

## **Supplementary Online Content**

Isvoraru, A.M., Epskamp, S., Cheung, M. Network Models of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder: A Meta-analysis

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*This supplementary material has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.*

## Appendix S1. R-function

```
# This function can be used to write the following files:  
# - Pearson_listwise.csv - Listwise Pearson correlations  
# - Pearson_pairwise.csv - Pairwise Pearson correlations  
# - Spearman_listwise.csv - Listwise Spearman correlations  
# - Spearman_pairwise.csv - Pairwise Spearman correlations  
# - descriptives.txt - Some general descriptive measures  
  
getCorrelations <- function(data) {  
  # Check if this is a matrix or data frame:  
  if (!is.matrix(data) && !is.data.frame(data)) {  
    stop("Input is not a matrix or data frame.")  
  }  
  
  # If it is a matrix, make it a data frame:  
  if (is.matrix(data)) {  
    data <- as.data.frame(data)  
  }  
  
  # Descriptives:  
  nSample_listwise <-  
  sum(apply(data,1,function(x)all(!is.na(x))))  
  nSample_full <- sum(apply(data,1,function(x)any(!is.na(x))))  
  
  # Compute average sample size for pairwise correlations:  
  nomisdata <- !is.na(as.matrix(data))  
  nMat <- t(nomisdata) %*% nomisdata  
  nSample_pairwise <-  
  mean(nMat[lower.tri(nMat,diag=FALSE)],na.omit=TRUE)  
  
  # Means:  
  means <- colMeans(data,na.rm = TRUE)  
  
  # SDs:  
  SDs <- sapply(data, sd,na.rm = TRUE)  
  
  # Number of levels:  
  nLevels <- sapply(data,  
  function(x)length(unique(x) [!is.na(unique(x))]))  
  
  # Set names:  
  if (is.null(colnames(data))) {  
    colnames(data) <- paste0("V",seq_len(ncol(data)))  
  }  
  # Write these to a file:  
  descriptivesFile <- paste0(getwd(),"/descriptives.txt")  
  write(paste0(  
    "Sample size (full): ", nSample_full, "\n",  
    "Sample size (listwise): ", nSample_listwise, "\n",  
    "Number of levels: ", nLevels, "\n",  
    "Descriptives: ", means, "\n",  
    "SDs: ", SDs, "\n",  
    "Nomisdata: ", nomisdata, "\n",  
    "nMat: ", nMat, "\n",  
    "nSample_pairwise: ", nSample_pairwise, "\n",  
    "nSample_full: ", nSample_full, "\n",  
    "nSample_listwise: ", nSample_listwise, "\n",  
    "nLevels: ", nLevels, "\n",  
    "colnames(data): ", colnames(data), "\n",  
    "data: ", data, "\n"))
```

```

    "Sample size (pairwise average): ", nSample_pairwise,
"\n",
    "Name: ", paste0(colnames(data), collapse = "; "), "\n",
    "Means: ", paste0(means, collapse = "; "), "\n",
    "Standard deviations: ", paste0(SDs, collapse = "; "),
"\n",
    "Number of levels: ", paste0(nLevels, collapse = "; ")
), file = descriptivesFile)

# Correlations:
try({
  pearsonCorsFile_listwise <-
paste0(getwd(),"/Pearson_listwise.csv")
  write.csv(cor(data, use = "complete.obs"), file =
pearsonCorsFile_listwise)
})

try({
  pearsonCorsFile_pairwise <-
paste0(getwd(),"/Pearson_pairwise.csv")
  write.csv(cor(data, use = "pairwise.complete.obs"), file =
pearsonCorsFile_pairwise)
})

try({
  spearmanCorsFile_listwise <-
paste0(getwd(),"/Spearman_listwise.csv")
  write.csv(cor(data, use = "complete.obs", method =
"spearman"), file = spearmanCorsFile_listwise)
})

try({
  spearmanCorsFile_pairwise <-
paste0(getwd(),"/Spearman_pairwise.csv")
  write.csv(cor(data, use = "pairwise.complete.obs", method =
= "spearman"), file = spearmanCorsFile_pairwise)
})

cat("Done! Please mail us the following files:\n\n1.
",pearsonCorsFile_listwise,
  "\n2. ",pearsonCorsFile_pairwise,
  "\n3. ",spearmanCorsFile_listwise,
  "\n4. ",spearmanCorsFile_pairwise,
  "\n5. ",descriptivesFile,"\\n\\nThank you for your
assistance!")
}

