensations and feelings (biophysical experiences) (Sensory / Affective, “sensoriaffective”) (Regions B/E, L/E, B/L/E); (ii) a sequence of sensory-based kinetic and vocal actions (acts) (biophysical behaviors) (Kinetic / Vocal; “sensorimotor”) (Region B/L/E); (iii) a flow of thoughts (ideas, concepts, meaning) (“ideational”) (Regions E, E/P) and (iv) a sequence of biophysical semiotic / communicative behaviors, (Semiotic, “communicative”) (Region B/L/E/P) (see Graph RV-U-I/S below)

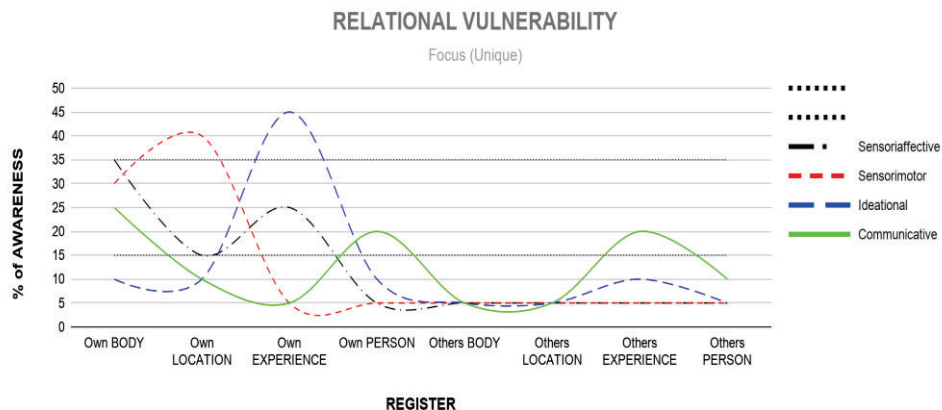


**Graph RV-U-I/S “Relational Vulnerability - Unique patterns of I / Self Formation”**

Contrasts (variability) in Perspectival Locus are in the significance of “Behavior” (7) (“Very Low” for “Ideational” / “Sensoriaffective” and “Very High” for the “Communicative” / “Sensorimotor” individuals); the significance of “Experience” (7) (“Very High” for “Sensoriaffective”, “Low” for “Sensorimotor”); the significance of “Semantic Expression” (6) (“Low” for “Sensoriaffective”, “High” for “Communicative” and “Ideational” individuals; and the significance of “Biophysicality” (5) (“High” for “Sensoriaffective” / “Sensorimotor”, “Elevated” for “Communicative” and “Decreased” for the “Ideational” individuals).

Main contrasts in Mode are in the significance of the “Kinetic” / “Vocal” mode (8/7) (“Very High” for “Sensorimotor”, “Low” / “Decreased” for “Ideational” / “Sensoriaffective”); the “Ideational” mode (7) (“Very High” for “Ideational” and “Low” for “Sensorimotor”) and the “Semiotic” mode (7) (“Very High” for “Communicative”, “Low” for “Sensoriaffective”). Secondary contrasts are in the significance of the “Affective mode (6) (“Very High” for “Sensoriaffective”, “Decreased” for “Ideational”) and the “Sensory” mode (“Very High” for the “Sensorimotor” and “Sensoriaffective” individuals)

