INTERNATIONAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS CONFERENCE AND TRENDS

Ljubljana, SLOVENIA 2 to 4 May

Book of Abstracts

Edited by: Clara Pracana



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Dear Participants,

We are delighted to welcome you to the International Psychological Applications Conference and Trends (InPACT) 2015, taking place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from 2 to 4 of May.

Psychology, nowadays, offers a large range of scientific fields where it can be applied. The goal of understanding individuals and groups (mental functions and behavioral standpoints), from this academic and practical scientific discipline, is aimed ultimately to benefit society.

This International Conference seeks to provide some answers and explore the several areas within the Psychology field, new developments in studies and proposals for future scientific projects. The goal is to offer a worldwide connection between psychologists, researchers and lecturers, from a wide range of academic fields, interested in exploring and giving their contribution in psychological issues. The conference is a forum that connects and brings together academics, scholars, practitioners and others interested in a field that is fertile in new perspectives, ideas and knowledge. There is an extensive variety of contributors and presenters, which can supplement the 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 there are nationalities and cultures represented, inspiring multi-disciplinary collaborative links, fomenting intellectual encounter and development.

InPACT 2015 received 368 submissions, from 31 different countries, reviewed by a double-blind process. Submissions were prepared to take form of Oral Presentations, Posters, Virtual Presentations and Workshops. It was accepted for presentation in the conference 112 submissions (30% acceptance rate). The conference also includes a keynote presentation from Miguel Angel Gonzalez Torres, MD, PhD, working at the Department of Neuroscience in The University of the Basque Country (Spain); the Psychiatry Department in Basurto University Hospital (Bilbao, Spain); and Centro Psicoanalítico de Madrid, Spain, to whom we express our most gratitude.

This volume is composed by the abstracts of the International Psychological Applications Conference and Trends (InPACT 2015), 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 addresses different categories inside Applied Psychology area and papers fit broadly into one of the named themes and sub-themes. To develop the conference program six main broad-ranging categories had been chosen, which also cover different interest areas:

- In **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.
- In **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.
- In **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.
- In **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.

- In **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.
- In PSYCHOANALYSIS AND PSYCHOANALYTICAL PSYCHOTERAPY: Psychoanalysis and psychology; The unconscious; The Oedipus complex; Psychoanalysis of children; Pathological mourning; Addictive personalities; Borderline organizations; Narcissistic personalities; Anxiety and phobias; Psychosis.

This volume contains the abstracts with the results of the research and developments conducted by authors who focused on what they are passionate about: to promote growth in research methods intimately related to Psychology and its applications. It includes an extensive variety of contributors and presenters by sharing their different personal, academic and cultural experiences.

Authors will be invited to publish extended contributions for a book edited by Dr. Clara Pracana, to be published by inScience Press.

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

Hoping to continue the collaboration in the future.

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A THIRD WAY AHEAD FOR PSYCHOANALYSIS

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Abstract

Today, there are two ways of conceiving psychoanalysis, a classical one focused on the search for truth within the internal world of the patient, and a contemporary one perceiving the patient-therapist relationship as the axis of exploration. Rorty's criterion, which divides disciplines into either truth-based or solidarity-based, may be applied to this dichotomy. These conflicting positions come from two different historical periods: the Enlightenment and the contemporary world. They inhabit a sterile environment without theoretical discussion or comparison. Possibly, these elements of truth and solidarity, initially designed as complementary, integrative, and nonconflicting, can be found in the work of some psychoanalysts specifically in Otto Kernberg's proposals. Kernberg makes a creative integration of object relations theory, especially in its Kleinian approach, and ego psychology. In addition, Kernberg's consideration of affects as key elements of the human's internal world reflects a third psychoanalytical "way," exposing the centrality of relational experiences from the earliest stages of life, alongside constitutional drive forces that link us to our biological make-up and determine much of our inner world and behaviour.

Keywords: Psychoanalysis, Psycho-analytical Psychotherapy, Freud.

Brief Biography

Miguel Angel Gonzalez Torres, MD, PhD, was born in Bilbao in 1957. Graduated from University of the Basque Country Medical School, he specialized in Psychiatry at Salamanca University, where he also obtained his PhD with a work on Personality and Family Structure of Substance Abusers. Psychoanalytic training at Centro Psicoanalítico de Madrid and now Training Analyst at that Institute. Back in Bilbao, obtained a Professorship at the Department of Neuroscience of the University of the Basque Country and is Head of the Psychiatry Service at Basurto University Hospital in Bilbao. He is also President of OMIE Foundation, dedicated to education and training in psychotherapeutic techniques. Member of the Executive Committee of the International Federation of Psychoanalytic Societies (IFPS) and the Board of the International Society for the Study of Personality Disorders (ISSPD). His clinical and research activities are centred in Psychosis and Personality Disorders

SPECIAL TALK

INTRAOPERATIVE PARALYSIS AND EXISTENTIAL FEAR OF DEATH: IS THERE A LINK?

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Introdution

Patient reports of the psychological sequelae of accidental awareness under general anaesthesia (AAGA) are variable in severity and content. Nevertheless traumatised patients commonly describe intra-operative distress, post-operative flashbacks and nightmares around themes of existential death and burial (Wang, 2001). We set out to analyse systematically AAGA reports from the recent UK *NAP5* project in terms of intra-operative experience and subsequent psychological sequelae.

Method

The UK Royal College of Anaesthetists and the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland audit project *NAP5* (Pandit et al., 2014) collected reports of accidental awareness under general anaesthesia from the whole of the UK and Ireland over a one-year period from all hospital anaesthesia departments. These reports were carefully analysed by an expert panel of anaesthetists, psychologists (including Wang and Andrade) and a patient representative.

Results

NAP5 received 141 reports that were judged as valid by the expert panel. 93% of these were from patients in receipt of a muscle relaxant which is in contrast to a baseline anaesthesia activity survey (Cook et al., 2014) that identified neuro muscular blockade in only 46% of general anaesthetics in the UK and Ireland. Moreover, at least half of these patients experienced intraoperative distress and for the majority of these (67%), distress was caused by neuromuscular blockade and dyspnoea (and not so much by pain).

Some patients feared they were about to die and two patients thought they were already dead as a direct result of the unanticipated experience of intraoperative paralysis. Most (79%) of those with intraoperative distress developed post-operative psychological sequelae such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Discussion

Fear of death is the most pervasive specific anxiety in children aged 7 to 10 (Slaughter & Griffiths, 2007). Pre-school children commonly report believing that dead relatives and pets "now live underground" perhaps in cemeteries. Nightmare content and themes reported by traumatised awareness patients with explicit recall often involve being buried alive. This raises the possibility that experience of intraoperative paralysis reawakens primitive childhood fears of death involving some form of disembodied consciousness. There was evidence in the *NAP5* reports that having some prior knowledge of muscle relaxants and their effects was protective against psychological sequelae.

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ORAL PRESENTATIONS

NEW DOMAINS OF HEALTH CAPABILITY OF FAMILY CAREGIVERS: AN EXPLORATORY STUDY USING THE GROUNDED THEORY

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Abstract

Background: Increased life expectancy, a declining economic growth, and the management of chronic diseases call for intergenerational solidarity but undermine the physical and psychological health of family caregivers. Their health capability has already been studied through eight domains: physical and psychological functioning, lifestyle value, self-efficacy towards health services, family support, social capital, socio-economic conditions and access to health services. Our aim was to identify new domains. Methods: A grounded theory method was applied. Family caregivers of stroke victims living at home were recruited in the Lorraine region (France; n=8) and Luxembourg (n=6). Semi-structured interviews were led face-to-face about their health status, how they currently take care of their health, and what internal resources they need to achieve optimal health. Verbatims were open-coded and grouped to form new domains of health capability. Items reflecting the main idea of the categories were formulated. Throughout the analyses, a control process was applied. Items were validated by consensus with an expert group. Results: Seven women and seven men (age 63.6±10.1) participated. Seven new domains emerged: health knowledge, health self-efficacy, health value, life skills, health decision-making, motivation, and attitude towards the future. 76 items were generated: 51 reflected generic abilities while 26 were specific to family caregiving. Discussion: Content analysis of these domains is highly instructive. First, it allows guiding the preparation of innovative supports to promote health capability, and second, this list can serve as a basis to elaborate a guide to which clinicians can refer to orient family caregivers according to their needs.

Keywords: health capability, family caregiving, stroke, qualitative approach, grounded theory.

INTEGRATIVE ACCOMPANIMENTS FOR SUBJECTS WITH DISABLING MENTAL DISORDERS: A NEO-EVOLUTIONARY DESIGN OF THE PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION

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Abstract

In France, for fifteen years, research shown that the contribution of neuropsychology is a major asset when it's devoted to the accompaniment of unadapted people or, to the subjects who present a reduced autonomy. Indeed, these developments have helped to differentiate the cognitive disorders from the psychic disorders and their respective inter-incidence on the adaptation of the user to its living environment. All these theoretical advances helped the community psychiatry in the conceptualization of the accompaniment especially in the field of psychosocial rehabilitation. On this point, we believe that the formalization of an efficient support in psychosocial rehabilitation should build on the new elements of research without refute the heritage that we obtained from the history of clinical psychiatry as the psychoanalysis. To do this, we acted on the following neo-evolutionary fact : in an unadapted situation the humans must find an environment that is suited to their difficulties or, they have to gradually adapt in order to maintain his somatopsychic balance. Referring to this neo-evolutionary approach of the environment adaptation, it now seems essential to simultaneously find both aspects in psychic accompaniment. Consequently, we argue that the accompanying should think about mediatize in a same time a dynamic of compensation (adapting the environment to the subject) and a reconstruction dynamic (adapting the subject to the environment) to maximize its chances of reintegration into the social fabric. In

these two aspects, it is possible to combine some reconstructive approaches (cognitive remediation, psychoanalytic work in the long term ...) to compensatory approaches (brief therapies, psychosocial skills training, relaxation ...). During this presentation, we will mediatize a theoretical bedrock related to the emergence of these new integrative accompaniments. Furthermore, we will emphasize that this movement also causes a movement of reconciliation between psychoanalysis and cognitive neuropsychology. Finally, we will justify and illustrate our words by presenting quantitative and qualitative results obtained from the generalization of this work within two mobile teams of psychosocial rehabilitation.

Keywords: neo-evolutionary psychology, psychosocial rehabilitation, integrative theory, neuropsychology, psychoanalysis.

LONELINESS AND ISOLATION AFTER BRAIN INJURY: FACTORS IMPACTING SURVIVOR AND CAREGIVER'S QUALITY OF LIFE AFTER INJURY

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Abstract

Over 50,000 Canadians survive traumatic brain injury every year. After they are released from the hospital, trauma ward, or rehabilitation facility many of these individuals are cared for by their spouse or another family member. During this time, the needs of families are often not met, resulting in changes in the employment status of household members, spousal separation, and changes in co-habitation. Life changes affect their physical and mental health; emphasis on the well-being of the survivor often overshadows the effects on the caregiver. Acquiring a brain injury can impact the mental health and life satisfaction of both a survivor and their caregivers. Changes in leisure activities, employment, and the added burden of caregiving contribute to increased social isolation, depression, and loneliness. This study examined personality characteristics, unmet needs, and risk factors for survivors and caregivers and may help to predict undesirable outcomes. Psychological questionnaires that are reliable and valid were used to measure various aspects of life after brain injury in 344 brain injury survivors and 140 caregivers. Seventy-three percent of survivors presented with moderate to severe depression and suicidal ideation. A large number of caregivers (64%) also presented with depression and these high numbers were significantly related to their levels of leisure satisfaction and overall satisfaction with life. Personality traits, caregiver burden and family, social and romantic loneliness were also examined as risk factors and predictors in these populations. Results from these groups were examined separately and will contribute to the literature on individualized rehabilitation procedures following brain injury. The product of this will be the basis for the development of policies and procedures when discharging patients into the care of their family members or spouse. Support for these individuals should not stop when the formal rehabilitation ceases. The goals of this study focused on the effects of brain injury on the family unit; these factors may be overlooked in our current rehabilitation and follow up procedures.

Keywords: Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), brain injury survivors and caregivers, quality of life, loneliness and isolation, personality.

INFANTILIZATION, CIVILIZATION, AND CHILD ABUSE

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Abstract

This presentation attempts to present something of a cultural historical context in order to be able to talk about corporal punishment. Or even more generally, it presents the cultural historical background of our feelings and perceptions of child abuse in general. First the infantilization process is discussed, that is the increasing duration of childhood over the centuries. The theories and the research of Norbert Elias as well as Philip Aries will be discussed. Contrary to common representations, it will be made clear that, on the basis of the quantitative analysis of paintings from the 15th to the 20th century, Philip Aries' insights have not been rejected. To the contrary. Elias theory about the civilizing process will be used to explain the

process of infantilization, as firstly described by Aries. Finally Elias' understanding of the civilizing process will be used to explain our modern unacceptance of child abuse.

Keywords: infantilization, history of childhood, child abuse, civilization and affect control.

ASSOCIATED FACTORS OF SOCIAL ANXIETY: METACOGNITION AND COPING STRATEGIES

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Abstract

The aim of the current study was to examine the role metacognitions and coping strategies as associated factors of social anxiety and social avoidance. For this aim, 435 nonclinical participants living in Turkey completed Metacognition Questionnaire-30, The Ways of Coping Inventory, Liebowitz Social Anxiety Scale. In order to examine the associated factors of social anxiety and social avoidance (as dependent variables), two separate regression analyses were carried out. Independent variables entered into the equation via two steps. For all analyses, in the first step, 3 different types of coping, i.e. Problem-Focused, Emotion-Focused and Indirect Coping were entered to the regression analyses via stepwise method, in order to control possible effects of different coping styles. After controlling coping styles that were significantly associated with dependent variable, in the second step, 5 types of metacognition, namely; Positive Beliefs about Worry (MCQ-1), Negative Beliefs Concerning Uncontrollability of Thoughts and Danger (MCQ-2), Lack of Cognitive Confidence (MCQ-3), Beliefs about Need to Control Thoughts (MCQ-4) and Cognitive Self-Consciousness (MCQ-5), were again entered via stepwise method. Results of multiple regression analyses revealed that problem focused coping style has a significant effect in the decrement of both social anxiety and social avoidance. On the other hand, emotion focus coping tend to increase both social anxiety and avoidance. After controlling the effects of coping strategies, some of the metacognition categories revealed significant effect. Accordingly, higher levels of Positive Beliefs about Worry and Negative Beliefs Concerning Uncontrollability of Thoughts and Danger tend to increase both social anxiety and avoidance. The findings are consistent with the literature and have important implications in terms emphasizing the role of metacognitions in the development and maintenance of psychological symptoms, and also for generating intervention programs. In addition, protective factor of problem focus and dysfunctional role of emotion focused coping styles should not be underestimated while dealing with social anxiety and avoidance.

Keywords: metacognition, coping strategies, social anxiety.

THE INFLUENCE OF DANCE ON THE EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE OF ADOLESCENTS

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Abstract

It is widely accepted that emotional intelligence constitutes an important aspect of contemporary research and that it influences several domains of an individual's life. There are training programs that aim to develop the trainees' emotional intelligence in order to improve the quality and their satisfaction in their interpersonal relationships, leadership skills or even their psychological welfare, among others. Previous research findings have also indicated that there is a strong relationship between art and emotional intelligence of children, mainly due to the fact that children tend to express their emotions easier when they can do it in non-verbal ways. The focus of the present study is particularly on the art of dance and how it relates to the emotional intelligence of young people. It also examined how dance can improve the life of adolescents. A class of twelve female adolescents took part in this qualitative study, all of whom were attending dance lessons of the same kind. Their age range was 13-15 years old. The inclusion criteria were their age and lack of any previous experience with dance related activities. The main research hypothesis was that dance education and creative movement can increase the emotional intelligence of young adolescents. To that end, several dance activities that are used in education were conducted that urged the participants to explore many aspects of their emotional behaviour. Emotional Intelligence was measured by the Trait Emotional Intelligence Questionnaire (TEIQ), which was administered before the onset and after the end of dance classes. The activities that were used for the collection of data were spread over 4 weeks. Analyses indicated that dance activities improved most of the facets of adolescents' emotional intelligence, and it changed their way of thinking in many areas of life. The results of the specific study are directly applicable in adolescent counselling and the treatment of autism as well. Further studies could place emphasis on the way in which creative movement could be used in school settings and become an integral part of the education of children, particularly in contexts where expressing emotions is necessary but not facilitated.

Keywords: emotional intelligence, dance, education, counselling.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF MISCARRIAGE OR LOSING A CHILD: THE CONCLUSIONS FROM THE INTERVIEWS WITH WOMEN

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Abstract

Each year in Poland there are 40 thousand miscarriages and 2 thousand families have to deal with stillbirth of their child (GUS). The phenomenon of miscarriage, and more generally loss of a child during pregnancy is one of the important challenges, which must be faced not only by clinical psychology but also medicine and especially gynecology and obstetrics. Research shows that losing pregnancy leads to very serious psychological consequences (e.g. Barton-Smoczyńska, DeFrain). Among others we can mention: higher risk of PTSD, depression, loss of the sense of meaning in life and even suicidal attempts. This kind of experience touches not only mothers, however they have to deal with most of the health consequences. Increasing focus on the costs of fathers, children and family as a whole is observed. Such traumatic events are very meaningful for the whole family system. In my article I want to present the conclusions from 15 semi-structured interviews conducted with women after the loss of a baby on different stages of pregnancy. The questions comprised in the interview referred to 5 spheres: (1) circumstances of the loss and interactions with the medical staff, (2) social environment reaction (3) physical and mental condition, (4) the influence of the loss on motherhood and (5) ways to deal with the loss. For analysis Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) was used to stress the special meaning of experience of the individual. The story of Agnieszka will be set together with the general conclusions from 14 other semi-structured interviews. The conclusions from this comparison will become a base for presenting the implications for practitioners, who, in their work, have contact with families after the loss. The quotes from the interview will be presented to illustrate personal attitude to the loss experience.

Keywords: miscarriage, loss, pregnancy, women, interviews.

COGNITIVE AND ADAPTIVE ASSESSMENTS OF PREMATURE INFANTS AT 18 MONTHS: THE IMPORTANCE OF PARENTAL REPORTS

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Abstract

The high risk of adverse neurodevelopmental outcomes of very prematurely born infants in Singapore necessitated the development of a multidisciplinary team at the National University Hospital (NUH) to follow up with this vulnerable population. At 18 months of age, a psychological assessment, consisting of the Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development – Third Edition (Bayley-III) and a structured interview using the Vineland Adaptive Behaviour Scale - 2nd Edition (VABS-II) are routinely administered. Due to cultural differences in the Singapore population and differences in developmental

expectations for attaining adaptive milestones, it was queried whether the VABS-II would be a valid instrument. Hence, a comparison of the Bayley-III scores and parental reports (VABS-II) was warranted. A total of 24 toddlers (15 boys and 9 girls) ranging from 17-26 months of age, were assessed. The mean gestational age of all the toddlers was 29+5 weeks, with a mean birth weight of 1, 217 grams. In the Singapore sample, regression analyses revealed that the VABS-II composite scores explained a significant proportion of variance ($R^2 = .49$) in Bayley-III cognitive scores, F(1,20) = 19.09, p = <.001. After controlling for the child's gender, birth weight, and age at assessment, the VABS-II composite scores still explained 52.7% of the variance in the Bayley-III, $\Box = 0.815$, p = 0.001. Additionally, Communication subscale scores of the VABS-II accounted more strongly for the variance ($R^2 = .56$) in Bayley-III cognitive scores, F(1,20) = 25.46, p = <.001, as compared to the overall composite scores. Both Daily Living skills, $(R^2 = .37)$, F(1,20) = 11.48, p = .003, and Motor skills, $(R^2 = .43, F(1,20))$ = 15.09, p = .001, significantly predicted cognitive outcomes of children in the sample. However, Motor skills may not be a reliable predictor of cognitive functioning due to the high number of children with cerebral palsy in the sample. One important implication of the current findings is that medical professionals need to put an increased emphasis on parental reports of adaptive development when evaluating premature infants. The reported properties of the VABS-II confirm the importance and utility of parental reports as part of routine developmental follow-ups of very preterm infants.

Keywords: premature infants, adaptive functioning, cognitive functioning, Vineland, Bayley-III.

RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL OF HABIT REVERSAL TRAINING FOR TREATMENT OF HAIR PULLING IN YOUTH

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Abstract

Trichotillomania (TTM) is a chronic and often disabling illness with a lifetime prevalence up to 2.5%. TTM is associated with significant social, occupational, and familial impairment, and can also cause medical complications. Effective medication treatment for TTM has been difficult to establish. Habit reversal training (HRT) is efficacious for treating TTM in adults. However, few studies have examined the efficacy of HRT in children. This study evaluated the treatment efficacy of HRT compared to treatment as usual (TAU) for children aged 7 to 17 years with a primary diagnosis of TTM. Results indicated that HRT can be an effective treatment for TTM in youth.

