

A HISTORY OF “HUBRIS” AND “NARCISSISM” IN WAR CONFLICTS, PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CRISIS

Christos C Liapis^{1,2,3}

1 University of West Attica, Athens, Greece

2 Therapy Center for Dependent Individuals, Athens, Greece

3 Public Health Experts Committee, Athens, Greece

received: 30. 1. 2023;

revised: 7. 2. 2023;

accepted: 24. 11. 2023

Summary

It has been recently supported that current war conflict precipitated in Ukraine is the byproduct of Vladimir Putin's succumbing to this gross personality distortion caused by extreme power that has been identified by Owen as “The Hubris Syndrome”. Discussion on diagnostic criteria for the demonstration of Hubris Syndrome (HS) in political leaders as well as on further elaboration of the proposed factors that predispose to, or prevent from, the exacerbation of this Syndrome comprises both scientific interest and responsibility for prosocial political behavior. Given the increased complexity that globalization entrains in every crisis that arises in an era of concomitant bio-psychological, socio-economic and warlike threats, we perceive in a more intense way the assumption that HS may never be medically treated and only the enhancement of our democratic reflexes may protect us from leaders whose hubristic personality traits entice them to adopt immature coping mechanisms.

Keywords: *Hubris syndrome; COVID-19; SARS-CoV-2; health crisis management*

* * * * *

INTRODUCTION

The term hubris, from the classic Greek literature, referred to the transgression against the gods (Liapis & Alevizopoulos 2021), that leads the person to disregard the divinely fixed limits. Hubris also refers to the exaggerated pride, overwhelming self-confidence, and contempt exhibited to others (Giannouli 2017, Owen 2006) and in ancient Greece has been considered a civil and penal crime at least from the time of Solon's legislation (6th century BC), since any citizen could bring charges against a person demonstrating hubristic political behavior (Liapis & Alevizopoulos 2021). Hubris Syndrome (HS) is associated with power and it is more likely to manifest itself the longer the person exercises power and the greater the power he exercises (Owen 2008, Liapis 2022). Discussion on diagnostic criteria for the demonstration of HS in political leaders (Owen 2008), as well as on further elaboration of the proposed factors that predispose to, or prevent from, the exacerbation of this Syndrome (Ghaemi et al 2016) comprises both scientific interest and responsibility for prosocial political behavior and such a bipartite approach is followed in this theoretical paper, given the fact that cognitive and affective antecedents of hubris still remain largely overlooked, in spite of researchers attesting to the perils of hubristic leadership in politics, the military and business organizations, having also identified hubris' correspondences

with personality disorders and various organizational and individual level factors (Claxton et al 2015).

VLADIMIR PUTIN'S LEADERSHIP IN AN ERA OF COMPLEX CRISES

Robertson and Owen have previously supported (Robertson & Owen 2022) that war conflict precipitated in Ukraine is the byproduct of Putin's succumbing to this gross personality distortion caused by extreme power that has been identified by Owen as “The Hubris Syndrome” (Owen 2008).

It has been argued that during his 20 years in power, Vladimir Putin has employed a savvy use of social policy to bolster his popularity, but it is a set of policies not well designed to address Russia's chronic under-provision of healthcare, education, and other social services-particularly in rural areas (Sokhey 2020). This controversy is ominously stressed during the COVID-19 era during which many countries see themselves as distinctive and therefore have handled the pandemic badly, leading to the paradox that even countries considered as best equipped to confront a virus such as SARS-CoV-2, to be delivering some of the worst outcomes, as far as the confrontation of the Pandemic is concerned (Lincoln 2020). This was, also, the case with Russia's coping strategy against COVID-19 with Putin initially supporting that Russia has

the situation under control, while events suggested that the government was woefully underprepared in March of 2020 (Sokhey 2020).

