

Between-Person Borderline Personality Symptom Structure Differs from Individuals' Symptom Processes

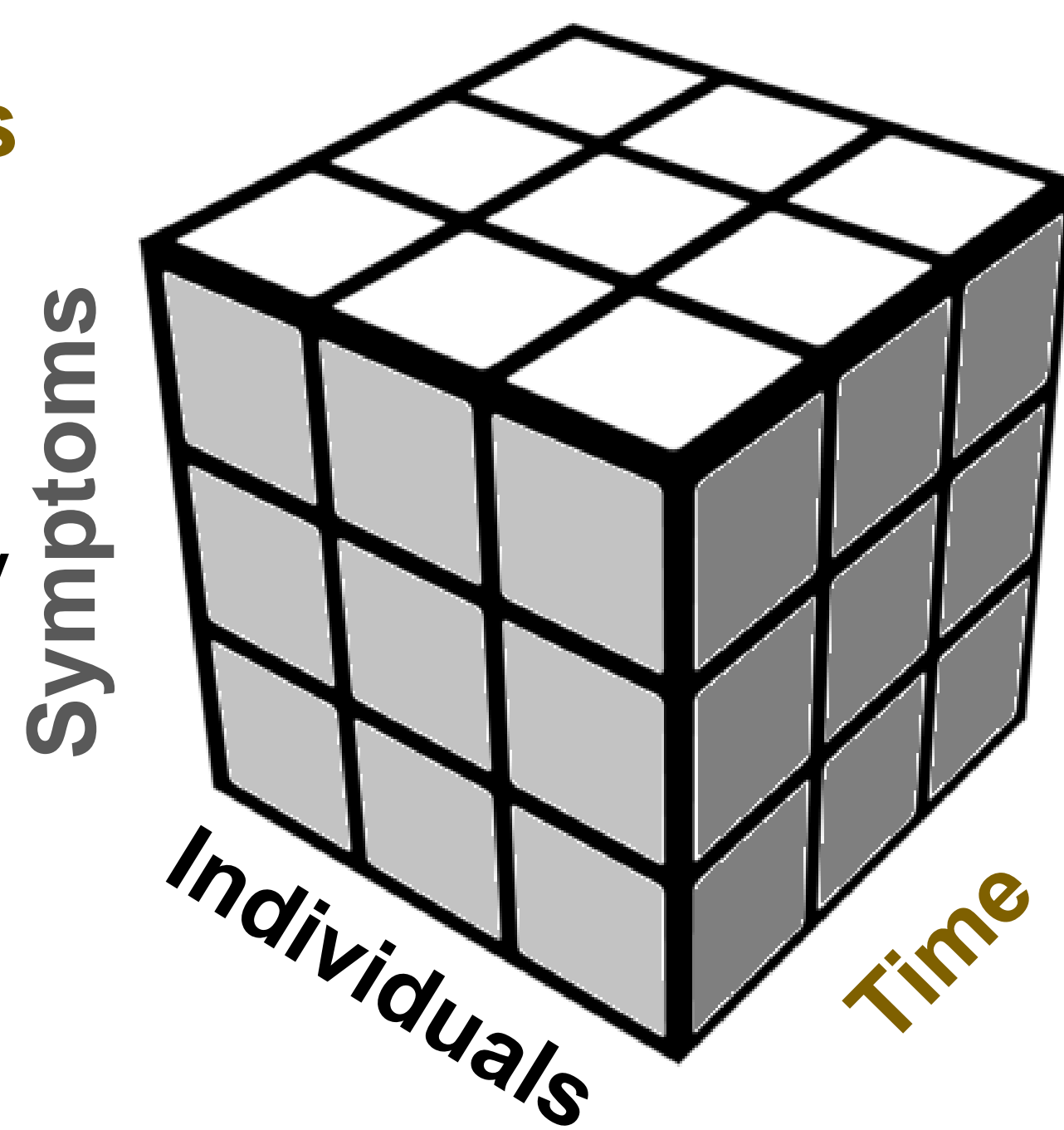


Leah Emery and William Fleeson
Wake Forest University

Introduction

Research has frequently made assumptions about individual experience of borderline personality disorder (BPD) using between-person analyses.

