



National and Kapodistrian
UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS

INTERNET USE AND ABUSE AMONG GREEK ADOLESCENTS: THE EFFECT
OF FEELINGS OF INADEQUACY MEDIATED BY THE QUALITY OF ROMANTIC
RELATIONSHIPS IN ADOLESCENT BLOGGERS AND SOCIAL NETWORK USERS

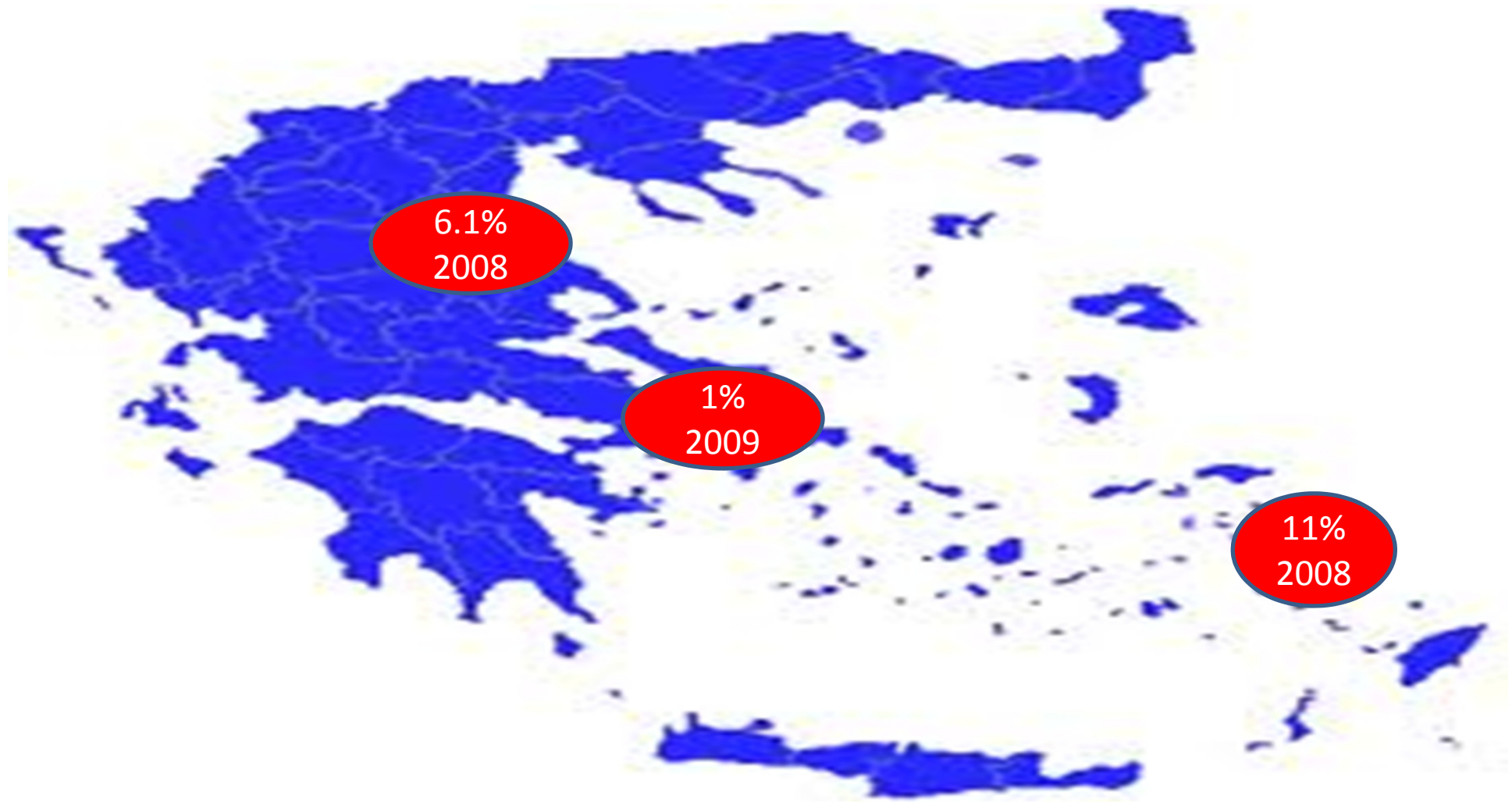
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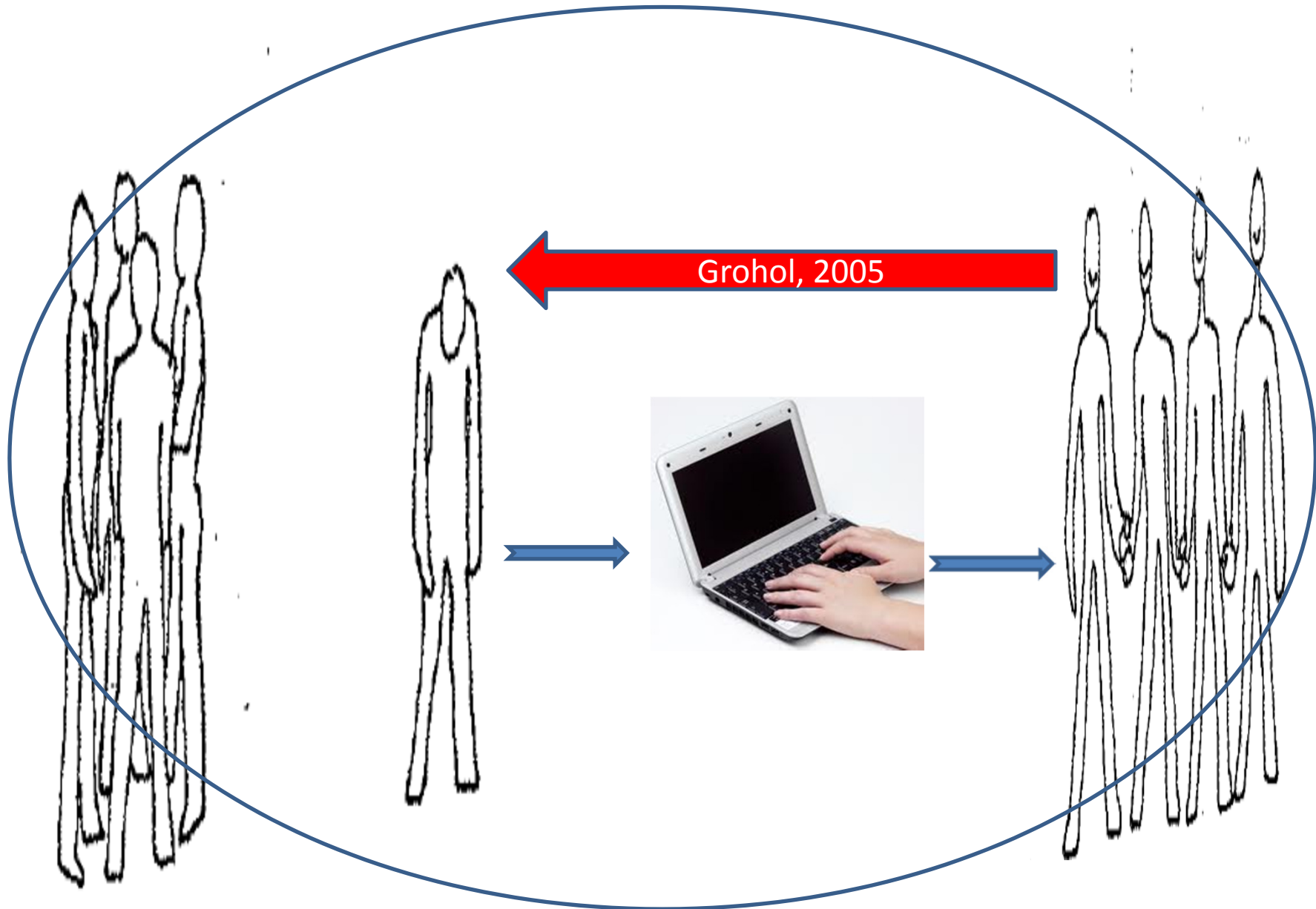
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Impetus for this research project

