

## Cognition, Compassion and Wellbeing among People with Parkinson's

# Thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the Lancaster University Doctorate in Clinical Psychology

**June 2019** 

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# **Statement of Word Count**

Thesis Section	Main Text	Appendices	Total
	(including abstracts)	(including tables,	
		figures &	
		references)	
Thesis Abstract	290	-	290
Section One:	7979	12,332	20,311
Literature Review			
Q ti T	7447	7501	14.040
Section Two: Empirical Paper	7447	7501	14,948
1 1			
Section Three:	3980	793	4773
Critical Appraisal			
	20.50	-16	2442
Section Four: Ethics	3958	5161	9119
and Appendices			
Total	23,654	25,787	49,441

#### Thesis Abstract

This thesis considers some of the cognitive, social and psychological factors which impact upon the wellbeing of people with Parkinson's. Section One reports a systematic literature review of the relationship between anxiety and cognition for people with Parkinson's. The electronic databases CINAHL, Medline, PsycINFO and Web of Science were searched and 39 eligible studies were identified. The findings suggested that higher anxiety is associated with worse global cognition and worse performance in specific cognitive domains (attention, working memory, executive functioning, memory, language, semantic verbal fluency and visuospatial skills) among people with Parkinson's. However, several studies did not identify significant relationships. Studies varied in design and quality, several having small samples. Relationships between anxiety and cognition among people with Parkinson's appear to be complex and may be influenced by other factors. Implications for clinical practice are discussed. Section Two describes a quantitative, cross-sectional, observational study into the relationships between self-compassion, stigma and psychological distress among people with Parkinson's. Participants were 138 people with Parkinson's, who completed questionnaires measuring self-compassion, enacted and felt stigma, and depression, anxiety and stress. All variables were found to correlate significantly in the expected directions. The stigma variables were significant mediators in the relationships between self-compassion and the three outcome variables - depression, anxiety and stress. Part of the relationship between selfcompassion and psychological distress appears to occur via the internalisation of stigma. These findings may be relevant to individualised and societal interventions with the aim of improving the psychological wellbeing of people with Parkinson's. Section Three provides a critical appraisal of the thesis. This includes a summary of the main findings, consideration of language and concepts, a discussion of some of the issues relating to each paper and suggestions for further research.

**Declaration** 

This thesis was completed in part fulfilment of the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology at Lancaster University, between September 2017 and June 2019. The work has not been submitted for any other academic award. The work submitted is my own and does not contain

the work of any other authors, except where due reference is made.

Natalie Sowter

16.06.2019

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my supervisors, Fiona and Terry, for their guidance and support. A huge thank you to Fiona for her endless enthusiasm, patience and warmth, and for being excited about statistics with me! Special thanks also to Terry, for his gentle encouragement, thoughtful contributions and ongoing support, despite moving countries when the thesis was in its early stages. Thank you to Jane for taking the time to read and comment on the final drafts of the literature review and empirical papers.

I would also like to thank Natasha and the Patient and Public Involvement volunteers at Parkinson's UK for their invaluable contributions to developing the research, and Amelia at Parkinson's UK for her help with advertising the study. I am also extremely grateful to everyone who took the time to participate in the study.

Thank you to Cliff and Alistair, not only for their contributions to developing the search terms for the literature review, but for always being so generous with their time and knowledge. I feel incredibly fortunate to have worked with such inspirational people, from whom I have learned so much.

Thank you to my wonderful family and friends for all their love and support. Finally, very special thanks to Dan, for always being there for me, for believing in me and for somehow knowing exactly what I need, even when I don't know it myself.

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Section One: Literature Review

# Anxiety and Cognitive Functioning among People with Parkinson's: A Systematic Review

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Formatted for submission to the British Journal of Health Psychology (Author Guidelines attached in Appendix 1A)

Word count (including abstract but excluding references, appendices, figures and tables):

7980

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#### **Abstract**

**Purpose.** Cognitive decline is common among people with Parkinson's and is negatively associated with quality of life. Previous systematic reviews have found greater cognitive difficulties among people with Parkinson's to be associated with increased symptoms of depression and apathy, but have identified relatively few studies examining relationships between cognitive factors and anxiety. The current review aimed to address this gap by expanding upon the search strategies used in the previous reviews.

**Methods.** A quantitative systematic literature review was conducted. The electronic databases CINAHL, Medline, PsycINFO and Web of Science were searched for studies which analysed relationships between cognitive factors and anxiety among people with Parkinson's. A total of 3883 studies were identified, of which 39 were eligible for inclusion in the review.

**Results.** There was evidence to suggest that higher anxiety is associated with worse global cognition and worse performance in specific cognitive domains (attention, working memory, executive functioning, memory, language, semantic verbal fluency and visuospatial skills). There was also evidence to suggest predictive relationships between the variables, in both directions. However, there were inconsistencies between the papers, with several studies also finding null results. Studies varied in terms of design and quality, a common weakness being small sample sizes.

**Conclusions.** Relationships between anxiety and cognition among people with Parkinson's appear to be complex and may be influenced by other factors. Clinicians working with people with Parkinson's should ensure that assessments, formulations and interventions consider the impact of, and relationships between, cognitive difficulties and experiences of anxiety.

# Anxiety and Cognitive Functioning among People with Parkinson's: A Systematic Review

Parkinson's disease (referred to throughout this review as "Parkinson's": the preferred terminology by the charity Parkinson's UK) is a common neuro-degenerative condition with a worldwide prevalence rate of around 0.3% (Pringsheim, Jette, Frolkis & Steeves, 2014).

Parkinson's is classified as a movement disorder (Fahn, 2011), characterised by difficulties with initiating movement (akinesia), slowed movement (bradykinesia), tremor, rigidity, gait disturbance and speech difficulties (Moustafa et al., 2016). Other difficulties experienced by people with Parkinson's can include symptoms of anxiety and depression, cognitive impairments, sensory disturbances, sexual dysfunction and continence problems (Rana, Ahmed, Chaudry & Vasan, 2015; Stacy, 2011).

The cognitive sequelae of Parkinson's are heterogeneous (Kehagia, Barker & Robbins, 2010), but often include impairment or decline in the domains of memory, attention, executive function and visuospatial abilities (Aarsland et al., 2010; Elgh et al, 2009). Changes in cognitive functioning can occur early in the progression of Parkinson's, with around 30% of people newly diagnosed with Parkinson's exhibiting impairments in at least one of the domains of semantic verbal fluency, episodic memory and executive function, while phonemic verbal fluency, naming, working memory and visuospatial skills remain relatively unaffected (Elgh et al., 2009). Cognition gradually declines over time as Parkinson's progresses, with a broader range of domains affected, including a deterioration in visuospatial skills (Muslimović, Schmand, Speelman & De Haan, 2007; Roheger, Kalbe & Liepelt-Scarfone, 2018). Approximately half of all people with Parkinson's develop Parkinson's Disease Dementia (PDD) within ten years of diagnosis (Williams-Gray et al., 2013), and approximately 80% develop PDD within 20 years (Hely, Reid, Adena, Halliday & Morris, 2008). Parkinson's Disease-Mild Cognitive Impairment (PD-MCI) is defined as the stage of

cognitive decline which is greater than expected given an individual's age and level of education, but which, unlike PDD, does not negatively impact upon functional independence (Litvan et al., 2012; Weil, Costantini & Schrag, 2018). People with PD-MCI are at an increased risk of developing PDD (Janvin, Larsen, Aarsland & Hugdahl, 2006; Litvan et al., 2012).

Cognitive difficulties have been found to be associated with poorer quality of life (Lawson et al., 2014; Schrag, Jahanshani & Quinn, 2000), lower life-satisfaction (Rosqvist et al., 2017), higher levels of depression (Fernandez et al., 2009; Santangelo et al., 2009) and increased apathy (Butterfield, Cimino, Oelke, Hauser & Sanchez-Ramos, 2010) for people with Parkinson's. Two previous reviews have sought to synthesise the literature concerning the relationships between cognitive and affective factors among people with Parkinson's (Alzahrani & Venneri, 2015; Poletti, De Rosa & Bonuccelli, 2012). Both identified symptoms of depression and apathy to be associated with impairments in cognition, particularly in the executive functioning domain. However, both reviews highlighted a dearth of research into the relationship between anxiety and cognition: Alzahrani and Venneri (2015) finding only two studies addressing this relationship (Bogdanova & Cronin-Golomb, 2012; Foster et al., 2010), and Poletti et al. (2012) finding just one (Foster et al., 2010). A scoping review by Lutz, Holmes, Ready, Jenkins and Johnson (2016) focused on correlates of anxiety for people with Parkinson's, and found only three papers relating to cognition (Lee, Tsai, Gauthier, Wang & Fuh, 2012; Ryder et al., 2002; Zahodne, Marsiske & Bowers, 2013). All three reviews found evidence suggesting that greater cognitive impairment is associated with higher levels of anxiety, but recommended that further research should be carried out to clarify and expand upon existing findings.

This apparent lack of research is surprising, particularly given that clinically significant levels of anxiety affect around one third of people with Parkinson's (Broen,

Narayen, Kuijf, Dissanayaka & Leentjens, 2016), and relationships between anxiety and cognition in other populations are well-evidenced. For example, in older adults, anxiety has been found to be associated with impairments in memory, learning and executive functioning (Mantella et al., 2007; Yochim, Mueller & Segal, 2013). Similar relationships between anxiety and cognitive factors have been identified in people with other neurological conditions including multiple sclerosis (Julian & Arnett, 2009; Simioni, Ruffieux, Bruggimann, Annoni, & Schluep, 2007), traumatic brain injury (Gould, Ponsford & Spitz, 2014) and stroke (Barker-Collo, 2007). These relationships may be bi-directional: anxiety may limit the resources available to engage in cognitive tasks (Vytal, Cornwell, Arkin & Grillon, 2012), while cognitive problems (particularly with executive functioning) might make it more difficult to implement cognitive strategies to reduce anxiety (Yochim et al., 2013).

It appears important for clinical psychologists, clinical neuropsychologists and other professionals to understand the relationship between anxiety and cognition when seeking to assess and formulate problems reported in either domain by people with Parkinson's, in order to guide effective interventions. This is in line with the British Psychological Society's (BPS) briefing document regarding psychological services for people with Parkinson's (Macniven & Gaskill, 2009), which recommends a holistic approach to understanding the cognitive, psychological and social factors affecting each individual. Although previous reviews have considered the relationship between anxiety and cognition (Alzahrani & Venneri, 2015; Lutz et al., 2016; Poletti et al., 2012), they did so within broad research questions, therefore the search strategies may have lacked the specificity and sensitivity to identify all relevant papers. Additionally, an initial scoping search of the literature identified several relevant papers published since the previous reviews, suggesting that they may have drawn attention to the need for further research.

Therefore, this review sought to search, comprehensively and systematically, the literature regarding the relationship between anxiety and cognition among people with Parkinson's, to enhance understanding of the current state of knowledge in the area. It was hypothesised that, as with other populations and the findings of the previous reviews, higher anxiety would be associated with greater cognitive impairments.

## Methodology

Given the nature of the review question, it was anticipated that the relevant studies for inclusion in the review would be largely observational in design. Mueller et al. (2018) highlight that much of the guidance for conducting systematic literature reviews is aimed at reviews of randomised controlled trials (RCTs), despite a large proportion of systematic reviews including observational data (Page et al., 2016). Mueller et al. (2018) have synthesised the existing guidance for systematically reviewing observational studies; this was referred to throughout the process of this review. The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA; Moher, Liberati, Tetzlaff, Altman, & The PRISMA Group, 2009) statement was also followed as closely as possible in the reporting of this review; this being a recommendation for systematic review submissions to the target journal. Any deviations from the PRISMA statement are due to it being aimed at reviews of RCTs (Moher et al., 2009). No such reporting guidelines appear to exist for reviews of observational studies (Mueller et al., 2018).

The purpose of a quantitative systematic literature review is to search the existing literature thoroughly and methodically, using explicit criteria to identify the relevant research papers, which are then critically reviewed. The intended outcome is a critical synthesis of the extant literature pertaining to a particular research question (Petticrew & Roberts, 2006). Given a systematic and explicit approach to searching, selecting and critiquing the literature, systematic reviews should be reproducible and relatively unbiased (Biondi-Zoccai, Lotrionte,

Landoni, & Modena, 2011; Gopalakrishnan & Ganeshkumar, 2013). Nonetheless, there remains a degree of subjectivity in the defining of the research question and selection criteria (Biondi-Zoccai et al., 2013). Therefore, throughout the current review, I have attempted to give an explicit account of, and rationale for, the procedures followed.

#### Method

## **Defining the Research Question**

A well-defined research question which is both meaningful and useful is vital for conducting a systematic review (Moher et al., 2009; Petticrew & Roberts, 2006). However, there are conflicting guidelines regarding how broad or specific the research question should be, and at what stage the research question should be defined, for systematic reviews of observational studies (Mueller et al., 2018). While some researchers argue that a precise research question is more scientific and economical (Rosenthal & DiMatteo, 2001; Thomas, Ciliska, Dobbins & Micucci, 2004), others suggest that the breadth of a review question should be determined by what the most meaningful outcomes may be (Price, Jefferson & Demicheli, 2004). Due to how little is known about the topic of this review, as confirmed by three previous reviews (Alzahrani & Venneri, 2015; Lutz et al., 2016; Poletti et al., 2012), a fairly broad question was decided to be appropriate. It was decided to be more useful to look at the relationship between anxiety and all aspects of cognitive functioning among people with Parkinson's rather than focusing on a specific domain of cognitive functioning, given that there is not yet an empirical basis to support such a focus. Nonetheless, the current review question is more specific than the three prior reviews. The increased specificity was economical, allowing more resources to be used on defining the search terms relating to cognition, with the aim of identifying papers which may not have been retrieved by the search strategies used in the previous reviews.

A tool frequently used to formulate systematic review questions is PICO: an acronym for population, intervention, comparison and outcome (Richardson, Wilson, Nishikawa & Hayward, 1995). Given the breadth of the research topic and the aforementioned aim of looking at relationships between two types of outcome (anxiety and cognitive functioning) for people with Parkinson's, it was decided that only the "population" and "outcome" variables were relevant to this review. Both anxiety and cognitive functioning were considered outcomes, rather than "exposure" and "outcome" (Moola et al., 2015), given that there was insufficient evidence to hypothesise about causality between these two variables. Thus, the question was defined with the "population" being people with Parkinson's, and the "outcomes" being anxiety and cognitive functioning.

## **Search Strategy**

A systematic search of the literature was completed in March 2019, using the electronic databases CINAHL, Medline, PsycINFO and Web of Science. The search strategy was reviewed and approved by an Academic Librarian.

Cognitive function is an extremely broad outcome variable. As such, myriad search terms might have been used to identify papers measuring aspects of cognition. To address this, multiple sources were consulted from which the relevant terms were identified and extracted. The sources included: three recent systematic reviews concerning cognition and people with Parkinson's (D'iorio, Maggi, Vitale, Trojano & Santangelo, 2018; Fengler et al., 2017; Pushpanathan, Loftus, Thomas, Gasson & Bucks, 2016), two Cochrane systematic reviews concerning cognition and other neurological conditions (Hoffmann, Bennett, Koh & McKenna, 2010; Rosti-Otajärvi & Hämäläinen, 2014) and consultation with two clinical neuropsychologists working in services for people with Parkinson's. Once several terms had been identified, they were used to search subject heading libraries within the databases to generate further terms. The final list of terms searched in each database is summarised in

Table 1.1. The results of single-term subject heading searches and multiple-term free-text searches (in the Title and Abstract fields for CINAHL, Medline and PsycINFO, and in the Topic field for Web of Science) were combined using Boolean logic. The full electronic search strategy used in CINAHL is presented in Appendix 1B.

#### <INSERT TABLE 1.1>

The search results were collated in the reference management software Endnote. Duplicates were removed. Using the selection criteria, the records were screened by title and abstract, and the remaining papers were read in full to determine eligibility. The reference lists of the selected papers, and the three previous reviews in the area of the topic (Alzahrani & Venneri, 2015; Lutz et al., 206; Poletti et al., 2012) were hand-searched for any additional relevant papers.

#### **Selection Criteria**

The included papers were required to report on empirical studies which were quantitative in design, available in English, and published in a peer-reviewed journal. Grey literature was excluded since this is likely to be of lower quality so can introduce bias (Egger, Juni, Bartlett, Holenstein & Sterne, 2003). Although previous reviews have addressed similar research questions to the current review in recent years (Alzahrani & Venneri, 2015; Lutz et al., 206; Poletti et al., 2012), for comprehensiveness no date limits were set on the search. Therefore, all studies published up until the date of the search (March 2019) were considered.

Studies were required to have human participants, with a diagnosis of Parkinson's, whose data were separable from any data from participants without Parkinson's. Participants were required to be aged 18 and over. Studies had to include either a validated self-report measure of anxiety, or examination by a suitably qualified professional against widely-

accepted criteria for the diagnosis of "anxiety disorders". Data regarding anxiety had to be separable from other psychological or psychiatric data. Cognitive function had to be assessed using validated tools. Diagnoses of PDD or PD-MCI, in the absence of cognitive assessment data, were not sufficient measures of cognitive function, nor were self-report measures of cognitive function. Studies were required to have statistically analysed the relationships between anxiety and cognition.

#### **Search Results**

The search returned a total of 3883 records: 113 from CINAHL; 1266 from Medline; 740 from PsycINFO and 1764 from Web of Science. After removing duplicates, 1604 records remained. Screening by titles and abstracts left 158 papers, which were read in full and assessed against the inclusion and exclusion criteria. This left 39 papers which were eligible for inclusion in the review. Manual searches did not identify any further papers for inclusion. Figure 1.1 shows the study selection process.

## < INSERT FIGURE 1.1>

## **Assessment of Risk of Bias**

The PRISMA statement (Moher et al., 2009) and its associated *Explanation and Elaboration* paper (Liberati et al., 2009) state that the methodological quality of the studies included in a systematic review should be assessed to gain an understanding of the risk of bias in each study, which may influence the findings of the review. Numerous tools exist for assessing risk of bias, with Sanderson, Tatt and Higgins (2007) identifying 86 different tools for assessing the methodological quality of observational studies. In this review, an adapted version of a tool developed for assessing the risk of bias in observational studies by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (Williams, Plassman, Burke, Holsinger &

Benjamin, 2010) was utilised. This tool was originally designed for research into cognitive decline among people with Alzheimer's disease. The tool was selected due to its applicability to observational studies and the overlap in the research questions concerning neurodegenerative conditions and cognitive decline. Furthermore, the tool uses a qualitative rating system based upon the presence or absence of bias-related issues, rather than numerical summary scores. This allows the quality issues consistently affecting the research in the topic area to be identified, which is more meaningful to the findings of the review (Jüni, Witschi, Bloch, and Egger, 1999; Liberati et al., 2009).

Some small adaptations to Williams et al.'s (2010) tool were required to ensure its relevance to the current research question. For example, items relating to "intervention" or "exposure" were removed since these were not applicable to the research question, as described above. The original 11-item tool, with descriptions of what should be considered when rating each item, is attached in Appendix 1C. A table explaining the adaptations made to the tool for this review is attached in Appendix 1D, and the final adapted eight-item tool is displayed in Table 1.2.

## <INSERT TABLE 1.2>

Each study was given a rating of "yes" (y), "no" (n), "partially" (p), "can't tell" (c) or "not applicable" (n/a) for each item. The risk of bias assessment was completed by the author, and a subset of the papers were also assessed by a trainee clinical psychologist colleague, who acted as a second reviewer to check the author's fidelity to the tool. The second reviewer's appraisals are attached in Appendix 1E. No differences in ratings were noted between reviewers. No studies were excluded from the review based on their risk of bias, since awareness of the methodological quality of the papers was valuable for developing

an understanding of the overall picture of research pertaining to the research question (Jüni et al., 1999). However, quality was considered when synthesising the results.

#### **Data Extraction**

Data were extracted from the papers by the author. The information collected for each paper included: study design and methods of data analysis; a description of the sample including country of recruitment, sample size, sex distribution, age of participants and time since diagnosis; tools used to measure anxiety and cognition; and a summary of the relevant results (findings from all reported analyses of relationships between anxiety and cognition variables).

#### Results

## **Characteristics of Studies**

The characteristics of the studies included in this review are reported in Table 1.3. The characteristics reported are those relevant to the analyses pertaining to the research question of this review where these are different to the study as a whole (for example, sometimes the relevant analyses only used a subset of the participants).

The studies were published between 1993 and 2019. Ten of the 39 studies were conducted in the USA, six in the UK, three in Italy and three in China. Other studies were conducted in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Egypt, France, Israel, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Portugal and Taiwan. Two studies recruited internationally (Petkus, Filoteo, Schiehser, Gomez & Petzinger, 2019; Starkstein et al., 2014). Most of the studies were cross-sectional, either in their overall design or in the design of the analyses pertaining to the question of this review. Only two of the papers (Petkus et al., 2019; Rutten et al., 2017) reported relevant longitudinal analyses. Many of the studies measured the relationships between the variables of interest using correlation or regression analyses, while others compared the means of groups of participants split by cognitive abilities or anxiety levels.

Sample sizes ranged from 22 to 468 participants. Apart from two studies, females made up 24-53% of the samples, suggesting that the sex distribution of the population of people with Parkinson's (Wooten, Currie, Bovbjerg, Lee & Patrie, 2004; Moisan et al., 2016) was generally reflected in the samples. In one study (Starkstein, Robinson, Leiguarda & Preziosi, 1993), it was not possible to ascertain the sex distribution of participants due to inconsistencies in the participant information table. Ryder et al. (2002) recruited male participants only. The average age of participants ranged from 59 to 77 years. Where reported, the average number of years since diagnosis ranged from zero to 13 across the studies, with four of the 39 studies specifically investigating newly-diagnosed or early-stage Parkinson's (Dissanayaka et al., 2017; Hu et al., 20014; LaBelle, Walsh & Banks, 2017; Rutten et al., 2017). Ten of the papers did not report participants' time since diagnosis.

Self-report tools used for measuring anxiety included the Beck Anxiety Inventory (BAI; Beck, Epstein, Brown & Steer, 1988), Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS; Zigmond & Snaith, 1983), Hamilton Anxiety Rating Scale (HAM-A; Hamilton, 1959), Leeds Anxiety and Depression Scale (LADS; Snaith, Bridge & Hamilton, 1976), Movement Disorder Society-sponsored revision of the Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale (MDS-UPDRS; Goetz et al., 2007), Neuropsychiatric Inventory (NPI; Cummings et al., 1994), State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI; Spielberger, Gorsuch, Lushene, Vagg & Jacobs, 1983), Symptom Checklist-90-Revised (SCL-90-R; Derogatis, 1994), and the anxiety subscale of the Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS; Adams, Matto & Sanders, S, 2004; Yesavage et al., 1982). Structured clinical interviews used to identify the presence or absence of clinical levels of anxiety included variations of the Mini-International Neuropsychiatric Interview (MINI, MINI-plus; Sheehan et al., 1998) and the Chinese-Bilingual Structured Clinical Interview for the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders—4th Edition (CB-SCID-DSM-IV; So et al., 2003).

A multitude of tools were used to measure cognition. Thirteen of the studies used only a summary score from a measure of global cognition – the Mini-Mental State Exam (MMSE; Folstein, Folstein & McHugh, 1975) or the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA; Nasreddine et al., 2005) - in the relevant analyses (although other studies included global measures as part of their battery of tests). Five studies used batteries of tests to assess participants for PD-MCI, then analysed relationships between PD-MCI status and anxiety. The remaining studies analysed relationships between anxiety and single subtest and/or cognitive domain scores.

The relationship between anxiety and cognition was a main research question in 21 of the studies. In the remaining 18 studies, the relationship was analysed as a supplement to the main research question, for example to check whether anxiety was a confounding variable in some other relationship.

#### < INSERT TABLE 1.3 >

### **Quality Assessment**

Table 1.4 shows the quality assessment ratings given for each of the reviewed studies, using the adapted version of the quality appraisal tool by Williams et al. (2010).

#### < INSERT TABLE 1.4 >

To be rated "yes" for sample representativeness and validity, studies were required to specify appropriate inclusion and exclusion criteria, recruit from more than one source, explain how participants were confirmed to have a diagnosis of Parkinson's, and describe the characteristics of the sample including age, gender and time since diagnosis. Thirteen studies

met these criteria. The study by Ryder et al. (2002) had a small, all-male sample, recruited from one source, therefore was not considered to be representative of the population of people with Parkinson's, and the study by Foster et al. (2010) did not report how participants were recruited, nor how their Parkinson's diagnosis was confirmed. The remaining studies were missing only one of the criteria for this item, therefore were rated "partial".

Almost all studies adequately described their samples in terms of age and gender, however ten of the studies lacked information about time since diagnosis. This was considered an important oversight, since both cognition and anxiety have been found to be related to disease duration (Stefanova, Ziropadja, Petrovic, Stojkovic & Kostic, 2013; Verbaan et al., 2007). The study by Starkstein et al. (1993) was unclear in the reporting of demographic information, with some inconsistencies in the participant information table. The study by Manor, Balas, Giladi, Mootanah and Cohen (2009) adequately described the sample for their main research question, but not the subset of the sample upon which the analyses relevant to this review were based.

Eighteen of the samples were limited in their representativeness through recruiting from only one clinic or site. Pauletti et al. (2017) did not describe from where they recruited their sample. The remaining studies recruited from multiple sites or large databases.

The "comparable groups" item was only relevant to the sixteen studies which split participants into groups. A "partial" rating was given to the eight studies which demonstrated a degree of demographic similarity between groups, and a "yes" rating was given to the five studies where groups were demonstrated to be comparable in all measured variables apart from the experimental variables, or where differences in groups were controlled for within the analyses. In three studies, there was insufficient evidence to assess the comparability of groups.

Only one study (Klepac, Hajnšek & Trkulja, 2010) reported a power analysis – though not for the part of the analysis relevant to this review. However, for studies which used simple analyses and clearly reported the parameters of the data, it could be established whether sample sizes were large enough to detect medium effects at 80% power for p< .05. For other studies this could not be achieved with the information available. Eight studies were found to be adequately powered, ten studies were found not to be adequately powered, and 21 were rated "can't tell". Six of the ten underpowered studies (according to my power calculations), found significant effects, therefore power was not an issue in these cases.

To be rated "yes" on the "measures" item of the quality assessment, it was required that authors reported the conditions in which cognitive assessments took place, that these were consistent across participants, and that the individual(s) administering and scoring the assessments were adequately qualified to do so. Eleven studies met these criteria. The remaining studies were rated "can't tell" due to a lack of clarity in reporting.

Given that all studies were observational, uncontrolled trials, it was expected to be difficult to identify and control for all possible confounding variables. However, all studies reported some consideration of potential confounding variables, thus were rated "partial". The method of data analysis was judged to be appropriate in all the included studies.

## **Synthesis of Findings**

Anxiety and global cognition. Of 33 analyses which compared scores on a measure of global cognition to scores on a measure of anxiety (from 26 studies, as some studies used multiple measures), 22 did not identify significant relationships between anxiety and cognition. However, only six of the 22 analyses with non-significant results could be confirmed to be adequately powered, suggesting that several studies may have failed to find an effect due to their samples being too small. However, some analyses had sufficient participants to detect an effect, but did not, indicating that some other factors were involved

in whether a relationship was detected (or existed for that particular group). Upon comparison of the studies which did and did not find effects, it was not obvious what these factors might be.

The 11 analyses (from ten studies) which found significant relationships, all found higher levels of anxiety to be associated with higher levels of global impairment. Most of these were correlation analyses. A regression analysis controlling for age, sex, and education found higher LADS anxiety scores to significantly predict lower scores (indicating greater impairment) on the MoCA (Hu et al., 2014). Trait anxiety was also found to account for a significant proportion of variance in total scores on the Repeatable Battery for the Assessment of Neuropsychological Status (RBANS; Randolph, Tierney, Mohr & Chase, 1998) when controlling for depression (Ryder et al., 2002). When participants were split by MoCA scores, participants with low MoCA scores (indicating more cognitive impairment) had significantly higher HAM anxiety ratings (indicating a higher level of anxiety) than participants with high MoCA scores (Zhang et al., 2016). When participants were split by levels of trait anxiety on the STAI, the high trait anxiety group showed significantly more impairment on the MMSE than the low trait anxiety group (Manor et al., 2009). Additionally, lower MoCA scores at baseline were associated with an increase in state anxiety, as measured by the STAI, over a two-year period (Rutten et al., 2017). In summary, although there were inconsistencies as to whether relationships were found (sometimes within studies, depending on the measures used), the relationships identified were consistent in nature and appeared to be bi-directional.

Anxiety and PD-MCI. Three of the five studies which assessed participants for PD-MCI found no significant relationships between PD-MCI status and anxiety (Leroi, Pantula, McDonald & Harbishettar, 2012; Mamikonyan et al., 2009; Monastero, Di Fiore, Ventimiglia, Camarda & Camarda, 2013). Participants were grouped differently in each of

these studies. Leroi et al. (2012) studied differences between no cognitive impairment, PD-MCI and PDD groups, Mamikonyan et al. (2009) looked for predictors of PD-MCI (compared to no PD-MCI) and Monastero et al. (2013) compared non-cognitively-impaired, amnesic PD-MCI and non-amnesic PD-MCI groups.

Baschi et al. (2018) found a significant effect of group membership on anxiety, in a study examining the correlates of subjective memory complaints (SMC) for participants with and without PD-MCI. Participants were divided into four groups: PD-MCI with SMC; PD-MCI without SMC; no PD-MCI but SMC; and neither PD-MCI nor SMC. Participants in the PD-MCI with SMC group were significantly more likely to report clinical levels of anxiety than participants with neither PD-MCI nor SMC. However, there was no significant difference in anxiety prevalence between participants with PD-MCI without SMC and participants with neither PD-MCI nor SMC. These findings suggest that the relationship between anxiety and PD-MCI may be influenced by an awareness or perception of cognitive decline. A further study by Dissanayaka et al. (2017) grouped participants by the presence or absence of anxiety using the MDS-UPDRS, and tested a range of cut-offs for classifying PD-MCI. The Movement Disorder Society Task Force criteria (Litvan et al., 2012) specify that impairment should be between one and two standard deviations (SD) below normative values for individuals to be classed as having PD-MCI. Dissanayaka et al. (2017) found that participants with anxiety were three times more likely than those without anxiety to show PD-MCI using the 1SD cut-off, controlling for age, education and motor severity. However, anxiety did not significantly predict PD-MCI when cut-offs of 1.5SD and 2SD were used (the authors suggested this to be attributable to the small sample size).

**Anxiety and cognitive domains.** The findings concerning relationships between anxiety and cognitive domains are collated in Table 1.5. Because the studies were not directly comparable in terms of measures used, sample demographics or overall quality, the columns

stating the numbers of studies with and without significant results are intended to summarise the findings, rather than to indicate the strength of the evidence.