```

**Appendix S2.** Table of node descriptions and alternative descriptions mapped to the nodes included.

DSM-IV ID	Label	Examples of alternative descriptions	DSM-IV description
<b>B1</b>	Intrusive Thoughts	Intrusive recollections; Thought about it when didn't mean to	Recurrent and intrusive distressing recollections of the event, including images, thoughts, or perceptions. Note: In young children, repetitive play may occur in which themes or aspects of the trauma are expressed.
<b>B2</b>	Nightmares	Dreams, Traumatic dreams, Distressing dreams; Has upsetting dreams; Had dreams about it	Recurrent distressing dreams of the event.
<b>B3</b>	Flashbacks	Re-experiencing; Reminders brought back feelings; Pictures popped into mind	Acting or feeling as if the traumatic event were recurring (includes a sense of reliving the experience, illusions, hallucinations, and dissociative flashback episodes, including those that occur on awakening or when intoxicated). Note: In young children, trauma-specific re-enactment may occur.
<b>B4</b>	Psychological reactivity	Upset at reminder of trauma; Heightened emotional reactivity; Avoid letting themselves getting upset when thinking or being reminded of it	Intense psychological distress at exposure to the internal or external cues that symbolize or resemble an aspect of the traumatic event.
<b>B5</b>	Physiological reactivity	Physiological cue reactivity; Physiological reaction on exposure	Physiological reactivity on exposure to internal or external cues that symbolize or resemble an aspect of the traumatic event.
<b>C1</b>	Internal avoidance	Avoiding Thoughts/Feelings	Efforts to avoid thoughts, feelings, or conversations associated with the trauma.
<b>C2</b>	External avoidance	Avoidance of activities	Avoidance of or efforts to avoid external reminders (people, places, conversations, activities, objects, situations) that arouse distressing memories, thoughts, or feelings about or closely associated with the traumatic event(s).
<b>C3</b>	Amnesia	Inability remembering; felt as if it hadn't happened or wasn't real	Inability to recall important aspect of the trauma.
<b>C4</b>	Loss of interest	Anhedonia	Markedly diminished interest or participation in significant activities.
<b>C5</b>	Feeling detached	Feeling distant or cut off from others; Difficulties feeling close to others	Feelings of detachment or estrangement from others.
<b>C6</b>	Emotional numbing	Numbness Happiness/Love; Restricted Affect	Restricted range of affect (e.g., unable to have loving feelings).
<b>D2</b>	Irritability / anger	Anger; Irritability	Irritability or outbursts of anger
<b>D4</b>	Hypervigilant	Overly Alert; Watchful / On-guard	Hyper vigilance
<b>D5</b>	Easily startled	Exaggerated startle, Exaggerated startle response	Exaggerated startle response
<b>D3</b>	Difficulty concentrating	Concentration	Difficulty concentrating
<b>D1</b>	Sleep disturbance	difficulty falling or staying asleep; Trouble staying asleep; Trouble falling asleep	Difficulty falling or staying asleep
<b>C7</b>	Hopelessness	Future foreshortening; Feeling plans won't come true	Sense of a foreshortened future (e.g., does not expect to have a career, marriage, children, or a normal life span).

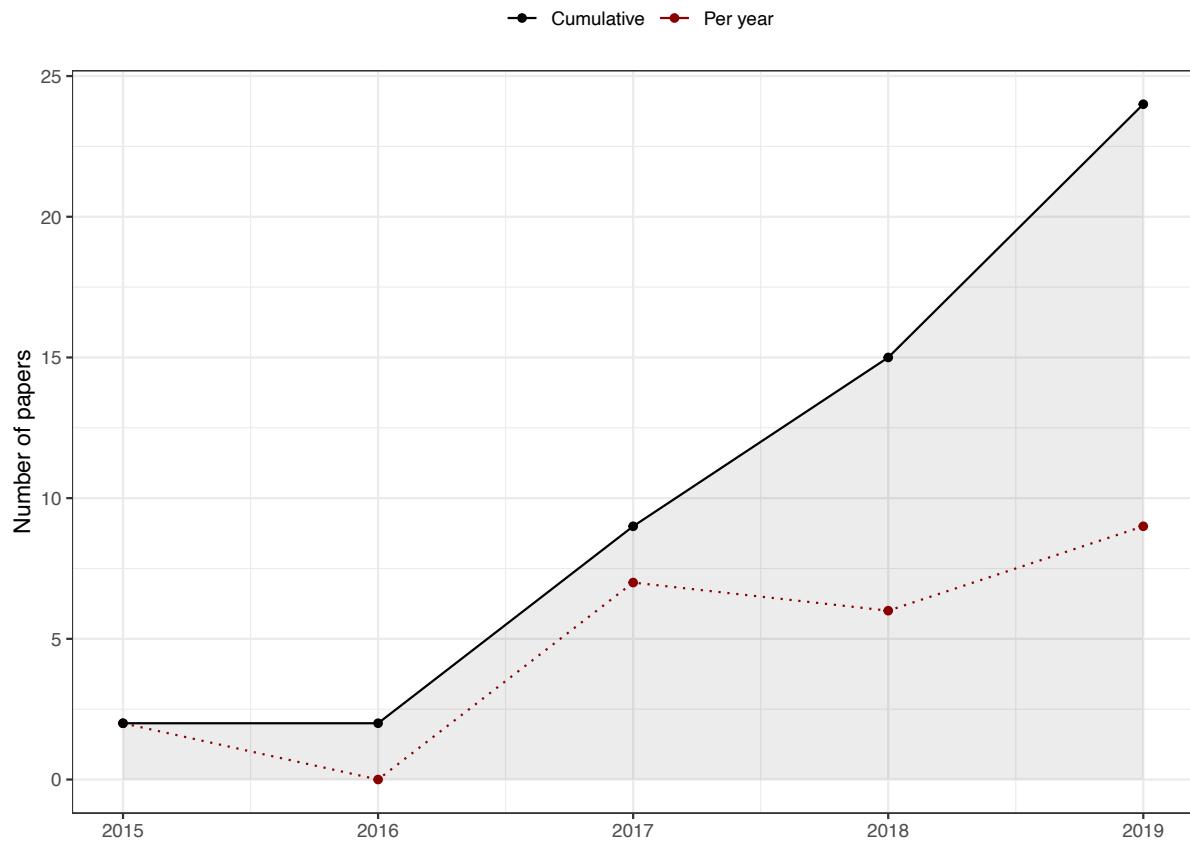
**Appendix S3.** Table of numeric results.

