**Notes Discussion Group on Questionnaire-based Approaches to Narrative Empathy  
Empathy & Narrative Discussion Event**

24th September 2021

Taken by Julia de Jonge and Giulia Scapin

Moniek’s discussion points:

How could we operationalise state narrative empathy?

Is empathy the umbrella or a facet? What does the narrative in narrative empathy stand for?

And how does your conceptualisation of narrative in narrative empathy influence your operationalisation?

Are there scales available that capture such a conceptualisation (are they reliable, how are they embedded) or do you need to develop one yourself and what would that look like?

Resource shared by Moniek Kuipers: Crowne & Marlowe 1960 A new scale of social desirability independent of psychopathology

We spent significant part of the discussion on the distinction between empathy and sympathy.

A few points:

* empathy is pre-requisite to sympathy.
* we as researchers do distinguish between the two, the general public probably doesn’t. So if we insist on testing both, we need to make sure questions are worded very differently.
* Readers do not recognise the distinction between when they empathise or sympathise. So is it necessary to measure?

Eirini Panagiotidou shared (Keen’s definitions of empathy vs. sympathy - in relations to narrative empathy): <https://english.as.uky.edu/sites/default/files/zunshineTheory%20of%20Narrative%20Empathy.pdf>

Shannon Whitten’s terminology (Ellen Winners. 2009):

Cognitive Empathy: Involved imagining what someone else is going through; an understanding of what they are feeling but without feeling it yourself.

Emotional Empathy: Goes beyond understanding to an affective experience within oneself a sense that “I feel this with you.”

Compassionate Empathy: This form of empathy involves action – one is moved to want to help.