Keywords: trichotillomania, hair pulling, habit reversal training.

NEUROFEEDBACK: FROM RESEARCH TO CLINICAL PRACTICE

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Abstract

Neurofeedback allows monitoring and changing brain wave patterns, for the purposes of improving health and performance. Using an electronic device that measures and presents the client's brainwave activity, neurofeedback training demonstrates the process of learning how to change physiological activity, leading to changes in behavior and mental state. Research and clinical practice have shown that one can change how the brain functions; and that we can change any organ system if we are provided with appropriate information. On the basis of research and clinical outcomes, for the last three decades neurofeedback has been developed as a training method, and has become a breaking through method. Thus it is timely to consider how neurofeedback can be integrated into counseling and psychotherapy practice and research. Recent meta-analyses and reviews of outcome research have shown the effectiveness of neurofeedback in reducing symptoms for people with ADHD; autism spectrum disorder; addiction and other conditions; and also enhancing peak performance for the general population. Some even support its designation meeting the criteria for a Level 5 treatment system, using the ISNR and AAPB five-level rating system, for some disorders, like ADHD. In several cases neurofeedback has been shown to reduce the need for psychoactive medications, with the overall success rates of 60% to 80%, and with virtually no side effects. Neurofeedback practitioners use a QEEG method to assess the brain functioning under the conditions of eyes open, eyes closed and task. QEEG assessment- brain mapping- provides reliable, non-invasive, scientifically objective, culture-free, and relatively low-cost evaluation of brain function. QEEG is rapidly becoming essential for accurate clinical diagnosis. Some wave forms have been strongly associated with certain behaviors and form the basis of typologies for diagnosis. For example, High beta is found in many disorders, including obsessive-compulsive disorder, sleep disorders, anxiety, and addiction. In this presentation I will introduce the history of neurofeedback in clinical practice and research support for neurofeedback. I will present case studies demonstrating neurofeedback assessments, interventions, and outcomes.

Keywords: neurofeedback, QEEG, EEG-Biofeedback, brain.

THE RELATION BETWEEN PARENTAL CRITICISM, STRESS AND COMPETENCE, AND QUALITY OF PARENT-CHILD INTERACTION

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Abstract

Background: Sensitive, supportive, and accepting parenting is a necessary component in facilitating optimal development and outcomes of young children. In contrast, parental criticism may undermine the parent-child relationship and child development. Yelland and Daley (2009) reported that high parental expressed emotion (EE), especially high criticism, is associated with a variety of disorders in children, among them depression, anxiety symptoms, conduct disorder and hyperactivity disorder. High critical EE is also associated with higher parental stress (Baker, Heller, & Henker, 2000; Boger et al., 2008). These findings have been revealed in parents of older children, as few studies have examined the relationship between parental criticism and parent-child interaction in early childhood (Boger et al., 2008). A negative correlation between parental criticism and quality of child-parent relationship (McCarty et al., 2004) has been found in children aged 7-17 years. In addition, Kubicek at al., (2013) studied 38 child-parent dyads of 3 years old children with special needs, and a relationship which almost reached statistical significance was revealed between parental criticism and parental sensitivity during interaction. Examining the relationship between parental criticism, parental competence and the quality of parent-child interaction can lead to a deeper understanding of the variables affecting the quality of mother-child dyadic interactions. Method: Thirty-one mother-child dyads participated in the current study. The children were 3-6 years old (M = 4.5, SD = 0.83) with no identified developmental, medical or physical problems (e.g., typically developing). The mothers were asked to express their thoughts and feelings about their child for an uninterrupted five minutes. This speech sample was recorded and later analyzed for both content and tone, using the five minutes speech sample (FMSS), which has been adapted for young children (Daly, Sonuga-Barke & Thompson, 2003). The FMSS was originally designed as a brief measure of EE (Magnana et al., 1986). In the current study we operationalized parental criticism by counting the number of critical comments in the FMSS. In addition, mothers completed a demographic questionnaire, the Parenting Stress Index (PSI: Abidin, 1995) and the Parenting Sense of Competence Scale (PSOC: Johnston & Mash, 1989). Finally, a 30-minute parent-child play interaction was video-taped and analyzed using the emotional availability scales (EAS: Biringen, 2000), including six measures of emotional availability: parental sensitivity, parental structuring, parental lack of intrusiveness and parental lack of hostility, child responsiveness and child involvement. Results and conclusions: Positive significant correlations emerged between the number of critical comments and parental stress (r = .45p < .01). Likewise, significant, negative correlations were found between the number of critical comments and parental efficacy as measured by the PSOC (r = -.31 p < .05). Two domains of parental emotional availability as measure by the EAS were significantly related to critical comments: structuring (r = -.33p < .05) and non-intrusiveness ($r = -.39 \ p < .05$). Child responsiveness was also found to be negatively related to critical comments ($r = -.46 \ p < .01$). No correlation was found between demographic characteristics and parental criticism. Our results suggest that parental criticism is an important measure in understanding mothers' perception of parenting and a way to reflect the quality of parent-child interaction. These findings complement previous results (Boger et al., 2008; Kubicek et al., 2013; McCarty et al., 2004) and indicate a possible use of FMSS as a measure to detect difficulties in parental functioning and in parent -child interaction. Further longitudinal research is required in order to determine the direction of the reported effect and investigate causality.

Keywords: parental criticism, expressed-emotion, emotional-availability, young children, parent-child interaction.

PREDICTORS OF LIFE SATISFACTION: THE ROLE OF PERSONALITY, ATTACHMENT, SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS, AND LONELINESS

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Abstract

When considered across the entire lifespan, life satisfaction is one of the outcome variables related to aging well. Satisfaction with life is related to positive mental health outcomes and people who are satisfied with their lives report lower levels of distress (Wang & Kong, 2014) and higher levels of happiness (Peterson, Park, & Seligman, 2005). The purpose of this research was to determine factors that predicted life satisfaction in university students ($M_{age} = 20.60$ years, SD = 4.71). Three hundred and eighty-six participants (281 females) completed a series of questionnaires to measure personality factors, attachment, coping styles, loneliness, social connectedness, and life satisfaction. In this sample, over 50% of the participants were satisfied with their lives (M=4.81 on a seven point scale). A hierarchical regression was conducted to predict life satisfaction. The overall model was statistically significant, F(18, 325) = 13.02, p < .001, and accounted for 41.9% of the variance. Age and gender were entered on the first step and were not statistically significant predictors. Big Five personality factors were entered on the second step and low Neuroticism as well as high Extraversion and Conscientiousness significantly predicted life satisfaction (R^2 Change = .26). The remaining variables were entered in the third step and high social connectedness as well as low family loneliness and low fearful attachment scores made significant contributions to the model (R^2 Change = .15). These results suggest that emotional stability, sociability, self-discipline, strong family ties, and feelings of social connectedness coupled with low levels of fearful attachment predict general satisfaction with life. Overall, these results suggest the quality of personal relationships (i.e., loneliness and connectedness) rather than general coping styles is predictive of well-being in adulthood. However, in spite of these results, it should be noted that there is a large proportion of variance unaccounted for and future researchers should focus on adding to the predictability of the model.

Keywords: life satisfaction, personality, attachment styles, loneliness, social connectedness.

PREVENTING DEPRESSION – INTRODUCTION TO THE DEPRESSION PREVENTION PROGRAMME IN MAŁOPOLSKA REGION

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Abstract

Depression is a mood disorder that severely disrupts individuals' lives, as well as causes various social challenges. The feeling of sadness, helplessness and lack of interest affect patients' functioning in all of its areas, being facilitated by the perception of social stigma. In Poland, depression rates measured by various studies reach 15% of population. Depression constitutes one of the main risk factors of suicide attempts. It is being estimated that by 2020 depression may become the second leading factor contributing to serious medical problems. Also, it is significant that people facing mood disorders often resign from seeking for professional help, not recognising the symptoms or being afraid of social reaction. Therefore, the need to create various prevention and promotion programs in the area of mental health has been highlighted. Such interventions may influence increase in social knowledge about mental health and its disturbances. They also aim at identification of people that are at risk of mental problems. The aim of this paper is to introduce Depression Prevention Programme conducted in Małopolska region in 2014. The programme was developed to prevent the progress of depressive symptoms by the series of preventive counsels. It was aimed at healthy people who observed decrease in various areas of their functioning. 600 persons took part in the programme. The primary results reveal that such type of preventing programmes may be an efficient way to increase people's quality of life and counteract 'depression epidemic'. Future directions for further development of mental health prevention and promotion programmes will be discussed.

Keywords: depression, prevention, mental health.

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY: THE COGNITIVE ORIENTATION APPROACH

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Abstract

The objective of the paper is to reintroduce into the scene of psychopathology the psychological perspective by describing the cognitive orientation approach to mental disorders. This cognitive-motivational approach emphasizes the role of meanings, beliefs and attitudes in promoting specific behaviors in the normal or abnormal range. A large body of empirical studies showed the predictive power in regard to behaviors of cognitive contents referring to themes identified as relevant for the particular behavior and presented in terms of four belief types (about self, about others and reality, about rules and norms, and about goals and wishes). The paper describes the application of the cognitive orientation approach to paranoia, schizophrenia and depression. The presented studies describe questionnaires based on the cognitive orientation theory that enabled to differentiate between patients with specific diagnoses and healthy controls. The themes that contributed most to the differentiation are presented. These included, for example, non-conformity, perfectionism, extreme distrust of others, and rejection of compromise. A general theoretical approach to psychopathology is outlined.

Keywords: psychopathology, beliefs, cognitive orientation, paranoia, schizophrenia, depression.

CONTEMPORARY MODES OF SUBJECTIVATION: THE ISSUE OF AESTHETICAL HORIZONS

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Abstract

This study addresses the new modes of subjectivation arising from the contemporary sociocultural organization as means of defense against the experience of boredom. Postmodern personalities are discussed, among which is avatar personality, as well as, spectral personality, and social personalities. These descriptions are the result of therapeutic observations in the psychoanalytic situation in dialogue with the contribution of other disciplines.

Keywords: postmodernity, subjectivation, psychopathology, psychoanalysis.

PROBLEMATIC INTERNET USE AND MARRIAGE: ANALYSIS OF LIFE SATISFACTION AND MARITAL ADJUSTMENT

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Abstract

The present study aimed to investigate if married individuals who relatively use Internet problematically would differ from married individuals who do not use Internet problematically on marital adjustment and

life satisfaction variables. This research was a cross-sectional survey study from a convenience sample composed of 153 female and 157 male adult married participants who live, in Turkey. Three-hundred and ten participants in total were married for at least three years. The Satisfaction With Life Scale (SWLS), Marital Life Scale (MLS), Marital Problem Solving Scale (MPSS), and Internet Addiction Test (IAT) were used as standardized assessment instruments to examine the relations of problematic Internet use of the married participants with their life satisfaction and marital adjustment self-reports. Results revealed that the IAT scores of the male participants as compared to female participants, employed participants as compared to unemployed participants, and younger participants as compared to elder participants were higher. The participants were also grouped and compared depending on their IAT scores as problematic and non-problematic Internet users. The participants of the former group reported lower life and marital satisfaction in addition to lower marital problem solving skills as compared to the participants of the latter group as expected in the beginning of the study. The findings of this study are especially important to indicate a connection of Internet-use related problems with marital adjustment, life satisfaction, and some demographical variables of the married individuals. Speculating about practical benefits of increased marital adjustment and life satisfaction related to more controlled Internet-use; or low marital adjustment and life satisfaction together with male gender, employed status, and younger age as the possible risk factors of higher Internet-related problems among married individuals is equally plausible due to the methodological limitations of the present study. Thus, future research is required both to support the existence and to understand the possible mechanisms of the suggested associations by the findings of the present study.

Keywords: problematic internet use, marital adjustment, life satisfaction.

ADDICTION RECOVERY THAT WORKS: CLINICALLY PROVEN WHOLE HEALTH TREATMENT FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSERS AND OTHER ADDICTS

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Abstract

There are few disorders that have a lower recovery rate than addiction. 12-step programs, once the only real treatment option available, have extremely poor recovery rates, on the order of 5-10% at the end of one year. At the same time, mortality rates from complications from addiction and accidental overdose are skyrocketing, particularly in the United Sates. Accidental overdose is now a leading cause of death in the US. In other countries, the drug(s) of choice might be different, but the hope for recovery is equally grim. However, today addicts have hope. By applying the latest research in psychology, neuroscience, medicine, and complementary/whole health practices to addiction recovery, an addiction treatment protocol has been developed that is revolutionizing how addiction is treated. This presentation will show how a variety of treatment practices, when used together on a highly individualized basis, work synergistically to drastically improve treatment outcomes, at least 7-fold better than the best outcomes with 12-step programs. This process in essence rewires the brain, allowing addicts to lead productive, normal lives completely free from drugs and alcohol. Scientific advances in a range of fields including applied psychology, meditation and mindfulness, and neuroscience, among others, have collectively been used to create some of the greatest breakthroughs in addiction treatment since the advent of 12-step programs. These new understandings of how the addict's brain and psyche work have revolutionized our knowledge of addiction recovery, making change possible. We have discovered that addiction isn't the genetic "disease" we once imagined, but is rather a brain disorder, a neuroplastic event in which both the structure and function of the brain are co-opted and changed by addictive behavior. Knowing this, we are able to manipulate the brain in order to create new neural pathways that establish healthy behaviors and the opportunity for lasting recovery. Even the most hopeless individuals can show improvement using this model. This presentation will leave behind the stale discourse on addiction treatment using the disease model and will focus instead on a client-centered, forward-focused addiction recovery model. The conversation will be most appropriate for those who wish to know more about current advances in addiction treatment, applied psychology, and applied neuroscience. It will also appeal to those interested in whole-health treatments for addicts and their families.

Keywords: addiction recovery, alcoholism, substance abuse, holistic addiction treatment, psychological therapies for addiction.

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING AND POSTTRAUMATIC GROWTH INDICATORS IN IDP AND NON-IDP CITIZENS OF GEORGIA

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Abstract

Presented research deals with revealing of psychological well-being and posttraumatic growth indicators in research samples. It uses Ryff's six factors model for the concept of psychological well-being and transformational model by Tedeschi and Calhoun for the concept of posttraumatic growth. In August, 2008, Georgian citizens experienced short but intense armed conflict with Russian troops that challenged their national as well as personal identity, regardless were they either directly or indirectly introduced to War Theater. Preliminary observations, multiple case studies and day-by-day experience of working with affected people (IDPs mainly) made obvious the ongoing changes in the perception of one's psychological well-being as well as the experiences of posttraumatic growth (due to thematic constrains, not mentioning here other changes such as shifts in attitudes and values). The main research question is: How do Georgians (Internally Displaced People - IDP and non-IDP citizens) perceive their psychological well-being and experience the posttraumatic growth after armed conflict, 2008? Research was planned as two-step process: preparatory procedures - cross-cultural adaptation and validation of the instruments (850 participant altogether), and main research — 589 participants (250 IDPs and 339 non-IDPs) were sampled based on simple probability sampling procedure; age 25-50, equally distributed by gender. Stressful Life Event Checklist, The Posttraumatic Growth Inventory, and Ryff's Scales of Psychological well-being, with the block of demographics were administered. Preliminary data show that there is no statistically significant difference between IDPs and non-IDPs regarding psychological well-being and posttraumatic growth totals, however, there are significant within group differences: non-IDPs with low social-economic status and IDPS with poor conditions score report significantly less psychological wellbeing than other subgroups. Finally, the level of psychological well-being can be reliably predicted by socio-economic status and self-perceived health condition.

Keywords: psychological well-being, posttraumatic growth, IDPs.

MATERNAL NEGATIVE AFFECT AND INFANT SLEEP: INVESTIGATING BIDIRECTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS USING STRUCTURAL EQUATION MODELLING

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Abstract

It is well documented that problematic sleep patterns in children are related to maternal negative affect, including stress, depression and anxiety. Surprisingly, it remains unclear whether infant sleep patterns predict maternal negative affect, or vice versa. Case control studies show higher depressive and stress symptoms in mothers of children with poor sleeping patterns. There is also evidence that maternal mental health may predict sleep disturbances in infants. Specifically, studies have shown a strong association between maternal depression and child sleep problems, especially during pregnancy when mothers are often more prone to exhaustion from the pregnancy. The aim of the current paper was to examine the predictive relationship between infant sleep patterns and maternal negative affect over time, in particular, whether the relationship is bidirectional. Four hundred and forty eight mothers and their children from New South Wales, Australia, were interviewed during pregnancy, at infant age eight weeks and infant age 12 months. Maternal negative affect was measured using the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale and the Depression Anxiety Stress Scales. Questions about infant sleep were adapted from the Brief Infant Sleep Questionnaire (BISQ) as well as maternal ratings of infant sleep. Structural equation modeling found significant bidirectional relationships. Specifically, maternal negative affect during pregnancy predicted poorer infant sleep at birth to eight weeks and two to six months. Likewise, poor infant sleep at birth to eight weeks predicted maternal negative affect at eight weeks. The results suggest that the first eight weeks of life is when bidirectional relationships are most salient. Thus, education about infant sleep patterns in the early postnatal period is important, along with early intervention for maternal mood problems and infant sleep difficulties.

Keywords: anxiety, depression, stress, infant sleep.

MCMI-III IDENTIFIED "PATHOLOGICALLY DISABLING" PROFILES ON MMPI-2 WITH "SEVERE PERSONALITY DISORDERS" IN CHRONIC PAIN PATIENTS

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Abstract

Introduction: This archival study looked into the use of the Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory (MCMI-III) utility with Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI-2) for further differential diagnostic assessment of non-cancer patients suffering from chronic pain syndrome (CPS). In the recent years, the MMPI-2 use in diagnostic assessment of patients with CPS has differentiated three distinct patterns: "Conversion V", "Neurotic triad" and "pathologically disabling" profiles (Gatchel, 1997; Turk et al., 2002, Gatchel et al., 2006). The "disabling" MMPI-2 profile has 4 or more of MMPI-2 clinical scales elevated with TS>65. This pattern has been recognized to be closely related to personality disorders, especially, borderline (Gatchel et al., 2006). The MCMI-III whose main reputation is the ability to differentiate the clinical syndromes from the personality disorders, has not been used in assessment of patient's with CPS, except by Manchikanti in 2002 who reportedly did not find significant differences between Pain and non-pain patient's on the MCMI-III profiles. Manchikanti and colleagues argued for no diagnostic utility for the use of MCMI-III with pain patients. Present study however, hypothesized stronger incremental validity for complimentary use of the MCMI-III with MMPI-2. Design and Objectives: The MCMI-III and MMPI-2 were administered to every referral that had multiple scales significantly elevated on Millon Behavioral Medicine Diagnostic (MBMD) and Pain Patient Profile (P-3) which were used as a part of the initial screening battery. The main goal of adding the MCMI-III to the assessment battery was to further differentiate the "pathologically disabling" MMPI-2 profiles from the others. Method: The original sample was cleaned up for this study by excluding the protocols of the Ss. who had only taken the P-3 and MBMD. The invalid MCMI-III and /or MMPI-2 profiles were also excluded. MCMI-III profiles then, were divided into three groups of "Low, Moderate, and Elevated", based upon the patient's Base Rate scores on the severe personality disorders scales. Findings: While the present archival study (N=275) with 108 males and 167 females, 57% Caucasian, 23% Hispanic, 9% African American, 3% Asian American and 7% others, affirmed the earlier research findings on the MMPI-2, it also showed the MCMI's ability to differentiate those patterns into more specific personality disorder groups. The MMPI-2 Basic Scales of "2, 6, 7, 8, &0" and the Restructured Clinical scale of RC1, showed relatively the highest correlations with three severe personality disorders of Schizotypal (S), Borderline (C) and Paranoid (P) types on MCMI-III (***p<.001). Other significant findings and implications for treatment planning, functional restoration, disability factors, and med/ legal recommendations are discussed below. The shortcomings, critiques and recommendations for future research are also reviewed in the limitations and future directions section.

Keywords: assessment, chronic pain, personality disorders.