Variable 1	Variable 12	Edge	SE	p	Implied Correlation	Random-effect SD
<b>nightmares</b>	intrusive thoughts	.229	0.016	<.001	.548	0.133
<b>flashbacks</b>	intrusive thoughts	.235	0.023	<.001	.550	0.133
<b>psychological reactivity</b>	intrusive thoughts	.174	0.025	<.001	.529	0.155
<b>physiological reactivity</b>	intrusive thoughts	.075	0.017	<.001	.505	0.099
<b>internal avoidance</b>	intrusive thoughts	.105	0.014	<.001	.448	0.117
<b>external avoidance</b>	intrusive thoughts	.023	0.012	.051	.413	0.118
<b>amnesia</b>	intrusive thoughts	-.014	0.014	.314	.256	0.129
<b>loss of interest</b>	intrusive thoughts	.016	0.013	.217	.354	0.124
<b>feeling detached</b>	intrusive thoughts	-.001	0.015	.948	.361	0.120
<b>emotional numbing</b>	intrusive thoughts	.025	0.015	.093	.346	0.118
<b>irritability anger</b>	intrusive thoughts	-.010	0.013	.437	.325	0.119
<b>hypervigilant</b>	intrusive thoughts	.043	0.012	<.001	.373	0.114
<b>easily startled</b>	intrusive thoughts	.009	0.013	.483	.388	0.113
<b>difficulty concentrating</b>	intrusive thoughts	.046	0.013	<.001	.390	0.099
<b>sleep disturbance</b>	intrusive thoughts	.027	0.017	.114	.394	0.109
<b>hopelessness</b>	intrusive thoughts	.061	0.019	.001	.368	0.108
<b>flashbacks</b>	nightmares	.211	0.020	<.001	.511	0.140
<b>psychological reactivity</b>	nightmares	-.009	0.023	0.694	.416	0.151
<b>physiological reactivity</b>	nightmares	.147	0.023	<.001	.493	0.134
<b>internal avoidance</b>	nightmares	.016	0.015	.260	.373	0.125
<b>external avoidance</b>	nightmares	.033	0.013	.010	.372	0.133
<b>amnesia</b>	nightmares	.003	0.017	.872	.233	0.142
<b>loss of interest</b>	nightmares	.021	0.016	.174	.320	0.139
<b>feeling detached</b>	nightmares	-.028	0.016	.080	.314	0.129
<b>emotional numbing</b>	nightmares	.009	0.014	.538	.302	0.115
<b>irritability anger</b>	nightmares	-.018	0.020	.362	.298	0.118
<b>hypervigilant</b>	nightmares	.023	0.011	.038	.341	0.108
<b>easily startled</b>	nightmares	.026	0.014	.069	.371	0.140
<b>difficulty concentrating</b>	nightmares	.006	0.018	.724	.352	0.120
<b>sleep disturbance</b>	nightmares	.234	0.025	<.001	.472	0.141
<b>hopelessness</b>	nightmares	.005	0.015	.749	.310	0.099
<b>psychological reactivity</b>	flashbacks	.118	0.021	<.001	.472	0.153
<b>physiological reactivity</b>	flashbacks	.088	0.031	.004	.470	0.144
<b>internal avoidance</b>	flashbacks	-.005	0.014	.739	.362	0.120
<b>external avoidance</b>	flashbacks	.038	0.011	.001	.372	0.135
<b>amnesia</b>	flashbacks	.063	0.014	<.001	.268	0.127
<b>loss of interest</b>	flashbacks	-.012	0.016	.452	.302	0.133