- Contradictory findings regarding the prevalence of internet addiction among Greek adolescents



Quality of relationships and internet use and abuse





Research Questions

- What is the prevalence of internet addiction among Greek high school students?
- Are feelings of personal inadequacy and inferiority risk factors for internet abuse, when focusing on adolescent bloggers and social network users ?
- Does the quality of romantic relationships mediate this effect?

Our Methods

The total sample consisted of 2090 high schools students (14 to 25 years), from urban (Attica) and rural areas (Korinthia)

Internet use was assessed with the Internet Addiction Test of Young (1998) and Young Diagnostic Questionnaire, feelings of inadequacy and inferiority were assessed with the interpersonal sensitivity scale of the Symptom Check List – 90 (Derogatis,1994.) Quality of romantic relationships was assessed with the Experiences in Close Relationships (Fraley et al., 2000)

There was informed consent of both the adolescent and his/her parent or guardian for participating in the research voluntarily

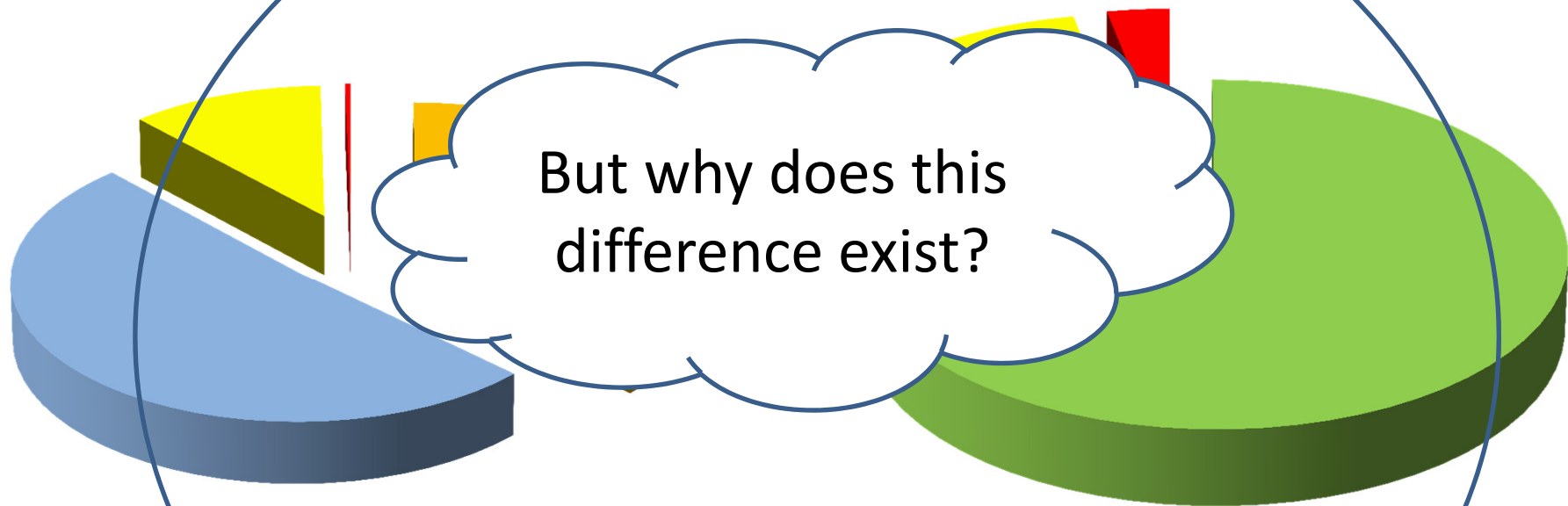
Descriptive Statistic (Frequencies & Frequencies %)
Regression Analysis , Sobel test for the total and specific indirect effects as well as percentile-based, bias-corrected, and bias-corrected and accelerated bootstrap confidence intervals for the indirect effects as proposed by Preacher and Hayes at 2008

Prerequisites

- **Normal Distribution Variance**: Kolmogorov Smirnov was non significant
- **Reliability** : Cronbach a above 0,80 for all questionnaires participating in the analysis

