

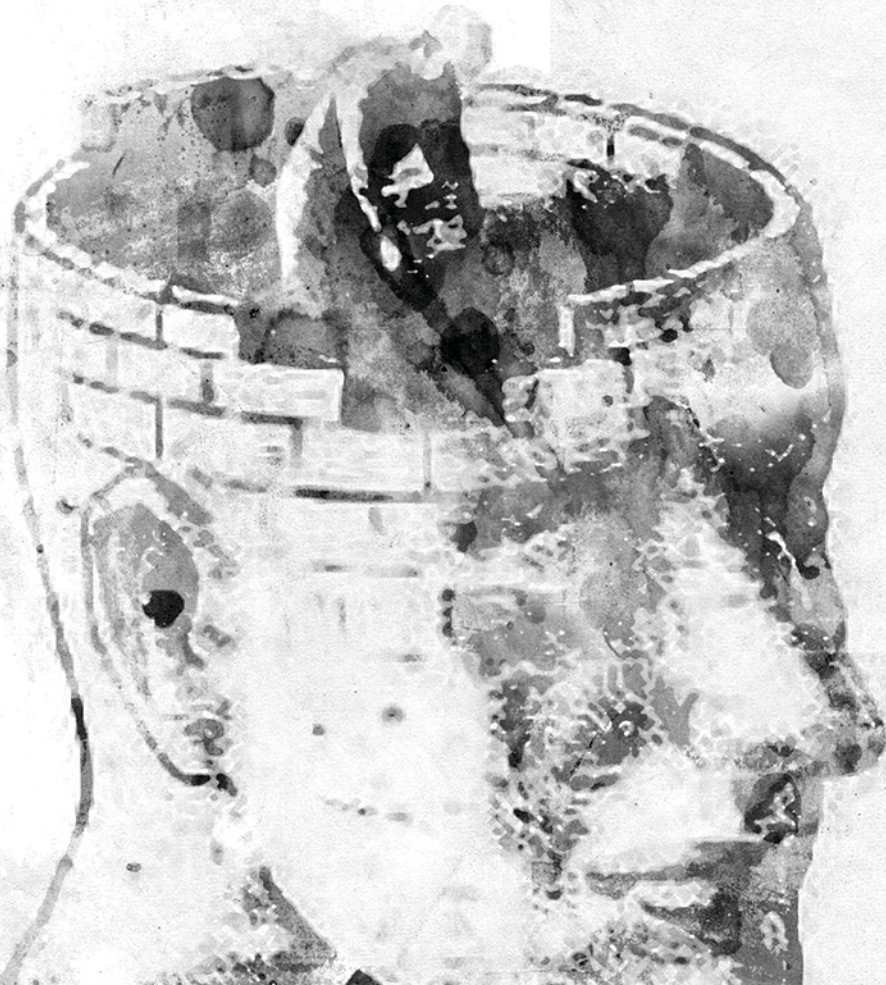
InPACT 2013

INTERNATIONAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS
CONFERENCE AND TRENDS

Book of Abstracts

26 - 28 April
Madrid, SPAIN

Edited by:
Clara Pracana
Liliana Silva



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BRIEF CONTENTS

Foreword	v
Organizing and Scientific Committee	vii
Keynote Lecture	xi
Special Talks	xii
Sponsors	xv
Index of Contents	xvii
Author Index	

FOREWORD

Dear Colleagues,

We are delighted to welcome you to the International Psychological Applications Conference and Trends 2013, taking place in Madrid, Spain, from 26 to 28 of April.

Our efforts and active engagement can now be rewarded with these three days of exciting new developments about what we are passionate about: Psychology and its connections. We take pride in having been able to connect and bring together academics, scholars, practitioners and others interested in a field that is fertile in new perspectives, ideas and knowledge. We counted on an extensive variety of contributors and presenters, which can supplement our view of the human essence and behavior, showing the impact of their different personal, academic and cultural experiences. This is, certainly, one of the reasons we have many nationalities and cultures represented, inspiring multi-disciplinary collaborative links, fomenting intellectual encounter and development.

InPACT 2013 received over more 338 submissions, from 37 different countries, reviewed by a double-blind process. Submissions were prepared to take form of Oral Presentations, Posters, Virtual Presentations and Workshops. The conference also includes a keynote presentation from an internationally distinguished researcher Prof. Howard S. Schwartz, from Oakland University, U.S.A.. There will be also two Special Talks, one by Michael Wang, Professor of Clinical Psychology in the School of Psychology, College of Medicine, University of Leicester and also Director of the Doctoral Clinical Psychology Training Course at Leicester, UK, and the other by Clara Pracana, founding member of Portuguese Association of Psychoanalysis and Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, Portugal, to whom we express our most gratitude.

This volume is composed by the proceedings of the International Psychological Applications Conference and Trends (InPACT 2013), organized by the World Institute for Advanced Research and Science (W.I.A.R.S.) and co-sponsored by the respected partners we reference in the dedicated page. This conference addressed important topics in four main fields taken from Applied Psychology: Clinical, Educational, Social, Legal and Cognitive and Experimental Psychology. The areas can, of course, be object of discussion, but extended abstracts were presented in 56 topics within these fields of research:

- *Clinical Psychology*: Emotions and related psychological processes; Assessment; Psychotherapy and counseling; Addictive behaviors; Eating disorders; Personality disorders; Quality of life and mental health; Communication within relationships; Services of mental health; and Psychopathology.
- *Educational Psychology*: Language and cognitive processes; School environment and childhood disorders; Parenting and parenting related processes; Learning and technology; Psychology in schools; Intelligence and creativity; Motivation in classroom; Perspectives on teaching; Assessment and evaluation; and Individual differences in learning.
- *Social Psychology*: Cross-cultural dimensions of mental disorders; Employment issues and training; Organizational psychology; Psychology in politics and international issues; Social factors in adolescence and its development; Social anxiety and self-esteem; Immigration and social policy; Self-efficacy and identity development; Parenting and social support; and Addiction and stigmatization.

- *Legal Psychology*: Violence and trauma; Mass-media and aggression; Intra-familial violence; Juvenile delinquency; Aggressive behavior in childhood; Internet offending; Working with crime perpetrators; Forensic psychology; Violent risk assessment; and Law enforcement and stress.
- *Cognitive and Experimental Psychology*: Perception, memory and attention; Decision making and problem-solving; Concept formation, reasoning and judgment; Language processing; Learning skills and education; Cognitive Neuroscience; Computer analogies and information processing (Artificial Intelligence and computer simulations); Social and cultural factors in the cognitive approach; Experimental methods, research and statistics; and Biopsychology.

The proceedings contain the results of the research and developments conducted by authors who focused on what they are passionate about: Psychology and its multi-disciplinary connections. It includes an extensive variety of contributors and presenters, who will extend our view of the human psyche and behavior, by sharing with us their different personal, academic and cultural experiences. This is certainly one of the reasons we have so many nationalities and cultures represented, inspiring collaborative links and fostering intellectual encounters.

There will be a special issue of the “PsychNology” Journal with full papers developed from selected conference papers and also a book with the best papers in extended versions.

We would like to express thanks to all the authors and participants, the members of the academic scientific committee, our sponsors and partners and, of course, to our organizing and administration team for making and putting this conference together.

Hoping to continue the collaboration in the future,

Respectfully,

Clara Pracana
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KEYNOTE LECTURE

CULTURE AGAINST ITSELF: PSYCHODYNAMICS OF THE OCCUPY WALL STREET MOVEMENT

Howard S. Schwartz
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Abstract

Among the forces that are shaping our turbulent times are political protest movements, such as Occupy Wall Street. OWS appears to be a protest of capitalism, but their expressions of what they are doing offer little in the way of economic analysis. Their critique is not economic but moral; capitalism is the bad object. The object of the critique is in the mind, but what is it? I analyze Communiqué #1, their purest self-definition, which reveals that they see us as living in a world of artificial images created by, and serving the interests of, malevolent forces: capitalism is the expression of these forces. I compare this to the movie *The Matrix*, which sees us as living in a similar world, except that the malevolent forces are not capitalism. I compare these with the Cave allegory in Plato's *Republic*, which is similar, except the artificial images are not expressions of malevolence. I use psychoanalytic theory to argue that the malevolent object of OWS' critique is the father, who, in fulfillment of the paternal function, forces socialization upon us. The world of artificial images is culture, seen from the standpoint of alienation. I reinforce the claim that the object of their antagonism is the father and the paternal function by analyzing their repudiation of guilt, the psychological foundation of social order.

Keywords: *Capitalism, Occupy Wall Street, The Matrix, The Oedipus Complex, Socialization, Debt.*

Brief Biography

Howard S. Schwartz is a professor of organizational behavior at Oakland University. His PhD is from Cornell University. His research addresses the psychodynamics of organizational self-destruction, most recently through the vehicle of political correctness. He was one of the founders of the International Society for the Psychoanalytic Study of Organizations.

He has published:

Narcissistic Process and Corporate Decay: The Theory of the Organization Ideal. New York University Press.

The Revolt of the Primitive: An Inquiry into the Roots of Political Correctness. Transaction Publishers.

Society Against Itself: Political Correctness and Organizational Self-Destruction. Karnac Publisher

SPECIAL TALKS

CRISIS OF DEPENDENCE? A PSYCHO-ANALYTICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE CRISIS IN SOUTHERN EUROPE (CASE IN POINT: PORTUGAL)

Clara Pracana, PhD

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Abstract

The economic and political crisis that has been affecting the so-called developed countries since 2007 struck with particular severity the ones in South Europe. Although quite different from one another, the countries who have been collectively designated under the acronym of PIGS share a great economic and financial dependence on the state. Drawing on the theories of S. Freud, W. Bion, E. Eriksson and D. Meltzer, I will analyse specifically the Portuguese case among those Southern European countries and propose a psycho-analytical interpretation of the situation based on the concept of dependency both on the individual level and the collective one. I shall argue that the dependence on the state mirrors a deeper psychological dependence on the maternal figure, typical of matriarchal societies, with: a) consequences on the autonomy of the individual; b) political consequences on the collective body level. As far as the individual level is concerned, I will argue that we psychotherapists should take into consideration the way dependence may hinder the therapeutic process and the stance we should take as professionals in order to foster more autonomy in our clients.

Keywords: *Crisis, Economy, Dependence, Autonomy, Matriarchal society, Family, State.*

Brief Biography

Clara Pracana is a psychoanalyst, a psychotherapist, a coach and a lecturer. She was born in the Azores, Portugal.

She has a PhD in Applied Psychology (UNL, 2008), a Masters in Clinical Psychology and Psychopathology (ISPA, 2000), an MBA (UNL/Wharton School, 1982) and a honors in Economics (ISEG, 1976).

She teaches organizational behavior as an Invited Professor at ISMAT, Portugal, and is part of its scientific committee. She is a regular lecturer of psychoanalytical topics at APPPP, Portugal. She is also a tutor with the Lisbon MBA (UNL/UCL) and ISEG.

She is a founding member of the Portuguese Association of Psychoanalysis and Psychoanalytical Psychotherapy as well as a member of the Portuguese Psychoanalytical Society, of the International Coaching Community (ICC) and of the American Psychological Association (APA).

As a psychoanalyst, a counselor and an international certified coach, she has a private practice in Lisbon. Her research addresses guilt and shame, depression, emotional intelligence, leadership, change, motivation and group dynamics. She has published several papers and two books: "O Lider Sedutor" (2001) and "Felix Culpa" (2008).

PSYCHOLOGISTS IN THE OPERATING THEATRE

Prof. Michael Wang

Clinical Psychology Unit, School of Psychology, University of Leicester, England, UK

Abstract

Introduction

Numerous experimental studies of consciousness and memory in the context of general anaesthesia have been conducted by psychologists, in collaboration with anaesthetists. These studies offer a scientific, empirical hypothesis-testing perspective on the nature of consciousness, unconscious (implicit) processes and, arguably, the foundation architecture of the mind. Key studies will be reviewed.

Intra-operative consciousness and memory

Episodes of full awareness with explicit recall are more common than many anaesthetists realise (1 in 600 operations^{1,2,3}). Awareness with full recall is usually distressing and associated with acute PTSD reactions^{4,22}. The common reason for failure on the part of anaesthetists to identify intra-operative awareness is the paralyzing effect of muscle relaxants; contrary to traditional belief, autonomic and haemodynamic variables are unreliable indicators of wakefulness⁵. Some studies have made use of the isolated forearm technique^{9,15,16} to determine levels of consciousness during GA, which allows communication despite the muscle paralysis. Often patients will demonstrate high levels of intra-operative consciousness but without post-operative explicit recall. This is because many anaesthetic drugs impair the encoding phase of memory. It is likely that previous studies demonstrating intra-operative implicit (unconscious) learning have involved learning episodes during such states. Implicit memory can be demonstrated in states of intra-operative wakefulness without explicit recall, including implicit emotional memory⁶⁻¹⁴. We present a classification of intra-operative states of consciousness²⁷. We have also investigated benzodiazepine sedation as another clinical circumstance in which there may be dissociation between implicit and explicit recall.

Implicit emotional memory

There is an intriguing literature in which patients have developed psychological disturbance following operations with GA in which the patient has no explicit recall, but the nature of the disturbance is indicative of inadequate anaesthesia²². Experimental studies that attempt to investigate the mechanisms by which this may occur are reviewed. Finally I hope to show how these studies of implicit emotional memory provide an alternative (although not necessarily mutually exclusive) explanation of “psychogenic” amnesia and Freudian repression.

Keywords: *Consciousness, Implicit memory, General anaesthesia, Sedation, Anaesthetic awareness.*

Brief Biography

Michael Wang is Professor of Clinical Psychology in the School of Psychology, College of Medicine, Biological Science and Psychology, University of Leicester, and Honorary Consultant Clinical Psychologist in Anaesthesia, Critical Care and Pain Management at Leicester Royal Infirmary. He is also Director of the Doctoral Clinical Psychology Training Course at Leicester. Previously he was Professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of Hull and completed his training and qualifications in Manchester. He is a former Chair of the Division of Clinical Psychology of the British Psychological Society. He has worked as a clinical psychologist for more than 30 years, treating patients with PTSD, anxiety disorders, depression, obsessional compulsive disorder, and in particular, psychological problems arising from unplanned anaesthetic and surgical incidents. He has worked closely with anaesthetists in

both clinical and research contexts for more than 20 years. In 2004 he organized the 6th International Symposium on Memory and Awareness in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, and has published numerous papers and book chapters on this topic. He was made a Fellow of the British Psychological Society in 1999 in recognition of this work. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine.

He has been invited to give numerous keynote lectures by the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (London 2004,2005,2006,2008, 2009), the Royal College of Anaesthetists (London 2008, 20010), the Yorkshire Association of Anaesthetists (Hull 2008, York 2010) , the Northern Ireland Association of Anaesthetists (Londonderry 2011), European Society of Anaesthesiology (Amsterdam 2011), Slovenian Society of Anaesthetists (Ljubjana 2012) World Congress of Anaesthesiology (Buenos Aires 2012) Japanese Society of Anaesthesia (Fukushima 2012) and at successive International Symposia on Memory and Awareness in Anaesthesia (New York 2001; Hull 2004; Munich 2008; Milwaukee 2011). He has written invited chapters in anaesthetic texts and is an invited co-author of a forthcoming Cochrane review on the prevention of anaesthetic awareness. He is a member of the joint RCoA/AAGBI working party on anaesthetic awareness (NAP5) which will report in 2014 and a member of the specialist Diagnostic Advisory Committee on Depth of Anaesthesia Monitoring of NICE (2011-2012).

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INDEX OF CONTENTS

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Clinical Psychology

Chronic Pain Patient's Quality of Life – A Systematic Review	3
<i>Liliane Mendonça, Luís Azevedo & José Castro-Lopes</i>	
Problems with Genomic Instability in Cells of Young Children associate with Problems of their Family and Teacher	3
<i>Faina Ingel, Elena Krivtsova, Nadezhda Urtseva, Anna Stepanova, Olga Stepanova, Nadezhda Antipanova, Tatiana Legostaeva, Zoya Koganova, Boris Antsiferov & Sergey Ivanov</i>	
Social Anxiety and Quality of Life in Adolescents	4
<i>Saleh Alkhathami, Hossein Kaviani & Emma Short</i>	
Patients' Experience of being Triageed Directly to a Psychologist when the Reason for Contact is Mental Health Issues: A Qualitative Study	4
<i>Linda Dahlöf, Anna Simonsson, Jörgen Thorn & Maria Larsson</i>	
Clinical Psychology and Social Psychology: Possible Intersections	5
<i>Milena Bertollo Nardi & Luziane Zacché Avellar</i>	
An Examination of the Relationship between Intelligence and Attachment in Adulthood	5
<i>Aleksandar Dimitrijević, Ana Altaras Dimitrijević & Zorana Jolić Marjanović</i>	
The Impact of Parent-Child and Peer Relationships on Depressive Symptoms and Self-Esteem in Early Adolescence	6
<i>Helena Klimusová, Iva Burešová & Kateřina Bartošová</i>	
Relationships with Parents and Peers, Attitudes towards School, and Preferred Spare-Time Activities in Young Adolescents Reporting Self-Harm	6
<i>Iva Burešová, Helena Klimusová & Veronika Hrubá</i>	
From the First Signs to Diagnosis: The "Diagnostic Odissey" of Children with Fragile X Syndrome	7
<i>Vitor Franco, Heldemerina Pires & Ana Apolónio</i>	
Attachment Insecurity, Emotional Abuse and Physical Abuse Predict Schizotypy in a Non-Clinical Sample	7
<i>Karen Goodall, Lisa Grunwald, Stephen Darling</i>	
The Postnonclassical Methodology of Psychological Syndrome Analysis (Vygotsky-Luria School) in Clinical Psychology: Opportunities and Perspectives	8
<i>Yury Zinchenko & Elena Pervichko</i>	
Diagnostic Assessment, Treatment and Treatment Outcome Evaluation of Chronic Pain/Fibromyalgia Syndrome: Case Study	8
<i>Abraham A. Argun</i>	
Emotion Regulation & Adaptive Learning Strategies in Portuguese Adolescents: A Study with the Regulation Emotion Questionnaire-2	9
<i>Teresa Sousa Machado & Ana Pardal</i>	

The Cognitive Orientation of Addictive Behaviors <i>Shulamith Kreitler</i>	10
Communication and Control: An Investigation of Prosthetist and Amputee Relationships <i>Clare Uytman, Chris McVittie, Karen Goodall & Andy McKinlay</i>	10
Project for Work Management and Social Inclusion of Mental Health Users in Brazil <i>Ana Cecília Alvares Salis</i>	11
 <u>Educational Psychology</u>	
Investigation of Primary School Students' Optimism Level and their School Perception <i>Esra Çalık Var & Selahiddin Öğülmüş</i>	12
The Effect of Communication Skills-Psychoeducation Program on the Communication Skills of the Police Academy Students <i>Sevgi Sezer</i>	12
Working with Shy Adolescents: Effectiveness of Life Skills Group Training <i>Lancy D'Souza</i>	13
Transition In Transition Out (TITO): Using Peer Mentoring to Assist Graduating Students Transition Beyond University <i>Sophia Xenos, Andrea Chester & Lorelle Burton</i>	13
Personality and Academic Dishonesty: Evidences from an Exploratory Pilot Study <i>Dan Florin Stănescu & Elena Mădălina Iorga</i>	14
How to Improve the Writing of Opinion Essays? - The Role of Self-Regulated Strategies Development <i>Catarina Araújo, Ana Paula Martins & António Osório</i>	14
Early Intervention and Fragile X Syndrome <i>Ana Apolónio & Vítor Franco</i>	15
Chronopsychology Assessment of the Type of Time Organization Applied in Algerian Schools <i>Louisa Marouf, Rachid Khelfane & François Testu</i>	15
Perfectionism and School Performance in Children <i>Lauriane Drolet, Philippe Valois & Jacques Forget</i>	16
A General Overview on Parental Emotional Socialization Behaviors <i>Sukran Kilic</i>	16
Family Unpredictability and Social Support Reported by Families in Early Intervention Programs versus Community Families <i>Teresa Sousa Machado & Iolanda Correia</i>	17
Toxic Environment: Outcomes of Parental Methamphetamine Addiction on Child Psychological Health <i>Comfort B. Asanbe, Charlene Hall & Charles Bolden</i>	17
Parental Involvement and Inclusive Contexts <i>Sara Alexandre Felizardo & Esperança Jales Ribeiro</i>	18

The Effect of Group Counseling Experiences to Counselor Trainees' Group Leadership Characteristics <i>Bahar Mete Otlu</i>	18
The Role of Big Ideas in Technology-Mediated Curricula <i>Theodore R. Prawat & Richard S. Prawat</i>	19
Cognitive Features of Students with Different Level of Research Potential and Success in Learning <i>Nina Bordovskaia</i>	19
Associations of Unhealthy Behaviors and Depressive Symptoms with School Difficulties and Role of Socioeconomic Factors in Early Adolescence <i>Kénora Chau, Michèle Baumann, Jean-Charles Vauthier, Bernard Kabuth & Nearkasen Chau</i>	20
Expanding Borders: Teachers Motivation <i>Claus Dieter Stobäus, Juan Mosquera & Bettina Steren dos Santos</i>	21
 <u>Social Psychology</u>	
Emotional Costs and Coping during Reemployment <i>Katarzyna Slebarska & Agata Chudzicka-Czupala</i>	22
Students' Dropout regarding Academic Employability Skills and Satisfaction Against University Services <i>Marie-Emmanuelle Amara, Senad Karavdic & Michèle Baumann</i>	22
Reflection on Career Counselling in Turkey: From Past to Future <i>Binnur Yeşilyaprak & Mustafa Eşkisü</i>	23
Action Simulation and Individuals' Evaluation of Protagonist <i>Jean-Christophe Giger, Oleksandr V. Horchak & Grzegorz Pochwatko</i>	23
Different Life of Muslim Meskhetians (Meskhetian Turks) in Georgia and in USA <i>Ekaterine Pirtskhalava</i>	24
Media Imperialism and Body Image Perception in Kuwait <i>Charles Mitchell, Juliet Dinkha, Tasneem Rashwan & Monica Matta</i>	24
Migrate? Stay? Return? The Reasons for the Migration Process in Black African French Speaking Populations <i>Carlos Roberto Velandia Torres</i>	25
Hamas Practises its Right to Resist the Occupation': Negotiating Culpability for the Palestinian/Israeli Conflict <i>Chris McVittie, Andy McKinlay, Rahul Sambaraju, Karen Goodall & Claire Uytman</i>	25
Psychology of Political Culture of Contemporary Russian Youth <i>Maria A. Solovyeva</i>	26
Integration Between "Subjective" and "Intersubjective" Measures for the Assessment of Work-related Stress Risk <i>Alessandra Falco, Damiano Girardi, Laura Dal Corso, Luca Kravina, Stefano Bortolato & Nicola A. De Carlo</i>	26
Meaning of Money: Differences between Adolescents with and without Emotional and Behavioral Problems <i>Kristi Kõiv</i>	27

Implicit Theories of Performance: The Case of Portuguese Public Sector's Top Managers <i>Catarina Brandão & Filomena Jordão</i>	27
A Structure of Personal Integrity as a Psychological Construct <i>Istiani Chandra</i>	28
The Issue of Migration According to Adolescents and their Parents' Perceptions of their Future <i>Polovina Nada, Ćirović Ivana & Jošić Smiljana</i>	28
 <u>Legal Psychology</u>	
Recognizing the Warning Signs of Violence across the Lifespan: Samples from Kuwait and the USA <i>Pearl Berman, Adam Clarke & Juliet Dinkha</i>	29
A Culture of Violence Against Women in South Africa: A Case Study Analysis <i>Sarah Frances Gordon</i>	29
Impact of Vicarious Trauma on Barristers Practising Criminal Law: A Grounded Theory Study <i>Jenny Bulbulia, Timothy Trimble, Jean Quigley & Michael S. Gordon</i>	30
A Scoping Review Considering the Applicability of Restorative Justice to Cases of Sexual Assault <i>Nadia Marie Wager</i>	30
What Explains Fear of Crime best: Victimization, Vulnerability, Social Control Theory or Social Problems Theory? <i>Anne Köhn & Manfred Bornewasser</i>	31
The Victims' Status in the Acting Out <i>Olivier Sorel, Erwan Dieu, Nicolas Combalbert & Astrid Hirschelmann</i>	31
Experimental Investigation of the Perceived Credibility of Complainants of Sexual Revictimisation <i>Nadia Marie Wager</i>	32
Impacts of Socioeconomic, Family, School, Behavioral and Mental Difficulties on Involvement in Violence in Boys and Girls <i>Nearkasen Chau, Kénora Chau, Jean-Charles Vauthier, Michèle Baumann, Marie-Emmanuelle Amara & Bernard Kabuth</i>	33
Multiple Victims: Errors in Eyewitness Memory caused by Crime-Types, Victim Characteristics, and Corresponding Stereotypes <i>Shirley Hutchinson, Paul G. Davies & Danny Osborne</i>	33
Contribution of Social Psychology to understand Relations between Offenders and Professionals <i>Charlotte Joly & Marie-Françoise Lacassagne</i>	34
Why is Physical Violence Tolerated when the Perpetrator is the Victim's Sibling? <i>Roxanne Khan & Paul Rogers</i>	35

Cognitive and Experimental Psychology

Time of Presentation in Gestual Learning: Emergence of a Verbal Overshadowing Effect? <i>Guillaume Gimenes, Valérie Pennequin & Violaine Kubiszewski</i>	36
The Effect of Improving Problem Solving Skill Program on 9th Grade Student's Problem Solving Skill <i>Serhat Armağan Yildiz & Mustafa Eşkişu</i>	36
The Impact of the Cognitive Algebra during the Development of Bayesian Reasoning <i>Olivier Sorel, Valérie Pennequin & Roger Fontaine</i>	37
Simulation of Positive Emotions During Discourse Comprehension <i>Oleksandr V. Horchak, Jean-Christophe Giger & Grzegorz Pochwatko</i>	37
A Pilot Study: Ayurvedic Approach on Memory Stimulation in the French West Indies <i>Mina Yenkamala, Jocelyne de Rotrou & Atreya Smith</i>	38
Self-Perceived Academic Employability Skills and Physical Quality of Life on First-Year University Students' Well-Being <i>Michèle Baumann, Senad Karavdic & Marie-Emmanuelle Amara</i>	39
The Problem of Dieting: Implicit Food Attitudes and Automatic Approach Tendencies in Dieters and Non-Dieters <i>Alisa Anokhina & Lucy Serpell</i>	39
Assessing the Contribution of Social Factors on Cognitive Performance in Older Adults <i>Lauriane Drolet, Ovidiu Lungu, Maxime Lussier, Nathalie Castonguay, Aurelia Bugajska & Louis Bherer</i>	40
Examining the Relationship between Handedness and Language Lateralization as a Function of Different Handedness Measurements <i>Ivanka Asenova</i>	41