### < INSERT TABLE 1.5 >

Attention. Of the 11 studies that reported using measures of attention, only three found significant relationships with anxiety. Hepp et al. (2013) found anxiety to be significantly but weakly correlated with part A of the Trail Making Test (TMT-A; Reitan & Wolfson, 1985), which was used to assess visual attention. Higher anxiety was associated with a longer time taken to complete the task, suggesting greater attentional impairment, though this may also have been related to other factors such as reduced psychomotor speed (Muslimović, Post, Speelman & Schmand, 2005). Similarly, Klepac et al. (2010) found higher anxiety to be an independent predictor of worse performance on TMT-A. However, other studies that used TMT-A found no association with anxiety (Ehgoetz Martens et al., 2016; Reynolds, Hanna, Neargarder & Cronin-Golomb, 2017), though it should be noted that these studies had particularly small sample sizes, reducing the power of their analyses to detect effects. Ehgoetz Martens, Silveira, Intzandt and Almeida (2018) found a significant relationship between state anxiety and an attention/working memory domain, however the tests used did not primarily measure attention, therefore these results are reported in the next section.

*Working memory.* Five studies used measures of working memory, of which three found significant relationships with anxiety. Ehgoetz Martens et al. (2018) calculated attention/working memory domain scores using the Corsi Block Test, which is primarily a visuospatial short-term memory task (Corsi, 1973), and the Digit Span backwards test from the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-4<sup>th</sup> Edition, designed to test working memory (WAIS-

IV, Wechsler, 2008). Higher state anxiety significantly predicted worse performance in this domain. Also using the Digit Span task, Ehgoetz Martens (2016) found significantly worse working memory in participants "with anxiety" (indicated by HADS anxiety scores above 8) scores compared to those "without anxiety". Foster et al. (2010) found a significant interaction of side of onset (right or left) and anxiety (high or low) on Digit Span score, with participants with left-hemibody onset and high anxiety scoring significantly lower on Digit Span than those with left-hemibody onset with low anxiety (with disease duration entered as a covariate). Meanwhile, participants with left-hemibody onset and high anxiety scored significantly lower than participants with right-hemibody onset and high anxiety, suggesting that side of onset is a factor in the relationship between anxiety and working memory for people with Parkinson's.

Klepac et al. (2010) and Reynolds et al. (2017) also used the Digit Span task to measure working memory, but did not find significant relationships with anxiety. Reynolds et al.'s (2017) study was underpowered for its correlation analysis, therefore the lack of effect may have been due to the small sample size. It could not be established whether Klepac et al.'s (2010) study was adequately powered for its multiple regression analysis.

Executive functioning. Of the ten studies that used measures of executive functioning, five found significant relationships with anxiety. There was inconsistency among the findings, with two of three studies using versions of the Stroop task (e.g. Golden, 1978) and three of four studies using Part B of the Trail Making Task (TMT-B; Reitan & Wolfson, 1985) finding significant effects. These tasks measure elements of cognitive flexibility: response inhibition on the Stroop, and set-shifting on the TMT-B. Reynolds et al. (2017) found that higher anxiety correlated significantly with poorer set-shifting (TMT-B), even after removing the psychomotor component. Klepac et al. (2010) and Ehgoetz Martens et al. (2018) both found higher anxiety to significantly predict worse performance on

executive tasks, with Eghoetz Martens et al. (2018) controlling for age, depression and symptom severity within their analysis. Comparing groups with and without anxiety, as described above, Ehgoetz Martens et al. (2016) found the group without anxiety to perform significantly better on TMT-B. There were also significant but weak correlations found between anxiety and performance on the executive functioning domain of the Brazilian version on the Scales for Outcomes in Parkinson's Disease – Cognition (SCOPA-COG; Carod-Artal, Martínez-Martin, Kummer & da Silveira Ribeiro, 2008), with lower levels of anxiety correlating with better performance.

Five studies (Athey et al., 2005; Bugalho, da Silva, Cargaleiro, Serra & Neto, 2012; Dissanayaka et al., 2017; Fonoff et al., 2015; Schiehser et al., 2009) did not find significant relationships between anxiety and tests of executive function. Only one of these (Athey et al., 2005) could be confirmed to be adequately powered.

Memory. Eleven studies investigated the relationship between anxiety and memory, of which five found significant effects. Carod-Artal et al. (2008) found a weak but significant correlation between higher anxiety and lower scores on the SCOPA-COG memory domain (indicating worse memory). Three further significant findings (Ehgoetz Martens et al., 2018; Klepac et al., 2010; Ryder et al., 2002) came from regression analyses, with higher anxiety predicting worse memory performance in each case across tests of both verbal and visual memory, when controlling for appropriate variables. In the study by Dissanayaka et al. (2017), where memory impairment was a dichotomous dependent variable in a logistic regression analysis, the relationship between anxiety and memory was significant when the cut-off for impairment was set at one SD below the normative mean, but not when the cut-off was set at 1.5 or 2SD. The authors suggested that this may have been due to the small sample.

Ehgoetz Martens et al. (2016) found that the relationship between anxiety and performance on an immediate story recall task was approaching significance at the 5% level,

but that the relationship between anxiety and delayed story recall was not significant. Five further studies found no significant relationships between anxiety and memory (Athey et al., 2005; Brown & Fernie, 2015; Gao et al., 2015; Hurt et al., 2012; Sarno et al., 2019). Sample size did not appear to be a problem in these studies, and there were no obvious differences in the design or quality between these studies and those which did find significant effects. Therefore, the relationship between anxiety and memory for people with Parkinson's may be complex and influenced by other variables.

Language. Seven studies used tasks aimed at assessing language skills, including naming, fluency and verbal comprehension. Two of these found significant effects. Ehgoetz Martens et al. (2018) found that state anxiety, but not trait anxiety, predicted performance on language tasks after controlling for age, depression, and motor symptom severity.

Conversely, Ryder et al. (2002) found that trait anxiety accounted for a significant proportion of the variance in language scores after controlling for depression (they did not measure state anxiety). Five studies (Athey et al., 2005; Brown & Fernie, 2015; Dissanayaka et al., 2017; Hurt et al., 2012; Sarno et al., 2019) did not find significant relationships between anxiety and performance on language tasks, and this did not seem to be attributable to any particular design or quality issues.

Bogdanova and Cronin-Golomb (2012) examined the interaction between side of Parkinson's onset and performance on verbally-mediated and non-verbally-mediated tasks. It was found that anxiety strongly correlated with performance on verbally mediated tasks in right-side onset Parkinson's, with better cognitive performance associated with lower levels of anxiety.

*Verbal fluency.* In some studies, semantic and phonemic verbal fluency tasks were used alongside other tasks to obtain domain scores for executive functioning and language abilities, and so are reported in the sections above. In seven studies the analyses relating

specifically to the relationship between verbal fluency and anxiety were extractable, but only one of these found a significant effect: Klepac et al. (2010) found higher anxiety to significantly predict worse semantic (but not phonemic) fluency. There were no obvious factors differentiating this study different from those which found no significant effects (Brown & Fernie, 2015; Ehgoetz Martens et al., 2016; Hepp et al., 2013; Hurt et al., 2012; Reynolds et al., 2017; Sarno et al., 2019).

*Visuospatial abilities.* Visuospatial abilities, assessed by tasks where participants were asked to copy simple line drawings and judge the orientation of lines, were found to be significantly related to anxiety in two of the nine relevant studies. Higher anxiety was weakly associated with better performance in this domain (Carod-Artal et al., 2008) and accounted for a significant proportion of variance after controlling for depression (Ryder et al., 2002). Again, there were no obvious factors making these studies different to those which found no significant effects (Athey et al., 2005; Brown & Fernie, 2015; Dissanayaka et al., 2017; Ehgoetz Martens et al., 2018; Hurt et al., 2012; Klepac et al., 2010; Sarno et al., 2019).

Bi-directional findings. The only study examining bi-directional relationships was by Petkus et al. (2019). This was a particularly robust study in terms of quality, with a large, international sample; it was also one of only two longitudinal studies. Using bivariate latent change modelling, Petkus et al. (2019) found worse cognitive performance (in the domains of attention, working memory, episodic memory and semantic fluency) to be significantly associated with subsequently higher state and trait anxiety. The strongest association was in the domain of working memory. Conversely, they found that higher state and trait anxiety scores were not significantly associated with subsequent declines in cognitive performance over time. These findings suggest a causal influence of cognitive factors upon anxiety over time.

#### **Discussion**

This review considers the evidence regarding relationships between anxiety and cognition for people with Parkinson's. Previous reviews (Alzahrani & Venneri, 2015; Lutz et al., 2016; Poletti, De Rosa & Bonuccelli, 2012) have addressed this question but have found minimal research in this area (between one and three studies), whereas the current review found 39. This review has unearthed many relevant papers not included in the previous reviews by increasing the specificity of the question, using broad inclusion criteria and an expansive list of search terms to identify cognitive data. This review also identified several relevant studies published since the publication of the previous reviews.

The nature of relationships between anxiety and cognition was similar in all studies with significant results: higher levels of anxiety (or the presence of anxiety) was consistently associated with more cognitive impairment (or the presence of cognitive impairment), while lower levels of anxiety (or the absence of anxiety) was consistently associated with better cognitive performance (or the absence of cognitive impairment). However, there were inconsistencies as to whether significant results were identified, even in studies using apparently similar methodologies. It is likely that these inconsistencies were influenced by the wide range of tools used to measure both anxiety and cognition, differences in the demographics of the samples, and differences in the quality of the studies (of particular note, many of the studies had small samples, reducing their power to detect effects).

Significant correlations were identified between anxiety and cognition (global cognition, PD-MCI status and the cognitive domains of attention, working memory, executive functioning, memory, language, semantic verbal fluency and visuospatial abilities). This suggests that, at least in some circumstances, there is some relationship between these variables for people with Parkinson's. Moreover, significant predictive relationships and group differences in means between anxiety and cognition were found (given that all studies

were observational, no causal relationships could be inferred). Most studies of these designs took cognitive findings as their dependent variables, though some took anxiety. There were significant findings in both directions. This is in keeping with findings in other (and potentially overlapping) populations such as older adults (Mantella et al., 2007; Yochim et al., 2013), and people with other neurological conditions (Barker-Collo, 2007; Gould et al., 2014; Julian & Arnett, 2009; Simioni et al., 2007).

There are various potential explanations for the relationships identified between anxiety and cognition. Several authors have suggested that neuroanatomical factors play a role, highlighting that the striatum and prefrontal circuits projecting to ventral areas of the brain, which are affected by Parkinson's, are important for both cognition and anxiety regulation (Lago, Davis, Grillon, & Ernst, 2017; Sylvester et al., 2012). A cognitive perspective may suggest that anxiety limits the resources available for cognitive activity (Vytal et al., 2012), and that cognitive impairments (particularly with executive functioning) lead to difficulties with identifying and managing stressors (Petkus et al., 2019) and implementing strategies to reduce anxiety (Yochim et al., 2013). From a psychological perspective, the findings of Baschi et al. (2018) and Petkus et al. (2019) suggest that an awareness or perception of cognitive decline can be a source of anxiety for people with Parkinson's.

### **Limitations of the Included Studies**

In addition to the limitations described above, there were some limitations concerning the validity of the variables. Although all studies used validated measures, not all could be confirmed to have been sufficiently validated for use with people with Parkinson's. Skorvanek et al. (2017) reviewed global cognitive measures commonly used with people with Parkinson's. Of significance to this review, the RBANS, CAMCOG and MMSE were not recommended due to problems with, or lack of evidence for, validity, reliability and

sensitivity to change. Cognitive assessments have also been shown to lack ecological validity, scores not always predicting how people perform in complex real-life situations (Burgess, Alderman, Evans, Emslie & Wilson, 1998). Therefore, studies may not have provided an accurate representation of participants' cognitive abilities.

Additionally, despite evidence that symptoms of anxiety and depression commonly co-occur among people with Parkinson's (Sagna, Gallo & Pontone, 2014), and the well-evidenced relationship between depression and cognition (Alzahrani & Venneri, 2015; Poletti et al., 2012), relatively few of the identified studies attempted to control for symptoms of depression in their analyses. Indeed, although some studies did control for potentially confounding variables, it cannot be concluded that any of the studies were able to isolate anxiety as a variable, as discussed in the *Quality Assessment* section.

#### Limitations of this Review

A common criticism of systematic literature reviews is the likelihood of heterogeneity, making it difficult to synthesise the data in a truly meaningful way and reach a clear conclusion (Biondi-Zoccai, Lotrionte, Landoni, & Modena, 2011; Gopalakrishnan & Ganeshkumar, 2013). There was certainly evidence of heterogeneity in the samples, methodologies and findings in the current review. This is reflected in the variation among studies as to whether significant results were found. Further clarification might have been gained by considering effect sizes and conducting meta-analyses on some of the findings.

It should also be highlighted that there was a great deal of variation in the cognitive assessment measures used across the studies, from very crude global measures such as the MoCA and MMSE, to highly sensitive measures of specific cognitive functions. There was also some variation between studies in the cut-off scores or normative data adopted for each measure. These differences in the measurement of cognition are likely to have contributed to

some of the variation in the findings of the studies, and therefore to the validity of the overall findings of this review.

The method of synthesising findings by cognitive domain in this review is also likely to have had an impact on the findings. The domains were selected based on which function the authors of the papers intended to measure with each cognitive test. However, cognitive assessments tend to load onto more than one cognitive domain. For example, verbal fluency was considered by some studies a cognitive domain in its own right; in others, a component of executive functioning or language abilities. The findings of this review are therefore likely to have been affected by how the cognitive domains were conceptualised. A more rigorous conceptualisation may have been achieved by grouping the tests in a consistent way. For example, by using the compendium of cognitive tests by domain according to Lezak, Howieson, Bigler and Tranel (2012).

## **Clinical Implications**

The findings of this review have implications for clinical psychologists and neuropsychologists working with people with Parkinson's, in keeping with BPS recommendations for a holistic approach to considering the cognitive, psychological and social factors affecting people with Parkinson's (Macniven & Gaskill, 2009). Given the seemingly bidirectional relationship between anxiety and cognition, psychological assessment of either factor should include due consideration of the other. Exploration of relationships between anxiety and cognitive factors at the individual level might point towards the utility of certain psychological interventions. For example, if an awareness of cognitive decline is a source of anxiety, psychoeducation and psychological models focusing on acceptance, such as acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) and mindfulness, may have a role. A systematic review found ACT to be a promising intervention for long term and chronic conditions (Graham, Gouick, Krahe & Gillanders, 2016), whilst qualitative research

has suggested that a mindfulness-based cognitive therapy group was an acceptable intervention for people with people with Parkinson's (Fitzpatrick, Simpson & Smith, 2010). Furthermore, interventions focusing on anxiety should be adapted according to each individual's cognitive abilities (Knight, Dissanayaka & Pachana, 2016).

## **Research Implications**

Given that the findings of the studies included in this review were somewhat inconsistent as to whether relationships between anxiety and cognition were found, it is likely that other variables affect or are involved in their interaction. As such, more complex models may be useful in future research for developing understanding of how anxiety and cognition interact among people with Parkinson's. Variables for inclusion in these models might include depression, side of onset, time since diagnosis and subjective cognitive performance. Qualitative research into the psychological impact of cognitive decline for people with Parkinson's might identify further areas for exploration.

## **Conclusions**

A systematic review of the literature found inconsistent evidence for a relationship between anxiety and cognition among people with Parkinson's. The quality of studies was variable, with many studies having small samples, possibly contributing to the lack of consistency as to whether significant relationships were found. The significant relationships identified were consistent in nature, and suggested a bidirectional relationship between anxiety and cognition, with higher anxiety associated with more cognitive impairment. Clinicians working with people with Parkinson's should consider the potential interaction between these factors in assessments and interventions. Future research should focus on better understanding the relationship between anxiety and cognition among people with Parkinson's through more complex quantitative models and qualitative research.

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Figure 1.1

Study Selection (adapted from Moher et al. (2009))

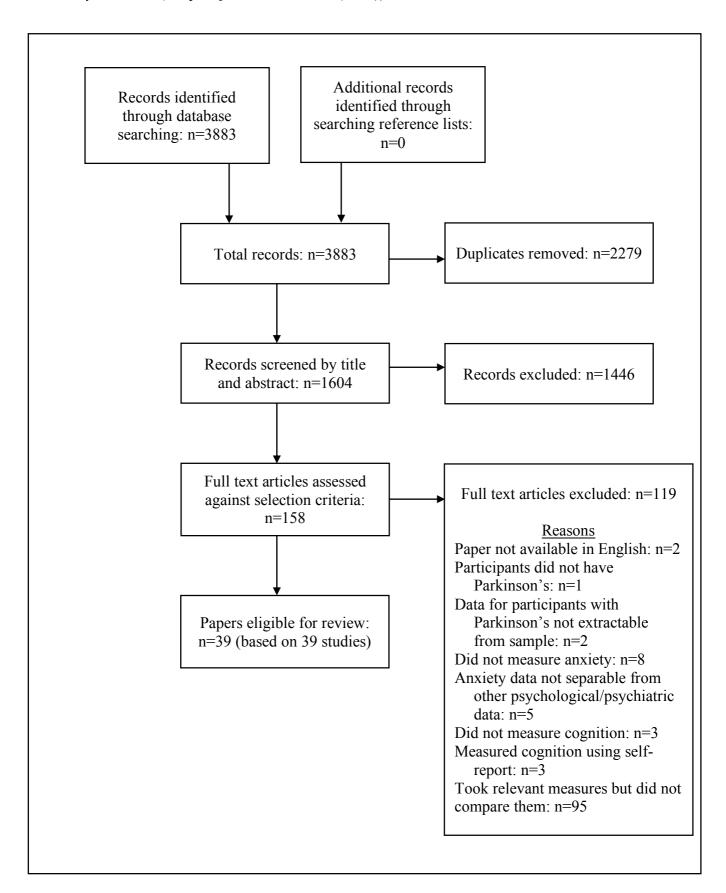


Table 1.1
Search Terms Used

Database	<b>Subject Heading Terms</b>	Free-Text Terms
CINAHL	Parkinson Disease;	parkinson*;
	Anxiety; Anxiety Disorders;	anxiet*;
	Cognition Disorders;	"cognit*"; "neuropsycho*";
	Neuropsychology;	"executive"; "metacognit*"; "frontal";
	Neuropsychological Tests; Mental	"process*"; "problem solv*";
	Processes; Impulsive Behavior;	"reason*"; "concept formation";
	Attention; Memory; Perception;	"sequenc*"; "*shift*"; "impulsiv*";
	Dementia.	"distract*"; "initiat*";
		"perseverat*"; "attention";
		"concentration"; "memory";
		"perception*"; "orient*"; "spatial";
		"visuospatial"; "visuoconstruct*";
		"language"; "verbal"; "comprehen*";
		"learn*"; "dement*"; "MCI".
Medline	Parkinson Disease;	parkinson*;
	Anxiety; Anxiety Disorders;	anxiet*

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Cognition; Cognitive Dysfunction;
                                                       "cognit*"; "neuropsycho*";
                                                  "executive"; "metacognit*"; "frontal";
               Cognitive Neuroscience; Mental
                                                      "process*"; "problem solv*";
                Processes; Neuropsychology;
                                                     "reason*"; "concept formation";
                 Neuropsychological Tests;
                                                   "sequenc*"; "*shift*"; "impulsiv*";
             Executive Function; Metacognition;
                                                          "distract*"; "initiat*";
                 Problem Solving; Concept
                                                        "perseverat*"; "attention";
                Formation; Set (Psychology);
                                                       "concentration"; "memory";
               Impulsive Behavior; Attention;
                                                   "perception*"; "orient*"; "spatial";
                Memory; Memory Disorders;
                                                    "visuospatial"; "visuoconstruct*";
                   Perception; Orientation;
                 Communication Disorders;
                                                   "language"; "verbal"; "comprehen*";
                                                      "learn*"; "dement*"; "MCI".
                    Learning; Dementia.
PsycINFO
                    Parkinson's Disease;
                                                               parkinson*;
                 Anxiety; Anxiety Disorders;
                                                                 anxiet*
                Cognition; Cognitive Ability;
                                                       "cognit*"; "neuropsycho*";
                                                  "executive"; "metacognit*"; "frontal";
               Cognitive Processes; Cognitive
                                                      "process*"; "problem solv*";
                Assessment; Neurocognition;
                Neuropsychology; Executive
                                                     "reason*"; "concept formation";
                                                   "sequenc*"; "*shift*"; "impulsiv*";
             Function; Dysexecutive Syndrome;
                                                          "distract*"; "initiat*";
                  Metacognition; Cognitive
                 Processing Speed; Problem
                                                        "perseverat*"; "attention";
                                                       "concentration"; "memory";
                Solving; Reasoning; Concept
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Formation; Set Shifting;
                                                    "perception*"; "orient*"; "spatial";
                Impulsiveness; Distractibility;
                                                     "visuospatial"; "visuoconstruct*";
                                                   "language"; "verbal"; "comprehen*";
                  Perseveration; Attention;
                                                       "learn*"; "dement*"; "MCI".
              Concentration; Memory; Memory
                    Disorders; Perception;
                 Communication Disorders;
                     Learning; Dementia.
                                                                parkinson*;
Web of
Science
                                                                 anxiet*;
                                                        "cognit*"; "neuropsycho*";
                                                   "executive"; "metacognit*"; "frontal";
                                                       "process*"; "problem solv*";
                                                      "reason*"; "concept formation";
                                                    "sequenc*"; "*shift*"; "impulsiv*";
                                                          "distract*"; "initiat*";
                                                        "perseverat*"; "attention";
                                                        "concentration"; "memory";
                                                    "perception*"; "orient*"; "spatial";
                                                     "visuospatial"; "visuoconstruct*";
                                                   "language"; "verbal"; "comprehen*";
                                                       "learn*"; "dement*"; "MCI".
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Table 1.2

Quality Assessment Tool (Adapted from Williams et al., 2009)

Short Title	Criterion
Sample	Sample is valid and representative
Comparable groups	Selection minimizes baseline differences in prognostic factors
	(only relevant to studies using between-groups comparisons)
Power	Sample size is large enough to detect a significant
	effect/relationship in at least one primary outcome measure at
	the 5% level
Measures	Measures implemented consistently across participants and
	cognitive assessments are carried out by a suitably qualified individual
Follow-up consistency	The length of follow-up is the same across all groups (only
	relevant to longitudinal, between-groups studies)
Follow-up completeness	Completeness of follow-up (only relevant to longitudinal
	studies)
Confounding variables	Analysis controls for confounding variables
Analysis	Analytic methods are appropriate

Table 1.3
Summary of Study Characteristics and Relevant Findings

Paper	Country of	Design;	Total N	Mean age	Mean time	Anxiety	Cognition	Relevant findings
	origin	methods of	(%	in years	since	measure	measure(s)	
		analysing the	female)	(SD);	diagnosis			
		relevant data		range	in years			
					(SD);			
					range			
Athey, Porter	UK	Cross-	94	74.6 (not	6.1 (not	HADS-A	CAMCOG-R	No significant correlations found
& Walker		sectional;	(52%)	stated); 51-	stated); 1-			between anxiety scores and any of the
(2005)		correlation		85	28			CAMCOG-R domain scores
								(orientation, comprehension,
								expression, memory, attention and
								calculation, praxis, abstract thinking,
								perception) or total CAMCOG-R
								score

Baschi et al.	Italy	Cross-	147	67.9 (9.4);	Median =	HADS-A	MMSE; MoCA;	Participants with PD-MCI and
(2018)		sectional;	(37%)	not stated	1 (not		Story Recall	subjective memory complaints
		ANOVA			stated); 0-3		Test; RAVLT;	reported significantly more anxiety
							TMT; RCPM;	than participants with neither PD-
							FAB; Token	MCI nor subjective memory
							Test; Naming	complaints; there was no significant
							subtest from the	difference in anxiety ratings between
							AAB;	participants with PD-MCI (and no
							Constructional	subjective memory complaints) and
							Apraxia; Clock	participants with neither PD-MCI nor
							Drawing	subjective memory complaints
Bogdanova	USA	Cross-	22	Right-side	Right-side	BAI	COWAT; Digit	In left-side onset Parkinson's, anxiety
& Cronin-		sectional;	(50%)	onset: 63.2	onset: 8.4		Span subtest	was not associated with performance
Golomb		correlation		(6.0); not	(3.7); not		from WMS-III;	on non-verbally mediated tasks (TMT
(2012)		and multiple		stated.	stated.		Clock Reading	B, Spatial Span, Visual Symbol
		regression		Left-side	Left-side		Test; BNT;	Search); in right-side onset
				onset: 61.3	onset: 9.0		CVLT-II;	Parkinson's, anxiety significantly and

				(6.2); not	(4.0); not		RCPM; TMT;	strongly correlated with performance
				stated	stated		Spatial Span	on verbally mediated tasks (BNT,
							subtest from	CVLT, Clock Reading, and
							WMS-III;	Controlled Oral Word Association),
							Visual Symbol	with better cognitive performance
							Search Test;	associated with lower levels of
							ROCF	anxiety
Brown &	UK	Cross-	106	65.6 (9.3);	Not stated	HADS-A	ACE-R	No significant correlations were
Fernie		sectional;	(31%)	43-85				found between anxiety and any of the
(2015)		correlation						ACE-R domains (attention and
								orientation, memory, fluency,
								language, visuospatial) or ACE-R
								total score
Bugalho, da	Portugal	Cross-	36	72.8 (7.0);	3.1 (1.3);	SCL-90-R	MMSE; FAB	No significant correlations were
Silva,		sectional;	(53%)	not stated	not stated	Anxiety		found between anxiety and the
Cargaleiro,		correlation				subscale		MMSE or FAB total scores

Serra & Neto

(2012)

Carod-Artal,	Brazil	Cross-	152	63.2	7.8 (5.1);	HADS-A	SCOPA-COG	Significant but weak correlations
Martínez-		sectional;	(40%)	(11.3); not	not stated			were found between anxiety and total
Martin,		correlation		stated				SCOPA-COG scores, and anxiety and
Kummer &								SCOPA-COG domains memory,
da Silveira								executive functions and visuospatial
Ribeiro								functions; better SCOPA-COG
(2008)								performance was associated with
								lower levels of anxiety; there was
								also a weak negative correlation
								between anxiety and SCOPA-COG
								attention, but this was not significant.
Chen et al.	China	Cross-	133	66.3	7.4 (6.5);	Diagnostic	CC-MMSE	No significant difference in CC-
(2010)		sectional;	(44%)	(11.2); not	not stated	criteria: CB-		MMSE total scores was found
		Mann-		stated				

		Whitney U				SCID-DSM		between participants with and
		test				IV		without an anxiety disorder diagnosis
Dissanayaka	UK	Cross-	185	65.9 (9.5);	5.6 months	MDS-	MMSE; MoCA;	No significant difference in total
et al. (2017)		sectional;	(36%)	not stated	(5.2	UPDRS	Power of	MMSE or MoCA scores was found
		Mann-			months);	Anxiety item	Attention and	between the anxious and non-anxious
		Whitney U			not stated		Digit Vigilance	groups; participants with anxiety
		test and					Accuracy	were significantly more likely than
		hierarchical					subtests from	participants without anxiety to have
		logistic					the CDR;	PD-MCI (with cut-off set at 1 SD
		regression					Pattern	below the mean) and to show
							Recognition	impairment (1 SD below the mean)
							Memory,	on memory tasks; there were no
							Spatial	significant relationships found
							Recognition	between anxiety and the other
							Memory, Paired	cognitive domains (attention,
							Associates	executive function, visuospatial
							Learning and	function and language); when the

							One Touch	'impairment' cut-off was set at 1.5
							Stockings	and 2 SDs below the mean, no
							subtests from	significant relationships were found
							the CANTAB;	between anxiety and any of the
							Phonemic	cognitive domains
							Fluency;	
							Semantic	
							Fluency	
Dissanayaka	Australia	Cross-	90	67.0 (9.1);	Not stated	MINI-plus;	MMSE; PDCRS	No significant associations were
et al. (2015)		sectional;	(38%)	not stated		HAM-A		found between anxiety and total
		binomial						MMSE or PDCRS scores
		logistic						
		regression						
Ehgoetz	Canada	Cross-	48	69.0 (8.4);	5.6 (4.6);	STAI	MoCA; Digit	Neither trait or state anxiety predicted
Martens,		sectional;	(27%)	not stated	not stated		Span; Corsi	overall cognitive function (MoCA)
Silveira,		hierarchical					Block Test;	scores; after controlling for age,

Intzandt &		multiple					Stroop; TMT;	depression, and motor symptom
Almeida		regression					CVLT; ROCF;	severity, state anxiety predicted
(2018)							Semantic	performance in the attention/working
							Fluency; BNT;	memory, executive function, memory
							Intersected	and language domains but not
							Pentagons;	visuospatial function; after
							JoLO	controlling for age, depression and
								symptom severity, trait anxiety
								predicted performance in the
								executive function domain but not the
								other domains
Ehgoetz	Australia	Cross-	50	With	With	HADS-A	TMT; Digit	There were no differences between
Martens et		sectional;	(44%)	anxiety:	anxiety:	(score>8 =	Span and logical	the scores of the PDA+ and PDA-
al. (2016)		independent t		64.9 (8.1);	6.6 (5.6);	PDA+ group,	memory	groups on the MMSE, TMT-A,
		-tests/ Mann-		not stated.	not stated.	score<6 =	subtests from	Logical Memory II test performance
		Whitney		Without	Without	PDA- group)	the WMS-III;	or % retention, or COWAT semantic
		<i>U</i> -tests		anxiety:	anxiety:		COWAT;	fluency or phonemic fluency; the
					6.6 (4.2)		MMSE	PDA+ group demonstrated

				68.3 (8.9);				significantly worse performance than
				not stated				the PDA- group on the TMT-B and
								Digit Span forward and backward; on
								the Logical Memory I immediate
								recall test there was a trend
								approaching significance that the
								PDA+ group had worse new verbal
								learning and immediate recall
								abilities than the PDA- group
Fan, Chang	Taiwan	Cross-	134	65.0 (9.2);	7.9 (5.6);	BAI	MMSE	There was no significant correlation
& Wu (2016)		sectional;	(37%)	41-87	0-23			found between BAI and MMSE
		correlation						scores; there was no significant
		and one-way						difference in MMSE scores between
		ANOVA						groups split by BAI classification
								(normal, mild, moderate and severe)

Fonoff et al.	Brazil	Cross-	28	59.3	13.3 (6.5);	HAM-A	CPT-II; WCST	There was a significant moderate
(2015)		sectional;	(43%)	(10.3); not	not stated			correlation between anxiety and CPT-
		correlation		stated				II reaction time, with higher anxiety
								associated with a slower reaction
								time; no significant correlations were
								found between anxiety and any other
								subscales
Foster et al.	USA	Cross-	59	65.0	5.9 (5.0);	STAI	MMSE; DRS-II,	An ANOVA found no significant
(2010)		sectional;	(39%)	(10.8); 29-	not stated		Digit Span from	direct effect of anxiety group (high or
		ANOVA/		83			WMS-III	low) on MMSE or DRS-II scores; an
		ANCOVA						ANCOVA with disease duration as a
								covariate found a significant
								interaction effect of side of onset
								(right or left) and anxiety (high or
								low) on Digit Span score; participants
								with left hemibody onset and high
								anxiety scored significantly lower on

Digit Span than those with left hemibody onset with low anxiety.

