

Table 1: Description of the studies selected for the systematic review included in the qualitative summary

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Nationality</i>	<i>Specific theoretical framework</i>	<i>Article type, methodology</i>	<i>Summary and key findings</i>
Netzer, 1980	USA	Pragmatic approach (Milan approach)	Theoretical study	Pathological narcissism which pervades the psychotic family is defined as <i>hubristic action</i> : it is the repeated attempts of one member of the system to assert himself in the face of constant disqualification by the rest of it.
Jones, 1987	USA	Pragmatic approach	Theoretical study	Borderline and narcissistic patients are often part of a dysfunctional family system: it is characterised by the difficulty in tolerating growth and change, which are perceived as injury, loss or harm, and can cause explosive crises in the system. It is important to take a family approach for effective assessment and treatment.
Jacobs, 1991	USA	Pragmatic approach and Self-Psychology	Theoretical study	Self-psychology helps to understand and treat family systems characterised by narcissistic deficits. In narcissistic systems, each member functions pathologically as self-object to each other: individuals are not perceived as autonomous and separate, attempts to express individuality are experienced with confusion, fear of abandonment, rage.
Perosa, 1996	USA	Pragmatic approach (Structural Family Model) and Self-Psychology	Empirical study, quantitative methodology (SFIS-R; PRI; SEI; sample size: 164)	Young women who display narcissistic personality traits (basing on Kohut's self-psychology construct) are likely to have difficulty in setting goals and to be raised in families with strong cross-generational alliances (basing on Minuchin's structural family model), that hinders the separation-individuation process.
Jones and Wells, 1996	USA	Philadelphia School (Contextual approach)	Empirical study, quantitative methodology (PQ; MCMI-II; sample size: 360)	Parentification, which undermines the development of the child's "true self", is a significant predictor of masochistic and narcissistic personality. The results lend preliminary support to the authors' theory that parentification can express itself in two different but related forms, depending on the type of familiar inducement. In particular, parents may induce «narcissistic parentification» by needing the child to become the parent's idealized self-projection.

Magnavita, 2000	USA	Integrative Relational Therapy framework and systemic principles	Theoretical study	Complex clinical syndromes exist in Dysfunctional Personologic Systems that reinforce and perpetuate the disorder. In the Narcissistic System the major theme is false protection and maintenance of public image, while the Covertly Narcissistic System is characterised by pressure to compensate for family members' deficits, providing emotional care-taking.
Fourie, 2010	South Africa	Constructivist-systemic theory	Theoretical study	Narcissist behaviour can be seen to serve in an ambivalent way (" <i>look but don't touch</i> ") to conserve an image of being exceptional and superior and, simultaneously, to keep other at distance so as not to tarnish this image. It is hypothesized that narcissistic behaviour could be embedded in a family context of ambivalence around the poles of superiority versus ordinariness.

SFIS-R = Structural Family Interaction Scale - Revised (Perosa&Perosa, 1990); PRI = Parental Relationship Inventory (Stutman & Lich, 1984); SEI = Self-Expression Inventory (Robbins & Patton, 1985).

PQ = Parentification Questionnaire (Sessions & Jurkovic, 1986); MCMI-II = Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory-II (Millon, 1987).