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF THIRD AND FOURTH YEAR COLLEGE STUDENTS OF WORLD CITI COLLEGES WITH ABSENTEE PARENTS

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Abstract

The study focused on the assessment of the absentee parents aspects affecting the academic performance of the third and fourth year students at the World Citi Colleges Quezon City campus. It aims to determine which among the absentee parents' aspects would give a great effect on the academic performance of the students. The main sources of data came primarily from the response of 76 students with absentee parents who are in the third and fourth year levels. The researchers utilized the descriptive survey method wherein the data needed for the study were gathered by administering the survey questionnaires to the students in three consecutive days and retrieving back the survey questionnaire forms same day of the administration. Sample was taken purposively. Assessment and determination of the absentee parents' aspects affecting the academic performance of the students include the following independent variables: Emotional, Financial, Physiological and Social. The study reveals that on the Emotional Aspects, the students considered to be of priority the communication with parents that enables the students to obtain motivation and guidance for better class performance. On the Financial aspect, The students appreciate the timely arrival of their allowance from their parents as this makes the difference between attending their classes regularly and being absent. On the Physiological aspect, the students considered the item on appropriate living conditions at home that enable them to finish their homework and to study their lesson. Utilizing online social networks give them immediate feedback when communicating with friends regarding class activities was considered to be of priority by the students in terms of social aspect. Based on the findings, the researchers drew the following conclusion: that there exists significant difference on the aspects pertaining to absentee parents affecting the academic performance of the students. The Physiological and Social aspects have the highest negative correlation to academic performance followed by Emotional aspect. The financial aspect has no significant effect on the students' academic performance.

Keywords: emotional aspect, financial aspect, physiological aspect, social aspect, academic performance.

DEVELOPING CREATIVE AND MEANING POTENTIAL IN EFL WRITING THROUGH PROBLEM-BASED INSTRUCTION

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Abstract

This paper puts forward a problem-based approach to developing creative and meaning potential in EFL (English as a Foreign Language) writing against error correction and other means of creative disempowerment. The reported study was based on a sample of 72 students' compositions from two co-educational secondary schools in Hong Kong. The students (12–13 years of age) were instructed to write a happier ending for a Christmas story about 'imperfect gifts', with comprehensible input from their reading lessons. To prepare the students for resolving the problem arising out of the initial situations in the story, the author (as teacher-educator providing school-based support for practicing teachers) engaged the two classes in an information-gap activity which required them to complete a couple's diaries by reading out the complementary texts (either the husband's or the wife's diary) in pairs. The students were then guided to brainstorm possible solutions to the problem through content and structural scaffolding before writing their own sequels in dairy form. The content analysis shows that the EFL learners were able to deploy their cognitive and creative resources in problem-solving processes, despite their inadequacy in grammatical competence. The paper concludes that problem-based instruction possesses

the potential to enhance EFL learners' intrinsic motivation to write and to cultivate creativity, as problems can unleash curiosity, inquiry and thinking in useful ways.

Keywords: learner motivation, creativity, meaning, problem-based instruction, EFL writing.

SCHOOL BULLYING FROM THE RUSSIAN TEACHERS' POINT OF VIEW

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Abstract

While there is a large amount of bullying studies in other countries, the topic of school bullying is very underinvestigated in Russia. Although about 33% of students participate in bullying situations (Enikolopov, 2010), the phenomenon of bullying is often perceived as implicit and normative among adults and children without any explicit activities in developing studies and prevention programs. Based on the assumptions of D. Olweus, C. Salmivalli, E. Roland, R. M. Kowalski, S. P. Limber about bullying, we developed an inventory addressed to the school staff to make attitudes toward bullying clear among teachers before developing programs of bullying prevention and intervention. The asked questions were about respondents' understanding of bullying situation, its indicators, reasons, and impacts; also they were asked about the role, capabilities, and personal successful and unsuccessful experience of responding on bullying situations of the teachers themselves. 104 school staff members and 19 students in educational psychology answered the questions. Content-analysis was used to find out the main patterns and attitudes toward bullying. Respondents have enough knowledge about different forms of bullying; they describe reasons and impacts of bullying in detail; but there is a large discrepancy between respondents' knowledge and real experience on bullying. A large amount of named possible types of response goes together with a small amount of checked types. School staff's position towards bullying may be described as active observation (knowledge without action). The results are of high importance for school prevention programs development.

Keywords: school bullying, bullying situations, teachers, class management, response on bullying.

CSCL IN NON-TECHNOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENTS: EVALUATION OF A WIKI SYSTEM WITH INTEGRATED SELF- AND PEER ASSESSMENT

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Abstract

Computer-supported collaborative learning (CSCL) is already a central element of online learning environments, but is also gaining increasing importance in traditional classroom settings where course work is carried out in groups. For these situations social interaction, sharing and construction of knowledge among the group members are important elements of the learning process. The use of computers and the internet facilitates such group work by allowing asynchronous as well as synchronous contributions to a common learning object independent of student's working time and location. One way to foster CSCL is the employment of Wiki systems, e.g. for collaboratively working on a writing assignment. We developed an enhanced Wiki system with self- and peer assessment, visualizations, and functionalities for continuous teacher feedback. First evaluations of this 'co-writing Wiki' with computer science students showed its usefulness for collaborative course work. However, results from studies with tech-savvy participants, who are typically familiar with the benefits as well as drawbacks of such tools, are often limited regarding the generalizability to other populations. Thus, we introduced the Wiki in a non-technological environment and evaluated it with respect to usability, usefulness, and motivational components. Thirty psychology students used the co-writing Wiki to work collaboratively on a short

paper. Besides providing an interface for generating and changing a document, the co-writing Wiki offers tools for formative assessment activities (integrated self-, peer-, and group assessment activities) as well as monitoring the progress of the group's collaboration. The evaluation of the tool is based on log-data (activity tracking) as well as questionnaire data gathered at before and after working with the Wiki. Additionally, the instructor evaluated the co-writing Wiki concerning its usefulness for CSCL activities in academic settings. Despite technical problems and consequently low system usability scores, participants perceived the offered functionalities as helpful to keep a good overview on the current status of their paper and the contributions of their group members. The integrated self-assessment tool helped them to get aware of their strengths and weaknesses. In addition, students showed a high intrinsic motivation while working with the co-writing Wiki allowed to effectively monitor the progress of the groups and enabled formative feedback by the instructor. Summarizing, the results indicate that using Wikis for CSCL is a promising way to also support students with no technological background.

Keywords: computer-supported collaborative learning, self-, peer and group assessment, wiki systems.

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

COLLABORATIVE DECISION MAKING (CDM) ON COMPLEX, MAJOR PROJECTS: SOME FACILITATION TECHNIQUES

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Abstract

Major infrastructure projects can be enormously complex and very expensive. Tapping into the differing intellectual and experiential insights of engineers in a collaborative decision making forum and driving the decision making on a fast tracked consensus basis can be a real challenge to those vested in facilitating such a process. Shrinking violets don't survive! There are established methodologies for assisting in this respect and there are various techniques for supporting these collaborative decision making methodologies. Many of these methodologies are misrepresented, misinterpreted, or simply not understood. Psychologists with their skill base can help.

Keywords: collaborative decision making, structured methodologies.

THE ROLE OF LEADERSHIP IDEOLOGY IN BRINGING ABOUT SOCIOECONOMIC INEQUALITY: THE CASE OF ISRAELI KIBBUTZ COMMUNITIES

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Abstract

Wilkinson and colleagues showed that for affluent societies and communities, socioeconomic inequality brings their members adverse outcomes: Socioeconomic Inequality >> lowered levels of social capital >> lowered levels of health, wellbeing, and higher levels of morbidity and mortality. Why do some affluent societies adopt socioeconomic inequality and some do not? I suggest governmental/leadership ideology as the major factor. I test this proposal with data from Israeli kibbutz communities. Kibbutzim are affluent communities. Almost all kibbutzim were until the early 1990s' with a very strong emphasis on equality called qualitative equality, meaning "to each according to one's needs; from each according to one's abilities." But now most kibbutzim are transformed. A major transformation was adopted in the remuneration system (and thus enacting economic inequality): a structure of differential salary arrangement that is according to position rather than equal remuneration according to need as it was before. Transformed kibbutzim are called "differential" and the ones which stay communal --"traditional". There remains the question: What and who were responsible for the transformation of kibbutz communal communities to become "differential"? This study tests whether responsibility for the transformation lies with their leadership and their ideologies. This study is a secondary analysis of data from research of members (about 800) from 32 kibbutzim, both "traditional" and "differential". The two groups of kibbutzim were about similar in their level of economic prosperity prior to the transformation by the "differentials". We used a questionnaire to gage attitudes towards equality and solidarity and towards the structural change that kibbutzim adopted. The original study supported the model suggest by Wilkinson and colleagues but left open the question: how did community leadership contributed to the structural transformation. Finding: In "differential" kibbutzim, local leaders supported the differential salaries more than other members; while in "traditional" kibbutzim leadership supported traditional principles more than other members. In "differential" kibbutzim opposing "qualitative equality" was stronger the higher the managerial level of respondents. So was also the case with other ideological principles of the traditional kibbutz. In "traditional" kibbutzim the differences between leaders and other members were in the opposite direction. Leadership in "traditional" kibbutzim was more supportive of traditional kibbutz ideology. I conclude that leadership and its ideology have a major role in determining degree of socioeconomic inequality in their societies. I discuss lessons for the theory of inequality in society and lessons for kibbutz society.

Keywords: socioeconomic inequality; leadership role; Israeli kibbutz; kibbutz transformation.

PRISMA-RA: A SET OF TOOLS FOR WORK RELATED STRESS RISK ASSESSMENT

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Abstract

The most accurate approach to the assessment of work-related stress consists in the integration among objective measures of working conditions and information coming from workers. The normative background in Italy for work health and safety (Legislative Decree 81/2008, Ministry of Labour) requires public and private employers to assess, inter alia, work-related stress of their workers according to the content of the European Framework Agreement on Work-Related Stress (2004). It is therefore needed an integrated approach, appropriately combining subjective and objective measures. One of the most widely used European models for work-related stress evaluation is the HSE approach (2007), based on the idea of standards for managing work-related stress in terms of organizational states and emphasizing the involvement and the perception of workers. This research presents the application of a self-report questionnaire, which is part of PRISMA-RA (PRISMA tools for work related stress Risk Assessment), a set of tools able to evaluate work related stress risk using both objective and subjective viewpoints. PRISMA-RA allows to analyse convergence of variables measured both subjectively and objectively so as to obtain a stronger reliability with respect to the investigated phenomena. The questionnaire presented in this paper is one of the subjective tools of PRISMA-RA. We discuss its psychometric characteristics (internal consistency, by means of Cronbach's alpha, and stability, by means of the test-retest Pearson correlation) measured on a sample of workers in the public and private sector (N = 943). The results analysis confirms the psychometric reliability of the instrument.

Keywords: assessments tools, psychometric properties, work-related stress risk, objective and subjective measurements.

EXPERIENCING AUTHENTICITY AT WORK: THE MODERATING EFFECT OF PERSONALITY ON THE RELATION BETWEEN ORGANIZATIONAL CLIMATE AND WORKPLACE AUTHENTICITY

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Abstract

Authenticity, being true to oneself and acting in congruence with one's values and beliefs, is a basic human strength, and is instrumental to understanding well-being. While dispositional authenticity was found to be associated with positive affect and subjective well-being, others have demonstrated that individuals assumed different levels of authenticity when they took up different social roles, suggesting that state authenticity can be an alternative mechanism. This study examined the underlying mechanisms behind expressing and experiencing authenticity at work, so as to identify antecedents that could enhance employee well-being and job satisfaction. We hypothesize that state authenticity at work will be predicted by psychological safety climate (organizational climate where employees feel safe to speak up without being embarrassed or rejected). Yet, the relation will be moderated by one's personality, e.g., the effect of psychological safety climate on authenticity at work will be stronger for those who are high on personal dispositions (such as responsibility and veraciousness), and weaker for those who are high on interpersonal dispositions (such as face, harmony, and defensiveness). Employees are expected to experience higher subjective well-being and job satisfaction as a result of being authentic at work. Survey results provided support to the hypotheses. Psychological safety climate enhanced employees' authenticity state at work, which in turn improved well-being and job satisfaction. In addition, the moderation effect of personality on the relation between psychological safety climate and workplace authenticity was partially supported. In conclusion, we found that employees become more authentic at work in an organizational climate where they feel safe to express themselves, leading to a higher job satisfaction and well-being. The current study contributes to the understanding of underlying mechanisms behind experiencing authenticity at work among employees in Hong Kong. Our findings are expected to provide insights and to raise organizations' awareness of creating an open and trustful culture in order to enhance job satisfaction of employees through encouraging them to "be themselves".

Keywords: authenticity, authenticity at work, job satisfaction, personality, psychological safety climate.

DOES SUPERVISORY SUPPORT EASE PAINS OF EMOTIONAL LABOR? – MODERATING ROLE OF PERCEIVED SUPERVISOR'S EMOTIONAL LABOR

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Abstract

The effects of supervisory and organizational factors on buffering the negative impact of surface acting on employees have been gaining considerable attention in organizational research. Given that supervisors build most frequent and significant contacts with employees inside the organization and that employees in the service industry are particularly sensitive to emotional expressions, this ongoing study investigates the links between employees' surface acting and job satisfaction, burnout as well as whether these relations will be moderated by two supervisor characteristics: perceived supervisory support and perceived supervisory emotional display. With a targeted sample size of 250, we have been recruiting employees from a wide variety of customer service professions to complete a survey which is designed to measure the aforementioned variables. Our major hypotheses are that employees' surface acting predicts job satisfaction and burnout level, and that perceived supervisor support interacts with perceived supervisory emotional labor to moderate the surface acting-outcome links. Preliminary findings have provided some support to the hypothesized model. Specifically, supervisors who are perceived to be high in surface acting are also regarded as fake and pseudo, hence the moderating effect of their support on the detrimental impact of employees' surface acting is attenuated, resulting in lower job satisfaction and higher burnout; whereas perceived high supervisor's deep acting, as associated with genuine and authenticity, enhances the moderating effect of supervisory support, leading to higher job satisfaction and lower burnout. This study extends the existing findings by examining effects of perceived supervisory emotional labor for service industry employees to cope with surface acting. Our findings also provide insight to organizations about the importance of developing leaders' emotional regulation skills to better support their subordinates.

Keywords: emotional labor, supervisory support, burnout, job satisfaction.

DESCRIPTION OF MENTAL REPRESENTATIONS OF ATTACHMENT AMONG TEACHERS WITH AND WITHOUT VICTIMIZATION EXPERIENCES

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Abstract

The focus of this study was on the description of mental representations of attachment among teachers with and without workplace victimizations experiences, taking into consideration the measurement of self-reported frequency of victimization in school context. Frequent and rare workplace victimization was reported by 21% (n=52) and 52% (n=128) of teachers, respectively; and nonvictimization by 27% (n=66) of teachers (M=43.2; SD=8.4). Research question was evoked: What are the descriptive characteristics of mental representations of attachment measured by the Adult Attachment Projective (AAP) among teachers with and without workplace victimization experiences. To evaluate the internal representations of attachment, the AAP (George & West, 2012) was used in the modified way - subjects were asked to write a story about what is happening in the alone and dyadic pictures. A quantitative content analysis was conducted to analyze responses to the set of four stimuli drawings and to investigate differences between three study groups' teachers' descriptions. Statistically significant differences were found in the mental representation and defensive processes categories of victimized and non-victimized groups: (1) teachers with rare and frequent workplace victimization experiences showed more characteristics of insecure attachment (insecure base, asynchrony in relationships or no relationships, distress about

authoritarian power, incapacity to act, and overwhelming by unprotected experiences); (2) teachers without workplace victimization experiences revealed more characteristics of secure attachment (secure base, safe haven, maintenance and need of physical proximity, connectedness and synchrony of mutual relationships); and (3) the pattern of defensive processes in relation to frightening and threatened attachment events was predominant for teachers with frequent workplace victimization experiences. The results of this pilot study suggested that insecure attachment may play a role in the teacher-targeted workplace victimization behavior.

Keywords: adult attachment projective, attachment, teachers, workplace victimization.

PROACTIVE COPING AND ADAPTATION TO A NEW WORKPLACE

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Abstract

The main goal of the study was to investigate the role of proactive coping in adaptation to a new workplace. The study was conducted among individuals who are especially vulnerable for negative effects during adaptation process, namely organizational newcomers. The sample consisted of the new workers (n=56) who voluntary agreed to participate in the study. The relationship between personal traits, social factors, and proactive coping in a new workplace, has been examined in relation to adaptation outcomes (work orientation and job satisfaction). The regression analysis showed significant relation between proactive coping and adaptation factors (job satisfaction and work orientation). In follow, mediation analysis indicated this kind of coping as mediating the relation between both, task efficacy and emotional costs, and job satisfaction. The social support was assumed in the study as an important environmental factor during adaptation process. The results demonstrated direct and moderation effect of received social support on proactive coping and its relation with work orientation.

Keywords: proactive coping, work adaptation, organizational newcomers.

DYNAMIC CAREER ATTITUDES AMONG MASTER STUDENTS: SOCIAL DISPARITIES IN EMPLOYMENT CAPABILITIES

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Abstract

Background: The preparation of students' future career trajectories is a dynamic process in relation with social and educational determinants, but their interactions must be further investigated. Our objective is to analyze the associations between generic employment capabilities, career attitudes and other related factors among postgraduate students. Method: All master's students recorded in the Centre for Documentation and Information on Higher Education from Luxembourg database were contacted by letter to participate in an online questionnaire. The online questionnaire (French and English) with five scales was scored: 1) Dynamic Career Attitudes (DCA-13 items); 2) Employability Soft-Skills (ESS-14); 3) Search for Work Self-Efficacy (SWSES - 12 items); 4) Quality of Life domain Autonomy (QLA- 4 items); and 5) Socio-demographical characteristics. The data were analyzed using bivariate tests, correlations and multiple linear regression models. Results: Of the 481 volunteers (26.4 years; SD=5.5) a majority were women, Luxembourgish, unemployed, and had less than or equal to six months of job experiences. Higher the ESS, SWSES and QLA scores, higher was the DCA score. Nationality, being unemployed, having less than six months of job experiences and being in the first year of master were associated with lower Dynamic Career Attitudes score. Conclusion: Covering the whole period of the master's degree, internship activities and proactive workshops may be developed to improve generic employment capabilities and quality of autonomy. The Dynamic Career Attitudes scale appears an appropriate instrument to evaluate the efficacy of the university career services programme.

Keywords: career attitudes, postgraduates, employability soft-skills, job search.

INFLUENCE OF THE PERSONAL POTENTIAL ON ADAPTATION OF YOUNG LAWYERS STARTING THEIR PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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Abstract

The article analyzes the results of the empirical research of the social-psychological adaptation of the Interior Ministry young employees who had resigned after the first year in the office. The Analysis of the reasons for resignation allowed that the most important ones are psychological and the least important social an organizational. We provide data on personal peculiarities of personal adaptation, motivation of professional activities, mechanisms of adaptation.

Keywords: young specialists, personal potential, adaptation, mechanisms of adaptation.

DANCE MOVEMENT THERAPY AND STRESS IN ADOLESCENTS

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Abstract

Dance and movements is a part of creative arts therapy that has been known for its holistic healing and it assists individuals with emotional disturbances and reduces their negative thinking and changes it to a more optimistic thought process. The main idea of this paper is to prove this aspect and help the stressed individuals to calm their thought processes and boost them to a new level of only positive ideas. The objective of this paper is to observe the decrease in stress levels and increase in positive emotions among adolescents. There were two hypotheses in the research. Firstly, it was predicted that Dance movement therapy increases positive emotions in adolescents. The second hypothesis states that Adolescents who are satisfied by dance movement therapy have less stress. Moreover, the methodology of this study was convenient sampling of students who attended Montessori school in India. They were all within the age group of 12 - 14 years. There were 37 participants, 18 of them being males and 19 of them being females (M=13, SD=0.7). The participants were provided with a questionnaire that consisted of two sections - The Section A of the questionnaire was based on dance movement therapy and consisted of 10 questions, and section B was based on Perceived Stress Scale (PSS) that assess the level of stress using a Likert scale and includes open ended questions to explore the experience and perception of dance movement therapy. The higher the score the more stress the individual has. The overall results obtained through the questionnaire were for Hypothesis 1: The more dance movement therapy provided to the individual leads to more positive insights and helps in managing negative emotions and overcoming them and for Hypothesis 2: The minimum score achieved is 1 and the maximum score achieved is 34 (M = 18.5, SD= 7.9) and also there is a Negative correlation between subjective advantage of dance movement therapy and total scores of stress scale was obtained which was $r_s = -.371$, p = 0.05. The result supports both the hypotheses predicted. Therefore, Dance movement therapy is a positive method of creative therapies to motivate and help changes in adolescents to become more positive and less stressed. Naturally, interventions on a body level, as in DMT, touch all levels: the body, the spirit/mind, and the soul. Thus it changes emotions and makes the individual more positive and happy.