POSTERS

Clinical Psychology

Self-Regulation Skills, Depressive Symptoms and Problematic Internet use among University Students	45
<i>Rene Sebena & Olga Orosova</i>	
Assessment of the Binge Drinking Consequences in Spanish Youth	45
<i>Maria Teresa Cortés, Inés Tomás, José Antonio Giménez & Patricia Motos</i>	
Anticipatory Coping Skills Inventory for Alcohol and Drugs Addiction: Validity Evidences related to Internal Structure	46
<i>Lucas Guimarães Cardoso de Sá, Zilda Aparecida Pereira Del Prette & Fabián Orlando Oláz</i>	
Usefulness of the "Standard Drink Unit" in the Evaluation of Consumption on Female College Students	46
<i>José Antonio Giménez, Maria Teresa Cortés & Patricia Motos</i>	
Computerised Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CCBT): Are we Ready for it?	47
<i>Eliane Du, Ethel Quayle & Hamish Macleod</i>	
High Electrodermal Reactivity to Acute Stress in Laboratory is related with High Somatic Symptoms in Caregivers of People with Autism Spectrum Disorder	47
<i>Nicolás Ruiz-Robledillo & Luis Moya-Albiol</i>	
Typology of Aggressive Drivers: Identification of Four Profiles among Laypersons, Driving Offenders and Imprisoned Driving Offenders	48
<i>Emilie Berdoulat, David Vavassori & Maria Teresa Muñoz Sastre</i>	
Feminist Identity Styles, Sexual and Non-Sexual Traumatic Events and Psychological Well-Being in a Sample of Polish Women	48
<i>Justyna Kucharska</i>	
Emotional Intelligence as a Predictor of Job related Criteria and Well-Being	49
<i>Zorana Jolić Marjanović & Ana Altaras Dimitrijević</i>	
Meaning Making Processes and Relationship Satisfaction in Couples Following a Shared Stressful Life Event	49
<i>Christina Samios & Shayne Baran</i>	
Lifeisgame: A Serious Game about Emotions for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders	50
<i>Samanta Alves, António Marques, Cristina Queirós & Verónica Orvalho</i>	
Cannabis First Experimentation and Regular Use by Young People and their Close Friends	50
<i>Natàlia Cebrián, Maria Eugenia Gras, Silvia Font-Mayolas, Montserrat Planes & Mark J. M. Sullman</i>	
Coercion Strategies in Sexual Intercourse in Young Couples: Is there a Relationship between Suffering and Using?	51
<i>Montserrat Planes, Francesc Prat, Maria-Eugenia Gras, Silvia Font-Mayolas, Ana B. Gómez & Mark J. M. Sullman</i>	
Gender Normative Beliefs and Alcohol Consumption among University Students	51
<i>Monika Brutovská, Olga Orosova & Ondrej Kalina</i>	

Quality of Life and Subjective Pattern of Disease in Patients with Mitral Valve Prolapse <i>Elena Pervichko, Yury Zinchenko & Anatoliy Martynov</i>	52
Stages of Change and Health Perceptions in Smokers <i>Armand Grau, Rosa Suñer-Soler, Silvia Font-Mayolas, Maria-Eugenia Gras, Montserrat Planes & Mark J. M. Sullman</i>	52
The Role Salience Importance to the Well-Being of Individuals: Study with a Sample of Adults in the Context of Career Counseling and Management <i>Rosário Lima, Raquel Cruz & Manuel Rafael</i>	53
AIPPS: How a Clinical Approach could Transform Sport Psychology into a Valid Instrument towards Disadvantage Problems and Well-Being <i>Giovanni Lodetti, Alessandra Cova & Antonio Capoduro</i>	53
Lie to Me: An Exploratory Study Regarding Faking Good Expression on MMPI-2 and Physiological Measures <i>Margarida Machado, Raquel Mesquita & Rosa Novo</i>	54
 <u>Educational Psychology</u>	
Peruvian Teachers' Perceptions about Autism and Implications for Educational Practice <i>Joyce Echegaray-Bengoa & Manuel Soriano-Ferrer</i>	55
Giftedness: Peruvian Teachers' Perception <i>Joyce Echegaray-Bengoa & Manuel Soriano-Ferrer</i>	55
Work Satisfaction and Social Well-Being of Teachers according to Headmasters' Support and Teachers' Personality Traits <i>Anna Janovská, Olga Orosová & Beata Gajdošová</i>	56
Early Intervention in Childhood: Study on the Evaluation of the Satisfaction of Families <i>Esperança Jales Ribeiro, Sandra Gonçalves & Sara Alexandre Felizardo</i>	56
Socio-Emotional Competences in Portuguese Youngsters: Developing of Assessment Tools for Parents <i>Heldemerina Pires, Adelinda Candeias, Nicole Rebelo, Diana Varelas & António M. Diniz</i>	57
The SET GAME® and its Cognitive Aspects <i>Sandreilane Cano da Silva & Lino de Macedo</i>	57
Teachers' Notions about Types of Communicative Behavior and Levels of Communicative Culture <i>Galina Glotova, Angelika Wilhelm</i>	57
Reading Comprehension Difficulties - Comparison of Poor and Good Comprehenders using Neuropsychological Tasks <i>Helena Vellinho Corso, Tânia Mara Sperb & Jerusa Fumagalli de Salles</i>	58
 <u>Social Psychology</u>	
Receiving Adequate Support After Reemployment does it Always Help? <i>Katarzyna Slebarska & Agata Chudzicka-Czupala</i>	59
Trust and Intermediary: A Comparison between Chinese and Westerners <i>Jiawen Ye</i>	59

Quality of Work Life and Human Resources Management Practices: Relationships with Job Satisfaction	60
<i>Rosário Lima & Manuel Rafael</i>	
Intra/Interpersonal Factors of Problematic Internet Use and Binge Drinking among Slovak University Students	60
<i>Beata Gajdosova, Olga Orosova, Anna Janovska & Jozef Benka</i>	
Relationship between Online and Offline Civic Participation	61
<i>Iris L. Žeželj & Jasna S. Milošević-Dorđević</i>	
I Performed Well? I Must Be the Cause! The Effect of Feedback Quality on Self-Serving Biases	61
<i>Iris L. Žeželj, Jelena J. Sučević, Kristina S. Mirković & Maša V. Marinković</i>	
Life Orientation, Perceived Stress and Problematic Internet use among University Students	61
<i>Olga Orosova, Jozef Benka, Rene Sebeňa & Beata Gajdošová</i>	
 <u>Legal Psychology</u>	
An Integrative Conceptual Framework for Understanding Child Abuse	63
<i>Cigdem Yumbul & Hilal Celik</i>	
The Influence of Safe Driving Public Service Commercials on Drivers' Behavior Depending on their Sensation Seeking Level	63
<i>Dana Frolova</i>	
 <u>Cognitive and Experimental Psychology</u>	
High Working Memory Capacity Predicts Less Retrieval Induced Forgetting	64
<i>Jonathan T. Mall & Candice C. Morey</i>	
Perceptual Learning in Dyslexics and Controls	64
<i>Dario Sgarra, Mariagrazia Benassi, Sara Giovagnoli & Roberto Bolzani</i>	
Attentional Biases Dependents of Emotion: A Pilot Study in People with Chronic Pain	65
<i>Susana Cardoso, Paloma Barjola, Fernando Barbosa, Sandra Torres, Daniel Esculpi & Francisco Mercado</i>	
The Joint Effects of Number of Voices and Reverberation on Auditory Distraction	65
<i>François Vachon, Elizabeth Winder, Mathieu Lavandier, Dylan M. Jones, & Robert W. Hughes</i>	
Decision Making Competencies and Risk Behaviour of University Students	66
<i>Jozef Bavolar</i>	
Predicting Dynamic Decision-Making Using Eye Movements	66
<i>François Vachon, Guillaume Herve & Sébastien Tremblay</i>	
Home-Based Cognitive Rehabilitation using Dr. Kawashima Brain Training in Cognitive Impaired Patients with Multiple Sclerosis	67
<i>Laura De Giglio, Francesca De Luca, Luca Prosperini, Giovanna Borriello & Carlo Pozzilli</i>	
Forensic Psychiatrists as Experts in Scaling Content of Complex Stimuli (Narratives) for Affective States Investigations	67
<i>Nadezhda E. Lysenko & Dmitry M. Davydov</i>	

The Relationship between Testosterone and Personality Characteristics of the Parents of Offspring with Autistic Spectrum Disorder	68
<i>Ángel Romero-Martínez, Sara De Andrés-García, Nicolás Ruiz-Robledillo, Esperanza González-Bono & Luis-Moya-Albiol</i>	

VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS

Marital Satisfaction and Perceived Social Support as Predictors of Life Satisfaction: A Study of Polish Married Adults	71
<i>Monika Wysota & Katarzyna Adamczyk</i>	
Marital Satisfaction and Perception of Partner's Communication Style in Polish Married Adults	71
<i>Monika Wysota & Katarzyna Adamczyk</i>	

WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

Somatic Markers in Clinical Practice	75
<i>Caroline Goodell</i>	
The Cognitive Orientation Approach to Psychopathology	75
<i>Shulamith Kreitler</i>	

AUTHOR INDEX



ORAL PRESENTATIONS



CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

CHRONIC PAIN PATIENT'S QUALITY OF LIFE – A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

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Abstract

Background: A meta-analysis was performed to quantitatively estimate HRQoL in chronic pain patients. **Methods:** PubMed, PsycARTICLES, PsycINFO and EMBASE were searched. Query: “(chronic pain) (abstract) and (“quality of life” OR “HRQOL”) (abstract)”. Included studies should report HRQoL, using SF-36 questionnaire, in adults with non-cancer chronic pain followed in pain management units. Studies methodological quality was evaluated using the QATSDD scale. The inverse variance method was employed to calculate pooled means and 95% CI for each dimension and subgroup analysis was performed. **Findings:** 27 articles were selected. Pooled mean scores were low for every SF-36 dimension (ranging from 16 [10.06, 22.25], for Role Physical, to 52 [49.01, 54.63] for Mental Health, including summary scales: PCS 29.72 [28.12, 31.32] and MCS 42.89 [38.59, 47.19] (mean [95%CI]). **Discussion:** HRQoL of chronic pain patients is low in all dimensions. Psychological interventions have an important role to improve HRQoL in this population and should be promoted and encouraged.

Keywords: Chronic pain, Pain contexts, SF-36, Meta-analysis.

PROBLEMS WITH GENOMIC INSTABILITY IN CELLS OF YOUNG CHILDREN ASSOCIATE WITH PROBLEMS OF THEIR FAMILY AND TEACHER

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Abstract

Healthy children of 5-9 years from complete and incomplete families, living in two Russian industrial towns Magnitogorsk (440 000 citizens, one of the biggest Russian steel combine) and Korjashma (42 000 citizens, one of the Russian biggest Pulp and Paper Mill) were examined both for genomic instability (genetical damage and complex of other alterations leading stable genome of normal cell into unstable, characteristic for cancer) in blood lymphocytes, some biochemical reactions and for psychosomatic status by M. Luscher's test. Their parents were tested for expression of emotional stress, detection of quality of life, and questioned about social status, education, income, living conditions, smoking, drinking of alcohol, etc. The study was carried out with the permission of Committees on Ethics of the towns and parents of children. Results demonstrated that genetical damage in children's blood cells were high in both towns (but in Korjashma higher than in Magnitogorsk) and correlated with level of parents' emotional stress expression, their perception of own and family's quality of life, parent's education, house condition as well as parents' smoking and drinking alcohol. Those last – too – correlated with decreased apoptosis in children's blood cells, what proves fastening of damages into generations of dividing cells. It is important that only those social indices, which create problems for parents, did increase genomic instability of their children. For the end, children's autonomic tone and some biochemical indices were connected with family's style of life. So, our data testify that quality of life, lifestyle and emotional climate

of family are potential source of children's genomic instability (which may in adulthood realize into big spectrum of deceases, including immune deficiency and cancer). This conclusion shows the necessity to create special approach for education children as future parents as well as to think about change preschool and school educational system in direction of more psychological comfort and spirituality for preservation of health of our children and health of future generations.

Keywords: *Children's genomic instability, Autonomic tone, Family quality and style of life.*

SOCIAL ANXIETY AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN ADOLESCENTS

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Abstract

The objective of this research is to examine how social anxiety and maintenance of quality of life are associated in adolescents in one 'Eastern' and one 'Western' country, namely the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia. We first examined validity and reliability of Arabic versions of the scales used in this research. It was hypothesized that social anxiety and QOL are moderated by other factors such as social interaction, cognition, culture, gender and educational level. *Method:* Study method conducted 'translation and back-translation' methodology to provide Arabic versions of six scales, variously on social anxiety (including different aspects), QOL, and individualism-collectivism, from English into Arabic. Moreover, a pilot study was carried out to examine applicability of the scales in target population. A sample of adolescent students completed the questionnaires. *Results:* The Arabic versions of instruments proved to have good reliabilities, convergent validity, and indicate high values of internal consistency. Besides, results exhibited that the relationship between social anxiety and QOL was partially moderated by other variables such as cognitive, social interaction and cultural correlates. *Conclusion:* Psychometric properties of the instruments provide support for the application of all instruments among the Arabic-speaking adolescent population. To our knowledge, this study is the first account to report acceptable psychometric properties these measures in target population.

Keywords: *Social anxiety, Social Phobia, Quality of life, Collectivism and individualism.*

PATIENTS' EXPERIENCE OF BEING TRIAGED DIRECTLY TO A PSYCHOLOGIST WHEN THE REASON FOR CONTACT IS MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES: A QUALITATIVE STUDY

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Abstract

In a primary health-care centre (PHCC) situated in a segregated area with low socioeconomic status a nurse-led patient sorting system "primary care triage" has increased efficiency and accessibility. This study focused on the patients' experience of being triaged directly to a psychologist for assessment. Theme-oriented, semi-structured interviews were made with 20 patients using qualitative content analysis. The results show that patients are active agents with own intent to see a psychologist when contacting the PHCC. Seeking help for mental illness was described as an effort-demanding process that is done during a limited critical period of time. The patients experienced an easy and smooth access to the preferred professional at the PHCCs, and that was stressed as being important and much appreciated. Patients do not experience that the nurses make the decision about what professional to see. The patients' expectations when meeting the psychologist were wide and diverse. The structured assessment sometimes collided and sometimes united with these expectations, yielding different outcome satisfaction. The

findings show that primary care triage to the psychologist offers a much appreciated patient choice and easy access to the preferred professional. The results also suggest that primary care triage may not be a nurse-led sorting system as originally intended. This could be seen as in line with the overall goal of increased patient choice. If there is an aspiration to increase the nurses' decision-making in the triage there may be a need for more education to enhance the confidence and skill in sorting patients with mental illness. Furthermore, the results indicate a need for more prior information about the psychological assessment and possible outcomes to increase the patient possibilities of making an informed choice and know what to expect.

Keywords: *Triage, Patients' experience, Primary care, Psychologist.*

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY: POSSIBLE INTERSECTIONS

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Abstract

This study discusses some points that emerged from a literature review about the intersection between clinical psychology and social psychology. It was identified that some recent works in clinical psychology have demonstrated a great interest in: (i) psychological practices in different settings (beyond the office), (ii) psychological practices involving people of low socio-economic status, (iii) social, economic and political aspects of the society, and (iv) social context as constituting the individual. Moreover, these works have articulated concepts such as: the psychological and the sociological, the subjectivity and the otherness, and the affection and the representation. Importantly, some of these works considered subjectivity as a concept that is socially and historically constructed. This notion is also found in works from social psychology. According to this perspective, the social and historical dimensions compose the human being and cannot be ignored. The human possibilities are developed based on the material and social worlds that cannot be taken as something external to individuals or to their psychological world. These worlds are interconnected. This idea can be associated with the concept of potential space proposed by Winnicott, which refers to a third space of experiences. This space belongs not only to internal or external spaces, but it is a symbol of union between the individual (internal world) and the outside world (external world). Based on that, Sandra Jovchelovitch stressed how the concepts of potential space and transitional phenomena and the interrelationships between the principles of pleasure and reality (described by Freud) contribute to the social psychology of the representations by introducing the emotions and the unconscious affections in the analysis of social representations. The social and historical constitution of individuals and the effort to reconcile subject and object are intersection points between clinical psychology and social psychology. Therefore, we have used this intersection points to ground our studies and support our professional interventions in the area of mental health in order to break the classical dualism between social and individual aspects and to contribute to less reductionist professional practices.

Keywords: *Clinical Psychology, Social Psychology, Interface.*

AN EXAMINATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INTELLIGENCE AND ATTACHMENT IN ADULTHOOD

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Abstract

Although intelligence and attachment have both been thoroughly studied, their relationship has been strangely neglected, particularly when it comes to the adult population. Our study sought to fill this gap in the literature and test the hypothesis that securely attached individuals would perform better on standard tests of intelligence than individuals with insecure attachment patterns. The study also addressed the question whether particular aspects of intelligence (e.g., verbal/nonverbal reasoning) are differently

related to the dimensions defining quality of attachment (e.g., anxiety and avoidance). Participants in the study were 262 adults (143 male, age range 21-61), who were administered a battery of intelligence tests, as well as two measures of attachment: the ECR-R and QAA-R. The latter instrument was also used to categorize subjects into four attachment patterns: secure, dismissing, preoccupied, and fearful. The results of an ANOVA indicate that there are significant differences between the four attachment patterns on a g-factor of intelligence ($F_{(258, 3)}=19.637$, $p=.000$), with post hoc tests revealing that the “secure” group scores significantly higher on g than either of the three “insecure” groups. The same pattern of results is obtained for both verbal and nonverbal reasoning, as well as general knowledge. Although the differences between the three “insecure” groups are not always significant, there is a clear trend for the “fearful” to be the lowest-scoring group, regardless of the intelligence test employed. An inspection of the correlations between attachment dimensions and intelligence further reveals that ECR-*Anxiety* shows a stronger relationship to intellectual ability ($r=-.296$ – $-.408$) than does ECR-*Avoidance* ($r=-.139$ – $-.247$), though all the correlations are significant ($p<.05$). With respect to QAA-R, the strongest correlation with intelligence is found for the *Negative self* ($r=-.288$ – $-.402$, $p=.000$), *Mentalization* ($r=.296$ – $.394$, $p=.000$), and *Negative others* subscales ($r=-.229$ – $-.338$, $p=.000$); the only subscale not related to intellectual ability is *Use of secure base*. The results confirm our initial hypothesis that secure attachment represents an asset when it comes to intellectual performance, even beyond childhood, and on both verbal and nonverbal tests of ability.

Keywords: *Intelligence, Verbal reasoning, Nonverbal reasoning, Attachment patterns, Attachment dimensions.*

THE IMPACT OF PARENT-CHILD AND PEER RELATIONSHIPS ON DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS AND SELF-ESTEEM IN EARLY ADOLESCENCE

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Abstract

The main purpose of the study was to examine the impact of parent-child and peer relationships on the occurrence of symptoms of depression in early adolescence, as well as the level of key components of adolescent self-esteem. Our results are in agreement with previous research findings which demonstrate different impact of parent-child and peer relationships on self-esteem in adolescents, as well as important associations with depressive symptoms in this age.

Keywords: *Parents, Peers, Depressive symptoms, Self-esteem, Early adolescence.*

RELATIONSHIPS WITH PARENTS AND PEERS, ATTITUDES TOWARDS SCHOOL, AND PREFERRED SPARE-TIME ACTIVITIES IN YOUNG ADOLESCENTS REPORTING SELF-HARM

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Abstract

The study is an extension of our large-scale survey addressing the issue of self-harm prevalence among adolescents in a broader context. The main objective was to examine the connections between the occurrence of self-harming behaviour in young adolescents, and the quality of their relationships with parents and peers, attitudes to school, academic aspirations, and preferred spare-time activities. Significant associations between self-harming behavior of young adolescents and the quality of their relationships with parents and peers, attitudes to school, and preferred spare-time activities were found; these findings may have importance in targeting of the intervention programs.

Keywords: *Self-harm, Peers, Parents, School, Early Adolescents.*

FROM THE FIRST SIGNS TO DIAGNOSIS: THE “DIAGNOSTIC ODYSSEY” OF CHILDREN WITH FRAGILE X SYNDROME

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Abstract

This study aims to examine how the existence of the first signs of a developmental pathology are identified by mothers and professionals in cases of Fragile X Syndrome, and what paths are followed until the diagnosis of the genetic etiology. Some studies have described this period, between the first signs and diagnosis, as the “diagnostic odyssey”, since in the absence of screening procedures families tend to be involved in a huge amount of appointments and tests before they reach specific genetic evaluation. To better understand this pathway, we conducted a qualitative study with 45 families of children and young people between 4 and 22 years old, with FXS, focused on identifying early signs and progression of events leading up to the diagnosis. To analyze the data collected from interviews was used a Grounded Theory approach. The results indicate the existence of two major groups of children. The first one, of children with autistic traits, in which the first signs are usually identified between 6 and 12 months, but in a diffuse way difficult to be described by their mothers. The second group includes children who make key acquisitions in time until 24 months and only after this age tend to be detected, often indicated by the kindergarten because of difficulties in of language and speech. In the first group is very common a delay in referral for evaluation. In the second group, in addition to postpone the diagnosis, is made a provisional diagnosis of global developmental delay, but rarely progresses to an accurate diagnosis, which turns out to be done after 6 years. A reduction in this period, through an earlier diagnosis, would be of vital importance for the developmental intervention and the difficulties typical of these children could be better treated. Would, likewise, assist the family in their own emotional development in the presence of a clearer and more objective diagnosis.

Keywords: *Fragile X Syndrome, Diagnosis, Cognitive delay.*

ATTACHMENT INSECURITY, EMOTIONAL ABUSE AND PHYSICAL ABUSE PREDICT SCHIZOTYPY IN A NON-CLINICAL SAMPLE

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Abstract

Objectives: Schizotypy refers to latent personality organization that reflects individual proneness to psychosis and schizophrenia therefore research into schizotypy often has the aim of elucidating the etiology of schizotypal personality disorder and schizophrenia. Over the last few years a relationship has been demonstrated between childhood abuse /neglect and psychotic disorders such as schizophrenia and schizotypy). Alongside this, contemporary research has increasingly highlighted the role of attachment insecurity in the development of personality disorder. Several studies have indicated a relationship between attachment insecurity and the presence of schizotypal traits in adults it is apparent that childhood abuse and neglect rarely occurs within the context of psychologically healthy relationships therefore it is important to examine the contributions of attachment and childhood trauma together. Despite this there is no other study, to our knowledge, that assesses whether childhood abuse/trauma and attachment function as independent predictors. **Design:** Correlational design based on self-report questionnaires. **Methods:** 127 participants completed an online questionnaire battery comprising: the Schizotypal Personality Questionnaire- Brief Form (SPQ-B), the Experiences in Adult Relationships-Revised (ECR-R) and the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ). Standard multiple regression was used to test whether attachment and childhood trauma variables significantly predict total schizotypy scores. **Findings:** The regression model was a reliable predictor of schizotypy levels ($F(7,119) = 10.76, p < .005; R^2 = .39$), explaining approximately 39% of the variance in total schizotypy scores. Individually, attachment anxiety, attachment avoidance, emotional abuse and physical abuse were all significant predictors of schizotypy. Emotional abuse was the biggest predictor of schizotypy, accounting for 7% of variance. No effect was found for other types of childhood abuse or neglect. **Conclusions:** This study is the first to

demonstrate that attachment and childhood experiences function independently as predictors of schizotypy. In some individuals, schizotypy may arise from adverse social environments, rather than through genetics. Although limited by the correlational, self report design, this study demonstrates that emotional abuse, physical abuse and insecure attachment relationship may be related to the development of schizotypal features. Future research should examine the effects of childhood trauma alongside the social context of attachment relationships.

Keywords: *Schizotypy, Attachment, Emotional abuse, Physical abuse.*

THE POSTNONCLASSICAL METHODOLOGY OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SYNDROME ANALYSIS (VYGOTSKY-LURIA SCHOOL) IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY: OPPORTUNITIES AND PERSPECTIVES

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Abstract

The primary aim of this research is to show the high efficacy of the psychological syndrome analysis (Vygotsky-Luria School) for solving issues in the field of psychodiagnostics and psychotherapy within the framework of postnonclassical methodology. In our opinion, the syndrome approach applied in theoretical and practical fields of clinical psychology is highly efficient at the current state of the evolution of science due to the potential of the new methodological context of the postnonclassical model of rationality and completeness of cultural-historical theory proposed by L.S. Vygotsky concerning the person and its mind as a self-developing open systems. The main method of this study was psychological syndrome analysis (Vygotsky-Luria school). Techniques for the qualitative and statistical data analysis of clinical-and-psychological follow-up study (conducted for 15 years) were used. We examined 290 patients with mitral valve prolapse (MVP) and 73 healthy individuals. The results suggest that the syndrome is system-defined and has a multilevel structure. That is, the structure of the psychosomatic syndrome is determined by three factors, different from the neuropsychological syndrome, which is typically one-factorial. These factors are as follows: a motivational factor (characterized by the domination of the failure-avoidance motive and the unsatisfied need for self-approval); a disorder of emotion regulation factor; and a psychophysiological factor. We suggest that a psychosomatic syndrome analysis can be used for diagnostic and even prognostic tasks both in clinical psychology and medicine.

Keywords: *Postnonclassical methodology, Ppsychological syndrome analysis, Vygotsky-Luria school, Psychosomatic syndrome, Mitral valve prolapse (MVP).*

DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENT, TREATMENT, AND TREATMENT OUTCOME EVALUATION OF CHRONIC PAIN/FIBROMYALGIA SYNDROME: CASE STUDY

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Abstract

Introduction: Clinically it has been known that individuals with Chronic Pain Syndrome (CPS) do not respond well to medical model interventions alone. Biopsychosocial rehabilitation model of pain management has been emerging in the last decade. Most biopsychosocial pain management programs, however, have not made objective assessment and treatment outcome measures as parts of the practice yet. In 2001 author, with an interdisciplinary team of specialists, designed a biopsychosocial pain management program called "Team Power". Evidence based assessment, individualized treatment and treatment outcome measures were included as the fundamentals of this program. **Design and Objectives:** This is an archival clinical case study with psychometric base line, interdisciplinary biopsychosocial treatment program and outcome measures. Primary goals of this case study were to examine the process of assessment, treatment, and treatment outcome evaluation as a continuum of biopsychosocial pain management model. The usefulness and importance of including objective assessment measures in

differential diagnosis, evidence-based treatment planning and treatment outcome evaluation are, also, demonstrated. *Method:* This case study is about one of the patients who, after failed traditional medical model treatments, was referred to “Team Power” for evaluation, treatment and management of chronic pain, stress, depression, anger and insomnia. Millon Behavioral Medicine Diagnostic (MBMD), Pain Patient Profile (P-3) and Pain Disability Index (PDI) were utilized for initial screening and outcome evaluation. Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI-2) and Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory (MCMI-III) were used for further differential diagnosis to rule out comorbidity and malingering. Psychometric base line and outcome measures were compared both clinically and statistically with the use of “t” tests of significance between the two Means for each measure, MBMD, P-3 and PDI. Patient completed an intensive interdisciplinary treatment program at Team Power. The program was 8 weeks long four days a week, four hours a day with weekly staffing for treatment process and progress reviews. Behavioral medicine, physical therapy, physiatry and behavioral nutrition/weight management were the primary interdisciplinary treatment components. Behavioral medicine components included individual and group sessions, primarily, with cognitive behavioral and psychophysiological-biofeedback modalities. Physical therapy also included individualized and group exercises, finishing each day with pool-therapy. Psycho-educational components were scheduled at lunch hour in conjunction with behavioral nutrition and weight management classes. *Findings:* Objective outcome measures were significant for all three outcome measures, suggesting treatment effectiveness and the usefulness of objective measures. Assessment, treatment and programmatic implications and recommendations are discussed.