Gao et al.	China	Cross-	311	60.9	3.8 (5.1);	HAM-A	MMSE; MoCA;	There was a weak but significant
(2015)		sectional;	(45%)	(11.4); not	not stated		WAIS-RC;	correlation between anxiety and
		correlation		stated			WMS-RC	WAIS-RC total scores, with higher
								anxiety associated with lower WAIS-
								RC scores; there were no significant
								correlations found between anxiety
								and the other cognitive test scores
Hepp et al.	Netherlands	Cross-	62	65.5	7.5 (5.5);	BAI	RAVLT; TMT-	No significant correlations were
(2013)		sectional;	(39%)	(11.0); not	not stated		A	found between RAVLT and BAI
		correlation		stated				scores; scores on TMT-A correlated
								significantly with BAI – higher
								anxiety was associated with a longer
								time taken to complete the task

Hu et al.	UK	Cross-	468	67.8 (9.4);	1.5 (1.0);	LADS	MoCA	Higher anxiety significantly predicted
(2014)		sectional;	(39%)	not stated	not stated	Anxiety		lower scores on the MoCA
		multiple				subscale		(indicating more impairment)
		regression						
Hurt et al.	UK	Cross-	347	65.8	6.6 (5.9);	HADS-A	ACE-R	No significant correlations were
(2012)		sectional,	(35%)	(10.1); 32-	0-39			found between anxiety and any of the
		correlation		93				ACE-R domains (attention and
								orientation, memory, fluency,
								language, visuospatial) or ACE-R
								total score
Khedr, El	Egypt	Cross-	112	61.0	6.2 (5.9);	HAM-A	MMSE	There was a weak but significant
Fetoh,		sectional;	(31%)	(12.1); 28-	.5-25			correlation between anxiety and total
Khalifa,		correlation		88				MMSE scores, with higher anxiety
Ahmed & El								associated with lower MMSE scores
Beh (2012)								

Klepac,	Croatia	Cross-	137	History of	Not stated	HAM-A	Stroop; Digit	Higher anxiety independently
Hajnšek &		sectional;	(44%)	depression			Span; COWAT;	predicted worse performance in
Trkulja		multiple		: 60.8			SDMT;	Stroop 1, Stroop 3, COWAT Plant,
(2010)		regression		(11.0); not			RAVLT;	SDMT, RAVLT, ROCF recall, and
				stated. No			ROCF; TMT	TMT-A tests; anxiety did not predict
				history of				performance in Stroop 2, Digits
				depression				forward or backward, COWAT FAS,
				: 60.6				and ROCF copy; none of the
				(10.0); not				cognitive test scores predicted
				stated				anxiety scores
				stated				anxiety scores
LaBelle,	USA	Cross-	424	stated 61.7 (9.7);	6.5 months	STAI	HVLT-R; word-	anxiety scores  Six classes were identified with
LaBelle, Walsh &	USA	Cross-sectional;	424 (34%)		6.5 months (6.5	STAI	HVLT-R; word-	·
,	USA			61.7 (9.7);		STAI	ŕ	Six classes were identified with
Walsh &	USA	sectional;		61.7 (9.7);	(6.5	STAI	list learning	Six classes were identified with different cognitive profiles; there
Walsh & Banks	USA	sectional;		61.7 (9.7);	(6.5 months);	STAI	list learning task; JoLO;	Six classes were identified with different cognitive profiles; there were no significant differences in
Walsh & Banks	USA	sectional; latent class analysis/		61.7 (9.7);	(6.5 months);	STAI	list learning task; JoLO; letter-number	Six classes were identified with different cognitive profiles; there were no significant differences in state anxiety or total anxiety between

							Semantic	higher trait anxiety than the "typical-
							Fluency	overall" class (scoring between the
								25 <sup>th</sup> and 75 <sup>th</sup> percentiles for most
								cognitive tests)
Lee, Tsai,	Taiwan	Cross-	127	77.0 (6.3);	Median	NPI Anxiety	MMSE	There was a very weak but significant
Gauthier,		sectional;	(40%)	not stated	=6, lower	subscale		correlation between anxiety and
Wang & Fuh		correlation			quartile			MMSE scores, with higher anxiety
(2012)					=3, upper			associated with lower MMSE scores
					quartile			
					=10			
Leroi,	UK	Cross-	127	65.4	93.8	NPI Anxiety	TMT;	There were no significant differences
Pantula,		sectional;	(33%)	(11.2); not	months	subscale;	Serial 7's; Digit	found in NPI Anxiety scores between
McDonald &		ANOVA/		stated	(64.1	HADS-A	n-back;	groups with no cognitive impairment,
Harbishettar		Kruskall-			months);		Phonemic	PD-MCI and PDD; there was no
(2012)		Wallis			not stated		Fluency task;	significant difference found in
								HADS-A scores between groups with

							WCST; 5-	no cognitive impairment and PD-
							minute recall of	MCI (the PDD group did not
							3 words;	complete the HADS-A)
							Intersecting	
							Pentagons	
Mamikonyan	USA	Cross-	106	64.6	6.5 (5.8);	STAI – State	HVLT-R;	State anxiety was not a significant
et al. (2009)		sectional;	(30%)	(10.3); not	not stated	Anxiety	Stroop;	predictor of PD-MCI
		univariate		stated		subscale	Semantic	
		logistic					Fluency; TOL-	
		regression					DX; Digit Span	
							from Halstead-	
							Reitan battery	
Manor,	Israel	Cross-	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	STAI Trait	MMSE	Significantly lower MMSE scores
Balas,		sectional;	for	for	for	Anxiety		were found in the high anxiety group
Giladi,		correlation	relevant	relevant	relevant	subscale		(the 25% of participants with the
Mootanah &			part of					highest anxiety scores) compared to

Cohen			the	part of the	part of the			the low anxiety group (the 25% of
(2009)			analysis	analysis	analysis			participants with the lowest anxiety
								scores)
Monastero,	Italy	Cross-	410	Normal	Not stated	NPI Anxiety	MMSE; Story	There were no significant differences
Di Fiore,		sectional;	(40%)	cognition:		subscale	Recall Test;	in NPI Anxiety scores between the
Ventimiglia,		ANOVA		64.9 (9.8);			RAVLT; Token	three groups: normal cognition,
Camarda &				not stated.			Test; Naming	amnesic PD-MCI and non-amnesic
Camarda				Amnesic			subtest from the	PD-MCI
(2013)				PD-MCI:			AAB; Visual	
				69.9 (8.7);			Search; TMT;	
				not stated.			Phonemic	
				Non-			Fluency;	
				amnesic			RCPM; FAB;	
				PD-MCI:			Copy Drawing	
				71.0 (8.5);			Test; Position	
				not stated			Discrimination	

## subtest from the

## VOSP

Nègre-Pagès	France	Cross-	422	68.6 (9.8);	Not stated	HADS-A	MMSE	There was no significant difference in
et al. (2010)		sectional;	(43%)	not stated				mean MMSE scores between
		bivariate						participants with HADS-A ≤7 and
		analysis						participants with HADS-A>7
		(unclear						
		which)						
Pauletti et al.	Italy	Cross-	32	With	With	STAI	ANT	No significant correlations were
(2017)		sectional;	(31%)	fatigue:	fatigue:			found between anxiety (state or trait)
		correlation		69.1 (6.6);	7.8 (9.7);			and ANT scores
				56–82.	2-38.			
				Without	Without			
				fatigue:	fatigue:			
				70.0 (9.4);	5.3 (4.2);			
				55–84	2-14			

Petkus,	USA (but	Longitudinal	362	65.6 (6.2);	Not stated	STAI	SDMT; letter-	Across all cognitive domains, worse
Filoteo,	additional	(over 4	(31%)	not stated			number	performance was significantly
Schiehser,	study sites	years);					sequencing	associated with higher state and trait
Gomez &	in Europe)	bivariate					from the WAIS-	anxiety over time; working memory
Petzinger		latent change					IV; HVLT-R;	had the largest effect size in terms of
(2019)		modelling					Semantic	subsequent increases in anxiety;
							Fluency	however higher state and trait anxiety
								scores were not significantly
								associated with declines in cognitive
								performance over time
Reynolds,	USA	Cross-	77	62.9 (7.4);	6.5 (5.4);	BAI	Digit Span from	Higher anxiety correlated with poorer
Hanna,		sectional;	(49%) –	not stated	not stated		WMS-III; TMT;	set-shifting (TMT-B), even after
Neargarder		correlation	but not				Word	removing the psychomotor
& Cronin-			all				Association	component (TMT B-A). Anxiety did
Golomb			included				Test	not correlate with performance on
(2017)								tests of attention, working memory,

			in every analysis					phonemic fluency, or categorical fluency.
Rutten et al. (2017)	Netherlands	Longitudinal (over 2 years); linear mixed model analysis	306 (32%)	61.5 (10.1); 34- 84	Not stated	STAI	MoCA	Lower MoCA scores at baseline were associated with an increase in STAI State Anxiety scores over time
Ryder et al. (2002)	USA	Cross-sectional; multiple regression	27 (0%)	69.0 (7.7); 54-87	8.0 (4.5); 2-19	STAI	MMSE; RBANS	Stepwise multiple regression analyses, including all significant correlates except MMSE, showed that Trait Anxiety accounted for a significant proportion of the variance in the RBANS indexes Immediate Memory, Delayed Memory, Visuospatial/Construction and

Language, and RBANS total score, but not the Attention index

Sarno et al.	USA	Cross-	49	63.7 (8.3);	9.5 (4.8);	BAI	MMSE; SDMT;	No significant differences were
(2019)		sectional;	(24%)	not stated	not stated		BNT; COWAT;	identified between participants with
		ANOVA					JoLO – 15-item	(BAI $\geq$ 10) and without (BAI $\leq$ 10)
							version; CVLT-	anxiety on any of the cognitive
							II	measures
Schiehser et	USA	Cross-	32	66.6 (9.9);	6.9 (5.0);	GDS	MDRS; CVLT-	No significant correlations were
al. (2009)		sectional;	(44%)	46-89	1-23	Anxiety	II; WCST;	found between anxiety and any of the
		correlation				subscale	DKEFS verbal	cognitive measures
							fluency; JoLO	
Starkstein et	USA,	Cross-	338	65.4 (9.1);	Not stated	MINI;	MMSE	There were no significant differences
al. (2014)	Australia,	sectional;	(39%)	not stated		НАМ-А;		in MMSE scores found between the
	France,	latent class				BAI		classes with anxiety and the class
								without anxiety

	Netherlands	analysis/						
	and Spain	ANOVA						
Starkstein,	USA	Cross-	40	Not	Not	HAM-A	MMSE	No significant correlation was found
Robinson,		sectional;	(unclear)	reported	reported			between MMSE and HAM-A scores
Leiguarda &		ANOVA		for whole	for whole			
Preziosi				sample	sample			
(1993)								
Wan	Malaysia	Cross-	30	Not stated	Not stated.	HADS-A	PDCRS	The PDCRS subtest scores for
Mohamed,		sectional;	(50%)	(not	<10 years			confrontation naming, sustained
Che Din &								
		correlation		stated); 50-	n=21;>10			attention, working memory,
Ibrahim		correlation		stated); 50- 90	n=21; >10 years n=9			attention, working memory, unprompted clock drawing and copy
Ibrahim (2015)		correlation			ŕ			
		correlation			ŕ			unprompted clock drawing and copy
		correlation			ŕ			unprompted clock drawing and copy clock drawing were significantly
		correlation			ŕ			unprompted clock drawing and copy clock drawing were significantly correlated with anxiety, with lower

memory, delayed free recall,
alternating verbal fluency or action
verbal fluency

Zahodne,	USA	Cross-	95	66.2 (9.9);	8.7 (5.7);	STAI	MMSE	There were weak but significant
Marsiske &		sectional;	(32%)	not stated	not stated			correlations found between MMSE
Bowers		correlation						scores and both state and trait anxiety
(2013)								scores, with higher anxiety associated
								with lower MMSE scores
Zhang et al.	China	Cross-	454	61.5	4.8 (4.2);	HAM-A	MoCA	HAM-A scores were significantly
(2016)		sectional;	(43%)	(11.0); not	not stated			higher in participants with cognitive
		binomial		stated				dysfunction (MoCA≤ 24) than
		logistic						participants without cognitive
		regression						dysfunction (MoCA>24)

Note.  $AAB = Aachener\ Aphasie\ Battery;\ ACE-R = Addenbrookes\ Cognitive\ Examination\ -\ Revised;\ ANT = Attention\ Network\ Test;\ BAI = Beck\ Anxiety\ Inventory;\ BNT = Boston\ Naming\ Test;\ CAMCOG-R = Cambridge\ Cognitive\ Assessment\ -Revised;\ CANTAB = Cambridge\ Neuropsychological\ Test\ Automated\ Battery;\ CB-SCID-DSM\ IV = Chinese-Bilingual\ Structured\ Clinical\ Interview\ for\ DSM-IV;\ CC-MMSE = Chinese-Cantonese\ Mini-Mental\ State\ Examination;\ CDR = Cognitive\ Drug\ Research\ Battery;\ COWAT = Controlled\ Oral\ Word\ Association\ Test;\ CPT-II = Continuous\ Performance\ Test\ -\ Second\ Edition;\ CVLT-II =\ California\ Verbal\ Learning\ Test\ -\ Second\ Edition;\ DKEFS = Delis-Kaplan\ Executive\ Function\ System;\ DRS-II = Dementia\ Rating\ Scale-2;\ FAB = Frontal\ Assessment\ Battery;\ GDS$ 

= Geriatric Depression Scale; HADS-A = Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale – Anxiety subscale; HAM-A = Hamilton Anxiety Scale; HVLT-R = Hopkins Verbal Learning Test - Revised; JoLO = Benton's Judgement of Line Orientation; LADS = Leeds Anxiety and Depression Scale; MDRS = Mattis Dementia Rating Scale; MDS-UPDRS = Movement Disorder Society Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale; MMSE = Mini-Mental State Examination; MoCA = Montreal Cognitive Assessment; NPI = Neuropsychiatric Inventory; PDCRS = Parkinson's Disease Cognitive Rating Scale; PDD = Parkinson's Disease Dementia; PD-MCI = Parkinson's Disease Mild Cognitive Impairment; PoA = Power of Attention; RAVLT = Rey Auditory Verbal Learning Test; RBANS = Repeatable Battery for the Assessment of Neuropsychological Status; RCPM = Raven's Coloured Progressive Matrices; ROCF = Rey=Osterrieth Complex Figure; SCL-90-R = Symptom Checklist - Revised; SCOPA-COG = Scales for Outcomes in Parkinson's Disease - Cognition; SDMT = Symbol Digit Modality Test; STAI = State Trait Anxiety Inventory; TMT = Trail Making Test; TMT-A = Trail Making Test - Part A; TOL-DX = Tower of London Test; VOSP = Visual Object and Space Perception Battery; WAIS-IV = Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale - Revised by China; WCST = Wisconsin Card Sorting Test; WMS-III = Wechsler Memory Scales - Third Edition; WMS-RC = Wechsler Memory Scales - Revised by China.

Table 1.4

Quality Assessment Summary

Study	Sample	Comparable groups	Power	Measures	Follow-up consistency	Follow-up completeness	Confounding variables	Analysis
Athey et al. (2005)	p	n/a	У	c	n/a	n/a	p	у
Baschi et al. (2018)	у	p	c	c	n/a	n/a	p	у
Bogdanova &	y	n/a	n	c	n/a	n/a	p	y
Cronin-Golomb								
(2012)								
Brown & Fernie	p	n/a	у	c	n/a	n/a	p	y
(2015)								
Bugalho et al.	p	n/a	n	c	n/a	n/a	p	y
(2012)								
Carod-Artal et al.	p	n/a	y	y	n/a	n/a	p	y
(2008)								
Chen et al. (2010)	y	у	c	y	n/a	n/a	p	y
Dissanayaka et al.	y	у	c	c	n/a	n/a	p	y
(2017)								
Dissanayaka et al.	p	p	c	y	n/a	n/a	p	y
(2015)								
Ehgoetz Martens et	p	n/a	c	c	n/a	n/a	p	y
al. (2018)								

Ehgoetz Martens et	y	y	c	c	n/a	n/a	p	у
al. (2016)								
Fan et al. (2016)	p	p	c	c	n/a	n/a	p	y
Fonoff et al. (2015)	y	n/a	n	c	n/a	n/a	p	у
Foster et al (2010)	n	y	c	c	n/a	n/a	p	у
Gao et al. (2015)	p	n/a	y	c	n/a	n/a	p	y
Hepp et al. (2013)	p	n/a	n	c	n/a	n/a	p	y
Hu et al. (2014)	y	n/a	c	y	n/a	n/a	p	у
Hurt et al. (2012)	y	n/a	y	c	n/a	n/a	p	у
Khedr et al. (2012)	p	n/a	y	c	n/a	n/a	p	y
Klepac et al.	p	y	c	у	n/a	n/a	p	y
(2010)								
LaBelle et al.	y	p	c	c	n/a	n/a	p	у
(2017)								
Lee et al. (2012)	p	n/a	y	c	n/a	n/a	p	у
Leroi et al. (2012)	y	y	c	c	n/a	n/a	p	у
Mamikonyan et al.	y	p	c	y	n/a	n/a	p	у
(2009)								
Manor et al. (2009)	p	c	c	c	n/a	n/a	p	у
Monastero et al.	p	p	c	c	n/a	n/a	p	у
(2013)								
Nègre-Pagès et al.	p	c	c	c	n/a	n/a	p	у
(2010)								
Pauletti et al.	p	n/a	n	у	n/a	n/a	p	у
(2017)								

Petkus et al. (2019)	p	n/a	c	c	у	c	p	y
Reynolds et al.	y	n/a	n	c	n/a	n/a	p	y
(2017)								
Rutten et al. (2017)	p	n/a	c	c	у	y	p	y
Ryder et al. (2002)	n	n/a	n	у	n/a	n/a	p	y
Sarno et al. (2019)	p	c	c	у	n/a	n/a	p	y
Schiehser et al.	p	n/a	n	c	n/a	n/a	p	y
(2009)								
Starkstein et al.	y	p	c	c	n/a	n/a	p	y
(2014)								
Starkstein et al.	p	p	n	y	n/a	n/a	p	y
(1993)								
Wan Mohamed et	p	n/a	n	c	n/a	n/a	p	y
al. (2015)								
Zahodne et al.	p	n/a	y	c	n/a	n/a	p	y
(2013)								
Zhang et al. (2016)	p	p	c	у	n/a	n/a	p	y

Note. y = yes; p = partial; n = no; c = can't tell; n/a = not applicable.

Table 1.5

Summary of Relationships Found between Cognition and Anxiety, by Cognitive Domain

Domain	Number of	Number of	Nature of relationships	Cognitive assessment
	studies which	studies which	found	tools used
	failed to find	found a		
	a significant	significant		
	relationship	relationship		
Orientation	3	0	-	ACE-R; CAMCOG
Attention	7	3	Higher anxiety was	ACE-R; ANT;
			associated with and	CAMCOG; Corsi
			predictive of worse	Block Test*; Digit
			performance on attention	Span backwards from
			tasks	WAIS-IV*; Digit
				Vigilance Accuracy
				from CDR; PoA;
				RBANS; TMT-A°
Working	2	3	Higher anxiety was	Corsi Block Test*;
memory			associated with and	Digit Span from
			predictive of worse	WAIS-IV°; Digit
			performance on working	Span from WMS-III
			memory tasks.	
Executive	3	5	Higher anxiety was	CAMCOG; FAB;
function			associated with and	SCOPA-COG*;
			predictive of worse	Stroop°; TMT°;
				WCST;

			performance on executive	
			tasks	
Memory	5	6	Higher anxiety was	ACE-R; CAMCOG;
			associated with and	CANTAB*; CVLT-
			predictive of worse	II°; RAVLT*;
			performance on memory	RBANS*; ROCF*;
			tasks	SCOPA-COG*;
				WMS-III
Language	5	2	Higher anxiety was	ACE-R; BNT*;
			associated with and	CAMCOG; MoCA;
			predictive of worse	RBANS*
			performance on language	
			tasks	
Verbal fluency	6	1	Higher anxiety was	ACE-R; COWAT°;
			predictive of worse	RAVLT; Word
			performance on a	Association Test
			semantic fluency task	
Visuospatial	7	2	Higher anxiety was	ACE-R; CAMCOG;
abilities			associated with and	Intersected Pentagons;
			predictive of worse	JoLO; MMSE;
			performance on	RBANS*; ROCF;
			visuospatial tasks	SCOPA-COG*
			1	

Note. \*= effect found in all analyses using this test; °= effect found in some analyses using this test but not in others; ACE-R = Addenbrookes Cognitive Examination - Revised; ANT = Attention Network Test; BNT = Boston Naming Test; CAMCOG = Cambridge Cognitive Assessment; CANTAB = Cambridge

Neuropsychological Test Automated Battery; CDR = Cognitive Drug Research Battery; COWAT = Controlled Oral Word Association Test; CVLT-II = California Verbal Learning Test - Second Edition; FAB = Frontal Assessment Battery; JoLO = Benton's Judgement of Line Orientation; MMSE = Mini-Mental State Examination; MoCA = Montreal Cognitive Assessment; PoA = Power of Attention; RAVLT = Rey Auditory Verbal Learning Test; RBANS = Repeatable Battery for the Assessment of Neuropsychological Status; ROCF = Rey=Osterrieth Complex Figure; SCOPA-COG = Scales for Outcomes in Parkinson's Disease - Cognition; SDMT = Symbol Digit Modality Test; TMT = Trail Making Test; TMT-A = Trail Making Test - Part A; WAIS-IV = Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale - Fourth Edition; WCST = Wisconsin Card Sorting Test; WMS-III = Wechsler Memory Scales - Third Edition.

## Appendix 1A

## Author Guidelines for the British Journal of Health Psychology

The aim of the British Journal of Health Psychology is to provide a forum for high quality research, including Registered Reports, relating to health and illness. The scope of the journal includes all areas of health psychology as outlined in the Journal Overview.

The types of paper invited are:

- papers reporting original empirical investigations, using either quantitative or qualitative methods, including reports of interventions in clinical and non-clinical populations;
- theoretical papers which report analyses on established theories in health psychology;
- we particularly welcome review papers, which should aim to provide systematic overviews,
  evaluations and interpretations of research in a given field of health psychology (narrative reviews will only be considered for editorials or important theoretical discourses); and
  methodological papers dealing with methodological issues of particular relevance to health

psychology.

Authors who are interested in submitting papers that do not fit into these categories are advised to contact the editors who would be very happy to discuss the potential submission.

All papers published in The British Journal of Health Psychology are eligible for Panel A: Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience in the Research Excellence Framework (REF).

## 1. Circulation

The circulation of the Journal is worldwide. Papers are invited and encouraged from authors throughout the world.

## 2. Length

Papers describing quantitative research (including reviews with quantitative analyses) should be no more than 5000 words (excluding the abstract, reference list, tables and figures). Papers describing qualitative research (including reviews with qualitative analyses) should be no more than 6000 words (including quotes, whether in the text or in tables, but excluding the abstract, tables, figures and references). In exceptional cases the Editor retains discretion to publish papers beyond this length where the clear and concise expression of the scientific content requires greater length (e.g., explanation of a new theory or a substantially new method). Authors must contact the Editor prior to submission in such a case.

#### 3. Editorial policy

The Journal receives a large volume of papers to review each year, and in order to make the process as efficient as possible for authors and editors alike, all papers are initially examined by the Editors to ascertain whether the article is suitable for full peer review. In order to qualify for full review, papers must meet the following criteria:

- the content of the paper falls within the scope of the Journal
- the methods and/or sample size are appropriate for the questions being addressed
- research with student populations is appropriately justified
- the word count is within the stated limit for the Journal (i.e. 5000 words, or 6,000 words for qualitative papers)

## 4. Submission and reviewing

All manuscripts must be submitted via Editorial Manager. The Journal operates a policy of anonymous (double blind) peer review. We also operate a triage process in which submissions that are out of scope or otherwise inappropriate will be rejected by the editors without external peer review to avoid unnecessary delays. Before submitting, please read the terms and conditions of submission and the declaration of competing interests. You may also like to use the Submission Checklist to help your prepare your paper.

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## 5. Manuscript requirements

- Contributions must be typed in double spacing with wide margins. All sheets must be numbered.
- Manuscripts should be preceded by a title page which includes a full list of authors and their affiliations, as well as the corresponding author's contact details. You may like to use this template. When entering the author names into Editorial Manager, the corresponding author will be asked to provide a CRediT contributor role to classify the role that each author played in creating the manuscript. Please see the Project CRediT website for a list of roles.

- For articles containing original scientific research, a structured abstract of up to 250 words should be included with the headings: Objectives, Design, Methods, Results, Conclusions. Review articles should use these headings: Purpose, Methods, Results, Conclusions. As the abstract is often the most widely visible part of your paper, it is important that it conveys succinctly all the most important features of your study. You can save words by writing short, direct sentences. Helpful hints about writing the conclusions to abstracts can be found here.
- Statement of Contribution: All authors are required to provide a clear summary of 'what is already known on this subject?' and 'what does this study add?'. Authors should identify existing research knowledge relating to the specific research question and give a summary of the new knowledge added by your study. Under each of these headings, please provide 2-3 (maximum) clear outcome statements (not process statements of what the paper does); the statements for 'what does this study add?' should be presented as bullet points of no more than 100 characters each. The Statement of Contribution should be a separate file.
- Conflict of interest statement: We are now including a brief conflict of interest statement at the end of each accepted manuscript. You will be asked to provide information to generate this statement during the submission process.
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- Tables should be typed in double spacing, each on a separate page with a self-explanatory title. Tables should be comprehensible without reference to the text. They should be placed at the end of the manuscript but they must be mentioned in the text.
- Figures can be included at the end of the document or attached as separate files, carefully labelled in initial capital/lower case lettering with symbols in a form consistent with text use.

  Unnecessary background patterns, lines and shading should be avoided. Captions should be

listed on a separate sheet. The resolution of digital images must be at least 300 dpi. All figures must be mentioned in the text.

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## Appendix 1B

## Search Strategy used in the Electronic Database CINAHL

- 1. MH "Parkinson Disease"
- 2. Ti: Parkinson\*
- 3. Ab: Parkinson\*
- 4. 1 OR 2 OR 3
- 5. MH "Anxiety"
- 6. MH "Anxiety Disorders"
- 7. Ti: anxiet\*
- 8. Ab: anxiet\*
- 9. 5 OR 6 OR 7 OR 8
- 10. MH "Cognition Disorders"
- 11. MH "Neuropsychology"
- 12. MH "Neuropsychological Tests"
- 13. MH "Mental Processes"
- 14. MH "Impulsive Behavior"
- 15. MH "Attention"
- 16. MH "Memory"
- 17. MH "Perception"
- 18. MH "Dementia"
- 19. Ti: cognit\* OR neuropsycho\* OR executive OR metacognit\* OR frontal OR process\*
  OR problem solv\* OR reason\* OR concept formation OR sequenc\* OR \*shift\* OR impulsiv\* OR distract\* OR initiat\* OR perseverat\* OR attention OR concentration
  OR memory OR perception\* OR orient\* OR spatial OR visuospatial OR

- visuoconstruct\* OR language OR verbal OR comprehen\* OR learn\* OR dement\* OR MCI
- 20. Ab: cognit\* OR neuropsycho\* OR executive OR metacognit\* OR frontal OR process\* OR problem solv\* OR reason\* OR concept formation OR sequenc\* OR \*shift\* OR impulsiv\* OR distract\* OR initiat\* OR perseverat\* OR attention OR concentration OR memory OR perception\* OR orient\* OR spatial OR visuospatial OR visuoconstruct\* OR language OR verbal OR comprehen\* OR learn\* OR dement\* OR MCI
- 21. 10 OR 11 OR 12 OR 13 OR 14 OR 15 OR 16 OR 17 OR 18 OR 19 OR 20
- 22. 4 AND 9 AND 21

## **Appendix 1C**

## Quality Assessment Tool for Observational Studies (Williams et al., 2010; unmodified)

## 1) Unbiased selection of the cohort?

Factors that help reduce selection bias:

- Prospective study design and recruitment of subjects
- Inclusion/exclusion criteria
  - o Clearly described (especially re: age and cognitive status)
  - o Assessed using valid and reliable measures
- Recruitment strategy
  - o Clearly described
  - o Relatively free from bias (selection bias might be introduced, e.g., by recruitment via advertisement)

## 2) Selection minimizes baseline differences in prognostic factors?

- Was selection of the comparison group appropriate? Note: This may not be an issue in the cohort studies we review. In general, the exposed and unexposed groups should be from the same source. However, it is possible that for some medical condition exposures the exposed group will be patients from a specialty medical clinic and the unexposed comparison group will be from another source. Consider whether these two sources are likely to differ on factors related to the outcome (besides the exposure factor).
- In addition to selecting the cohort in an unbiased way, did study investigators do other things to ensure that exposed/unexposed groups were comparable, e.g., by using stratification, matching, or propensity scores?

## 3) Sample size calculated/5% difference?

Factors to consider:

- Did the authors report conducting a power analysis or describe some other basis for determining the adequacy of study group sizes for the primary outcome(s) of interest to us?
- Was the sample size sufficiently large to detect a clinically significant difference of 5% in event rates or an OR/RR increase of  $\geq$  1.5 or decrease of  $\geq$  0.67 between groups in at least one primary outcome measure of interest to us?

## 4) Adequate description of the cohort?

Consider whether the cohort is well-characterized in terms of baseline:

- Age
- Sex
- Race
- Educational level
- Cognitive status
- For genetic association studies, were the diseased and non-diseased populations drawn from groups with the same ethnic/racial mix?

## 5) Validated method for ascertaining exposure?

- Was the method used to ascertain exposure clearly described? (Details should be sufficient to permit replication in new studies.)
- Was a valid and reliable measure used to ascertain exposure? (Subjective measures based on self-report tend to have lower reliability and validity than objective measures such as clinical reports and lab findings.)