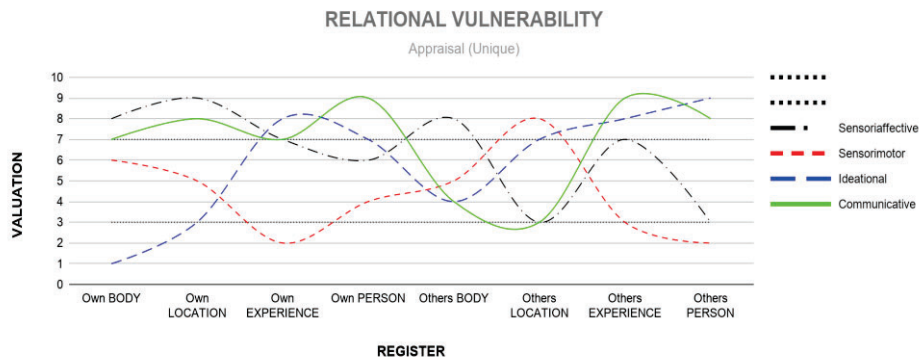
Individual differences in the Focus of one’s awareness reflect variability in ipsocentricity / allocentricity among the four prototypical perspectival loci and modes (see Graph Graph RV-U-F below)



*Graph RV-U-F “Relational Vulnerability - Unique patterns of Focus”*

Most notably, consistently with their relational vulnerability, all four are heavily skewed towards focus on oneself rather than on others. The main contrasts are in focus on own EXPERIENCE (40%) “Very High” for “Ideational”, “Very Low” for “Sensorimotor” and “Communicative”; focus on own LOCATION (30%) “High” for “sensorimotor” and “Low” for “Communicative” and “Ideational” and own BODY (25%) “Elevated” for “Sensoriaffective”, “Low” for “Ideational”. Secondary contrasts are in focus on own PERSON (15%) and EXPERIENCE of others (15%).

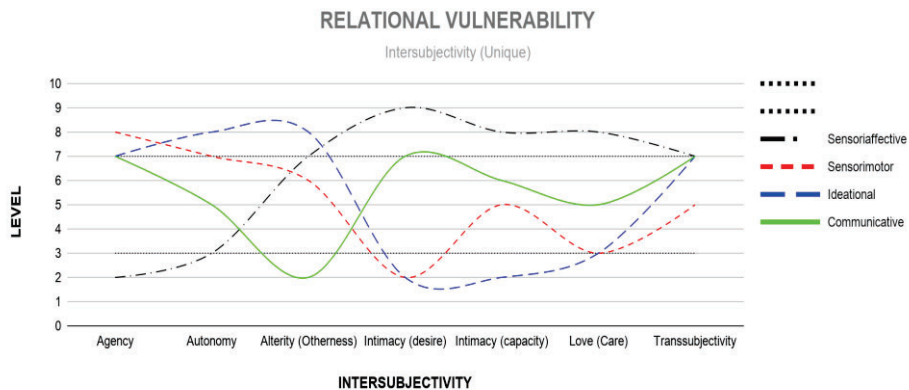
Individual differences in appraisal of self and others reflect variability in valuation (significance) of each of the four REGISTERS (BODY, LOCATION, EXPERIENCE, PERSON) in oneself and others (see Graph Graph RV-U-A below)



*Graph RV-U-A “Relational Vulnerability - Unique patterns of Appraisal”*

The main contrasts are in appraisal (importance) of own BODY (7) - “High” for Sensoriaffective”, “Very Low” for “Ideational”; appraisal of others as PERSONS (7) - “Very High” for “Ideational”, “Low” for “Sensorimotor”; appraisal of own EXPERIENCE (6) “High” for “Ideational”, “Low” for “Sensorimotor”; appraisal of EXPERIENCE of others (6) - “Very High” for “Ideational”, “Low” for “Sensorimotor” and appraisal of own LOCATION (6) “Very High” for “Sensoriaffective”, “Decreased” for “Ideational”.