Keywords: *Biopsychosocial assessment, Treatment, Outcome evaluation, Chronic pain/fibromyalgia syndrome.*

EMOTION REGULATION & ADAPTIVE LEARNING STRATEGIES IN PORTUGUESE ADOLESCENTS: A STUDY WITH THE *REGULATION EMOTION QUESTIONNAIRE-2*

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Abstract

The ability to *regulate emotions* is an essential prerequisite for adaptive development and behavior; several improvements should be accomplished throughout adolescence in order to make face to developmental tasks (e.g., self-control at school, self-awareness and adaptive learning skills). Recent literature on emotion regulation has emphasized the need to create assessment tools for emotion regulation during adolescence; in Portugal, few instruments are available for young. We present preliminary data of translation and validation of the *Regulation Emotion Questionnaire-2* (REQ-2, Philips & Power, 2007) to Portuguese sample (241 adolescents, aged 12 to 15 years old, from public schools of Coimbra municipality). A second goal was to analyze the relations between the awareness of regulating emotions and the perception of academic self-efficacy and self-justification strategies of failure (assessed by the some of the *Patterns of Adaptive Learning Scales* – PALS, Midgley, Maehr, Huda et al., 2000). Factor analysis replicates the internal structure of REQ-2 four factors (total 21 items), relating to functional emotion regulation strategies (internal/external) and dysfunctional (internal/external), explaining 48.7% of variance. Correlational studies suggest that higher scores in functional strategies are related to a greater awareness of academic self-efficacy. Girls reported more frequent use of functional emotion regulation strategies. A developmental approach of emotion regulation seems to be useful to guide adolescent’s intervention programs; and psychometric qualities of REQ-2 suggest that it is an adequate instrument to assesses and elicit adolescents’ awareness about their own processes of emotion regulation.

Keywords: *Emotion regulation, REQ-2, Adaptive learning scales, Adolescents.*

THE COGNITIVE ORIENTATION OF ADDICTIVE BEHAVIORS

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Abstract

The study deals with applying to the issue of addictive behaviors the cognitive-motivational approach of the cognitive orientation theory. This theory assumes that the occurrence of a behavior is affected by cognitive contents in the form of beliefs of four types – about goals, about rules and norms, about oneself and about others and reality (general beliefs) – relating to contents relevant for the particular behavior. A cognitive orientation questionnaire was constructed by applying the standard method of interviewing pretest subjects. The questionnaire referred to theme, such as rejecting limitations, withdrawal from coping and blurred self-identity. The participants were 62 individuals with addictions and 62 control individuals. The scores of the questionnaire differentiated with high significance between the two groups. The findings shed light on the nature of psychological risk factors for addiction and thus contribute to the possibility of planning targeted interventions for prevention and treatment.

Keywords: *Cognitive orientation, Addiction, Risk factors.*

COMMUNICATION AND CONTROL: AN INVESTIGATION OF PROSTHETIST AND AMPUTEE RELATIONSHIPS

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Abstract

Objectives: Loss of limb through amputation presents a significant, life changing, circumstance to individuals. In addition to psychological and physical adjustment, individuals also become patients within a health care system. The role played by the prosthetist as the gate keeper to the health care system and in the facilitator of rehabilitation is essential to subsequent positive adjustment of the individual. Communication within this patient/practitioner dyad has an important role to play in order to achieve a positive outcome for both parties. **Design:** 15 individuals post amputation and 13 prosthetists were interviewed on their experience of limb loss and prosthesis use. Participants were recruited through rehabilitation centres and amputee charities throughout the UK. Interviews took place between 2011-2012. **Method:** Semi structured interviews were conducted with all participants with an interview schedule loosely based on impact of limb loss on daily life, experience of prosthesis use and personal meaning of limb loss. Interviews were analysed using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) to gain a subjective understanding of their experience. Key themes and sub themes were developed from each group of interviews. Prosthetist and individual experiences were then compared to examine the similarities and differences in these groups. **Findings:** Four key themes were identified from the data: Personal Identity, Social Identity, Experience of Technology and Experience of Control. The current paper focuses on the subtheme of Communication and Control. Communication between individual and prosthetist both pre and post amputation was found to impact on expectations and in turn management of these expectations. In addition, the importance of communication in the adjustment to amputation and subsequent acceptance of the prosthetic limb is discussed. Negative impact of failure to communicate within this partnership is also highlighted from both perspectives. **Conclusions:** Communication is essential to any practitioner/patient relationship. This paper discusses from the novel view point of both parties the impact of communication on adjustment to amputation. Each party expressed a specific expectation of their own role and the role of their opposite partner. These expectations appear to have a great effect on the level of satisfaction each finds in the clinical interactions and relationship itself. The multiple roles played by the practitioner within this relationship are not always appropriate to clinical training but may have an impact on rehabilitative outcome. The prosthetist and the healthcare system have the potential to greatly influence the subsequent rehabilitation of individuals. A greater understanding of this influence and of the lived experience of these participants will shed light on this area and allow suggestions for clinical practice to be made.

Keywords: *Patient/Practitioner Relationship, Communication, Amputation, Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis, Prosthetist.*

PROJECT FOR WORK MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION OF MENTAL HEALTH USERS IN BRAZIL

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Abstract

As a pioneer proposal for social inclusion through work, the Work Management Project (WMP) is presented as a model of a new caregiving practice in the field of mental health designed to establish the conditions for access and permanence of individuals with mental disorders in the formal job market. Underway in the city of Rio de Janeiro/RJ, Brazil since 2008, this project today has 50 users of different mental health services and devices in a number of locations in the Greater Rio area, working at PREZUNIC- CENCOSUD S.A., with all their labor rights guaranteed. Based on specific guidelines, the WMP supports the real caregiving demands of this population to enable the users to exercise their citizenship rights through formal work. It is through training and monitoring conducted at the workplace itself, in the signing of job contracts using the "hours worked" model and close contact with the mental health services to which these new workers belong that the WMP establishes the conditions that allow it to function. Results obtained since the project was established in practice, and based on its participation in the larger project of the IMNS/RJ (2007/2009) until being configured for a private company, have led the WMP to win not only a state prize awarded by the Brazilian Human Resources Association (ABRH/RJ) in its 2010 version, but also was the inspiration for the State Labor Public Prosecutors Office (MPT/RJ, 2012) to adopt inclusion of individuals with mental disorders in Law 8213, the so-called Quotas Law, pursuant to the United Nations Convention, 2006. This means that for the first time in the history of Brazil, a Brazilian state, through the MPT, has determined there shall be legal protection for this population in the formal job market. With these results, based on the ideas contained in the Brazilian Psychiatric Reform program, the WMP now intends to continue to promote expansion of both socially shareable spaces and increase in the democratic rights of a portion of the Brazilian population that historically has been excluded from the social contract.

Keywords: *Work Management, Citizenship, Mental disorder, Mental health.*

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

INVESTIGATION OF PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS' OPTIMISM LEVEL AND THEIR SCHOOL PERCEPTION

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Abstract

In this study it is aimed to investigate Primary School Students' optimism and their perception of school with relation to the variables of students' gender, grade and the type of primary school (Type A and Type B). In addition, it is aimed to investigate the differences between their optimism level (high, medium and low) and school perception. This study is a descriptive analysis that involves the investigation of optimism level of primary school students' and their school perception. The study group consists of 610 students attending at seven different primary schools in central district of Ankara. To gather the data, "Optimism Scale" and "School Perception Scale" were used. The data obtained were analyzed using SPSS software. Firstly, t test was performed to the results obtained with the help of Optimism Scale, Perception of School Scale and Perception of School Scale's sub-scales in order to determine whether the quantitative differences in students' points means related to their gender and school type (A type, B type) were significant. Moreover, ANOVA test was performed to found out whether the quantitative differences in students' points mean related to their grade were significant. ANOVA test was performed to found out whether the quantitative differences in students' optimism level related to their Perception of School points were significant. In addition, LSD (post-hoc) test was used to find the source of the difference. According to the data obtained by Optimism Scale, Primary School students who attend the study are generally getting high points. In addition, there is a significant difference between the type of school (Type A and Type B), gender and optimism. However, the differences between the points of students and their grade are not significant. According to the data obtained by "School Perception Scale" primary school students who attend the study are generally get high points. Also there is a significant differences between the girls' and the boys' scores of school perception. According to the data, there is not a meaningful difference between degrees and school perception points. There is a significant difference between type of school and the school perception points. According to "feelings about school" sub-scale, there is a significant difference between girls and boys. There is a significant difference between "the perception about physical circumstance of school" sub-scale, "feelings about school" sub-scale, "the perception about courses" sub-scale and students' grade. There is a significant difference between "perception about physical circumstance of school" sub-scale, "feelings about school" sub-scale, "the perception about courses" sub-scale and the types of school. There is a significant difference between the primary students' level of optimism and the points of their School Perception Scale's sub-scales

Keywords: *Optimism, School psychology, Positive Psychology, School perception.*

THE EFFECT OF COMMUNICATION SKILLS-PSYCHOEDUCATION PROGRAM ON THE COMMUNICATION SKILLS OF THE POLICE ACADEMY STUDENTS

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Abstract

Objectives: Aim of the research is to measure the effect of communication skills- psycho-education program on the communication skills of the students of the police academy. **Research design:** The research has a one-group, pre test-post test, experimental design. The researcher developed a six-week psycho-education program on communication skills so as to apply in the research. All the sessions of the program were built on humanistic approach which was essentially based on clear acceptance, respect, empathetic understanding and sincerity. Gestalt therapy techniques which puts great emphasis on here

and now, and awareness were used. In this scope, techniques of expressing emotions and body language were applied. Within the scope of cognitive-behavioural therapy, “imagination”, “role playing”, “behavioural rehearsal”, “didactic techniques” were used. As for psychodrama, techniques such as “empathy exercises” and “role reversals” were used. Sessions were comprised of a brief information on the program and introduction; the importance of self-knowledge in communication; non-verbal communication; active listening and empathy; the role of our cognitive processes on interpersonal communication; and assessment of the program. *Method:* The School Counsellor administered a six-week long “communication skills–psycho-education program” to 10 volunteering students from the police academy in 2012 spring term. Communication Skills Assessment Scale developed by Korkut (1996) was used as pre test-post test. The aim was to check whether there is a significant difference between pre test average scores and post test average scores of communication skills of the subjects. For testing it, Wilcoxon Signed Ranks Test, which is used for testing the significance of the difference between the scores of two related measurement sets, was used as statistical technique. *Findings:* Analysis results show that there is a significant difference between the pre test and post test scores which the students participating in the research achieved on communication skills test ($z=2.81$, $p<.01$). The difference observed is in positive ranks, i.e. in favour of the post test. *Discussion:* According to these results, it can be said that the psycho-education program on communication skills has an important effect on improving the communication skills of the police academy students.

Keywords: Police academy, Communication, Psycho-education program, Communication skill.

WORKING WITH SHY ADOLESCENTS: EFFECTIVENESS OF LIFE SKILLS GROUP TRAINING

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Abstract

In the present study an attempt is made to find out the effectiveness of Group Life Skills Training (LSTG) in reducing shyness adolescents. The sample consisted of 64 adolescents (32 experimental and 32 control) who had high level of shyness. Shyness Assessment Test (SAT) developed by D’Souza (2006) was employed to measure levels of shyness in 3 domains: Cognitive/affective, Physiological and Action oriented. After the selection of subjects, LST in Groups was given to the experimental group for 60 days consisting of 8 sessions. At the end of LST, again, SAT was applied and data were collected on 3 dimensions of shyness. Repeated Measure ANOVA was employed to find out the effectiveness of LST in reducing shyness on all the 3 dimensions and also influence of secondary variables like gender, age. Results revealed that LST in Group is highly effective in reducing the shyness of adolescents in all the domains-cognitive/affective, physiological and action oriented. In cognitive/affective and physiological domains, male adolescents of the experimental group had higher reduction compared to female adolescents. In the action oriented domain female adolescents had higher reduction in scores than male adolescents.

Keywords: Shyness, Life Skills Group Training (LSTG), Adolescents.

TRANSITION IN TRANSITION OUT (TITO): USING PEER MENTORING TO ASSIST GRADUATING STUDENTS TRANSITION BEYOND UNIVERSITY

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Abstract

Contemplating entry into the workforce can be a daunting process for students as they prepare to complete their undergraduate degree. Final year psychology students can find this process particularly challenging, given that many do not proceed into postgraduate psychology programs and are left to

contemplate their options. It is clear that assisting students in this period of transition and improving their work preparedness skills is crucial. This project used a repeated-measures within-subject design to deliver a peer mentoring program across two Australian universities, one face-to-face (RMIT University) and one online (University of Southern Queensland). In the program, final year psychology students mentored first year students and, through this process, develop important work preparedness skills that can be used in their later transition into the workplace. This paper will focus on the impact of the program on the third year student experience, including their preparedness for life beyond their undergraduate degree. The paper will report on the pre- and post-test scores for third year students on measures exploring the five senses of success, learning approaches, preparedness for entry into the workforce, and perceptions of peer mentoring.

Keywords: *Transition, University, Peer Mentoring.*

PERSONALITY AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: EVIDENCES FROM AN EXPLORATORY PILOT STUDY

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Abstract

The study seeks to investigate the extent to which students at a public university in Bucharest engage in unethical behavior within the academic environment such as fraudulence, plagiarism, falsification, delinquency, unauthorized help etc., depending on their personality. This study was conducted using a survey method of 252 students at graduate and post-graduate level. The findings indicate that personality traits such as conscientiousness are significantly and negatively correlated with unethical behavior in the case of university students ($r = -.281$, $p < .01$ with plagiarism; $r = -.250$, $p < .01$ with fraudulation; $r = -.233$, $p < .01$ with misconduct; $r = -.217$, $p < .01$ with unauthorized help). Similarly, neuroticism is significantly associated with plagiarism ($r = .214$, $p < .01$), fraudulation ($r = .163$, $p < .01$) and misconduct ($r = .156$, $p < .05$). Significant differences regarding falsification are also observed between graduate and postgraduate students ($t(250) = -2.075$, $p < .05$). This research provides some valuable insights on allowing educational institutions and those directly involved in the educational process, to develop relevant policies and guidelines on matters pertaining to academic conduct.

Keywords: *Academic ethics, Personality, NEO-PI-R, Cheating, Unethical behaviour.*

HOW TO IMPROVE THE WRITING OF OPINION ESSAYS? – THE ROLE OF SELF-REGULATED STRATEGIES DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

This study aims to identify, describe and analyze the impact of Self-Regulated Strategy Development (SRSD) for opinion writing. We used the mnemonics: Pick my idea, Organize my notes and Write and say more and Topic sentence, Reasons, Explain reasons and Ending (POW+TREE) strategies with 39 fourth grade students from Braga, Portugal. We adopted a quasi-experimental design, using one class as the experimental group and another class as the control group. The students from the experimental group learned the two self-regulation writing strategies in six sessions of forty-five minutes each, during two months. The quantitative data obtained were analyzed by descriptive and inferential statistics. We observed that these strategies had a positive influence at several levels: Portuguese language, autonomy, motivation and analyzing capacities in the writing process. In the experimental group there were statistical differences, in the number of words, in the number of transition words and in the quality of the opinion essays, between the pre and posttests. It was also observed a highly effect size in the number of words (0,85) and transition words (1,22) and one condition that must be considered (0,63) in the quality

of the opinion essays. The results described indicate that POW+TREE strategies help to enhance the performance of these students in writing opinion essays. Implications for practice will be discussed. Bearing in mind that Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) provide interactive, flexible and powerful tools to develop high quality writing by students with and without specific learning disabilities, we will be proposing ways of analyzing its role in learning these strategies, in future research.

Keywords: *Learning, Writing, Self-regulation strategies, Opinion essay, Specific learning disabilities.*

EARLY INTERVENTION AND FRAGILE X SYNDROME

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Abstract

The Fragile X syndrome, although not very frequent, is the most common inherited cause of mental retardation and is very often associated with autism spectrum disorders. An early intervention program can improve the developmental process of these children in a very significant way. But it depends on how the health, education and social services organize the Early Intervention system and the answers to the family and child needs. In order to understand how families lived and experienced the early years of their children, with regard to answers and support obtained within the early education and intervention, we conducted a qualitative research focused on the years before school (0-6 years). We studied 39 families of children with FXS, from different regions of Portugal, having been conducted interviews with, and used a Grounded theory approach to data. The findings show that there is a good response at the level of adequacy of the pre-school environment, with relative successful and satisfactory educational inclusion. However, despite being provided a network of Early Intervention that should support these children, there is a notorious lack of availability of these services, in quantity and quality, both for therapies as for family support. The findings emphasize the importance of an earlier functional and etiological diagnosis and the provision of integrated services, adequate to the specific characteristics of these children. That implies multidisciplinary Early Intervention teams and a good connection with preschool services.

Keywords: *Early intervention, Fragile X Syndrome, Family centered approach, Genetic syndromes.*

CHRONOPSYCHOLOGY ASSESSMENT OF THE TYPE OF TIME ORGANIZATION APPLIED IN ALGERIAN SCHOOLS

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to make a chrono-psychological assessment of the type of time organization applied in Algerian schools. Comparison was made between the single and double vacation types of school time organization based on a sample of pupils aged between 11 and 12 years. The results of the study highlight the physiological and psychological impact of the two types of school vacation on Algerian pupils. Furthermore the daily and weekly attention levels of pupils in the double vacation type of organization indicate that this type of time organization is well suited for Algerian pupils who seem well adapted to their school time. With regard to the behavior of the two children observed during the study it was found that those in the double vacation type were better adapted to daily school life compared to their peers in the single type of vacation. However during the week it is the pupils in the single vacation type who showed a better level of adaptation. The results also indicate that regardless of the type of time organization and the time of school entrance the subjects showed no troubles with regard to time of sleeping or awaking: Pupils from the two types of time organization slept more than the average time indicated by chrono-psychological research. However it was also shown that the break taken Tuesday afternoon by pupils from the double vacation type - unlike their peers in the single vacation type - had no positive effects, but the break taken in the weekend by all pupils regardless of the type of vacation was useful for since it enabled them to take a rest and overcome their fatigue. With regard to extra-

curricular school activities they clearly appear to be the same for all pupils. The lack of adequate school equipment in Algerian schools and even in the whole society does not make it possible to take into account the psychological and physiological rhythms of our children who therefore may experience some psychological problems which in turn may lead to their school failure.

Keywords: *School rhythms, Chronopsychology, Chronobiology, School time, Double vacation, Simple vacation.*

PERFECTIONISM AND SCHOOL PERFORMANCE IN CHILDREN

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Abstract

Perfectionism is a multidimensional construct ranging from a positive to a negative pole. Past studies have shown that positive perfectionism is linked to a better school performance, whereas, negative perfectionism is often associated with social and emotional difficulties such as anxiety, depression and lower self-esteem. However, most studies have been realized with a population of gifted children, which might not be representative of the general population. Thus, the current study aimed to investigate the associations between negative perfectionism and the performance in reading and mathematics in children from regular classroom who are applying to an international schooling program. Convenient sample of the study consist of 140 sixth-grade children, aged 10 to 12 who completed a mathematics and reading tests, as well as 3 subtests of the Cheney-Daigle's, intellectual quotient's test. Positive and negative perfectionism were measured with the *Échelle de Perfectionnisme Positif et Négatif*, a French version of the *Positive and Negative Perfectionism Scale*. Correlation analysis has shown that a high score on the negative perfectionism scale is linked to a lower performance in mathematics, reading and on 3 IQ subscale tests. One possible explanation of these results may be that negative perfectionism increased the level of anxiety when confronted with evaluation, thus altering their performance. Also, considering the fact that most tests are usually administered under time limits it may be hypothesized that children with negative perfectionism may spend too much time on the first questions in a test, and do not have enough time to complete all the questions. These results are important since negative perfectionism seem to affect negatively the performance in mathematics and in reading and thus, may lead to negative long term outcomes such as drop out. They also indicate the importance to intervene among those children in order to provide them emotional support and teach them coping skills that would help them manage the emotional distress that is associated with negative perfectionism. Similarly, these findings highlight the significance of developing the research on perfectionism given the numerous implications on school performance or other variables in school setting.

Keywords: *Perfectionism, Children, School performance.*

A GENERAL OVERVIEW ON PARENTAL EMOTIONAL SOCIALIZATION BEHAVIORS

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Abstract

Denham, Mitchell-Copeland, Stranderberg, Auerbeck & Blair (1997) define that parental behaviors are predictors of emotional and social competences of children, and they state that parents have a substantial role for the socialization of children, as well. Therefore, this study is focused on parental socialization behaviors, and more specifically this study has evaluated the emotional socialization of parents by considering the emotional competence of children, and an explanatory perspective has been tried to be established with other relevant parental characteristics such as parental goals and practices. Upon explaining the parental emotional socialization behaviors, firstly parental styles, basic concepts, affecting the developmental outputs, as well as the relation between a parent and child (Grolnick, Bridges, & Connell, 1998) have been based. On the other hand, when acted the fact that parental emotional socialization refers to more specific emotion-related behaviors of parents rather than general disciplining

styles and parental responses (Denham, et al., 1997), it is obvious that more detailed explanation of parents for emotional socialization. Within this framework, emotional socialization behaviors of parents have been defined in detail and emotional socialization processes/mechanisms have been defined based upon the hypotheses in the literature such as modeling, coaching, parent responses and meta-emotion philosophy. In this stage, how parents respond to children's negative emotions is an important pathway to socialize children's emotional competence (Eisenberg, Cumberland, & Spinrad, 1998) is underlined under the title of contingency hypothesis. The reactions of parents for the negative emotions of children are specifically explained within the scope of supporting and non-supporting reactions with samples. In this study, Le Vine's parental model has been considered for explaining how parental socialization aims and applications affect the emotional socialization behaviors and emotional competence. This study ends with stressing out the significance of emotional socialization behaviors of parents with other parental characteristics as well as with the other factors possibly affecting or contributing to the socialization behaviors. Culture a conceptual factor affecting the socialization of parents' emotions (Kagitcibasi, 2007), complementary behaviors of the family members interns of theory system perspective (Parke & Bruiel, 1998), and within the framework of gender effect and socio-economic level of a family in some certain models have been evaluated in discussion part by considering the emotional competence. In summary, in this study parental socialization behaviors and some relevant themes have been tried to be explained in general concept.

Keywords: *Parental emotional socialization, Parental emotional socialization processes/mechanisms, Emotional competence.*

FAMILY UNPREDICTABILITY AND SOCIAL SUPPORT REPORTED BY FAMILIES IN EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS VERSUS COMMUNITY FAMILIES

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Abstract

Family unpredictability has been associated with dysfunctional family functioning and with development and behavior problems in children. On the other hand, the presence of social support relations has been associated with positive effects on parenting, particularly in families at risk. We examined in this study the relationship between perception of *family unpredictability* and *social support*, in families in early intervention (N = 60) and community families (N = 100), both with children between 2 and 6 years. The parents filled out the Portuguese version of the *Family Unpredictability Scale* – FUS (Gaspar & Alarcão, 2003), and the Portuguese version of the *Family Support Scale* – FSS (Coutinho, 1999). The mean values of perceived unpredictability was higher in families in early intervention programs, and caregivers of these families reported greater appreciation of the usefulness of formal sources of social support. Reported family unpredictability declines with increased perceived social support, and there is an effect of educational level in both groups (higher education is associated with lower reported unpredictability). Data suggest guidelines for interventions to be implemented in early intervention programs to at risk families with young children.

Keywords: *Family unpredictability, Social Support, Early intervention, Young children.*

TOXIC ENVIRONMENT: OUTCOMES OF PARENTAL METHAMPHETAMINE ADDICTION ON CHILD PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH

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Abstract

A representative sample of 58 pre-schoolers (mean age = 4.4) and 78 school-age children (mean age = 8.2) from methamphetamine-producing (MP) and non-producing (NP) homes was drawn from a rural

community in the southeastern part of the United States, for two separate studies. *Aims:* The major aim of the studies was to assess the psychological outcomes of living in MP homes on pre-schoolers and school-age children. The specific aim was to examine the impact of MP homes on the externalizing (behavioral) and internalizing (emotional) functioning of children who lived with meth-abusing parents in these homes. *Methods:* For each of the studies, the participants in the MP and NP groups were similar in age, gender, and socioeconomic background. Children from the NP homes serve as the comparison group. Both groups were assessed using age-appropriate Behavior Assessment System for Children (BASC) forms. *Findings:* Pre-schoolers from the MP homes showed more externalizing problems than their peers, but were comparable on internalizing problems. For the school-age study, children from the MP homes showed more school maladjustment behaviors than their NP peers. In addition, for this rural sample, the prevalence of internalizing and externalizing disorders, even in children from NP homes, was higher than in population-based norms. *Conclusions:* These findings point to the need for mental health screening when a child is removed from an MP home and accessibility to mental health services for children in rural communities.

Keywords: *Preschoolers, School-age children, Methamphetamine, Psychological health, Rural community.*

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND INCLUSIVE CONTEXTS

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Abstract

Parental involvement is a multifaceted concept that encompasses different contexts and can be presented in various formats. Within the inclusive approach, the collaborative model and partnership of parental involvement provides a frame of reference that can help support professionals, educators and teachers in their contacts with parents of children with disabilities. This study aims to analyze the relationships between the perspectives of parents and teachers of regular education and special education, about parental involvement in school. In this research we constitute two samples, one for parents or caregivers and other of special education teachers, formed respectively by 256 parents of children with and without disabilities and 107 teachers of school clusters that allowed the access to most participant's research. The data were collected in six clusters of schools and also in APPDA (Portuguese Association for Developmental Disorders and Autism) and APCV (Cerebral Palsy Association in Viseu) of the district Viseu, as well as in other places of the same district. The comparative analysis of perceptions of parental involvement between parents and teachers, data shows that the largest divergence occurs between the regular education teachers and parents of students with disabilities. In contrast, the perceptions between special education teachers and parents of children with disabilities do not show significant differences. There are still significant differences between the two types of teachers (regular and special education) about perceptions of parental involvement.

Keywords: *Parental involvement, Inclusive education, Disability.*

THE EFFECT OF GROUP COUNSELING EXPERIENCES TO COUNSELOR TRAINEES' GROUP LEADERSHIP CHARACTERISTICS

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Abstract

Objectives: The aim of this study is to construct and to enhance the group leadership characteristics of counselor trainees. *Design and Methods:* This study was held by survey model. The study was conducted with the graduates who studied in Psychological Counseling and Guidance, Dokuz Eylul University, Turkey during 2011-2012 academic year. The sample of this study consists of 18 3rd level volunteer

undergraduates. Before group counseling session, debriefing about rationale theories and process of group counseling was given. First, the researcher practiced a sample group counseling session in which the trainees were group members to teach how to manage the group. Afterwards, each trainee has practiced group leadership and managed group session once a week. After all of the trainees completed and experienced group management and leadership, an open-ended questionnaire was applied by the researcher and interviews were made individually. The data were collected from students were analyzed by qualitative analysis techniques. The effects of these experiences were determined. *Findings:* According to the results of the study, group counseling experiences provided following gains to the trainees. Self-confidence to conduct group counseling sessions was developed. Self awareness both to their competencies and to the inabilities or inadequacies of their effectiveness in theory and application was developed. *Conclusion:* As a consequence, group counseling experiences have contributed positively to the group leadership characteristics of counselor trainees.

Keywords: *Group counseling, Counselor education, Counselor trainees.*

THE ROLE OF BIG IDEAS IN TECHNOLOGY-MEDIATED CURRICULA

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Abstract

Several studies point to the fact that many teachers around the world rely heavily on inquiry- based approaches in science. We argue that the devotion many science teachers have for this approach reflects a misguided view of the scientific process: Namely, the notion that scientific ideas are induced from factual data. The approach to science teaching and learning reported on here, termed “realist constructivism,” is based on a view of science that assumes that the regularities turned up by science not only exist in nature but that they can be directly accessed, at least qualitatively, through an act of reasoning known as “abduction.” Metaphor plays a key role in this process. This paper reports on an effort to test the realist constructivist approach in a fifth grade classroom. The authors argue that the realist constructivist approach to science teaching and learning represents a potential solution to the counterproductive on-going argument in education that pits activity-oriented reformers, who take their cue from the child, against their pedagogical counterparts, the more content-oriented traditionalists who focus on objective measures of student learning.