• For gene association studies, is the "call rate" of genotyping (the proportion of samples in which the genotyping provides an unambiguous reading) reported? Were quality checks implemented or rules established to determine when genotyping results would be considered valid? To clarify your score, please make a note of the method/measure used to ascertain exposure.

## 6) Validated method for ascertaining clinical outcomes?

Factors to consider:

- Were primary outcomes (AD and/or cognitive decline) assessed using valid and reliable measures? (See details below.)
- Were these measures implemented consistently across all study participants?

## 7) Outcome assessment blind to exposure?

• Were the study investigators who assessed outcomes blind to the intervention or exposure status of participants?

## 8) Adequate follow-up period?

Factors to consider:

- Minimum adequate follow-up period is 2 years for AD and 1 year for cognitive decline
- Follow-up period should be the same for all groups

o In cohort studies, length of follow-up should be the same across all groups.

o In nested case-control studies, period between the intervention/exposure and outcome should be the same for cases and controls.

o OK if differences in follow-up time were adjusted for using statistical techniques, e.g., survival analysis.

## 9) Completeness of follow-up?

- Did attrition from any group exceed 30%? (Attrition is measured in relation to the time between baseline/allocation and outcome measurement. Where different numbers of patients are followed up for different outcomes, use the number followed up for the primary outcome for this calculation.)
- Did attrition differ between groups by more than 10% percent?

## 10) Analysis controls for confounding?

Factors to consider:

- Did the analysis control for any baseline differences between groups?
- Does the study identify and control for important confounding variables and effect modifiers? (Confounding variables are risk factors that are correlated with the intervention/exposure and outcome and may therefore bias the estimation of the effect of intervention/exposure on outcome if unmeasured. Effect modifiers are not correlated with the intervention/exposure, but change the effect of the intervention/exposure on the outcome. Age, race/ethnicity, education, and measures of SES are examples of effect modifiers and confounding variables for the exposures and outcomes of interest in this study.)

## 11) Analytic methods appropriate?

- Was the kind of analysis done appropriate for the kind of outcome data?
  - o Dichotomous logistic regression, survival
  - o Categorical mixed model for categorical outcomes
  - o Continuous ANCOVA, mixed model
- Was the analysis done on an intention-to-treat basis? (That is, was the impact of loss to follow-up [or differential loss to followup] assessed, e.g., through sensitivity analysis or another intent-to-treat adjustment method?

- Was the number of variables used in the analysis appropriate for the sample size?

  (The statistical techniques used must be appropriate to the data and take into account issues such as controlling for small sample size, clustering, rare outcomes, multiple comparison, and number of covariates for a given sample size. The multiple comparisons issue may be a problem particularly when performance results on numerous cognitive measures are being compared. When assessing change on cognitive measure over time, consider whether change score should be adjusted for baseline score, and consider distribution of baseline scores and change scores.)
- For gene association studies:
  - o Did the investigators conduct statistical tests to check whether the observed genotype frequencies are consistent with the Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium?

    o Did the investigators adjust for multiple comparisons?

Appendix 1D

Adaptations to Williams et al.'s (2009) Quality Assessment Tool

Item	Original criterion	Adaptations made	Reasons for adaptations				
1	Unbiased selection	Combined with Item 4 to	It was difficult to establish bias				
	of the cohort	become "sample is valid and	in sampling methods or the				
		representative"	representativeness of the				
			sample without the sample				
			being adequately described				
2	Selection	None	-				
	minimizes baseline						
	differences in						
	prognostic factors						
	(only relevant to						
	studies using						
	between-groups						
	comparisons)						
3	Sample size	Sample size required to be	To increase relevance to the				
	calculated / 5%	large enough to detect a	research question				
	difference	significant					
		effect/relationship in at least					
		one primary outcome					
		measure at the 5% level					

4	Adequate	Combined with Item 1 to	It was difficult to establish bias				
	description of the	become "sample is valid and	in sampling methods or the				
	cohort	representative"	representativeness of the				
			sample without the sample				
			being adequately described				
E	Wali data d matha d	Itama mamayya d	Not relevent to recomb				
5	Validated method	Item removed	Not relevant to research				
	for ascertaining		question				
	exposure						
6	Validated method	Changed to: measures	Part of this criterion was				
	for ascertaining	implemented consistently	covered by study selection				
	clinical outcomes	across participants and	criteria (since it was required				
		cognitive assessments are	that validated measures were				
		carried out by a suitably	used), therefore only part of				
		qualified individual	the original item was relevant				
_	_						
7	Outcome	Item removed	Not relevant to research				
	assessment blind to		question				
	exposure						
8	Adequate follow-	Changed to: in longitudinal,	Selected the part of the				
	up	between-groups studies, the	criterion which was relevant to				
			the research question				

# length of follow-up is the same across all groups

9	Completeness of	None	-
	follow-up (only		
	relevant to		
	longitudinal		
	studies)		
10	Analysis controls	None	-
	for confounding		
	variables		
11	Analytic methods	None	-
	appropriate		
-	All	Addition of "not applicable"	Some items were not
		(n/a) rating	applicable to all included
			studies

Appendix 1E

Quality Appraisals by Second Reviewer

Paper	Sample	Comparable Groups	Power	Measures	Follow-up consistency	Follow-up completeness	Confounding Variables	Analysis
Athey et al, 2005	p	na	y	ct	na	na	p	y
Dissanayaka et al, 2017	y	y	ct	ct	na	na	p	y
Hepp et al, 2013	p	na	n	ct	na	na	p	y
Mamikonyon et al, 2009	y	p	ct	y	na	na	p	y
Ryder et al, 2002		na	n	y	na	na	p	y

Note. y = yes; p = partial; n = no; na = not applicable; ct = can't tell

Section Two: Empirical Paper

Stigma, Self-Compassion and Psychological Distress among People with Parkinson's

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Formatted for submission to the British Journal of Health Psychology (Author Guidelines attached in Appendix 2A)

Word count (including abstract but excluding references, appendices, figures and tables):

7447

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#### **Abstract**

**Objectives:** People with Parkinson's can experience stigma, both through the attitudes and actions of others (enacted stigma) and through anticipation of enacted stigma and internalisation of negative stereotypes (felt stigma). Previous research has suggested that self-compassion protects against the impact of enacted stigma upon felt stigma and negative outcomes. This study aimed to investigate the relationships between self-compassion, stigma and psychological distress among people with Parkinson's.

**Design:** In a quantitative, questionnaire-based design, correlation and mediation models were used to investigate the relationships between the variables.

**Methods:** 138 people with Parkinson's completed questionnaires measuring self-compassion, enacted and felt stigma, and depression, anxiety and stress.

**Results:** All variables correlated significantly in the expected directions. The stigma variables were found to be significant mediators in the relationships between self-compassion and the three outcome variables - depression, anxiety and stress. Higher self-compassion was associated with less reported stigma, which was in turn associated with lower levels of psychological distress.

Conclusions: Part of the relationship between self-compassion and psychological distress appears to occur via the internalisation of stigma. Self-compassion may also predict how likely a person is to notice or report enacted stigma. Therefore, people with Parkinson's who are higher in self-compassion may experience less enacted stigma (even when they are exposed to it), and therefore experience lower levels of distress. These findings may be relevant to the development of individualised and societal interventions with the aim of improving the psychological wellbeing of people with Parkinson's.

# Stigma, Self-Compassion and Psychological Distress among People with Parkinson's

Parkinson's disease (referred to throughout this paper as "Parkinson's": the preferred terminology by the charity Parkinson's UK) is a neuro-degenerative condition affecting around 0.3% of people worldwide (Pringsheim, Jette, Frolkis & Steeves, 2014), with increasing prevalence after the age of 60 (Tysnes & Storstein, 2017). Parkinson's is classified as a movement disorder (Fahn, 2011). Accordingly, people with Parkinson's can experience problems with initiating movement (akinesia), slowed movement (bradykinesia), tremor, rigidity, gait disturbance and speech difficulties (Moustafa et al., 2016). Other difficulties experienced by people with Parkinson's can include anxiety, depression, cognitive impairments, sensory disturbances, sexual dysfunction and continence problems (Rana, Ahmed, Chaudry & Vasan, 2015; Stacy, 2011).

Experiences of psychological distress are common among people with Parkinson's. A systematic review of the literature found that 35% of people with Parkinson's experience clinically significant symptoms of depression (Reijnders, Ehrt, Weber, Aarsland & Leentjens, 2008), while the prevalence of anxiety is estimated at 25% (Dissanayaka et al., 2010). Conceptualisations of these experiences have traditionally assumed a neuro-biological stance, suggesting that psychological distress occurs as a direct consequence of pathological processes, such as changes in dopaminergic, serotonergic, and noradrenergic systems and fronto-striatal circuitry (Aarsland, Marsh & Schrag, 2009; Kano et al., 2011; Remy, Doder, Lees, Turjanski & Brooks, 2005). However, in addition to the recognised role of neuro-biological changes, growing evidence suggests that social and psychological factors are important in the development of psychological distress (Garlovsky, Overton & Simpson, 2016). It is important to develop a better understanding of these factors so that holistic assessment and support can be provided, as recommended in the British Psychological

Society's (BPS) briefing document regarding psychological services for people with Parkinson's (Macniven & Gaskill, 2009). The current paper therefore focusses on two psycho-social factors in relation to psychological distress among people with Parkinson's: stigma and self-compassion.

Goffman's (1963) early conceptualisation of stigma described it as an individual attribute which is discredited by society, leading to loss of social status. Later, stigma was more comprehensively defined as a phenomenon whereby individuals are labelled, stereotyped, discredited and discriminated against, based on certain attributes which are devalued by society, in a context where they have reduced power (Link & Phelan, 2001; 2006). "Enacted stigma" is a term used to describe the negative reaction that the stigmatised individual receives from others, through their attitudes and actions (Scambler, 1989). When an individual expects or fears enacted stigma, this is known as "felt stigma", or "internalised stigma" (Corrigan, Watson & Barr, 2006). Felt stigma may also involve identification with negative stereotypes, and the application of discrediting attitudes to the self (Watson, Corrigan, Larson & Sells, 2007). Experiences of felt stigma have been found to be associated with feelings of shame and low self-esteem (Link & Phelan, 2001; Rao et al., 2009).

In the context of illness and impairment, where difference may be highly visible, individuals may be at a higher risk of stigmatisation (Campbell & Deacon, 2006; Joachim & Acorn, 2000). People with Parkinson's may present with visible differences, through the more overt motor and facial symptoms and communication difficulties, increased dependence on others, and lifestyle changes necessitated by symptoms (Hermanns, 2013). Research has demonstrated stigmatising views towards people with Parkinson's held by both professionals (Tickle-Degnen, Zebrowitz & Ma, 2011) and members of the public (Hemmesch, 2014; Moore & Knowles, 2006). Several qualitative studies have described the enacted and felt stigma that people with Parkinson's can experience in relation to the more visible symptoms

of the condition (Bramley & Eatough, 2005; Caap-Ahlgren & Lannerheim, 2002; Hermanns, 2013; Nijhof, 1995). Experiences of stigma have been found to be associated with heightened levels of anxiety, depression and stress among people with Parkinson's (Ma et al., 2016; Simpson, Lekwuwa, & Crawford, 2014; Schrag, Jahanshahi & Quinn, 2001). Felt stigma has been found to be prevalent among people with Parkinson's even in the absence of direct experience of enacted stigma, demonstrating the importance of implicit public attitudes (Ma et al., 2016). Simpson, McMillan and Reeve (2013) describe the structural disablism faced by people with Parkinson's (active barriers to inclusion at the public level, such as workplace discrimination, costs of care and inaccessibility of information), and how this may lead to psycho-emotional disablism (the internalisation of oppressive attitudes and subsequent restrictions placed upon the self). Therefore, enacted stigma can contribute to the internalisation of stigma and experiences of psychological distress (Simpson et al., 2013). Ma et al. (2016) found a stronger relationship between felt stigma and depression than enacted stigma and depression, suggesting that the internalisation of stigma is an important factor relating to the development of psychological distress.

Self-compassion is defined as a non-judgemental acknowledgement of one's own suffering, and a self-directed response based upon "kindness, concern and support" (Neff & Dahm, 2015, pp.121). Self-compassion is considered an important element of emotional regulation, access to which is affected by early relational experiences (Gilbert, 2009; 2010). Gilbert (2009; 2010; 2014) describes how, if a child receives attuned care when they are distressed, where they are soothed and helped to feel safe, then they will internalise the ability to recognise their distress and self-soothe (i.e. to show compassion towards themselves). Conversely, difficult early relational experiences (such as miss-attuned caregiving, abuse and neglect) present few opportunities to learn self-compassion or access affiliative emotion regulation systems; instead a child may learn to be hypervigilant to

potential threats and experience heightened shame and self-criticism (Gilbert, 2009; 2010). Thus, the development of self-compassion affects how we cope with difficult life events and experiences – how we appraise threats, experience affiliative emotions, view and relate to ourselves and self-soothe. Across a range of populations, self-compassion has been shown to be positively associated with psychological wellbeing (Zessin, Dickhäuser & Garbade, 2015) and negatively associated with symptoms of depression and anxiety (MacBeth & Gumley, 2012). Further, it has been demonstrated that interventions aimed at increasing self-compassion can alleviate psychological distress in people with neurological problems – for example, traumatic brain injury (Ashworth, Gracey & Gilbert, 2011), dementia (Collins, Gilligan & Poz, 2018) and multiple sclerosis (Nery-Hurwit, Yun & Ebbeck, 2018). However, self-compassion does not appear to have yet been studied among people with Parkinson's.

Individuals whose early experiences have supported the development of self-compassion may have different interpretations of, and responses to, experiences of stigma than those who have had limited opportunities to develop self-compassion. Wong, Knee, Neighbors and Zvolensky (2019) offer a theoretical framework for how self-compassion may protect against the effects of enacted stigma upon felt stigma and negative outcomes (such as psychological distress). Drawing upon the literature, Wong et al. (2019) suggest that there are cognitive, emotional, and social mechanisms through which self-compassion affects the processing of stigma, which are summarised here. Cognitively, an individual with higher self-compassion may be more able to accurately appraise the threats of stigmatisation and positively reframe experiences of enacted stigma, allowing them to feel safer and more content, and thus internalise stigma less. In line with the aforementioned conceptualisation by Gilbert (2009; 2010), Wong et al. (2019) also describe how self-compassion can facilitate the processing and regulation of emotions, allowing an individual to better cope with both enacted and felt stigma and therefore experience less distress. Finally, it is suggested that

more self-compassionate individuals are both more able to seek social support, and are more forgiving of stigma enactments, due to a sense of shared humanity and connection (given their increased capacity for affiliative emotions); this may in turn reduce anxieties about social rejection due to the stigmatised attribute (Wong et al., 2019). It is currently unclear whether this framework is applicable to people with Parkinson's, since this has not previously been investigated.

Consequently, the overall aim of this study was to investigate the relationships between the constructs of stigma, self-compassion, and psychological distress (as measured by depression, anxiety and stress scores) among people with Parkinson's. A survey was used to measure these constructs quantitatively. Correlation analyses were employed to assess the strength and direction of the relationships between these constructs, and mediation models were utilised to establish whether any relationships between self-compassion and psychological distress occurred via (i.e. were mediated by) experiences of stigma.

It was hoped that the findings of this study would be useful to professionals working with people with Parkinson's in clinical or community psychology contexts, by further developing theoretical understandings in this area. It was anticipated that the findings may have implications for clinical and therapeutic interventions, as well as providing evidence to support activism addressing stigmatised attitudes towards people with Parkinson's.

It was expected that individuals who experienced more stigma would have higher levels of depression, anxiety and stress, and that more self-compassionate individuals would experience lower levels of depression, anxiety and stress. Given Wong et al.'s framework, it was hypothesised that more self-compassionate individuals would be less threatened or concerned by enacted stigma (therefore might report less of it), and would not experience as much felt stigma as those who were lower in self-compassion. Finally, it was anticipated that both felt and enacted stigma would mediate the relationships between self-compassion and

depression, anxiety and stress.

#### Method

### **Design**

This was a cross-sectional, observational study. Quantitative data were collected by means of a series of self-report questionnaires. The main statistical model used to analyse the data was simple mediation, using Hayes' Process Tool (Hayes, 2018). The simple mediation model is used to investigate whether a relationship between a predictor variable and an outcome variable operates via a third (mediator) variable (Field, 2018; Hayes, 2018), as depicted in Figure 2.1. Mediation analysis tests four relationships, using linear regression: (i) does the predictor variable significantly predict the outcome variable (the direct effect, denoted by c' in the Figure)? (ii) does the predictor variable significantly predict the mediator variable (denoted by a)? (iii) when the predictor and mediator variables are both entered into the regression model, does the mediator variable significantly predict the outcome variable (denoted by b)? (iv) is there an indirect effect (denoted by ab) of the predictor upon the outcome variable via the mediator variable? Mediation is said to have occurred when the confidence interval of the indirect effect does not contain zero (Field, 2018; Hayes, 2018).

### < INSERT FIGURE 2.1 >

The predictor variable in each case was self-compassion. The mediator variables were felt and enacted stigma, and the outcome variables were scores on measures of depression, anxiety and stress. The six models tested are displayed in Figure 2.2.

### < INSERT FIGURE 2.2 >

### **Participants**

A total of 153 individuals completed the survey, however 15 were removed due to large amounts of missing data. The participants were therefore 138 individuals with a self-reported diagnosis of Parkinson's.

A priori power calculations were conducted to determine the sample size required. Fritz and MacKinnon (2007) provide empirical estimates of the sample sizes required in mediation analyses to achieve statistical power at 80%. They suggest that a bias-corrected bootstrapped mediation analysis with medium effect sizes between the independent and mediator variables ( $\alpha$ ) and the mediator and dependent variables ( $\beta$ ) ( $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  = 0.39) requires 71 participants to be adequately powered. It was also calculated that, to detect a moderate correlation ( $\rho$  = 0.3) and for  $\rho$ =0.05 at 80% power, a two-tailed Spearman's rho correlation requires 85 participants. Therefore, the sample of 138 participants was adequate.

Participants were recruited via advertisements on the Parkinson's UK website, in the Parkinson's UK online newsletter, and on the social media platform Twitter. Participants were asked to confirm that they met the inclusion criteria for the study, namely that they: had a diagnosis of Parkinson's; had had their diagnosis for a minimum of 6 months; and were aged 18 years or older. Four individuals contacted the researcher for paper copies of the questionnaires, which were posted along with stamped addressed envelopes for their return, however only one was returned. The remainder of the sample completed the questionnaires in online format.

#### **Procedure**

Early in the development of the study, consultation was sought with Patient and Public Involvement Volunteers from Parkinson's UK. Four volunteers provided feedback, via email, on the layout, content, accessibility and wording of the proposed materials (apart from

standardised measures). Adaptations were made accordingly, including changing the wording of the survey title and providing a greater level of detail about the background to the study. Once the materials had been developed and ethical approval had been granted (as below), the study was advertised on the Parkinson's UK website, in the Parkinson's UK online newsletter, and on the social media platform Twitter. The study was active between November 2018 and March 2019. Potential participants were presented with a link to an "Information for Participants" page (attached in *Section 4: Ethics and Appendices*) and invited to either complete an online survey (via the web-based survey tool Qualtrics), or to contact the lead researcher via phone, text or email to request a hard copy be posted to them, along with a stamped addressed envelope in which to return it.

### **Materials**

The materials for this study consisted of an online or paper-based survey comprising: an "Information for Participants" sheet; four questions to confirm eligibility to participate and informed consent; a demographic and clinical information questionnaire; a series of validated questionnaire measures; and a "Debrief" sheet (attached in *Section 4: Ethics and Appendices*). The demographic and clinical information questionnaire asked about age, gender, ethnic group or background, current place of living (country), current living arrangements, partnership status, employment status, time since diagnosis, and current treatment for Parkinson's. In addition to these questions, the Functional Status Questionnaire (FSQ; Jette et al., 1986) was used to situate the sample in terms of severity of physical symptoms.

### Validated measures.

Functional Status Questionnaire – physical function subscales. The FSQ - physical function subscales were included in the survey following the demographic and clinical information questions. The first subscale contains three items designed to assess functioning

in basic activities of daily living (ADLs), such as washing and dressing and moving around the home. The second subscale has six items and measures functioning in intermediate ADLs, such as completing housework and physical activities outside of the home. Items are scored from four (usually did with no difficulty) to one (usually did not do because of health), with the additional option, "usually did not do for other reasons", which scores zero. Scaled scores (between zero and 100) are derived from the total scores for each subscale, with higher scaled scores representing higher levels of functional ability. Each subscale has a "warning zone" cut-off score, above which their functional ability is deemed "good". In a systematic review of disability rating scales for people with Parkinson's (Shulman et al., 2016), this measure was recommended for both clinical and research use. Jette et al. (1986) report that it has good internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha = 0.92).

Self-Compassion Scale. The Self-Compassion Scale (SCS; Neff, 2003) is a 26-item validated measure of self-compassion, consisting of six subscales: self-kindness, self-judgment, common humanity, isolation, mindfulness and over-identification. Each item describes a self-compassion-related experience and is rated from one (almost never) to five (almost always). The self-judgement, isolation and over-identification subscales are reverse-coded. The total self-compassion score is the mean of the six subscale means, therefore is also a number between one and five. Neff (2003) reports that the scale's internal consistency is high (Cronbach's alpha = 0.92), as is the its test-retest reliability (r=93). Though initially validated using a student sample (Neff, 2003), this scale has been widely used in research with people with chronic illness (Pinto-Gouveia, Duarte, Matos & Fráguas, 2014; Sirois, Molnar & Hirsch, 2015), people with neurological conditions (Baker, Caswell & Eccles, 2019; Nery-Hurwit et al., 2018) and older adults (Allen, Goldwasser & Leary, 2012).

*Stigma Scale for Chronic Illness.* The Stigma Scale for Chronic Illness (SSCI; Rao et al., 2009) is a 24-item multiple-choice questionnaire, designed and validated for use with

people with Parkinson's (as well as other chronic illnesses). The first 13 items measure felt stigma, and the remaining 11 items measure enacted stigma. The total score measures overall stigma. Each item asks about a stigma-related experience, which is rated on a scale of one (never) to five (always). A higher total score indicates more stigma. Both the bifactor (felt and enacted stigma) and unifactor (overall stigma) models have been found to be valid (Rao et al., 2009). Cronbach's alpha was reported by the authors of the scale at 0.97, although this analysis was conducted on a draft version of the questionnaire with 26 items, rather than the final 24-item version. Cronbach's alphas were not available for the subscales.

Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale. The Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale — 21-item version (DASS-21; Lovibond & Lovibond, 1995) is a validated questionnaire designed for use with both clinical and non-clinical populations as a dimensional, rather than diagnostic, tool. The scale is comprised of 21 items, falling into three subscales: depression, anxiety and stress. Each item is rated for how much it applied over the last week, from zero (did not apply to me at all) to three (applied to me very much, or most of the time). A total score is generated for each subscale, with a higher score indicating a higher level of depression, anxiety or stress. Cronbach's alphas have been found to be 0.94 for depression, 0.87 for anxiety, and 0.91 for stress (Antony, Bieling, Cox, Enns, & Swinson, 1998). The DASS-21 is frequently used in studies with people with Parkinson's (e.g. Birtwell, Dubrow-Marshall, Dubrow-Marshall, Dubrow-Marshall, Duerden, & Dunn, 2017; Troeung, Egan & Gasson, 2014).

#### **Ethical Considerations**

Ethical approval was granted by the Lancaster University Faculty of Health and Medicine Research Ethics Committee (reference: FHMREC18052). An amendment was sought (and granted) in January 2019, such that the recruitment strategy could be expanded to include advertisement on Twitter. A letter confirming ethical approval is attached in *Section* 4: Ethics and Appendices. The research team at Parkinson's UK agreed that this was

sufficient for them to promote the research.

Efforts were made to ensure, as far as possible, that informed consent was given by every participant. Participants were asked to confirm that they had read and understood the "Information for Participants" and gave their consent for their data to be used in the research. This was deemed sufficient by the Research Ethics Committee. The potential for participants to experience distress as a result of completing the questionnaires was also considered. The details of organisations participants could contact for support in the event of distress were provided as part of the Information for Participants and Debrief sections of the survey. To protect participants' right to privacy, data were submitted anonymously and stored securely on password protected software.

### **Data Analysis**

The data were tabulated in the software IBM SPSS Statistics (Version 25.0). Participants with large amounts of missing data were removed from the dataset (four had missed at least one full measure, nine had missed more than one full measure and two had completed only the eligibility and consent questions). There were no participants with missing items within measures. Total and mean scores were calculated for the questionnaire measures as necessary. The data were visually and statistically inspected for outliers using a series of box plots and z-score calculations, with data points more than 3.29 standard deviations from the mean considered outliers (Field, 2018). One extreme data point in the "enacted stigma" variable was winsorized (replaced with the next highest score), to reduce the likelihood of biasing the results (Field, 2018).

Next, the data distributions were visually inspected for normality using histograms.

The "enacted stigma", "depression" and "stress" data were all skewed towards lower scores.

The assumptions of linearity and homoscedasticity of residuals were tested by visual inspection of a series of linear and multiple regression scatterplots, with standardised

residuals plotted against standardised predicted values, as outlined by Field (2018) and Kane and Ashbaugh (2017). The assumption of normality of error distributions was assessed using Q-Q plots (Field, 2018). All relationships appeared to respect the assumptions of linearity, homoscedasticity of residuals and normality of error distributions.

Cronbach's alphas for each of the questionnaire measures were calculated to assess their internal validity for the sample. Then, to assess the strength and direction of relationships between demographic, predictor, mediator and outcome variables, Spearman's rho correlation coefficients were calculated. This test was selected due to the non-normal distributions of questionnaire scores, meaning that the data did not fit the assumptions for a parametric test.

Finally, a series of mediation analyses were run using Hayes' Process Tool (Hayes, 2018), which employs a bias-corrected bootstrap model, enabling it to cope with non-normal data distributions. In each analysis, 5000 bootstrap samples were used to estimate the confidence intervals. In the first model, self-compassion was entered as the predictor variable, felt stigma as the mediator variable and depression as the outcome variable. This was repeated with anxiety and stress as outcomes. The same models were then repeated with enacted stigma entered as the mediator variable.

### Results

### **Demographic and Clinical Characteristics**

Of the 138 participants whose data were included in the study, 79 (57%) identified as female. The remaining 59 participants (43%) identified as male. The ages of participants ranged from 36 to 89 years, with a mean of 64 years. Most participants (92%) identified their ethnic group or background as "white British" and 83% reported living in England. The majority of participants (68%) reported being retired from work.

Participants had held their diagnosis of Parkinson's for between six months and 30

years, with a mean of five years (the distribution was skewed, with most participants having been diagnosed relatively recently). The majority of participants (93%) were taking prescribed oral medication to treat their Parkinson's symptoms.

There was a wide range of functional ability among the sample, as measured by FSQ scores. On the "basic activities of daily living" scale, 62% of participants scored above the "warning zone" cut-off score of 88, indicating a "good" level of basic functional ability. On the "intermediate activities of daily living" scale, 46% of participants scored above the "warning zone" cut-off score of 78.

The demographic and clinical characteristics of the sample which were measured on a continuous scale are summarised Table 2.1, and the categorical variables are presented in Table 2.2.

### < INSERT TABLES 2.1 AND 2.2 >

### **Descriptive Statistics and Internal Consistency for Standardised Measures**

Table 2.3 shows the means, standard deviations, ranges and Cronbach's alphas for the sample on each of the standardised measures. Of note, the mean total stigma score on the SCS among the sample was 49: somewhat higher than the normative sample mean (23% of whom had Parkinson's) of 42.7 (Rao et al., 2009). Mean scores on the DASS-21 variables fell in the "mild" range for depression and stress, and the "moderate" range for anxiety.

### < INSERT TABLE 2.3 >

The FSQ Basic ADLs subscale demonstrated adequate internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha = .74) and the Intermediate ADLs subscale showed good internal

consistency (Cronbach's alpha = .86). The SCS demonstrated excellent internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha = .92). The SSCI also demonstrated excellent internal consistency for each of the felt stigma, enacted stigma and total stigma scales (Cronbach's alpha = .93, .94 and .95 respectively). The depression and stress scales of the DASS-21 both showed excellent internal consistency, with Cronbach's alphas .96 and .92 respectively. However, the anxiety scale had a much lower Cronbach's alpha of .73. Further inspection revealed that the item "I experienced trembling (e.g., in the hands)" was reducing the internal consistency of the scale. When this item was removed, Cronbach's alpha increased to .80, indicating good internal consistency. Therefore, this item was removed for the subsequent analyses, meaning that the new possible range of scores was from zero to 19.

### **Correlational Analyses**

A correlation matrix (using Spearman's rho correlation coefficients) is displayed in Table 2.4. All tests were two-tailed.

### < INSERT TABLE 2.4 >

**Demographic and clinical variables and self-compassion.** There was a weak relationship between age and self-compassion ( $\rho$  =.212, p <.05) such that self-compassion increased with age.

**Demographic and clinical variables and stigma.** Age correlated weakly and negatively with felt, enacted and total stigma ( $\rho$  =-.305, -.383, -.354 respectively, all p <.01) such that higher age was associated with lower levels of reported stigma. Time since diagnosis was weakly and positively associated with experiences of enacted stigma ( $\rho$  =.174, p <.05) but was not not significantly associated with felt stigma.

Demographic variables and psychological distress. There were weak, negative

relationships between age and anxiety ( $\rho$  =-.172, p <0.05) and age and stress ( $\rho$  =.232, p <.01).

**FSQ scores.** The FSQ Basic ADLs scaled scores showed moderate, negative correlations with felt and total stigma scores ( $\rho$  =-.409, -.455 respectively, all p <.01), with lower functional abilities associated with more reported stigma. The FSQ Intermediate ADLs scaled scores showed a moderate, negative correlation with total stigma scores ( $\rho$  =-.403, p <.01). The FSQ scores correlated significantly but weakly with all other questionnaire scores, in the expected directions.

### Self-compassion, stigma and psychological distress.

Moderate to strong relationships were observed between self-compassion and depression, anxiety and stress ( $\rho$  =-.722, -.477, -.634 respectively, all p <.01). As expected, higher self-compassion was associated with lower levels of depression, anxiety and stress. A weak correlation was observed between self-compassion and enacted stigma ( $\rho$  =-.392, p <.01), while a moderate correlation was observed between self-compassion and felt stigma ( $\rho$  =-.555, p <.01). Again, these relationships were in the expected directions, with higher self-compassion associated with lower levels of stigma. As anticipated, there were moderate to strong correlations between felt stigma and depression, anxiety and stress ( $\rho$  =.648, .591, .610 respectively, all p <.01), with higher levels of felt stigma associated with higher levels of depression, anxiety and stress. Moderate relationships in the same direction were also observed between enacted stigma and the DASS-21 variables ( $\rho$  =.414, .489, .486 respectively, all p <.01).