A.J. Baker, 8 years since B. Russell had introduced the term "intoxication of power" (Russel 1961), wrote about the malady of overconfidence which, in the dark years of World War II, was aptly to be called the "Victory Disease" (Liapis & Alevizopoulos 2021, Baker 1969). According to this perception, a defeat in war can be traced back to the "virus" of irrationality and impulsiveness combined with a strong sense of opportunism (Liapis & Alevizopoulos 2021). Shokhey supports that COVID-19 global pandemic will only exacerbate Russia's social policy challenges and could pose a threat to Putin's political survival (Sokhey 2020). Therefore, such considerations might be applied to the global battle against a true virus, like SARS-CoV-2 (Liapis & Alevizopoulos 2021), given the fact that more than eighty years after the outbreak of World War II, Europe is experiencing war conflict in the very same battlefields that Hitler's invasion and retreat took place. In close geostrategic connection to those battlefields of Ukraine are the Baltic countries, which sit precariously on the edge of Europe and historically have been the "bloodlands" between East and West in author Timothy Snyder's phrasing (Ekmanis 2020). Back to 2014 and Russia's military incursion in Ukraine and annexation of Crimea, a flurry of articles predicted the next territorial conquest of President Vladimir Putin's Russian revanchism, with Baltic countries being high on the list (Ekmanis 2020). At the same time, overconfidence in national specialness it is supported to have led to lack of preparedness and to crippled collaboration with global health agencies as far as battle against COVID-19 is concerned (Liapis & Alevizopoulos 2021).

REALISM VS AUTHORITARIAN INTUITION IN POLITICS AND IN BUSINESS

The Russian response to the COVID-19 pandemic is also consistent with Putin's authoritarian strategies for staying in power. It has been argued that Russia's response is emblematic of a post-Soviet response to the pandemic in which political leaders understate the extent of the crisis and the potentially catastrophic consequences for public health (Sokhey 2020, Ekmanis 2020). This assumption is in accordance with the conclusion of Claxton's bibliographic research regarding Hubris in business leadership, that hubristic CEOs may overestimate their own problem-solving capabilities and their company's resource capabilities, also tending to underestimate the

resources required and the uncertainties faced, thereby presenting themselves with a simplified and optimistic picture of the situation they face (Claxton et al 2015). All of the above validate Giannouli's assumption that more hierarchical cultures with larger power distance and interdependence are associated with more autocratic leadership behaviours (Giannouli 2017). Speculations on Vladimir Putin's hubristic manifestations can also be validated in Walt's assumptions that Russian President got many things wrong when he decided to invade Ukraine, since he exaggerated his army's military prowess, underestimated the power of Ukrainian nationalism and the ability of its outmanned armed forces to defend their home soil (Walt 2023).

This might have occurred due to his intuition becoming misunderstood, unchecked or unbridled within a 'cognitive economy' (Claxton et al 2015) that has been developing in an authoritarian set of power that remains untouched for more than 20 years.

According to implicit leadership theories, follower groups in more collectivistic and hierarchically distant societies construe leaders' suppression behaviour as more "leadership-like", hence perceiving such behaviour and emotions of leaders accordingly (Giannouli 2017). Societies of that kind are distinctly represented in Putin's post-Soviet Russia, as well as in Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's [for whom speculations of being in thrall of hubris have also been widely supported] new-Ottoman Turkey (Ghitis 2020, Mataillet 2022).

Given the fact that leaders' hubristic personality and related traits [Machiavellianism, narcissism, neuroticism] influence followers' work-related outcomes [job satisfaction, emotion at work, self-efficacy] in various cultures –like, for example, Chinese socioeconomic and political culture- that differ in power distance and individualism (Giannouli 2017), this might explain Claxton et al's assumption, citing Li and Tang's conclusion, on positive relationship between CEO hubris and risk taking in Chinese firms amplified by market complexity, accompanied by an abundance of intangible resources, when the CEO chairs the board, and when the CEO is not a political appointee (Claxton et al 2015, Li & Tang 2010).

Inferentially, it seems that, having succumbed to hubris, Putin did not only exaggerated his army's military prowess (Walt 2023) in an analogous way that CEOs' hubristic behaviors are often fueled by a fallible intuition that unrealistically assures the abundance of intangible resources (Claxton et al 2015), but he has also overestimated China's willingness to back him up, since Beijing might be buying lots of Russian oil and gas, yet denying Moscow any vocal diplomatic support or valuable military aid (Walt SM 2023).