Keywords: *Science, Technology, Constructivism, Learning, Curriculum.*

COGNITIVE FEATURES OF STUDENTS WITH DIFFERENT LEVEL OF RESEARCH POTENTIAL AND SUCCESS IN LEARNING

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Abstract

This article describes methods and results of study of cognitive features of master students with high, medium and low research potential and success in training. These differences revealed in the master students of first and second year in the scientific system of "psychology" and "history" in St Petersburg State University (SPSU). Obtained results are a psychological basis for masters' instruction differentiation, scientific supervision style selection and psychological support of students' individual learning and scientific work organization.

Keywords: *Learning, Research potential, Cognitive feature.*

ASSOCIATIONS OF UNHEALTHY BEHAVIORS AND DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS WITH SCHOOL DIFFICULTIES AND ROLE OF SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS IN EARLY ADOLESCENCE

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Abstract

Objectives: Unhealthy behaviors such as alcohol, tobacco, cannabis and hard drugs uses and depressive symptoms are common in early adolescence and they are well known to affect physical, mental and cognitive functions. These factors can thus favor persistent school difficulties. Socioeconomic factors are known to favor unhealthy behaviors and depressive symptoms as well as school difficulties. This study assessed the associations of unhealthy and depressive symptoms with learning difficulty, low school performance, and school dropout ideation, and the confounding roles of socioeconomic factors in early adolescence. **Design:** Cross-sectional study. **Methods:** The sample included 1,559 middle-school adolescents from north-eastern France (mean age 13.5, SD 1.3), who completed a self-administered questionnaire including gender, birth date, socioeconomic factors (father's socio-occupational category, family structure, parents' education, parent death, nationality, family income, and social supports), last-30-day alcohol, tobacco, cannabis and hard drugs uses, depressive symptoms (Kandel scale, score >90th percentile), learning difficulty, low school performance (last-trimester mark <10/20), and school dropout ideation at 16 years (school is compulsory until this age). Learning difficulty was measured using an 8-item scale including lesson comprehension, concentration/lesson learning, keeping up the pace/constraint, relaxing/rest, class atmosphere, home learning atmosphere, teacher pressure, and parent pressure; Cronbach alpha coefficient 0.81, score >90th percentile). The school difficulties were chosen to measure various difficulty levels. Data were analyzed using logistic models to compute gender-age-grade-adjusted odds ratios (OR_i) and the contributions of socioeconomic factors. **Findings:** Learning difficulty, low school performance, and school dropout ideation affected respectively 14.1%, 8.2%, and 3.8% of students. These school difficulties were linked with alcohol use: OR_i 1.72 (95%CI 1.26-2.33), 1.51 (1.03-2.21), and 3.43 (1.96-6.01), respectively. Higher OR_i were found for tobacco use: 3.82 (2.64-5.52), 5.81 (3.83-8.82), and 6.31 (3.53-11.28), respectively; cannabis use: OR_i 3.61 (2.23-5.86), 4.12 (2.41-7.04), and 6.89 (3.45-13.76), respectively; hard drugs uses: OR_i 6.37 (3.41-11.89), 5.05 (2.53-10.08), and 10.85 (4.99-23.55), respectively; and depressive symptoms: OR_i 7.21 (5.06-10.27), 1.84 (1.16-2.93), 3.14 (1.64-6.03), respectively. The socioeconomic factors considered explained respectively <4%, 15-37%, 10%-31%, 20%-43%, and 20%-68% of the associations of school difficulties with alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, and hard drugs uses and depressive symptoms. **Conclusions:** Unhealthy behaviors and depressive symptoms were strongly associated with school difficulties. Socioeconomic factors highly confounded their associations. Public policy to improve school achievement, and thus community participation in adulthood, should focus on unhealthy behaviors and mental disorders, especially among students with socioeconomic difficulties. Causal relationships could not be advanced (study cross-sectional nature).

Keywords: Adolescents, School difficulties, Substance use, Depressive symptoms, Socioeconomic factors.

EXPANDING BORDERS: TEACHERS MOTIVATION

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Abstract

Based on theoretical fields who are composed by *Motivational Process*, emphasizing the conceptualization of motivation, as a process who involves external/extrinsic and internal/intrinsic components; achieved during many moments with of no explicit organization (at home, at trips, at socialization processes) and organizations like in schools or universities, ore courses with includes *Teaching and Learning Processes*, in constant moments of interactions and reflections, enhancing for knowledges, abilities and attitudes/affect who lead to the capability to learn to learn, as a constant process between a teacher and a student, the most of the time at an educational setting, in constant *Interpersonal Relationships*, planned as an educational intervention, who gives a possibility to establish positive interactions. Our qualitative research, with testimonies from 26 teachers of three schools, about their pedagogical practice, motivation, aspects of his/her malaise and well being, reflections about their self-image and self-esteem, autonomy and cooperation for motivation in education, and the data of notes of qualitative recorded in field diaries, and speeches with observations obtained in the meetings with these teachers, analyzed by Content Analysis Technique and the categories we found are: a) Initial conceptions that subjects bring on the subject motivation; b) Relation between malaise/well being and teacher's motivation; c) Relation between self-image, self-esteem and motivation; d) Cooperation for motivation in the profession. We stress the need and importance of conducting positive aspects related to the subjectivity aspects of the teacher and students relationships, remembering that the three components (knowledge, skills and attitudes/affect) interact constantly, and we still see that our field research needs to be expanded, with a view to providing continuing education for the teachers (also students and parents), to make them aware of the importance of motivation and his/her well-being.

Keywords: *Motivation, Teaching/Learning processes, Interpersonal relations, Self-esteem.*

◆ SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY ◆

EMOTIONAL COSTS AND COPING DURING REEMPLOYMENT

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Abstract

The main goal of the study was to investigate the emotional costs of occupational reintegration and their influence on a person. The study was conducted among individuals who are especially vulnerable for negative effects of reintegration, namely returning to work after long-term unemployment. The sample consisted of the reemployed (n=88) who voluntarily agreed to participate in the study. Questionnaires battery was administered in two waves (T1 and T2) in the first month of reemployment and after 3 months. Personal characteristics, as self-efficacy and sense of coherence, and social factors, as unethical behaviors in the workplace and their association to coping with reemployment emotional costs were analyzed. The significant increase of unethical behaviors experienced by the reemployed and decrease of problem-focused coping have been observed. In accordance, regression analysis showed significant relation between unethical behaviors and escape-focused coping. We assumed social support as an important environmental factor during reemployment. The results indicate direct and moderation effect of received social support and its adequacy.

Keywords: *Emotional costs, Coping, Reemployment.*

STUDENTS' DROPOUT REGARDING ACADEMIC EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS AND SATISFACTION AGAINST UNIVERSITY SERVICES

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Abstract

Objective: With the Lisbon and Bologna processes, studies completion and sustainable employability of students became priorities for European universities. For the Council of European Union, the share of 30-40 year olds with tertiary educational attainment should be at least 40% by 2020. The young Luxembourg University needs to understand why some students choose to leave without a diploma. Our aim was to analyse the relationships between self-perceiving of the academic employability skills (AES), self-related global quality of life (GQoL) and satisfaction towards against university services (SUS) among persisting and non-persisting students. **Design:** All freshmen (947) from the three Faculties of Luxembourg University (Sciences & Technology, Law & Finances and Social Sciences) were invited to participate to a cross-sectional survey that took place at beginning of the second semester. **Methods:** The persisting students were requested to complete an online questionnaire and those who had dropped out during the first semester (non-registered for the second semester) were contacted to responding at the same questions including socio-demographics characteristics: age; sex; nationality (yes/no); work (yes/no); father's and mother's occupational level and education. A discriminant analysis was undertaken using: the AES scale-6 items (Cronbach's alpha 0.81); the level of GQoL (1 item, values from 1 "very bad" to 5 "very good") and the SUS scale-3 items (Cronbach's alpha 0.74). **Findings:** 99 persisting students and 68 dropouts have responding. There's no significant age difference between these 2 groups (mean 21.12 years old). Dropouts are more likely young men (55.9% vs. 39.4% persisting, $p = 0.036$) and have a job (58.2% vs. 3.6% persisting, $p = 0.000$). Their GQoL is higher (83.3/100 vs. 78.1/100 persisting, $p = 0.032$), but their AES are lower (55.2/100 vs. 67.3/100 persisting, $p = 0.000$). Among them, AES and SUS are positively correlated (correlation 0.414; $p = 0.000$). **Conclusions:** Contrary to what described in literature, dropouts are not older than persisting students. They've a poorer perception of their employability skills, they're less satisfied with university services (*like reputation of university, of faculty and teaching quality*). However, they've a better quality of life and much of them have a gainful work. These findings are in line with recent studies suggesting that perceptions of quality of higher education have an impact on students'

satisfaction and behavioral intentions. Further researches will determine nature of links between academic services, employability skills and dropout.

Keywords: *Academic employability skills, Satisfaction against university services, Students' dropout.*

REFLECTION ON CAREER COUNSELLING IN TURKEY: FROM PAST TO FUTURE

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Abstract

With the prominent effects of globalisation in the last 20th century, the field of vocational guidance and career counselling services has gained importance on a global scale. This study aims to examine the background of vocational guidance and career counselling in Turkey and attempts to provide an overview of the process of its development from the past to present. Although Turkey has a 50 year background of knowledge and ever-growing experience, there is a need to consider such aspects as shifts in paradigm, use of technology in provision of services and training of adequate numbers of experts.

Keywords: *Vocational guidance, Career counselling.*

ACTION SIMULATION AND INDIVIDUALS' EVALUATION OF PROTAGONIST

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Abstract

Objectives: Thus far, head movements (e.g., Wells & Petty, 1980), arm flexion vs. arm extension (e.g., Neumann & Strack, 2000), dominant vs. non-dominant hand (Briñol & Petty, 2003), facial posture (Strack, Martin, & Stepper, 1988), and standing vs. recumbent body posture (e.g., Petty, Wells, Heesacker, Brock, & Cacioppo, 1983) were shown to influence attitude formation. The current study was designed to extend these findings in several ways. First, it assesses the role of other bodily responses (leg position and leg movements) in formation of attitudes. Second, it investigates whether the “body-attitude compatibility effect” occurs only when individuals evaluate ideas in the message (e.g., Lang, Bradley, & Cuthbert, 1990) and process the language about themselves (Stepper & Strack, 1993), or whether it also occurs for evaluation of the protagonist. Finally, it examines whether engaging in real body movement influences attitudes to the same extent as merely preparing the body for movement. **Method:** A total of 38 individuals ($M_{age} = 23.03$, $SD_{age} = 5.53$) participated in the first experiment (10 male, 26 female, 2 did not indicate gender). Participants were randomly assigned into one of the two conditions and their bodily positions and movements were manipulated. Participants in the control condition read the text while standing erect in front of the computer screen with the two feet together. Participants in the advanced facilitation condition first exercised on a stationary bike for a minute. Then, they read the text from the computer that was on the height-adjustable rostrum while standing erect in front of the computer screen with their lead leg advanced forward (40 centimeters from the follow leg). Finally, when participants finished reading the target text, they were asked to fill in the questionnaire regarding protagonist's competence and activeness skills. Participants in both conditions (control and advanced facilitation) filled in the questionnaire standing with the two feet together. A total of 37 individuals ($M_{age} = 22.84$, $SD_{age} = 5.61$) participated in the second experiment (13 male, 22 female, 2 did not indicate gender). The procedure was identical to that for Experiment 1, with the exception that participants in the basic facilitation condition did not exercise on the bike prior to reading the text. **Results and Conclusion:** Results showed that participants in the basic facilitation and advanced facilitation conditions scored protagonist's competence and activeness skills significantly higher than participants in the control condition. These results lend support to a theory of social embodiment which suggests that reenactments of perceptual, motor, and introspective states represent knowledge (Barsalou, Niedenthal, Barbey, & Ruppert, 2003).

Keywords: *Attitude, Body feedback, Social embodiment.*

DIFFERENT LIFE OF MUSLIM MESKHETIANS (MESKHETIAN TURKS) IN GEORGIA AND IN USA

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Abstract

The Muslim Meskhetians (or Meskhetian Turks) refer to a local population historically living in Samtskhe-Javakheti region of Georgia. The Muslim Meskhetians converted to Islam in the 16-17th century, during the Ottoman occupation of South-West Georgia. In the 40's of 20th century, as a result of Stalin's social policy to clean the southern border of the Soviet Union from "undesirable peoples", the Muslim population, predominantly comprised of the Turkish-speaking Meskhetians, was deported from the Caucasus to the Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan). Since 1944, they have lived far from their homeland Georgia. The Muslim Meskhetians had to overcome many obstacles in order to return back to their homeland. Only a small part was able to return back, a significant part still resides outside Georgia. Muslim Meskhetians After the deportation to the Fergana Valley were afterwards forcefully relocated to Russia, during several years they did not have either citizenship or passports. In 2006 the government of the US made a decision to shelter Muslim Meskhetians. Today, a repatriation of the Muslim Meskhetians to Georgia is on the agenda of the Georgian Government. It is important to study issues connected to the integration of the Muslim Meskhetians into the local communities. This research is an attempt to study influence of the new environments on the lives of the Muslim Meskhetians. It is important to understand how the new environments influence their lives. The research envisages observing the lives of Muslim Meskhetians in two different countries, Georgia and the USA. How the lives of these people, who belong to a very traditional communities change under the influence of the new environments. This article includes an analysis of the in-depth interviews. A differing degree of acceptance and adaptation, similarities and dissimilarities in two different countries have been observed. It is important to study traditions that survived, those which are changing or are born in the new social environment. The new environments influence the Muslim Meskhetians. The research analyses effects and influences of the new environments on the lives of the Muslim Meskhetians in Georgia and the USA.

Keywords: *Migration, Deportation, Gender, Influence, Environment.*

MEDIA IMPERIALISM AND BODY IMAGE PERCEPTION IN KUWAIT

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Abstract

Mass Media has a long-standing reputation of influencing perception and affecting behavior. And in the age of globalization investigating its influence in different cultural contexts has become increasingly relevant. Perpetuating unrealistic standards of body types is just one way mediated messages are said to influence negatively an audience. By way of TV, magazines and movies, the media imperialism of the United States is having a strong presence in small countries like Kuwait. The same media effects, on body image and identity, that are found in the US should also be observable. Furthermore, the social comparison theory states that an individual evaluates their own opinions by comparing themselves to others. Exposure to US media, in this case US television shows, offers individuals characters to whom to compare themselves. This study examines how US media imperialism and the social comparison theory through media affects body perception by examining how often college-age young adults watched shows with prominent thin television characters compared to shows that had a diversity of body types in the core cast. Being exposed to programming with only thin characters is expected to correlate positively with body dissatisfaction. The study included distributing 286 preliminary surveys to discover what were the most popular shows being watched by college students (mostly 18 to 25 year old). After the most popular shows were identified, surveys were circulated to a sample of 240 college-age young adults (120 males and 120 females) to determine if any correlation could be made between their television show preferences and their body dissatisfaction, or lack thereof.

Keywords: *Body image, Media imperialism, Cultural imperialism, Social comparison theory, Kuwait.*

MIGRATE? STAY? RETURN? THE REASONS FOR THE MIGRATION PROCESS IN BLACK AFRICAN FRENCH SPEAKING POPULATIONS

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Abstract

This study is a part of a research program aimed at understanding the reasons French-speaking Sub-Saharan African nationals settle in Europe and particularly in France. We decided to use metaphorically, the definition of motivation proposed by Vallerand and Thill (1993) to create an anonymous questionnaire to collect data on the construction of the migration process. All participants (N: 318) are French-speaking Africans, citizens of Sub-Saharan African Francophone countries, aged between 14 and 56 years old. For the analysis, we created two groups: participants who reside in their home country (n: 164), and the migrant population (n: 154). In cases where it was relevant, we subdivided the group of migrants into three sub-groups to facilitate the understanding of migration dynamics. Participants were contacted through social networks and professional and personal relationships in Europe and Africa. The group analysis (Migrants vs. Non-Migrants) shows a predilection for economic reasons as reason to migrate and to settle; the return is explained in terms of economic stability and the ability to provide knowledge and the means of development in the home country. These results confirm those of our 1st study (Velandia Torres and Lacassagne, 2012), in respect of the main factors determining the migration process. Despite the progress of this study, it remains one based on a qualitative approach, which does not seek to establish generalities applicable to all Africans wishing to migrate or in a migration process. Rather, it is the understanding of the reasons for migrating in a specific population, allowing access to underlying psychological phenomena. The results of our work provide three main objectives for future study: a) further the understanding of the contents of stereotypes about Africa, present in French society, b) determine more precisely the importance of reference point in explaining the grounds of the migration process and c) advance the understanding of relations between nationals of sub-Saharan Africa and the French population, thanks to the use of the RepMut questionnaire to measure racism and discrimination, among other phenomena.

Keywords: *Social representation, Migration, Motivation, Africa, Europe.*

‘HAMAS PRACTISES ITS RIGHT TO RESIST THE OCCUPATION’: NEGOTIATING CULPABILITY FOR THE PALESTINIAN/ISRAELI CONFLICT

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Abstract

Objectives: Previous discursive social psychological research conducted in the political context of the Palestinian / Israeli conflict has studied how speakers construct and argue for their preferred versions of identities, actions and outcomes to the conflict. Little research, however, has examined how particular categorizations of self and others are used to account for potentially culpable actions and to blame others for the ongoing conflict. The aim of this paper is to explore how leaders of Hamas, a major party to the conflict often neglected by researchers, use membership categorizations to justify Hamas ‘actions, and to resist and to attribute blame in this context. **Design:** The data were drawn from a series of journalistic interviews that were conducted with three senior figures from the Palestinian Hamas political movement in the months leading up to the invasion of Gaza by Israel in December 2007. **Method:** We used membership categorization analysis to examine the membership categories and category-bound attributes that news interviewers used in questions to Hamas leaders about responsibility for potentially culpable actions, and how the interviewees take up, challenge, or rework these categorizations in presenting their own versions of groups, actions and events. **Findings:** The news interviewers deploy categories that are bound up with terrorism while the interviewees develop alternative categorizations of resistance. Interviewers construct Palestinians as victims of Hamas’ actions while interviewees construct them as victims of Israeli aggression and international indifference. In warranting their alternative versions, the interviewees align current Palestinian actions with those previously taken by Western nations in resisting illegitimate occupations and contrast current behaviors of the international community with those of the past. **Conclusions:** The membership categorizations and category-bound attributes found here allow the

interviewees to justify their actions and to hold Israel as morally culpable for past and ongoing events in the conflict. At the same time, they function to attribute to the wider international community responsibility for addressing the events of the ongoing conflict. Moreover, by drawing upon shared historical understandings, the speakers produce categorizations that are designed to resonate with the political concerns of an international audience.

Keywords: *Discourse, Membership categorization analysis, Culpability, Palestinian/Israeli conflict, News interviews.*

PSYCHOLOGY OF POLITICAL CULTURE OF CONTEMPORARY RUSSIAN YOUTH

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Abstract

Political culture is a foundation for the building of real politics. In this regard studying youth political culture proves to be especially important as the youth, being in the general context of social and political changes, has a special status that is determined by its social and political diversity. Our investigation showed that psychological originality of youth political subculture in Russia is revealed itself in phenomena of «a valuable dissonance», «a social extraversion», political apathy against the expressed social activity. The youth political subculture is characterized by the potential of political activity which can be realized at change of a political situation in the country. Character and form of manifestation of such activity will depend to a certain extent on the concept of the state youth policy and ways of its realization.

Keywords: *Psychology of political culture, Youth political subculture, Political consciousness, Political behavior, Youth policy in Russia.*

INTEGRATION BETWEEN “SUBJECTIVE” AND “INTERSUBJECTIVE” MEASURES FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF WORK-RELATED STRESS RISK

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Abstract

This study aims to address the issues of negative affectivity (NA) and common method variance in relation to the exclusive use of self-report measures for evaluating work stress. In particular, it has two main objectives: (a) evaluating the role of NA in the assessment of work stress; (b) verifying the efficacy of an integrated approach that combines self- and hetero-evaluation for assessing work stress. Two instruments were administered to 1750 workers of a services organization: the Q_a-Bo Test, for workers' self-evaluation of both stressors and strain, and the V.I.S. Method for the hetero-evaluation of risk factors by the organization's stakeholders, including the occupational physician. Results show that NA moderates the relationship between the Interpersonal Conflict risk factor and work stress in terms of Cardiovascular Symptoms and Job Satisfaction. High NA workers display higher Cardiovascular Symptoms associated with an increase in Interpersonal Conflict, while low NA individuals present lower Job Satisfaction in case of higher Interpersonal Conflict. With reference to the second objective, results show that the integrated approach allows prediction of job satisfaction, proving its superiority over self-evaluation, as it can contain both common method variance and NA.

Keywords: *Work stress, Common Method Variance, Negative Affectivity, Integrated Approach, Risk Assessment.*

MEANING OF MONEY: DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ADOLESCENTS WITH AND WITHOUT EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS

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Abstract

The three-staged cluster sampling included students from six mainstream schools and the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) was completed for 1094 students for 11 to 16 years. A total of 110 of adolescents were achieved SDQ cut-off scores for the abnormal range and 632 of adolescents were identified as a group of adolescents without emotional and behavioral problems by SDQ cut-off values for the normal range. Multidimensional meaning of money was explored by questionnaire measuring affective, behavioral and symbolic dimensions of money among adolescents with and without problems. Results indicated that students with problems evaluated more highly behavioral (investing, saving, owning, spending) and symbolic high status components of money compared with non-problematic pupils' evaluations, whereby the dominant affective meaning of money was ambivalent (positive versus negative) for adolescents with emotional and behavioral problems. Additionally, content analysis of open-ended questions revealed that the meaning of money for adolescents without problems was primarily functional in nature.

Keywords: *Meaning of money, Emotional and behavioral problems, Adolescents.*

IMPLICIT THEORIES OF PERFORMANCE: THE CASE OF PORTUGUESE PUBLIC SECTOR'S TOP MANAGERS

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Abstract

Performance in public sector is difficult to define (Andrews & Boyne, 2010) and the impact of public managers' behavior is poorly known (Van Wart, 2003). Considering this, we explore Portuguese public managers' critical behaviors (task and contextual performance) and their implicit theories regarding these behaviors' impact. We conducted a qualitative exploratory research that focuses Portuguese public managers' theories about performance. Using the Critical Incident Technique, we gathered critical incidents from 42 public sector's top managers and used thematic content analysis. The results support the definition of several propositions, namely that (P1) Portuguese public managers theorise about their behaviors' impact on performance in a complex way, considering the level of the organization, stakeholders (employees, clients and partners) and the manager itself; (P2) they tend to consider that their behaviors have impact at the organizational and the individual (subordinates) level; and (P3) they emphasize the partners' level only when considering interpersonal and communication behaviors. These propositions as research hypotheses should be tested in future deductive studies. The managers' implicit theories translate their cultural perspective (Sternberg, 1985) regarding their behaviors' impact and inform us about their model of performance, that seems to be centered in the economical dimension of performance (Savoie & Morin, 2001), that focuses the capacity of acquiring resources to fulfill the organization's formal objectives. Our study is, to our knowledge, the first to approach Portuguese public managers' implicit theories regarding their performance, enriching awareness about the impact these managers perceive to have on public sector organizations, where social and economic constraints are dominant.

Keywords: *Managers performance, Implicit theories, Public Sector.*

A STRUCTURE OF PERSONAL INTEGRITY AS A PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSTRUCT

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Abstract

This article reports on the findings of a qualitative study in which the construction of personal integrity of some public leaders was explored. Data were gathered through in-depth interviews, biography analysis, and trusted figures in the community. Two in-depth interviews with Indonesian public leaders, one is the person who was transformed from fundamentalist become nationalist, and the other is the best judge in Indonesia. A grounded-theory approach to the data analysis elicited three themes. These themes and their interaction are discussed in this article and a structure of personal integrity is proposed. Personal integrity is an ethical identity of an individual. Ethical identity is formed through a structure that conceptualized as a multifaceted and dynamic construct consisting of motivational trait or certain basic desires, functioning of personal agency, and moral courage. The limitations of this study were addressed through member checking, peer reviews and rigorous descriptions of the raw data that support the interpretations made.

Keywords: *Personal integrity, Basic desires, Personal agency, Moral courage.*

THE ISSUE OF MIGRATION ACCORDING TO ADOLESCENTS AND THEIR PARENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF THEIR FUTURE

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Abstract

A migration in general, but particularly involving young, highly educated people intensified in the 1990s in Serbia and continues to do so. One of the important consequences of this trend is the creation of an atmosphere which encourages young people to consider/plan to leave their homeland. The work is based on a study which included 205 parents and 204 of their children –adolescents (16-17 years of age). The aim of the study was to analyse the orientation towards emigration envisioned in the perceptions of adolescent's possible future according to the predictions made by adolescents and their parents. To obtain the data a questionnaire was created (applied as adolescents form and parents form) which contained general information about the candidates and on open-type question: "What kind of life will you/your child have in ten years' time?". The results of the first part of the analysis show that the topic of migration according to adolescents and parents is elaborated in three ways: (1) will live abroad in the future (26% adolescents and 11.22% parents); (2) will live in their homeland (14.70% adolescents and 29.27% parents); (3) without declaration about the question of migration (59.32% adolescents and 59.51% parents). The second part of the analysis includes the narratives of adolescents and parents who considered emigration. Through inductive analysis of the contents five thematic patterns were extracted: (a) departure abroad without any particular aim (30.19% adolescents and 26.09% parents); (b) departure abroad as an opportunity to have a normal and quality life (26.40% adolescents and 30.43% parents) (c) departure abroad as an alternative if things do not improve (16.97% adolescents); (d) departure abroad as an opportunity to progress professionally (7.57% adolescents and 39.13% parents); (e) departure abroad to realise their dreams (18.87% adolescents and 4.35% parents). At the end the results are discussed in the context of the support and advancement of youth and education policies, as well as the development of a preventative programmes.

Keywords: *Possible future, Migration orientation, Adolescents, Parents.*

◆ ————— LEGAL PSYCHOLOGY ————— ◆

RECOGNIZING THE WARNING SIGNS OF VIOLENCE ACROSS THE LIFESPAN: SAMPLES FROM KUWAIT AND THE USA

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Abstract

The World Health Organization (WHO) labeled interpersonal violence a world-wide public health crisis. In the United States alone, 1.5 million women, and 800,000 men reported being abused by a partner while an estimated three million children witnessed it; these acts might involve physical as well as sexual assaults. An assaultive parent might force a child to participate in the assaults and there was a 30%-60% co-occurrence with child abuse. In 2006, 3.3 million reports of child maltreatment were investigated and as elder abuse hotlines expanded, so did statistics on elder abuse and neglect. Comprehensive violence education could serve as a valuable form of primary prevention but its empirical validity would need to be established. The Warning Signs Survey was developed as an outcome instrument and measured the effectiveness of violence education efforts at two universities. Its three major sections contained phrases indicating distractor items as well as warning signs of: violence, suicide, a maltreated child, an abusive parent, and a neglectful parent. *Objectives:* Assessed the internal consistency of the Warning Signs Survey scales. Assessed the perceptions students had about warning signs of destructive behavior. Assessed the utility of the survey for informing instructors about the strengths and weaknesses of their violence education efforts. *Design:* Students completed the survey at the beginning and end of their academic terms. *Methods:* Subjects included 156 students from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) and 136 students at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) who were taking psychology courses. *Findings:* Internal consistency varied by scale and country with Cronbach's alpha ranging from .5-1.0. Item analysis indicated that AUK and IUP students showed some divergent perceptions of the warning signs of destructive behavior. MANOVA indicated that students learned more about violence, suicide, and acceptable parenting strategies over the course of the term. However, IUP students knew more about most warning signs than AUK students; however, this may have been a result of taking a survey in their non-native language. *Conclusions:* Survey showed some potential as an effective outcome instrument but was in need of revision to reduce ceiling effects, and increase clarity, of some scales. The second version of the survey has currently been evaluated on approximately 700 IUP students. Ceiling effects have been significantly reduced and Cronbach's alphas now range from .7-1.0 on all its scales; which have been expanded to include intimate partner violence and elder abuse and neglect. It is currently being translated into Arabic for use at AUK.

