Figure 2: Trivariate Cholesky decomposition showing genetic and environmental influences on obsessive-compulsive symptoms and stressful life events

Note: OCS T1 = obsessive-compulsive symptoms at Time 1; SLE = dependent stressful life at Time 2; OCS T2 = obsessive-compulsive symptoms at Time 2; A = additive genetic effects; E = non-shared environmental effects; values are standardized, unsquared path estimates; 95% confidence intervals in parentheses

Dependent stressful life events reported at Time 2 were used for longitudinal analyses, in order to test whether life events that occurred between Time 1 and Time 2 predicted increased OCS.

The proportion of variance attributable to a specific variance component can be calculated by squaring the path estimate. This can be converted to a percentage by multiplying by 100. For example, the influence of $E_2$ on OCS at Time 2 is $.11^2 \times 100 = 1.21\%$.

The environmental contribution to the association between stressful life events and OCS at Time 2 can be calculated by tracing the path between SLE T2 and OCS T2 via $E_2 (.72 \times .11)$ and dividing it by the combination of the paths between SLE T2 and OCS T2 via $A_2$ and $E_2 (.68 \times .11 + .71 \times .11)$.