Keywords: dance movement therapy, positive emotions, stress, adolescents, movement analysis.

SOCIAL FEATURES OF DYNAMICS OF MORAL ORIENTATION DEVELOPMENT IN ADOLESCENCE AND YOUTH

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Abstract

Adolescence is the period of self-determination and identity development. Many important development tasks are to be solved by growing teenagers. One of important spheres of personal development during adolescence is moral development. Modern investigations of moral development allow to define two principles that lies in the bases of moral orientation – justice principle and care principle. Justice principle is based on cognitive aspects of moral consciousness - moral thinking and moral judgments. Care orientation theory concentrates on empathy as the main principle of moral action with emotional orientation on needs, ideas and desires of others. Many social factors influence on psychological development in adolescence. Social interaction and communication plays an important role at that age. Peers are regarded as the most important social group in adolescence, parents and other adults seems to be less important and distant. Different communicational contexts arouse different decision-making and behavioral models. The role of approval motivation and achievement motivation also seems important for social interaction of adolescents. Development of moral orientation is integrated in social communication. The goal of our research is to investigate the dynamics of moral orientation development during adolescence and youth. We compared peculiarities of moral orientation development in adolescence with youth data to define the direction of further development. Social communication in two contexts (adolescent-peer, adolescent-adult), social orientation on approval and achievement in connection with moral development were examined. The empirical investigation was done. The data consists of 240 subjects from 3 age groups - junior adolescence, senior adolescence and youth. The age varies from 13 till 21. We used several questionnaires: original questionnaire "Care-Justice" to measure moral judgments, moral dilemmas with different communicational contexts (adolescent-peer, adolescent-adult) to estimate verbal moral behavior in different spheres, questionnaire of achievement motivation and questionnaire of approval motivation. The results analysis showed interesting results. The dynamic of moral orientation development from junior adolescence to senior adolescence and then youth was found. The results showed the influence of communicational context on moral choices: in interaction with peers adolescents are orientated on care principle but in interaction with adults they use justice principle. Achievement motivation is connected with moral orientation on care principle. Gender differences in moral orientation were found: girls are more focused on care than boys.

Keywords: moral development, moral orientation, adolescence.

ATTITUDES TOWARD CORRUPTION: TWO COMPARATIVE STUDIES

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Abstract

In continuation of research on the attitude to corruption in various social groups two new studies have been performed. They are based on a comparative approach. The first study was conducted with the participation of Russian political and business elite. The second was a cross-cultural and carried out in Russia and Italy. *Study 1*. The purpose of the pilot study was to compare the attitude towards corruption of entrepreneurs and politicians, in accordance with their style (type) of managerial decisions. Method: questionnaire "Attitudes towards Corruption" and "Management Style". Respondents in both groups expressed doubts about the effectiveness of anti-corruption programs in Russia. Turned out that more politicians (rather than business), which are tolerant of corrupt behavior, they do not believe in the possibility of the state and society to reduce corruption. Correlation analysis showed that subjects with the style of "authoritativeness" (imperiousness) believe that the political situation is forcing officials to take bribes. The subjects with style "constructive solutions", on the contrary, perceive bribery as a crime and believe in the possibility of reducing the level of corruption. *Study 2*. The aim of the study was to compare the belief in the effectiveness of measures to reduce the level of corruption and the relationship to the state the citizens of Russia and Italy. Methods: questionnaire of attitudes towards corruption; ranking associations with the concept of "State"; semantic differential. The results showed that the

Italians do not consider the fight against corruption meaningless, whereas in the majority of subjects of the Russian group shared this opinion. The Russians believe that the government is not interested in fighting corruption. Italians also evaluated the overall effectiveness of sanctions in the fight against corruption (fines, censure in the media and on the Internet) is significantly lower than the Russians. The subjects of both countries are convinced of the need for civil anti-corruption education. Analysis of factors confirmed the cross-cultural differences in attitudes towards corruption. In particular, the high level of corruption in law enforcement prevents belief in the effectiveness of measures to combat corruption in Russia. The results of correlation analysis of the data showed that in both groups there is a close relationship between the characteristics of the image of the state, on the one hand, and the belief in the effectiveness of the fight against corruption, on the other hand.

Keywords: attitudes towards corruption, image of the state, beliefs of the elites, cross-cultural differences.

ANALYSIS OF THE MOTIVATION AND WORK CLIMATE OF UNIVERSITY TEACHING STAFF

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Abstract

The scientific, social, economic and technological progress taking place in present-day advanced societies needs to be closely linked to the work of the university and to effectiveness, productivity and efficiency. Moreover, teaching staff play a predominant role and are the best point of reference for any changes to be introduced in teaching, in the way to manage classes, in the use of tools, changes in methodology or teaching strategies, and also in the ways students learn, etc. The teacher ceases to be a figure who only transmits knowledge and becomes a guide or facilitator of learning. The teacher, therefore, takes on a different commitment with the ways of learning, of approaching students, guiding tutorials, assessing student learning, etc. For these reasons staff motivation is one of the basic concerns. It would be expected that a demotivated staff with few incentives and a low opinion of their worth as teachers would be less committed to their teaching, research and management work, and as a result would achieve less success in their work with students. To put it another way, they would perform worse in all they do. But could it be that their vocation as teachers and the professionalism of university staff are sufficient motivating factors in themselves? It is for these reasons that we have wished to analyse the situation of teaching staff in universities in Madrid. In university organisations the teaching staff is one of the key elements that leads to work being done more or less effectively. Human Resources are beginning to consider the staff as the major asset in Organisations. The issues that can favour or prejudice the levels of motivation are multiple. Therefore, in this study, we have attempted to show what issues have the greatest impact. This research aims to study the level of motivation of teaching staff in the Universities in Madrid and analyse the different factors that affect performance at work in the roles of teacher, researcher and manager. It also aims to discover whether or not motivation influences a teacher's everyday work and which variables affect the university work "climate" and other issues involved. For this study, 7696 questionnaires were sent to teachers at the 13 Universities in the Madrid Region. A total of 886 opinions from 11 Universities were returned. The results are presented in the work.

Keywords: motivation, work climate, university.

DOMESTIC CRIMES OF VIOLENCE: PSYCHOLOGICAL-CRIMINALISTIC ANALYSIS

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Abstract

The work presents the analysis of motives of domestic crimes of violence. The article is based on the personal study of criminal cases files and also on the survey of law enforcement officers. We provide authors' classification of motives of the given crimes caused by such social-psychological factors as destructive family relationships and personal desadaptation.

Keywords: motives, motivational processes, domestic crimes of violence.

THE EVIDENCE-BASED OUTCOME EFFECTIVENESS OF PEER COUNSELLING AND COGNITIVE-BEHAVIORAL THERAPY GROUP INTERVENTION FOR AGGRESSIVE SCHOOL CHILDREN

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Abstract

The study aimed at filling up the research gap for reducing schoolchildren with reactive and proactive aggression through peer counselling and Cognitive-behavioral Therapy group intervention with a six-month longitudinal study. A total of 2,177 local students of Grade 7th to 9th from four middle and high schools in Hong Kong completed a screening questionnaire. All Grade 7th to 9th from four middle and high schools were invited to complete the screening questionnaire which consisted of the Reactive and Proactive Aggression Questionnaire (RPQ; Raine et al., 2006), the Multidimensional Peer Victimization Scale (MPVS; Mynard & Joseph, 2000), the Antisocial Process Screening Device-Youth Version (APSD; Frick and Hare 2001), and some demographic questions. Parents' consent for the student's participation was obtained. Both students and parents were told that data collected would be used for understanding adolescents in Hong Kong. Students would be selected as targets if they scored both (i) $z \ge 1$ in RPQ and (ii) $z \le 1$ in MPVS in their schools. The targets will be randomly distributed to peer counselling and Cognitive-behavioral Therapy group intervention. Based on the selection criteria, 101 students (67 males and 34 females) were selected to be the targets of peer counselling, and 85 (59 boys and 26 girls) students were assigned to receive the Cognitive-behavioral Therapy group intervention. Their age ranged from 11 to 17 (M = 12.8, SD = 1.09). There is no significant difference and no time with intervention interaction effect between peer counselling and Cognitive-behavioral Therapy group intervention. For the peer counselling intervention, Post-hoc tests using the Bonferroni correction revealed that there were significant declines in total aggression and reactive aggression from screening to post-test and from posttest to 6-month follow up. However, significant declines in proactive aggression, psychopathy, impulsivity and narcissism were only found from screening to post-test, but not from post-test to 6-month follow up. For Cognitive-behavioral Therapy group intervention, Post-hoc tests using the Bonferroni correction revealed that there were significant declines in total aggression, reactive aggression, proactive aggression, psychopathy, impulsivity and narcissism were only found from screening to post-test, but not from post-test to 6-month follow up. Significant increase in callous-unemotional was found from screening to post-test, but not from post-test to 6-month follow up. The study could encourage helping professionals to adopt a ground-breaking perspective on differentiating and treating amongst aggressor subtypes in the school context.

Keywords: reactive aggression, proactive aggression, peer counselling, group intervention, longitudinal study.

IDENTIFYING HIGH-RISK SEXUAL OFFENDERS WITH PHALLOMETRIC TESTING

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Abstract

The use of phallometric assessment in identifying risk of sexual violence against women and children has demonstrated its value in many forensic settings, and throughout parts of the world it has become the principal means to assess risk of sexual aggression. The precise measurement of circumferential change in the penis during sexual arousal is accomplished by using a mercury-in-rubber strain gauge around the penis, and comparisons of levels of sexual arousal to both normal stimuli (consenting adult) and deviant stimuli (rape, pedophilia) provide an empirical basis for making predictions about risk of sexual assault. The most common use of phallometric assessment is in determining whether or not convicted sexual offenders are safe to be released to the community, though some have proposed that this procedure should be used as a screening tool for those who work with vulnerable populations (e.g., teachers, child care workers, perhaps even clergy). This presentation discusses many relevant issues in this field and presents the author's normative data from a sample of over 700 sexual offenders to assist with interpretation of phallometric testing. Recent as yet unpublished data establishing the importance of using explicit stimuli are also discussed. Also included are data from the author's published study comparing the sexual arousal profiles of 50 incarcerated sexual offenders with 50 incarcerated non-sexual offenders. Of particular significance is the fact that relatively few differences were identified between these two groups, although data are presented which identify a major difference in the ability of these groups to inhibit deviant arousal. Using these data affirms the value of phallometric assessment in identifying high-risk individuals. As well, the actual phallometric profiles of four incarcerated offenders (rapist, heterosexual pedophile, homosexual pedophile, non-sexual offender) are presented, and the basis for making a determination of risk of future sexual violence is discussed.

Keywords: sexual offenders, sexual aggression, phallometric assessment, plethysmography, sexual violence.

COGNITIVE AND EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

THE RISK OF PEDESTRIAN INJURY IN COLLISIONS WITH VEHICLE: AN EYE-TRACKING INVESTIGATION

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Abstract

Each year many pedestrians die in pedestrian-vehicle collisions especially in urban area. Several factors are identified such as environmental factors, social and educational factors and individual factors. To study the information collection strategies in urban navigation activities and decision-making process, an experiment was designed by using eye-tracking system. Participants were asked to observe several panoramic pictures before to take a decision: to cross or not to cross the street. An eye-tracker was used to record their eye-movements and to determine the impact of different kinds of environmental elements on their decision taking (car, bus, other pedestrians, ...). Three main results have been obtained: First and surprisingly, the three conditions have no impact on the response time, *i.e.*, to take a decision (to cross or not to cross the street). Second, there is a significant difference between the mean fixation duration on the crossing between Low and Moderate traffic density conditions. Third, the first visual fixations are central before to explore the right side of the picture before to explore the left side of the picture. Methodological limitations are discussed for future studies.

Keywords: urban navigation, eye-tracking, visual exploration, situation awareness, road safety.

RISK FACTORS INVOLVED IN THE URBAN CHILD PEDESTRIANS NAVIGATION: A META-ANALYSIS

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Abstract

An increasing number of pedestrians are killed in traffic crashes in all countries around the world. And, children are particularly concerned: for instance, in France (2013), 31% pedestrian fatalities and 43% of the injured concerned children. In the same way, pedestrian injuries are the fifth leading cause of injury related death in the United States for children aged from 5 to 13. The majority of accidents occur in urban area, our cities being more and more complex and dense. On the basis of a meta-analysis of scientific literature related to risks factors involved in the urban child pedestrians, this paper is aiming to investigate factors implied and we propose a taxonomy of the main factors implied to better understand the reasons why the number of child pedestrians increase dramatically. Our meta-analysis has mainly shown that three main factors can be distinguished: environmental factors (physical and social environments); social and educational factors (socio-economic factors, parental supervision); individual factors (genre stereotypes, pedestrian skills, executive functions). On the basis of our meta-analysis, we propose some modification of the "situation awareness" concept applied to child pedestrians, in order to create relevant and efficient training programs for children by focusing on the "user experience" of young pedestrians in urban area.

Keywords: pedestrian, child, navigation, user experience, meta-analysis.

DECISION-MAKING AMONG PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY – FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE

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Abstract

The aim of the paper is to introduce current findings in the area of decision-making among people with intellectual disability, on the base of a review of the selected articles in the field. Decision-making is one of the main processes influencing people's quality of life. Opportunity to make unassisted choices and to decide independently reinforces individual's perceived life satisfaction and self-worth. Freedom of choice affects proper identity development. Furthermore, attaining feeling of control of one's life is regarded as one of the main developmental tasks of adolescence period. Despite the changes in the perception of people with intellectual disability, the role of decision-making in the increase of their quality of life is still being underestimated. Many theoreticians and practitioners emphasise the fact that people with intellectual disability often declare significantly limited opportunity to make independent decisions in everyday life. Decision-making is a complex process that requires efficient information reception, as well as memory and analysis capabilities. Previous research in the field revealed that people with intellectual disability present various deficits considering effective decision-making. These findings entail the need to develop programmes aimed at improving intellectually disabled people's decisional capabilities. Major theoretical findings on the decision-making process in the group of people with intellectual disability will be presented. Possible factors influencing effective decision-making will be indicated. Furthermore, issues covering methods of assisting people with ID in effective decision-making in various areas will be introduced. Finally, future directions for theoretical research and practice will be discussed.

Keywords: decision-making, intellectual disability, aid.

IS DIGIT RATIO (2D:4D) RELATED TO COGNITIVE-ABILITY AND EDUCATIONAL VARIABLES? ANSWERS FROM A COMPREHENSIVE META-ANALYSIS

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Abstract

Individual and sex differences (on average, men < women) in the second-to-fourth digit ratio (2D:4D) emerge prenatally and developmentally appear sufficiently stable. Hence, many believe 2D:4D reflects the prenatal sex-hormonal milieu (testosterone exposure/sensitivity) and its manifold enduring (organizing) brain-behavior effects. Accordingly, 2D:4D presently is the most intensely investigated retrospective putative marker for prenatal testosterone, with now about 1000 journal papers and academic theses produced since a foundational 1998 paper. Here, we meta-analytically synthesize the sizeable 2D:4D research subliterature on possible associations with cognitive traits, because only an increasingly outdated and partial review (confined to spatial abilities: Puts et al., 2008, Arch Sex Behav) is presently available. Studies eligible for the meta-analyses were identified via five integrated literature search strategies (namely, relevant electronic databases, extensive online searches for unpublished reports, cited reference searches, a research bibliography, and personal contacts with researchers). These efforts yielded more than 130 individual, non-overlapping study samples for meta-analytic inclusion, which we categorized into four distinct domains of (sexually differentiated) cognitive abilities (spatial abilities; verbal abilities; numerical/mathematical abilities; and educational achievement variables, including learning styles and school and university grades). Total N for the series of meta-analyses was more than 340000. Across all the cognitive-ability domains investigated, meta-analytically combined effects invariably were almost exactly null, thus not supporting any reliably replicable effects of 2D:4D on cognitive abilities. Supplemental meta-analytical tests evidenced several signs of research artifacts pervading this research literature, such as small-study effects (i.e., negative correlations of study sample sizes with study effects) and the so-called winner's curse phenomenon (i.e., effects fade with time). Initial findings of 2D:4D effects on cognitive-ability variables have been widely publicized and cited in the literature, including reports in premier outlets of educational and intelligence research (among others, in the journals Intelligence, Learning and Individual Differences, and Personality and Individual Differences). This meta-analytical field synopsis suggests that these initially reported effects were false-positive findings and thus unreplicable. More generally, seen in the context of the contemporary replication and confidence crisis in psychological science altogether, the current findings emphasize the necessity of meta-analytical approaches to establish replicable evidence as a cornerstone of cumulative knowledge.

Keywords: cognitive abilities, educational outcomes, meta-analysis, replicability, digit ratio (2D:4D).

COGNITION AND BILINGUALISM: WORKING MEMORY AND EXECUTIVE CONTROL OPERATIONS IN GREEK-ALBANIAN BILINGUALS

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Abstract

This research has been co-financed by the European Social Fund and Greek national funds, through the Operational Program "Education and Lifelong Learning" of the National Strategic Reference Framework: Research Funding Program Thales "Investing in knowledge society through the European Social Fund, 2012-2015". An interdisciplinary project was carried out. Our aim was to investigate whether there exists a bilingual advantage affecting working memory (Carlson & Meltzoff, 2008; Fernandes, Craik, Bialystok, & Kreuger, 2007; Michael & Gollan, 2005; Rosen & Engle, 1997) and executive control operations (inhibition, switching, and updating) (Bialystok, 2008; 2010; Bialystok, Craik, & Luk 2008; Morales, Calvo, & Bialystok, 2013; Prior & MacWhinney, 2010; Yang, Yang, & Lust, 2011) in Greek-Albanian bilingual children, aged 8-12. Two hundred and twenty children participated in the study. Participants were divided into three groups: (a) a submersion bilingual group (who were exposed to the mother tongue -Albanian- within the family/community setting only), (b) a maintenance bilingual group (who were receiving formal education in both languages), and (c) a monolingual group speaking Greek. Several working memory and executive control tasks were administered. Analyses of variance and regression analyses showed that monolinguals outperformed both bilingual groups on Raven's performance. Visuo-spatial working memory, switching, and cognitive planning demonstrated no group differences. When compared to monolinguals, maintenance bilinguals did not differ on most cognitive performance measures, whereas submersion bilinguals were significantly disadvantaged in verbal working memory, updating and processing speed. The verbal working memory and updating effects became non-significant when controlling for Ravens. Both monolinguals and maintenance bilinguals outperformed submersion bilinguals in the inhibitory control measure. Our results indicate that one major factor influencing superior performance is some type of formal education in both languages; that is, exposure to written (besides oral) language. It seems that schooling in both languages positively influences performance on non-verbal cognitive abilities. This finding bears significant educational implications, pointing at the importance of education in both languages in the case of bilingual students.

Keywords: bilingual children, submersion bilinguals, maintenance bilinguals, working memory, executive functions, inhibition, updating, switching.

COMPARISON OF THE CLASSIFICATION RATIOS OF DEPRESSION SCALES USED IN TURKEY

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Abstract

Ceyhun (2002) has stated that thirteen depression scales have been used in Turkey, two of which are applied by clinicians, nine consists of self-report questionnaires and two are structured interview scales. Considering that depression is a popular area of study, it may not seem abnormal that there are such many measuring scales available. However, so many measuring instruments may lead to a problem of whether

all the instruments have the same sensitivity in measuring the particular entity. The purpose of this study is to compare the four self-report scales adapted into Turkish, namely Beck Depression Inventory (BDI), The Zung Self-Rating Depression Scale (SDS), The Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (Depression Subscale HADS-D) and CES-Depression Scale (CES-D) by cross validation study. These depression scales have been applied to 341 subjects and total scores of the subjects for each scale have been obtained. Next, the sample group is divided into two according to group averages of total scale scores. Normative scores and cutting points have not been considered because the purpose here is to compare the scales on a theoretical basis. The groups below and above average for each four of the scales have been compared by ROC curve analysis. The results show that the total score of BDI has been grouped correctly by SDS at a ratio of 0.87, HADS-D at a ratio of 0.89, and by CES-D Scale at a ratio of 0.87, and by HADS-D at a ratio of 0.87 has been correctly grouped by HADS-D at a ratio of 0.87. The total score of HADS-D has been correctly grouped by SDS at a ratio of 0.87, and by CES-D Scale at a ratio of 0.87. The total score of 0.88. The total score of HADS-D has been correctly grouped by SDS at a ratio of 0.87, BDI at a ratio of 0.89, and by CES-D Scale at a ratio of 0.88. The total score of 0.89.
Keywords: cross validity, ROC curve, CES-Depression Scale, Beck Depression Inventory, The Zung Self-Rating Depression Scale, The Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale.

MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS: A HAZARD PERCEPTION EXPERIMENT

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Abstract

Motorcyclists in the United Kingdom are over-represented in road collision statistics and despite accounting for less than 1% of annual vehicle miles motorcyclists have the highest fatality rate of any road user. These collisions tend to occur more frequently at T-Junctions and staggered junctions, followed by collisions on roundabouts and crossroads. It is a common misconception that most motorcycle collisions at junctions occur due to motorcyclists' aggressive behaviours. However, motorcycle collisions at junctions tend to occur more frequently due to the violation of a motorcycle's right of way by emerging vehicles from side roads. Evidence has shown that when a motorist is looking in the direction of the motorcyclist who is very close to a junction the motorist does not appear to see the motorcyclist. Five hazard perception videos were filmed from the perspective of a vehicle driver stationary at a junction preparing to emerge from the junction. An experiment was used to test the hypothesis that it would take longer for participants to react to seeing an oncoming motorcycle compared to an oncoming car. Furthermore, participants would perceive a higher number of cars than motorcycles in the videos. The relationship between age and reaction times was also investigated. The experiment was conducted with 218 participants from seven business organisations in the East of England. The findings showed that the mean response time, measured in seconds, for participants to respond to an approaching car was significantly faster than for an approaching motorcycle. Participants who were both car drivers and motorcyclists reacted significantly faster to seeing the approaching motorcycle as compared to participants who only held a car licence. There was no significant difference between the number of cars and motorcycles perceived by participants in the videos. A significant positive correlation was found between the age of the participants and participants' reaction times to seeing an approaching motorcycle in the hazard perception videos. One hundred and seventy-four of the 218 participants (80%) reported that taking part in the experiment was an effective means of raising awareness of motorcycles at junctions. Future studies could develop this experiment in different driving conditions such as the time of day and different weather conditions. Further controls could be made in relation to the positioning of the vehicle, vehicle types and approaching vehicle speeds.

Keywords: hazard, perception, motorcycle, awareness, experiment.

THE USEFULNESS OF PHANTOM LATENT VARIABLES IN PREDICTING THE CHANGING IN THE EFFECTS AMONG STRUCTURAL RELATIONS

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Abstract

Ambition of this study is to examine the usefulness of phantom latent variables within models with structural relations. Phantom latent variables are defined as latent variables with no observed indicators (Rindskopf, 1984) and therefore they may be introduced into latent variables path models as hidden effects for making simulations across structural parameters. In this respect, an application of phantom latent variables is proposed here to an attitude model towards buying sustainable food products with second-order dimensions of Schwartz's taxonomy of basic human values as predictors. The model is applied to a representative sample of about 3,000 Italian food consumers collected in June 2011 and its predictive power, with the inclusion of past behavior as a further predictor of the attitude, has been successfully tested (Vassallo and Saba, in press). Nevertheless, the reduced version of the model, with dropping out past behavior and with the inclusion of phantom latent variables, has never been inspected. To this end, the addition of phantom latent variables is introduced with the purpose of restricting relevant structural parameters of the second-order dimensions of the Schwartz's taxonomy to be greater than, less than, or equal to, specified constants. The rationale of these restrictions is twofold in the model: 1) to investigate how largely the restricted parameters are affecting the un-restricted ones; 2) to investigate how much effect-size, quantified in terms of un-standardized solutions of the phantom latent variables parameters, is necessary for that predictor to satisfy each restriction. The specified constants should be reasonably carried out from past knowledge about the subject of research. However, should this previous knowledge not to be available or known, a researcher may simulate a progressive sequence of increasing possible positive and/or negative constants (e.g., from ± 0.1 to ± 1.5 , or more) as it has been the case of this study. Phantom latent variables are therefore able to predict a sort of "what...if' scenario by means of re-arranging the covariance structure of the observed data through a set of constrains on the structural parameters. As an applied consequence, it has been thought-provoking to detect how much the Schwartz theory motivational value dimensions of self-transcendence (i.e., universalism, benevolence) and self-enhancement (i.e., achievement, power) would respectively decrease and increase their positive and negative influence on a positive attitude towards buying sustainable food products if the sample was constrained to increase its openness to change (i.e., self-direction, stimulation, hedonism) motivations.

Keywords: Schwartz theory of basic human values, structural equation modelling, phantom latent variables.

CONNECTING PIÉRON'S LAW, THE FOREPERIOD EFFECT AND DISTRIBUTION SHAPES IN A SIMPLE REACTION TIME TASK

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Abstract

In a recent study on choice reaction time (RT) (Harris et al., 2014), we found that rate (reciprocal of RT) was near-normally distributed, which led us to propose a decision model based on maximizing the reward rate (the Rate Model). We also suggested a connection with two well-known phenomena in experimental psychology: Piéron's Law and the foreperiod (FP) effect. Piéron's Law describes the empirical relationship between mean RT and stimulus intensity as a power function. The FP is the time from the start of the trial until the appearing of the stimulus, which usually has the effect of increasing the mean RT. In this work we tested the Rate Model by using a *simple* reaction time design. Twelve subjects were tested for three blocks of 250 trials each. We varied the FP time and the luminance of the stimuli. The participants were asked to press a button as soon as they saw the stimulus (a luminous circle on a black background). We used 3 FP conditions (0.6, 1, and 2.4 seconds) and 5 luminance levels (0.42, 0.71, 1.21, 2.06, 3.50 cd/m²). As expected, the relationship between RT and stimulus intensity followed Piéron's Law. We also found that longer FP induced longer mean RT. Fitting a different Piéron's function for each FP condition showed that the effect of the FP was a shift in the Piéron's curve. Overall, the distributions

were approximately normal in the rate domain. The goodness of fit increased with the long FP conditions, whereas the different luminance levels did not have any impact on the normality shape of the distributions. We adapted the original model to account for simple RTs, and were able to fit the model to our data to take into account Piéron's Law, the FP effect of shifting the Piéron's curve, and maintain approximately normal distributions in the rate domain (reciprocal RT).Our main claim is that the goal of the human decision process in simple decision tasks is to maximize the rate of reward. We discuss the connections between our model and other recently proposed models for simple RT tasks.

Keywords: Piéron's Law, foreperiod, reward rate, simple reaction time.

SUBJECTIVE SPEED PERCEPTION AMONG MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVERS (OVERESTIMATION AND UNDERESTIMATION OF DRIVING SPEED - GROUP COMPARISON)

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Abstract

The issue of speed and speed limits is still a current highway safety topic. Over the past four decades, research in this area has been focused on drivers' speed perception as it is a crucial issue in their speed choices. This study aims to analyse differences between drivers who are more likely to underestimate driving speed in comparison to drivers who are more likely to overestimate it and determine the indicators associated with these phenomena. 169 respondents (129 males and 40 females) within the age of 19-86 participated in this study. The data were provided over the project Czech In-depth Accident Study via interviewing road traffic accident participants directly after the accident. The actual speed of motor vehicles was determined through Virtual Crash reconstruction software. The results have shown several indicators associated with driving speed estimation, e.g. gender, trip purpose, annual mileage, and time of driving. The results suggest that factors related to the driver may be associated with distorted speed perception. It also points to the importance of subconsciousness in speed perception. The results are useful for analyses of human factor causes of road traffic accidents and also for deeper understanding of drivers' perception and behaviour. Integrating our results into driver education programmes may improve safe driving behaviour.

Keywords: speed perception, driving speed, overestimation, underestimation, human factors.

THE NEGATIVE ATTITUDES TOWARDS ANDROIDS: BEYOND THE "UNCANNY VALLEY" AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ALTERNATIVES

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Abstract

A lot of papers are interested in the "Uncanny Valley" (a psychological concept) in the fields of Human-Robot Interaction (HRI). This concept states that as the appearance of a robot is made more human, a human observer's emotional response to the robot will become increasingly positive and empathic, until a point is reached beyond which the response quickly becomes that of strong revulsion. But, if the Uncanny Valley is an interesting concept to describe human behaviours and attitudes, it does not give explanations. So, in this theoretical paper, we propose and discuss five psychological alternatives: (1) Hypothesis 1: the Uncanny Valley is a vicarious learning. The relationship between human-like robots and the resurgence of irrational belief and negative attitudes is well documented in television, films, and books. In general, in science fiction literature and movies (e.g., "Star Wars", "Metropolis"), the androids are cold, without feeling, and only seek to kill a human or even destroy the human species. So we learn (by vicarious learning) that robots are very dangerous for the human species; (2) Hypothesis 2: the Uncanny Valley has its origin in our unconscious mind. This psychoanalytic perspective is the more ancient psychological alternatives investigated (Jentsch, 1906). The uncanny could be a sensation we feel when we are in front of something and/or someone we know, and when we detect an "anomaly" in the physical appearance of

this other thing/person creating a "intellectual doubt"; (3) Hypothesis 3: the Uncanny Valley is determined by human evolution. If we consider that mate selection is stimulus-driven appraisals of uncanny stimuli elicit aversion, physical attributes of androids could activate the avoidance; (4) Hypothesis 4: the android is cognitively dissonant. Because an android has the same appearance of a human, it creates cognitive dissonance within the experiencing subject due to the paradoxical nature of being attracted to, yet repulsed by an object at the same time; (5) Hypothesis 5: the android is a reminder of human mortality. A human-like or humanoid robot (which seems to be immortal) elicits an eerie sensation because the robot is acting as a reminder of our human mortality.

Keywords: Human-Robot Interaction (HRI), attitudes, uncanny valley, psychology.

PSYCHOANALYSIS AND PSYCHOANALYTICAL PSYCHOTHERAPY

A CONSISTENCY BETWEEN PROJECTIVE AND NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL TESTS: CONTRIBUTIONS FOR A NEUROPSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH OF PSYCHOSIS

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Abstract

For several years, research in neuropsychology and neurocognition was widely developed. Its application was particularly beneficial in psychiatry mainly when it can highlight the difficulties of subjects who are strongly hampered by severe and disabling disorders. These disorders can then defeat all attempts in term of social reintegration for users, so dear to the community psychiatry. In order to improve the assessment of the needs and working lines of the sanitary accompaniment of these patients principally diagnosed as chronic psychotic, the Jury-les-Metz hospital has developed a specific procedure. This process combines neuropsychological assessments (RL RI 16, Stroop, Birchwood Insight Scale, WCST, AIPSS ...) and a more subjective approach which also includes projective tests (Rorschach ...) interpreted with a psychoanalytic angle. During these appraisals, we regularly noticed a consistency between some cognitive disorders and some psychopathological aspects. In other words, we noticed that some aspects revealed by the Rorschach test may refer to elements identified by neuropsychological tests. For example, we noticed that the deficit in social cognition can be emphasized in another aspect in projective tests. In addition, metacognitive difficulties and, anchoring in the reality evaluated by the Rorschach, appear to be related. Finally, executive functions sometimes seem connected to the connection difficulties between affects and representations mediated by reflections on symbolization in the Rorschach test. Through this paper, we try to build bridges between these different tools in order to stress the possible existing overlap between psychoanalysis and neuropsychology. We will conclude our discussion by opening the discussion on possible approaches to this research, especially in the field of neuropsychoanalysis.

Keywords: neuropsychoanalysis, neuropsychology, psychoanalysis, projective tests, chronic psychosis.

THE ONTOLOGICAL NATURE OF THE OCEANIC FEELING THROUGH THE LIFE OF RAMAKRISHNA

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Abstract

This study aims at questioning some of the epistemological basis of psychoanalysis concerning mystical experience and spirituality. Focusing on the discussion between Freud and French author Romain Rolland regarding the "oceanic feeling" (based on their letters' exchange from 1927 to 1931), we will question the ontological nature of the feeling of union with the universe (as described by Rolland) by a twofold bias: either as a by-product of psychological dynamics (inherently pathological or not) or as an ontological experience, better comprehended through a non-psychological approach that investigates its inner meaning regarding the human condition as such. In the latter perspective, we will be accompanied by the work of Brazilian author Gilberto Safra, whose clinical writings are concerned with an anthropological reductionism of themes and issues that relate to other areas of experience, such as religiosity and spirituality. As the main axis of this discussion, we will utilize the life of Indian mystic Ramakrishna (1836-1886) to illustrate these two different ways of approaching spiritual experience. Ramakrishna has been himself one of the main sources of Rolland's constructions on religiosity, leading the French author to write one of his main biographies ("The Life of Ramakrishna", 1929), which had an important impact on Western reception of Eastern spiritual conceptions. Contemplating examples from Ramakrishna's life

(through Rolland's work) that range from his childhood to his period as a famous spiritual master in India, we will present, in each situation, different perspectives from authors that either consider Ramakrishna exclusively on a psychological-psychopathological note or on a perception of a spiritual dimension non-reducible to psychical dynamics inherent to his life and teachings. Within this framework, we have come to realize that there are inherent limitations on a solely psychological reading of mystical experience. Therefore, by presenting such discussion we intend to rethink the position mysticism and spirituality occupy in clinical practice, either to reformulate their understanding in psychotherapy or as a way of enlarging the anthropological conceptions inherent to clinical understanding of the human condition.

Keywords: mysticism, religious experience, psychoanalysis and religion, clinical psychology, spirituality.

EMBODIED MEMORY: THE EFFECTS OF SOMATIC MARKERS MANIPULATION ON MEMORY RECONSOLIDATION AND ITS CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS

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Abstract

According to Freudian theory, memory representation and the somatic affects bound to them can have distinct destinies. This dynamic and embodied theory of memory has been supported by recent findings in memory reconsolidation that emphasize how recollection induces memory lability and by the somatic markers hypothesis, which explains how somatic manifestations are constitutive of our emotional experiences. Indeed, it may be that the reassuring context of the psychoanalytic setting with reconsolidation mechanisms contributes to a re-association of threatening memories with more positive somatic markers. Here, we present two experiments in order to assess this hypothesis. In Exp.1, we tested whether inducing a somatic marker while negative memories are reactivated leads participants to evaluate the negative memories as less negative. In Exp.2, we tested whether such a manipulation has long lasting effects. Both Exp.1 and Exp.2 confirmed that inducing a positive somatic marker (smiling) during the reconsolidation phase does not affect memory accuracy. Exp.1 showed that participants evaluated aversive memories less negatively, and Exp.2 revealed that both neutral and negative reconsolidated memories were evaluated as less negative. We consider these results in the context of their theoretical and clinical implications.

Keywords: reconsolidation, somatic markers, psychoanalysis, memory, embodied cognition.



CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

DRUG CONSUMPTION AMONG FUTURE HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

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Abstract

This study examined the frequency of drug use in a sample of students studying to become healthcare professionals and whether there were any gender differences. The participants were 651 university students (79.2% female, mean age 22.02; SD = 4.6). The frequency of: tobacco, alcohol, cannabis, cocaine, heroin, inhalants, speed or amphetamine, hallucinogen and spice consumption were measured using a questionnaire. 35.8% of the participants reported consuming tobacco, 91.1% alcohol, 24.4% cannabis, 3.1% cocaine, 0.4% heroine, 0.6% inhalants, 3.3% speed or amphetamine, 2.2% hallucinogen and 0.2% spice. The prevalence of drug consumption among those studying to become healthcare professionals was higher than among young Spanish people in general, with the exception of tobacco, cocaine and hallucinogens, which were lower. The frequency of consumption did not differ by gender, which is in contrast to figures from the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, which reported higher drug consumption among males.

Keywords: drug consumption, future healthcare professionals, Spain.

PATTERNS OF POLYDRUG USE AMONG FUTURE HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

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Abstract

The main aim of this study was to investigate the prevalence of the three patterns of polydrug use (Patterns A, B and C) identified by The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) in a sample of those studying to become healthcare professionals and whether there were any gender differences. The participants were 651 university students (79.2% female, mean age 22.02; SD = 4.6). A questionnaire was used to measure the frequency of tobacco, alcohol, cannabis, cocaine, heroin, inhalants, speed or amphetamine, hallucinogen and spice consumption. Overall, 45.8% of the sample were polydrug users, with Pattern B being the most common, followed by Pattern A. Although more females were classified as Pattern A consumers and more males were classified as Pattern B consumers, these differences were not significant. However, the prevalence of polydrug use among those studying to become healthcare professionals was very high, irrespective of gender. This finding is worrying as these patterns of drug use may lead to severe health problems in the future.

Keywords: polydrug use, substance use, future healthcare professionals, Spain.

ENDOMETRIOSIS: LIVE WITH THE PAIN... ALL THE TIME

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Abstract

The neuropsychiatric psychopathology is considered to be the most frequent clinical distress in endometriosis's patients. The literature presents some risk factors associated with this type of psychopathology development in endometriosis's female patients, such as chronic pain, diagnosis difficulties as well as deficient social support's perception. We intend to analyze psychopathological symptoms and quality of life in endometriosis's patients and to verify whether there is a relationship between the diseases injury location and extent to various organs, and age, functional impairment, social support's perception to that psychopathological symptoms and quality of life. Alongside this situation is supposed to create a brief protocol that allows screening for signs and neuropsychiatric symptoms in order to allow a more brief intervention in these patients, thus improving their quality of life. Given the published studies on this topic, we assume that: (1) Patients with more severe endometriosis have a higher number of psychopathology positive symptoms; (2) Patients with more severe endometriosis have a lower quality of life; (3) Patients with endometriosis the longer have a positive symptoms of psychopathology higher number; (4) Patients with endometriosis the longer have a lower quality of life; (5) patients with endometriosis and infertility have a greater number of psychopathological symptoms; (6) Patients with endometriosis and low social support's perception have a higher number of psychopathological symptoms. To this end, we intend to select 150 endometriosis diagnosed women, aged between 18 and 45 years and evaluate them with standardized instruments for the purpose, such as BSI, MOS-SSS and EHP-30.

Keywords: endometriosis, psychopathology, chronic pain, quality of life, perception of social support.

LIFE SATISFACTION, FIVE-YEARS AFTER A CORONARY ANGIOGRAPHY, BETWEEN PHYSICAL EXERCISE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES

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Abstract

Background: Five-years after undergoing a coronary angiography, socioeconomic status and healthrelated behaviours are known to affect life satisfaction (LS), but their respective influence remains unclear. Our aim was to analyze patients' LS and its relationships with cardiovascular diseases, risk factors and preventive behaviours developed in the last 5 years and socioeconomic conditions. Methods: Based on records from the National Institute of Cardiac Surgery and Cardiological Intervention in Luxembourg, 3632 survivors who underwent coronary angiography between 2008 and 2009 were contacted in 2013 by letter to complete a self-questionnaire assessing LS [1-10] and other cofounder factors. Data were analysed via multiple regression models. Results. Life satisfaction of 1289 volunteers (69.2 years) was 7.3/10. Majority were men, Luxembourgish, secondary education level, employees and manual workers, and those with an income of 36000 euros or more per year. Being a woman, not living in couple and having a low middle income were negatively associated with the LS level. Patients who suffered in the last 5 years from angina pectoris, diabetes, hypercholesterolemia, obesity, or who stopped smoking because of the disease were more likely to have lower LS, in contrast to those who participate in regular physical activity or exercise. Conclusions: Patients' LS indicator was lower than the national life satisfaction in Luxembourg (7.8/10) which was higher than that from the European (7.0 for EU-27). Coaching patients with interventions that foster healthy attitudes can help sustain rehabilitation and enhance life satisfaction, adding beyond a reduction of socioeconomic inequalities.

Keywords: cardiovascular diseases; life satisfaction; preventive behaviours; socioeconomic inequalities.

FACTORS LINKED TO ALCOHOL DRINKING OF JUVENILES

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Abstract

Objectives: Alcohol is the drug of first choice among the youth. Many young people are experiencing the consequences of drinking and drinking at an early age. This study aimed to explore the potential of selfcontrol, resilience and parental control in explaining the starting age of alcohol drinking of elementary school students. Methods: A representative sample of 1298 (53.3% female) elementary school students (age M=11.72 years, SD=0.67 years) was collected in September 2013 within the APVV-0253-11 project aimed at school-based universal prevention. The respondents completed the Self-Control Scale and the Adolescent Resilience Scale (ARS) questionnaires and they were also asked to answer questions concerning parental control. Binary logistic regression was used to analyze the data with experience with alcohol drinking used as the dependent variable. Design: A cross-sectional design was used. Findings: Two of the three subscales of ARS (Novelty Seeking (p<0.001) and Emotional Regulation (p=0.034)) as well as parental control (p=0.008) and self-control (p=0.001) were significantly associated to alcohol drinking of elementary school students. Students with higher levels of self-control and emotional regulation tended to have diverse interests and hence were less likely to experiment with alcohol. The same held for students controlled by their parents more strongly. Conclusions: The study contributed to the understanding of reasons for alcohol drinking among juveniles and may prove useful in creating and implementing prevention programmes.