Keywords: *Violence prevention, Outcome assessment, Teaching effectiveness.*

A CULTURE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN SOUTH AFRICA: A CASE STUDY ANALYSIS

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Abstract

Violence against women is extremely prevalent in South Africa. South Africa has one of world's highest levels of reported rapes and has been labeled the rape capital of the world. Domestic abuse is also rife in South Africa, with alarming levels of partner violence. Nearly two decades since the end of Apartheid and South Africa is still grappling with the relentless issue of violence. However this is not surprising as South Africa's past is embedded in political violence and oppression, creating a culture of violence which is both normalized and tolerated. This study focuses on how women's lives and identities are transformed by living in this culture of violence, more specifically the psychological impact this has on them. The theory of the psychosocial subject was used to frame the study and a biographical-interpretive methodological approach was utilized. A case study approach was adopted and a series of free-

association, narrative interviews were conducted with 27 female, University of Cape Town (UCT) students, between the ages of 18-32 years. Interpretive analysis, drawing on social discourses, biographical/narrative accounts and unconscious motivations and forces, was used to analyze the data. Findings have revealed the complex interaction between identity and trauma, more specifically the prevailing discourse of silencing women's stories. South Africa has one of the most progressive constitutions in the world and some of the highest number of women in Parliament in the world. However despite extensive legislation which readdresses the subordination of women in South Africa, the staggering levels of violence against women remain. This paper explores how women and the violence perpetrated against them are silenced in South Africa. It examines the paradox between the high levels of violence against women and the extensive legal discourse set in place to protect women. It explores the subtle fear and trauma entrenched in the stories of these women as they are exposed to continuous trauma. This research goes beyond previous literature as it highlights how all women are affected by the presence of violence in their community, emphasizing the bondage that violence against women has over the lives of all women.

Keywords: *Violence against women, South Africa, Trauma, Identity, Gender.*

IMPACT OF VICARIOUS TRAUMA ON BARRISTERS PRACTISING CRIMINAL LAW: A GROUNDED THEORY STUDY

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Abstract

This qualitative grounded theory study explored the impact of vicarious trauma on Irish barristers practicing criminal law. Respondents described conditions arising out of their work that are implicated in the experience of vicarious trauma (hyper-vigilance, intrusive memories and alterations to worldview). However, respondents reported a high degree of resilience and were not aware of suffering impairment consequent upon these experiences. Such resilience was attributed to a variety of protective mechanisms to which the respondents have recourse at a personal and professional/organisational level. These resilience factors arise from: the nature of the relationship between the professional and the victim of trauma/traumatic material; the context of the working environment; limitations on empathic engagement; and, the practise of self-care. This study has implications for other occupational groups outside of the therapist/client relationship that may wish to draw on and foster resilience in working with victims of trauma/traumatic material.

Keywords: *Vicarious trauma, Resilience, Criminal lawyers, Grounded theory.*

A SCOPING REVIEW CONSIDERING THE APPLICABILITY OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE TO CASES OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

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Abstract

Background: The applicability of restorative justice (RJ) to sexual offences is highly contested; with strong views being expressed in both support and opposition to the notion. However, there is a relative dearth of randomized-controlled studies investigating the experience and impact of RJ on victims of sexual violence. **The aim** of this scoping study was to explore the arguments inherent in the debate and to examine the nature, validity and consistency of the evidence substantiating the different arguments. The research question was to what extent might RJ meet the justice and recovery needs of victims of sexual assault; where sexual assault includes both childhood sexual abuse and adult sexual assault. **Method:** The method employed was Arksey and O'Malley's (2002) six stage framework since this involves the synthesis and analysis of both non-empirical literature and studies which employ diverse designs into the review process. The search terms used were: sexual assault or sexual abuse or sexual violence or sexual offen* or gendered violence or child sexual abuse or serious violence or severe violence and restorative

justice or conferencing or victim/offender mediation or victim offender dialogue. A variety of electronic databases and search engines were used in the search for data. No limits were placed on the search with regards to year of publication. However, the earliest paper identified was published in 1998 and the data collection was completed at the end of June 2012. The search was confined to articles/ reports etc. published in the English language. The reference lists of articles found were searched to identify other possible sources for inclusion. Initially, the reading of titles and abstracts identified 58 sources which were potentially suitable for inclusion. *Conclusions and discussion:* The findings suggest that within certain parameters, RJ might have potential to assist the healing process and offer a modicum of justice which might not be otherwise obtained. The necessary criteria include issues such as sufficient resources to allow for adequate preparation of all participants, that the process be managed by victim as opposed to offender-led services and that the timing is determined by the victim and not the constraints of the criminal justice system. Furthermore, the findings offer direction for future research which in turn might aid the progression of the debate to a stage where practitioners will be able to utilize the empirical findings in formulating judgments as the real applicability of RJ to cases of sexual assault.

Keywords: *Restorative justice, Sexual victimization, Conferencing, Rape, Child sexual abuse.*

WHAT EXPLAINS FEAR OF CRIME BEST: VICTIMIZATION, VULNERABILITY, SOCIAL CONTROL THEORY OR SOCIAL PROBLEMS THEORY?

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Abstract

Four major views dominate the scientific literature concerning the construct fear of crime: victimization perspective, vulnerability perspective, social control perspective and social problems perspective. The aim of this study is to examine the explanatory power of these four perspectives at the same time. Descriptive and regression analysis was conducted. We found the typical differences between young and old citizen, men and women, night and day. Young citizen are less afraid than old ones, men are less afraid than women and people feel more secure during the day than in the night time. Moreover, we found that all four views are able to predict fear of crime in the night significantly. Nevertheless vulnerability provided the highest beta-coefficient. Comparing the results it can be concluded that variables at the micro level have a higher impact on fear of crime than variables at the meso and micro level.

Keywords: *Fear of Crime, Vulnerability, Victimization, Social Control, Social Problems.*

THE VICTIMS' STATUS IN THE ACTING OUT

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Abstract

Background: An homicide needs three actors: i) a motivated perpetrator and ii) a potential victim who come together in iii) a unique environment less guard (Felson & Van Dijk, 1993). To Von Hentig (Von Hentig, 1948), victim is not necessary a passive object during the acting out. The victim can be active according to its resistance. In 1958, Wolfgang developed the "victim precipitation" concept. Thus, both "life style model" and "routine activity approach" defined a typology of risky victims. *Objectives:* The aim of our research is to develop a profile of victims of particular crimes, and to confront it with the generic profile victim established by Von Hentig (1948). A particular crime is defined as any act less the common motive (passion, revenge, theft). *Design:* Our exploratory analysis focuses on 90 cases of particular crimes committed by 16 perpetrators. We note a prevalence of violent and sexual crimes. Our encoding descriptive data from a file for reading, we were able to identify six relevant variables (only victimological): (V1) Victim under the influence of a psychoactive product; (V2) of the Social Situation victim (V3) relational situation of the victim (V4) Location sentimental of the victim (V5) Age of victim (V6) Type of the victim. *Results:* Our quantitative analyzes have highlighted the lack of effect of

variables "victim under the influence of a psychoactive product" (V1) and "emotional status of the victim" (V4). We see a prevalence of psychosocial and situational variables related to the victim within 90 homicides for individuals 'gender' (V6), "age" (V5), the "social aspects" (V2) and "relational" (V3). We obtain similar results to those described by Von Henting (1948), that is to say, a kind of victimology profile female 17-24 years (15-25 years to Von Henting), unemployed, with a situation relational stable and extraverted (activities outside home to Von Henting). *Discussion:* Before the interaction, the passive role of the victim seems more determined by the perception/interpretation of the author and the context (Wikström & Treiber, 2009). *Conclusion:* No victim, no crime. Even if the victim can be precipitant during the interaction with the author, it plays a minor determinant before acting out. To conclude, it appears us very important to underline that a victim is not responsible for its aggression, cause of it becomes a potential victim only on the dysfunctional referential of a perpetrator who suffers from a perceptive bias and a poor behavioral register (Born, 2005).

Keywords: *Victim precipitation, Latent victim, Environment, Perpetrator.*

EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATION OF THE PERCEIVED CREDIBILITY OF COMPLAINANTS OF SEXUAL REVICTIMISATION

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Abstract

Objectives: There is evidence from both field and file studies that rape allegations raised by complainants who have made a previous allegation of sexual assault are likely to be dismissed as 'false complainants'. Social psychology has focused on attributions of victim-blame as an explanation for attrition in rape cases whereas, more naturalistic studies suggest that attrition may be more a consequence of a lack of belief in victims. Consequently, the aim of this study was to investigate whether victim-blame or believability are affected by knowledge that a rape complainant had made a previous allegation of sexual assault. *Design:* This was a multifactorial experimental study employing an independent measures design, using hypothetical vignettes depicting a scenario of a stranger rape. *Method:* The manipulated variables included; previous allegation (none, child sexual assault (CSA) or adult sexual assault), whether the previous allegation was substantiated and the implied mental health status of the complainant (mental illness vs. no mental illness). The participants were 272 undergraduate students, with a mean age of 26.4 years, and the majority described their ethnic group as white UK and were female (80.7%). *Findings:* Overall, the participants were more likely to disbelieve the allegations than to blame the victim. Victim-blame was highest for participants who remained undecided about the veracity of the allegation. Sexual revictimisation demonstrated a differential impact depending on whether the previous assault occurred in childhood or more recent adulthood; participants showed a greater tendency to disbelieve or to remain ambivalent towards, a complainant who had experienced CSA. Furthermore, the highest levels of victim-blame were attributed by participants who were presented with scenarios depicting previous substantiated child sexual assault. The practical and theoretical implications of the findings are discussed. *Conclusions:* It is likely that those who are the most vulnerable to victimisation and who can suffer the most pernicious effects in the aftermath of sexual violence are those whose requests for assistance will be met with the least empathetic responses, which could ultimately compound their future safety, and their physical and psychological recovery.

Keywords: *Sexual revictimisation, Victim-blame, Victim credibility, Rape complainant, Child sexual abuse.*

IMPACTS OF SOCIOECONOMIC, FAMILY, SCHOOL, BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL DIFFICULTIES ON INVOLVEMENT IN VIOLENCE IN BOYS AND GIRLS

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Abstract

Objectives: Involvement in violence is common and may result from a number of deleterious socioeconomic, family, school, behavioral and mental difficulties, and sustained violence in early adolescence. The roles of these factors remain partially addressed because few of them have been investigated with often unknown chronologies. Preventing these issues is crucial to promote health and school achievement. This study assessed their impacts on involvement in violence among boys and girls. **Design:** Cross-sectional study with lifetime history reconstruction of life events. **Methods:** The sample included 1,559 middle-school adolescents from north-eastern France (778 boys and 781 girls, mean age 13.5, SD 1.3), who completed a self-administered questionnaire including gender, birth date, father's occupation, parents' education, nationality, income, social supports, and lifetime history reconstruction of parents' separation/divorce/death, alcohol/tobacco/cannabis/hard drugs uses, repeating a school-year, sustained physical/verbal violence, sexual abuse, depressive symptoms (Kandel scale), suicide attempts, and involvement in violence. Involvement in violence was measured with an 11-item scale on fights in group or not, verbal violence, racial actions, taking something of others/shop, set fire, using weapon, damaging public/private property, in school, in school neighborhood, at home, and elsewhere (Cronbach's alpha 0.82, score >90th percentile). Social support was measured using a 9-item scale concerning relationships with people round about (Cronbach's alpha 0.56, score >90th percentile). Data were analyzed using Cox models including all factors to compute adjusted hazard ratios (aHR). **Findings:** Involvement in violence affected 10.3% of adolescents (14.3% in boys, 6.4% in girls, $p < 0.001$). Among boys, involvement in violence was influenced by being inactive (unemployed/retired) offspring (aHR 2.63, 95%CI 1.48-4.69), alcohol use (1.76, 1.11-2.79), tobacco use (2.71, 1.56-4.69), hard drugs use (3.46, 1.73-6.91), suicide attempt (2.05, 1.05-3.97), sustained physical/verbal violence (1.63, 1.02-2.62), and poor social support (2.64, 1.67-4.16 for score 1-2 and 2.80, 1.64-4.78 for score 3+, vs. score 0). Among girls, involvement in violence was influenced by being inactive offspring (2.39, 95%CI 1.09-5.27), tobacco use (3.57, 1.46-8.72), cannabis use (4.45, 1.36-14.55), depressive symptoms (8.88, 3.01-26.20), and poor social support (9.38, 2.80-31.43 for score 1-2 and 14.23, 4.11-49.23 for score 3+, vs. score 0). Boys had a much higher risk than girls (crude hazard ratio 3.57, 95%CI 2.56-5.00) which did not change when adjusting for all factors studied. **Conclusions:** Living difficulties highly and similarly enough impacted on involvement in violence among boys and girls in early adolescence. Our findings call for measures preventing and monitoring these difficulties in this crucial life period.

Keywords: Adolescents, Violence, Socioeconomic factors, School/behavioral/mental difficulties, Causal relationships.

MULTIPLE VICTIMS: ERRORS IN EYEWITNESS MEMORY CAUSED BY CRIME-TYPES, VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS, AND CORRESPONDING STEREOTYPES

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Abstract

Errors in eyewitness identification are the single greatest cause of wrongful convictions. To illustrate, there have been 302 post-conviction DNA exonerations in the United States, and eyewitness misidentification was a contributing cause in 72% of those false convictions. Our research explores how crimes-types and victim characteristics can influence both (a) when errors in eyewitness memory are likely to occur, and (b) who is likely to be the victim of eyewitness misidentification. Our initial research revealed that a Black perpetrator of a stereotypically Black crime (e.g., drive-by shooting) was mistakenly

remembered as looking more stereotypically Black (e.g., broader nose, fuller lips, and darker complexion) than a Black perpetrator of a crime that is not stereotypically linked to Black individuals (e.g., serial killing). The present research investigates whether victim characteristics can exacerbate these crime-types effects. Past research has shown that if the victim of a crime is White, female, or a child, the perpetrator of that crime is normally treated more severely. Our question, however, is whether these victim characteristics can also impact the above crime-type effects. To isolate the influence of victim characteristics, 43 participants watched a video of a Black male drive-by shooter. Participants watched the same core video that differed only in the alleged victims of the crime; half the participants saw photos of Black male and Black female victims, while the remaining participants saw photos of White male and White female victims. Participants then identified the perpetrator using a software program that we designed to morph the perpetrator's face through 100 frames from low to high perceived Black stereotypicality. As predicted, participants who watched a drive-by shooter whose victims were Black, accurately remembered the perpetrator's level of perceived stereotypicality ($M = 48.50$); whereas, those participants who watched a drive-by shooter whose victims were White, falsely remembered the perpetrator as looking more stereotypically Black ($M = 67.30$) than he is in reality, $F(1,41) = 8.44$, $p < .01$, partial eta-squared = .17. In short, we believe there is a discernable pattern to eyewitness misidentifications. It is only after we understand both (a) when errors in eyewitness identification will occur and, (b) who will be mistakenly identified that we can begin to take proactive measures to ensure these biases do not translate into wrongful convictions.

Keywords: *Eyewitness memory, False convictions, Stereotypes.*

CONTRIBUTION OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY TO UNDERSTAND RELATIONS BETWEEN OFFENDERS AND PROFESSIONALS

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to show, through discourse analysis, the differences between professionals of the prison system, concerning their relations with offenders (PPSMJ). This analysis should help to understand how these professionals are positioned and what their relationships with offenders are. In order to allow every protagonist to express their point of view in an ecological approach, the chosen method of data collection was the recorded semi-directive interview. A first open question was asked: "What comes spontaneously to mind about Mr X?" This was followed by a series of questions based mainly on the relations between the interviewed and Mr X or members of his entourage. The last two questions were about the relationship between various departments in order to gather partnerships representation (Moscovici, 1964). A list of fifteen PPSMJ, all male and habitual offenders, was established by the two institutions most involved (SPIP and SDAT). Persons in charge of these PPSMJ were consulted for the study: the sample consists of 6 women and 5 men working for the SPIP, 4 men working for the SDAT, 1 female and 3 male psychiatrists, and 9 policemen. As a professional might be in charge of several offenders among the list, 63 interviews were conducted, 25 with CPIP, 14 with caseworkers of the SDAT, 13 with police officers and 11 with psychiatrists. Data were analysed using contrast analysis. The analysis on the prolixity highlights a main effect between the four types of interviewees ($y = 16.3$, $p = .00$). SPIP and SDAT professionals use a number of words greater than police officers or doctors. The analysis on the use of the syntactic status shows a significant difference in the use of pronouns and names ($y = 10.87$, $p = .01$), indicating that SPIP and SDAT professionals use more names than pronouns unlike police officers and doctors. In the use of verbs, only the results for factive verbs are significant ($y = 10.84$, $p = .01$). SPIP professionals use less verbs referring to an action. Those analyses show that SPIP and SDAT workers maintain a relationship with offenders different than police and doctors. They invest more in the relationship and tend to personalize it. As shown by Snyder and Stukas (1999), it is rare to interact with other people without having expectations on how they will behave, every person needs to understand and evaluate others, because to them, it is important to be able to predict and explain their behaviour. Thus, this study confirms that the roles of different professionals will have an influence on how to represent offenders. It gives us a general idea on offenders' representation, in order to understand the studied field of intervention and the influence of stereotypes.

Keywords: *Institution, Offenders, Offenders' supervising, Discourse analysis.*

WHY IS PHYSICAL VIOLENCE TOLERATED WHEN THE PERPETRATOR IS THE VICTIM'S SIBLING?

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Abstract

Introduction: Despite increased empirical interest in the aetiology and prevalence of inter-sibling violence (ISV), knowledge on the psychosocial factors underlying the acceptability of this form of familial violence remains limited. This is partly due to the scant attention given to sibling violence in the aggression literature, and a prevailing minimization of the physical abuse of siblings at a societal level. To this effect, parallels can be drawn between current perceptions of sibling violence, and the stoic attitudes held towards domestic abuse prior to the 1970s; this reinforces the idea of certain types of violence being marginalized and minimized, leading to widespread normalization. *Aims:* This paper reports on a UK study that explored the extent to which perceptions of sibling violence differ from those of other types of interpersonal violence. The study also explored if these perceptions were related to participant gender and personal experience of victimization. *Methodology:* Participants comprised 605 (197 males; 408 females) university students, who read one of four hypothetical physical assault scenarios which varied according to perpetrator-victim relationship type (i.e., sibling, dating-partner, peer, or stranger) before completing an attribution scale. Respondents also reported on their own experiences of interpersonal violence during their childhood. *Results:* Exploratory factor analysis reduced 23 attribution items to three reliable factors reflecting perceptions of (1) assault severity, (2) victim culpability, and (3) victim resistance. A 4x2 MANCOVA revealed gender differences in the perceived severity of assaults, and that sibling assault was deemed less severe than an identical assault committed by a dating-partner or a stranger. Also, respondents who experienced childhood ISV victimization perceived the hypothetical ISV assault as being less severe and victim more culpable, than respondents with no ISV victimization. *Discussion:* Results are discussed in the context of ISV normalization and applications of these findings are also outlined in terms of theory and practice.

Keywords: *Siblings, Violence, Victims, Normalization, Gender.*

◆ COGNITIVE & EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY ◆

TIME OF PRESENTATION IN GESTURAL LEARNING: EMERGENCE OF A VERBAL OVERSHADOWING EFFECT?

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Abstract

Background: According to Baddeley's model (Baddeley, 2000), gestures are treated depending on their "iconicity". Iconic gestures would be treated by the phonological loop and non-iconic gestures by the visuo-spatial sketchpad. In 1988, Smyth, Pearson and Pendleton assessed that in working memory, meaningless movements were neither treated by the phonological loop nor the visuo-spatial sketchpad. They partly succeeded in this demonstration though the recalls of gestures were decreased by the articulatory suppression (counting repeatedly from one to five) which characteristically blocks the phonological loop. They hypothesized that learning meaningless movements was highly demanding in resources so both articulatory and gestural suppression affected the performances. We suggest that the presentation of movements was long enough to describe gestures with words. In the same manner, the "verbal overshadowing effect" (Schooler & Engstler-Schooler, 1990) is known as the recoding into words of non-verbal material such as faces. Articulatory suppression has been proven to affect negatively these descriptions. *Objectives:* The purpose of our research was to assess whether longer displays could induce greater verbalization and be detrimental to the learning of non-significant movements, such as motor procedures. *Participants:* 50 volunteers (21 male, 29 female) aged from 18 to 31 ($M = 22.5$, $SD = 3.69$) and recruited in Tours, France, participated in this experiment. *Methods:* Each individual had to watch sequences of "non-meaningful" movements and recall them immediately after presentation (protocol from Wilson and Fox, 2007). Participants were divided into two groups according to the lengths of display per movement (1s or 2s). Three conditions were conducted (control condition, articulatory suppression or gestural suppression) for a total of 3 x 27 series of 3 non-iconic movements. *Results:* Anova on repeated measures revealed that whatever the time of presentation, the gestural suppression interfered with the performances compared to the control condition. Significantly, the time of presentation only interacted with the articulatory suppression. In comparison with the control condition, the articulatory suppression had no impact on performance for a presentation of 1s, but significantly decreased performances with longer displays. *Discussion:* We discuss these results as an increased automatic verbalization when time does not constrain it. These results can be interpreted as a verbal overshadowing in working memory, never demonstrated for gestures. *Conclusion:* Practically, it seems that for a first presentation of procedures (non-iconic gestures) presenting slower movements would not help the learners. Counter-intuitively, this does not increase recalls in working memory and makes retentions more susceptible to verbal interferences.

Keywords: *Working memory, Verbal overshadowing, Articulatory suppression, Gestural learning.*

THE EFFECT OF IMPROVING PROBLEM SOLVING SKILL PROGRAM ON 9TH GRADE STUDENT'S PROBLEM SOLVING SKILL

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Abstract

In this study the effectiveness of a guidance program prepared by researchers to improve the problem solving skill, which is an important part of development in many areas, from academic life to daily life, is investigated. The research is a model of pre-test and post-test experiment with control group. The sample of this study is 20 students selected from ninth grade students of high school. Problem Solving Inventory which was adapted to Turkish by Sahin, Sahin and Heppner (1993) was used in this study. To analyze the

data, Non-Parametric Mann Whitney-U and Non-Parametric Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test were used. According to the result of this study, it is found that significant difference in problem solving skills of students who attended the training program by the side of students not attending the program. This study shows that problem solving skill can be developed by training therefore counselors can implement such programs to develop student's problem solving skills.

Keywords: *Problem, Problem solving, Training of problem solving.*

THE IMPACT OF THE COGNITIVE ALGEBRA DURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF BAYESIAN REASONING

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Abstract

Background: Emit bayesian inferencies, in other words revise a judgment about the appearance of an event, and change from prior probability to posterior probability, is a daily activity which, in theory, requires bayes' theory. However, in practice, human is sensible to different bias and he doesn't use systematically wisely all information at his disposal. Zhu and Gigerenzer (2006) showed that when data are presented in natural frequencies, bayesian performances increase. The reason is that base rate information is contained in natural frequencies (Hoffrage, Gigerenzer, Krauss, & Martignon, 2002). According to Payton and Vallée-Tourangeau (2007), representation effects are important in causal induction tasks. **Objectives:** The aim of our research was to study the impact of the three probabilities which are necessary to produce a bayesian reasoning. More precisely, we tried to investigate the manner for secondary school people to integrate the covariation of the three probabilities (prior, posterior and base rate) to produce an inference, at the lightening of the algebraic structure (using Anderson's method, Integration Information Theory). **Design:** The participants were 120 French secondary-school children divided into six groups of 20 children from sixth to eleventh grade. We used bayesian problems, in two formats: conditional probabilities and natural frequencies. For each problem, quantitative data were given in two levels (few versus many). **Results:** The effects of the three data were analyzed by ANOVA. Results suggest a change during development in the treatment of the information, but no effect of the format of the question. According level grade, people combine differently these three data. During the first middle of the secondary school, people present an additive treatment of information. During the second middle, people used a multiplicative rule to treat information. **Discussion:** According to Gigerenzer, Hoffrage, and Ebert (1998), all people neglect the false positive, even if they combine prior and posterior probabilities, but not the base rate. According to Siegler (1987), the development is characterized by many strategies. Zhu and Gigerenzer (2006) described these strategies during the development, but our results suggest that these strategies were the result of different manner to integrate information. **Conclusion:** The quantitative performances at bayesian reasoning depend of the interpretation of the data, and its integration in a treatment of the information. So, we discuss how teach bayesian reasoning according the cognitive algebra.

Keywords: *Conditional probabilities, Natural frequencies, Algebra.*

SIMULATION OF POSITIVE EMOTIONS DURING DISCOURSE COMPREHENSION

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Abstract

Objectives: Recent research on sentence processing suggests that comprehension of sentences describing emotionally laden events requires the construction of emotion simulation of the described event (Glenberg, Havas, Becker, & Rinck, 2005; Havas, Glenberg, & Rinck, 2007; Havas, Glenberg, Gutowski, Lucarelli, & Davidson, 2010). The present study extends this research in two ways. First, whereas most previous studies used sentence stimuli, our research focused on extended linguistic events (texts). Second,

both online (self-paced reading times) and offline (verbatim and inference questions) measures of comprehension were taken. *Method:* 60 individuals ranging in age from 18 to 58 ($M_{\text{age}} = 26.72$, $SD_{\text{age}} = 8.50$) were recruited to take part in the experiment: 26 participants were male ($M_{\text{age}} = 29.42$; $SD_{\text{age}} = 10.93$), 32 were female ($M_{\text{age}} = 24.63$; $SD_{\text{age}} = 5.36$), and two participants did not indicate gender. First, participants were instructed to read a neutral non-emotional text which served as a baseline for later measurements. Second, facial posture was manipulated: participants were randomly assigned to one of the three conditions and asked to read a target text identical in size to the tutorial text (divided into 8 paragraphs). In the matching condition participants read the text while holding the pen sideways between the teeth to force a partial smile (Oberman, Winkielman, & Ramachandran, 2007), in the mismatching condition participants read the target text while having a pen straight between the lips, without touching the pen with their teeth, to prevent smile (Oberman et al., 2007; Strack, Martin, & Stepper, 1988), and in the control (neutral) condition participants read the target text in a normal condition without a pen. Reading times for both tutorial and target texts were collected. Third, participants answered a set of filler questions. Fourth, participants' offline explicit and implicit comprehension of discourse was assessed. *Design:* An 8 (Paragraphs 1 to 8) within factor x 3 (condition: matching vs. mismatching vs. control) between factor mixed ANOVA, with tutorial reading time as a covariate, was conducted to analyze the reading times of the target text. Offline performance was assessed as the between-participants variable. *Results:* Reading times were faster when participants' facial postures were congruent with emotional valence of the text (matching condition) rather than incongruent (mismatching condition) or neutral (control condition). At the same time, manipulation with facial posture had no influence on offline measures of comprehension. This suggests that emotion simulation is involved in online comprehension, but may not have any consequences for offline discourse processing.