Variable 1	Variable 12	Edge	SE	p	Implied Correlation	Random-effect SD
<b>feeling detached</b>	flashbacks	-.000	0.018	.992	.318	0.130
<b>emotional numbing</b>	flashbacks	.016	0.014	.245	.307	0.115
<b>irritability anger</b>	flashbacks	.032	0.017	.070	.307	0.124
<b>hypervigilant</b>	flashbacks	.016	0.013	.227	.330	0.120
<b>easily startled</b>	flashbacks	.041	0.014	.002	.364	0.128
<b>difficulty concentrating</b>	flashbacks	-.007	0.016	.666	.327	0.114
<b>sleep disturbance</b>	flashbacks	-.018	0.014	.196	.336	0.129
<b>hopelessness</b>	flashbacks	.050	0.016	.002	.329	0.116
<b>physiological reactivity</b>	psychological reactivity	.249	0.025	<.001	.567	0.140
<b>internal avoidance</b>	psychological reactivity	.108	0.021	<.001	.461	0.148
<b>external avoidance</b>	psychological reactivity	.077	0.016	<.001	.446	0.149
<b>amnesia</b>	psychological reactivity	.035	0.015	.021	.286	0.130
<b>loss of interest</b>	psychological reactivity	.023	0.014	.109	.366	0.115
<b>feeling detached</b>	psychological reactivity	.041	0.020	.037	.388	0.120
<b>emotional numbing</b>	psychological reactivity	-.004	0.019	.831	.343	0.121
<b>irritability anger</b>	psychological reactivity	.065	0.016	<.001	.367	0.122
<b>hypervigilant</b>	psychological reactivity	.017	0.013	.208	.366	0.126
<b>easily startled</b>	psychological reactivity	.050	0.018	.006	.409	0.123
<b>difficulty concentrating</b>	psychological reactivity	.010	0.014	.468	.380	0.108
<b>sleep disturbance</b>	psychological reactivity	-.005	0.012	.682	.357	0.102
<b>hopelessness</b>	psychological reactivity	.035	0.017	.036	.354	0.103
<b>internal avoidance</b>	physiological reactivity	.056	0.018	.002	.444	0.123
<b>external avoidance</b>	physiological reactivity	.096	0.018	<.001	.455	0.135
<b>amnesia</b>	physiological reactivity	.025	0.019	.177	.283	0.125
<b>loss of interest</b>	physiological reactivity	.000	0.014	.990	.364	0.122
<b>feeling detached</b>	physiological reactivity	.032	0.026	.224	.391	0.123
<b>emotional numbing</b>	physiological reactivity	.011	0.021	.587	.351	0.133
<b>irritability anger</b>	physiological reactivity	.044	0.015	.003	.369	0.126
<b>hypervigilant</b>	physiological reactivity	.016	0.016	.309	.385	0.126
<b>easily startled</b>	physiological reactivity	.105	0.019	<.001	.450	0.128
<b>difficulty concentrating</b>	physiological reactivity	.048	0.018	.006	.408	0.124
<b>sleep disturbance</b>	physiological reactivity	.046	0.014	.001	.406	0.132
<b>hopelessness</b>	physiological reactivity	.008	0.018	.660	.346	0.115
<b>external avoidance</b>	internal avoidance	.332	0.027	<.001	.560	0.177
<b>amnesia</b>	internal avoidance	.079	0.016	<.001	.307	0.140
<b>loss of interest</b>	internal avoidance	.036	0.014	.011	.369	0.126
<b>feeling detached</b>	internal avoidance	.010	0.015	.513	.361	0.132
<b>emotional numbing</b>	internal avoidance	.037	0.013	.003	.339	0.119
<b>irritability anger</b>	internal avoidance	.011	0.013	.412	.318	0.121
<b>hypervigilant</b>	internal avoidance	.052	0.012	<.001	.362	0.107