Keywords: alcohol drinking, resilience, self-control, parental control.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CHECK FOR WORKERS (CHCW) QUESTIONNAIRE

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Abstract

Background: As work-related mental health disorders of workers are increased more and more in Japan, its primary prevention is recognized as a key issue in their workplace. Nevertheless, a lack of standardized measurement tools for comprehensive health check at altered state prior to the symptoms of diseases for workers reflects the theoretical and methodological limitations of current research and practice. Purpose: This study is to develop and standardize a new self-administered instrument, "comprehensive health check for workers (CHCW)" questionnaire, to assess work stress-related unorganized diseases based on a biopsychosocial-existential model by exploring the psychometric properties about factor structure, reliability, validity, and diagnostic ability. Method: A cross-sectional questionnaire survey through the internet was conducted among 5,925 male and female workers (ages, 19-66 years) who had registered as the members of the private survey enterprise in Japan. The questionnaire covered age, gender, job type, and with and without outpatient care for any physical or mental disorders, including the provisional CWCH 30-items questions and general health questionnaire (GHQ)-12. Results: Based on the results of the confirmatory factor analysis and covariance structure analysis, factor structure of the 25-items CHCW questionnaire was identified four first-order factors "physical", "psycho-behavioral", "social", and "existential" functioning loading on a second-order factor representing the latent comprehensive mind-body health status. Standard psychometric analysis for reliability and validation demonstrated that the factors appeared to be highly stable and reliable. No statistically significant age or gender differences were noted. Respondents who had reported themselves as outpatient with depression showed significant high scores in each four factor and overall of the CHCW questionnaires and GHQ-12 scores, as compared with respondents who had answered themselves as

healthy. According to a receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve analysis, sensitivity and specificity for cut-off values of each score of the CHCW domain of overall and its four subscales were determined in terms of health status such as fairly good, ordinarily and worse. *Discussion:* The results support the reliability, validity, and standardization of the 25-items CHCW questionnaire based on a biopsychosocial-existential model, which seems to be a useful tool to recognize work stress-related unorganized diseases in the general population by using cut off-values. It may be considered as promising tool for future research and practice.

Keywords: Comprehensive Health Check for Workers (CHCW) questionnaire; Reliability, validity, and standardization; work stress-related unorganized diseases; bio-psycho-socio-existential models, altered state prior to the symptoms of diseases.

HOME AS A PERSONAL SPACE AND A SOURCE OF WELL-BEING: HORIZONS OF DESCRIPTION

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Abstract

Home is a part of everyday personal experience, a rarely realized source of personal well-being, self-support, or exhaustion. Constructs of place attachment, place dependence, and place identity (Altman & Low, 1992; Manzo, 2003) are not sufficient to detect all properties of home as a place for living. More purposeful constructs seem to be relevant for this task - e.g. such as controllability, potential, selfpresentation, historicity etc. Our objective was to analyze the components of personal representation of home in a small pilot study. The participants, 15 adult women, wrote essays answering 9 questions about their homes, their ideas of home and possibilities of mutual alterations between home and the owner. The content-analysis of 328 units by 2 judges was conducted. The results allow supposing at least three horizons of home representation existing at the same time. 1 - Universal image of a home: safety and security; family and close relationships; space attachment and psychological rehabilitation; selfexpression, self-presentation. 2 - Personal image of home: individual ideas toward comfort and aesthetics; development, self-regulation, and relationships regulation among home inhabitants. 3 - Desired home image: interaction of the objective criteria and subjective representations of comfort. From the clinical and psychotherapeutic perspective home studies allow to develop the tools for improvement of a house as a personal, valued, and safe space that may be used among the inhabitants for psychological resource renewal and risk prevention.

Keywords: home, identity, well-being, personal space.

THE MENTAL HEALTH STATE OF JAPANESE PARENTS DURING LIVING ABROAD: THE CASE OF NAIROBI JAPANESE SCHOOL

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Abstract

As the number of Japanese living abroad is increasing, mental health care for them has been becoming a very important concern. Different public services, cultural and legal requirements, and food items will impose challenges to the health and stability of the family, and it affects the state of their mental health. Especially to the family with a school-age child, education for the child is one of the biggest concerns because it is difficult to ensure the consistent education system or environment for them. Since Japan has peculiar language and culture, they have founded primary/secondary schools outside of Japan for expat Japanese children. The Japanese schools offering Japanese curriculum not only keep children's academic level, but also help their cultural transition. Moreover, the schools often have a role as a community for any Japanese residents in that country so that they can help each other. However, they are still exposed to new cultural environment and life-style. In our project, the authors are developing psychological support

system for the Japanese schools. As the first step, we are collaborating with the Nairobi Japanese School and providing a series of support programs on site. In the program, we conducted brief questionnaire surveys in order to explore the needs of the Nairobi Japanese School. 33 Japanese adults living in Nairobi participated. The result found that they showed different type of stress comparing to that of Japanese living in Japan, and that it might derive from living in Nairobi.

Keywords: Japanese, expat, mental health, Japanese school.

DESCRIPTIVE NORMATIVE BELIEFS, PROTOTYPES AND GENDER IN ALCOHOL USE AMONG SLOVAK UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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Abstract

Studies exploring alcohol use (AU) among university students have shown that there is an association between a higher level of descriptive normative beliefs (DNB), a negative abstainer prototype, a positive social drinker prototype and AU in general (mainly frequency of AU). However, there has been a lack of studies with a comprehensive analysis of the relationships between DNB, drinkers' prototypes and different domains of AU. Objective: To explore the association between DNB, drinker prototypes and different domains of AU among Slovak university students. The data collection was conducted online and consisted of 184 university students (54.9% females; M=21.3; SD=1.77). An online questionnaire measuring: gender, AU (AUDIT), items regarding DNB (both assessed with 3 subscales-hazardous AU, dependence symptoms, harmful AU); items measuring 3 drinker prototypes (an abstainer, a social and a heavy drinker). Linear regressions were used for the data analysis. Linear models explained 29.7%, 11.0%, 13.6% of the variance in hazardous AU, dependence symptoms and harmful AU, respectively. It was found that higher DNB and a more negative perception of an abstainer prototype were associated with a higher score in all domains of AU. Moreover, a more positive perception of a social drinker prototype was associated with more hazardous AU and more dependence symptoms. Finally, it was found that being male was associated only with more hazardous AU. The research findings have extended the previous research in relation to different domains of AU. The results emphasize the importance of DNB, the concept of prototype drinkers and generally the implementation of social impact in prevention.

Keywords: descriptive normative beliefs, prototypes, alcohol use, Slovak university students.

STABILITY OF COGNITIVE AND ADAPTIVE FUNCTIONING AT 18 MONTHS, 3 YEARS AND 5 YEARS OF AGE IN PREMATURE INFANTS

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Abstract

The Early Steps Program is a long-term multidisciplinary follow-up program for premature infants. One goal was to evaluate if motor, communication and/or overall adaptive functioning measures correlated with prematurity levels or cognition. A total of 59 children have participated in the program so far with 24 toddlers (17-26 months of age), 19 young children (32-44 months of age) and 16 older children (57-72 months of age). The mean gestational age of the children was 28.6 weeks with a birth weight of 1171 grams. All children were administered the Bayley-III at 18 months and the WPPSI-III/IV at 5 years of age. Parents were interviewed using the Vineland Adaptive Behaviour Scales, 2^{nd} Edition at all age points. Correlational analysis revealed that cognitive scores at 18 months and 5 years of age differed significantly (r = -.190) and were not correlated with birth weight (r = -.008). However, cognitive scores were significantly correlated with overall adaptive functioning as measured by the Vineland at all age groups (r = .752), with the Communication subscale showing the strongest correlation (r = .796). The Motor Skills subscale was not a reliable predictor of cognitive functioning (r = .266) due to the high

number of children with cerebral palsy. One important implication of the current findings is that medical professionals need to put an increased emphasis on parental reports of adaptive development when evaluating premature infants. Specific attention should be given to providing more information on the impact of quality of life for these children.

Keywords: premature infants, adaptive functioning, cognitive functioning, vineland, Bayley-III.

THE MENTAL HEALTH OF SUBSTANCE ABUSERS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS IN HONG KONG

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Abstract

Introduction. Substance abuse has long been a concern in Hong Kong. According to the Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics, there were about 11000 substance abusers reported to the Central Registry of Drug Abuse in Hong Kong (Census and Statistics Department, 2013). Throughout the years, research has showed numerous factors contributing to substance abuse and many supported an association between mental health problems and substance use (e.g., Kilpatrick et al, 2000; Swendsen et al., 2010). Also, it has been indicated that family members of people with mental health problems often experience psychological problems such as depression and anxiety (e.g., Idstad, Ask, & Tambs, 2010; Shah, Wadoo, & Latoo, 2010). Apparently, substance abuse and mental health problems are closely related, not only for substance abusers but likely, also their family members. However, research of Hong Kong lacks emphases on their relationships, especially on how substance abusers and their family members may affect each other's mental health regarding the problem of substance use. Furthermore, as Chinese culture highlights the importance of collectivism and family closeness, many people in Hong Kong live with their family and maintain an intimate family relationship (Chua, Morris, & Ingram, 2009). It is common for Chinese family to have a meshing of interdependent roles (Tate, 2013). Family members usually mutually depend on one another and their emotions are often closely tied. As a result, it is believed that the effects of substance abuse on a Chinese family may be even more significant. However, there has been a lack of research clearly showing how substance abuse could affect the family dynamics in Hong Kong. Objectives. The present study assessed the mental health, quality of life and knowledge of substance abuse of the substance abusers and their family members in Hong Kong. Also, how the two populations might interact and affect each other's mental health was examined. It was hoped that the present study would provide insights into the effective interventions for substance abuse in Hong Kong family in order to help both substance abusers and their family members to better overcome the problem as well as maintain a healthy mental status. Methods. Questionnaires assessing emotion status and quality of life as well as history and knowledge of substance abuse were completed by 95 substance abusers and 45 family members recruited from five service centers for substance abuse in Hong Kong. Moreover, individual interviews focusing on how substance abuse might affect the mental health within a family were conducted with 7 substance abusers and 7 family members at the Cheer Lutheran Center in Hong Kong. Statistical tests and grounded theory were used for data analyses. Results. Results from the quantitative data showed that both populations demonstrated mild to moderate depression, anxiety and stress and their scores of quality of life, especially psychological health and social relationships, were below average. Also, it was found that the two populations in general misunderstood the definition of substance abuse and the process of substance abstinence. Meanwhile, results from the qualitative data indicated that there was a disconnection between the substance abusers and their family members. While family members tended to complained that their emotions had been greatly affected by the substance abusers, substance abusers denied that their problems affected much on their family. As the two populations held opposite views, they often misinterpreted each other's behaviors and emotions. Consequently, conflicts occurred and disconnection resulted. Moreover, it was found that substance abusers tended to overlook the complicated process of substance abstinence and hold high confidence on their ability of achieving abstinence. As they had experienced repeated failures while trying to abstain from substances, their emotions were greatly affected. However, they often ignored their negative emotions but became ambivalence about their ability and even their own self. Conclusions. Research results showed that substance abusers and their family members often demonstrate negative emotions and psychological distress. Thus, individual psychotherapy focusing on enhancing their emotions and psychological

strengths would be helpful. Besides, as many substance abusers and their family members do not understand the symptoms of substance abuse as well as the process of substance abstinence, it is common for them to hold unrealistic expectations on how the problem could be solved. Eventually, they often suffer from great disappointments and frustrations. Therefore, psychoeducation on substance abuse for both populations should be provided in addition to treatments and psychological interventions. Moreover, it was indicated that there are disconnections between substance abusers and their family members as well as self ambivalence of substance abusers. Reconciliation of these disconnections and ambivalence should be addressed in psychological interventions as well.

Keywords: substance abuse, abusers, family members, mental health.

EARLY SOCIAL COMMUNICATION AND PLAY: THE EFFECT ON ADAPTIVE AND COGNITIVE FUNCTIONING IN AUTISTIC CHILDREN

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Abstract

In Singapore, early detection of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) has enabled early intervention programs to reach children prior to three years of age. There is a need to investigate predictors of adaptive and cognitive outcomes to better tailor intervention programs for these children. As a pilot study, early autism severity indicators such as play skills, social communication skills, and length of exposure to early intervention, were investigated as possible predictors of outcomes. A total of 37 children with ASD (30 boys and 7 girls) were assessed at two age points. The Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) and Children's Autism Rating Scale - Second Edition (CARS2) were administered at a mean age of 33.8 months for diagnostic assessment. Subsequently, all children underwent a cognitive assessment at a mean age of 67.6 months. Pre- and post-evaluation of adaptive functioning were performed at both age points, using the Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales – Second Edition (VABS-II). Regression analysis revealed that 1) social communication skills, 2) play skills, and 3) restricted repetitive behaviors significantly predicted adaptive functioning outcomes. Cognitive ability was also found to be significantly associated with adaptive outcomes. Together, these factors explained a significant proportion of variance in the Vineland scores, $R^2 = .86$, F(7, 15) = 13.51, p < .001. In addition, pre-evaluation adaptive functioning, early social communication and play skills significantly predicted later cognition, $R^2 = .77$, F(8, 14) = 5.81, p = .002. In our study, length of exposure to early intervention did not affect adaptive and cognitive functioning outcomes.

Keywords: autism spectrum disorder, play skills, social communicative skills, cognitive functioning, adaptive functioning.

REPENTANCE IN DIALOGUE: THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CAPACITY FOR CONCERN IN WINNICOTT'S THEORY AND CHRISTIANS METANOIA

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Abstract

This present work intends to be a contribution at the subject of repentance, from a clinical point of view. This subject has been studied mainly by Theology and Philosophy, but little material has been developed within the field of Psychology. Through a dialogue between the way Christian theology understands repentance (as *metanoia*) and the way psychoanalyst Donald Winnicott approaches an important maturational moment in the life of the child - the development of the capacity for concern - this article aims to show how fundamental the experience of repenting can be in human life, both from a psychological and a spiritual point of view. This discussion intends to present repentance as a natural and important event in the life of human beings and will try to convey the idea that it is not only a psychological emotion, but rather an experience that happens through success on an inter-personal relationship level and helps the individual to find and form himself up from his "ontological openness" -

an existential posture towards life. Psychology has the tendency to study human phenomena mainly as psychological constructions and to forget an important level of experience, which happens in an ontological perspective. Through the present discussion, we intend to investigate repentance also in its ontological implications.

Keywords: repentance, concern, metanoia, human development, ontological openness.

DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS AND SUICIDAL IDEATION AMONG CZECH ADOLESCENTS

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Abstract

The incidence of suicide and suicide attempts in Czech adolescent population are among the highest in Europe. Based on the data of crisis hotline counsellors for children, the frequency of suicidal callers doubled in the last five years. There seems to be many reasons for this increase; the depression in children and adolescents being the major one besides socio-demographic factors, family-related factors, substance abuse etc. The aim of our study was to investigate the incidence of depression symptoms during the period of early adolescence and to compare them with Czech normative data from 1997. The study was conducted on a large sample (N = 1708) of Czech adolescents aged 11-16 years (m = 13.65; 52% female), utilizing the Children's Depression Inventory (Kovacs, Beck, 1977; Kovacs, 1992). The CDI evaluates the presence and severity of specific depressive symptoms in youth; depression is seen as a syndrome, not a specific behaviour. The proportion of the adolescents with the total score indicating higher risk of clinical depression was between 17.8 - 42.9 % in our sample, depending on the cut-off score. Regarding the incidence of suicidal ideation, almost 2 % expressed a commitment to suicide and further 21 % admitted ideation without a firm intention (the later being twice more common in girls than in boys). Detailed pattern of gender differences and the correlations of CDI scores and family-related factors or relationships with peers including belonging to subcultures as emo or goth will also be presented.

Keywords: depression, suicidal ideation, adolescents, CDI.

PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS OF PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLERS

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Abstract

Introduction. Personality traits have proved to be consistent and important factors in a variety of psychopathological syndromes. This research examined the relationship between Big Five-related personality traits (openness, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness, and neuroticism) and Pathological Gambling. *Method and procedure.* A total of 323 gamblers (131 males and 192 females), of average aged of 25.31 (SD = 10.55) completed the Italian version (Capitanucci & Carlevaro, 2004) of the *South Oaks Gambling Screen (SOGS;* Lesieur & Blume, 1987) and the *Big Five Questionnaire 2* (Caprara, Barbaranelli, Borgogni, & Vecchione, 2007), which refers to the Five Factors Model (FFM; Costa & McCrae, 1992). Based on their score on the SOGS, participants were divided in two groups: a clinical sample composed of 62 pathological gamblers, whose score was greater than 5; and a non clinical sample composed of 261 non problematic gambles, whose scores was less than 3. *Results.* Findings of the present investigation showed significant differences between pathological and non problematic gamblers with reference to openness, conscientiousness, and agreeableness. Specifically, pathological gamblers report fewer propensities to be open to new ideas and to have cultural interests. They also are less likely to provide help and care for others offering their emotional support and are less responsible and diligent than individuals who do not have problems related to gambling.

Keywords: gambling, personality characteristics, five factor model.

COGNITIVE BIAS DISTORTIONS IN PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLERS

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Abstract

Introduction. Several factors are related to the onset and the maintenance of pathological gambling. An important role is carried out by cognitive bias distortions, which represent real "errors" in the reasoning processes. The aim of this study is to analyze these cognitive errors in two groups of gamblers. *Method.* A total of 323 gamblers (131 males and 192 females), of average age of 25.31 (SD = 10.55) were recruited in some gambling rooms and at the University of Florence. All participants completed the Italian version (Capitanucci & Carlevaro, 2004) of the *South Oaks Gambling Screen (SOGS;* Lesieur & Blume, 1987) and were divided in two groups on the bases of their questionnaire score: a clinical sample composed of 26 pathological gamblers (SOGS score below 3). All participants completed the Italian version (Iliceto & Fino, 2014) of the *Gambling Related Cognitions Scale (GRCS;* Raylu & Oei, 2004), which assesses 5 dimensions related to cognitive distortions: *Illusion of control, Predictive control, Interpretative bias, Gambling expectancies,* and *Perceived inability to stop/control gambling. Results.* Our findings support the results of previous investigations on cognitive biases gambling related (Joukhador et al., 2003; Xian et al., 2008). Specifically, pathological gamblers showed higher levels in all cognitive bias distortions considered, than non-problematic gamblers did.

Keywords: gambling, cognitive distortions, cognitive bias.

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER FROM BIRTH TO DIAGNOSIS THROUGH PARENTS' EYES

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Abstract

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) affects 1% of the population and greatly impacts the lives of children with the disorder, their family as well as the community. This study aims to uncover, through the experience of parents, relevant events (e.g., early signs, age of first appearance, person who noticed these symptoms, process leading to the diagnosis) that marked the development of children diagnosed with ASD. *Method:* Quantitative analysis were performed on collected data from self-administered questionnaires to parents of children diagnosed with ASD (N=41). *Results:* Parents are typically the first ones to notice early signs of ASD. Parental concerns appear before the age of two. The delay in language development is the most prevelant observation from parents. Our results also reveal an average waiting period of 4 years between the awareness of early signs of ASD and the diagnosis. The diagnosis is most often established by a multi-disciplinary team. *Conclusion:* As expected, parents are highly involved and concerned in regards to their child development. These results imply that health profesionnals should pay close attention to parents' concerns for earlier diagnoses and maximize the benefits of early interventions. Best practices should rely on the promotion of early detection, diagnosis and intervention.

Keywords: autism spectrum disorder, parents' experience, significant events, diagnosis.

CAN PARENTAL MONITORING AND THE UNPLUGGED DRUG USE PREVENTION PROGRAM CONTRIBUTE TO A CHANGE IN ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION AMONG SLOVAK ADOLESCENTS?