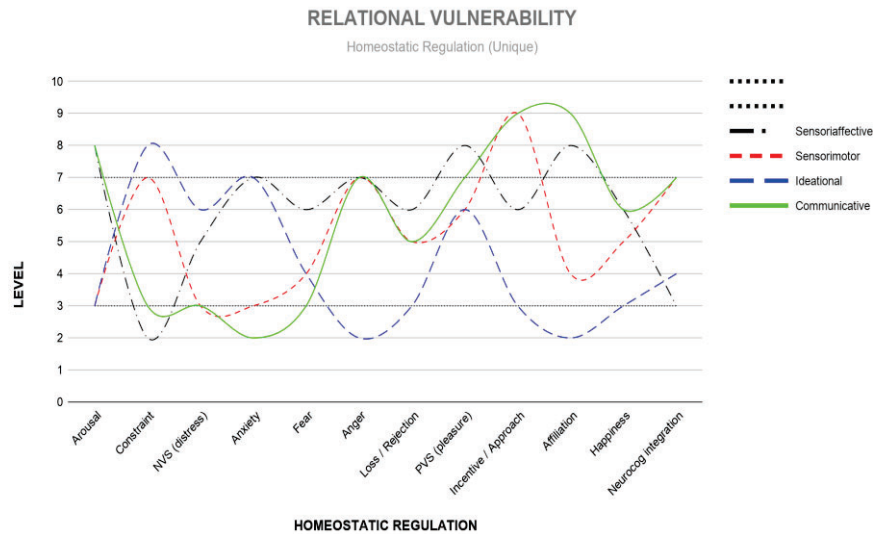
Individual differences in intersubjectivity reflect core variability in agency / autonomy, alterity, intimacy / love and transubjectivity among the four prototypical perspectival loci and modes of the I / Self (see Graph RV-U-I)



**Graph RV-U-I “Relational Vulnerability - Unique patterns of Intersubjectivity”**

Main contrasts are in the desire for intimacy (7) “Very High” for “Sensoriaffective”, “Low” for “Ideational” and “Sensorimotor”; agency (6) - “High” for “Sensorimotor” and “Low” for “Sensoriaffective”; alterity (6) “High” for “Ideational”, “Low” for “Communicative”; capacity for intimacy (6) “High” for “Sensoriaffective”, “Low” for “Ideational”. Notably, the smallest contrast is in transubjectivity (2) which is “Average - Elevated” for all four prototypical loci / modes of I / Self formation - a possible ontogenetic “advantage” of relational “vulnerability”.

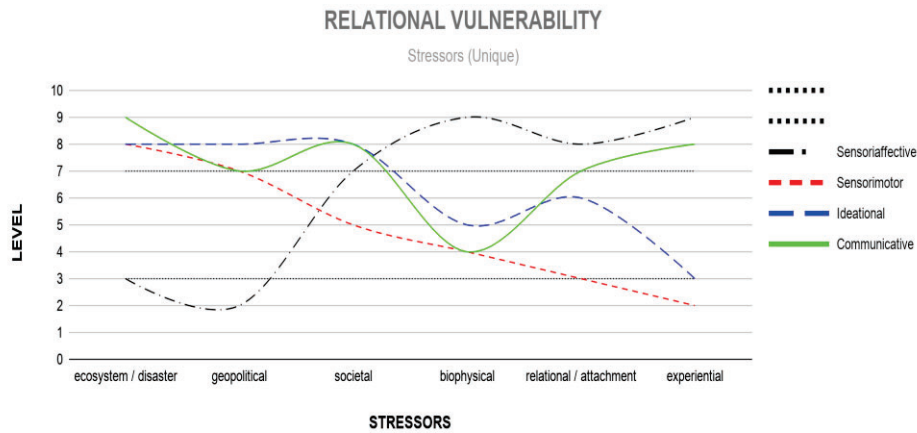
For Homeostatic Regulation, individual variability manifests in a wide range of differences across the entire spectrum of the biophysicality of the BODY (See Graph RV-U-HR below)



**Graph RV-U-HR “Relational Vulnerability - Unique patterns of Homeostatic Regulation”**

The main contrasts are in Affiliation (7) “Very High” for “Communicative”, “Low” for “Ideational”; Constraint (6) (“High” for “Ideational”, “Low” for “Sensoriaffective; Incentive / Approach (6) “High” for “Sensorimotor” and “Communicative”, “Decreased” for “Ideational”; Arousal (5) “Elevated” for “Sensoriaffective” and “Communicative”, “Decreased” for “Sensorimotor” and “Ideational” and Anxiety (5) “Elevated” for “Sensoriaffective” and “Ideational”, “Low” for “Communicative”.