Variable 1	Variable 12	Edge	SE	p	Implied Correlation	Random-effect SD
easily startled	internal avoidance	-.001	0.014	.949	.363	0.123
difficulty concentrating	internal avoidance	.057	0.017	.001	.376	0.129
sleep disturbance	internal avoidance	.043	0.014	.003	.355	0.120
hopelessness	internal avoidance	-.005	0.014	.709	.318	0.107
amnesia	external avoidance	.074	0.015	<.001	.303	0.130
loss of interest	external avoidance	.086	0.013	<.001	.380	0.122
feeling detached	external avoidance	.025	0.012	.046	.360	0.121
emotional numbing	external avoidance	-.021	0.015	.160	.313	0.139
irritability anger	external avoidance	.001	0.013	.948	.307	0.133
hypervigilant	external avoidance	.065	0.016	<.001	.373	0.123
easily startled	external avoidance	.062	0.021	.003	.388	0.128
difficulty concentrating	external avoidance	-.021	0.014	.127	.341	0.112
sleep disturbance	external avoidance	.011	0.014	.434	.335	0.121
hopelessness	external avoidance	.040	0.018	.024	.327	0.106
loss of interest	amnesia	.053	0.018	.003	.289	0.135
feeling detached	amnesia	.027	0.018	.125	.289	0.104
emotional numbing	amnesia	.065	0.016	<.001	.290	0.120
irritability anger	amnesia	.012	0.013	.348	.233	0.134
hypervigilant	amnesia	-.000	0.014	.981	.224	0.122
easily startled	amnesia	.023	0.011	.042	.250	0.106
difficulty concentrating	amnesia	.036	0.014	.011	.273	0.127
sleep disturbance	amnesia	-.005	0.016	.772	.223	0.142
hopelessness	amnesia	.055	0.017	.001	.270	0.125
feeling detached	loss of interest	.243	0.023	<.001	.552	0.145
emotional numbing	loss of interest	.146	0.016	<.001	.489	0.125
irritability anger	loss of interest	.075	0.014	<.001	.396	0.127
hypervigilant	loss of interest	.017	0.017	.294	.328	0.125
easily startled	loss of interest	.003	0.013	.845	.347	0.131
difficulty concentrating	loss of interest	.129	0.018	<.001	.454	0.137
sleep disturbance	loss of interest	.032	0.017	.067	.363	0.119
hopelessness	loss of interest	.055	0.023	.016	.400	0.152
emotional numbing	feeling detached	.299	0.017	<.001	.580	0.120
irritability anger	feeling detached	.087	0.018	<.001	.427	0.139
hypervigilant	feeling detached	.011	0.015	.472	.345	0.137
easily startled	feeling detached	.045	0.016	.006	.379	0.132
difficulty concentrating	feeling detached	.076	0.013	<.001	.457	0.124
sleep disturbance	feeling detached	.071	0.018	<.001	.393	0.134
hopelessness	feeling detached	.137	0.017	<.001	.464	0.098
irritability anger	emotional numbing	.098	0.017	<.001	.402	0.142