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Abstract

Background: The relationship between alcohol consumption (AC) and parental monitoring (PM) has been consistently confirmed in several studies. It is also important to explore the short-term as well as the longterm effects of universal drug use prevention programs in order to strengthen evidence-based prevention among adolescents. Purpose: To explore the contribution of two external prevention sources; PM and participation/non-participation in the Unplugged (universal drug use prevention program) to changes in AC. Methods: The representative research sample consisted of 1295 adolescents, 53.4% girls, Mean age=11.52; experimental group (participation in the Unplugged, n=634), control group (non-participation in the Unplugged, n=661). The twelve-session program Unplugged was carried out during the school year 2013/14 (baseline testing ^{prior to program implementation/T1} and follow-up testing ^{immediately after the program/T2}). Binary logistic regression models (two-steps procedure) was used for the data analysis. The change in AC^{T1-T2} was dichotomized and served as the dependent variable. The first model consisted of five independent variables (gender, AC^{T1}, normative beliefs (NB^{T2}), positive future orientation (PFO^{T2}), and smoking^{T2}). While controlling for these variables, the main variables of interest (PM^{T2}, Unplugged) were added to the analysis and created the second model. Results: Being male, a higher level of NB, a lower level of PFO and having experience with smoking were associated with an increase in AC (Model¹: R²=0.22). Only a lower level of PM was associated with an increase in AC. The short-term effect of Unplugged was not confirmed (Model²: R²=0.23). Conclusions: This study supports the importance of PM, individual factors and experience with smoking in the development of AC among adolescents.

Keywords: alcohol consumption, parental monitoring, Unplugged, adolescents.

TRANSITIONING TO HIGHSCHOOL: THE PERCEPTION OF STUDENTS WITH ASD AS OPPOSED TO THEIR PEERS

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Abstract

The transition from elementary school to junior High involves routine and structural changes as well as exposures to novel environments, curricula and people, all of which may act as stressors for the transitioning students. In addition to transitioning stressors, students must also cope with pubertal changes, such as hair growth and voice mutation. They must also develop a sense of self and become more autonomous. This process is often influenced by group opinion and peer pressure. Such a life period, which is considered difficult for most teenagers (Lohaus, Elben, Ball, & Klein-Hessling, 2004), can be even more challenging for students with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) (Hannah & Topping, 2012) as the ASD population is highly sensitive to any form of change and transition (APA, 2003). It is thus crucial to offer the necessary resources to support and facilitate this time in their lives. Since teenagers with ASD tend to be more socially isolated, this transition period may prove difficult for them (Myles & Andreon, 2001).

Keywords: autism spectrum disorder, transition, high school.

THE CHANGE OF VOLUNTEER STUDENTS AND THE USERS: EVALUATIONS OF VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN JAPAN

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Abstract

The intervention of children's academic and personal/social needs in elementary school is important for their healthy mental development. However, it requires manpower, and thus, it is sometimes difficult to offer enough support for the kids. To deal with this problem, the authors have set up a University Students Volunteering Program. In this program, the students of Psychology Department as volunteers were sent to the local elementary schools in need. This program consisted of 2 aspects; the volunteer placements and support for the volunteer students. Firstly, this study illustrated how this program worked effectively, introducing a practice report of 2012, 2013. Especially, we presented our matching process of volunteers. Secondly, we evaluated the outcome of this program using the questionnaires. The questionnaires asked both the volunteer students and the elementary school teachers who were working with them about the volunteer's fundamental competences, and the change of the school situations. The questionnaires were completed by 14 volunteers and the 28 teachers of 14 schools. The result showed the improvement of volunteer student's competence and the positive changes of school situations. It suggested that this volunteering program is mutually beneficial for both volunteers and users.

Keywords: volunteer activity, university student, school environment.

IN DEFENSE OF HOMO LUDENS AND PLAYFUL AS A SPACE FOR TEACHING-LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION: THE PLAYFUL AND CREATIVE POSSIBILITY IN TEACHING

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Abstract

We teach, and our students learn that the play area is constitutional of the human being. Far from being homo sapiens, at our essence and origin, we are Ludens, i.e, one who plays in order to give different meanings to life. We want our research to defend the playful as a creative possibility in teaching, which is so used in Early Childhood Education but so neglected and obscured along the long path to forge Homo Sapiens or playing with words, Homo Academicus. At this point we ask ourselves: How can the teacher be playful if in her training there was almost no room for this practice to be experienced? What would it be, in a teacher education curriculum, a playful approach? Our research took place at the College of Education of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro at the beginning of the semester 2014.1. The selected participants attended the compulsory subject Conceptions and Practices of Early Childhood Education of the morning course in the fourth period of the course in the second half of the year 2011. The main questions of our research were: Has the playful a space in Higher Education? Does the playful space "fit" in Higher Education, among adults, who will be the ones leading the process of teaching and learning forward when trained in Elementary Education? We intend to demonstrate, through the analysis of the results obtained in the research, which investing on playful learning is betting on the authorship of thinking, problem solving and autonomy, as the playful opens up a space to a shared creative space among peers and between teacher and students. If we work within the idea of a recreational space we will be by investing in a non-content-procedural evaluation, where the pleasure of learning and teaching is not hampered by fear of a measurement based on real development and not procedural.

Keywords: play, higher education, teacher training, teaching-learning.

THE LUDIC AS STRATEGY FOR PROPITIATE THE LEARNING IN EJA: INFANTILIZATION OR SPACE FOR CREATION?

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Abstract

This work came from the need of investigating if playful could be used with Adults and Young People Education without infantilizing them. The research, a qualitative study and analyzed as an action research, was made in two groups of Adults and Young People Education Project, at a public school in Rio de Janeiro – RJ, by Priscilla Frazão. In both of them there are some students with disabilities coping with the students named as "regular". In order to collect data, four playful activities (games) were developed with these groups and photos were also taken in order to illustrate the process. This research was developed during the year of 2012 and is currently in progress, as part of the author's monograph. The goal of the analysis of the data collected is to evaluate how these playful activities allow the learning process to happen, without infantilizing the aimed group. We all know that the government must guarantee the right of the education to all citizens; however is our duty, especially ours (teachers), to allow a warm education dealing with the differences that make us one. This is our challenge and the challenge of this work: to bring to life what we can only see in the darkness in the internship.

Keywords: playful, inclusion, adults and young adults education.

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

PROACTIVE COPING AMONG ORGANIZATIONAL NEWCOMERS

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Abstract

The main goal of the study was to analyse the coping process during the first phase of organizational entrance. It was assumed that newcomer pre-entry experiences (e.g. previous unemployment) can influence adaptation process and outcomes. Therefore the different groups of organizational newcomers (reemployed, school-leavers and after turnover) have been compared. Since demographic characteristics may also represent life experiences relevant to the work adaptation, previous job experience, age, education, and gender were included as control variables. This study analyse the psychosocial factors of work adaptation outcomes in the distinguished groups of participants (n=56). In opposite to previous assumptions, the results showed reemployed as being high proactive copers and in follow, suffering less during the first period of new employment than others.

Keywords: proactive coping, work adaptation outcomes, organizational newcomers.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS' LIFE SATISFACTION BETWEEN EMPLOYABILITY AND CAREER CAPABILITIES

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Abstract

Background: Assessment of life satisfaction (LS) is an important issue in the overall preparation of undergraduates towards an employment outcome. The aim of our study is to analyze the associations between LS and socio-demographic factors, career attitudes, employability soft skills, academic work satisfaction and quality of life autonomy. *Methods:* Undergraduate students were invited to complete a paper pencil questionnaire exploring: Life satisfaction (LS), Dynamic Career Attitudes (DCA), Employability Soft-Skills (ESS-Short), academic Work Satisfaction (WS), Quality Life of Autonomy (QoLA) and socio-demographic characteristics (age, gender, educational field, year of study, work experience (less vs. more than 6 months and actual employment). Data were analyzed using correlation and multiple linear regression models. *Results:* 124 volunteers (22.6 years) had LS of 75.4/100. Majority were women, in the first year of Bachelor, and in applied management. Most of them had six months or less of job experiences and were unemployed. Higher the DCA, ESS-Short, QoLA and WS better was the students LS. *Conclusions:* LS is an indicator related with employability and career capabilities. Supporting students through wellness and career activities program in autonomy-supportive environment, to cope with their stressful period and to enhance their generic employment and career capabilities may allow to the undergraduates to maintain their LS.

Keywords: life satisfaction, academic work satisfaction, career attitudes, employability skills.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND STRESS AT WORKPLACE

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Abstract

This study examined the relationship between communication skills at workplace and job related stressors, psychological stress reactions. Subjects were 133 university students (who have experienced part-time jobs before, 96 males and 37 females). Their communication skills with the co-workers and

with the boss, their job stressors, and psychological stress reactions were measured. As a result of factor analysis to the communication skills items, 4 factors were extracted: Conversation skill, Problem solving skill, Adjustment of relationship skill, and Support skill. Job stressors include 4 factors: Excessive pressure, Job role indistinctness, Lack of ability, and Excessive burden. Psychological stress reactions include 6 factors: Anger, Disorder of the cardiovascular system, Interpersonal strain, Fatigue, Excessive sensibility, and Depression. First, I examined the relationship between communication skills with the co-workers and stress. According to the multiple regression analysis, problem solving skill and adjustment of relationship skill had a significant inhibition effect on lack of ability. In addition, conversation skill tended to reduce disorder of the cardiovascular system. Second, I examined the relationship between communication skills with the boss and stress. According to the multiple regression analysis, conversation skill and adjustment of relationship skill had a significant inhibition effect on interpersonal strain and depression. Support skill tended to reduce disorder of the cardiovascular system. Second, I examined the relationship between communication skills with the boss and stress. According to the multiple regression analysis, conversation skill and adjustment of relationship skill had a significant inhibition effect on job role indistinctness. And adjustment of relationship skill was negatively related to lack of ability. In addition, conversation skill tended to reduce interpersonal strain and depression. And adjustment of relationship skill tended to reduce interpersonal strain and depression. And adjustment of relationship skill was negatively related to lack of ability. In addition, conversation skill tended to reduce interpersonal strain and depression. And adjustment of relationship skill was negatively related to lack of ability. In addition, conversation skill tended to

Keywords: communication skills, job stressors, psychological stress reactions, psychological stress process, university students.

RESILIENCE, ACCESSIBILITY OF ALCOHOL AND ALCOHOL REFUSAL SKILLS AMONG ADOLESCENTS

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Abstract

Objectives: This study aimed to explore the relationships between resilience (Novelty seeking, Emotional regulation, Positive future orientation), accessibility of alcohol and alcohol refusal skills among adolescents. *Methods:* The study sample consisted of 1298 adolescents (53.3% girls, age M=11.72 years, SD=0.67 years, project APVV-0253-11). Binary logistic regression was used for the analysis which was carried out separately for boys and girls, with alcohol refusal skills as the dependent variable. *Design:* A cross-sectional design was used. *Findings:* The models showed that for boys there were significant associations between Novelty seeking (p<0.05), alcohol accessibility (p<0.01) and alcohol refusal skills. For girls significant associations were found between Emotional regulation (p<0.05), alcohol accessibility (p<0.001) and alcohol refusal skills. Boys with a higher level of Novelty seeking had the tendency to report fewer alcohol refusal skills. Girls with a higher level of Emotional regulation showed a higher level of alcohol refusal skills. Finally, accessibility of alcohol affected alcohol refusal skills negatively for both genders. *Conclusions:* We suggest that there could be a specific function of resilience regarding alcohol refusal skills, although with respect to gender differences. We further stress the general importance of the role of public health policy concerning the issue of accessibility of alcohol for this specific group of young students

Keywords: resilience, accessibility of alcohol, alcohol refusal skills.

TYPES OF VOCATIONAL IDENTITY STATUS IN POPULATION OF SLOVAK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Abstract

The paper deals with the construct of vocational identity status in population of Slovak high school students. Establishing a vocational identity is one of the most central aspects of the transition from adolescence to adulthood. Vocational Identity Status Assessment (VISA) is composed of three

dimensions. The career commitment dimension measures sense of certainty about a choice. The career exploration dimension is indicated by the in-depth and in-breadth career exploration, that lead to crystallizing preferences for occupations or to specifying an occupational choice. The career reconsideration dimension is indicated by openness to changes in occupation or how much we feel uncertain regarding career planning. The pilot study applies method of k-means cluster analysis, which author of the scale suggested. We examine suitability of using VISA for population of Slovak adolescents via comparison with results of cluster analysis conducted on American students. The survey was completed by 136 high school students of standard type of grammar school. The sample was composed of 50% men and 50% women with a mean age of 17.7 years (SD=0.64). We found that character of six types of vocational identity (achieved identity status, confirming moratorium, moratorium, foreclosed, diffused and undifferentiated status) is highly similar to the original American sample. Despite of this similarity, differences occur in searching moratorium, foreclosed and undifferentiated identity status. Comparison of representation of individual statuses of American and Slovak sample shows, that Slovak sample consists of larger percentage of students with foreclosed status (19.1%) than American sample (7.9%). Percentual representation also shows, that achieved status in Slovak sample is also higher (18.4%) than representation in American sample (12%). Larger percentage of American sample than Slovak sample occurs in states of moratorium and also diffusion. In conclusions we suggest using VISA in our country as good assessment tool for finding vocational identity status of Slovak adolescents. Findings can be beneficial for next research, mainly in the area of career counselling.

Keywords: vocational identity status assessment, cluster analysis, Slovak high school students.

VALUES AND CAREER MOTIVATION IN THE CONTEXT OF VOCATIONAL IDENTITY

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Abstract

Vocational identity is one of core component of identity construction in adolescence. The newest theories of vocational identity discuss three dimensions of vocational identity: career commitment, exploration and reconsideration. Career motivation and values are also key constructs in many theories of holistic approach to career counseling. Slovak counseling centers mostly use only diagnostic methods in the area of skills, personality traits and interests. Assessment of psychological concepts likes motivation or values are unusual in our country. Our paper describes relations between mentioned psychological constructs and explores how they can contribute to clarifying each other. We used three measures in this study- VISA (Vocational Identity Status Assessment), Career motivational questionnaire and PVQ (Portrait Values Questionnaire). The research was conducted on 136 high school students of standard type of grammar school. The sample was composed of 50% men and 50% women with a mean age of 17.7 years (SD=0.64). Main results show statistically significant positive correlations between intrinsic motivation and dimension of career commitment of vocational identity status- career commitment making r=.55 (p <.01), r^2 =.30 and identification with career commitment r=.43 (p <.01), r^2 =.18. We also found statistically significant ($\eta^2 = .24$) differences in the level of intrinsic motivation among six groups with different state of vocational identity. Group with foreclosed vocational identity status had the highest median of all groups (Mdn=49.5), conversely, group with diffused identity status had the lowest level of intrinsic motivation (Mdn=41). We also find statistically significant differences between mentioned six groups in level of achievement value (with moderate magnitude; $\eta^2 = .08$). Group with diffused identity and group with type identity called-moratorium had lower value of achievement. Concepts of intrinsic motivation and values could partially clarify type of vocational identity status. According to results of our research, we suggest more research and practical activities in our country, in the frame of mentioned psychological constructs, which can be helpful in the field of career counseling.

Keywords: vocational identity status, career motivation, values, high school students.

SOCIAL SUPPORT PLAYS A DIFFERENT ROLE IN SEXUAL RISK SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR: A LONGITUDINAL COMPARISON OF YOUNG ADULTS FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC, HUNGARY, LITHUANIA AND SLOVAKIA

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Abstract

Only a few studies have explored the associations between social support (SS) and sexual risk behaviour in an international and longitudinal comparative design. The aim of this study is to explore the associations between three types of perceived SS (family, friends, others) and sexual risk behaviour among young adults in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania and Slovakia. The data were collected online from 861 first year university students (75.5% females; M=21.9; SD=2.7) in four countries (22,3% CZ; 21,7% HU; 28,5% LT; 27,5% SK) at T1 and T2 with a one year follow up. Students were asked regarding three types of perceived social support (family, friends, significant others) and sexual risk behaviour. A binary logistic regression model was performed to explore whether sexual risk behaviour at T2 was associated with the three types of SS at T1. Sexual risk behaviour was associated with SS but these associations differed according to the specific type of SS. Higher levels of SS from family and others were associated with lower rates of sexual risk behaviour. However, higher perceived SS from friends was associated with higher levels of inconsistent condom use, multiple sexual partners and having sex under the influence of alcohol or drugs. These results indicate that during the period of young adulthood, the specific sources of perceived SS may have the opposite effect on sexual risk behaviour. In particular, peers and friends seem to be crucial regarding behavioural change. The identification of students with their peers and friends with perceived social norms may explain this.

Keywords: perceived social support, sexual risk behaviour, young adults.

OCCUPATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH: PREVENTION AND TREATMENT IN FRANCE AND SWEDEN

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Abstract

This research is a comparative qualitative study related to theories and practice in the treatment and prevention of occupational mental illness in Sweden and France. The study has three components. The first is to elucidate theoretical and conceptual frameworks present in Sweden and France related to occupational illness. This involves a comparison between the theories most prominent in Sweden, highly influenced by biopsychosocial- and stress-models and the scientific tradition in France, influenced by « psychodynamics of work ». The second is to identify differences in practice of prevention and treatment related to occupational wellbeing. The third component is to explore how the connections between work and mental health can be improved. The methodology involved surveys among staffmembers in institutions specialized in occupational wellbeing, located in France and Sweden. The surveys aims to explore different methods and practices recognized as most efficient among the staff members of the surveyed institutions. The interpretation of the results — which is currently carried out — reveals advantages and disadvantages of the practices in each country.

Keywords: occupational, stress, psychodynamics, work, rehabilitation.

SUBJECTIVE HEALTH PROBLEMS IN THE CONTEXT OF PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS AND HEALTH-RELATED BEHAVIOR IN CZECH ADOLESCENTS

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Abstract

This study presents partial results of an extensive research project called Health-Enhancing and Health-Threatening Behaviour: Determinants, Models, and Consequences (GA13-19808S). The study explores selected factors of health-promoting behavior in adolescents. The variance in the level of activity that the current population of adolescents invests in taking care of their health, cognitive evaluation and perception of their own health has been examined. The role of personality characteristics in relation to maintenance, loss or restoration of one's health has been explored as well. The data from the following instruments was utilized in this study: Health-Related Behavior Scale (Dosedlová et al., 2013); Subjective Health Problems Inventory (modified version of the inventory by Osecká et al., 1998), and the Big Five Inventory (O.P. John, E.M. Donahue, R.L. Kentle, 1991). The research sample consisted of 835 adolescents (47,4% women and 52,6% men) aged 12-19 years (35,3% in the period of early and middle adolescence and 64,7% in the period of late adolescence). The principal component analysis of the items of the Health-Related Behavior Scale yielded five factors (healthy eating habits, exercise and lifestyle, avoidance of addictive substances and other risks, regular daily routine and emotional well-being). To predict the score of the subjective health problems, we used the hierarchical regression analysis with personality characteristics and demographic variables entering in the first block and health-related behavior factors entering in the second block. The results were similar to the ones in the adult population: girls compared to boys scored higher in the subjective health problems scale; among personality characteristics, neuroticism was the strongest predictor of the incidence of subjective health problems.

Keywords: subjective health problems, health-related behavior, personality, adolescence.

MEDIA COMPETENCE AND POLITICAL PERCEPTION IN MODERN RUSSIAN SOCIETY

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Abstract

Features of perception of media information can have a significant influence on the forming of political images and ideas. This is particularly important in the era of information technology. Growth of mass media compels the person to develop new skills and abilities. Research of influence of new information technologies on political behavior began to take a special place in political psychology. In our paper we consider media competence of Russian voters and it relation to political perception. We present the results of empirical research, which purpose is to study the structure of political images and ideas of current Russian voters with different level of media competence. In our research we used the following methods: semantic differential, personal differential and author questionnaires. The study involved 230 residents of St. Petersburg at the aged from 19 to 67 years. The results of the study indicate that there is the correlation between the image of the state and the image of average Russian. The higher the voters assess the current level of development, achievements and the political situation in the state, the more positive assessment they give to average Russian. Also we identify various methods of representation of political categories in the minds of citizens. The main results of research allow us to conclude that there is a correlation between media competence and the forming of political images, representation of political categories in the minds of Russian voters.

Keywords: political perception, media competence, political categories, image of Russia, image of Russians.

ESTIMATION OF VIOLENCE PHENOMENOLOGY IN PUPILS OF HIGH SCHOOL IN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

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Abstract

In modern psychology the great attention is given to research of phenomenology of violence which defines its occurrence and displays, and also can help with the organization of the preventive procedures reducing level of violence in an education system. Studying of perception of presentations of violence in the educational environment as complete phenomenon at pupils of high school was the purpose of this study. The method of data gathering was the questionnaire «Estimation of violence in school and at home in the pupils» (authors Kovrov, Kozhukhar, Oganesyan). As base of research 17 schools of Moscow have acted (324 girls and 338 boys; 7th - 10th grades). The questionnaire included gathering of the social-demographic data, and also 21 questions directed on revealing of representations of pupils that occurs in two basic spheres of life: in family relations and in educational institution (Likert scale; Cronbach's alpha = 0.738). Correlation, regression and factor analysis were used. In total 133 correlations between answers were revealed. Perceptions of violence in a family, at school and a class, and also representation about intensity of the educational actions at school were revealed as mutual predictors. The factorial analysis has allowed finding out three base factors, defining representations about violence in pupils: 1) safety of environment as low level of violence; 2) educational work, unity, violence preventive maintenance; 3) a class, age, authority of teachers. Unfortunately, results of our poll have shown that with the years (class), the authority of teachers on representations of pupils sharply decreases.

