

## PERSONALITIES OF PLAYERS OF DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS<sup>1</sup>

ROBERT CARTER AND DAVID LESTER

*Center for the Study of Suicide*

*Summary.*—20 men who played Dungeons and Dragons did not differ in mean scores on depression, suicidal ideation, psychoticism, extraversion, or neuroticism from unselected undergraduates.

Previous research has shown that players of fantasy role-playing games are less empathic and more introverted than control groups (Douse & McManus, 1993). To explore this further 20 men who played the Dungeons and Dragons role-playing game (60% college students) were given the 48-item Eysenck Personality Inventory (Eysenck, Eysenck, & Barrett, 1965) and the 21-item Beck Depression Inventory (Beck, Ward, Mendelson, Mock, & Erbaugh, 1961). Their scores were compared with those of control groups of male undergraduates enrolled in college courses.

For the Beck Depression Inventory, the 20 players' mean scores did not differ from those of 76 controls ( $M_{\text{age}}=23.7$  and  $21.9$ ,  $SDs=5.43$  and  $2.88$ ) on the Beck Depression Inventory ( $Ms=6.70$  and  $6.15$ ,  $SDs=4.59$  and  $7.36$ ;  $t=0.32$ ) or for current suicidal ideation on Item 9 ( $Ms=0.35$  and  $0.18$ ,  $SDs=0.49$  and  $0.39$ ;  $t=1.63$ ).

On the Eysenck scales, the 20 players' mean scores did not differ from those of 21 controls ( $M_{\text{age}}=23.8$  and  $20.5$ ,  $SDs=5.4$  and  $1.6$ ), on Psychoticism ( $Ms=3.80$  and  $3.05$ ,  $SDs=1.67$  and  $1.53$ ;  $t=1.50$ ), Extraversion ( $Ms=6.90$  and  $8.62$ ,  $SDs=2.65$  and  $3.48$ ;  $t=1.77$ ), Neuroticism ( $Ms=3.65$  and  $4.76$ ,  $SDs=2.16$  and  $3.79$ ;  $t=1.15$ ), or Lie ( $Ms=3.95$  and  $3.14$ ,  $SDs=2.46$  and  $2.67$ ;  $t=1.01$ ). Thus, scores of Dungeon and Dragons players on personality scales appeared to resemble those of the unselected undergraduates in the present study.

### REFERENCES

- BECK, A. T., WARD, C. H., MENDELSON, M., MOCK, J., & ERBAUGH, J. An inventory for measuring depression. *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 1961, 4, 561-571.
- DOUSE, N. A., & MCMANUS, I. C. The personality of fantasy game players. *British Journal of Psychology*, 1993, 84, 505-509.
- EYSENCK, S. B. G., EYSENCK, H. J., & BARRETT, P. A revised version of the psychoticism scale. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 1965, 6, 21-29.

*Accepted December 26, 1997.*

---

<sup>1</sup>Address enquiries to David Lester, Center for the Study of Suicide, RR41, 5 Stonegate Court, Blackwood, NJ 08012-5356.