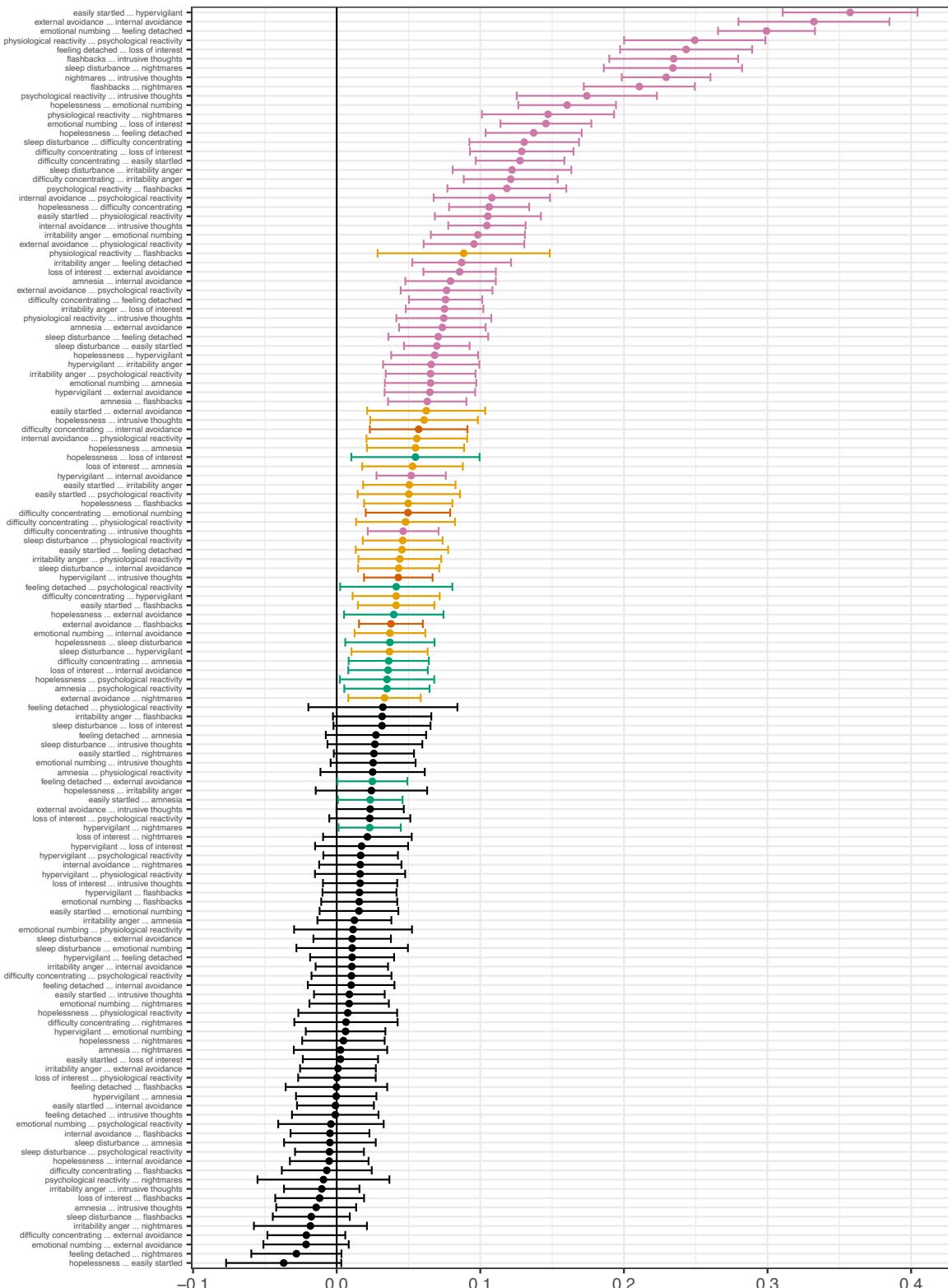
Variable 1	Variable 12	Edge	SE	p	Implied Correlation	Random-effect SD
hypervigilant	emotional numbing	.006	0.014	.661	.312	0.134
easily startled	emotional numbing	.016	0.014	.267	.334	0.121
difficulty concentrating	emotional numbing	.050	0.015	.001	.415	0.115
sleep disturbance	emotional numbing	.011	0.020	.586	.343	0.127
hopelessness	emotional numbing	.160	0.017	<.001	.454	0.115
hypervigilant	irritability anger	.066	0.017	<.001	.347	0.131
easily startled	irritability anger	.051	0.016	.002	.367	0.138
difficulty concentrating	irritability anger	.121	0.017	<.001	.425	0.155
sleep disturbance	irritability anger	.122	0.021	<.001	.391	0.147
hopelessness	irritability anger	.024	0.020	.222	.336	0.147
easily startled	hypervigilant	.357	0.024	<.001	.555	0.164
difficulty concentrating	hypervigilant	.041	0.015	.007	.380	0.130
sleep disturbance	hypervigilant	.037	0.014	.007	.351	0.108
hopelessness	hypervigilant	.068	0.015	<.001	.327	0.104
difficulty concentrating	easily startled	.128	0.016	<.001	.436	0.135
sleep disturbance	easily startled	.070	0.012	<.001	.390	0.119
hopelessness	easily startled	-.037	0.020	.071	.304	0.143
sleep disturbance	difficulty concentrating	.131	0.019	<.001	.433	0.128
hopelessness	difficulty concentrating	.106	0.014	<.001	.408	0.097
hopelessness	sleep disturbance	.037	0.016	.019	.335	0.110



**Supplemental Figure S1.** Overview of the cumulative number of articles, and overall number of articles published per year.