Keywords: *Discourse comprehension, Emotion simulation, Embodied cognition, Online processing, Offline processing.*

A PILOT STUDY: AYURVEDIC APPROACH ON MEMORY STIMULATION IN THE FRENCH WEST INDIES

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Abstract

Background: The need to prevent from Alzheimer disease led us to offer sessions of cognitive stimulation. *Design:* to assess effectiveness of cognitive stimulation and the relevance of ayurvedic categories in a nondemented population. *Methods:* We studied the ayurvedic categories, the overall health perception, memory complaints and the evolution of associative memory in 102 healthy elderly between Time 1 and Time 2 (three months after) including 46 healthy controls who didn't receive stimulation. We use self-assessment questionnaires including an examination of the ayurvedic constitutions and memory complaint, several scales of perceived health (cognitive, physical, mental and well-being) and a test of associative memory. *Results:* Pitta-Kapha is the most represented in the population, which means a sharp and strong memory. We find a statistically significant improvement for subjective memory and associative memory. We note the absence of major memory complaint. **Conclusion:** Cognitive stimulation is effective and ayurvedic categories offer a relevant frame for the understanding of the individual variants of the cognitive functioning in the healthy elderly.

Keywords: *Ayurvedic constitution, Cognitive stimulation, Health perception, Memory complaint, Associative memory.*

SELF-PERCEIVED ACADEMIC EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS AND PHYSICAL QUALITY OF LIFE ON FIRST-YEAR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' WELL-BEING

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Abstract

Objective: With the Bologna Process, students' wellbeing and generic skills for employability became priorities for European universities, but their respective influences remain unclear. Our aims were to analyse the relationships between Academic Employability Skills (AES), psychological suffering (General Health Questionnaire) and psychological quality of life (psychological Whoqol-bref) and other physical, social and environmental Whoqol-bref domains and socio-demographic characteristics. **Design:** Nine months after the start of their first-year at University of Luxembourg, 973 students were invited to participate at a cross-sectional study. **Methods:** An online questionnaire was proposed in French, German, and English to assess : a) two instruments described the student's well-being : 1) Whoqol-bref's psychological subscale-6 items (Cronbach's alpha 0.77) with higher the score, higher the psychological quality of live; 2) GHQ-12 items scale (Cronbach's alpha 0.75) with lower the score, lower the psychological suffering; and one explored the AES-5 items scale (Cronbach's alpha 0.76) (*capabilities of drafting, solution problem, team work, supervision / direction of others, and use new technologies*). Data were analysed using logistic models. **Findings:** 321 first-year students participated in the study Psychological Whoqol-bref's and AES's scores are positively correlated. This relation was verified for each item (*drafting, critical spirit, solution to problem, team work, and supervision/direction of others*) except *use new technologies*. Between the correlations of the two instruments only 3/6 items of psychological Whoqol-bref (*ability to concentrate, satisfaction with self, negative feelings*) are correlated with 8/12 items of GHQ-12 (*sleep lost, making decisions, feeling under strain, no overcome difficulties, depressed, losing self-confidence, considering his/her self as a worthless, reasonably happy*). A positive effect between the psychological Whoqol-bref and the AES scores was observed, including with physical, social relationships and environmental domains. No connection exists between the AES and the GHQ-12 scores; on the other side the GHQ-12 score has a negative influence on physical Whoqol-bref status. **Conclusions:** If a wellbeing suffering contributes in less physical quality of life, the better wellbeing, the higher academic employability skills. Campus should care of students 'wellbeing and implement counselling activities and adapted environmental to improve their sustainable skills for employability. If the university could maintain the well-being indicators at appropriate levels or manage decreases as they occur, it would have implications for health promotion by creation of new student support systems and services developing sustainable conditions for better European Higher Educational Area.

Keywords: Psychological Whoqol-bref, GHQ-12, First-year students, Wellbeing, Academic employability skills.

THE PROBLEM OF DIETING: IMPLICIT FOOD ATTITUDES AND AUTOMATIC APPROACH TENDENCIES IN DIETERS AND NON-DIETERS.

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Abstract

Objectives: The purpose of the present study was to assess the role of implicit attitudes towards food and automatic approach/avoidance tendencies in dietary restraint. Research suggests that positive implicit attitudes towards high-fat, calorie-dense food may contribute to impulsive eating behaviour when self-control capacity is diminished ('ego depletion') – as is the case with dietary restraint. We hypothesised that both dieters and non-dieters would hold positive implicit associations with high-fat food and that dieters would have stronger approach tendencies for high-fat food. We were also interested in an exploratory assessment of differences between successful and unsuccessful dieters. **Design:** We adopted a between-subject design to assess differences in implicit food attitudes and automatic approach/avoidance tendencies towards food in current dieters and current non-dieters, and between successful and unsuccessful dieters. **Methods:** One hundred and thirty eight female participants completed an implicit association test (IAT) as a measure of implicit attitudes towards high-fat (HF) and low-fat (LF) food, a

series of questionnaires to assess their eating behaviours and explicit attitudes, and a pictorial reaction time task to assess approach and avoidance for HF and LF food. *Findings:* Explicitly, participants in all groups reported a preference for HF over LF food. Current non-dieters had a significantly stronger implicit preference for HF over LF food compared to current dieters, who did not have a preference for either. Successful dieters had a marginally significant preference for HF food; unsuccessful dieters did not have a significant preference for either. Data from the approach/avoidance task did not support the role of ego depletion in restrained eating. *Conclusions:* The results suggest that implicit preference for HF food may decrease as a consequence of dietary restraint, particularly in unsuccessful dieters. However, these differences were not reflected in self-report, which suggest some degree of implicit-explicit dissonance in unsuccessful restrained eaters. The hypothesis that positive implicit attitudes towards HF food may drive impulsive eating as a consequence of ego depletion was not supported. Further research is needed to clarify the causal links between restraint and the cognitive changes observed, and the dietary strategies associated with successful and unsuccessful restraint.

Keywords: *Implicit attitudes, Dietary restraint, IAT, Approach and avoidance, Weight loss.*

ASSESSING THE CONTRIBUTION OF SOCIAL FACTORS ON COGNITIVE PERFORMANCE IN OLDER ADULTS

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Abstract

Theoretical background. Epidemiological research on aging provides evidence that social factors (i.e. large social network, good social support) could play a protective role against cognitive decline in old age. However, the link between social factors and specific cognitive skills was not thoroughly investigated to date given that the cognitive functioning was usually assessed by using general cognitive measures, such as Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE). *Objective.* Current study examined the link between different social factors and specific cognitive skills in a group of older adults. *Design.* We employed a cross-sectional design where the contribution of social factors on cognitive variables were assessed using regression models. *Methods.* We recruited sixty-six participants with a mean age of 61.47 years (SD=2.35; range 55-66), 65.2% women, with an average of 15.38 years of education and an MMSE score of 29.06. These individuals participated in an extensive neuropsychological assessment comprising of 13 tests measuring: working memory, semantic memory, abstraction, attentional flexibility, shifting, divided attention, perceptual speed, vocabulary, verbal fluency and spatial processing. In addition, questionnaires were used to measure both quantitative (i.e. size of social network, frequency of social interactions) as well as qualitative aspects (i.e. subjective perception of the quality of social interactions) of social life. We used hierarchical step-wise regression models to assess the contribution of social variables on cognitive performance controlling for age, education and depression levels. *Results.* The results indicated that both quantitative and qualitative facets of social life were associated with some specific cognitive skills in the long-term memory and executive processes domains. The link between subjective aspect of social life and these cognitive skills was stronger than that between objective measures and cognition. Also, the cognitive performance in complex cognitive tasks was enhanced when the objective and subjective factors were concordant (either high or both low), whereas for some executive functions measures (i.e. attentional flexibility), the performance was worse among individuals with large social networks, but with a poor quality of social interactions. *Conclusion.* Our study indicates that social factors are linked to specific cognitive skills in the memory and executive functions domains in older adults. In addition, our findings highlight the importance of the *perceived quality* of social interactions, rather than the size of social network or social support in determining the cognitive performance in this age group. The findings have implications for elucidating the social determinants of cognitive aging.

Keywords: *Social factors, Cognitive skills, Aging.*

EXAMING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HANDEDNESS AND LANGUAGE LATERALIZATION AS A FUNCTION OF DIFFERENT HANDEDNESS MEASUREMENTS

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Abstract

Dichotic listening performance of consonant vowel stimuli was studied in free-recall condition in 547 healthy adults selected on the basis of their self-determining as left- and right-handers: 295 left-handers (184 women) and respectively 252 right-handers (182 women). The handedness of each participant additionally was assessed by means of six measurements: a hand preference questionnaire and a performance test, in both by applying three- and five-group classification schemes, respectively; writing hand and by combining two variables: writing hand and successfully switched left hand writing. On the basis of results from the different measurements of handedness the total sample was regrouped in the seven sets of handedness groups. In order to investigate the effects of different measurements of handedness on the pattern of the results reflecting the relationship between handedness and language lateralization, dichotic listening data of each of these sets of handedness groups were separately analyzed and compared. The results showed no differences in the magnitude of hemispheric asymmetry but statistically significant differences are observed in the direction of hemispheric asymmetry between handedness groups, independently of the manner of hand preference measurement.

Keywords: *Hemispheric asymmetry, Hand preference measurement.*



POSTERS

◆ — CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY — ◆

SELF-REGULATION SKILLS, DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS AND PROBLEMATIC INTERNET USE AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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Abstract

In the framework of Bandura's theory, problematic internet behaviour is the product of deficient self-regulatory processes. It has previously been confirmed by several studies that psychosocial disorders like stress, anxiety or depression make people inclined to the development of maladaptive behaviors that eventually lead to negative outcomes. The aim of this study was to investigate the relationship between self-regulation skills, depressive symptoms and problematic internet use (PIU) among university students. Previous findings related to self-regulation skills with regards to PIU among university students have not been consistent. A cross-sectional design was employed to assess our objective. First year university students from Slovakia (n=814) completed the Short Self-Regulation Questionnaire, Modified Beck Depression Inventory and Generalized Problematic Internet Use Scale 2. Linear regression was performed to assess the relationship between self-regulation, depressive symptoms and problematic internet use. No gender difference was found in the association between self-regulation and PIU and between depressive symptoms and PIU. Higher levels of depressive symptoms were positively associated with PIU ($p < 0.001$). Self-regulation was negatively associated with PIU ($p < 0.001$). Gender was not associated with PIU. It was confirmed that problems with self-regulation skills as well as depressive symptoms might lead to problematic internet use.

Keywords: *Self-regulation, Problematic internet use, Depressive symptoms, University students.*

ASSESSMENT OF THE BINGE DRINKING CONSEQUENCES IN SPANISH YOUTH

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Abstract

Among the European Youth an intake of high amount of alcohol during two-three hours, associated with leisure, with periods of non-consumption and frequent loss of control has been established. Besides, alcohol is the most dangerous drug if one takes into account the harm it can cause to the consumers and to others. Even so, just one in ten young people experiencing such problems receives treatment (Clark, Horton, Dennis and Babor, 2002). Given such a situation, one of the most urgent needs is the availability of screening instruments for early detection of the problems presented by youngsters who abuse alcohol, so as to facilitate access to early intervention programs. Outside our country there are standardized instruments, such as the *YAACQ* or the *RAPI* which provide clinically relevant information. The main goal of this study was to present the first results from the *Instrumento de Evaluación de Consumo Intensivo* (IECI) developed and validated in Spanish youth for identifying problematic patterns of alcohol in binge drinking (BD). IECI was applied to 1697 students (aged 14-26) student drinkers (BD: 84.4% female/73.9% male). The results confirm that the consumption doubles the set limit (60g or more men/40g or more women), regardless of the age. There are also two indicators of risk: intake frequency (4-6 times/month) and the onset of age (BD starts before). Among the consequences recognized by youth stand out: the physical effects (hangover, fainting), interpersonal social implications (say or act in a embarrassing way), unlikely to abstain (drinking more than expected and not realize that they must stop) and some tolerance.

Keywords: *Alcohol, Youths, Assessment, Consequences.*

ANTICIPATORY COPING SKILLS INVENTORY FOR ALCOHOL AND DRUGS ADDICTION: VALIDITY EVIDENCES RELATED TO INTERNAL STRUCTURE

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Abstract

This study aimed to investigate the internal structure of Anticipatory Coping Skills Inventory for the maintenance of abstinence from alcohol and drugs, by exploratory factorial analyses. The sample consisted of 422 people in treatment of alcohol or crack cocaine addiction. Preliminary analysis (KMO index = 0.88; Bartlett's Test of Sphericity $\chi^2 = 9032.1$; $p < 0.001$) were adequate. Maximum Likelihood method with Promax rotation and suppression of variables with factor loadings below 0.40 produced an adequate and reliable three factors structure, with 30 items (overall Cronbach's alpha = 0.88; total variance explained = 43.02%). The first factor, named "Assertiveness and planning for high-risk situations for substance use", comprises 14 items (alpha = 0.89), related mainly to refusal skills for offering substances; the second, "Expression of positive feelings for abstinence" (alpha = 0.83) concerns about skills for expression feelings that contribute to less stressful social situations; the third factor "Emotional self-control of adverse situations" (alpha=0.77) involves mainly anger management and had eight items. Although a factorial structure of the construct anticipatory coping skills was not reported in previous studies, the content of the factors is consistent with literature that suggest behaviors for relapse prevention. This structure may improve assessment for significant and focused interventions and should be tested for other evidences of validity and reliability.

Keywords: *Coping skills, Relapse prevention, Abstinence, Alcohol, Drugs.*

USEFULNESS OF THE "STANDARD DRINK UNIT" IN THE EVALUATION OF CONSUMPTION ON FEMALE COLLEGE STUDENTS

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Abstract

The "Standard Drink Unit" (SDU) developed by WHO, despite its proven value and its widespread use (in clinical, prevention, research ...) is not exempt from criticism and problems. This refers, for instance, to the enormous variability of pure alcohol grams, which is equivalent to an SDU in different countries, periods, cultures, regions... or the assumption that consumption is always done in "standard recipients". Regarding the latter, it is important to point out the new youth drinking patterns performed by Spanish youth as a part of the phenomenon called "botellón". This practice involves, among other things, the purchase of alcoholic drinks and beverage containers at retail for its consumption, which happens in public places after serving each drink themselves. In this paper we analyze the adequacy of this system to measure the consumption in university women. We interviewed 168 volunteers, students of Psychology at the University of Valencia (mean age: 22.5 years). We registered their drinking patterns; they prepared and served five different drinks using original bottles and recipients (2 fermented and 3 distilled). Actual grams were estimated and compared to those based on SDUs. The results are consistent with previous research, in which SDUs underestimate in 65.7% of cases the grams of alcohol consumed, more evidently among fermented drinks (79.15%). Besides, the girls who consumed higher levels of alcohol were the girls that served themselves more alcohol in each drink. The results question the usefulness of SDUs to work with these new youth patterns of intake and suggest a review and adjustment to the SDUs.

Keywords: *Alcohol, SDU, Botellón, Measurement, Young Girls.*

COMPUTERISED COGNITIVE BEHAVIOURAL THERAPY (CCBT): ARE WE READY FOR IT?

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Abstract

Studies suggest CCBT is an effective self-help guided therapy for mild to moderate anxiety and depression. Last year the newspaper, The Scotsman, reported that Computerised Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CCBT) will be offered to patients across Scotland as a solution to the long waiting lists for face-to-face therapy and to save costs. However, the low adherence to CCBT remains a concern. This raises questions as to whether usability has an influence on the usefulness of CCBT or if there are other factors that may have hindered engagement with this technology-mediated therapy. Usability is defined in the field of Human-Computer Interaction as effectiveness, efficiency, and satisfaction in the context of use. The present study aimed to explore the views of practitioners concerning the usability and acceptance of CCBT services. In-depth semi-structured interviews were carried out with service providers at different National Health Service (NHS) organizations who were involved in both decision-making about the availability of CCBT and providing support concerning its use. Interview data were analyzed using Grounded Theory Methods. The study's preliminary results suggest that usability is not the only factor influencing the uptake of CCBT. There are barriers and challenges which may have compromised the role of CCBT, such as how it is implemented, promoted, delivered and made accessible within different NHS organizations. Additionally, the way it is perceived and accepted by the practitioners is also of relevance.

Keywords: *Computerised Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, CCBT, Usability, Depression, Anxiety.*

HIGH ELECTRODERMAL ACTIVITY ENTAILS HIGH SOMATIC SYMPTOMS IN CAREGIVERS OF PEOPLE WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

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Abstract

Caregivers of people with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) suffer high levels of negative emotions and health complaints than general population. Previous research has demonstrated the pejorative consequences of this type of emotions in health. However, no studies have employed Electrodermal Activity (EDA), a biological marker of emotionality, to analyze these effects in samples of caregivers. This study aims to analyze EDA to acute stress in laboratory between caregivers of people with ASD and non-caregivers. The second aim of this study consist in evaluate the relationship between EDA and self-reported health. Sample was composed of parents of people with (n=34) and without (n=34) ASD. All participants were exposed to a psychosocial stressor consisting of twenty minutes performing a set of cognitive tasks. Skin Conductance Level (SCL) was obtained before, during, and after the stressor. Caregivers showed lower reactivity to acute stress than non-caregivers. Only in caregivers, high EDA was related with self-reported health. Caregivers with high electrodermal reactivity presented higher somatic symptoms and anger expression than low reactivity caregivers. Caregivers showed lower EDA than non-caregivers probably because of a habituation mechanism. Although it could be an adaptive way to protect their health, this hyporeactivity could be detrimental to the ability of caregivers to cope with several stressors. Interventions focused in stress and emotion regulation could prevent this situation.

Keywords: *Electrodermal activity, Emotion, Caregivers, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Health.*

TYOLOGY OF AGGRESSIVE DRIVERS: IDENTIFICATION OF FOUR PROFILES AMONG LAYPERSONS, DRIVING OFFENDERS AND IMPRISONED DRIVING OFFENDERS

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Abstract

In many countries, aggressive driving and incivility seem to increase (Delhomme & Villieux, 2005). Nevertheless, there is a lack of research in the area. Indeed, a third serious accidents would be due to aggressive driving (Deffenbacher, 2001). As a consequence, focusing on this issue in both psychological and psychopathological areas is quite important. The study's aim was to examine the pattern in which transgressive and aggressive driving motives and aggressive driving were ordered in different clusters of drivers. This pattern was studied among laypersons, individuals having committed driving violations and imprisoned driving offenders. To establish the difference between profiles, anger disorders, driving anger, traffic violations and type of aggressiveness were studied and compared between clusters. Three sub-samples were established: 237 laypersons, 200 individuals participating in training courses on the causes and consequences of accidents, and 56 in-mates convicted for road offenses. Participants completed a survey evaluating the different variables previously enounced. Results show the emergence of four profiles of drivers: the respectful, the aggressive- justiciaries, the aggressive-dominant and the aggressive-situational. The difference between these clusters has been confirmed by the high tendency of anger disorders for the aggressive-dominant ($F=49.83$; $p<.001$), the low tendency of aggressive driving for the respectful ($F=427.92$; $p<.05$), the high tendency for driving anger provoked by illegal driving of others for the aggressive-justiciaries ($F=5.28$; $p<.001$) and the high tendency of speeding for the aggressive-situational ($F=99.29$; $p<.001$). Our findings strongly support the importance of creating programs adapted for each driver's profile.

Keywords: *Aggressive driving, Psychopathology, Typology, Anger, Emotional and instrumental aggressiveness.*

FEMINIST IDENTITY STYLES, SEXUAL AND NON-SEXUAL TRAUMATIC EVENTS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING IN A SAMPLE OF POLISH WOMEN

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Abstract

The aim of the research was to investigate the relations between Feminist Identity Development (FID) styles (as introduced by Downing and Roush) and selected aftermaths of traumatic stress in a sample of Polish women. The distinction between non-sexual and sexual traumatic events was made as it is often claimed that the latest have more severe impact on women's functioning. It was hypothesized that individuals resulting high in Synthesis and Active Commitment scales of Feminist Identity Development Model would present a higher self-esteem and lower level of depressiveness compared to individuals resulting low on those scales and high on Passive Acceptance scale. It was also assumed that the relation between Feminist Identity Development stages and self-esteem and depressiveness will be stronger in women, who'd experienced sexual traumatic events compared to those, who experienced other kinds of trauma. 273 women randomly picked from general population in Warsaw, Poland, participated in questionnaire research. Four groups emerged: (1) those, who haven't experienced any kind of traumatic event; (2) those, who've experienced non-sexual trauma; (3) those, who've experienced sexual trauma; (4) those, who've experienced multiple trauma. Both hypotheses were confirmed as in all groups predicted patterns of relations between FID stages and self-esteem and depressiveness were found. Moreover, the effect was strongest in group 3. This is yet another evidence of relations between feminist identity and women's well-being. Additionally, the results of the research help understand the nature of traumatic stress related problems in women in relation to a wider social context.

Keywords: *Feminist Identity Development Model, Traumatic events, Sexual violence, Self-esteem, Depressiveness.*

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AS A PREDICTOR OF JOB RELATED CRITERIA AND WELL-BEING

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Abstract

The study examined the efficacy of trait and ability measures of emotional intelligence (EI) in predicting several life outcomes over traditional predictors such as intelligence and personality. Participants in the study were 288 adults (160 male), who completed the TEIQue and MSCEIT (measures of trait/ability EI), a battery of standard intelligence tests, the NEO-FFI (measuring the Big Five), and the RSPWB (measuring well-being). Information on salary, job position, and self-assessed job performance were also gathered. A series of hierarchical multiple regression analyses were conducted by entering the g-factor of intelligence as predictor in Step 1, the Big Five in Step 2, and trait and ability EI in Step 3; job position, salary, self-assessed job performance, and well-being served as the criteria. All four regression models proved significant, accounting for 18-63% of the criterion's variance. However, the contribution of particular predictors differed depending on the criterion employed, with a) the g-factor being the single significant predictor of salary ($\Delta R^2 = .218$), b) both the g-factor and personality adding significantly to the prediction of job position (g-factor $\Delta R^2 = .117$; Big Five $\Delta R^2 = .065$) and self-assessed job performance (g-factor $\Delta R^2 = .068$; Big Five $\Delta R^2 = .169$), and c) trait EI making a significant contribution ($\Delta R^2 = .048$) to the prediction of well-being, over intelligence ($\Delta R^2 = .221$) and personality ($\Delta R^2 = .363$). The current findings reinforce the use of traditional measures of intelligence and personality in predicting job related criteria, but encourage the assessment of trait EI for the purpose of predicting well-being.

Keywords: *Emotional intelligence, Predictive validity, Job related criteria, Well-being.*

MEANING MAKING PROCESSES AND RELATIONSHIP SATISFACTION IN COUPLES FOLLOWING A SHARED STRESSFUL LIFE EVENT

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Abstract

Although 'meaning-making processes' and 'meanings made' have been identified as important constructs in the psychological adjustment to a range of stressors, there has been a dearth of research that has examined such constructs within the interpersonal context in which individuals adjust to stressful life events. Using a standard dyadic design we examined the roles of meaning making and meanings made in relationship satisfaction in a sample of 80 heterosexual couples who had experienced a stressful life event in the last 12 months. Couple members individually completed measures of positive reframing (as an indicator of meaning making), perceived benefits (as an indicator of meanings made) and relationship satisfaction. Using multilevel modelling from a pairwise data set we examined the effects of an individual's positive reframing and perceived benefits on their relationship satisfaction (actor effects) and the effects of their partner's positive reframing and perceived benefits on their relationship satisfaction (partner effects). A significant actor effect was found for positive reframing ($B = .69, p = .011$) but not for perceived benefits ($B = -.02, p = .371$). A significant partner effect was also found for positive reframing ($B = .74, p = .004$), such that higher partner scores on positive reframing related to greater relationship satisfaction. Although the cross-sectional design of the current study limits inferences regarding the direction of the relationships between both positive reframing and perceived benefits and relationship satisfaction, the findings provide support for examining meaning making theory at the couple-level.

Keywords: *Meaning making theory, Positive reframing, Perceived benefits, Relationship satisfaction.*

LIFEISGAME: A SERIOUS GAME ABOUT EMOTIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

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Abstract

Objectives: Presentation of LIFEisGAME software, an interactive learning tool that aims to enhance facial emotion recognition skills of children with ASD. This game was developed by the Universities of Porto, Portugal, and Austin, Texas. People with ASD are less likely to attend to faces and are impaired in face discrimination tasks. Recently, technology plays an active part in helping these individuals to understand emotions and recognize facial expressions, trying to enhance social interactions. *Design and Methods:* We recalled to video recording of three case studies during a fifteen minutes game session. Participants were all male (5 to 8 years old), two were verbal and one non-verbal, all diagnosed with ASD. The game was presented on an Ipad 2 (9.7 inches, 1024-768 resolution) in a quiet setting. Parents filled a parental consent form and a questionnaire about their child's technology usage and emotions understanding. Footages were analysed according to: first facial area worked in the avatar, game usability and motivation to play. *Findings and Conclusions:* All children began exploring the avatar's mouth area to create facial expressions. Studies show that people with autism spend more time looking at the mouth and less into the eyes. Participants enjoyed the prototype game but still needs to be simplified. All cases had previous experience with computers games that facilitated game-play. Computers were mainly used by the three participants at home to watch music videos and to play computer games rich in music, bright colours and action. Fear, disgust and surprise were the most challenging emotions to recognize in opposition to happiness and sadness. Parents suggested adding musical stimuli to promote motivation. LIFEisGAME recalls to state-of-art technology to stimulate emotional understanding, bringing positive outcomes to quality of living of children with autism.

Keywords: Autism, Emotions, Prototype-game, Children, iPad.

CANNABIS FIRST EXPERIMENTATION AND REGULAR USE BY YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR CLOSE FRIENDS

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Abstract

The process of modelling and the social influence are important in the acquisition of new behaviours; being similar models in sex and age the most effective in acquiring new behaviours. This influence regarding to drug consumption has been highlighted by several studies. This paper investigates the relationship between cannabis consumption and close friends' consumption. Sample consisted of 2.137 university students (52.7% female, mean age=21.1; SD= 3.2) who answered an anonymous questionnaire. 63.2% of participants had consumed cannabis at least once and 97% of them were with friends in their first experimentation. The role of the close friends' consumption status is related to the age of the first experimentation and the age of general consumption: participants whose close friends were consumers, had tasted cannabis (or became regular users) on average one year before than those whose close friends were non consumers. Furthermore, there was a high concordance between participants and close friends' consumption. These findings support the use of the Social Learning Theory to explain the acquisition of cannabis consumption amongst young people and should be taken into consideration when developing cannabis consumption prevention programs.

Keywords: Cannabis consumption, Addictive behaviour, Social Learning Theory, Young people.

COERCION STRATEGIES IN SEXUAL INTERCOURSE IN YOUNG COUPLES: IS THERE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUFFERING AND USING?

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Abstract

Sexual violence within intimate relationships can have serious implications for the physical and psychological well-being of those who suffer it and may also result in the victim imitating this abusive behaviour. The present study examined whether there is a relationship between suffering and the use of these coercion strategies amongst young adults. The participants were 119 university students (73.3% females) who were all under 26 years old and volunteered to answer an anonymous questionnaire. The results showed that those participants who had been exposed to a particular coercion strategy were also more likely to use this strategy than those who had not been exposed. These findings suggest that being the victim of some forms of sexual violence may result in the victim imitating this behaviour, thereby constituting a risk factor for becoming abusive.

Keywords: Sexual Violence, Coercion Strategies, Young couples.