## **Mediation Analyses**

Since the demographic and clinical variables (excluding the FSQ) correlated only weakly with the questionnaire measures ( $\rho$  <.40), they were not included as covariates in the models. Given the moderate associations between FSQ scores and the stigma scales, both

FSQ variables were initially entered as covariates. Upon further inspection, these variables did not make significant contributions in several of the regression models, nor did they have any great impact upon the findings. Therefore, they were not included in the final models tested. In each analysis, the predictor variable was self-compassion, the mediator variable was felt or enacted stigma and the outcome variable was depression, anxiety or stress (as shown in Figure 2.2). Five-thousand bias-corrected bootstrap samples were used to estimate the confidence intervals. The main findings of the mediation analyses are displayed in Figures 2.3 and 2.4 and the SPSS outputs are attached in Appendix 2B.

The mediating effects of felt stigma. Higher self-compassion was predictive of lower felt stigma (a =-8.414, p < .01), and lower felt stigma was subsequently predictive of lower depression scores (b = .181, p < .01). A 95% bias-corrected confidence interval based on 5000 bootstrap samples found the indirect effect (ab =-1.524) to be entirely below zero, CI= [-2.323, -.847], indicating a significant effect of self-compassion on depression through felt stigma. The size of the indirect effect was reported at -.201. There was also a direct effect of self-compassion on depression, with higher self-compassion predicting lower depression scores (c' =-4.024, p < .01).

In the next analysis, higher self-compassion was predictive of lower felt stigma (a = -8.414, p < .01), and lower felt stigma was subsequently predictive of lower anxiety scores (b = -165, p < .01). A 95% bias-corrected confidence interval based on 5000 bootstrap samples found the indirect effect (ab = -1.388) to be entirely below zero, CI= [-2.030, -.834], indicating a significant effect of self-compassion on anxiety through felt stigma, with an effect size of -.278. A direct effect of self-compassion on anxiety was also identified, with higher self-compassion predicting lower anxiety scores (-1.002, -1.002

Also, higher self-compassion predicted lower felt stigma (a= -8.414, p<.01), and lower felt stigma subsequently predicted lower stress scores (b= .158, p<.01). A 95% bias-

corrected confidence interval based on 5000 bootstrap samples found the indirect effect (ab = -1.325) to be entirely below zero, CI= [-2.177, -.607], indicating a significant effect of self-compassion on stress through felt stigma. The size of this effect was reported at -.180. A direct effect of self-compassion on stress was found, with higher self-compassion predicting lower stress scores (c' =-3.377, p < .01).

The mediating effects of enacted stigma. Higher self-compassion was predictive of less reported enacted stigma (a =-3.333, p <.01), and less reported enacted stigma was subsequently predictive of lower depression scores (b =.101, p <.05). A 95% bias-corrected confidence interval based on 5000 bootstrap samples found the indirect effect (ab =-.335) to be entirely below zero, CI= [-.767, -.003], indicating a significant effect of self-compassion on depression through enacted stigma, with an effect size of -.044. There was also a direct effect of self-compassion on depression on depression, with higher self-compassion predicting lower depression scores (c' =-5.213, p <.01).

Higher self-compassion was predictive of lower reported enacted stigma (a =-3.333, p <.01), and lower reported enacted stigma was subsequently predictive of lower anxiety scores (b =.190, p <.01). A 95% bias-corrected confidence interval based on 5000 bootstrap samples found the indirect effect (ab =-.633) to be entirely below zero, CI= [-1.0854, -.2609], indicating a significant effect of self-compassion on anxiety through enacted stigma. The size of this effect was reported at -.167. There was also found to be a direct effect of self-compassion on anxiety, with higher self-compassion predicting lower anxiety scores (c' =- 1.756, p <.01).

In the final analysis, higher self-compassion was predictive of less reported enacted stigma (a =-3.333, p <.01), and less reported enacted stigma was subsequently predictive of lower stress scores (b =.182, p <.01). A 95% bias-corrected confidence interval based on 5000 bootstrap samples found the indirect effect (ab =-.608) to be entirely below zero, CI= [-

1.121, -.183], indicating a significant effect of self-compassion on stress through enacted stigma, with an effect size of -.083. A direct effect of self-compassion on stress was also found, with higher self-compassion predicting lower stress scores (c' = -4.094, p < .01).

### < INSERT FIGURES 2.3 AND 2.4 >

#### Discussion

This study investigated the relationships between the variables of self-compassion, stigma (both felt and enacted) and psychological distress (depression, anxiety and stress) among people with Parkinson's. This was considered important in order to develop understandings of psychological and social conceptualisations of distress for people with Parkinson's, where neuro-biological understandings currently dominate.

Significant relationships were observed between self-compassion and the DASS-21 variables, with higher self-compassion associated with lower levels of depression, anxiety and stress. This fits with previous findings about such relationships in the wider population (MacBeth & Gumley, 2012). Also as expected in keeping with previous research (Ma et al., 2016; Simpson et al., 2014; Schrag et al., 2001), significant correlations were found between felt stigma and depression, anxiety and stress, with higher levels of felt stigma associated with higher levels of distress. Similarly, moderate relationships in the same direction were found between enacted stigma and depression, anxiety and stress. Providing support for Wong et al.'s (2019) framework, self-compassion was observed to significantly correlate with both stigma variables, with higher self-compassion associated with less reported stigma.

Moreover, the two stigma variables were found to mediate the relationships between self-compassion and the three outcome variables - depression, anxiety and stress. All six of the mediation analyses indicated significant indirect effects via the mediators of felt and

enacted stigma. The extent to which participants were self-compassionate was predictive of the degree of stigma they reported, which in turn was predictive of their levels of psychological distress. This provides support for Wong et al.'s (2019) framework for the effects of self-compassion on how stigma is experienced and internalised, and demonstrates the applicability of this framework to people with Parkinson's.

Part of the relationship between self-compassion and psychological distress among people with Parkinson's appears to occur via the internalisation of stigma; people who are higher in self-compassion experience less felt stigma, and therefore experience lower levels of distress. If individuals who are higher in self-compassion are less prone to feelings of shame (Gilbert, 2009) then it follows that they may be less likely to attribute negative Parkinson's-related stereotypes to themselves, or internalise potentially shaming identities. Lesser experiences of felt stigma are then associated with lower levels of psychological distress, as supported by previous research with people with Parkinson's (Ma et al., 2016).

The mediating effect of enacted stigma appears less straightforward, since self-compassion is unlikely to predict actual enacted stigma. Rather, it may predict how a person is able to process experiences of enacted stigma (Wong et al., 2019). As such, people with Parkinson's who are higher in self-compassion may experience less enacted stigma (even when they are exposed to it) because they cognitively appraise experiences of enacted stigma less negatively (Wong et al., 2019). Meanwhile, those who are less self-compassionate may be more hypervigilant to potential threats (Gilbert, 2010; Wong, 2019), with enacted stigma being a social threat associated with having Parkinson's. These individuals may therefore be more likely to attend to and ruminate on enacted stigma. Further, less self-compassionate individuals may be less able to self-soothe (Gilbert, 2009; 2010; 2014) when confronted with enacted stigma, which may have contributed to the higher levels of distress for the less self-compassionate participants in this study.

Notably, effect sizes were higher for felt stigma as a mediator than for enacted stigma, indicating that, for people with Parkinson's, the internalisation of stigma is more important in the relationship between self-compassion and distress than the experience of enacted stigma. This expands upon the findings of previous research that felt stigma is more strongly associated with psychological distress than experiences of enacted stigma (Ma et al., 2016).

### **Limitations and Considerations**

A key limitation of this study was the heterogeneity of the sample. A large majority of participants described their ethnic background as white British, with only one participant reporting that they did not identify as white. Although Parkinson's may be slightly more prevalent among people who are white than people from black or Asian backgrounds (Van Den Eeden et al., 2003), the sample in this study was disproportionately white, therefore may not represent the totality of experiences of people with Parkinson's. Additionally, although Parkinson's is more common among men, at an incidence ratio of three men to every two women (Wooten, Currie, Bovbjerg, Lee & Patrie, 2004), in this study the majority of participants (57%) identified as female. However, the sample was also relatively young, with a mean age of 64 years, at which sex ratios for incidence are more equal (Moisan et al., 2016). The relatively young average age of the sample may also account for the level of functional ability among the sample and the fact that no participants reported living in sheltered housing, residential homes or care homes, despite this being fairly common for people with Parkinson's in the UK (Porter, Henry, Gray & Walker, 2010). The younger age of the sample may be attributable to the online advertising of the survey. Although the option was given to receive a paper copy of the survey in the post, younger people are more likely than older people to participate in research advertised on the internet and social media (Topolovec-Vranic & Natarajan, 2016), therefore the recruitment strategy was likely to be biased. Additionally, it is assumed that participants had some level of engagement with

Parkinson's-related websites or newsletters. It might be argued that individuals with higher levels of internalised stigma and/or psychological distress would be less likely to access such forums or participate in Parkinson's-related research, due to shame, avoidance or low motivation. Therefore, this research may demonstrate a bias towards the experiences of people with Parkinson's who have relatively high levels of psychological wellbeing and relatively low levels of internalised stigma, and who identify with and participate in Parkinson's related forums, which may have affected the findings of the study. Overall, the sample in this study was not diverse, and therefore the findings may not be generalisable to all people with Parkinson's.

A further possible limitation of this study was the use of the DASS-21 as an outcome measure for anxiety. Johnson et al. (2016) examined the factor structure of the DASS-21 for people with Parkinson's and found that, while the depression and stress subscales fit the factor structures well, the anxiety subscale loaded poorly onto the factor structure and had problems with internal consistency. Similarly, in the current study, it was required that an item was removed in order to bring internal consistency to an acceptable level, and even with the new six-item subscale Cronbach's alpha was notably lower than the other two subscales. Johnson et al. (2016) suggest that this problem may be related to the emphasis within the subscale upon physiological symptoms of anxiety, which may have a great deal of overlap with other difficulties experienced by people with Parkinson's. In the current study, the removed item asked about shaking of the hands, which people with Parkinson's might be more likely than other populations to report, and which may not be associated with anxiety at all. Consequently, the findings of this study relating to anxiety should be interpreted cautiously.

Hayes (2018) highlights that the use of mediation analysis with correlational or observational data has limitations in how the findings can be interpreted, since cause and

effect cannot be inferred. Therefore, despite the significant findings of this study, it cannot be assumed that having more self-compassion *causes* people with Parkinson's to experience less stigma, which causes them to experience less distress. Rather, it appears that there are interactions between each of the variables such that the relationships between self-compassion and depression, anxiety and stress operate via their relationships with experiences of felt and enacted stigma. It may be that some of the relationships identified in this study are bi-directional (for example, that people who are exposed to more enacted stigma become less self-compassionate), or that there are additional factors which mediate or moderate the relationships found. There may also be underlying factors contributing to the relationships which were not controlled for. For example, people with lower levels of education have been found to demonstrate less self-compassion (López, Sanderman, Ranchor & Schroevers, 2018).

### **Clinical Implications**

The findings of this study may have implications for direct psychological interventions with people with Parkinson's who are experiencing distress. The finding that self-compassion predicted the amount of felt and enacted stigma participants experienced, and that this in turn predicted the degree of psychological distress, suggests that interventions aimed at increasing self-compassion may be helpful for people with Parkinson's. That there were significant (direct and indirect) effects of self-compassion on all three outcome variables – depression, anxiety and stress – suggests that the impact of such interventions could be beneficial across a range of presenting psychological difficulties. There is a growing evidence base for the use of Compassion-Focussed Therapy, which has a strong focus on reducing experiences of shame and developing feelings of compassion towards the self and others (Gilbert, 2010), for reducing distress among people with neurological illness and injury (Ashworth, Gracey & Gilbert, 2011; Collins, Gilligan & Poz, 2018; Nery-Hurwit, Yun

& Ebbeck, 2018). It may be hypothesised, based on the findings of this study, that this approach might also be helpful for people with Parkinson's - allowing them to process enacted stigma differently and internalise it less, or respond to felt stigma in a more resilient way through more effective self-soothing, leading to increased wellbeing.

Although approaches aimed at increasing self-compassion at the individual level may be helpful for reducing distress, it is important to also consider how the wider social and relational context contributes to distress for people with Parkinson's (Simpson et al., 2013). Enacted stigma is clearly a societal problem, being defined as the attitudes and behaviour of others in society on the basis of some socially discredited attribute (Scambler, 1989). The findings of this study suggest that experiences of enacted stigma and experiences of psychological distress are interrelated for people with Parkinson's. Thus, there is clear scope for interventions at the societal level aimed at reducing stigma against people with Parkinson's, which may in turn have a positive effect on psychological wellbeing. Heijnders and Van Der Meij (2006) reviewed a number of interventions for reducing health-related stigma. They suggest that interventions should take place at multiple levels – interpersonally (in the person with the stigmatised attribute's immediate relational environment), organisationally, in the community, and at government and structural levels. Based on Heijnders and Van Der Meij's (2006) findings, types of stigma-reduction interventions for people with Parkinson's might include providing education and training, increasing the visibility of people with Parkinson's in communities, advocacy programmes, and lobbying for the rights of people with Parkinson's.

Therefore, the findings of this study may be relevant to the development of individualised and wider societal interventions with the aim of improving the psychological wellbeing of people with Parkinson's. Clinical psychologists are well-placed to design and deliver both types of intervention, in line with BPS guidance (Macniven & Gaskill, 2009).

### **Research Implications**

It may be useful to replicate this study with more diverse samples to increase the generalisability of the findings. Broadening the recruitment approach to community locations in addition to the online survey may ensure that more older people are able to take part (Topolovec-Vranic & Natarajan, 2016), while the cultural/ethnic sensitivity of the recruitment strategy might be improved with the assistance of cultural consultants (Gallagher-Thompson et al., 2004). Further research might build upon the current study by considering the interaction of the mediating variables of felt and enacted stigma, since this would provide further information about how enacted stigma becomes internalised.

There does not appear to be any published research which considers the role of self-compassion for people with Parkinson's. Given the expanding evidence-base for compassion-focused psychological interventions and importance of self-compassion for wellbeing more generally, this may be an important area for further exploration in future research. For example, studies might explore the effectiveness of compassion-focused interventions for people diagnosed with Parkinson's. Questions might include how group-based interventions (where there may be chance to develop a sense of shared humanity with others: a key component of compassion) might compare to individualised interventions; and how compassion-focussed approaches might be adapted to the cognitive needs of people with Parkinson's.

As noted previously, there are likely to be other factors apart from stigma which mediate or moderate the relationship between self-compassion and psychological distress for people with Parkinson's. A better understanding of this relationship might be useful for guiding interventions to support people with Parkinson's who are experiencing psychological distress.

### **Conclusions**

Mediation analyses indicated that part of the relationship between self-compassion and psychological distress occurs via the internalisation of stigma: people with Parkinson's who are higher in self-compassion experience less felt stigma, and therefore experience lower levels of distress. Self-compassion is unlikely to predict actual enacted stigma, but may predict how likely a person is to notice or report it. Therefore, people with Parkinson's who are higher in self-compassion may experience less enacted stigma (even when they are exposed to it), and therefore experience lower levels of distress. These findings may be relevant to the development of individualised and societal interventions with the aim of improving the psychological wellbeing of people with Parkinson's.

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Figure 2.1

The Simple Mediation Model

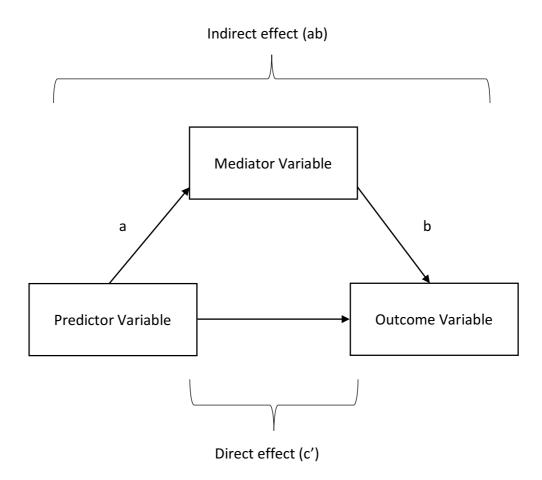


Figure 2.2

Mediation Models Tested

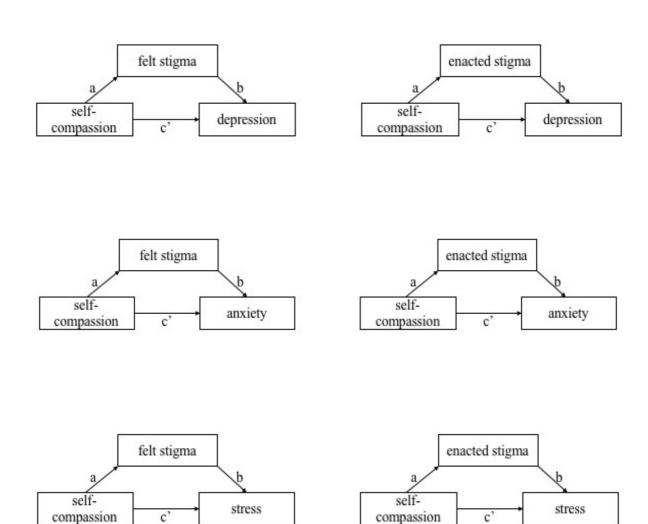
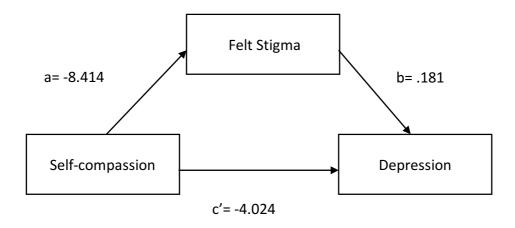
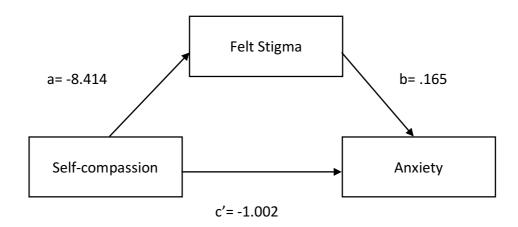


Figure 2.3

Mediation Models (Felt Stigma)





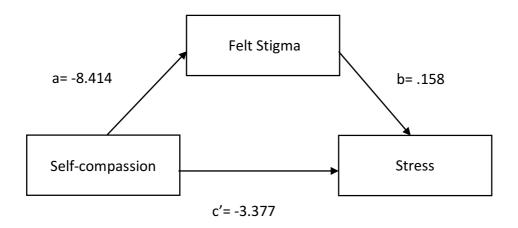
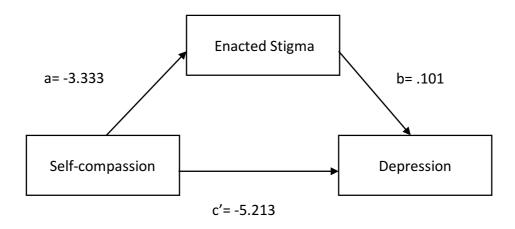
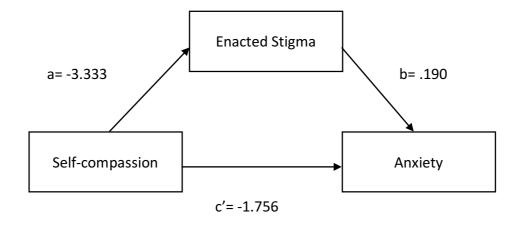


Figure 2.4

Mediation Models (Enacted Stigma)





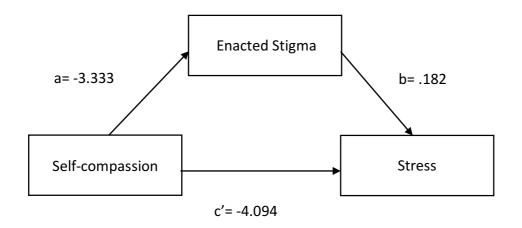


Table 2.1

Demographic and Clinical Characteristics of Sample: Continuous Variables

Variable	Mean (SD)	Range
Age (in years)	64.35 (9.43)	36-89
Time since diagnosis (in years)	5.11 (4.76)	0-30
FSQ subscale scores:		
Basic activities of daily living	84.14 (16.71)	33.33-100
Intermediate activities of daily living	72.83 (24.53)	0-100

Note. All values rounded to two decimal places; SD = Standard deviation; FSQ = Functional Status Questionnaire.

Table 2.2

Demographic and Clinical Characteristics of Sample: Categorical Variables

Gender:		
Female	79	57.25
Male	59	42.75
Ethnic group or background:		
White British	127	92.03
White Irish	3	2.17
White European	2	1.45
White American	2	1.45
White Traveller	1	.72
Sri-Lankan	1	.72
Did not disclose	2	1.45
Location:		
England	115	83.33
Scotland	8	5.80
Wales	4	2.90
USA	4	2.90
Northern Ireland	3	2.17
Spain	1	.72
European country outside of UK (not specified)	1	.72
Sri-Lanka	1	.72
Did not disclose	1	.72
Living arrangements:		
With spouse/partner/family/others	109	78.99
Alone	27	19.57
With a live-in carer	1	.72
Did not disclose	1	.72
Partnership status:		
Spouse or partner, co-habiting	102	73.91
Single	26	18.84
Spouse or partner, living separately	9	6.52

Widowed	1	.72
Employment status:		
Retired	94	68.12
Currently unable to work or on sick leave	13	9.42
Employed (full-time)	13	9.42
Self-employed	8	5.80
Employed (part-time)	7	5.07
In full-time education	2	1.45
Unemployed	1	.72
Current treatment for Parkinson's symptoms*:		
Prescribed oral medication	128	92.75
No treatment	7	5.07
DBS	4	2.90
Apomorphine/Duodopa Pump	4	2.90
Prescribed exercise programmes	2	1.45
CBD Oil	1	.72

Note. Percentages rounded to two decimal places; \*Some participants were using more than one type of treatment therefore percentages do not sum to 100; DBS = Deep Brain Stimulation.

Table 2.3

Descriptive Statistics and Internal Consistency for Standardised Measures

Measure	Mean (SD)	Range	Cronbach's alpha
FSQ scaled scores:			
Basic ADLs	84.14 (16.71)	33.33-100	.74
Intermediate ADLs	72.83 (24.53)	0-100	.86
SSCI total scores:			
Felt stigma	31.33 (11.37)	13-63	.93
Enacted stigma	17.67 (7.57)	10-41	.94
Total stigma	49.00 (17.48)	24-96	.95
SCS scaled score	3.07 (.76)	1.25-4.78	.92
DASS-21 total scores:			
Depression	6.47 (5.78)	0-21	.96
Anxiety	5.85 (4.05)	0-18	.73
Anxiety (item 7 removed)	4.38 (3.79)	0-17	.80
Stress	7.53 (5.60)	0-20	.92

Note. All values rounded to two decimal places; SD = Standard deviation; FSQ = Functional Status Questionnaire; ADLs = activities of daily living; SSCI = Stigma Scale for Chronic Illness; SCS = Self-Compassion Scale; DASS-21 = Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale.

Table 2.4

Spearman's Rho Correlations Between Variables

	1 Age	2 Years since diagnosis	3 FSQ Basic ADLs scaled	4 FSQ Intermediate ADLs scaled	5 SSCI Felt Stigma total	6 SSCI Enacted Stigma total	7 SSCI Total Stigma	8 SCS scaled	9 DASS-21 Depression total	10 DASS-21 Anxiety total	11 DASS-21 Stress total
1	-	.869*	088	134	305**	383**	354**	.212*	137	172*	232**
2	-	-	330**	280**	.079	.174*	.133	002	.049	.131	.065
3	-	-	-	.701**	409**	388**	455**	.179*	218*	363**	263**
4	-	-	-	-	379**	346**	403**	.105	207*	386**	257**
5	-	-	-	-	-	.716**	.960**	555**	.648**	.591**	.610**
6	-	-	-	-	-	-	.865**	392**	.414**	.489**	.486**
7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	520**	.593**	.597**	.600**
8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	722**	477**	634**
9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.666**	.711**
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.680**

Note. All correlation coefficients rounded to three decimal places; SD = Standard deviation; FSQ = Functional Status Questionnaire; ADLs = activities of daily living; SSCI = Stigma Scale for Chronic Illness; SCS = Self-Compassion Scale; DASS-21 = Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale; DASS-21 Anxiety total used 6-item subscale to increase internal consistency; \*p<0.05; \*\*p<0.01.

## Appendix 2A

## Author Guidelines for the British Journal of Health Psychology

The aim of the British Journal of Health Psychology is to provide a forum for high quality research, including Registered Reports, relating to health and illness. The scope of the journal includes all areas of health psychology as outlined in the Journal Overview.

The types of paper invited are:

- papers reporting original empirical investigations, using either quantitative or qualitative methods, including reports of interventions in clinical and non-clinical populations;
- theoretical papers which report analyses on established theories in health psychology;
- we particularly welcome review papers, which should aim to provide systematic overviews,
  evaluations and interpretations of research in a given field of health psychology (narrative reviews will only be considered for editorials or important theoretical discourses); and
  methodological papers dealing with methodological issues of particular relevance to health

psychology.

Authors who are interested in submitting papers that do not fit into these categories are advised to contact the editors who would be very happy to discuss the potential submission.

All papers published in The British Journal of Health Psychology are eligible for Panel A: Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience in the Research Excellence Framework (REF).

#### 1. Circulation

The circulation of the Journal is worldwide. Papers are invited and encouraged from authors throughout the world.

## 2. Length

Papers describing quantitative research (including reviews with quantitative analyses) should be no more than 5000 words (excluding the abstract, reference list, tables and figures). Papers describing qualitative research (including reviews with qualitative analyses) should be no more than 6000 words (including quotes, whether in the text or in tables, but excluding the abstract, tables, figures and references). In exceptional cases the Editor retains discretion to publish papers beyond this length where the clear and concise expression of the scientific content requires greater length (e.g., explanation of a new theory or a substantially new method). Authors must contact the Editor prior to submission in such a case.

#### 3. Editorial policy

The Journal receives a large volume of papers to review each year, and in order to make the process as efficient as possible for authors and editors alike, all papers are initially examined by the Editors to ascertain whether the article is suitable for full peer review. In order to qualify for full review, papers must meet the following criteria:

- the content of the paper falls within the scope of the Journal
- the methods and/or sample size are appropriate for the questions being addressed
- research with student populations is appropriately justified
- the word count is within the stated limit for the Journal (i.e. 5000 words, or 6,000 words for qualitative papers)

## 4. Submission and reviewing

All manuscripts must be submitted via Editorial Manager. The Journal operates a policy of anonymous (double blind) peer review. We also operate a triage process in which submissions that are out of scope or otherwise inappropriate will be rejected by the editors without external peer review to avoid unnecessary delays. Before submitting, please read the terms and conditions of submission and the declaration of competing interests. You may also like to use the Submission Checklist to help your prepare your paper.

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- For articles containing original scientific research, a structured abstract of up to 250 words should be included with the headings: Objectives, Design, Methods, Results, Conclusions. Review articles should use these headings: Purpose, Methods, Results, Conclusions. As the abstract is often the most widely visible part of your paper, it is important that it conveys succinctly all the most important features of your study. You can save words by writing short, direct sentences. Helpful hints about writing the conclusions to abstracts can be found here.
- Statement of Contribution: All authors are required to provide a clear summary of 'what is already known on this subject?' and 'what does this study add?'. Authors should identify existing research knowledge relating to the specific research question and give a summary of the new knowledge added by your study. Under each of these headings, please provide 2-3 (maximum) clear outcome statements (not process statements of what the paper does); the statements for 'what does this study add?' should be presented as bullet points of no more than 100 characters each. The Statement of Contribution should be a separate file.
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- The main document must be anonymous. Please do not mention the authors' names or affiliations (including in the Method section) and always refer to any previous work in the third person.
- Tables should be typed in double spacing, each on a separate page with a self-explanatory title. Tables should be comprehensible without reference to the text. They should be placed at the end of the manuscript but they must be mentioned in the text.
- Figures can be included at the end of the document or attached as separate files, carefully labelled in initial capital/lower case lettering with symbols in a form consistent with text use.

  Unnecessary background patterns, lines and shading should be avoided. Captions should be

listed on a separate sheet. The resolution of digital images must be at least 300 dpi. All figures must be mentioned in the text.

• For reference citations, please use APA style. Particular care should be taken to ensure that references are accurate and complete. Give all journal titles in full and provide doi numbers where possible for journal articles. For example:

Author, A., Author, B., & Author, C. (1995). Title of book. City, Country: Publisher.

Author, A. (2013). Title of journal article. Name of journal, 1, 1-16. doi: 10.1111/bjep.12031

- SI units must be used for all measurements, rounded off to practical values if appropriate, with the imperial equivalent in parentheses.
- In normal circumstances, effect size should be incorporated.
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We strongly encourage submission of protocol papers or trial registration documents, where these are in the public domain, to allow reviewers to assess deviations from these protocols. This will result in reviewers being unblinded to author identity.

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Authors for whom English is a second language may choose to have their manuscript professionally edited before submission to improve the English. A list of independent suppliers of editing services can be found in Author Services. All services are paid for and arranged by the author, and use of one of these services does not guarantee acceptance or preference for publication.

