

# Multicausal Systems Ask for Multicausal Approaches

## A Network Perspective on Subjective Well-being in Individuals with ASD

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### Multicausal System

- The expression of **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)** is highly heterogeneous.
- Given this heterogeneity, an important limitation of much ASD research is that **outcome measures** are statistically modeled as separate dependent variables.
- Often, their **multivariate structure** is either ignored or treated as a nuisance.

#### Objective of the current study

Applying network analysis to explicate the multivariate pattern of risk and success factors for subjective well-being in ASD.

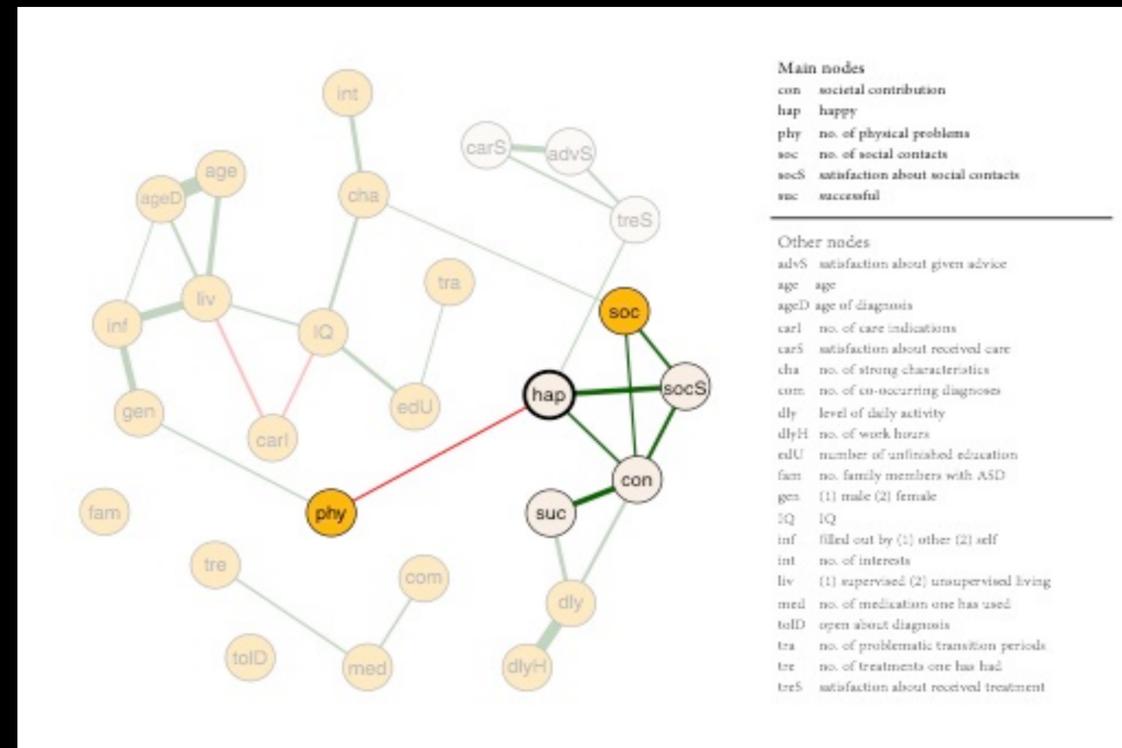


Figure 1. Highlighted graphical LASSO network for individuals with ASD. Positive associations are represented as green edges in the network, while negative associations are represented as red edges.

### Conclusions

- We identified *social satisfaction* and *societal contribution* as the strongest direct paths to subjective well-being.
- *Number of family members with ASD* and *openness about one's diagnosis* are least important of all factors for subjective well-being.
- IQ and *happiness* emerged as highly connected focal points that funnel the associations of factors in the network.
- The number of physical problems that people with ASD report, represents the strongest risk factor for their subjective well-being.

### Data

We analyzed The Dutch Autism Registry [nrc] data of **2341 individuals with ASD** aged 16 to 90 years to illustrate the network of interrelations between factors relevant to subjective well-being.

### Network Analysis

We assessed the centrality of specific life domains in the network as well as their importance for well-being. Centrality is a metric that indicates the overall connectivity of a variable in the network.