GENDER NORMATIVE BELIEFS AND ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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Abstract

Introduction: Studies exploring students' alcohol consumption show the need to provide gender specific feedback intervention. Yet, no study has systematically described gender differences in normative beliefs. Rather they have focused on gender differences in alcohol consumption. **Objectives:** To explore the relationship between normative beliefs and alcohol consumption among students and to describe gender differences in alcohol consumption, normative beliefs and their mutual relationship. **Method:** Data collection was conducted online in 2012 with 1938 university students (79,2% females; M =21,7; SD =2,164) participating. Students were asked about: (1) frequency of alcohol consumption over the last 2 months; (2) quantity of alcoholic drinks; (3) normative beliefs concerning alcohol consumption (frequency, quantity). Pearson and Spearman correlation coefficients, t-tests, U- tests in SPSS 20.0 were used for data analysis. **Findings:** Statistically significant gender differences in normative beliefs were found. Regarding actual alcohol consumption, women's normative beliefs concerning frequency and quantity of alcohol use among females were lower. Moreover, the findings confirmed previous studies about higher alcohol consumption among males as well as positive correlations among normative beliefs and alcohol consumption. **Conclusions:** The research findings confirm the relationship between normative beliefs and alcohol consumption as well as gender differences in alcohol consumption. However, further research should be focused on identifying reasons why women's normative beliefs differ in order for more effective intervention programs to be applied. **Limits:** abnormal distribution of variables, unrepresentative sample, giving socially desirable answers

Keywords: Normative beliefs, Consumption of alcohol, University students, Gender.

QUALITY OF LIFE AND SUBJECTIVE PATTERN OF DISEASE IN PATIENTS WITH MITRAL VALVE PROLAPSE

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Abstract

The primary aim of this research is to investigate and compare Quality of Life (QOL) characteristics and Subjective Pattern of Disease (SPD) in patients with Mitral Valve Prolapse (MVP) undergoing both medical and psychotherapy treatment. This research was conducted in 1993-2011. We examined 290 MVP patients and 73 healthy subjects. 46 patients were treated with Magneron; 36 MVP patients with anxiety were treated with Alprazolam; 30 patients received placebo; 18 patients attended rational-emotive therapy courses (16 sessions, individual assessments). During 15 years 31 MVP patients took Magneron within periodical treatment; 14 MVP patients with anxiety attended systemic integrative psychotherapy on request. In 2008-2011 the control diagnostics was conducted for 132 patients who had been included in research groups in 1993-1996. Psychological testing embraced the assessment of "quality of life" indicators by Visual Analog Scale (VAS) ("well-being" dimension), the Disability Scale (DISS) ("work", "social life" and "personal life" dimensions) and The Ryff Scales of Psychological Well-Being (PWB) as well as qualitative analysis of SPD. MVP patients demonstrated initially lower significant results in all QOL indicators, increased anxiety and a lower level of frustration tolerance in comparison with healthy subjects. According to results, 72,2% MVP patients attended psychotherapy demonstrated valid improvements of QOL self-rating according to VAS, DISS and PWB scales. They had a better ability in recognition of emotional experience, the development of personality reflection and more appropriate SPD. Moreover, medical diagnostics showed a significant reduction in the depth of MVP among patients who had been undergoing a long-term psychotherapy.

Keywords: *Quality of life, Psychological well-being, Subjective pattern of disease, Mitral valve prolapse, Anxiety disorders.*

STAGES OF CHANGE AND HEALTH PERCEPTIONS IN SMOKERS

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Abstract

Introduction: Transtheoretical Model states that giving up smoking is a process characterized by different stages of change. There is evidence that the beliefs about smoking change with the stages. **Objectives:** To analyse the evolution in health perceptions of smokers by Transtheoretical stage of change. **Methods:** The quality of life (SF-36 health survey) and health deterioration attributed to smoking in 163 current and former smokers, by periodic visits every 6 months for 2 years, was evaluated. We performed three logistic regressions with "action" or "progression" or "relapse" as the dependent variable, and we used the perceptions of health with a difference in effect size > 0.4, adjusted for demographic and smoking history as independent variables. **Results:** The progression stages of change to Action is accompanied by declines in General health (OR 0.42), in Physical function (OR 0.35) and in Physical component summary (OR 0.34). To be in Action is accompanied by a decrease in smoking attribution of deterioration health (OR 0.59) and in Self-evaluate Health Transition (OR 0.59) which means better perceived health than a year earlier. Relapse smoking consumption is associated with lower scores in Mental Health (OR 0.04), in Vitality (OR 0.20) and in Mental component summary (OR 0.1). **Conclusion:** A perceived physical impairment is associated with an approach to quit smoking; smoking cessation is associated with perceived health improvement and relapse with worse mental health. The results are relevant in order to improve smoking prevention and treatment protocols.

Keywords: *Smokers, Transtheoretical Model, Health perception.*

THE ROLE SALIENCE IMPORTANCE TO THE WELL-BEING OF INDIVIDUALS: STUDY WITH A SAMPLE OF ADULTS IN THE CONTEXT OF CAREER COUNSELING AND MANAGEMENT

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Abstract

The study of role salience in career counseling and management has contributed to a better understanding of the relevance of the articulation that individuals make of their roles between them, and in the different contexts they take part in. The aim of this study is to analyse the role salience in a sample of 57 individuals that have been helped by career and management counseling. The instrument used was the “Salience Inventory”, developed in the “Work Importance Study” (WIS), which measures the relative importance of five life roles (student, worker, citizen, homemaker, and leisure). The results show that an increasing amount of adults cares about other roles, such as study and/or leisure, besides the most frequent ones, work and home. These results are compared with those obtained in WIS, and discussed in the light of individuals contributing to better cope with changes facing new life scenarios. Weave some considerations and reference is made to the development of research on the topic role salience.

Keywords: *Career counseling, Well-being, Role salience.*

AIPPS: HOW A CLINICAL APPROACH COULD TRANSFORM SPORT PSYCHOLOGY INTO A VALID INSTRUMENT TOWARDS DISADVANTAGE PROBLEMS AND WELL-BEING

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Abstract

Since 1994, year of its born, AIPPS is specialized in clinical psychology applied to playful and sports activity and principal goal is young disadvantage prevention across sports instrument used with oriented approach to development of character point of view and a well done well being development. Our clinical observation studies defense mechanism used into sports activities, into play, into relationship to identify problems and to introduce right correctives. Mainly methodology is Transactional Analysis because allows the identification of existing relationship-wise and communicative modalities to develop the right approach oriented towards all the aspects of sports interaction dynamics with the possibility to offer remedial actions where necessary. Our projects are usable from different person categories: children, young man and woman, adults normal and disable too. Between children projects we like to remember: “Ares & Athena” project: a new kind of day care center that uses sport, play and drawing to allow child both a sportive training and his growth supervision, both physical and emotive affective growth. Emotive and affective growth is investigated using “signum graphic” analysis, with graphologic method help; “Little Prince” project, specific for elementary school, that allows the complete integration of difficult children and disable children, both physical and mental, into play and sport space of the school using a clinical and playful and sportive method founded on the use of play’s rules. Between adults’ projects we like to remember “Aus Niguarda” project. This project is born into Spinal Department of Niguarda’s hospital in Milan in 2004. Project’s goal is to consider persons of this unit like a global unit and help them to use the rehabilitate itinerary like a way to reconquer their autonomy and the new body perception using fencing. This approach help them both in physical and psychic aspect and give them new instruments to approach life with a new point of view. All our projects can use the skill of “Sportech Laboratory”, a cybernetic laboratory of Statal University of Milan, Informatics Department. The task of this laboratory is to monitor and to classify the elemento using the informatic language Extensible Mark Up Language (XML) because is important to read the results of our researches in an objective way to make our job repeated from a clinical point of view.

Keywords: *Clinic sport psychology, AIPPS methodology, Bullying prevention, Nutrition disadvantage prevention, Childhood wellness.*

LIE TO ME: AN EXPLORATORY STUDY REGARDING FAKING GOOD EXPRESSION ON MMPI-2 AND PHYSIOLOGICAL MEASURES

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Abstract

Literature data shows how faking good can compromise the validity of the information obtained in assessment. There have been several studies concerning faking good in personality assessment and the MMPI-2 (Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2, Butcher, Bem-Porath, Dahlstrom, Graham, Tellegen, & Kaemer, 1989) sensibility to detect it. However, most of these studies privilege artificial situations - simulation settings where instructions are given so that the individual simulates a response attitude. The present study aimed at the characterisation of *faking good* in personality and psychopathology assessment through response to MMPI-2 applied in a natural setting - in real situations, without alteration in the instructions and inserted in the on-going assessment process, maximizing the ecological validity. Another idea was to study faking through objective measures. There are many studies in literature which explore the physiological expression of faking good responses and EDA (electrodermal activity) has been one of the most used and reliable markers. The goal of this study is to characterize faking good behavior in real personality and psychopathology assessment situations, as well as its physiological expression. For such, a differential methodology was used, using quantitative and qualitative data, with intra and inter-participants analysis. We studied a sample of participants from different settings, normal and clinical/forensic (N = 24). Results suggest the occurrence of faking good in both settings. It was also possible to identify different faking good styles: a) 'classical' faking good, detected by the validity scales, as described in literature (see Green, 2000), with longer response times and higher levels of EDA arousal; and b) 'non-classical' faking good, also identified by the validity scales, but with smaller response times and lower levels of EDA arousal. 'Non-classical' faking good is discussed relating to Paulhus conceptualization (1984; Paulhus & John, 1998) regarding self-deception and impression management. The implications and limitations of this study are also discussed.

Keywords: *Personality Assessment, MMPI-2, Faking Good, Electrodermal activity.*

◆ EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY ◆

PERUVIAN TEACHERS' PERCEPTIONS ABOUT AUTISM AND IMPLICATIONS FOR EDUCATIONAL PRACTICE

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Abstract

Objectives: There has been little research on teachers' perceptions of autism and how these may be associated with their beliefs on the effectiveness of education and the instructional goals practice. The present study was undertaken to evaluate regular teachers' knowledge of the causes of autism and the main behavioral features of the disorder. Thus, the goal was to obtain information regarding specific training needs as well as to pinpoint areas of potential misunderstanding of regular teachers. *Design:* Data were analyzed descriptively. *Method:* We examined the perceptions of a sample of 47 Peruvian teachers with a professional experience between 1 to 22 years. To assess teachers' perceptions we used a questionnaire of 14 items, adapted from Stone (1984), Mavropoulou and Padeliadu (2000). *Findings:* Teachers generally feel somewhat prepared (44.7%) to handle children with autism in their classrooms. Teachers believed that the condition is due to a neurological origin (63%) and that neurological examination is the most reliable for diagnosis (78%). However, in their answers about causes it was apparent that the psychogenic myth still persisted. They are agreed on the prevalence of the boys (93%) over girls (6%). Teachers seemed to have a deeper knowledge of autism, as they selected autism-specific characteristics and provided a fuller description of the disorder. Most teachers know that it is a disorder that is not cured (93%). *Conclusions:* The teachers were familiar with the notion of the autistic continuum and the distinct identity of autism that despite having little training about autism. Also, teachers seemed to have a deeper knowledge of autism, Teachers were also more goal-oriented, promoting instruction in major areas in which children with autism experience problems. Despite the small number of teachers involved, the findings of this study provide several important implications for the pre-professional and continuing education for teachers.

Keywords: *Autism, Perceptions, Education, Teachers.*

GIFTEDNESS: PERUVIAN TEACHERS' PERCEPTION

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Abstract

Objectives: Teacher's conceptions of giftedness and their beliefs about the abilities of their students are areas of critical consideration related to identification and talent development practices in primary school classrooms. Thus, this descriptive study examined the perceptions of giftedness and identification procedures held by experienced Peruvian teachers. *Design:* Data were analyzed descriptively. *Method:* Forty-seven regular teachers with a professional experience between 1 to 22 years participated. To assess teacher's perceptions we used a questionnaire of 37 items, adapted from Fernández (2002). *Findings:* Regular teachers still held a narrow conception and perception and perceptions of giftedness. They had not experience with gifted children (48%). Teachers feel that the most popular features on giftedness are high CI (68%), self-motivation (66%) and the capacity for handling a lot of information (68%). In contrast, the features less popular were: good social interaction (40%), creative (45%) and self-confidence (34%). The methods used to evaluate a gifted are intelligence test (85%) and specific aptitude test (66%). Also, teachers recognize that giftedness have significant negative effects on learning (91%). The vast majority of teachers agree that they need more information and training (94%), suggesting to create a specialized team (89%) to improve achievement in the class. *Conclusion:* Results are consistent with the deficit model, in which teachers are less likely to notice abilities and more likely to focus on problems. Results suggest several recommendations for further research, as well as possible modifications of graduate and postgraduate teacher education programs. Teachers ins service want to know more about

giftedness, especially because they do not feel well prepared and know they need to have more information about it.

Keywords: *Giftedness, Teachers, Conceptions, Perceptions.*

WORK SATISFACTION AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF TEACHERS ACCORDING TO HEADMASTERS' SUPPORT AND TEACHERS' PERSONALITY TRAITS

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Abstract

Objective: The study dealt with satisfaction at work and social well-being at school amongst primary school teachers in Eastern Slovakia. Well-being in schools is one of the preconditions for nonspecific prevention of risk behaviour. The focus was on the differences in levels of satisfaction at work and social well-being at school dependent on the perceived supportive behaviour of the headmaster (either the engaging or distancing type) as well as the personality traits of the teachers (neuroticism, extraversion, agreeableness, openness, conscientiousness). **Design:** Cross-sectional survey. **Methods:** The research sample consisted of 256 primary school teachers (89.6% women, mean age 42.14, SD 9.65). The concept of social well-being by Keyes (1998) was used. The IASR-B5 questionnaire (Trapnell, Wiggins, 1990) was used to detect personality traits. Supporting behaviour of headmasters was measured by the SAS-C scale (Trobst, 2000) and satisfaction at work was measured by one of The Life Satisfaction Questionnaire subscales (Rodný, Rodná, 2001). The data was analysed using non-parametric tests of difference between the groups with the highest and lowest levels of given variables (the perceived type of supportive behaviour of the headmaster and the Big Five personality traits). **Findings:** Engaging behaviour of the headmaster was associated with high levels of teachers' work satisfaction as well as social well-being at school. On the contrary, distancing behaviour of the headmaster was associated with low levels of these variables. Emotionally stable and conscientious teachers were more satisfied at work and had higher levels of social well-being. Social well-being was also higher in the group of more extraverted and agreeable teachers. **Conclusions:** The results confirmed a significant difference in work satisfaction and social well-being of teachers according to the level of supportive behaviour of school headteachers and personality traits. The application of our findings may increase well-being in schools.

Keywords: *Satisfaction at work, Social well-being, Teacher, Engaging and distancing behavior, Personality traits.*

EARLY INTERVENTION IN CHILDHOOD: STUDY ON THE EVALUATION OF THE SATISFACTION OF FAMILIES

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Abstract

Early intervention with children at risk is a unique opportunity to influence positively their future development. This paper presents a study with thirty-five mothers, supported by a Local Intervention Team, in order to assess parental satisfaction on services provided. This desire is particularly relevant not only for the impact they can have on improving the quality of their work, but also in promoting parenting skills and involvement of families in the intervention processes. It is an exploratory study and the results show a high degree of satisfaction in the following dimensions: support to parents, model and support structure and administration of service and less satisfaction areas: dissemination of their rights and social environment in the relationship between parents and professionals.

Keywords: *Early childhood intervention, Local Intervention Team, Satisfaction of families.*

SOCIO-EMOTIONAL COMPETENCES IN PORTUGUESE YOUNGSTERS: DEVELOPING OF ASSESSMENT TOOLS FOR PARENTS

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Abstract

In the last two decades we have seen the proliferation of assessment tools for socio-emotional competences based on self-report, that only inform us about the beliefs that respondents have about their own competences and not about their real competences. The need to overcome this kind of tools' limitations, and develop assessment options that foster the ecological validity of collected information, encouraged the development of hetero-evaluation tools based, namely, in the opinions that parents have about their children socio-emotional competences. In this work, with a convenience sample of 715 mothers of both sex youngsters, we present the structural validity's study of the Emotional Quotient Inventory (EQ-I; Portuguese version of Bar-On for parents) and the Perceived Social Competence (PSC-Pa: PSC parents' version). EQ-I is a tool related to beliefs that parents have about their children emotional intelligence, with 38 items (4-point scaled) organized around five factors (Intrapersonal, Interpersonal, Stress Management, Adaptability, and Mood). PSC-Pa is a tool that consists of five subscales related to parent's perceived social competence of their children in five hypothetical interpersonal situations, with 10 items (3-point scaled) organized around five factors (Intimate Relationship, Leadership, Support and Communication with Peers, and Support and Communication with Adults). Based on exploratory factorial analyses (varimax rotation of factors extracted by principal axis factoring method), and also on the examination of factors' convergent and discriminant validity and their reliability, we verified that the factorial structure of both tools was jeopardized.

Keywords: *Social competences, Emotional competences, Assessment, Parents, Youngsters.*

THE SET GAME® AND ITS COGNITIVE ASPECTS

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Abstract

Games are considered an interesting tool to observe and promote cognitive development and learning in a problem-solving context. Based on this, the aim of this research work was to analyze the cognitive aspects of the Set Game® from the point of view of Piaget's theory about correspondences. This game is composed by 81 cards each one having a variation of four features: symbol, color, number of figures and shading. The objective of the game is to identify a set of three cards from a group of twelve laid out on a table, whose features are either identical or distinct on each card. Participants were 40 volunteers, being from 14 to 80 years old, coming from a Brazilian government educational program. Fifteen workshops were organized to collect data. Results show that the selected sets' features were grouped predominantly by similarity. Among the possibilities to settle the features' parts, most of sets were grouped by similarity of three features. The conclusion of this study is that, according to the theory, these findings indicate that the subject who observes or coordinates aspects to solve a problem, firstly makes a correspondence effort, secondly elementary functions, and finally reaches the statute of transformation, which is expressed in the use of operative scheme by the subject.

Keywords: *Set game, Piaget, Cognition, Correspondences, Transformation.*

TEACHERS' NOTIONS ABOUT TYPES OF COMMUNICATIVE BEHAVIOR AND LEVELS OF COMMUNICATIVE CULTURE

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Abstract

Research objective was to study teachers' implicit notions about types of communicative behavior (destructive, ambivalent, constructive) and levels of communicative culture of the teacher

(communicative illiteracy, literacy, competence and creativity). One more research objective was to reveal interrelations between these two groups of teachers' implicit notions. Research was carried out by a method of poll of 40 school teachers. It was offered to them to put 109 ways of the behavior in 10 difficult pedagogical situations in compliance with the types of communicative behavior and with the levels of communicative culture. To the obtained data the correlation analysis was applied. For 55 ways of behavior statistically significant coefficients of correlation between reference of these ways of behavior to types of communicative behavior and to levels of communicative culture of the teacher were found. These ways of behavior (both positive and negative) can be considered as a kernel of teachers' notions about communicative culture.

Keywords: *Teachers, Communicative culture, Notions, Behavior.*

READING COMPREHENSION DIFFICULTIES – COMPARISON OF POOR AND GOOD COMPREHENDERS USING NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL TASKS

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Abstract

Objective: To compare poor comprehenders and good readers using eight neuropsychological measures to find out which are related to performance in reading comprehension. Design: Quasi-experimental design. Methods: Participants: seventy-seven Brazilian children in 4th to 6th grade, 19 poor comprehenders (high performance in word reading, but low performance in reading comprehension) and 58 good readers (high performance in word reading and reading comprehension). Materials and measures: Questionnaire about socioeconomic data, health and educational history, Conners Abbreviated Teacher Rating Scale, Raven matrices, word reading measures, reading comprehension measures (retelling and comprehension questions), Child Brief Neuropsychological Assessment Battery tapping eight neuropsychological functions in 26 tasks. Analysis: Linear regression. Findings: After adjusting values for grade and type of school, the tasks that showed a significant association with the variable group (poor comprehenders or good readers) were visuospatial working memory and verbal fluency.

Keywords: *Reading comprehension difficulties, Neuropsychological assessment, Working memory, Executive functions.*

◆ SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY ◆

RECEIVING ADEQUATE SUPPORT AFTER REEMPLOYMENT. DOES IT ALWAYS HELP?

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Abstract

The evidence of unemployment shows its negative effect on a person, and his/her job search process. Individual can suffer from decreased qualifications and competence or lower self-efficacy not only during searching for employment but also after being reemployed. This study analyzes the social support received by reemployed within first three months in the new workplace. We assumed social support as an important environmental factor during reemployment. The main goal of this work was to investigate the relation between social support received by reemployed individuals (n=88) and its influence on their well-being at work. The results indicate direct and moderation effect of received social support and its adequacy on emotional costs and job satisfaction. Regression analysis showed positive results of emotional support, whereas tangible support has negative effect on the reemployed well-being.

Keywords: *Social support, Support adequacy, Emotional costs, Reemployment.*

TRUST AND INTERMEDIARY: A COMPARISON BETWEEN CHINESE AND WESTERNERS

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Abstract

Trust has long been regarded by psychologists and other social scientists as a fundamental component of social competence and social functioning. It has attracted even stronger attention in recent years as globalization spreads and calls for greater understanding of trust across cultures. However, the role of intermediary in trust, which is important for Chinese because of their preference in indirect communication, is overlooked by Western psychology due to their direct communication style. The present research tested the main hypothesis that the intermediary would have effect on Chinese but not Westerners' trust. In Study 1, to investigate the different impact of an intermediary on the trust decisions and expected reciprocity of Chinese and Westerners, 80 Chinese and 77 Australian university students took part in a trust game on computers in the minimal group setting. The results showed that the intermediary helped break the Chinese outgroup distrust and increase their outgroup expected reciprocity, but the effect was not found in the Australians. In Study 2, to explore the differences between Chinese and Westerners in their preference of various types of intermediary in daily circumstances of different level of importance, 207 Americans and 206 Chinese responded to an online scenarios questionnaire. The findings demonstrated that the different preference of interactive modes for the Chinese and the Westerners with daily scenarios of different importance. The resulting theoretical knowledge illuminated trust/distrust with an intermediary in other situations such as online merchants in the e-marketplace and facilitate Westerners and Chinese doing business with each other.

Keywords: *Trust, Intermediary, Expected reciprocity, Cross-cultural difference.*

QUALITY OF WORK LIFE AND HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PRACTICES: RELATIONSHIPS WITH JOB SATISFACTION

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Abstract

The Quality of Work Life (QWL) is extremely important, especially at a time when the organizations focus primarily on economic aspects for financial reasons. Meanwhile, Practice of Human Resources Management (PHRM) have had an impact on the workers' behaviors, particularly in job satisfaction, and on the organizational results. However, the relationship between QWL and PHRM, and its relationship with organizational behaviors have been poorly studied in our country. In this study, are presented data obtained in a research which goal was to analyze the relationship between QWL, PHRM and Job Satisfaction. For this purpose were used the Inventory of Quality of Work Life (Rafael & Lima, 2008) and the Questionnaire of Practice of Human Resources Management (Esteves, 2008), as well items of Work Satisfaction indicators (Rafael & Lima, 2008). The sample consisted of 259 working adults who belong to several organizations and occupational activities. The results indicate significant correlations between the frequency of QWL and PHRM and between these variables and Job Satisfaction. Also specific relationships between QWL and PGRH dimensions are analyzed. Finally, the implications of the study regarding the intervention into an organizational context are discussed, particularly the development of intervention strategies and practice in human resources to promote QWL.

Keywords: *Practices of human resource management, Quality of work life, Job satisfaction.*

INTRA/INTERPERSONAL FACTORS OF PROBLEMATIC INTERNET USE AND BINGE DRINKING AMONG SLOVAK UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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Abstract

Objective: Problematic Internet use and specific patterns of alcohol consumption are relevant risk behaviors (RBs) among university students. This study aimed to explore the associations of gender, academic performance, personality factors, having a romantic relationship and *personality factors with RBs among university students*. **Design:** Cross-sectional design was applied. **Methods:** 817 first year university students from Slovakia (74.5% females, 19.6 *mean age*) completed single-item indicators of academic performance at high school prior to their university study (Overall performance, Amount of schoolwork, Quality of schoolwork), provided information whether they were in romantic relationships or not and for how long as well as filling in the Ten Item Personality Inventory and RBs questionnaires (GPIU2, AUDIT-3/AUDIT binge frequency). Respondents were dichotomized according to the level of RBs for the purposes of binary logistic regression. **Findings:** The complete model containing all predictors (gender, academic performance, *having a romantic relationship and personality factors*) was statistically significant ($\chi^2 = 41.79$, $p < 0.001$) and distinguished between students who reported and did not report RBs explaining between 12% and 20% of the total variance. Gender, *having a romantic relationship and academic performance* made a statistically significant contribution to the model. **Conclusions:** Gender and previous academic performance at high school may be important to acknowledge when targeting prevention programs for first year students. The sample was based from a single region which implies certain limitations for the generalizability of the results.

Keywords: *Intra/Interpersonality factors, Problematic Internet use, Binge drinking.*

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ONLINE AND OFFLINE CIVIC PARTICIPATION

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Abstract

The study investigated psychological predictors of traditional and online civic activism, as well as factors moderating the relationship between the two on a representative sample of Serbian citizens (N=2014). Hierarchical regression demonstrated that only extraversion was a significant predictor of both forms of activism: extraverts were more likely to take both virtual and real-life civic actions, whilst self-esteem and political involvement remained insignificant predictors. Additionally, the relationship between online and offline participation was moderated by self-efficacy: the online to offline activism relationship was strongest in the case of high self-efficacy and weakest in the case of low self-efficacy. Extraversion seems to dispose people to engage in real-life, but in virtual actions as well. Higher self-efficacy is needed for activism "overflow", i.e. to translate virtual into real civic actions.

Keywords: *Civic activism, Traditional, Online, Psychological Predictors.*

I PERFORMED WELL? I MUST BE THE CAUSE! THE EFFECT OF FEEDBACK QUALITY ON SELF-SERVING BIASES

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Abstract

Self-serving bias represents one of the mechanisms for achieving and maintaining a positive self-image. This study was aimed to assess the effect of feedback positivity on self-serving attributions. A total of 120 participants, randomly assigned to four groups, took a spatial orientation test presented as an important indicator of intellectual ability. After each task, participants were given feedback on whether the answer was correct, so there were four experimental conditions: successful, neutral and unsuccessful group, whilst the control group received no feedback. Upon completing the test, respondents assessed: the importance of the measured ability, the validity of the test and the extent to which their performance was affected by internal and external factors. The groups differed in expected manner on all indicators and that participants exhibited both self-affirming tendencies (in successful and neutral group) and self-protective tendencies (in unsuccessful and no feedback group). Additionally, the results demonstrated the importance of the employed experimental procedure: a. the task difficulty moderated in interpreting the outcome (50% correct answers on a difficult test is viewed as a success), and b. partialized feedback (given after each task) enhanced self-serving bias.

Keywords: *Self-serving bias, Feedback, Test difficulty.*

LIFE ORIENTATION, PERCEIVED STRESS AND PROBLEMATIC INTERNET USE AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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Abstract

Objectives: Based on the published research studies registered in the Electronic databases PsychINFO and PsychARTICLES, psychological research has revealed that a relatively new concept of problematic Internet use (PIU) is associated with gender, personality variables such as extraversion, impulsivity, self-esteem, the need for cognition and sensation seeking. Furthermore, PIU has been shown to be also

associated with stressful life events, social anxiety, loneliness, family communication, social interaction, coping, depression, well-being and academic performance related variables. This study explores PIU in relation to the perception of stress and life orientation and aims to contribute to the data-based PIU prevention. The main objective of this study is to investigate the effect of gender, life orientation, as well as perception of stress on PIU. *Design:* A cross-sectional design was used. *Methods:* 817 first year university students from Slovakia (74.5% females, 19.6 mean age) completed the Perceived Stress Scale, Revised Life Orientation Test and Generalized Problematic Internet Use Scale 2. Two-way between groups ANOVA was used for the data analysis. *Findings:* The interaction effect between gender and life orientation was not statistically significant ($F=0.846$, $p = .43$). There was a statistically significant main effect for life orientation ($F=9.554$, $p = .001$), although the effect size was small. The interaction effect between gender and perception of stress was not statistically significant ($F = 1.096$, $p = .34$). There was a statistically significant main effect for perception of stress ($F = 12.562$, $p = .001$) but, the effect size was small. It was found, that students with a lower level of life orientation, as well as a higher level of perceived stress seem to have higher levels of problematic Internet use. *Conclusions:* The development of life orientation, coping with stress, and reflection / deconstruction of perception of stress among first year university students could contribute to prevention of PIU according to these research results.