DISCUSSION

Hubris Syndrome is often characterized by unrealistic judgments made by leaders, which lead to mistaken and harmful decisions (Owen & Davidson 2009), since power can exacerbate tendencies for people to overweigh their own initial judgment to the extent that the most powerful decision makers can also be the least accurate (Claxton et al 2015). Those decisions can be destructive in a much more massive scale in the era of SARS-CoV-2, since in now times good leadership and skilled decision making have become crucial for public health and welfare, leaving no space for arrogance, extreme optimism, or reckless incompetence (Liapis & Alevizopoulos 2021). That structures one of the main reasons why Hubris should be considered as a serious social problem, when good judgment and decisions are needed in our everyday life (Giannouli & Syrmos 2021) of cascading crises.

TACKLING THE PERILS OF HUBRISTIC LEADERSHIP IN A MULTI-CRISIS ERA

Therefore, in our multi-crisis era, in order to mitigate the perils of hubristic leadership that stems from unbridled intuition, it becomes crucial to provide an additional set of checks and balances that might prevent hasty, partial or biased decision making (Claxton et al 2015), through necessary implementation of critical thinking and other cognitive and emotional control mechanisms from both the leaders and subordinates sides (Giannouli & Syrmos 2021).

Often, political leaders' views are repeated by aides and yes-men and alternative views can easily be ignored or dismissed as heretical. Their position gives them the power to ignore negative messages, or – more probably – they are less likely to get those messages in the first place. Once leaders attain power, the world gives them less and less realistic feedback, which can inflate a pre-existing normal mild positive illusion into full blown HS (Ghaemi 2011).

At the same time, a preexisting depressive or hyperthymic diathesis may act protectively against HS (Liapis 2022, Ghaemi 2016). Among the specific traits of hyperthymic temperament is the strong sense of humor. Humor has long been identified as possessing an important psychological value, whether in expressing sensitive, unconscious ideas (Liapis & Alevizopoulos 2021, Kuiper 2012, Freud 1905, Kelling 1971, Spero 2009) or puncturing formal pomposity, as with the jokers of medieval courts (Spero 2009).

FORMER-COMEDIAN ZELENSKY VS HUBRISTIC PUTIN

Given the fact that Volodymyr Zelenskyy had a successful career as a comedian, before running for president of Ukraine, we might understand his psychological advantage towards Vladimir Putin's excessive seriousness, because the latter might often hides poverty of thought (Liapis & Alevizopoulos 2021), while humor can express potentially unpopular ideas in socially acceptable ways. Therefore we have a first-class paradigm of how a robust sense of humor may be somewhat protective against HS (Liapis & Alevizopoulos 2021), offering current evidence to Owen's notion that HS is less likely to develop in people who retain a personal modesty, remain open to criticism and have a well developed sense of humour (Owen 2008). Despite Zelenskyy's unexpected political success he does not seem to be in thrall of HS and this might be interpreted as a strategic advantage in Ukraine's resilient resistance to Putin's hubristic invasion. Therefore, we might consider even more thoughtfully the way in which choosing political leaders and state officials whose less illusionary character is more likely to become non-flammable against the fire of hubris, becomes a political prerequisite of such grievous importance in periods of crisis (Liapis 2022) like war conflicts and / or the SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic.

Narcissism in actor-politicians makes the hero role all but irresistible (Owen 2008, Liapis 2022), while hubris is not the sole domain of politicians or leaders who engage themselves and the nations they are leading in the hardships of ruthless offensive wars or in the machineries of harmful international conflicts. Hubris might be remarkably problematic and in other domains (Owen 2008, Liapis 2022, Ghaemi et al 2016) like in a country's commercial and economic life, if the head of government or even a key role minister is in thrall of exaggerated pride, overwhelming self-confidence and contempt for others.