- **Between-person analyses** focus on how symptoms co-occur between persons: when one symptom is present, are other symptoms on average also likely to occur?
- **Within-person analyses** depict how the symptoms are correlated in individuals over time. Symptoms that frequently co-occur in the same person may actually be experienced at different times.
- **Within-person analyses** can describe individual's or average experiences (chain within-person analyses).



Purpose: To determine how the within-person symptom structures of BPD compare to the between-person structure— both average within-person structure and individuals'.

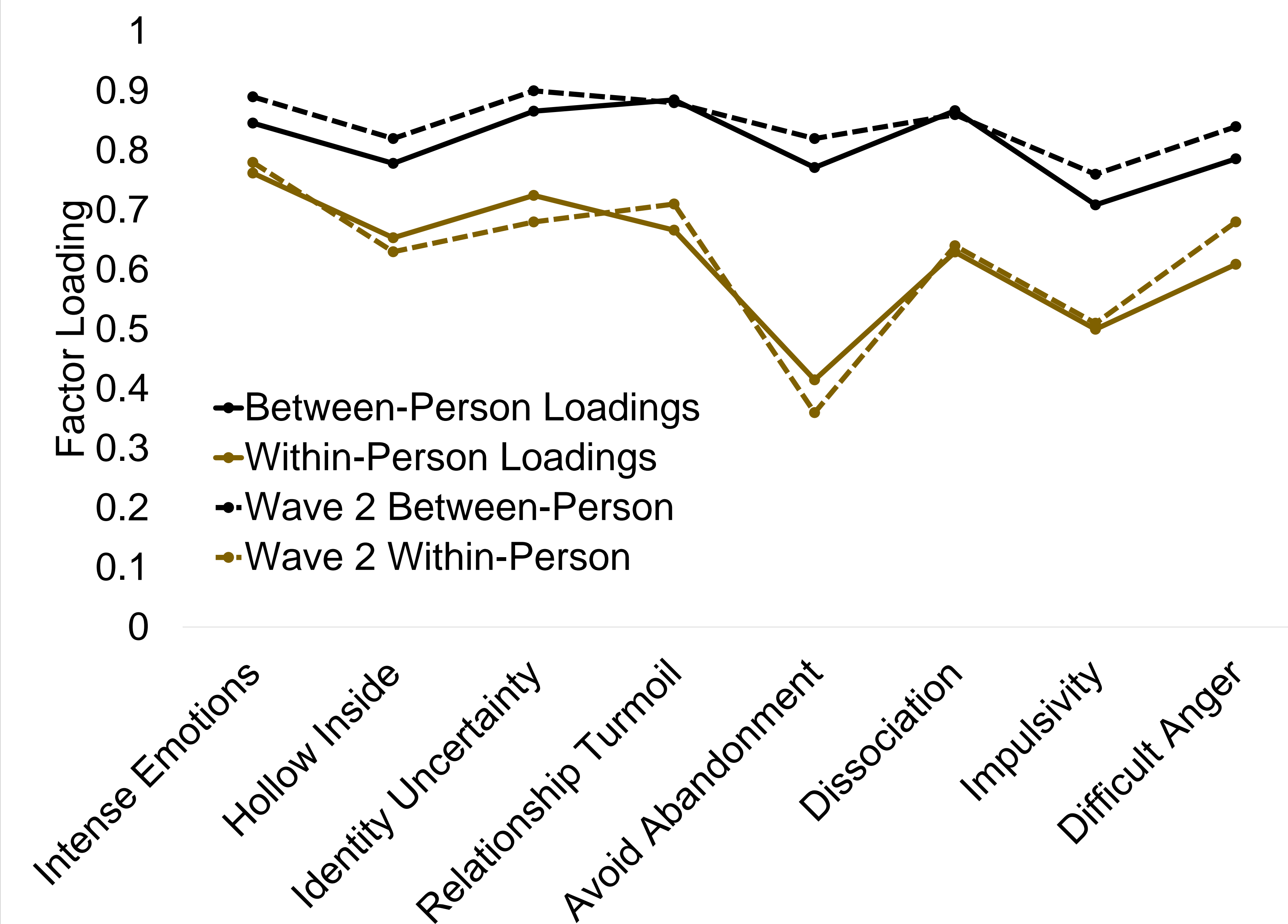
Importance: To link the clinical research focus on the average individual with the clinical practice focus on individual patient experiences.