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## Appendix 2B

## **SPSS Outputs for Mediation Analyses**

## **Key:**

X = predictor variable

Y = outcome variable

M = mediator variable

SELFCOMP = self-compassion

INTSTIGM = felt stigma

ENACSTIG = enacted stigma

D\_TOTAL = DASS-21 depression score

A\_NO\_7 = DASS-21 anxiety score (without item 7)

 $S_{TOTAL} = DASS-21$  stress score

## Analysis 1: self-compassion, felt stigma and depression

Standardized coefficients

\*\*\*\*\*\* PROCESS Procedure for SPSS Version 3.3 \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* Written by Andrew F. Hayes, Ph.D. www.afhayes.com Documentation available in Hayes (2018). www.guilford.com/p/hayes3 Model: 4 Y:D TOTAL X: SELFCOMP M: INTSTIGM Sample Size: 138 \* **OUTCOME VARIABLE: INTSTIGM** Model Summary R R-sq **MSE** F df1 df2 63.0254 .0000 .5627 .3167 88.9451 1.0000 136.0000 Model coeff LLCI **ULCI** se t p .0000 17.0667 50.5024 63.7399 constant 57.1211 3.3469 .0000 -10.5100 **SELFCOMP** -8.4141 1.0599 -7.9389 -6.3181 Standardized coefficients coeff **SELFCOMP** -.5627 \* **OUTCOME VARIABLE:** D TOTAL Model Summary R-sa **MSE** F df1 df2 R p .7870 .6194 12.9023 109.8471 2.0000 135.0000 .0000 Model coeff LLCI ULCI se t p .0000 8.6655 constant 13.1340 2.2595 5.8129 17.6025 0000. -4.9901 -3.0586 **SELFCOMP** -4.0243 .4883 -8.2411 **INTSTIGM** .0327 5.5464 .0000 .1811 .1166 .2457

coeff

SELFCOMP -.5294

INTSTIGM .3563

OUTCOME VARIABLE:

D\_TOTAL

Model Summary

R R-sq MSE F df1 df2 p .7298 .5327 15.7260 155.0083 1.0000 136.0000 .0000

Model

coeff se t p LLCI ULCI .0000 23.4810 1.4073 16.6848 20.6979 26.2641 constant SELFCOMP -5.5485 .4457 -12.4502 .0000 -6.4298 -4.6672

Standardized coefficients

coeff

SELFCOMP -.7298

\*\*\*\*\*\* TOTAL, DIRECT, AND INDIRECT EFFECTS OF X ON Y \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Total effect of X on Y

Direct effect of X on Y

Indirect effect(s) of X on Y:

Effect BootSE BootLLCI BootULCI

INTSTIGM -1.5241 .3726 -2.3225 -.8470

Partially standardized indirect effect(s) of X on Y:

Effect BootSE BootLLCI BootULCI

INTSTIGM -.2637 .0635 -.3989 -.1511

Completely standardized indirect effect(s) of X on Y:

Effect BootSE BootLLCI BootULCI

INTSTIGM -.2005 .0476 -.3006 -.1140

\*\*\*\*\* BOOTSTRAP RESULTS FOR REGRESSION MODEL PARAMETERS \*\*\*\*\*\*

**OUTCOME VARIABLE:** 

**INTSTIGM** 

Coeff BootMean BootSE BootLLCI BootULCI constant 57.1211 57.1333 3.6753 49.8322 64.3046

SELFCOMP -8.4141 -8.4277 1.1854 -10.7844 -6.1300

-----

OUTCOME VARIABLE: D TOTAL

	Coeff I	BootMean	<b>BootSE</b>	BootLLCI	BootULCI
constant	13.1340	13.0842	2.6989	7.9323	18.3038
SELFCOMP	-4.0243	-4.0142	.5899	-5.1615	-2.8772
INTSTIGM	.1811	.1813	.0338	.1155	.2469

Level of confidence for all confidence intervals in output: 95.0000

Number of bootstrap samples for percentile bootstrap confidence intervals: 5000

NOTE: Variables names longer than eight characters can produce incorrect output. Shorter variable names are recommended.

----- END MATRIX -----

## Analysis 2: self-compassion, felt stigma and anxiety

INTSTIGM

.1649

.0270

6.1098

.0000

.1115

.2183

Run MATRIX procedure:
****** PROCESS Procedure for SPSS Version 3.3 *************
Written by Andrew F. Hayes, Ph.D. www.afhayes.com Documentation available in Hayes (2018). www.guilford.com/p/hayes3
**************************************
Sample Size: 138
**************************************
Model Summary  R R-sq MSE F df1 df2 p  .5627 .3167 88.9451 63.0254 1.0000 136.0000 .0000
Model
coeff         se         t         p         LLCI         ULCI           constant         57.1211         3.3469         17.0667         .0000         50.5024         63.7399           SELFCOMP         -8.4141         1.0599         -7.9389         .0000         -10.5100         -6.3181
Standardized coefficients
coeff SELFCOMP5627
**************************************
Model Summary  R R-sq MSE F df1 df2 p  .6295 .3963 8.8120 44.3163 2.0000 135.0000 .0000
Model coeff se t p LLCI ULCI
constant 2.2898 1.8673 1.2263 .2222 -1.4031 5.9826 SELFCOMP -1.0019 .4036 -2.4827 .0143 -1.80002038

Standardized coefficients coeff -.2008 **SELFCOMP** INTSTIGM .4942 **OUTCOME VARIABLE:** A NO 7 Model Summary R R-sq MSE F df1 df2 .0000 .4790 .2294 11.1659 40.4872 1.0000 136.0000 Model coeff LLCI ULCI se t p 11.7093 1.1859 9.8741 0000. 9.3642 14.0544 constant **SELFCOMP** -2.3894 .3755 -6.3630 .0000 -3.1320 -1.6468 Standardized coefficients coeff SELFCOMP -.4790 \*\*\*\*\*\* TOTAL, DIRECT, AND INDIRECT EFFECTS OF X ON Y \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* Total effect of X on Y Effect LLCI ULCI c ps se t p c cs -.6300 -.4790 -2.3894 .3755 -6.3630 .0000 -3.1320 -1.6468 Direct effect of X on Y Effect ULCI c' ps c' cs se p LLCI .0143 -1.8000 -1.0019 .4036 -2.4827 -.2008 -.2038 -.2642 Indirect effect(s) of X on Y: BootSE BootLLCI BootULCI Effect INTSTIGM -1.3875 .3030 -2.0301 -.8341 Partially standardized indirect effect(s) of X on Y: BootSE BootLLCI BootULCI Effect INTSTIGM -.3658 .0675 -.5076 -.2419 Completely standardized indirect effect(s) of X on Y: BootSE BootLLCI BootULCI Effect **INTSTIGM** -.2781 .0498 -.3762 -.1843

\*\*\*\*\* BOOTSTRAP RESULTS FOR REGRESSION MODEL PARAMETERS \*\*\*\*\*

OUTCOME VARIABLE:

**INTSTIGM** 

	Coeff	BootMean	BootSE	BootLLCI	BootULCI
constant	57.1211	57.1417	3.7162	49.6263	64.3700
SELFCOMP	-8.4141	-8.4305	1.1968	-10.7747	-6.0317

-----

## **OUTCOME VARIABLE:**

A\_NO\_7

	Coeff	BootMean	BootSE	BootLLCI	BootULCI
constant	2.2898	2.2983	1.7573	-1.2399	5.7060
SELFCOMP	-1.0019	-1.0007	.4270	-1.8305	1557
INTSTIGM	.1649	.1643	.0277	.1099	.2198

Level of confidence for all confidence intervals in output: 95.0000

Number of bootstrap samples for percentile bootstrap confidence intervals: 5000

NOTE: Variables names longer than eight characters can produce incorrect output. Shorter variable names are recommended.

----- END MATRIX -----

## Analysis 3: self-compassion, felt stigma and stress

Run MATRIX procedure: \*\*\*\*\*\* PROCESS Procedure for SPSS Version 3.3 \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* Written by Andrew F. Hayes, Ph.D. www.afhayes.com Documentation available in Hayes (2018). www.guilford.com/p/hayes3 \* Model: 4 Y:S TOTAL X: SELFCOMP M: INTSTIGM Sample Size: 138 **OUTCOME VARIABLE: INTSTIGM** Model Summary F df1 df2 R R-sq MSE .0000 .5627 .3167 88.9451 63.0254 1.0000 136.0000 Model coeff LLCI ULCI se t p 0000. 50.5024 constant 57.1211 3.3469 17.0667 63.7399 -7.9389 **SELFCOMP** -8.4141 1.0599 .0000 -10.5100 -6.3181 Standardized coefficients coeff SELFCOMP -.5627 \* **OUTCOME VARIABLE:** S TOTAL Model Summary **MSE** F R R-sq df1 df2 .0000 .6912 .4778 16.6040 61.7577 2.0000 135.0000 Model

	coeff	se	t	p	LLCI	ULCI
constant	12.9465	2.5632	5.0510	.0000	7.8774	18.0156
SELFCOMP	-3.3767	.5540	-6.0956	.0000	-4.4723	-2.2812
INTSTIGM	.1575	.0370	4.2517	.0000	.0842	.2308

Standardized coefficients

coeff SELFCOMP -.4586

INTSTIGM .3199

OUTCOME VARIABLE:

S\_TOTAL

Model Summary

R R-sq MSE F dfl df2 p .6386 .4079 18.6889 93.6761 1.0000 136.0000 .0000

Model

coeff se t p LLCI ULCI .0000 21.9443 1.5342 14.3036 18.9103 24.9782 constant -4.7021.4858 -9.6786 .0000 -5.6629 **SELFCOMP** -3.7414

Standardized coefficients

coeff

SELFCOMP -.6386

\*\*\*\*\*\* TOTAL, DIRECT, AND INDIRECT EFFECTS OF X ON Y \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Total effect of X on Y

Effect se t p LLCI ULCI c\_ps c\_cs -4.7021 .4858 -9.6786 .0000 -5.6629 -3.7414 -.8400 -.6386

Direct effect of X on Y

Effect se t p LLCI ULCI c'\_ps c'\_cs -3.3767 .5540 -6.0956 .0000 -4.4723 -2.2812 -.6033 -.4586

Indirect effect(s) of X on Y:

Effect BootSE BootLLCI BootULCI

INTSTIGM -1.3254 .4037 -2.1774 -.6074

Partially standardized indirect effect(s) of X on Y:

Effect BootSE BootLLCI BootULCI

INTSTIGM -.2368 .0714 -.3876 -.1091

Completely standardized indirect effect(s) of X on Y:

Effect BootSE BootLLCI BootULCI

INTSTIGM -.1800 .0536 -.2918 -.0835

\*\*\*\*\* BOOTSTRAP RESULTS FOR REGRESSION MODEL PARAMETERS \*\*\*\*\*\*

**OUTCOME VARIABLE:** 

**INTSTIGM** 

	Coeff	BootMean	BootSE	BootLLCI	BootULCI
constant	57.1211	57.0640	3.6644	49.8280	64.1158
SELFCOMP	-8.4141	-8.4060	1.1784	-10.7080	-6.0885

-----

## OUTCOME VARIABLE: S TOTAL

	Coeff	BootMean	BootSE	BootLLCI	BootULCI
constant	12.9465	12.9511	3.1138	6.5930	18.7329
SELFCOMP	-3.3767	-3.3780	.6412	-4.5788	-2.0597
INTSTIGM	.1575	.1571	.0415	.0781	.2401

Level of confidence for all confidence intervals in output: 95.0000

Number of bootstrap samples for percentile bootstrap confidence intervals: 5000

NOTE: Variables names longer than eight characters can produce incorrect output. Shorter variable names are recommended.

----- END MATRIX -----

## Analysis 4: self-compassion, enacted stigma and depression

Run MATRIX procedure:

\*\*\*\*\*\* PROCESS Procedure for SPSS Version 3.3 \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Written by Andrew F. Hayes, Ph.D. www.afhayes.com Documentation available in Hayes (2018). www.guilford.com/p/hayes3

\*

Model: 4

Y:D\_TOTAL X:SELFCOMP M:ENACSTIG

Sample Size: 138

\*

**OUTCOME VARIABLE:** 

**ENACSTIG** 

**Model Summary** 

R R-sq MSE F df1 df2 p .3346 .1119 51.3276 17.1403 1.0000 136.0000 .0001

Model

coeff LLCI **ULCI** se t p 0000. constant 27.8928 2.5425 10.9706 22.8648 32.9207 **SELFCOMP** -3.3333 .8051 -4.1401 .0001 -4.9255 -1.7411

Standardized coefficients

coeff

SELFCOMP -.3346

\*

**OUTCOME VARIABLE:** 

D TOTAL

Model Summary

R R-sq MSE F dfl df2 p .7403 .5481 15.3199 81.8611 2.0000 135.0000 .0000

Model

coeff t LLCI **ULCI** se p 10.8423 .0000 constant 20.6769 1.9071 16.9053 24.4485 .0000 -4.2903**SELFCOMP** -5.2134 .4668 -11.1694 -6.1365 **ENACSTIG** .1005 .0468 2.1459 .0337 .0079 .1932

Standardized coefficients

coeff

SELFCOMP -.6858 ENACSTIG .1318

OUTCOME VARIABLE:

 $D_TOTAL$ 

Model Summary

R R-sq MSE F df1 df2 p .7298 .5327 15.7260 155.0083 1.0000 136.0000 .0000

Model

LLCI coeff se t p **ULCI** .0000 20.6979 23.4810 1.4073 16.6848 26.2641 constant SELFCOMP -5.5485 .4457 -12.4502 .0000 -6.4298 -4.6672

Standardized coefficients

coeff

SELFCOMP -.7298

\*\*\*\*\*\*\* TOTAL, DIRECT, AND INDIRECT EFFECTS OF X ON Y \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Total effect of X on Y

Effect se t p LLCI ULCI c\_ps c\_cs -5.5485 .4457 -12.4502 .0000 -6.4298 -4.6672 -.9600 -.7298

Direct effect of X on Y

Indirect effect(s) of X on Y:

Effect BootSE BootLLCI BootULCI

ENACSTIG -.3351 .1936 -.7672 -.0033

Partially standardized indirect effect(s) of X on Y:

Effect BootSE BootLLCI BootULCI

ENACSTIG -.0580 .0337 -.1326 -.0006

Completely standardized indirect effect(s) of X on Y:

Effect BootSE BootLLCI BootULCI

ENACSTIG -.0441 .0259 -.1025 -.0004

\*\*\*\*\*\* BOOTSTRAP RESULTS FOR REGRESSION MODEL PARAMETERS \*\*\*\*\*

**OUTCOME VARIABLE:** 

**ENACSTIG** 

	Coeff	BootMean	<b>BootSE</b>	BootLLCI	BootULCI
constant	27.8928	27.8555	2.9250	22.2582	33.7413
SELFCOMP	-3.3333	-3.3265	.9079	-5.1168	-1.5785

-----

OUTCOME VARIABLE: D\_TOTAL

	Coeff	BootMean	<b>BootSE</b>	BootLLCI	BootULCI
constant	20.6769	20.7104	2.5212	15.7651	25.5813
SELFCOMP	-5.2134	-5.2292	.5729	-6.3297	-4.1234
<b>ENACSTIG</b>	.1005	.1008	.0543	.0009	.2117

\* ANALYSIS NOTES AND ERRORS \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Level of confidence for all confidence intervals in output: 95.0000

Number of bootstrap samples for percentile bootstrap confidence intervals: 5000

NOTE: Variables names longer than eight characters can produce incorrect output. Shorter variable names are recommended.

----- END MATRIX -----

## Analysis 5: self-compassion, enacted stigma and anxiety

Run MATRIX procedure: \*\*\*\*\*\* PROCESS Procedure for SPSS Version 3.3 \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* Written by Andrew F. Hayes, Ph.D. www.afhayes.com Documentation available in Hayes (2018). www.guilford.com/p/hayes3 \* Model: 4 Y: A NO 7 X: SELFCOMP M: ENACSTIG Sample Size: 138 **OUTCOME VARIABLE: ENACSTIG** Model Summary MSE F df1 df2 R R-sq .0001 .3346 .1119 51.3276 17.1403 1.0000 136.0000 Model coeff LLCI **ULCI** se t p .0000 22.8648 constant 27.8928 2.5425 10.9706 32.9207 -3.3333 -4.1401 SELFCOMP .8051 .0001 -4.9255 -1.7411 Standardized coefficients coeff SELFCOMP -.3346 \* **OUTCOME VARIABLE:** A NO 7 **Model Summary** F R R-sq **MSE** df1 df2 .0000

.5976 .3572 9.3839 37.5014 2.0000 135.0000

Model

	coeff	se	t	p	LLCI	ULCI
constant	6.4124	1.4925	4.2963	.0000	3.4606	9.3642
SELFCOMP	-1.7564	.3653	-4.8081	.0000	-2.4789	-1.0340
<b>ENACSTIG</b>	.1899	.0367	5.1795	.0000	.1174	.2624

Standardized coefficients

coeff

SELFCOMP -.3521 ENACSTIG .3793

**OUTCOME VARIABLE:** 

 $A_NO_7$ 

Model Summary

R R-sq MSE F df1 df2 p .4790 .2294 11.1659 40.4872 1.0000 136.0000 .0000

Model

LLCI coeff se t p ULCI .0000 11.7093 1.1859 9.8741 9.3642 14.0544 constant SELFCOMP -2.3894 -6.3630 .0000 -3.1320 .3755 -1.6468

Standardized coefficients

coeff

SELFCOMP -.4790

\*\*\*\*\*\* TOTAL, DIRECT, AND INDIRECT EFFECTS OF X ON Y \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Total effect of X on Y

Effect se t p LLCI ULCI c\_ps c\_cs -2.3894 .3755 -6.3630 .0000 -3.1320 -1.6468 -.6300 -.4790

Direct effect of X on Y

Effect se t p LLCI ULCI c'\_ps c'\_cs -1.7564 .3653 -4.8081 .0000 -2.4789 -1.0340 -.4631 -.3521

Indirect effect(s) of X on Y:

Effect BootSE BootLLCI BootULCI

ENACSTIG -.6330 .2125 -1.0854 -.2609

Partially standardized indirect effect(s) of X on Y:

Effect BootSE BootLLCI BootULCI

ENACSTIG -.1669 .0510 -.2718 -.0761

Completely standardized indirect effect(s) of X on Y:

Effect BootSE BootLLCI BootULCI

ENACSTIG -.1269 .0393 -.2055 -.0562

\*\*\*\*\*\* BOOTSTRAP RESULTS FOR REGRESSION MODEL PARAMETERS \*\*\*\*\*

**OUTCOME VARIABLE:** 

**ENACSTIG** 

	Coeff	BootMean	BootSE	BootLLCI	BootULCI
constant	27.8928	27.8177	2.9575	21.8183	33.3914
SELFCOMP	-3.3333	-3.3180	.9180	-5.0738	-1.4623

-----

## **OUTCOME VARIABLE:**

A\_NO\_7

	Coeff	BootMean	BootSE	BootLLCI	BootULCI
constant	6.4124	6.4275	1.6194	3.3670	9.6092
SELFCOMP	-1.7564	-1.7650	.4199	-2.5837	9677
<b>ENACSTIG</b>	.1899	.1903	.0414	.1110	.2726

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* ANALYSIS NOTES AND ERRORS \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Level of confidence for all confidence intervals in output: 95.0000

Number of bootstrap samples for percentile bootstrap confidence intervals: 5000

NOTE: Variables names longer than eight characters can produce incorrect output. Shorter variable names are recommended.

----- END MATRIX -----

## Analysis 6: self-compassion, enacted stigma and stress

Run MATRIX procedure:

\*\*\*\*\*\* PROCESS Procedure for SPSS Version 3.3 \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Written by Andrew F. Hayes, Ph.D. www.afhayes.com Documentation available in Hayes (2018). www.guilford.com/p/hayes3

\*

Model: 4

Y : S\_TOTAL X : SELFCOMP M : ENACSTIG

Sample Size: 138

\*

**OUTCOME VARIABLE:** 

**ENACSTIG** 

**Model Summary** 

R R-sq MSE F df1 df2 p .3346 .1119 51.3276 17.1403 1.0000 136.0000 .0001

Model

coeff LLCI **ULCI** se t p 0000. constant 27.8928 2.5425 10.9706 22.8648 32.9207 **SELFCOMP** -3.3333 .8051 -4.1401 .0001 -4.9255 -1.7411

Standardized coefficients

coeff

SELFCOMP -.3346

\*

**OUTCOME VARIABLE:** 

S TOTAL

Model Summary

R R-sq MSE F dfl df2 p .6797 .4619 17.1084 57.9470 2.0000 135.0000 .0000

Model

coeff LLCI **ULCI** se t p 8.3653 .0000 12.8730 constant 16.8586 2.0153 20.8443 -4.0944 .4933 .0000 -5.0699 -3.1189 **SELFCOMP** -8.3008 **ENACSTIG** .1823 .0495 3.6829 .0003 .0844 .2802

Standardized coefficients

coeff

SELFCOMP -.5561 ENACSTIG .2467

OUTCOME VARIABLE:

 $S_TOTAL$ 

Model Summary

R R-sq MSE F df1 df2 p .6386 .4079 18.6889 93.6761 1.0000 136.0000 .0000

Model

coeff se t p LLCI ULCI .0000 21.9443 1.5342 14.3036 18.9103 24.9782 constant SELFCOMP -4.7021 .4858 -9.6786 .0000 -5.6629 -3.7414

Standardized coefficients

coeff

SELFCOMP -.6386

\*\*\*\*\*\* TOTAL, DIRECT, AND INDIRECT EFFECTS OF X ON Y \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Total effect of X on Y

Effect se t p LLCI ULCI c\_ps c\_cs -4.7021 .4858 -9.6786 .0000 -5.6629 -3.7414 -.8400 -.6386

Direct effect of X on Y

Effect se t p LLCI ULCI c'\_ps c'\_cs -4.0944 .4933 -8.3008 .0000 -5.0699 -3.1189 -.7315 -.5561

Indirect effect(s) of X on Y:

Effect BootSE BootLLCI BootULCI

ENACSTIG -.6078 .2418 -1.1211 -.1833

Partially standardized indirect effect(s) of X on Y:

Effect BootSE BootLLCI BootULCI

ENACSTIG -.1086 .0430 -.2002 -.0336

Completely standardized indirect effect(s) of X on Y:

Effect BootSE BootLLCI BootULCI

ENACSTIG -.0825 .0327 -.1534 -.0249

\*\*\*\*\*\* BOOTSTRAP RESULTS FOR REGRESSION MODEL PARAMETERS \*\*\*\*\*\*\* OUTCOME VARIABLE:

**ENACSTIG** 

Coeff BootMean BootSE BootLLCI BootULCI constant 27.8928 27.8260 2.9942 21.9143 33.6817 SELFCOMP -3.3333 -3.3190 .9281 -5.1375 -1.4946

-----

# OUTCOME VARIABLE: S\_TOTAL

	Coeff	BootMean	<b>BootSE</b>	BootLLCI	BootULCI
constant	16.8586	16.8840	2.4997	11.8583	21.6779
SELFCOMP	-4.0944	-4.1003	.5540	-5.1868	-3.0058
<b>ENACSTIG</b>	.1823	.1817	.0558	.0720	.2943

Level of confidence for all confidence intervals in output: 95.0000

Number of bootstrap samples for percentile bootstrap confidence intervals: 5000

NOTE: Variables names longer than eight characters can produce incorrect output. Shorter variable names are recommended.

----- END MATRIX -----

Section Three: Critical Appraisal

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Formatted to the specifications of the British Journal of Health Psychology

Word count (excluding references): 3959

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# **Critical Appraisal**

This paper will firstly summarise the main findings of the literature review and empirical papers, followed by a discussion of some of the decision points, challenges, strengths and limitations of this thesis. I will consider issues relating to the use of language and constructs, and issues specific to the design of each paper.

# **Summary of Findings**

A systematic search of the literature was conducted, which identified 39 papers that had analysed relationships between cognitive factors and anxiety among people with Parkinson's. These papers were reviewed and their findings synthesised. Overall, there was evidence to suggest that higher anxiety is associated with worse global cognitive abilities and worse performance in specific cognitive domains (attention, working memory, executive functioning, memory, language, semantic verbal fluency and visuospatial skills). There was also evidence to suggest that anxiety predicts cognitive abilities, and vice versa, thus that there may be some bi-directionality to the relationship between anxiety and cognition (this was in keeping with reported findings in other populations). However, there were inconsistencies between the papers, with several studies also finding null results. This could not be ascribed to any particular differences in design or quality. It was noted that many of the studies had small sample sizes, decreasing their power to detect significant effects, but this was not the case for all studies finding null results. Studies also varied as to which potentially confounding variables were controlled for. Therefore, firm conclusions could not be drawn and it was hypothesised that relationships between anxiety and cognition among people with Parkinson's are complex and likely to be influenced by other factors (for example, awareness or perception of cognitive decline, side of onset, or time since diagnosis). Consequently, directions for further research were suggested. The paper also highlighted the need for clinical psychologists and clinical neuropsychologists who work with people with

Parkinson's to be aware of potentially complex relationships between anxiety and cognitive factors, and to ensure that assessments, formulations or interventions relating to either construct should include due consideration of the other. I believe that the publication of this paper would be a useful contribution to the literature since it provides a comprehensive overview of the existing research, which prior reviews on this topic have not achieved (perhaps due to limited search terms and selection criteria).

The empirical paper reports the findings of a quantitative, cross-sectional study which examined the relationships between self-compassion, stigma and psychological distress among people with Parkinson's. Both enacted stigma (disparaging attitudes and actions of others) and felt stigma (the anticipation of enacted stigma and application of stigmatising views towards the self) were measured. Psychological distress was assessed by measures of depression, anxiety and stress. Significant correlational relationships were identified: higher levels of self-compassion were associated with lesser experiences of enacted stigma, less felt stigma and lower levels of depression, anxiety and stress; meanwhile higher levels of reported stigma (both felt and enacted) were associated with higher levels of depression, anxiety and stress. A series of mediation analyses found the stigma variables to mediate the relationships between self-compassion and depression, anxiety and stress. Therefore, it was concluded that for people with Parkinson's, part of the relationship between self-compassion and psychological distress occurs via the ways in which stigma is experienced and internalised. This may have important implications for clinical psychologists and clinical neuropsychologists working with people with Parkinson's who are experiencing distress. It may be useful for psychological assessments with people with Parkinson's to take levels of self-compassion and experiences of stigma into account, while direct psychological interventions might benefit from a focus on developing self-compassion where this is found to be low. Meanwhile, societal-level interventions might address stigma through education

and training, facilitating inclusion of people with Parkinson's in communities and advocacy. This study is the only research I am aware of into the construct of self-compassion among people with Parkinson's, meaning that its publication may be a valuable contribution to the field.

# **Use of Language and Constructs**

A consideration early in the development of this thesis was the language I wanted to use when referring to Parkinson's. It was apparent from an initial scoping search of the literature that most peer-reviewed articles used the terminology "Parkinson's disease". However, the charity Parkinson's UK, who supported the development and advertising of my empirical study, opt to leave out "disease" from the label and simply refer to "Parkinson's". This is also reflected in the language used by organisations run by and for people with Parkinson's, such as Parkinson's Movement and Parkinson's Foundation, and campaigns such as Unite for Parkinson's. People with Parkinson's are said to have reported finding the "disease" terminology stigmatising (Ramaswamy, Jones & Carroll, 2018; Worth, 2019) – though original research or reports stating this could not be located. Given my understanding of the impact of stigma (whether enacted or felt) upon people with Parkinson's through my work on the empirical paper, I believed that it was important from an ethical perspective to avoid the use of potentially stigmatising language in my thesis. However, I acknowledge Worth's (2019) assertions that the use of "Parkinson's" is grammatically unusual ("Parkinson's what?"; pp. 3) and risks confusion with other similarly labelled conditions. When preparing my papers for publishing, I may need to liaise with the target journal regarding my language choices. If I am required to weigh up my ethical stance regarding use of language with the likelihood of the research being published (which raises its own ethical issues around sharing knowledge and not wasting participants' and other contributors' time), I will liaise with the research team at Parkinson's UK for advice.

Further terminologies which I grappled with throughout the development of this thesis were the diagnostic labels of anxiety and depression. I am aware that some people with Parkinson's may not identify with these labels, despite how they might be categorised based on questionnaire scores or whether they meet diagnostic criteria. While these labels may be less contentious and less stigmatising than other psychiatric labels such as personality disorder and schizophrenia (Markham & Trower, 2003; Wood, Birtel, Alsawy, Pyle & Morrison, 2014), they remain somewhat reductionist and still carry a degree of stigma (Corrigan, 2007; Wood et al., 2014). Nonetheless, these concepts are commonly used in quantitative health psychology and neuropsychology research in order to pragmatically measure distress: this approach was also taken in this thesis. Indeed, in the literature review paper, the construct of anxiety was a core component of the research question. Most of the papers considered anxiety as a continuous variable, which is more in keeping with my preferred conceptualisation, but some categorised participants according to the presence or absence of "anxiety disorders" or clinically significant levels of anxiety. I was also required to include diagnostic and potentially stigmatising labels such as "anxiety disorders" in the search terms; this was necessary to ensure the identification of relevant studies. In the empirical study, the constructs of depression and anxiety were used as outcome variables. A key reason for selecting the Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale – 21-item version (DASS-21; Lovibond & Lovibond, 1995) to measure these variables was that it is expressly not a diagnostic tool. Rather, it was developed as a dimensional measure of distress on the basis that differences between "normal" and "clinical" experiences of depression, anxiety and stress are differences in the degree (as measured on a continuum), rather than the nature, of distress (Lovibond & Lovibond, 1995).

For the empirical paper, I also considered the conceptualisation of cognition.

Differentiation of cognitive domains is challenging due to a large degree of overlap between

functions, multiplicity of terms, and contradictory findings of factor analyses - especially with regards to executive functioning (Baggetta & Alexander, 2016; Packwood, Hodgetts & Tremblay, 2011). Further, very few cognitive tests measure any cognitive domain in its pure form as there is often some overlap in the skills required. Taking a critical realist perspective, I consider that cognitive domains exist in the "actual" level of reality, but that they cannot be directly observed, since they occur beyond our sensory experience (Danermark, Ekström, Jakobsen & Karlsson, 2002). Performance on cognitive tests, therefore, may be considered an outcome of the "causal" level of reality (Danermark et al., 2002): cognitive tests are a mechanism through which we can empirically observe the actual reality of the cognitive domains, but this is determined by our own conceptualisations and the tools we select. As such, assessment of cognition cannot be entirely objective. The same might be inferred about the measurement of the constructs of self-compassion and stigma in the empirical paper.

# **Issues Specific to the Literature Review**

# Developing the review question.

Due to how the thesis process is set up on the Lancaster University Doctorate in Clinical Psychology course, I had already designed the protocol for my empirical study before I arrived at the task of selecting a focus for the literature review. I was interested in reviewing a topic close to that of the empirical paper, however my initial searches did not reveal any studies into self-compassion among people with Parkinson's, and very few studies into self-compassion in any neurological or long-term health conditions. The correlates of stigma among people with Parkinson's had already been reviewed in a previous trainee clinical psychologist's thesis (Verity, 2018). At the time, there was an additional variable in my empirical study: self-critical rumination (the reasons for later excluding this variable are discussed in the next section of this paper). Therefore, I began to explore topics in this area

and decided upon a cognitive focus: a systematic review of the relationships between attentional inflexibility and psychological distress among people with Parkinson's.

Attentional inflexibility was taken to include the constructs of perseveration, set-shifting and attentional control (Stahl & Pry, 2005). Based on metacognitive models of depression and anxiety (Wells, 2009) which emphasise the role of rumination in the development and maintenance of psychological distress, along with evidence that attentional flexibility can be affected by Parkinson's (Dirnberger & Jahanshahi, 2013), and the overlap in the constructs of attentional inflexibility and rumination (Ehring et al., 2011), I anticipated that significant relationships would be found between attentional inflexibility and distress.