HUBRIS IN 2015 GREEK DEPTH CRISIS AND OTHER PARADIGMS

In other words, in business and banking, collective or corporate hubris is not uncommon (Liapis 2022). This was the case, for example, with the "hubristic incompetence" (Owen 2008) that the then Minister of Finance of Greece, Yanis Varoufakis had demonstrated in negotiating with the European Union back to the summer of 2015, precipitating Greek default, bail in and imminent Grexit. Capital controls had invalidated greek credit cards for transactions abroad and people were standing in lines in

Athens to withdraw money from ATMs, during the hard summer of 2015, because their Finance Minister was apparently seeing the world as a place for self-glorification through the use of power and was arrogantly disregarding reality, demonstrating, among others, those particular signs from HS tentative list (Owen 2008, Owen & Davidson 2009). Similar bank queues could be, seen in Moscow and in other parts of Russia, during the first month of Russian invasion of Ukraine, as rouble crashed, while the country was ejecting SWIFT with Vladimir Putin resorting to restlessness, recklessness and impulsive actions, presenting symptoms which might trigger the diagnosis of HS (Owen 2008, Robertson & Owen 2022).

On the other hand, before jumping to the conclusion that Vladimir Putin's intuition has become misunderstood, unchecked or unbridled within the 'cognitive economy' of a powerful individual, leading to an overt manifestation of hubristic behavior (Claxton et al 2015) we should stress the point that Russian President went to war convinced that Russia could ride out any sanctions the Western world might impose, and he has been proved right up until now (Walt 2023).

All of the above supports Mundt's suggestion (Mundt 2020) that in spite of Lincoln's implication that Hubris and poor outcomes in health crisis management –and also in exercising political power under demanding situations of social turmoil, or even economic and /or military conflicts – are associated with right-wing government (Lincoln 2020), HS can expand its intoxicating effect within the entire range of political spectrum. Mexican president Andrés Manuel López Obrador, for example, who is left of the political spectrum, has falsely dismissed social distancing and erroneously delayed quarantine and testing (Mundt 2020), in confronting the COVID-19 menace and the same applies when we examine the way in which the then -finally ostracized by his Prime Minister and by his political party- Greek Minister of Finance, Yanis Varoufakis, a left-wing politician, had hubristically exhibited messianic zeal and exaltation in speech (Russel 1961), while negotiating Greece's depth crisis back in 2015 -comparing the eurozone to the Eagles' Hotel California, where "You can check out anytime you like, but you can never leave", describing the austerity measures imposed on Greece as "fiscal waterboarding" and suggesting that what Greece's creditors were doing to the country amounted to "terrorism" (Anthony 2015), or the arrogant and unrealistic view adopted by the authoritarian

Vladimir Putin who allows his alleged moral rectitude to obviate consideration of practicality, cost or outcome (Russel 1961) as far as his political decisions of invading Ukraine are concerned.

It is the same hubristic arrogance and lack of empathy and remorse that Yanis Varoufakis had demonstrated when he was once interviewed on whether he might be feeling any responsibility for the predicament that the situation in Greece had become worst during his tenure as minister of finance, given the fact that at the end of 2014, the Greek economy was judged to be growing and since Syriza's victory it had gone into sharp reverse, with him hubristically replying: "At the risk of sounding arrogant, absolutely not..." (Anthony 2015).

Owen also claims that other leaders of the UK banking sector during the 2007-2009 financial crisis deserve to come under scrutiny, even in the courts, with this close examination unveiling not just biographical details but possible information about their psychological state and personality, since it is important that the psychiatric profession and other related professions do not stand aside from examining any personality changes that may be shown to have developed (Owen 2011).

Tony Blair and Margaret Thatcher have also been referred as paradigms of Hubris Syndrome, according to Owen's conclusions (Owen 2008, Owen & Davidson 2009), while Ghaemi has also presented interesting multi-disciplinary scientific data about psychopathology in exercising power as far as Winston Churchill and Franklin Delano Roosevelt, as well as other profound politicians, are concerned (Ghaemi et al. 2016, Ghaemi 2011).

The examination of transcribed spoken discourse samples produced by the abovementioned British Prime Ministers who were said to meet criteria for HS, and John Major who did not, revealed that the keyness ratio of 'we' to 'I' was clearly higher throughout the terms of office of Thatcher and Blair that at any point in the premiership of Major, and this difference was particularly marked in the case of Blair (Garrard et al 2014). For the latter, Wesseley contrastingly supports that the historian who might come to weigh up Blair's Wars will need to take into account a far wider range of factors, political, social, economic, cultural and much else (Wesseley 2006), stressing the point that Owen, in seeking to defend his argument that Tony Blair met criteria for HS (Owen & Davidson 2009, Garrard 2014) he might be over-emphasizing the personal at the expense of the political (Wesseley 2006).