One sample, two different criteria

- Question 1: **What is the prevalence ?**



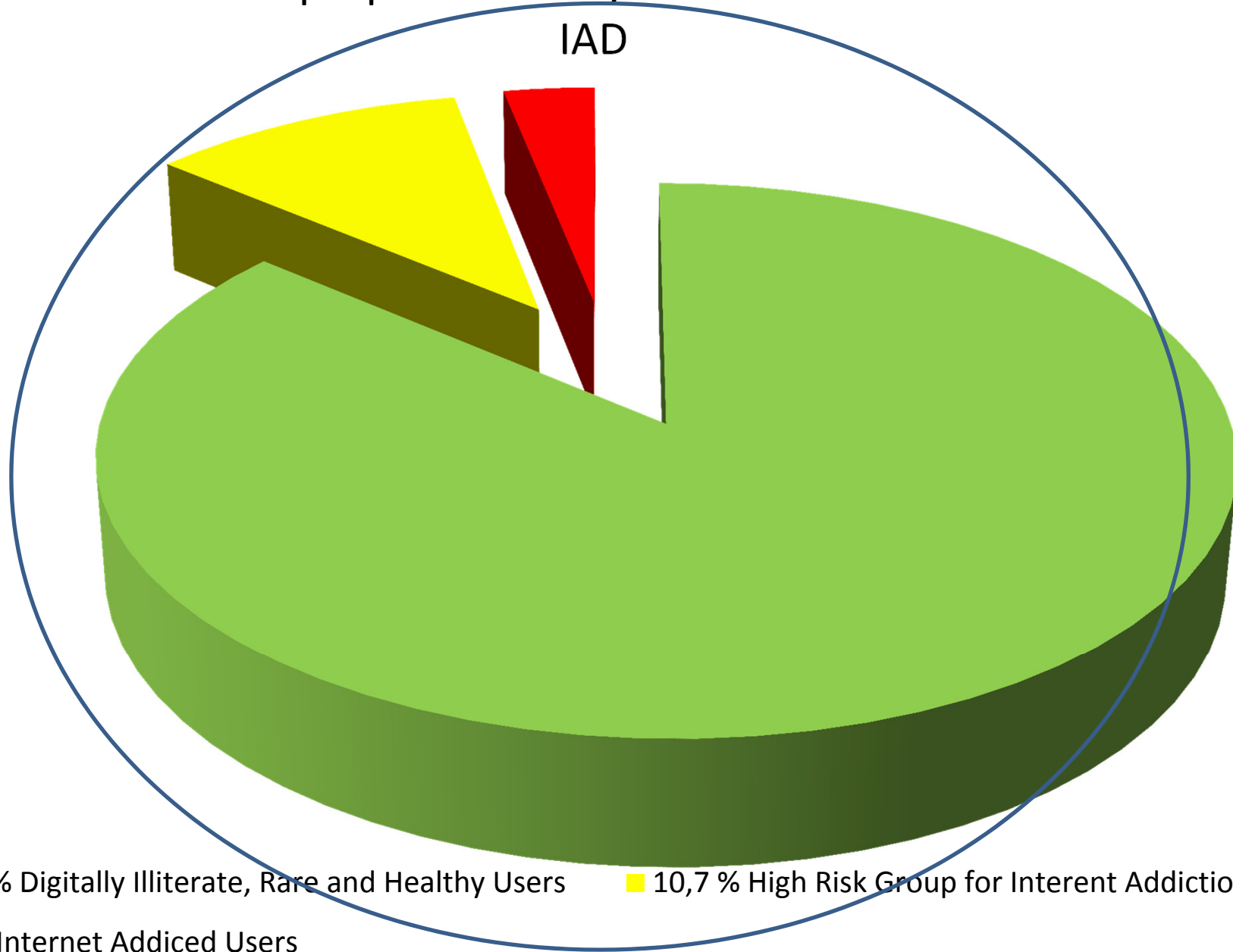
- 37,1 % Digitally Illiterate but mostly Rare Users
- 86,2 % Digitally Illiterate, Rare and Healthy Users
- 51% Healthy Users
- 10,7 % High Risk Group for Internet Addiction
- 11,6% High Risk Group For Internet Addiction-Abuse
- 3,1% Internet Addicted Users
- 0,30% Internet Addicted or Abusers

Follow my thought....

- Crosscultural Differences in cut of point scores...
- To cut a long story short....
- We conducted ROC curve analysis to propose new cut of points..