Method

- 282 participants sampled from community and clinical population, 77 met SIDP-IV criteria for BPD.
- Participants reported momentary experience of symptoms 5 times a day for two weeks.
- 171 Participants completed a second wave of similar data collection 18 months later for Wave 2.

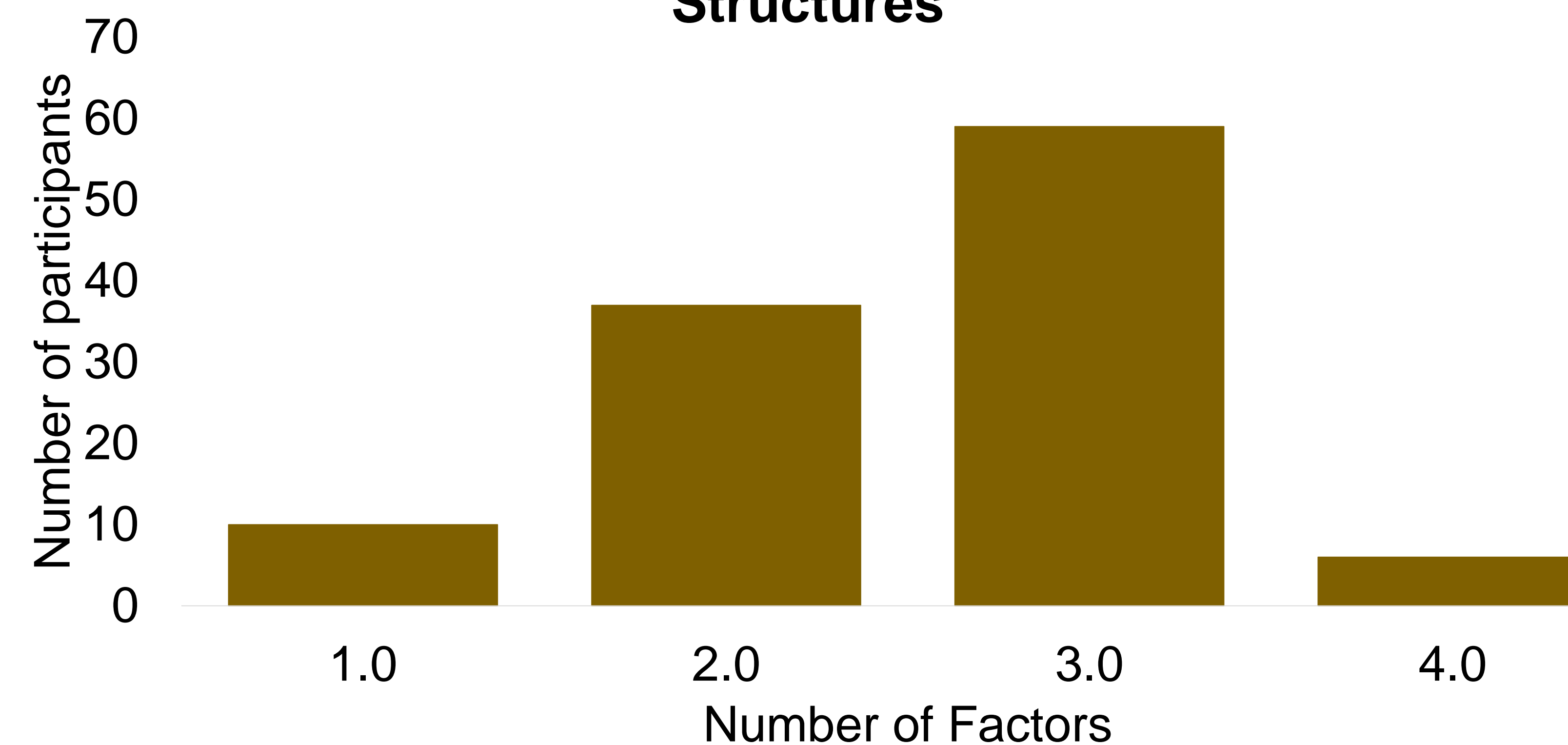
Results

Symptom Loadings for Within- and Between-Person Structures

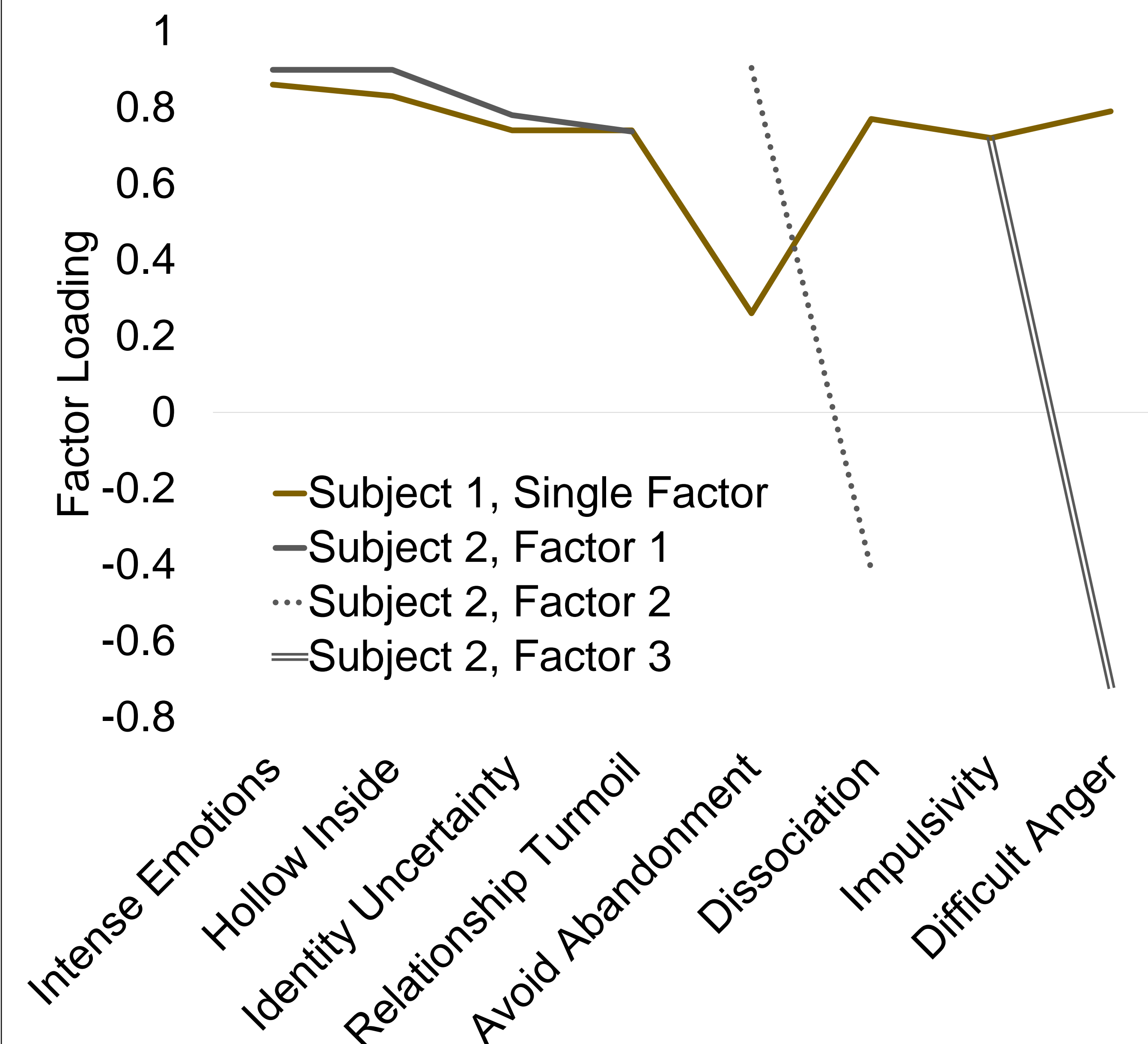


- Between-person factor analysis revealed one factor accounted for 66% of variance in Wave 1 and 71% of variance in Wave 2
- Chain within-person factor analysis found one factor accounted for 40% of variance in Wave 1 and 41% of variance in Wave 2.

Number of Factors in Individuals' Within-Person Structures



Two Example Participants' Factor Structures



Conclusions

- The between-person structure generally reflects the average within-person structure.
- However, individuals have a greater diversity of patterns of symptom experience than is reflected in the chain within-person structure or the between-person structure.

Acknowledgments

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