HUBRISTIC OUTCOMES: A TWO-EDGED MULTIPLIED MENACE IN A WORLD OF SUCCESSIONAL CRISES

The last decade has seen a financial crisis and recovery period in Russia (Sokhey 2020), under Putin's leadership, before his invading of Ukraine, but with similar military interventions taking place in Georgia and in Crimea in 2008 and in 2014 respectively. Opposition candidates and parties look poised to do better, though, Putin and his government, ultimately maintain power with skillful strategies from the authoritarian toolkit (Sokhey 2020), despite his hubristic demonstrations. This supports Owen's conclusion that HS develops irrespective of whether the individual's leadership is judged a success or failure; and it is not dependent on bad outcomes (Owen 2009).

Hubristic behavior of overconfidence, extreme pride together with an unwillingness to disregard advice makes powerful people in leadership positions to over-reach themselves with negative consequences for themselves and others (Diamandis & Bouras 2018). On the other hand, despite Putin's hubristic behavior, Russia can be considered, in the modern period, as an excellent example of how and why authoritarian regimes do care about public opinion and also why the nature of their political institutions do not produce better outcomes (Sokhey 2020).

Political prowess has now become the engine of success in the face of competition which is almost gladiatorial in its scope and Machiavellian by its nature (Weinmann 2014) and this intoxicating effect is evident not only in political cabinets or behind the closed doors of autocratic and tyrannical power and governmental administration but also in the socio-economic terrain of medicine, as well as in the entire scientific span (Diamandis & Bouras 2018, Weinmann 2014, Gonzalez-Garcia 2019, Giannouli 2021, Giannouli & Syrmos 2021, Giannouli 2017).

That reflects on the current tendency of many businesses, when recruiting executives, to regard egocentricity, callousness, and insensitivity as acceptable trade-offs in order to get the talents and skills needed for surviving in an accelerated, dispassionate business world (Owen 2010)

Currently we have begun to see dissatisfaction and the possibility that the Russian public will not accept continued stagnation in areas like healthcare and education services—especially when general economic conditions are weak (Sokhey 2020). In an analogous but more dramatic way, by the end of June 2015, all Greek citizens woke up on closed banks and had to run for several years under capital control. Looking back at those crucial times of socio-economic turmoil and uncertainty, this situation

can be considered as a paradigm of HS and of its detrimental impact to societies who are in crisis, when leaders or high state officials get intoxicated by its symptoms. As Owen presents, taking in account the devastating effects that a political leader, intoxicated by power, can have on many people, there is a particular need to create a climate of opinion that political leaders should be held more accountable for their actions (Owen 2009).

NEW INSIGHTS ON HUBRIS SYNDROME VS DSM-V NARCISSISTIC PERSONALITY DISORDER THROUGH THE ANALYSES OF CURRENT COMPLEX CRISIS

In terms of phenomenology, the criteria of Hubris Syndrome overlap to an extent with the criteria of Narcissistic Personality Disorder (Ghaemi 2011). Hubristic phenomenology can be traced to current President Putin's public appearances and attitudes towards his associates and subordinates, corresponding to "constitutional and political narcissism", rather than clinical Narcissistic Personality Disorder, which is an ambivalent nosological entity that was nearly omitted from Diagnostic Statistical Manual V (DSM V) and for which many doubts have been raised on its scientific legitimation.

Narcissistic personality has always been considered as contributory in Hubris, having almost vague boundaries with HS. It is generally accepted, since Freud, that some degree of narcissism is contributory to success but we do not need to go as far as him to say that successful people were the mother's favorite, usually a son, in order to support a psychoanalytic metaphor that occasionally may overlap between both Hubris Syndrome and mania.

Seeking the admiration of others may cause narcissists to pursue power, although hubris seems more often to emerge following its achievement (Wray 2016).