| IAT SCORE | SENSITIVITY | 1 - SPECIFICITY | IAT SCORES | SENSITIVITY | 1 - SPECIFICITY |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 30.5000 | 1.000 | .375 | 32.5000 | .946 | .504 |
| 31.5000 | 1.000 | .357 | 33.5000 | .930 | .475 |
| 32.5000 | 1.000 | .340 | 34.5000 | .926 | .444 |
| 33.5000 | 1.000 | .322 | 35.5000 | .899 | .414 |
| 34.5000 | 1.000 | .304 | 36.5000 | .891 | .386 |
| 35.5000 | 1.000 | .283 | 37.5000 | .884 | .364 |
| 36.5000 | 1.000 | .266 | 38.5000 | .872 | .344 |
| 37.5000 | 1.000 | .254 | 39.5000 | .849 | .312 |
| 38.5000 | 1.000 | .241 | 40.5000 | .837 | .290 |
| 39.5000 | 1.000 | .221 | 41.5000 | .826 | .264 |
| 40.5000 | 1.000 | .208 | 42.5000 | .802 | .251 |
| 41.5000 | 1.000 | .193 | 43.5000 | .783 | .222 |
| 42.5000 | 1.000 | .184 | 44.5000 | .744 | .197 |
| 46.5000 | 1.000 | .127 | 45.5000 | .729 | .179 |
| 47.5000 | 1.000 | .115 | 95.5000 | .004 | .000 |
| 48.5000 | .983 | .101 | 101.0000 | .000 | .000 |
| 49.5000 | .983 | .091 | | | |
| 50.5000 | .983 | .082 | | | |

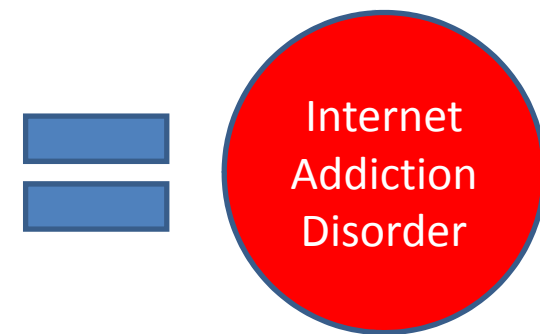
To be secure we propose the way to estimate the Prevalence of IAD



- 86,2 % Digitally Illiterate, Rare and Healthy Users
- 10,7 % High Risk Group for Internet Addiction
- 3,1% Internet Addicted Users

Question 2: Are feelings of personal inadequacy and inferiority risk factors for internet abuse among adolescent bloggers and social network users?

And also that multicollinearity diagnostic criteria were in the permissible for the conduction of the analysis limits



| Predictor | SEB | beta |
|---|-------|-------------|
| Feelings of Personal Inadequacy & Inferiority (Interpersonal Sensitivity) | 9.126 | 1.076 0.408 |
| R2 = 0,166, F(1, 360) = 71,892 p < 0,001. | | |

Question 3: Does the quality of romantic relationships mediate this effect?

- For this purpose we calculated the Sobel test for the total and specific indirect effects as well as percentile-based, bias-corrected, and bias-corrected and accelerated bootstrap confidence intervals for the indirect effects as proposed by Preacher and Hayes at 2008 *. Estimates of all paths were calculated using OLS regression. As we examined two dimensions of quality of romantic relationships, anxiety and avoidant, as proposed mediators, we also calculated normal theory (aka “Sobel tests”) and bootstrap tests of the difference between the indirect effects.

Results seem to support our hypotheses, only through anxiety attachment in close relationships...