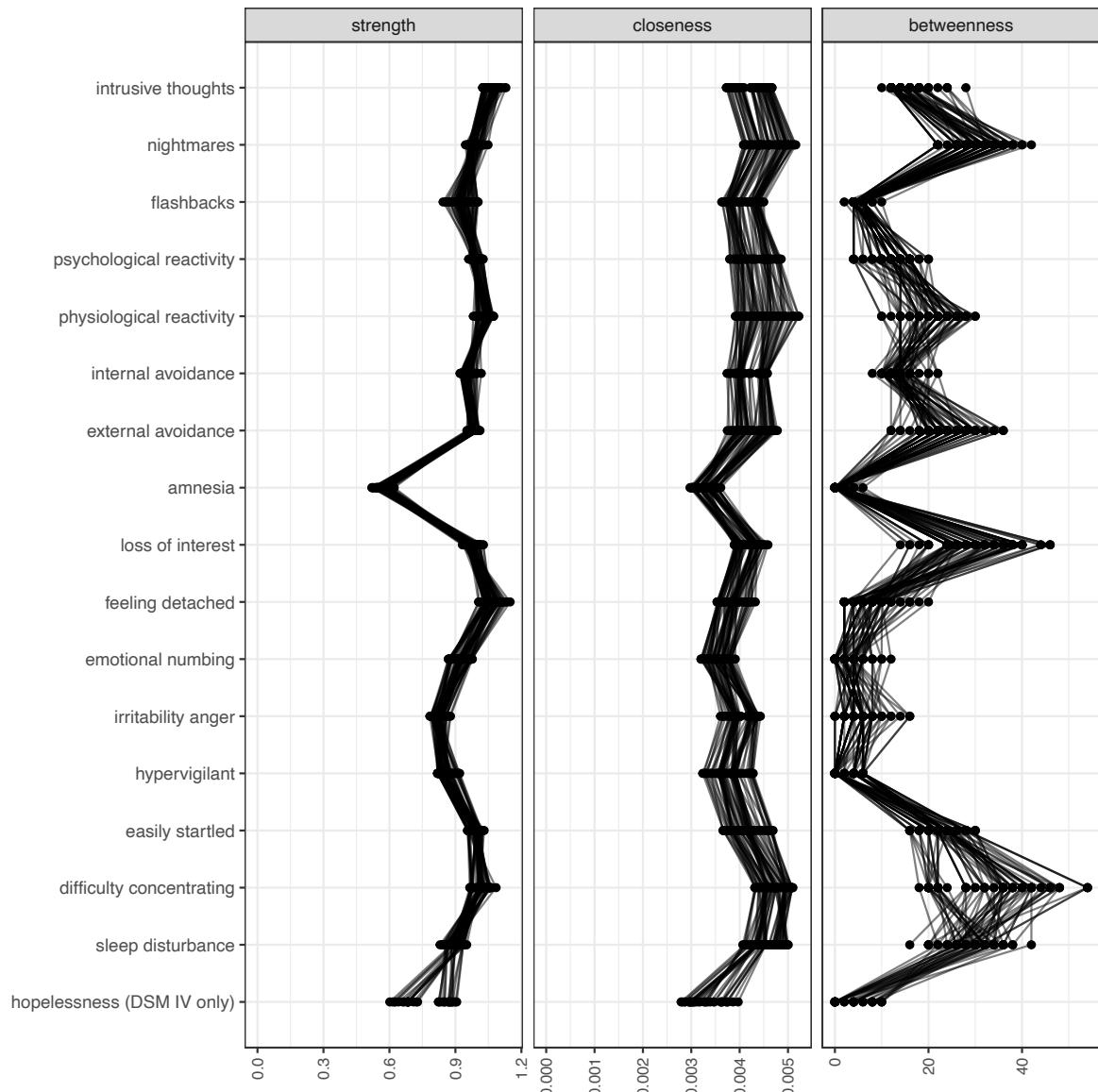


●  $p > .05$  ●  $p < .05$  ●  $p < .01$  ●  $p < .001$  ●  $p < .0004$

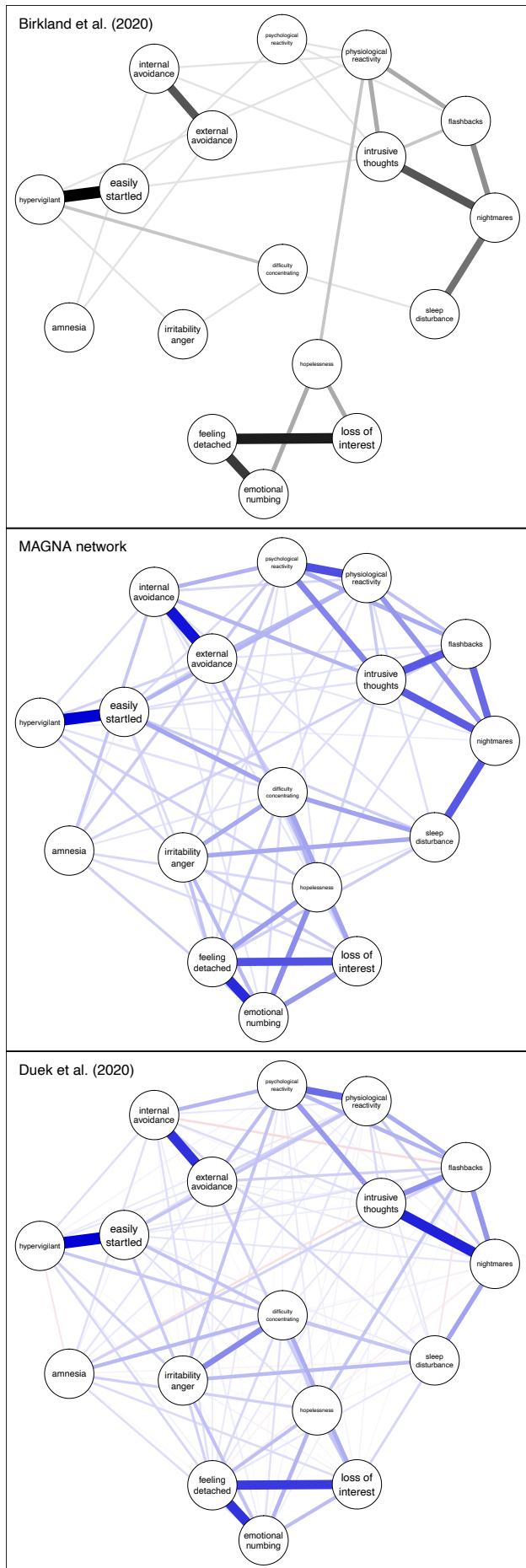


**Supplemental Figure S3.** Estimated edge weights in the pooled MAGNA and 95% confidence regions based on the estimated standard. The  $\alpha = .0004$  level corresponds to a Bonferroni corrected  $\alpha$  level of .05 rounded to four digits.