The 14 symptoms for Hubris Syndrome, proposed by Owen (2008) after studying illness in heads of government who held offices over a period spanning a hundred years, included: a narcissistic propensity to see the world as an arena to exercise power and seek glory; exaggerated self-belief bordering on a sense of omnipotence and accountability only to a 'higher court' such as history or God. These symptoms were mapped by Owen and Davidson (2009) against the American Psychiatric Association Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders 4th edition (DSM IV) criteria for narcissistic personality disorder (NPD), antisocial personality disorder and histrionic personality disorder and serves to distinguish

Hubris Syndrome from other seemingly related disorders (Claxton et al 2015)

As far as the analyses of current complex crisis precipitated by Putin's invasion of Ukraine, is concerned, our findings support the notion that the theoretical framework of "the inverse law of sanity" (Ghaemi, 2011) which contemplates being completely sane as a condition that might lead to impaired functioning, while being somewhat mentally ill can improve functioning -even though it has been debated as a robust neuro-bio-social construct-might be more solid scientifically than basic speculations on Greek myths clothed in DSM-V criteria (Ghaemi et al 2016), seeking for narcissistic indicators in Putin's authoritarian and hubristic leadership.

Owen stresses the point that the most important constraint on a Head of Government is fear of not being able to win re-election (Owen 2009). This notion provides us with a crystal clear "prescription" in order to constrain hubristic political attitudes, whilst the endeavor of tracing specific predisposing personality characteristics that might increase the relative risk of an individual to manifest hubristic behaviors after being exposed to a condition that enables him to exercise unrestrained power for a significant period of time, becomes even more foggy if we take in consideration that, when distorted, those personality characteristics get aggravated to abnormal behaviors which would also qualify the person for a diagnosis of a Cluster B personality disorder and specifically, narcissistic personality disorder, antisocial personality disorder or histrionic personality disorder. Therefore, HS might be kept as a separate category best diagnosed in the absence of any known illness and described as a change rather than a disorder (Liapis & Alevizopoulos 2021), while a multivariable global crisis comprised of SARS-CoV-2 pandemic and Putin's invasion of Ukraine that precipitates detrimental reverberations in energy markets and struggling repercussions in all aspects of socioeconomic life is highlighting, in a very inflective way, the need for less hubristic political leadership, revealing the menaces of arrogantly incorrect decision making of those in power (Liapis 2022, Lincoln 2020, Kavanagh 2020).

CONCLUSIONS

The generality assumed for a key finding of the studies we brought under discussion, might be depicted in the conclusion that this "know-it-all approach" (Owen 2012), that politicians who are in thrall of hubris, often demonstrate, indicates the inclusiveness of Hubris Syndrome concept, which incorporates and contemplates the dangerous

symptoms of excessive confidence in someone's own judgment and contempt for the advice and criticism of others, combined with exaggerated self-belief, bordering on a sense of omnipotence on what he personally can achieve (Owen 2008, Owen & Davidson 2009, Owen 2012).

Given the fact that the vast majority of studies conclude that high power and high status have a hampering effect on a number of prosocial capacities (Vega and Ward 2016), all of the above intensify the need for a prompt improvement of measures in order to ensure greater social oversight of hubristic leaders, even through the enhancement of the potential role that medical profession might conduce to this oversight (Ghaemi et al 2016).

This highlights the need to try to understand more about the developing and acquired psychological state of leaders in all walks of life, not just politics (Owen 2011). As improved societal awareness of hubris is changing public expectations, leaders in all walks of life may feel a much greater obligation to accept and not resist society's prescribed course of democratic constraint (Owen 2009). From this perspective, hubris syndrome has opened an useful discussion on the relationships of psychiatry and politics, scope and role of political psychiatry, including responsibility for prosocial political behavior, the public benefit and the security of our civilization (Jakovljević 2011), since modern times hubris describes personalities with extreme pride and overconfidence (Liapis & Alevizopoulos 2021). It has been aptly noted that HS in politicians is a greater threat than conventional illness to the quality of their leadership and the proper government of our world (Owen 2009). Given the increased complexity that globalization entrains in every crisis that arises in our era of concomitant bio-psychological, socio-economic and warlike threats, we perceive in a more intense way the assumption that HS may never be cured by doctors and only constant vigilance and the countervailing power of an active, probing and well-informed democracy will prevent it from damaging decision making amongst Heads of Government (Owen 2006) whose hubristic personality traits entice them to adopt immature coping mechanisms that might lead to the underestimation of a crisis, particularly when facing unknown and unpredictable results (Liapis & Alevizopoulos 2021).