Individual differences in Stressors reflect variability in exposure to natural disasters, adverse geopolitical events, societal, biophysical, interpersonal / relational (attachment) and experiential stressors and trauma (See Graph RV-U-S below)



*Graph RV-U-S “Relational Vulnerability - Unique patterns of Stressors”*

The main contrasts are in the “Experiential” stressors (7) - “Very High” for “Sensoriaffective”, “Low” for the “Sensorimotor” reflective of differential focus on internal vs external aspects of the sensory input; “Ecosystem Disaster” (6) - “Very High” for “Communicative” and “Decreased” for “Sensoriaffective” and in “Geopolitical” stressors (6) - “High” for “Ideational”, “Low” for “Sensoriaffective”. The lower exposure to natural and geopolitical disasters for the “Sensoriaffective” individuals reflects their primary focus on their own (internal) sensory and affective experience.

Secondary contrasts are in “Biophysical” and “Relational” stressors (5), both “High” for “Sensoriaffective” and “Decreased” for “Sensorimotor” reflective of relative resilience of the “Sensorimotor” individuals to these types of stressors and trauma.

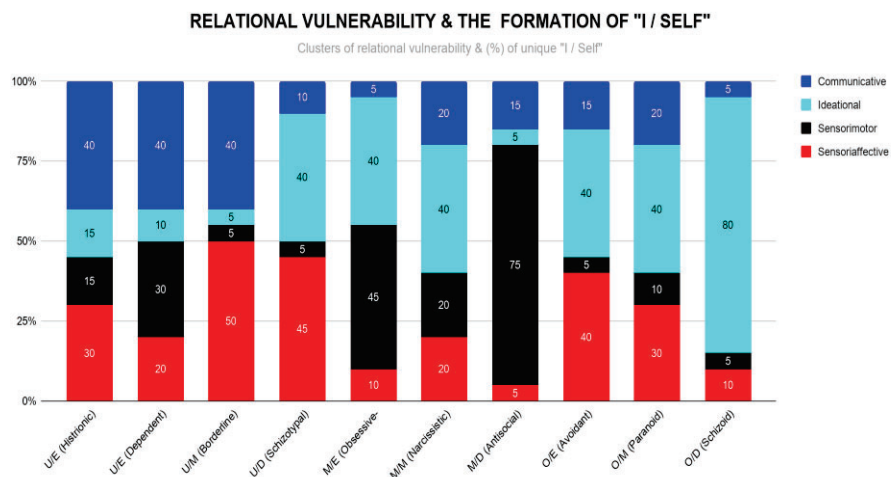
In general, “exposure” to stressors / trauma is an inverse of “resilience” and is primarily regulated by (i) probability of actual exposure (proximity) and (ii) focus (vs blocking) of one’s awareness (attention).

Correspondingly, exposure to particular stressors and trauma is a key aspect of epigenetic / ontogenetic formation of the I and Self.

### 2.5.3. Perspectival locus and clusters of relational vulnerability

The relation between perspectival locus (mode) and patterns (clusters) of relational vulnerability involves (i) relative distribution (share, presence, percentage) of each locus / mode within each cluster and (ii) epi-ontogenetic probability, for each perspectival locus / mode, of developing into a particular cluster.