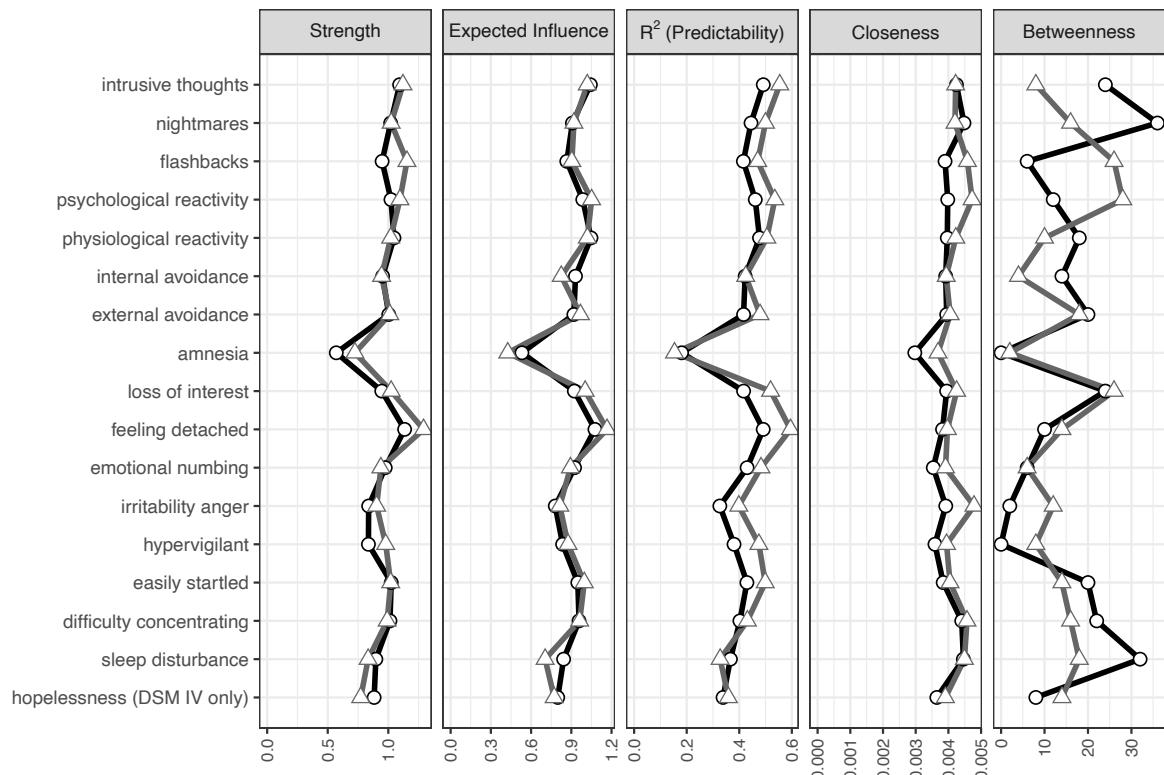


**Supplemental Figure S5.** Multiverse analysis of centrality indices. Each line corresponds to the centrality results of one of the variants reported in Supplemental Figure S4.



**Supplemental Figure S6.** This figure compares the pooled MAGNA network (middle panel) to results from the literature review presented by Birkland and colleagues (2020, top panel) and a recent large-scale PTSD symptom network estimated by Duek and colleagues (2020, bottom panel) on a sample of 158,139 veterans with PTSD. The top panel is a visual representation of the table presented in Figure 3 of Birkeland et al. (2020), and shows how often edges were stronger than two-thirds of the included edges of a given network.

● MAGNA ▲ Duek et al. (2020)



**Supplemental Figure S7.** Centrality coefficients of the pooled MAGNA network compared to the results from Duek and colleagues (2020).

## **References**

- Birkeland, M. S., Greene, T., & Spiller, T. R. (2020). The network approach to posttraumatic stress disorder: a systematic review. *European Journal of Psychotraumatology*, 11(1), 1700614. <https://doi.org/10.1080/20008198.2019.1700614>
- Duek, O., Spiller, T. R., Pietrzak, R. H., Fried, E. I., & Harpaz-Rotem, I. (2020). Network analysis of PTSD and depressive symptoms in 158,139 treatment-seeking veterans with PTSD. *Depression and Anxiety*, 1–9. <https://doi.org/10.1002/da.23112>