AVOIDING NEMESIS

If we want to avoid Nemesis, the goddess of retribution that denotes the destruction, suffering or punishment that can follow in the wake of hubris (Owen 2006) we must feel unafraid (Owen 2008) to reveal and criticize,

with our dual capacity as scientists and citizens, any hubristic behavior demonstrated by political leaders, helping our democratic institutions to curb Hubris Syndrome.

The conclusive evidence that is highlighted in our study extends the commonly accepted theoretical knowledge which presents the consequences of extreme narcissism as being comparable with those visited by Nemesis upon victims of hubris (Wray 2016). Described as having an excessive need for admiration and a sense of superiority (Wray 2016, Babiak 2006) narcissists have little empathy and recent constraints placed upon their self-evaluated superior leadership (Wray 2016, Amernic & Craig, 2007) and that demands improved measures as far as manipulation checks are concerned, as well as treatment of less rewarding stimuli that, in the concept of leadership, might mitigate the development of strong self-attribution bias

References

- Amernic JH & Craig R: *Guidelines for CEO-speak: editing the language of corporate leadership*. *Strategy & Leadership* 2007; 35: 25-31
- Anthony A: *Yanis Varoufakis: If I'm convicted of high treason, it would be interesting*. *Theguardian.com* 2015; available online: URL (accessed on 26 May 2023): <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/aug/23/yanis-varoufakis-convicted-high-treason-interview-greece-finance-minister-syriza>
- Babiak P & Hare RD: *Snakes in Suits: When Psychopaths Go to Work*. Harper Business, New York, 2006.
- Baker AJ: *Pearl Harbor*. Ballantine Books, New York, 1969.
- Claxton G, Owen D & Sadler-Smith E: *Hubris in leadership: A peril of unbridled intuition?*. *Leadership* 2015;11: 57-78.
- Diamandis EP & Bouras N: *Hubris and Sciences*. *F1000Res* 2018; 7: 133.
- Ekmanis I: *Why Isn't Latvia the "Next" Crimea? Reconsidering Ethnic Integration*. *Orbis* 2020; 64: 489-500.
- Freud S: *The Joke and its Relation to the Unconscious -1905*. Penguin Books, London, 2002.
- Garrard P, Rentoumi V, Lambert C, Owen D: *Linguistic biomarkers of Hubris syndrome*. *Cortex* 2014; 55: 167-181.
- Ghaemi SN: *A First-rate Madness. Uncovering the Links Between Leadership and Mental Illness*. Penguin Press, New York, 2011.
- Ghaemi SN, Liapis C & Owen D: *The psychopathology of power*. In Garrard P & Robinson G (eds): *The Intoxication of Power*, 17-37. Palgrave Macmillan, London, 2016.
- Ghitis F: *An Isolated Erdogan Learns the Cost of Hubris in Idlib*. *Worldpoliticsreview.com* 2020; available online: URL (accessed on 26 May 2023): <https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/for-erdogan-and-turkey-syria-highlights-the-cost-of-hubris/>
- Giannouli V: *What do we really know about hubris, culture and health professionals in leadership positions? A methodological recommendation*. *Asian Journal of Psychiatry* 2017; 26: 150-51.
- Giannouli V: *Jenny Fleming (2015). Police leadership: rising to the top*. *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice* 2020; 14: 555–68.
- Giannouli V & Syrmos N: *The Flight of Icarus: A preliminary study of the emotional correlates of hubris in gerontological nurses during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic*. *Psychiatria Danubina* 2021; 33: 109-13.
- Giannouli V: *Exploring Hubris in physicians: are there emotional correlates?* *Psychiatr Danub* 2021; 33: 57-59.
- Gonzalez-Garcia J: *Sindrome de «hubris» en neurocirugía [Hubris syndrome in neurosurgery]*. *Rev Neurol* 2019; 68: 346-53.
- Hiller NJ & Hambrick DC: *Conceptualizing executive hubris: the role of (hyper-)core self-evaluations in strategic decision-making*. *Southern Medical Journal* 2005; 26: 297-319.
- Jakovljević M: *Hubris syndrome and a new perspective on political psychiatry: need to protect prosocial behavior; public benefit and safety of our civilisation*. *Psychiatr Danub* 2011; 23:136-38.
- Kavanagh MM: *US elections and a foreign policy for pandemics*. *Lancet Public Health* 2020; 5: 517-18.
- Kelling GW: *An empirical investigation of Freud's theory of jokes*. *Psychoanal Rev* 1971; 58: 473-85.
- Kim YH: *Self Attribution Bias of the CEO: Evidence from CEO interviews on CNBC*. *Journal of Banking & Finance* 2013; 37: 87-89
- Kuiper N: *Humor and resiliency: towards a process model of coping and growth*. *Europe's Journal of Psychology* 2012; 8: 475-91.
- Li J & Tang Y: *CEO hubris and firm risk taking in China: The moderating role of managerial discretion*. *Academy of Management Journal* 2010; 53: 45–68.