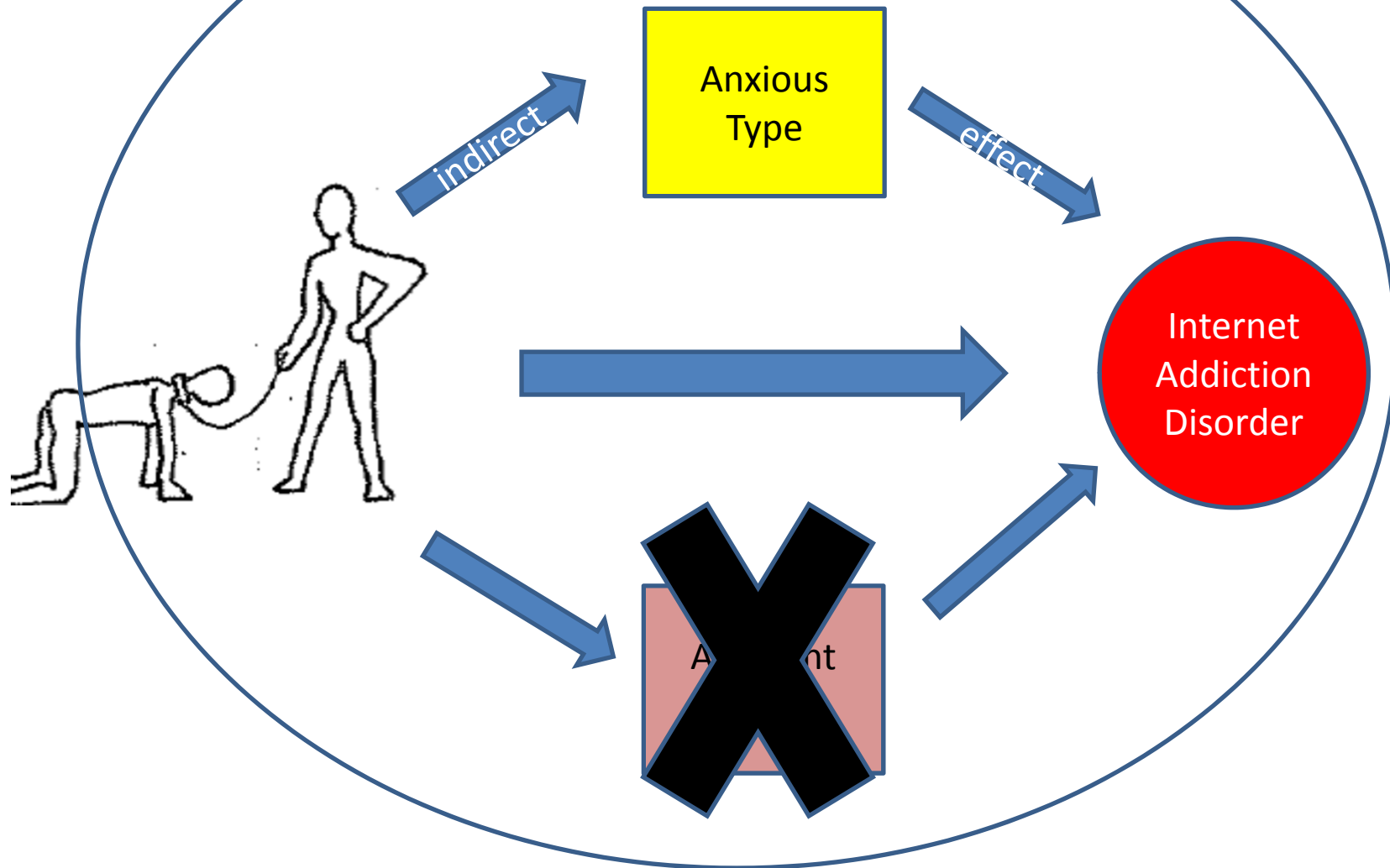
Table 1

Mediation of the Effect of Feelings of Personal Inadequacy and Inferiority on Internet Abuse among Adolescent Bloggers and Users of Social Network Through the Anxiety and the Avoidance Dimension in Quality of Close Relationships

| | Product of Coefficients | | | | Bootstrapping | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------------------|--------|-----------|--------|------------|--------|
| | Point Estimate | SE | Z | P | Percentile 99% CI | | BC 99% CI | | BCa 99% CI | |
| | | | | | Lower | Upper | Lower | Upper | Lower | Upper |
| | Indirect Effects | | | | | | | | | |
| Anxiety | 2.4971 | .5824 | 4.2878 | .0000 | .9663 | 4.4337 | 1.0508 | 4.7241 | 1.1008 | 4.9212 |
| Avoidance | -.0015 | .0199 | -.0746 | .9406 | -.2172 | .3286 | -.2793 | .2285 | -.2793 | .2285 |
| Total | 2.4956 | .5819 | 4.2888 | .0000 | .9436 | 4.4332 | 1.0363 | 4.6777 | 1.1146 | 4.6777 |
| | Contrasts | | | | | | | | | |
| Anxiety vs. Avoidance | 2.4986 | 0,5835 | 4,2819 | .0000 | .9357 | 4.4758 | 1.0485 | 4.7704 | 1.1146 | 4.7704 |

Note—BC, bias corrected; BCa, bias corrected and accelerated; 1,000 bootstrap samples.

To put it in shapes...



Discussion

- One who feels inferior and inadequate
- tends to behave with anxiety in his romantic relationships
- To calm his anxiety or insecurity he or she may relate through a blog or social network
- Ending to be vulnerable to develop internet dependency of the type of Cyberrelationship Internet Addiction as proposed by Young.



Thank you for following our thought's
circle...