The main clusters of relational vulnerability manifest different relative presence (distribution, share) of perspectival loci (modes) (Graph RV-U-C below)

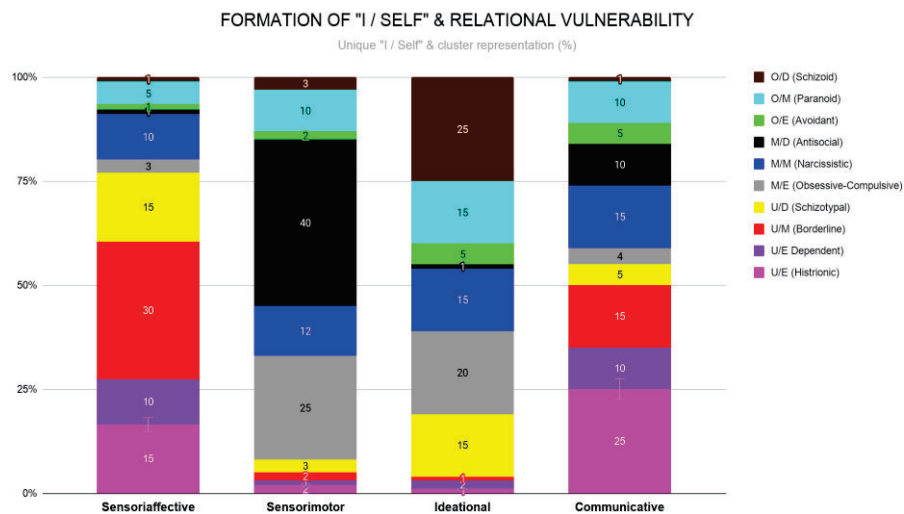


**Graph RV-U-C “Relational Vulnerability - Unique patterns within clusters”**

The most skewed within-cluster distribution is hypothesized for the “O/D” (“Schizoid”) Cluster (80% “Ideational” vs. 5% “Communicative” and “Sensorimotor”); the “M/D” (“Antisocial”) Cluster (75% “Sensorimotor” vs. 5% “Sensoriaffective” and “Ideational”) and the “U/M” (“Borderline”) Cluster (50% “Sensoriaffective” vs. 5% “Ideational” and “Sensorimotor”). The most even distribution (40-20%) is hypothesized for the “M/M”

(“Narcissistic”) Cluster, reflective of the significance of ipsocentricity for all clusters of relational vulnerability.

Each of the four prototypical perspectival loci (mode) of I / Self formation is hypothesized to have a different probability of developing into a particular cluster of relational vulnerability (see Graph RV-U-L/M below).



**Graph RV-U-L/M “Relational Vulnerability - Unique patterns within each Locus / Mode”**

The “Sensoriaffective” locus / mode is most likely to develop into the “U/M” (“Borderline”) Cluster (30% probability), the “U/E” (“Histrionic”) Cluster (15%) or the “U/D” (“Schizotypal”) (15%). It is the least likely to develop into the “O/D” (“Schizoid”) Cluster (1%), the “M/D” (“Antisocial”) Cluster (1%) or the “M/E” (“Obsessive-Compulsive”) Cluster (3%).

The “Sensorimotor” locus / mode is most likely to develop into the “M/D” (“Antisocial”) Cluster (40%) or the “M/E” (“Obsessive-Compulsive”) Cluster (25%). It is the least likely to develop into the “U/E” (“Dependent”) (1%), the “U/E” (“Histrionic”), “U/M” (“Borderline”) and the “O/E” (“Avoidant”) Clusters (2%). The “Ideational” locus / mode is most likely to develop into the “O/D” (“Schizoid”) (25%), the “M/E”

(“Obsessive-Compulsive”) (20%), the “U/D” (“Schizotypal”), “O/M” (“Paranoid”) or the “M/M” (“Narcissistic”) Clusters (15%) . It is the least likely to develop into the “U/E” (“Histrionic”), the “U/M” (“Borderline”), the “M/D” (“Antisocial”) (1%) or the “U/E” (“Dependent”) (2%) Clusters. The “Communicative” (semiotic) locus / mode is most likely to develop into the “U/E” (“Histrionic”) (25%), the “M/M” (“Narcissistic”) (15%) or the “U/M” (“Borderline”) (15%) Clusters. It is the least likely to develop into the “M/E” (“Obsessive-Compulsive”) (4%) or the “O/D” (“Schizoid”) Clusters (1%).