- Liapis C & Alevizopoulos G: Leadership in Covid-19 Era: From Hubris to political post-traumatic stress. *J Psychiatry Behav Sci* 2021; 4: 1053.
- Liapis CC: From ancient hatei to hubris syndrome in SARS-CoV-2 health crisis management. *Psychiatr Danub* 2022; 34: 111-15.
- Lincoln M: Study the role of hubris in Nations' COVID-19 response. *Nature* 2020; 585: 325.
- Magyari L, Pléh C & Forgács B: The Hungarian hubris syndrome. *Plos one* 2022; 17: e0273226.
- Mataillet D: Hubris syndrome. A sickness of heads of state. *France-amerique.com* 2022; available online: URL (accessed on 26 May 2023): <https://france-amerique.com/hubris-syndrome-a-sickness-of-heads-of-state/>
- Mundt AP: Question hubris in nations' COVID-19 responses. *Nature* 2020; 586: 500.
- Owen LD: Hubris and nemesis in heads of government. *J R Soc Med* 2006; 99: 548-51.
- Owen D: Hubris syndrome. *Clin Med* 2008; 8: 428-32.
- Owen D & Davidson J: Hubris syndrome: An acquired personality disorder? A study of US Presidents and UK Prime Ministers over the last 100 years. *Brain* 2009; 132: 1396-1406.
- Owen LD: Psychiatry and politicians—afterword: Commentary on...psychiatry and politicians. *The Psychiatrist* 2011; 35: 145-48.
- Robertson I & Owen D: Inside Putin's mind: absolute power has blinded Russia's new tsar. *TheTimes.co.uk* 2022; available online: URL (accessed on 02 May 2022): <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/inside-putins-mind-absolute-power-has-blinded-russias-new-tsar-q8gws3v5j>
- Russel B: *A History of Western Philosophy*. Allen & Unwin, London, 1961.
- Sokhey SW: What does Putin promise Russians? Russia's authoritarian social policy. *Orbis* 2020; 64: 390-402.
- Spero MH: The joke envelope: A neglected precursor of the psychic envelope concept in Freud's writing. *Psychoanal Study Child* 2009; 64: 193-226.
- Vega M, Ward J: the social neuroscience of power and its links with empathy, cooperation and cognition. In Garrard P & Robinson G (eds): *The Intoxication of Power*, 155–74, Palgrave Macmillan, London, 2016.
- Walt SM: What Putin Got Right. *Foreignpolicy.com* 2023; available online: URL (accessed on 25 May 2023): <https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/02/15/putin-right-ukraine-war/>
- Weinmann M: Hubris M.D. *Minerva Anestesiol* 2014; 80: 291-92
- Wessely S: Commentary: the psychiatry of hubris. *J R Soc Med* 2006; 99: 552-53.
- Wray T: The role of leader hubris in the decline of RBS and Lehman Brothers. In Garrard P & Robinson G (eds): *The Intoxication of Power*, 229-51, Palgrave Macmillan, London, 2016.

Correspondence:

Christos Ch. Liapis MD.

President of the Therapy Center

for Dependent Individuals. Athens, Greece.

chliapis@yahoo.gr / 0030 210 9241993