Unfortunately, following a lengthy systematic search of the literature (the search strategy necessarily lacked specificity since the target cognitive domains were rarely mentioned in titles or abstracts), I decided not to pursue this review. Almost all the identified research assumed both the affective and cognitive sequelae of Parkinson's to be a result of altered dopamine levels in the brain causing disruption to fronto-striatal circuitry involved in cognition, and did not consider the potential roles of psychological, social or cognitive factors. Therefore, a review from a psychological perspective at this level of specificity seemed premature. Consequently, I decided to expand the review to consider relationships between cognitive and affective factors among people with Parkinson's. Previous reviews appeared to have adequately considered relationships of the constructs of depression and apathy with cognition (Alzahrani & Venneri, 2015; Poletti, De Rosa & Bonuccelli, 2012), and there was a clear gap in the research with regards to anxiety. Thus, the final review question was decided upon. Given the later removal of the cognitive variable from the empirical paper, there is less continuity between the two papers than I had hoped for.

# Measuring cognition.

Some of the issues around conceptualising and measuring aspects of cognition are discussed in the *Use of Language and Constructs* section of this paper. Additionally, the measures used in some of the studies included in the review (Repeatable Battery for the Assessment of Neuropsychological Status, Cambridge Cognitive Test, Mini-Mental State Examination) are not recommended for use with people with Parkinson's due to issues with validity, reliability and sensitivity to change (Skorvanek et al., 2017). Therefore, it is possible that these studies did not accurately reflect relationships between anxiety and cognition due to problems in measurement.

# Depression as a potentially confounding variable.

One of the weaknesses identified in the body of research into relationships between anxiety and cognition was that many of the studies did not consider the potential for shared variance between the concepts of anxiety and depression (Beuke, Fischer & McDowall, 2003). This was surprising given the evidence that symptoms of anxiety and depression frequently co-occur among people with Parkinson's (Sagna, Gallo & Pontone, 2014), and that the relationship between depression and cognition is well evidenced (Alzahrani & Venneri, 2015; Poletti et al., 2012). Thus, it could not always be concluded that the studies truly measured relationships between 'pure' anxiety and cognition. The use of the State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (Spielberger, Gorsuch, Lushene, Vagg & Jacobs, 1983) as a measure of anxiety in several of the studies was potentially problematic, since research has found that neither subscale (state nor trait) adequately differentiates between symptoms of anxiety and depression (Bieling, Antony & Swinson, 1998; Kennedy, Schwab, Morris & Beldia, 2001).

# Synthesising the results.

Since previous reviews had identified so few relevant studies, I had not expected to find such a large number of results to synthesise. Given the time constraints of the thesis process, this was a challenging endeavour. In addition to the quantity of results, the

inconsistencies between findings of different studies (with some finding significant relationships and others not) made it difficult to draw conclusions.

A weakness of the literature review is that I did not extract (or calculate, where necessary) effect sizes for each of the analyses (due to time constraints, given the number of papers and the number of analyses within each). This might have added some clarity to the findings if, for example, effect sizes tended to be small even when they were significant, which might have indicated that some studies had failed to find effects because they were fairly weak (especially where sample sizes were small). It was identified that most of the significant correlations found between anxiety and cognitive factors were weak (correlation coefficient <.3; Cohen, 1988), indicating small effects in these studies, however it could not be confirmed whether this was the case for all significant findings. I will consider metaanalysing subsets of the data prior to submitting the literature review paper for publication in order to strengthen the results, increase objectivity, and overcome the problems presented by small sample sizes (Walker, Hernandez & Kattan, 2008). This may not be advisable for the separate cognitive domains, given the wide variety of measures and methods used across studies, but might be useful for the global cognition data, where the studies were less heterogeneous in design. A forest plot to assess for relative homogeneity of results (using confidence intervals of the estimated effects) may be used to determine whether a metaanalysis is appropriate and justified (Walker et al., 2008).

# **Issues Specific to the Empirical Study**

# **Self-critical rumination.**

I had initially planned to include self-critical rumination as a variable in the empirical study. This is defined as a ruminative focus specifically upon on self-critical thoughts (Smart, Peters and Baer, 2016). Self-critical rumination has been found to be positively associated with symptoms of depression, anxiety, and stress, and negatively associated with self-

compassion in a non-neurological population (Smart et al., 2016). As such, one of the original aims of the study was to investigate whether these relationships also existed for people with Parkinson's. Given that one of the cognitive problems that people with Parkinson's can experience is a tendency to perseverate (as discussed above), I hypothesised that becoming stuck upon negative thoughts about the self may be a pertinent issue, and one which could affect psychological wellbeing. I also considered that self-criticism, as the antithesis of self-compassion (Gilbert, 2010), might be positively associated with felt stigma, through the internalisation of negative stereotypes which are inherently critical. The Self-Critical Rumination Scale Scale (SCRS; Smart, et al., 2016) was therefore included in the survey. The SCRS has been used in a limited number of research studies, and does not appear to have yet been used with people with neurological conditions.

As I researched the topic area further, it became clear that there were theoretical distinctions in the potential relationships between self-compassion, stigma and distress versus self-critical rumination, stigma and distress. The theoretical framework proposed by Wong, Knee, Neighbors and Zvolensky (2019), whereby self-compassion allows people to internalise stigma less and leads to more positive outcomes, supported a mediation model with self-compassion as the predictor, stigma as the potential mediator and the psychological distress variables at the outcomes. This framework was published after the research protocol had been developed, at which time I had proposed that self-compassion would be the mediator. However, this model would not make sense with self-critical rumination in the place of self-compassion, since the idea that self-critical rumination would predict stigma is not theoretically supported. Self-critical rumination would have been required to be the mediator variable, with stigma as the predictor. This would therefore comprise an entirely different research question, introducing an additional layer of complexity to the paper that I would struggle to adequately describe in the prescribed word count. I therefore agreed with

my supervisors that it might be preferable to write two theoretically distinct papers: one about the relationships between self-compassion, stigma and psychological distress (as submitted as part of this thesis) and another about the relationships between stigma, self-critical rumination and psychological distress. Therefore, the SCRS data may be analysed and written up in a separate paper at a later date.

# Recruitment strategy.

Participants were recruited via online advertisement on the Parkinson's UK website, in the Parkinson's UK online newsletter and on the social media platform Twitter. The survey was in a computerised format but participants were given the option to request a paper copy by post. This recruitment strategy was selected due to Parkinson's UK having an extremely active Research Support Network, and the success of a previous trainee clinical psychologist in using a similar recruitment strategy for a similar research project (Verity, 2018). It was also cost-effective and allowed for recruitment across geographical barriers. However, there were limitations to this strategy in that it favoured individuals who were computer-literate and had access to a computer, and may have excluded people who did not meet these criteria. I did receive emails from family members of people with Parkinson's who had seen the research advertised online and requested a paper-copy for their (non-computer-literate) relative, but only one of these was returned. To aid with computerised completion, the survey was designed such that individuals could save and return to their responses at any time. The Patient and Public Involvement volunteers from Parkinson's UK, who participated in the design of the materials, were positive about the online format and did not foresee any problems with the recruitment strategy, given the option to request a paper copy if preferred.

A recent report by the charity Age UK states that 36% of people over the age of 65 do not currently use the internet, and that the likelihood of internet use is reduced among people with mobility problems (Age UK, 2018). Additionally, younger people are more likely than

older people to participate in research advertised on the internet and social media (Topolovec-Vranic & Natarajan, 2016). As such, my chosen recruitment strategy may have been a factor in the sample being relatively young and functionally able. Future studies may benefit from broader recruitment strategies (such as visiting clinics and care homes), to be more inclusive of older and less functionally able people with Parkinson's and to increase generalisability.

People experiencing higher levels of psychological distress and/or stigma might have been less likely to participate in the study due to, for example, shame, avoidance or low motivation. Although it is important to understand the experiences of this group in order to improve care, recruitment strategies aimed at including these individuals require the consideration of ethical issues, since participation could be distressing. Future research might address this issue by providing additional support, both at the time of participation and afterwards, perhaps by building links with services for people with Parkinson's who could facilitate recruitment and provide this support.

# Limitations of the study design.

As discussed in the empirical paper, since the study was observational and cross-sectional, cause and effect cannot be established. Hayes (2018) recommends that mediation analyses with correlational and cross-sectional data need not be avoided, despite causality being assumed in the mediation model, so long as the results are interpreted cautiously. As such, it cannot be assumed that having more self-compassion causes people with Parkinson's to experience less stigma, which causes them to experience less distress. Rather, it appears that there are interactions between each of the variables such that the relationships between self-compassion and depression, anxiety and stress operate via their relationships with experiences of felt and enacted stigma. Therefore, there may be additional underlying variables contributing to the relationships, such as social, demographic or economic factors.

Mediation is only one of many possible ways of investigating the relationships between the variables in this study. A moderation model, where self-compassion might be predicted to moderate the relationships between experiences of stigma and distress, would be an alternative analysis. This would test a different aspect of Wong et al.'s (2019) model to that which was tested by the mediation analysis. If significant (and in the expected direction), this would suggest that as self-compassion increases, the relationship between stigma and psychological distress becomes less strong. This moderation analysis was considered for analysing the data in the empirical study but the sample size was considered inadequate (consideration of this model was prompted by the Wong et al. (2019) paper, which was not identified until after data collection was complete). This may be an area for future research. Additionally, it was considered that self-compassion may mediate the relationship between stigma and distress. However, this was less theoretically supported, self-compassion being conceptualised as something which develops in response to early caregiving relationships (Gilbert, 2010) and therefore unlikely to be predicted by Parkinson's-related stigma.

In addition to the above, the survey-based nature of the study meant a reliance on self-report measures. This was particularly problematic for the enacted stigma variable, in which participants were required to make judgements as to whether others' attitudes and actions towards them were as a result of their Parkinson's. Self-reports of enacted stigma may therefore reflect an individual's subjective experiences of stigma (potentially influenced by their beliefs and interpretations) rather than actual enactments of stigma. Arguably, the subjective experience of stigma is more important from a psychological perspective, however I was required to exercise caution in my interpretations of the meaning of the enacted stigma variable.

#### **Directions for Future Research**

Some areas for future research might include further exploration of the correlates of self-compassion among people with Parkinson's, and the efficacy of compassion-focussed approaches to working with this population (potential outcomes for efficacy might be psychological distress and internalisation of stigma, based on the findings of the empirical paper). The mediation model identified in the empirical paper might be built upon by considering the interaction of the mediating variables of felt and enacted stigma, or by considering other potential mediators in the relationship between self-compassion and distress. Studies investigating the impact of interventions for reducing the stigma around Parkinson's would also be valuable.

Future research might also investigate the complexities of the relationships between anxiety and cognitive factors from a psycho-social perspective, for example by considering experiences of stigma, subjective cognitive performance or depression. Qualitative research into the social and psychological impact of cognitive decline for people with Parkinson's might highlight further areas for exploration.

# **Conclusions**

Two pieces of research were conducted, a systematic review and an empirical study, in which relationships between cognitive, psychological and social factors for people with Parkinson's were explored. There were strengths in the originality of the research, and both papers will hopefully provide a useful contribution to knowledge for clinical psychologists and clinical neuropsychologists working with people with Parkinson's. However, there were also limitations to both studies. Some of these might be addressed in preparing the papers for publication or in future research projects.

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Section Four: Ethics and Appendices

# Natalie Sowter

# Doctorate in Clinical Psychology

Lancaster University

Word count (including ethics application form content and protocol, but excluding ethics application form wording, references and appendices): 3958

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# Faculty of Health and Medicine Research Ethics Committee (FHMREC) Lancaster University

# **Application for Ethical Approval for Research**

for additional advice on completing this form, hover cursor over 'guidance'.

# Guidance on completing this form is also available as a word document

<b>Title of Project</b> : Stigma, self-compassion, self-critical rumination amongst people with Parkinson's	on and psychological distress
Name of applicant/researcher: Natalie Sowter	
ACP ID number (if applicable)*: N/A	Funding source (if applicable) $N\!/\!A$
Grant code (if applicable): N/A	
*If your project has <i>not</i> been costed on ACP, you will also ne Checklist [link].	ed to complete the Governance

Type of study
☐ Involves existing documents/data only, or the evaluation of an existing project with no direct contact with human participants. <b>Complete sections one</b> , <i>two</i> and four of this form

#### **SECTION ONE**

- **1. Appointment/position held by applicant and Division within FHM** Trainee Clinical Psychologist, Division of Health Research
- 2. Contact information for applicant:

Address: Furness College, Lancaster University, Lancaster, LA1 4YT

3. Names and appointments of all members of the research team (including degree where applicable)

Dr Fiona Eccles, Lecturer in Health Research, Lancaster University

Dr Jane Simpson, Lecturer in Health Research, Lancaster University

Dr Terry Spokes, Clinical Psychologist, Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust

3. If this is a student project, please indicate what type of project by marking the relevant box/deleting as appropriate: (please note that UG and taught masters projects should complete FHMREC form UG-tPG, following the procedures set out on the FHMREC website
PG Diploma
PhD Pub. Health PhD Org. Health & Well Being PhD Mental Health MD
DClinPsy SRP ☐ [if SRP Service Evaluation, please also indicate here: ☐] DClinPsy Thesis
4. Project supervisor(s), if different from applicant: Dr Fiona Eccles; Dr Terry Spokes
5. Appointment held by supervisor(s) and institution(s) where based (if applicable): Dr Fiona Eccles, Lecturer in Health Research, Lancaster University; Dr Terry Spokes, Clinical Psychologist, Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust
SECTION TWO Complete this section if your project involves existing documents/data only, or the evaluation of an existing project with no direct contact with human participants
1. Anticipated project dates (month and year) Start date: End date:
2. Please state the aims and objectives of the project (no more than 150 words, in lay-person's language):
Data Management  For additional guidance on data management, please go to Research Data Management webpage, or email the RDM support email: rdm@lancaster.ac.uk  3. Please describe briefly the data or records to be studied, or the evaluation to be undertaken.
4a. How will any data or records be obtained?
4b. Will you be gathering data from websites, discussion forums and on-line 'chat-rooms' no 4c. If yes, where relevant has permission / agreement been secured from the website moderator? no 4d. If you are only using those sites that are open access and do not require registration, have you made your intentions clear to other site users? no
4e. If no, please give your reasons
5. What plans are in place for the storage, back-up, security and documentation of data (electronic, digital, paper, etc)? Note who will be responsible for deleting the data at the end of the storage period. Please ensure that your plans comply with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the (UK) Data Protection Act 2018.

6a. Is the secondary data you will be using in the public domain? no

6b. If NO, please indicate the original purpose for which the data was collected, and comment on whether consent was gathered for additional later use of the data.

Please answer the following question *only* if you have not completed a Data Management Plan for an external funder

7a. How will you share and preserve the data underpinning your publications for at least 10 years e.g. PURE?

7b. Are there any restrictions on sharing your data?

# 8. Confidentiality and Anonymity

- a. Will you take the necessary steps to assure the anonymity of subjects, including in subsequent publications? yes
- b. How will the confidentiality and anonymity of participants who provided the original data be maintained?
- 9. What are the plans for dissemination of findings from the research?
- 10. What other ethical considerations (if any), not previously noted on this application, do you think there are in the proposed study? How will these issues be addressed?

#### **SECTION THREE**

# Complete this section if your project includes direct involvement by human subjects

1. Summary of research protocol in lay terms (indicative maximum length 150 words):

Research suggests that people affected by Parkinson's experience stigma (signs of disapproval) from others, which can lead to an increase in psychological distress. The aim of this study will be to investigate this relationship between stigma and psychological distress, by looking at other factors which might influence it.

The other factors which will be considered are self-compassion (the ability to recognise one's own suffering and take steps to relieve it, using a kind and caring approach) and self-critical rumination (persistent critical thoughts about the self).

Potential participants (adults with a diagnosis of Parkinson's) will be approached through online advertising (via the Parkinson's UK website, the websites of other organisations who support people with Parkinson's, and Twitter). Participants will be asked to complete questionnaires (with online and paper options) relating to stigma, self-compassion, self-critical rumination and psychological distress. Participants' scores will then be analysed. A minimum of 84 participants will be needed to minimise the chance of errors in the analysis of the findings.

#### 2. Anticipated project dates (month and year only)

Start date: October 2018 End date: May 2019

#### **Data Collection and Management**

For additional guidance on data management, please go to Research Data Management webpage, or email the RDM support email: rdm@lancaster.ac.uk

3. Please describe the sample of participants to be studied (including maximum & minimum number, age, gender):

Participants will be adults (i.e. aged 18 years and older) with Parkinson's who have had their diagnosis for a minimum of 6 months (as determined by self-report). No upper age limit will be set. Participants can be any gender.

A-priori power calculations indicate that a sample of at least 84 participants will be required in order to achieve sufficient statistical power for the intended statistical analyses (mediation analysis and correlation). The maximum number of participants will be approximately 300.

4. How will participants be recruited and from where? Be as specific as possible. Ensure that you provide the *full versions* of all recruitment materials you intend to use with this application (eg adverts, flyers, posters).

Participants will be accessed via the charitable organisation Parkinson's UK through online advertising (the charity have a dedicated page for this on their website - <a href="https://www.parkinsons.org.uk/research/take-part-research">https://www.parkinsons.org.uk/research/take-part-research</a>). This has been agreed with the Parkinson's UK research team. Participants will see the title of the research and a brief description, and when clicking on this will be taken to the landing page of the Qualtrics survey (the first page being the Information for Participants sheet).

The study will also be advertised on the social media platform Twitter, via Natalie Sowter's Twitter account. This account is used for professional purposes and is not a personal account. Twitter posts will provide a brief description of the study, and a link to the landing page of the Qualtrics survey (the first page being the Information for Participants sheet). Organisations who support people with Parkinson's may be "tagged" in the posts and asked to "retweet".

Additionally, we may approach other organisations who support people with Parkinson's (including, but not limited to, Parkinson's Association of Ireland, Parkinson's Australia, and Parkinson's New Zealand), to ask them to advertise the study through their websites.

Regardless of recruitment route, participants will be able to choose to complete the online survey through Qualtrics, or to contact the lead researcher via phone, text or email to request a hard copy be posted to them, along with a stamped addressed envelope in which to return it. Information about these options is provided on the Information for Participants sheet.

5. Briefly describe your data collection and analysis methods, and the rationale for their use.

Data will be collated on the lead researcher's password-protected Qualtrics account. Responses submitted in hard copy format will be entered into Qualtrics by the lead researcher and then destroyed. Once data collection is complete, the relevant data for each analysis will be transferred from Qualtrics to SPSS data files.

A correlation analysis will firstly be performed between self-compassion and self-critical rumination scores, then between all other variables (Pearson or Spearman depending on the distribution of scores). A series of hierarchical regression analyses will then be conducted with the DASS variable scores as the dependent variable for each analysis (i.e. depression, anxiety, and stress), stigma and self-compassion and/or self-critical rumination scores as independent variables, and controlling for demographic and clinical variables if appropriate.

If the assumptions are met to carry out a mediation analysis with stigma as the independent variable, DASS scores as the dependent variable, and self-compassion and/or self-critical rumination as potential mediator(s), then this will also be completed (with bias-correction and bootstrapping). 6. What plan is in place for the storage, back-up, security and documentation of data (electronic, digital, paper, etc.)? Note who will be responsible for deleting the data at the end of the storage period. Please ensure that your plans comply with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the (UK) Data Protection Act 2018. Data will be submitted anonymously and stored securely on password protected software (Qualtrics and SPSS) on the secure server provided by Lancaster University. Responses submitted in hard copy format will be entered into Qualtrics by the lead researcher and then destroyed. In the meantime they will be stored in a locked cabinet. Data will be accessible only to Natalie Sowter and the project supervisors named above (and the research coordinator in the DClinPsy team and the Programme and/or Research Directors once the assignment is submitted). Once the project is complete, data will be sent to the research coordinator of the DClinPsy team for storage for 10 years on the Lancaster University secure Network or Box. Fiona Eccles will be the data custodian and will be responsible for overseeing the data being destroyed after 10 years. 7. Will audio or video recording take place?  $\bowtie$  no audio video a. Please confirm that portable devices (laptop, USB drive etc) will be encrypted where they are used for identifiable data. If it is not possible to encrypt your portable devices, please comment on the steps you will take to protect the data. N/A b What arrangements have been made for audio/video data storage? At what point in the research will tapes/digital recordings/files be destroyed? N/A Please answer the following questions *only* if you have not completed a Data Management Plan for an external funder 8a. How will you share and preserve the data underpinning your publications for at least 10 years e.g. PURE? The data will be stored securely and confidentially by the DClinPsy course at Lancaster University on the secure server or on Box, in electronic form, for 10 years but it will not be put onto PURE and will not be shared more widely in its raw form. This is due the sensitive nature of the data. Questions about sensitive topics such as symptom severity, depression and stigma may not be answered honestly if participants know that their raw data will be made publicly available, potentially affecting the integrity of the data and the reliability of the findings. It may also reduce willingness to participate. There are also concerns that the data from any participants with more diverse demographics may be identifiable. 8b. Are there any restrictions on sharing your data? Yes, the raw data will not be made publicly available. 9. Consent a. Will you take all necessary steps to obtain the voluntary and informed consent of the prospective participant(s) or, in the case of individual(s) not capable of giving informed consent, the permission of

a legally authorised representative in accordance with applicable law? ves

b. Detail the procedure you will use for obtaining consent?

Potential participants will be presented with the "Information for Participants" to read. This will be followed by forced choice questions asking participants to confirm that they have read and agreed to the information, and that they give their consent to participate.

On the online survey, the next page cannot be reached unless the participant answers these questions to state that they have read the information and give their consent.

If a potential participant returns the paper forms without selecting the answers to these questions to indicate their informed consent, their data will be destroyed and will not be used.

The consent process will not require participants to give their name, or any other identifying information, as this would compromise their anonymity.

10. What discomfort (including psychological eg distressing or sensitive topics), inconvenience or danger could be caused by participation in the project? Please indicate plans to address these potential risks. State the timescales within which participants may withdraw from the study, noting your reasons.

There is a slight possibility that participants may feel distressed as a result of completing the questionnaires. The details of organisations participants can contact for support in the event of distress will be provided as part of the debrief information.

Once participants have begun the online survey, or returned a survey by post, they will no longer be able to withdraw their data. This is because their data will not be identifiable. This will be made clear in the Information for Participants.

11. What potential risks may exist for the researcher(s)? Please indicate plans to address such risks (for example, noting the support available to you; counselling considerations arising from the sensitive or distressing nature of the research/topic; details of the lone worker plan you will follow, and the steps you will take).

None identified.

12. Whilst we do not generally expect direct benefits to participants as a result of this research, please state here any that result from completion of the study.

There is not expected to be any direct benefit to participating in this study. However, people may find participation an interesting or positive experience, because the study may add new knowledge to the field of Parkinson's research.

13. Details of any incentives/payments (including out-of-pocket expenses) made to participants:

None

- 14. Confidentiality and Anonymity
- a. Will you take the necessary steps to assure the anonymity of subjects, including in subsequent publications? yes

b. Please include details of how the confidentiality and anonymity of participants will be ensured, and the limits to confidentiality.

Surveys completed online will be anonymous. Participants (and potential participants) who would like the hard-copy survey posted to them will be required to provide their name and address to the lead researcher. Their telephone number may also be available to the lead researcher if they choose to call the research phone without withholding their number. Any such information will be destroyed as soon as the survey has been posted.

15. If relevant, describe the involvement of your target participant group in the *design and conduct* of your research.

Patient and Public Involvement Volunteers, recruited by Parkinson's UK, have provided feedback on all materials to be used in the study (information sheet, consent form, demographics questionnaire, standardised questionnaire, debrief) regarding content, layout, and accessibility for people with Parkinson's.

16. What are the plans for dissemination of findings from the research? If you are a student, include here your thesis.

The findings of this study will be submitted as part of Natalie Sowter's thesis for her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology (DClinPsy). It is also anticipated that the findings will be submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. The findings will be presented to trainee clinical psychologists, service users and course staff at the DClinPsy thesis presentation day at Lancaster University, and may also be presented at a meeting of the North West Neuropsychology Special Interest Group, or at other conferences or seminars. Finally, the findings will be summarised in written form for presentation on the Parkinson's UK website.

17. What particular ethical considerations, not previously noted on this application, do you think there are in the proposed study? Are there any matters about which you wish to seek guidance from the FHMREC?

It is hoped that the option to complete the questionnaires either online or in hard-copy (paper) format will enable people to participate who may wish to contribute but be otherwise unable. Participants will also be allowed to have help to fill in the questionnaires by a relative, friend or caregiver.

#### **SECTION FOUR: signature**

Applicant electronic signature: Natalie Sowter
20/08/18

Student applicants: please tick to confirm that your supervisor has reviewed your application, and that they are happy for the application to proceed to ethical review

**Project Supervisor name** (if applicable): Dr Fiona Eccles

Date application discussed

#### **Submission Guidance**

1. **Submit your FHMREC application** by email to Diane Hopkins (d.hopkins@lancaster.ac.uk) as two separate documents:

i. FHMREC application form.

Before submitting, ensure all guidance comments are hidden by going into 'Review' in the menu above then choosing *show markup*>*balloons*>*show all revisions in line*.

ii. Supporting materials.

Collate the following materials for your study, if relevant, into a single word document:

- a. Your full research proposal (background, literature review, methodology/methods, ethical considerations).
- b. Advertising materials (posters, e-mails)
- c. Letters/emails of invitation to participate
- d. Participant information sheets
- e. Consent forms
- f. Questionnaires, surveys, demographic sheets
- g. Interview schedules, interview question guides, focus group scripts
- h. Debriefing sheets, resource lists

Please note that you DO NOT need to submit pre-existing measures or handbooks which support your work, but which cannot be amended following ethical review. These should simply be referred to in your application form.

- 2. Submission deadlines:
  - i. Projects including direct involvement of human subjects [section 3 of the form was completed]. The *electronic* version of your application should be submitted to **Diane Hopkins by the committee deadline date.** Committee meeting dates and application submission dates are listed on the <a href="FHMREC">FHMREC</a> website. Prior to the FHMREC meeting you may be contacted by the lead reviewer for further clarification of your application. Please ensure you are available to attend the committee meeting (either in person or via telephone) on the day that your application is considered, if required to do so.
  - ii. The following projects will normally be dealt with via chair's action, and may be submitted at any time. [Section 3 of the form has *not* been completed, and is not required]. Those involving:
    - a. existing documents/data only;
    - b. the evaluation of an existing project with no direct contact with human participants;
    - c. service evaluations.

3.	You must submit this application from your Lancaster University email address, and copy your supervisor in to the email in which you submit this application	
	and copy your supervisor in to the email in which you submit this application	

# Stigma, self-compassion, self-critical rumination and psychological distress amongst people with Parkinson's

# **Protocol Version 2**

# **Applicants**

# Principal Investigator

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# Supervisors

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# <u>Advisor</u>

Dr Jane Simpson

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Tel: 01524 592858, email: j.simpson2@lancaster.ac.uk

(Jane has agreed to provide advice on specific aspects of the project (analysis and interpretation of results) but will not be involved in the day to day running of the project.)

#### Introduction

Parkinson's <sup>1</sup> is the second most common neuro-degenerative condition (after Alzheimer's disease) and affects 0.1-0.2% of the population, with increasing prevalence after the age of 60 (Tysnes & Storstein, 2017). The symptoms of Parkinson's are often categorised within the literature into motor and non-motor characteristics. Typical motor symptoms, as reviewed by Moustafa et al. (2016), include difficulty initiating movement (akinesia), slowed movement (bradykinesia), tremor, rigidity, gait disturbance and speech difficulties. Non-motor symptoms can include cognitive impairments, difficulties with impulse control, and visual disturbances, as delineated by Stacy (2011).

Several qualitative studies have described the stigma that people with Parkinson's can experience in relation to the more visible symptoms of the condition (Caap-Ahlgren & Lannerheim, 2002; Bramley & Eatough, 2005; Hermanns, 2013). Further research has demonstrated stigmatizing views held by both professionals and members of the public towards people with Parkinson's (Tickle-Degnen, Zebrowitz & Ma, 2011; Hemmesch, 2014). It has also been suggested that experiences of stigma can lead to an increase in psychological distress (as measured by symptoms of depression scales), both amongst people with Parkinson's (Schrag, Jahanshahi & Quinn, 2001) and other neurological conditions such as epilepsy (Whatley, Dilorio & Yeager, 2010). For clinical psychologists working with people

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Parkinson's" as opposed to "Parkinson's Disease" is the label used by the charitable organisation Parkinson's UK. Therefore this language has been adopted throughout this document, and on all participant materials.

with Parkinson's with experiences of stigma and psychological distress, it appears important to gain a greater understanding of the relationship between these constructs.

A factor which may be considered as a potential component in the relationship between stigma and psychological distress is self-compassion. Self-compassion is defined by Neff and Dahm (2015) as an acknowledgement of one's own suffering (in line with principles of mindfulness), and a self-directed response based upon "kindness, concern and support". No research could be found looking at self-compassion amongst people with Parkinson's, however it has been demonstrated that interventions aimed at increasing self-compassion can alleviate psychological distress in people with other neurological problems – for example, traumatic brain injuries (Ashworth, Gracey & Gilbert, 2011) and dementia (Collins, Gilligan & Poz, 2017).

It may therefore be reasonable to hypothesise that self-compassion could have a role in the relationship between stigma and psychological distress amongst people with Parkinson's – where stigma and psychological distress might be conceptualized as suffering. Indeed, self-compassion has been shown to protect against the effects of stigma on psychological distress in parents of children with autism (Wong, Mak & Liao, 2016). However, no literature could be found exploring similar relationships in people with neurological conditions.

An additional construct which will be considered is self-critical rumination. This is defined as a ruminative focus specifically upon on self-critical thoughts (Smart, Peters and Baer, 2016). Self-critical rumination has been found to be positively associated with symptoms of depression, anxiety, and stress, and negatively associated with self-compassion in a non-neurological population (Smart, Peters and Baer, 2016). As such, it may be useful to investigate whether these relationships also exist for people with Parkinson's and whether

self-critical rumination might play a role in the relationship between stigma and psychological distress.

The overall aim of this study is to explore the relationships between the constructs of self-compassion, self-critical rumination, stigma and psychological distress amongst people with Parkinson's. It is hoped that the findings of this research will be useful to clinical psychologists working with individuals with Parkinson's: it may deepen understanding of the relationships between internal and external experiences for people with Parkinson's; it could highlight a possible future role for compassion-focussed, cognitive and metacognitive therapeutic approaches; and more broadly, it may highlight a role for clinical psychologists in addressing the stigma faced by people with Parkinson's.

#### Method

# **Participants**

Participants will be accessed via the charitable organisation Parkinson's UK, through online advertising (the charity have a dedicated page for this on their website - <a href="https://www.parkinsons.org.uk/research/take-part-research">https://www.parkinsons.org.uk/research/take-part-research</a>). The study will also be advertised on the social media platform Twitter, via Natalie Sowter's Twitter account. We may also approach other organisations who support people with Parkinson's (including, but not limited to, Parkinson's Association of Ireland, Parkinson's Australia, and Parkinson's New Zealand), to ask them to advertise the study through their websites.