Keywords: *Life orientation, Perception of stress, Problematic internet use, University students.*

◆ ————— LEGAL PSYCHOLOGY ————— ◆

AN INTEGRATIVE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING CHILD ABUSE

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Abstract

There is a wide body of literature on child abuse occurring within the family where the perpetrators are parents, siblings and extended family members. Major foundational theories of family science each have their own limitations when applied to the context of child abuse within the family. The aim of this paper is to integrate assumptions and concepts from three fundamental theories (Biosocial, Life Course and Human Ecology Theory) to an internally consistent and coherent new framework, which addresses the complexity of child abuse and its impact on children, families and communities. The paper presents the assumptions and concepts that are derived from each specific theory to utilize in the foundation of the proposed model. It speaks to the purposes why these assumptions and concepts are chosen to synthesize into, and how each contributes to the comprehensiveness of the new model. The proposed framework embraces a bio-psycho-social perspective through a developmental trajectory. The new model provides a comprehensive understanding for clinicians and researchers on the nature, and the short-term and long-term implications of child abuse from the perspectives of victims, perpetrators, families and communities. The framework also proposes effective policy models in the area of prevention and intervention of child abuse. The proposed model has limitations regarding assessment due to framework's broad and complex scope.

Keywords: *Child abuse, Trauma, Violence family, Prevention.*

THE INFLUENCE OF SAFE DRIVING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMERCIALS ON DRIVERS' BEHAVIOR DEPENDING ON THEIR SENSATION SEEKING LEVEL

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Abstract

It has been proved, that those at road risk are individuals with high sensation seeking (SS) level – a personality trait defined by M. Zuckerman. High SS prefer public service announcements (PSAs) of high message sensation value (MSV). Thus, it is worth to investigate, how the highly arousing PSAs actually affect drivers, according to their SS level. Hypothesis: young adult drivers will be less willing to take risk in traffic situations after watching high MSV safety driving PSAs. One hundred car drivers aged 18 – 30 took part in the experiment. Male – 62; female – 31. Participants completed the „Brief sensation seeking scale”. After, in the 1st experimental group they watched a video with 3 low sensation value safety driving PSAs, in the 2nd – with 3 highly arousing PSAs, in control – with no PSAs. Participants then performed “Vienna Risk-Taking Test Traffic”. Both SS $\beta=0,45^{***}$ and PSAs $\beta=-0,28^{**}$ have a statistically significant impact on the willingness to take risk in traffic, $p<0,01$. The results show that highly arousing safety driving PSAs reduce the willingness to take risk in traffic.

Keywords: *Sensation seeking, Message sensation value, Risky driving.*

◆ COGNITIVE & EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY ◆

HIGH WORKING MEMORY CAPACITY PREDICTS LESS RETRIEVAL INDUCED FORGETTING

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Abstract

Background: Working Memory Capacity (WMC) is thought to be related to executive control and focused memory search abilities. These two hypotheses make contrasting predictions regarding the effects of retrieval on forgetting. Executive control during memory retrieval is believed to lead to retrieval induced forgetting (RIFO) because inhibition of competing memory traces during retrieval renders them temporarily less accessible. According to this suggestion, superior executive control should increase RIFO. Alternatively, superior focused search abilities could diminish RIFO, because delimiting the search set reduces the amount of competition between traces and thus the need for inhibition. Some evidence suggests that high WMC is related to more RIFO, which is inconsistent with the focused search hypothesis. *Methodology/Principal Findings:* Using the RIFO paradigm, we created distinct and overlapping categories to manipulate the amount of competition between them. This overlap increased competition between some categories while exclusive use of weak exemplars ensured negligible effects of output interference and integration. Low WMC individuals exhibited RIFO within and between overlapping categories, indicating the effect of resolving competition during retrieval. High WMC individuals only exhibited between-category RIFO, suggesting they experienced reduced competition resolution demands. Low WMC Individuals exhibited the strongest RIFO and no retrieval benefits when interference resolution demands were high. *Conclusions/Significance:* Our findings qualify the inhibitory explanation for RIFO by incorporating the focused search hypothesis for materials that are likely to pose extraordinary challenges at retrieval. The results highlight the importance of considering individual differences in retrieval-induced effects and qualify existing models of these effects.

Keywords: *Retrieval Induced Forgetting, Working Memory Capacity, Executive Control, Inhibition, Episodic Memory.*

PERCEPTUAL LEARNING IN DYSLEXICS AND CONTROLS

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Abstract

Perceptual learning is considered a mechanism by which vision system automatically and implicitly improves by specific training. This mechanism is supposed to be related to attention, perception and memory functions. Although a lot of studies on dyslexics evidenced impaired motion perception and deficit in procedural learning, a lack of consensus concerned these issues. The aim of this study is to examine whether the perceptual learning would produce different patterns of results in a visual motion discrimination task in dyslexics and controls. Thirty-two subjects (9 dyslexics and 23 controls) take part in the experiment. A modified task irrelevant perceptual learning procedure is used (TIPL by Seitz and Watanabe, 2003). The procedure consists of three phases: pre-test, training and post-test. During the pre-test the motion perception ability is evaluated using motion coherence test. Then, each subject is exposed to seven training sessions, in three days. The learning is mediated by subliminally pairing one selected direction with specific targets of an unrelated training task. The day after the subject motion perception ability is evaluated (post-test phase). The difference between pre and post- tests represents the implicit learning effect. A significant learning effect is found in controls, while the dyslexics subjects have lower improvement after the training. These results support the hypothesis that dyslexics have implicit learning difficulties associated to perceptual deficits.

Keywords: *Perceptual learning, Dyslexia, Motion perception, Development, Vision.*

ATTENTIONAL BIASES DEPENDENTS OF EMOTION: A PILOT STUDY IN PEOPLE WITH CHRONIC PAIN

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Abstract

Experimental evidence suggest that chronic pain condition can introduce modulations in attentional processing in adults. In the present study, we try to understand this phenomenon through cognitive tasks. We combined a modified Stroop and a Dot-probe paradigm in order to study attentional deviation to pain-relevant stimuli in chronic pain individuals and controls. Behavioural data (responses and reaction times) were analyzed. Preliminary results suggest an attentional biases to pain-relevant stimuli in comparison to the neutral ones. This effect seems to be more pronounced in participants with chronic pain, although it is needed further research with larger sample sizes.

Keywords: Chronic pain, Attentional biases, Stroop, Dot-Probe.

THE JOINT EFFECTS OF NUMBER OF VOICES AND REVERBERATION ON AUDITORY DISTRACTION

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Abstract

Background speech is consistently rated as the most objectionable noise in the office and is known to significantly disrupt tasks that involve the sequencing of information. Whereas practical recommendations typically focus on masking the irrelevant sound—which can result in an annoying increase in sound intensity—solutions could be based instead on manipulating inherent properties of office noise. There is ample evidence that acoustic variation in background noise is responsible for disruption of serial processing. Hence, any means of attenuating sound variability such as increasing the number of voices in background speech or the level of reverberation should help counter the negative impact of irrelevant sound. Accordingly, the present study sought to test the joint impact of number of voices and reverberation on distracting effects of extraneous sound. A first experiment showed that disruption of a (visually-presented) serial recall task diminished as the number of superimposed voices in to-be-ignored auditory sequences increased from 3 to 15. The second experiment further revealed that adding realistic office reverberation to the irrelevant sound attenuated the distraction still further. In fact, 15 superimposed voices with a 1-s reverberation time led to performance indistinguishable from that in a quiet control condition. These findings suggest, counterintuitively perhaps, that increasing the number of people occupying a shared office and greater room reverberation may ameliorate the damaging effects of background noise on workplace satisfaction and productivity.

Keywords: Office noise, Auditory distraction, Reverberation, Serial short-term memory, Acoustic variation.

DECISION MAKING COMPETENCIES AND RISK BEHAVIOUR OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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Abstract

Objectives: Risk behaviour is a result of various social, demographic, motivational and cognitive factors. The role of cognitive characteristics is relatively less known. The aim was to examine models of adolescent health-risk behaviour using decision-making competencies as possible predictors. *Design:* Social and personality characteristics are the focus of attention in risk behaviour research. The role of decision-making competencies was investigated using regression in cross-sectional design. *Methods:* University students from Slovakia (n=205) filled in six component Adult- Decision Making Competence and reported their substance use (cigarette, marihuana, LSD, amphetamines, excessive drinking) and risk sexual behaviour. Binary logistic and linear regression was performed to assess the relationship between decision-making competencies and risk behaviour. *Findings:* No gender differences were found in risk behaviour, but differences in two of the six decision-making competencies were present. A higher prevalence of risk behaviour was negatively associated with only a small number of decision-making competencies which depended on the type of risk behaviour. *Conclusion:* The results show limited effect of decision-making competencies on risk behaviour with a mixed pattern in different kinds of behaviour.

Keywords: Risk behaviour, Decision-making competencies, University students.

PREDICTING DYNAMIC DECISION-MAKING USING EYE MOVEMENTS

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Abstract

The present study aims to examine if the event-based measure of eye movement can reveal the underlying cognitive processes involved in monitoring and dynamic decision-making tasks. In the context of a computer-controlled simulation of radar-based risk assessment, we monitored eye movement and extracted metrics relative to 1) scanpath (measures of search), 2) eye fixations (measures of processing), and 3) pupillary response (measures of cognitive load) in order to predict the quality of decisions and time taken to classify aircrafts displayed on a radar screen according to their level of threat. Based on multiple regressions performed on more than 10,000 classifications, eye-tracking data can explain 63.5% of the variance in decision time but failed to predict classification accuracy. A similar pattern of results emerged when regressions were applied to individual differences: Whereas eye-movement metrics failed to account for variations in decision quality, they can predict about 76.5% of individual differences in the time taken to classify. A closer look at the data revealed that scanpath measures, an index of the efficacy of information seeking during decision-making, are the best predictors of decision time with 40% of explained variance. These findings illustrate how dynamic, event-based measures of eye movement could serve as an assessment method that goes beyond traditional usability testing and provide invaluable insights in the design of decision support systems. However, the observed pattern of results also suggests that the analysis of eye movement does not seem a good indicator of what leads to poor decisions.

Keywords: Dynamic decision making, Eye movements, Microworld, Command and control, Multiple regression.

HOME-BASED COGNITIVE REHABILITATION USING DR. KAWASHIMA BRAIN TRAINING IN COGNITIVE IMPAIRED PATIENTS WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

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Abstract

Background: Cognitive impairment is a disabling symptom of multiple sclerosis (MS), here we used a videogame console, i.e. the Italian version of the Dr. Kawashima's Brain Training (DKBT; Nintendo ©, Kyoto, Japan), as a home-based attempt to improve cognitive functions. **Methods:** We enrolled MS patients aging from 18 to 50 years, right-handed with cognitive impairment assessed with Symbol Digit Modalities Test (SDMT), Paced Auditory Serial Additional Test (PASAT 3), and Stroop test (ST). Patients were randomly assigned in two group: the first (group A) was asked to play with the DKBT at home 30 minutes per day for 5 days per week for a total of 8 weeks; the second (group B) was observed for 8-weeks without any interference. Repeated measures analyses of variance (RM-ANOVAs) were performed; time \times treatment interaction analyses were run to evaluate treatment effect of DKBT on the cognitive scores. **Results:** We tested 52 patients, of them 35 were assigned to group A (n=18) and group B (n=17). Our population was constituted of 26 females and 9 males with a mean age 45 ± 7 years, a mean instruction level of 14 ± 3 years, a mean MS duration 12 ± 8 years and median EDSS score 3 (range 2 to 6.5). A significant time \times treatment effect of DKBT was found on STROOP ST ($F=5,771$, $p=0.022$), PASAT 3" ($F=4,257$, $p=0.048$), SDMT ($F=4,633$ $p=0.039$). **Conclusion:** A home-based DKBT program is useful to improve cognitive function in MS whether this approach may support professional psychologist professional intervention remain to be established.

Keywords: Cognitive rehabilitation, Multiple sclerosis.

FORENSIC PSYCHIATRISTS AS EXPERTS IN SCALING CONTENT OF COMPLEX STIMULI (NARRATIVES) FOR AFFECTIVE STATES INVESTIGATIONS

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Abstract

When researchers exploit texts to examine emotional responses to them, the context effect on the perception of emotional content is a source of challenges. In the present study the efficiency of forensic psychiatrists as experts in scaling affective content of verbal descriptions of several situations was estimated. Fourteen psychiatrists (10 women) with different occupational experience and age estimated 3 narratives with violent content for depressive, anxious and aggressive domains ranging them according to their intensity, using context for assessment of affective words and phrases connotation. Discriminant analysis showed that age and period of occupational experience were independently positively associated with better differentiation of the narratives by depressive and anxious domains and worse differentiation by aggressive domain. Women were more sensitive to aggressive domain with higher scores for aggressive words. Men were less sensitive to emotive effect of the narratives in general with lower scores for all affective words. The results showed that age, gender, and occupational experience of psychiatrists can moderate the evaluation of emotive aspects of the narratives. A future research should show (i) whether emotional reactivity of naïve subjects will be able to similarly discriminate the same narratives, (ii) whether their age and gender will show the similar moderation effects, (iii) whether the discrimination of the narratives by their responses will be closer to responses of less experienced psychiatrists.

Keywords: Forensic psychiatrists, Emotive narratives, Depression, Anxiety, Aggression.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TESTOSTERONE AND PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS IN PARENTS OF OFFSPRING WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

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Abstract

Parents of people with autistic spectrum disorders (ASD) may present a broader autistic phenotype (BAP) characterized by high autistic traits, hyper-systemizing and poor empathy. High prenatal testosterone (T) levels are related to the ASD but the relationship with the current T levels is not totally clear. Nevertheless the relationship between BAP and current T levels in response to stress has not been analysed in parents with autistic offspring. To analyze whether ASD parents would had BAP and its relationship with T response to psychosocial stress. The sample was composed of ASD parents (n=39) and controls (n=41). BAP was evaluated by means of the AQ, SQ-R and EQ. Six samples of saliva were collected before and after stress to determine T levels, which were analysed by ELISA. ASD parents showed high AQ and low EQ score than controls, although SQ-R did not differ between groups. Moreover, the AQ and SQ-R were positively and the EQ was negatively correlated with basal T whereas in controls only the SQ-R was positively correlated with basal T. Furthermore, only in ASD parents high autistic and systemizing traits were related with high baseline T levels and smaller T response to cognitive tasks, mediating basal T the relationship between BAP and T response. The BAP may increase the likelihood to develop autism because ASD parents could provide high prenatal T levels. These findings should be taken into account for understanding the importance of the BAP involvement in the etiology of ASD.

Keywords: *Autistic Spectrum Disorders, Empathy, Endophenotype, Parents, Testosterone.*



VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS

MARITAL SATISFACTION AND PERCEIVED SOCIAL SUPPORT AS PREDICTORS OF LIFE SATISFACTION: A STUDY OF POLISH MARRIED ADULTS

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Abstract

Objective: This study investigated the association between marital satisfaction, perceived social support from family, friends and significant others, and life satisfaction in Polish nonclinical married adults. The hypothesis was that marital satisfaction and perceived social support form three distinct domains which may be good predictors of life satisfaction in married adults. **Design:** The study design comprised of correlational study in which participants were asked to fill in the questionnaires. **Methods:** The Polish versions of the Dyadic Adjustment Scale, Satisfaction With Life Scale, and Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support were administered to the sample of 204 married participants (101 males and 103 females) aged 24 – 59. The questionnaires were administered to married volunteer adults by using a snow-ball method of recruitment. The stepwise regression analyses, in which life satisfaction was predicted from marital satisfaction and perceived family, friends and significant others support, were conducted for the total sample. **Findings:** Marital satisfaction was found to be the only significant predictor of life satisfaction ($\beta = 5.55, p = .000$). Marital satisfaction accounted for 41% of the total variance of life satisfaction, $F(4, 200) = 29.69, p = .000$. **Conclusions:** Marital satisfaction contributes to life satisfaction; and the greater marital satisfaction the greater life satisfaction. The limitations of the study: (1) correlational design without the insight into casual relationships between the variables, (2) the lack of comparison of the married sample with single sample, (3) the sample consisted of Polish individuals and the results may not be generalizable to other populations.

Keywords: *Life satisfaction, Marital satisfaction, Perceived social support, Marriage.*

MARITAL SATISFACTION AND PERCEPTION OF PARTNER'S COMMUNICATION STYLE IN POLISH MARRIED ADULTS

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Abstract

Objective: The aim of the study was to investigate the association between marital satisfaction and perception of partner's communication style. The hypothesis was that perception of partner's communication behaviors as supportive, engaged, and depreciated is related to marital satisfaction. **Design:** The study design comprised of correlational study in which participants were asked to fill in the questionnaires. **Methods:** The Marital Communication Questionnaire and the Dyadic Adjustment Scale were administered to the sample of 207 married adults (102 males and 105 females) aged 24- 59. The questionnaire packages were distributed using a snow-ball method of recruitment. A one-way ANOVA test was used to carry out the analyses. **Findings:** The results indicated a significant effect of perception of partner's communication style as supportive, $F(2, 204) = 39.64, p < .000$, engaged, $F(2, 204) = 23.83, p < .000$, and depreciated, $F(2, 204) = 31.30, p < .000$. *Post hoc* comparisons by Bonferroni test showed significant differences between the groups of high, average and low perception of partner's communication style as supportive ($p < .05$), engaged ($p < .05$), and depreciated

($p < .000$). *Conclusion:* The higher level of marital satisfaction was found in the married adults who perceived their partner's communication style as highly supportive and engaged, but the least depreciated. The limitations of the study: (1) correlational design without the insight into casual relationships between the variables, (2) the sample consisted only of Polish individuals and the results may not be generalizable to other populations.

Keywords: *Communication style, Communication behaviors, Marital satisfaction.*



WORKSHOPS

SOMATIC MARKERS IN CLINICAL PRACTICE

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Abstract

Somatic markers, named and identified by neuroscientist Antonio Damasio, provide immediate and accurate information regarding your inner world, your perceptions of the outer world, and your emotional state. Your body takes in an enormous amount of information through your five senses, far more than can be perceived by your conscious mind. Some of this unconscious information registers as observable responses in your body (somatic markers). This workshop will help you become more mindful of your own bodily responses, and gain access more quickly to this deep information regarding the therapeutic process. When you are aware of somatic markers, you have a reliable reference point during treatment to identify counter-transference, emotional triggers, and recognize somatic shifts in your patients. Through lecture, discussion, movement, and experiential exercises, you will explore and deepen your somatic awareness and learn how to apply this awareness in clinical practice. You will learn about the crucial relationship between somatic markers and emotional triggers, and explore the art of being fully present in your body as you witness and work with your patients. You will leave with specific tools and handouts to continue to work with your somatic awareness, and to introduce these ideas in your practice. Psychologists and psychotherapists from all theoretical backgrounds will benefit.

Keywords: *Somatic awareness, Clinical practice, Emotional triggers, Experiential, Mindfulness.*

THE COGNITIVE ORIENTATION APPROACH TO PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

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Abstract

Cognitive orientation is a theoretical approach focused on identifying psychological correlates of specific behaviors, including personality disorders and psychopathologies. It is a model developed in the framework of a comprehensive theory of motivation. Cognitive orientation is based on the assumption that cognitive contents and processes play a role as background variables or risk factors in regard to pathology and as factors predisposing to health-related behaviors. Cognitive orientation has originated a research methodology and a set of intervention procedures focused on identifying and changing the psychological correlates relevant for states of psychopathology. It is supported by a rich and variegated set of empirical studies referring to disorders such as paranoia, depression and eating disorders. The cognitive orientation approach provides a new venue for understanding the psychological aspects underlying disease formation and a set of tools useful for the practitioner as well as the researcher in clinical psychology. Examples from research and clinical practice focused on anxiety disorders, depression, eating disorders, and schizophrenia are discussed.

Keywords: *Cognitive orientation, Psychopathology, Eating disorders, Anxiety, Depression.*

AUTHOR INDEX

Adamczyk, K.	71	Chau, K.	20, 33
Alkhathami, S.	4	Chau, N.	20, 33
Alves, S.	50	Chester, A.	13
Amara, M.	22, 33, 39	Chudzicka-Czupala, A.	22, 59
Andrés-García, S.	68	Clarke, A.	29
Anokhina, A.	39	Combalbert, N.	31
Antipanova, N.	3	Correia, I.	17
Antsiferov, B.	3	Corso, H.	58
Apolónio, A.	7, 15	Corso, L.	26
Araújo, C.	14	Cortés, M.	45, 46
Argun, A.	8	Cova, A.	53
Asanbe, C.	17	Cruz, R.	53
Asenova, I.	41	Dahlöf, L.	4
Avellar, L.	5	Darling, S.	7
Azevedo, L.	3	Davies, P.	33
Baran, S.	49	Davydov, D.	67
Barbosa, F.	65	De Giglio, L.	67
Barjola, P.	65	De Luca, F.	67
Bartošová, K.	6	Dieu, E.	31
Baumann, M.	20, 22, 33, 39	Dimitrijević, A.	5, 49
Bavolar, J.	66	Diniz, A. M.	57
Benassi, M.	64	Dinkha, J.	24, 29
Benka, J.	60	Drolet, L.	16, 40
Benka, J.	61	Du, E.	47
Berdoulat, E.	48	Echegaray-Bengoa, J.	55
Berman, P.	29	Esculpi, D.	65
Bherer, L.	40	Eşkisu, M.	23, 36
Bolden, C.	17	Falco, A.	26
Bolzani, R.	64	Felizardo, S.	18, 56
Bordovskaia, N.	19	Fontaine, R.	37
Bornewasser, M.	31	Font-Mayolas, S.	50, 51, 52
Borriello, G.	67	Forget, J.	16
Bortolato, S.	26	Franco, V.	7
Brandão, C.	27	Franco, V.	15
Brutovská, M.	51	Frolova, D.	63
Bugaiska, A.	40	Gajdošová, B.	56, 60, 61
Bulbulia, J.	30	Giger, J.	23, 37
Burešová, I.	6	Gimenes, G.	36
Burton, L.	13	Giménez, J.	45, 46
Candeias, A.	57	Giovagnoli, S.	64
Capoduro, A.	53	Girardi, D.	26
Cardoso, S.	65	Glotova, G.	57
Carlo, N. A.	26	Gómez, A.	51
Castonguay, N.	40	Gonçalves, S.	56
Castro-Lopes, J.	3	González-Bono, E.	68
Cebrián, N.	50	Goodall, K.	7, 10, 25
Celik, H.	63	Goodell, C.	75
Chandra, I.	28	Gordon, M.	30

Gordon, S.	29
Gras, M.	50, 51, 52
Grau, A.	52
Grunwald, L.	7
Hall, C.	17
Hervet, G.	66
Hirschelmann, A.	31
Horchak, O.	23, 37
Hrubá, V.	6
Hughes, R.	65
Hutchinson, S.	33
Ingel, F.	3
Iorga, E.	14
Ivana, Ć	28
Ivanov, S.	3
Janovska, A.	56, 60
Joly, C.	34
Jones, D.	65
Jordão, F.	27
Kabuth, B.	20, 33
Kalina, O.	51
Karavdic, S.	22, 39
Kaviani, H.	4
Khan, R.	35
Khelfane, R.	15
Kilic, S.	16
Klimusová, H.	6
Koganova, Z.	3
Köhn, A.	31
Kõiv, K.	27
Kravina, L.	26
Kreitler, S.	10, 75
Krivtsova, E.	3
Kubiszewski, V.	36
Kucharska, J.	48
Lacassagne, M.	34
Larsson, M.	4
Lavandier, M.	65
Legostaeva, T.	3
Lima, R.	53, 60
Lodetti, G.	53
Lungu, O.	40
Lussier, M.	40
Lysenko, N.	67
Macedo, L.	57
Machado, M.	56
Machado, T.	9, 17
Macleod, H.	47

Mall, J.	64
Marinković, M.	61
Marjanović, Z.	5, 49
Marouf, L.	15
Marques, A.	50
Martins, A.	14
Martynov, A.	52
Matta, M.	24
McKinlay, A.	10, 25
McVittie, C.	10, 25
Mendonça, L.	3
Mercado, F.	65
Mesquita, R.	56
Milošević-Dorđević, J.	61
Mirković, K.	61
Mitchell, C.	24
Morey, C.	64
Mosquera, J.	21
Motos, P.	45
Motos, P.	46
Moya-Albiol, L.	47, 68
Nada, P.	28
Nardi, M.	5
Novo, R.	56
Öğülmüş, S.	12
Orlando, F.	46
Orosova, O.	45, 51, 56, 60, 61
Orvalho, V.	50
Osborne, D.	33
Osório, A.	14
Otlu, B.	13
Otlu, B.	13, 18
Pardal, A.	9
Pennequin, V.	36, 37
Pervichko, E.	8, 52
Pires, H.	7, 57
Pirtskhalava, E.	24
Planes, M.	50, 51, 52
Pochwatko, G.	23, 37
Pozzilli, C.	67
Prat, F.	51
Prawat, R.	19
Prawat, T.	19
Prette, Z.	46
Prosperini, L.	67
Quayle, E.	47
Queirós, C.	50
Quigley, J.	30

Rafael, M.	53, 60	Varelas, D.	57
Rashwan, T.	24	Vauthier, J.	20, 33
Rebelo, N.	57	Vavassori, D.	48
Ribeiro, E.	18, 56	Wager, N.	30, 32
Rogers, P.	35	Wilhelm, A.	57
Romero-Martínez, A.	68	Winder, E.	65
Rotrou, J.	38	Wysota, M.	71
Ruiz-Robledillo, N.	47, 68	Xenos, S.	13
Sá, L.	46	Ye, J.	59
Salis, A. C. A.	11	Yenkamala, M.	38
Salles, J.	58	Yeşilyaprak, B.	23
Sambaraju, R.	25	Yildiz, S. A.	36
Samios, C.	49	Yumbul, C.	63
Santos, B.	21	Žeželj, I.	61
Sastre, M.	48	Zinchenko, Y.	8, 52
Sebeña, R.	45, 61		
Serpell, L.	39		
Sezer, S.	12		
Sgarra, D.	64		
Short, E.	4		
Silva, S.	57		
Simonsson, A.	4		
Slebarska, K.	22, 59		
Smiljana, J.	28		
Smith, A.	38		
Solovyeva, M.	26		
Sorel, O.	31, 37		
Soriano-Ferrer, M.	55		
Sperb, T.	58		
Stănescu, D.	14		
Stepanova, A.	3		
Stepanova, O.	3		
Stobäus, C.	21		
Sučević, J.	61		
Sullman, M.	50, 51, 52		
Suñer-Soler, R.	52		
Testu, F.	15		
Thorn, J.	4		
Tomás, I.,	45		
Torres, C.	25		
Torres, S.	65		
Tremblay, S.	66		
Trimble, T.	30		
Urtseva, N.	3		
Uytman, C.	10, 25		
Vachon, F.	65, 66		
Valois, P.	16		
Var, E.	12		