Participants will be adults (i.e. 18 years and older) with Parkinson's who have had their diagnosis for a minimum of 6 months. No upper age limit will be set.

A-priori power calculations indicate that a sample of at least 84 participants will be required in order to achieve sufficient statistical power for the intended statistical analyses (mediation analysis and correlation). Fritz and MacKinnon (2007) provide empirical

estimates of the sample sizes required in mediation analyses to achieve statistical power at 80%. They suggest that a bias-corrected bootstrapped mediation analysis with medium effect sizes between the independent and mediator variables ( $\alpha$ ) and the mediator and dependent variables ( $\beta$ ) ( $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  = 0.39) requires 71 participants, in order to be adequately powered. For a moderate correlation (r = 0.3) and for p=0.05 at 80% power, a two-tailed Pearson's correlation requires 84 participants. Therefore, a minimum of 84 participants will be recruited. A maximum of 300 participants will be recruited.

# Design

This study will employ a cross-sectional, correlational design: it will aim to measure the strength and direction of relationships between several variables, using only one group of participants, at one time-point. The null hypotheses are as follows:

There is no relationship between participants' self-critical rumination scores and self-compassion scores.

There is no relationship between participants' stigma scores and psychological distress (as measured by anxiety, depression and stress scores)

Stigma, self-compassion and self-critical rumination scores do not predict psychological distress (as measured by anxiety, depression and stress scores).

Neither self-compassion nor self-critical rumination mediate any relationship found between stigma and psychological distress.

#### **Materials**

The participant materials for this study will be available both online (via Qualtrics) and in hard copy. The participant materials have been kindly reviewed by Patient and Public Involvement Volunteers from Parkinson's UK, and amended in line with the feedback provided. The participant materials will consist of:

1. Information for Participants – briefly outlining the purpose of the research, how the data will be stored and used, how to contact the research team with any questions or complaints, etc. If this is accessed via Qualtrics, the option will be provided to download a printable copy of this document.

- 2. Eligibility and consent questions 4 questions to check that participants are eligible to participate, have read the Information for Participants and give consent for their data to be included in the study.
- 3. Demographics questionnaire 10 questions to gather demographic and clinical information about participants.
- 4. Functional Status Questionnaire (FSQ; Jette et al., 1986) physical function subscale 9 items designed to assess functioning in basic and intermediate activities of daily living. This has been included for the purpose of situating the sample in terms of severity of physical symptoms. In a systematic review of disability rating scales for people with Parkinson's by Shulman et al. (2016), this measure was recommended for both clinical and research use. Jette et al. (1986) report that it has good internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha = 0.92).
- 5. Stigma Scale for Chronic Illness (SSCI; Rao et al., 2009) a 24 item multiple-choice questionnaire, validated for use with people with Parkinson's. Measures both felt (internalised) stigma and enacted (experienced behaviourally from others) stigma. This distinction may be helpful in reducing bias due to the possibility that people who are more self-compassionate may experience less felt stigma. Cronbach's alpha was reported by the authors of the scale at 0.97, although this analysis was conducted on a draft version of the questionnaire with 26 items.
- 6. Self-Compassion Scale (SCS; Neff, 2003) a 26 item validated measure of self-compassion. Neff (2003) reports that the scale's internal consistency is high (Cronbach's alpha = 0.92).
- 7. Self-Critical Rumination Scale Scale (SCRS; Smart, Peters & Baer, 2016) a 10 item questionnaire; the only self-report measure of self-criticism found to have

good content and structural validity in a systematic review of available measures (Rose & Rimes, 2018). Smart et al. (2016) report a Cronbach's alpha of 0.92, suggesting good internal consistency. Test-retest reliability is also reported for this measure at 0.86 (Smart et al., 2016).

- 8. Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale 21 (DASS-21; Lovibond & Lovibond, 1995) a 21 item questionnaire which is validated for clinical and non-clinical populations. Cronbach's alphas have been found to be 0.94 for depression, 0.87 for anxiety, and 0.91 for stress (Antony, Bieling, Cox, Enns, & Swinson, 1998).
- Debrief additional information about the purpose of the research, contact details
  for queries or concerns, and resources in the case that the research leads to any
  distress.

Additional materials which will be required are:

- 1. Research phone (to enable participant contact)
- 2. Prepaid envelopes and stamps (for postage of hard copies)
- 3. Qualtrics software
- 4. SPSS software including Hayes PROCESS tool

#### **Procedure**

Participants will be recruited via Parkinson's UK

(https://www.parkinsons.org.uk/research/take-part-research). This has been agreed with the Parkinson's UK research team. Participants will see the title of the research and a brief description, and when clicking on this will be taken to the landing page of the Qualtrics survey (the first page being the Information for Participants sheet). The study will also be advertised on the social media platform Twitter, via Natalie Sowter's Twitter account.

Twitter posts will provide a brief description of the study, and a link to the landing page of

the Qualtrics survey (the first page being the Information for Participants sheet).

Organisations who support people with Parkinson's may be "tagged" in the posts and asked to "retweet". Additionally, we may approach other organisations who support people with Parkinson's (including, but not limited to, Parkinson's Association of Ireland, Parkinson's Australia, and Parkinson's New Zealand), to ask them to advertise the study through their websites.

Participants will be able to choose to complete the online survey via Qualtrics, or to contact the lead researcher via phone, text or email to request a hard copy be posted to them, along with a stamped addressed envelope in which to return it.

Data will be collated on the principal investigator's password-protected Qualtrics account, and will at this stage be accessible only to the principal investigator and supervisors. Responses submitted in hard copy format will be entered into Qualtrics by the principal investigator and then destroyed.

# **Data Analysis**

The relevant data for each analysis will be transferred from Qualtrics to SPSS data files. A correlation analysis will firstly be performed between self-compassion and self-critical rumination scores, then between all other variables (Pearson or Spearman depending on the distribution of scores). A series of hierarchical regression analyses will then be conducted with the DASS variable scores as the dependent variable for each analysis (i.e. depression, anxiety, and stress), stigma and self-compassion and/or self-critical rumination scores as independent variables, and controlling for demographic and clinical variables if appropriate.

If the assumptions are met to carry out mediation analyses (e.g. Hayes & Rockwood, 2017), then this will also be completed (with bias-correction and bootstrapping as required).

The first proposed mediation analysis will take stigma as the independent variable, DASS scores as the dependent variable, and self-compassion as the potential mediator. The second proposed mediation analysis will take stigma as the independent variable, DASS scores as the dependent variable, and self-critical rumination as the potential mediator.

#### Dissemination

It is anticipated that the findings of this study will be disseminated as follows:

- Submitted as part of the principal investigator's thesis for her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology (DClinPsy).
- 2. Submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal
- 3. Presented to trainee clinical psychologists, service users and course staff at the DClinPsy thesis presentation day at Lancaster University.
- 4. Summarised for presentation on the Parkinson's UK website.
- 5. Presented at a meeting of the North West Neuropsychology Special Interest Group, and/or at other conferences and seminars.

#### **Practical issues**

It is hoped that the option to complete the questionnaires either online or in hard-copy (paper) format will enable people to participate who may wish to contribute but be otherwise unable. Participants will also be allowed to have help to fill in the questionnaires by a relative, friend or caregiver.

Data will be submitted anonymously and stored securely on password protected software (Qualtrics). Data will be accessible only to Natalie Sowter and the supervisors named above (and the research coordinator and Research and/or Programme Director in the

DClinPsy team once the assignment is submitted). Once the project is complete, data will be

sent to the research coordinator of the DClinPsy team for storage for 10 years on the

Lancaster University secure Network or Box. Fiona Eccles will be the data custodian and will

be responsible for overseeing the data being destroyed after 10 years.

The licences for the necessary statistical analysis software are available through

Lancaster University.

**Ethical concerns** 

Since participant recruitment will be carried out through Parkinson's UK, NHS ethical

approval is not required and ethical approval is being sought via the FHMREC only. The

research team at Parkinson's UK have confirmed that this is sufficient.

There is a slight possibility that participants may feel distressed as a result of

completing the questionnaires. The details of organisations participants can contact for

support in the event of distress will be provided as part of the debrief information. No risks to

researchers have been identified.

As above, data will be submitted anonymously and stored securely on password

protected software (Qualtrics). Data will be accessible only to Natalie Sowter and the

supervisors named above (and the research coordinator and Research and/or Programme

Director in the DClinPsy team once the assignment is submitted). Once the project is

complete, data will be sent to the research coordinator of the DClinPsy team for storage for

10 years on the Lancaster University secure Network or Box. Fiona Eccles will be the data

custodian and will be responsible for overseeing the data being destroyed after 10 years.

**Timescale** 

**September 2018:** Submission of ethics application.

4-20

October-December 2018: Data collection.

January 2019: Data analysis.

December 2018-April 2019: Write-up.

May 2019: Submission of report as part of thesis.

**Autumn/Winter 2019:** Submission for publication; dissemination of findings by presentation (written and verbal).

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# Appendix 4A

# **Note to Ethics Committee Regarding Online Survey**

The online version contains the same materials and questionnaires as the paper version enclosed below. Any changes in wording are purely to facilitate online use.

Link to qualtrics survey:

https://lancasteruni.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV eKUy6NVbspAjRMV

Note: the eligibility and consent questions in the online version must be answered in order to proceed to the following pages. Any responses will not be stored.

# Appendix 4B

# **Paper Version of Participant Materials**

Begin overleaf



How are people with Parkinson's treated by others, how do they view themselves, and how is their psychological wellbeing affected?

#### **Information for Participants**

My name is Natalie Sowter and I am conducting this research as a student on the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology programme at Lancaster University, Lancaster, United Kingdom.

#### What is the study about?

This study aims to find out about the relationships between four types of experiences for people with Parkinson's. The types of experiences we want to find out about are:

- signs of psychological distress (e.g. symptoms of anxiety, depression and stress),
- signs of disapproval from oneself and others (stigma),
- persistent critical thoughts about the self (self-critical rumination) and
- the ability to recognise one's own suffering and take steps to relieve it, using a kind and caring approach (self-compassion).

Previous research has suggested that people affected by Parkinson's may experience stigma, which can lead to an increase in psychological distress. The aim of this study is to investigate the relationship between stigma and psychological distress, by looking at other factors which might influence it. The other factors which we are considering are 'self-compassion' and 'self-critical rumination'. We hope to find out about the relationship between these two concepts for people with Parkinson's. We also hope to find out whether either (or both) of these concepts are important in explaining the relationship between stigma and psychological distress for people with Parkinson's. We hope that an understanding of how these experiences are connected may help professionals to support people with Parkinson's who are experiencing distress.

#### Who can take part in this study?

To participate in this study, you need to be aged 18 years or over. You also need to have a diagnosis of Parkinson's, and to have received this diagnosis at least 6 months ago.

#### Do I have to take part?

No. It's completely up to you to decide whether or not to take part.

#### What will I be asked to do if I take part?

If you decide that you would like to take part, you will be asked to complete a survey. The survey should take around 30 minutes to complete and need not be completed in one sitting. You can ask somebody to help you to complete the survey if you would like.

#### How do I take part?

You can take part by filling in the questionnaires in this pack and returning them in the stamped addressed envelope provided. Alternatively, you can complete the survey online by going to <a href="https://www.parkinsons.org.uk/research/take-part-research">https://www.parkinsons.org.uk/research/take-part-research</a>.

#### Are there any risks?

There are no risks anticipated with participating in this study. However, if you experience any distress following participation you are encouraged to inform the researcher and contact the resources provided below.

### Will my data be identifiable?

The information you provide in the survey will remain anonymous, i.e. we will not be able to tell which information belongs to you. If you provide your name and address to receive a paper copy of the survey, this information will be destroyed once the survey has been posted to you. Your responses to the survey will be combined with other participants' data and stored in an electronic file space on the secure server provided by Lancaster University. Paper copies of the survey will be stored in a locked cabinet until they have been added to the electronic file space, after which time they will be destroyed. The electronic file space will be password protected such that it will only be accessible to the researchers for this study. Since this research will be submitted for assessment as part of the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, the anonymised data may also need to be accessed by the course's admin staff and the Programme and/or Research Directors. The data will be held securely in its anonymised electronic form by Lancaster University for 10 years, after which time it will be destroyed. For further information about how Lancaster University processes personal data for research purposes, and your data rights, please visit our webpage: <a href="https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/research/data-protection">www.lancaster.ac.uk/research/data-protection</a>.

#### What will happen to the results?

The results will be summarised and reported in a thesis and may also be submitted for publication in an academic journal and presented at seminars and conferences. The summarised results will also be made available on the Parkinson's UK website.

#### Who has reviewed the project?

This study has been reviewed and approved by the Faculty of Health and Medicine Research Ethics Committee at Lancaster University.

#### Where can I obtain further information about the study if I need it?

If you have any questions about the study, please contact the main researcher Natalie Sowter (Trainee Clinical Psychologist) by email at n.sowter@lancaster.ac.uk or by telephone on (07508 375 665). You can also contact my research supervisor, Fiona Eccles (Lecturer in Health Research) by email at f.eccles@lancaster.ac.uk or by telephone on 01524 592 807.

#### **Complaints**

If you wish to make a complaint or raise concerns about any aspect of this study and do not want to speak to the researcher, you can contact:

Professor Bill Sellwood, Research Director for Doctorate in Clinical Psychology Programme Tel: 01524 593998

Email: b.sellwood@lancaster.ac.uk

Division of Health Research, Faculty of Health and Medicine Lancaster University, Lancaster, LA1 4YG

If you wish to speak to someone outside of the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology Programme, you may also contact:

Professor Roger Pickup, Associate Dean for Research

Tel: 01524 593746

Email: r.pickup@lancaster.ac.uk

Division of Biomedical and Life Sciences, Faculty of Health and Medicine Lancaster

University, Lancaster, LA1 4YG

#### **Resources in the event of distress**

Should you feel distressed either as a result of taking part, or in the future, the following resources may be of assistance:

Parkinson's UK

Website: www.parkinsons.org.uk

Helpline: 0808 800 0303

Samaritans

Website: https://www.samaritans.org/

Helpline: 116 123

If you would like to take part in this study, please continue by answering the questions below.

Please note that if you answer "Yes" to the questions below, and you return these questionnaires, then you will not be able to withdraw your data. This is because your responses will be stored anonymously and therefore we will not know which data belong to you.

Are you aged 18 y	years or over?
O Yes	
○ No	
Have you been give	ven a diagnosis of Parkinson's?
O Yes, over 6	6 months ago
O Yes, less th	nan 6 months ago
○ No	
Have you read an	d understood the Information for Participants?
O Yes	
○ No	
• 0	ent for your responses to this survey to be used for the trainee clinical earch study, as described in the Information for Participants?
○ Yes	
○ No	

The following questions are to help us to understand more about the people who take this survey, and to see whether the data we get is representative of people with Parkinson's across the UK. We will not be able to identify you from this information.

How many years ago were you diagnosed with Parkinson's? (If unsure, please make your best guess)
O I was diagnosed years ago
O I'd prefer not to say
How are your Parkinson's symptoms currently being treated? Please select all that apply:
Medication prescribed by GP / neurologist / other healthcare professional
Deep Brain Stimulation surgery
Apomorphine pump
Other (please describe)
No current treatment
I'd prefer not to say
What is your age?
○ I'd prefer not to say
O I am years old
Where do you currently live?
○ England
O Northern Ireland
○ Scotland
O Wales

European country outside of the UK (please sp	pecify)
O Country outside of Europe (please specify)	
O I'd prefer not to say	
Please select the option which best describes your e	ethnic group or background.
O Arab	
Asian / Asian British:	
O Bangladeshi	
○ Chinese	
O Indian	
O Pakistani	
O Any other Asian background, please describe	
Black / Black British	
O African	
	(continues overleaf)
O Caribbean	
O Any other Black background, please describe	
Mixed / Multiple ethnic background	
O White and Asian	
O White and Black African	
White and Black Caribbean	

Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background, please describe
White
O British (English / Northern Irish / Scottish / Welsh)
○ Irish
○ Traveller
O Any other White background, please describe
Other
O Any other ethnic background, please describe
Ud prefer not to say

Which option best describes your current living situation?
O In my own home, by myself
O In my own home, with my spouse/ partner/ family/ friends/ others
O In my own home, with a live-in carer
In supported accomodation
O In a nursing home
O Long-term hospital stay
Other (please describe)
○ I'd prefer not to say
What is your gender identity? Please select all that apply:
Female
Male
Non-binary
Gender non-conforming
I'd prefer to self describe
I'd prefer not to say

Which option best describes your current partnership status?
○ I have a spouse or partner, whom I live with
O I have a spouse or partner, whom I do not live with
I do not have a spouse or partner
O I am widowed
Other (please describe)
○ I'd prefer not to say
Which option best describes your current employment status?
O In full-time education
O In part-time education
C Employed (full-time)
C Employed (part-time)
O Self-employed
O Unemployed
O Retired
O Unable to work
Other (please describe)
○ I'd prefer not to say

The following questions ask about how Parkinson's affects you physically. This will help us to understand more about the people who take this survey.

During the past month have you had difficulty:

During the past month have you had difficulty:								
	Usually did with no difficulty	Some difficulty	Much difficulty	Usually did not do because of health	Usually did not do for other reasons			
Taking care of yourself, that is, eating, dressing or bathing?	0	$\circ$	0	0	0			
Moving in and out of a bed or chair?	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$			
Walking indoors, such as around your home?	0	0	0	0	0			
Walking several blocks?	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	0	$\circ$			
Walking one block or climbing one flight of stairs?	0	0	0	0	0			
Doing work around the house such as cleaning, light yard work, home maintenance?	0	0	0	0	0			
Doing errands, such as grocery shopping?	0	0	0	0	0			
Driving a car or using public transportation?	0	0	0	0	0			
Doing vigorous activities such as running, lifting heavy objects or participating in strenuous sports?	0	0	0	0	0			

A number of experiences are described on the following pages. Please indicate how frequently you have had each experience lately, in relation to your Parkinson's.

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
Because of my illness, I felt emotionally distant from other people	0	0	0	0	0
Because of my illness, I felt left out of things	0	0	0	0	0
Because of my illness, I felt embarrassed in social situations	0	0	0	0	0
Because of my illness, I worried about other people's attitudes towards me	0	0	0	0	0
I was unhappy about how my illness affected my appearance	0	0	0	0	0
Because of my illness, it was hard for me to stay neat and clean	0	0	0	0	0
Because of my illness, I worried that I was a burden to others	0	0	0	0	0
I felt embarrassed about my illness	0	0	0	0	0
I felt embarrassed because of my physical limitations	0	0	0	0	0
I felt embarrassed about my speech	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	0
Because of my illness, I felt different from others	0	0	0	0	0
I tended to blame myself for my problems	0	0	0	0	0

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
I avoided making new friends to avoid telling others about my illness	0	0	0	0	0
Because of my illness, some people seemed uncomfortable with me	0	0	0	0	0
Because of my illness, some people avoided me	0	0	0	0	0
Because of my illness, people were unkind to me	0	0	0	0	0
Because of my illness, people made fun of me	0	0	0	0	0
Because of my illness, people avoided looking at me	0	0	0	0	0
Because of my illness, strangers tended to stare at me	0	0	0	0	0
Because of my illness, I was treated unfairly by others	0	0	0	0	0
Because of my illness, people tended to ignore my good points	0	0	0	0	0
Some people acted as though it was my fault I have this illness	0	0	0	0	0
People with my illness lost their jobs when their employers found out about it	0	0	0	0	0

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
I lost friends by telling them that I have this illness	0	0	0	0	0

# HOW I TYPICALLY ACT TOWARDS MYSELF IN DIFFICULT TIMES

Please read each statement on the following pages carefully before answering. For each item, indicate how often you behave in the stated manner, using the following scale:

1 = Almost never 2 3 4 5 = Almost always

	1 (almost never)	2	3	4	5 (almost always)
1. I'm disapproving and judgmental about my own flaws and inadequacies.	0	0	0	0	0
2. When I'm feeling down I tend to obsess and fixate on everything that's wrong.	0	0	0	0	0
3. When things are going badly for me, I see the difficulties as part of life that everyone goes through	0	0	0	0	0
4. When I think about my inadequacies, it tends to make me feel more separate and cut off from the rest of the world.	0	0	0	0	0
5. I try to be loving towards myself when I'm feeling emotional pain.	$\circ$	$\circ$	0	0	0
6. When I fail at something important to me I become consumed by feelings of inadequacy.	0	0	0	0	0
7. When I'm down and out, I remind myself that there are lots of other people in the world feeling like I am.	0	0	0	0	0
8. When times are really difficult, I tend to be tough on myself.	0	0	0	0	0
9. When something upsets me I try to keep my emotions in balance.	0	0	0	0	0
10. When I feel inadequate in some way, I try to remind myself that feelings of inadequacy are shared by most people.	0	0	0	0	0
11. I'm intolerant and impatient towards those aspects of my personality I don't like.	0	0	0	0	0
12. When I'm going through a very hard time, I give myself the caring and tenderness I need.	0	0	0	0	0

	1 (almost never)	2	3	4	5 (almost always)
13. When I'm feeling down, I tend to feel like most other people are probably happier than I am.	0	0	0	0	0
14. When something painful happens I try to take a balanced view of the situation.	0	0	0	0	0
15. I try to see my failings as part of the human condition.	$\circ$	0	0	$\circ$	$\circ$
16. When I see aspects of myself that I don't like, I get down on myself.	0	0	0	0	0
17. When I fail at something important to me I try to keep things in perspective.	0	0	0	0	0
18. When I'm really struggling, I tend to feel like other people must be having an easier time of it.	0	0	0	0	0
19. I'm kind to myself when I'm experiencing suffering.	$\circ$	0	0	0	$\circ$
20. When something upsets me I get carried away with my feelings.	0	0	0	0	0
21. I can be a bit cold- hearted towards myself when I'm experiencing suffering.	0	0	0	0	0
22. When I'm feeling down I try to approach my feelings with curiosity and openness.	0	0	0	0	0
23. I'm tolerant of my own flaws and inadequacies.	$\circ$	$\circ$	0	$\circ$	$\circ$
24. When something painful happens I tend to blow the incident out of proportion.	0	0	0	0	0
25. When I fail at something that's important to me, I tend to feel alone in my failure.	0	$\circ$	0	0	0
26. I try to be understanding and patient towards those aspects of my personality I don't like.	0	0	0	0	0

Please rate how well each item describes you.

	Not at all	A little	Moderately	Very well
1. My attention is often focused on aspects of myself that I'm ashamed of.	0	0	0	0
2. I always seem to be rehashing in my mind stupid things that I've said or done.	0	0	0	0
3. Sometimes it is hard for me to shut off critical thoughts about myself.	0	0	0	0
4. I can't stop thinking about how I should have acted differently in certain situations.	0	0	0	0
5. I spend a lot of time thinking about how ashamed I am of some of my personal habits.	0	0	0	0
6. I criticise myself a lot for how I act around other people.	0	0	0	0
7. I wish I spent less time criticising myself.	$\circ$	0	0	$\circ$
8. I often worry about all of the mistakes I have made.	$\circ$	0	0	$\circ$
9. I spend a lot of time wishing I were different.	$\circ$	0	0	$\circ$
10. I often berate myself for not being as productive as I should be.	0	0	0	0

Please read each statement on the following pages and select a number 0, 1, 2 or 3 which indicates how much the statement applied to you over the past week. There are no right or wrong answers. Do not spend too much time on any statement.

# The rating scale is as follows:

- 0 Did not apply to me at all
- 1 Applied to me to some degree, or some of the time
- 2 Applied to me to a considerable degree, or a good part of time
- 3 Applied to me very much, or most of the time

	0 (did not apply to me at all)	1 (applied to me to some degree, or some of the time)	2 (applied to me a considerable degree, or a good part of the time)	3 (applied to me very much, or most of the time)
I found it hard to wind down	0	0	0	0
I was aware of dryness of my mouth	0	0	0	0
I couldn't seem to experience any positive feeling at all	0	0	0	0
I experienced breathing difficulty (e.g. excessively rapid breathing, breathlessness in the absence of physical exertion)	0	0	0	0
I found it difficult to work up the initiative to do things	0	0	0	0
I tended to over-react to situations	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	0
I experienced trembling (e.g. in the hands)	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
I felt that I was using a lot of nervous energy	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
I was worried about situations in which I might panic and make a fool of myself	0	0	0	0
I felt that I had nothing to look forward to	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
I found myself getting agitated	0	0	0	0
I found it difficult to relax	0	0	0	0
I felt down-hearted and blue	0	0	0	0
I was intolerant of anything that kept me from getting on with what I was doing	0	0	0	0

	0 (did not apply to me at all)	1 (applied to me to some degree, or some of the time)	2 (applied to me a considerable degree, or a good part of the time)	3 (applied to me very much, or most of the time)
I felt I was close to panic	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
I was unable to become enthusiastic about anything	0	0	0	0
I felt I wasn't worth much as a person	0	0	0	0
I felt that I was rather touchy	0	0	0	0
I was aware of the action of my heart in the absence of physical exertion (e.g., sense of heart rate increase, heart missing a beat)	0	0	0	0
I felt scared without any good reason	0	0	0	0
I felt that life was meaningless	0	0	0	0

#### **Debrief**

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

This paragraph provides some background information to explain why we are doing this study. Previous research suggests that people affected by Parkinson's experience stigma (signs of disapproval) from others, which can lead to an increase in psychological distress (symptoms of anxiety, depression and stress). The aim of this study is to investigate this relationship between stigma and psychological distress, by looking at other factors which might influence it. The other factors which we are considering are self-compassion (the ability to recognise one's own suffering and take steps to relieve it, using a kind and caring approach) and self-critical rumination (persistent critical thoughts about the self). These two concepts have been found to be related to one another: people who demonstrate more selfcompassion tend to engage less in self-critical rumination. We hope to find out whether this same relationship exists for people with Parkinson's. We also hope to find out whether either (or both) of these concepts are important in explaining the relationship between stigma and psychological distress (as found in previous studies), for people with Parkinson's. We hope that an understanding of how these experiences are connected may help professionals to support people with Parkinson's who are experiencing distress. Once this research study is complete, the findings will be made available via the Parkinson's UK website. The results will also be summarised and reported in a thesis and may be submitted for publication in an academic journal and presented at seminars and conferences.

Your responses to this survey will be combined with other participants' data and stored in an electronic file space on the secure server provided by Lancaster University. The file space will be password protected such that it will only be accessible to the researchers for this study. Since this research will be submitted for assessment as part of the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, the anonymised data may also need to be accessed by the course's admin staff and the Programme and/or Research Directors. The data will be held securely in its anonymised electronic form by Lancaster University for 10 years, after which time it will be destroyed. For further information about how Lancaster University processes personal data for research purposes, and your data rights, please visit our webpage: www.lancaster.ac.uk/research/data-protection.

Should you feel distressed either as a result of taking part in this study, or in the future, you may find the following resources helpful:

• Parkinson's UK

Website: www.parkinsons.org.uk

Helpline: 0808 800 0303

Samaritans

Website: https://www.samaritans.org/

Helpline: 116 123

If you have any questions about your participation in this study, please contact me (Natalie Sowter) by email at n.sowter@lancaster.ac.uk or by telephone on 07508 375 665. You can

also contact my research supervisor, Fiona Eccles (Lecturer in Health Research) by email at f.eccles@lancaster.ac.uk or by telephone on 01524 592807.

Thank you for your time.

# **Appendix 4C**

# **Ethics Amendment Request Form**



# Faculty of Health and Medicine Research Ethics Committee (FHMREC) Lancaster University Application for Amendment to Previously Approved Research

1.	Name of applicant:
	Natalie Sowter
2.	E-mail address and phone number of applicant:
	n.sowter@lancaster.ac.uk, 07817757231
3.	Title of project:
	Stigma, self-compassion, self-critical rumination and psychological distress amongst people with Parkinson's
4.	FHMREC project reference number:
	FHMREC18002
5.	Date of original project approval as indicated on the official approval letter
	15/10/2018
6.	(month/year): Please outline the requestedamendment(s) Note that where the amendment relates to a change of researcher, and the new researcher is a student, a full application must be made to
	We would like to expand the recruitment strategy by putting a link to the survey on social media (Twitter), through the lead researcher's professional account. We would also like to approach other charities for people with Parkinson's (including, but not limited to, Parkinson's Association of Ireland, Parkinson's Australia, and Parkinson's New Zealand), to ask them to advertise

**FHMREC** 

the study through their websites.

7. Please explain your reason(s) for requesting the above amendment(s):

The current recruitment strategy has been slower than expected. More participants are required in order to ensure adequate statistical power for the study.

#### **Guidance:**

- a) Resubmit your research ethics documents (the entire version which received final approval, including all participant materials, your application form and research protocol), with all additions highlighted in yellow, and any deletions simply 'struck through', so that it is possible to see what was there previously.
- b) This should be submitted as **a single PDF** to <u>Becky Case</u> There is no need to resubmit the Governance Checklist

Applicant electronic signature:	Date
Natalie Sowter	24/01/2019

Student applicants: please tick to confirm that you have discussed this amendment application with your supervisor, and that they are happy for the application to proceed to ethical review  $\boxtimes$ 

Project Supervisor name (if applicable):	Date application discussed
Dr Fiona Eccles	24/01/2019

You must submit this application from your Lancaster University email address, and copy your supervisor in to the email in which you submit this application

**July 2016** 

#### Appendix 4D

#### **Letter of Ethical Approval**



Applicant: Natalie Sowter Supervisor: Fiona Eccles

Department: Health Research FHMREC Reference: FHMREC18052

28 January 2019

Dear Natalie

Re: Stigma, self-compassion, self-critical rumination and psychological distress amongst people with Parkinson's

Thank you for submitting your research ethics amendment application for the above project for review by the **Faculty of Health and Medicine Research Ethics Committee (FHMREC)**. The application was recommended for approval by FHMREC, and on behalf of the Chair of the Committee, I can confirm that approval has been granted for the amendment to this research project.

As principal investigator your responsibilities include:

- ensuring that (where applicable) all the necessary legal and regulatory requirements in order to conduct the research are met, and the necessary licenses and approvals have been obtained;
- reporting any ethics-related issues that occur during the course of the research or arising from the research to the Research Ethics Officer at the email address below (e.g. unforeseen ethical issues, complaints about the conduct of the research, adverse reactions such as extreme distress);
- submitting details of proposed substantive amendments to the protocol to the Research Ethics Officer for approval.

Please contact me if you have any queries or require further information.

Tel:- 01542 593987

Email:- fhmresearchsupport@lancaster.ac.uk

Yours sincerely,

R.E. Case

Becky Case Research Ethics Officer, Secretary to FHMREC.