Keywords: violence, high school, educational system.

PSYCHOLOGICAL BASIS OF FEMALE CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

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Abstract

According to our analysis of the crime statistics about the last 18 years (1993-2011) we have identify that female crimes increase 185% in Azerbaijan. Referring to this fact it was interesting for us to study the psychological characteristics of female offender's personality and psychological basis of her criminal behavior. The purpose of this study is to identify relationships between the early and current abuse fact, self-actualization of personality (assertiveness, self-actualization), criminal choosing and female criminal behavior for preventing female crimes. The study was conducted among 300 female prisoners and 300 female non-prisoners. Stanley Phelps and Nancy Austin's assertiveness test, Schwartz's values test, Shostrom's self actualization test were used in this research. The result of the research verifies that three main factors impact to formulating female criminal behavior: early or current abuse, self actualization and choice. Female criminal behavior is the result of her choice, and these choices are formulated by early and current environment (macro, mezo, micro levels of abuse) conditions. Environment conditions (physical, sexual, emotional and economic violence) is the basis of the future choises. In addition to the abuse fact, low level of most important components of self-actualization such as assertiveness and moral values are suitable factors for choices of criminal behavior. In other words, female offender choise criminal behavior because of the early or the current environmental conditions (macro, mezo, micro levels of abuse), and low level of major components of self-actualization such as assertiveness and moral values. It is important to improve self-actualization for the change of the criminal behavior. The findings may be useful in treating and re-socialization of female offenders.

Keywords: self-actualization, moral values, assertiveness, choice, abuse.

ON THE PERCEPTION OF STALKING BY WOMEN

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Abstract

Stalking is a very actual topic and its perception is relevant to define appropriate prevention strategies. It is hence necessary to analyze to which extent people are able to identify stalking and distinguish it from other forms of violence. In this study we analyze how the perception of the phenomenon varies depending on socio-cultural factors. In particular, the focus of our research is on the evaluation of women's stalking perception along the following categories: pervasiveness, impact on private life, ability to identify the phenomenon with respect to other forms of violence, degree of information on stalking and degree of information on prevention measures. The study has involved 174 italian women aged between 18 and 60, all of them below normative scores on the Holmes-Rahe Life Stress Inventory (1967). The sample completed a subjective multiple response questionnaire on stalking perception (Corradini, 2014) and on the Socio Economic Status Schedule (Hollingshead, 1975). The sample was stratified with respect to the following variables: age (ranges 18-40 and 41-60); Marital status; Employment Status; Level of education. Analyses were conducted using qualitative and quantitative statistical analysis to identify cluster of people with different perception profiles and their possible correlations and dissimilarities. The clustering analysis with object scores method was used to identify three groups (effect size η^2 =.033) sharing similar characteristics within each of the two relevant dimensions ("degree of knowledge" and "prevention strategies") identified by the MCA analysis (Multiple Correspondence Analysis). This result is important for the definition of prevention measures targeted to specific groups.

Keywords: stalking, women's perception, prevention, private life.

ATTACHMENT AND MENTALIZATION IN CONTEXT OF SCHOOL VIOLENCE

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is testing the model of school violence constructed by Twemlow and Sacco. According the authors in the understanding of school violence it is essential to take into account two important factors. The first one is the role of bystander (beside the role of bully and victim). The second one is the school community: its ability to function as mentalizing community. A mentalizing community is able to provide safety and security to its members, and to increase their facility for reading people's internal states and controlling their emotions, that is, to form its members' ability for mentalization. The mentalization based on secure attachment experiences has a fundamental importance in reduction of school violence. Empirical study was conducted to examine the basic forms of behaviors in situations of attachment, mentalization and self-esteem which are connected with these forms of behavior. Our research was carried out in Hungarian high schools (N=360). The results suggest that the different forms of behavior have specific characteristics from our research perspective. The most significant differences were fund between the different forms of bystanders, which confirms the model of Twemlow and Sacco.

Keywords: school violence, attachment, mentalization, self-esteem, anxiety.

COGNITIVE AND EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

"NORMALITY" AT A FUNERAL IN EAST ASIA: FOCUSING ON THE NEED FOR UNIQUENESS

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to investigate the "normality" and affective reactions in East Asia, especially Japan and South Korea, focusing on the intervening effect of the individual difference. Experimental questionnaire research was conducted in Japan and South Korea. 202 Japanese university students and 179 South Korean university students participated in this research. The questionnaire asked respondents to rate their sense of normality and affects, imaging a given situation: when one conformed/derogated a norm, others confirmed/derogated the norm at a funeral. The situation that one (i.e. respondent himself/herself) and/or others conformed a norm was the story described to wear in black at a funeral. In contrast, the story in derogation condition was the situation that one and/or others wear in flashy cloths at a funeral. Also, all participants completed the need for uniqueness scale to measure the individual difference. As a result, both cultures showed the same pattern about the sense of normality. Japanese and South Korean reported higher sense of normality, when they imagined that they got line with those around them even if they themselves derogated from a social norm. On the other hand, there were different patterns about the affective reactions. It was indicated that Japanese affects were influenced by behaviors of those around them. South Korean, however, was emotionally affected by whether they confirmed to the social norms or not. It was suggested that these tendencies of normality and affective reactions should be less influenced by whether the need for uniqueness was high or low.

Keywords: normality, affective reactions, culture, individual difference.

"NORMALITY" AT A SOCIAL COMPARISON IN EAST ASIA: FOCUSING ON INDIVIDUALISM/COLLECTIVISM

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Abstract

This study explored how social norms influence affects. Cialdini et al. (1990) distinguished social norms into two types. Descriptive norm is decided by what most people do in a particular situation, which may bring about perceived typicality. On the other hand, injunctive norm is defined by moral rules, which reflects what people approve/disapprove. This study designed situations with different degrees of descriptive and injunctive norms, and measured the participants' affective reactions as to the situations. In addition, the intervening effects of individualism/collectivism as an individual difference were analyzed. 371 university students from Japan and South Korea (n=197; n=174, respectively) participated in a questionnaire experiment, which included an imaginary story containing a situation inducing social comparison. Descriptive and injunctive norms were indicated by the performance of the protagonist and the surrounding others. Each participant was asked to suppose he/she was the protagonist of the story, and to estimate affective reactions in that situation. ANOVAs revealed similar patterns in the two countries. Positive affects were influenced by the injunctive norm, whereas negative affects were determined by the descriptive norm. The higher one performed in a social comparison, the more positive affects he/she reported. On the other hand, negative affects were the lowest when his/her performance was the same level as surrounding others. In addition, individual difference had an effect on the relationship between the relative performance and the positive affects. These results suggest that "normality" might vary with individualistic/collectivistic tendencies.

Keywords: sense of normality, injunctive/descriptive norm, affective reactions, individualism/collectivism.

LUMINANCE ADJUSTMENT: NEVER FEAR AGAIN

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Abstract

The control of experimental variables is a crucial step in methodological research planning. In experimental psychology one can use stimuli to promote behavioral and physiological responses. The analysis of the physiological responses implies that the generation of the stimuli must be particularly careful. Certain physical properties of stimuli can override the psychological properties that are being evaluated, for that reason it is important to ensure their constancy. In particular, the measurement of the pupil diameter of the human eye under a visual stimulus gives an indicator of the sympathetic nervous system activation. To carry out such measurements it is necessary to guarantee that the luminance level of the visual stimulus must be kept constant. In general, a large set of visual stimuli has to be considered and the procedure for the luminance adjustments is a real time consuming task since the luminance level of the final stimulus is important for the activity of the pupil. In this paper is presented and described the developed methodology to make such luminance adjustments easier.

Keywords: visual stimuli, luminance level, contrast.

THE ROLE OF DECISION-MAKING STYLES AND SELFREGULATION IN MENTAL HEALTH

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Abstract

The main aim of the present research was to investigate the role of decision making styles and self-regulation in well-being and perceived stress. 157 university students (89% females) filled in the General Decision Making Style (Scott, Bruce, 1995) and the Short Self-Regulation Questionnaire (Neal, Carey, 2005) as part of the SLiCE (Student Life Cohort in Europe) study. The WHO Well-being index was used to assess well-being. Perceived stress was assessed by the short version of the Perceived Stress Scale (Cohen et al., 1983). Multiple linear regressions were used to predict well-being and stress by gender, decision making styles and self-regulation as well as by their interaction. Two decision making styles were found to be in significantly relate with the total score in well-being and perceived stress. A higher score in the avoidant decision making style is connected with a lower level of mental health, while a higher score in the intuitive style with the higher level of mental health. While higher self-regulation increased well-being, the interaction of independent variables was not significant. Gender differences in mental health were not found.

Keywords: decision-making styles, self-regulation, mental health, well-being, stress.

A NEW PARADIGM FOR INVESTIGATING HUMAN DECISION STRATEGY

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Abstract

We can divide the decision-making process into two components: 1) the mechanism and neural machinery by which an event is triggered, and 2) the strategy by which the mechanism is employed to solve behavioural/cognitive decision problems. Most of the decision-making models proposed in the past

few decades have conflated these two components by assuming that the mechanism constrains and determines behavioural outcomes (RT distributions etc.), as exemplified by the diffusion model. Only more recently has a strategic view been considered (such as maximizing rate or reward). In this work we explore an alternative way to study the strategy component in human decision-making. We introduce a novel paradigm in which a participant is asked to make a decision and gain reward by responding to a task which does not contain any perceptual cue (such as a stimulus onset in a typical RT experiment). We ran several experiments and explored decision strategies proposed in the literature (Bayes Risk, Reward Rate, Reward/Accuracy). We found that participants were appearing to optimize reward rate. We explain some individual differences among participants by referring to a modified reward rate strategy. We also discuss the connection between this task and some classic perceptual tasks. We conclude that focusing on the decision mechanism per se is not enough to understand human decision making, and that a strategic view is necessary.

Keywords: optimization, reward rate, speed-accuracy trade-off.

DIRECTIONALITY EFFECTS IN THE COMPREHENSION OF "IF THEN" AND "EVEN IF" SENTENCES

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Abstract

Relational statements such as "if A then B" are represented with the antecedent "A" in first place, and then with the consequent "B" (Oberauer & Wilhelm, 2000). Even when people read "B if A" they tend to represent "A" first, and that acts as a reference (or "relatum" term) for integrating the information that follows. However, with other expressions, such as "B only if A", this rule does not apply and "B" acts as the reference term. This fact suggests that the "inherent directionality" depends on the specific meaning of each statement and not on syntactic factors such as the antecedent/consequent structure in conditional statements. Counterfactual conditional statements such as "even if A had happened, B would have happened" require considering not only conjectured possibilities (A and B happened), as occurs with factual conditionals, but also a presupposed fact (Actually, A did not happen and B happened). If the "inherent directionality" depends on the meaning of the expressions, then the presupposed facts could work as a reference context (relatum) in the same way as the antecedent plays this role for "if A then B". In the present experiment, a sentence-picture verification task was administered in order to evaluate this hypothesis for semifactual "even if A, B" statements. Thus, "if then" and "even if" statements were displayed before some logical cases that were shown in congruent order (first A, then B) and incongruent order (first B, then A). Participants were asked to determine the truth-value of the statements according to the cases. The pattern of responses obtained is consistent with the semantic inherent directionality for counterfactual statements.

Keywords: comprehension task, directionality effects, inherent directionality hypothesis, conditional statements, semifactual statements.

VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

EMOTION DYS/REGULATION AND SELF-ESTEEM

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Abstract

The present paper aims to study the association between emotion regulation and a personality trait such as self-esteem. In fact the empirical literature evidenced that both emotion regulation and self- esteem may be protective factors for our psychological and emotional health and well-being. 150 Italian subjects completed two tools, one about emotion regulation (DERS, Gratz & Roemer, 2004) and the other about self-esteem (Basic SE, Forsman et al., 2003). Findings indicate that a low level of self-esteem is related to difficulties in some emotion regulation strategies; and that there are gender differences about this association. The authors suggest further research improvements taking into account their findings.

Keywords: emotion regulation, emotion dysregulation, self-esteem, well-being, risk factors.

SEX DIFFERENCES IN THE PERCEPTION OF LOVE AND SEX AMONG POLISH YOUNG ADULTS

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Abstract

Objective: The aim of the study was to investigate sex differences in the perception of love and sex among Polish young adults. Basing on the study performed by Hendrick and Hendrick (2002), it was hypothesized that women and men would not differ in perception of love and sex. *Design:* The study design comprised of correlational study in which participants were asked to fill in the questionnaires. *Methods:* Perception of Love and Sex Scale (Hendrick & Hendrick, 2002) was administered to the sample of 494 young adults (327 females and 167 males) aged 20-28 years, with the average age of participants being 21.30 (SD = 1.93). The questionnaire was distributed across different courses. A one-way ANOVA was used to analyse the data. *Findings:* The results indicated that women reported lower level of Love is Most Important, F(1, 492) = 6.50, p = .011, lower level of Sex Demonstrates Love, F(1, 492) = 8.20, p = .004, and lower level of Love Comes Before Sex, F(1, 492) = 20.55, p = .000 than men did. *Conclusion:* The current study revealed significant sex differences in the perception of love and sex among young women and men in Poland. These differences are not congruent with results obtained in the original study performed by Hendrick and Hendrick (2002).

Keywords: perception of sex, perception of love, sex differences, young adults.

SEX DIFFERENCES IN POLISH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH

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Abstract

Objective: The aim of the study was to investigate the possible sex differences in the mental health among Polish university students. Based on prior research (e.g., Rymaszewska, Adamowski, Pawłowski & Kiejna, 2005), it was hypothesized that women would report higher level of mental health problems than men would. *Design:* The study design comprised of a correlational study in which participants were asked to fill in questionnaires. *Methods:* The General Health Questionnaire-28 (GHQ-28; Goldberg & Hillier 1979) was administered to a sample of 429 university students (327 females and 102 males) aged 19-25 years, with the average age being 21.79 (SD = 1.72). The questionnaire was distributed across different

courses. A Student *t* test was used to analyse the data. *Findings:* The results indicated that women reported higher level of somatic symptoms than did men, t(195.24) = 3.51, p = .001, and higher level of anxiety than men did, t(427) = 3.17, p = .002. Women also reported higher level of total mental health problems than men did, t(427) = 2.80, p = .005. *Conclusions:* The current study revealed significant sex differences in the total mental health problems and in the domain of somatic symptoms and anxiety in Polish university students. This pattern of results may be related to gender roles and different styles of coping with stress, or it can also be connected with social expectations formulated towards women and men or with sex stereotypes.

Keywords: sex differences, mental health, sex stereotypes, university students.

"SALUTE ALLO SPECCHIO": A COMPLEMENTARY THERAPY FOR FEMALE CANCER PATIENTS

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Abstract

Introduction & Aim: "Salute allo Specchio" is a psychological program for female cancer patients. It was born in June 2013 with the aim to improve patients' well-being through the realization of group sessions during which a team of fashion and aesthetic consultants illustrates strategies to manage the effects of the disease and its treatments. Psychological variables such as depression, anxiety, quality of life were considered. A preliminary research evaluated variables' levels before the beginning of the program (t_0) . The present study shows how they vary during time, particularly at the conclusion of the project (t_1) and after three months (t2). Method: Up to now, 39 patients took part to the project. The following questionnaires were administrated: STAI-Y (anxiety), BDI-II (depression), EORTC QLQ-30 (quality of life). Results: A significant decrease (p<0.05) in depression and anxiety levels was found betweent₀ and t_1 Such differences maintained their significance even after 3 months from the conclusion of the project (t_2) , reflecting the non-transience of the observed effects. BDI-II mean scores are also influenced by the presence of metastasis; moreover, being subjected to chemotherapy and radiotherapy simultaneously seems to negatively impact on quality of life. Conclusions: The present study seems to confirm that taking part to "Salute allo Specchio" leads to a stable improvement in variables considered. It also suggests the importance of introducing support interventions beside conventional medical therapies, in order to promote a better adaptation to the disease and to improve the quality of life of the patients.

Keywords: psychoncology, female cancer, oncology esthetic, quality of life, body image perception.

HOW DO HOME ENVIRONMENTS CONTRIBUTE TO THE MENTAL HEALTH: CASE OF RUSSIAN ADOLESCENTS

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Abstract

One of the most crucial problems of contemporary clinical psychology and psychotherapy is searching for ecological resources of well-being and mental health. Based on the environmental psychology researches (Coolen, 2011; Edgerton, 2014; Kyttä, 2004; Nartova-Bochaver et al., 2015; Nordström, 2014) we assumed the friendliness of home environment to be an important predictor of its inhabitants' well-being. We define friendliness of home environment (FHE) as extent of how much it satisfies the inhabitants' needs. FHE combines number of affordances providing by home to its inhabitants and its conformity to their personalities. Our tools were: developed by authors Functionality of Home Environment Questionnaire (2015), The Personal Relevance of Home Environment (2015), Authenticity Scale (Wood

et al., 2008), Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale (Tennant et al., 2007). Participants were 124 adolescents (M_{age} =14.1, 58 males, 66 females), living in Moscow and rural area in various social contexts (regular school, gymnasium, orphanage, village home). In total, 15 variables were investigated. We have found that: 1) Well-being is stronger predicted by the personal relevance of home than by its functionality; 2) Girls are more sensitive to home friendliness than boys; 3) Moscow school students are more sensitive to anti-predictors than to predictors of well-being. Hypothesis is partly confirmed. In discussion, we consider gender differences and specificity of life plans among adolescents from different social contexts.

Keywords: home environment, well-being, authenticity, inhabitants, friendliness, social context.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS AND COPING STRATEGIES AMONG WOMEN WHO UNDERGO CANCER GENETIC TESTING

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Abstract

Carriers of BRCA mutations (BRCA1 and BRCA2) have a higher risk for breast and ovarian cancer. Despite cancer genetic testing is an effective instrument for cancer prevention, little is known about its psychological impact. The aim of the present study is to investigate the effect of coping strategies on the prediction of psychological distress among women who decided to undergo cancer genetic testing distinguishing them on the reasons for genetic testing. The study included three groups of women: breast and/or ovarian cancer patients (N = 33), breast and/or ovarian cancer survivors (N = 22) and people with strong family histories of breast and/or ovarian cancer (N = 10). All cancer patients (in remission or not) were affected by breast or ovarian cancer. Assessment of psychological distress and coping strategies were respectively obtained with the administration of the SCL-90-R and the COPE-NVI. ANOVA and multiple regression models were run. Groups of participants significantly differ in relation to somatization, depressive symptoms and hostility. In all cases, the use of avoidance coping strategies predicted higher levels of psychological distress. Results from the present study suggested the importance of the coping strategies on the prediction of psychological distress, helping psychologists to draw up appropriate intervention strategies during the cancer genetic testing.

Keywords: cancer, genetic counseling, hostility, coping.

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF MOTHERHOOD AFTER CANCER

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Abstract

The aims of a presentation include: 1) a literature review on being a mother after the experience of cancer, 2) the implications for further research. In the first part we would like to discuss the most recent research results in the above field. Moreover, we intend to present a multidimensional tool which measures concerns related to fertility and parenthood for young adult female cancer survivors, the Reproductive Concerns After Cancer Scale designed by Jessica Gorman and researchers from the University of California. Research shows that the experience of cancer can impede the natural development and disturb the fulfilment of developmental tasks of early adulthood (Magelssen, 2008; Pivetta, 2011; Syse, 2007; Cvancarova, 2009; Langeveld, 2002; Stam, 2005; Gurney, 2009; Green, 2009). Women after cancer have less chance for giving birth, although the factors which have influence on this situation are unclear, determined both by biological and psychosocial conditions. Simultaneously, the ability to have children is an important part of quality of life. The second part will be devoted to such implications for further research as: establishing the relationship between concerns about motherhood after the experience of

cancer and survivors' decisions, finding factors which differentiate between those concerns and checking the differences between young mothers and those young women who do not have children.

Keywords: motherhood, cancer, pregnancy.

THE BODY SELF AND ANOREXIA READINESS SYNDROME

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Abstract

Objective: The aim of the study was to answer the question whether disturbances in the body selfobserved among anorexia nervosa patients also characterize participants diagnosed with anorexia readiness syndrome (ARS). *Methods*: The study included 98 girls and women (aged 17 - 21) among whom 35 were diagnosed with anorexia readiness syndrome. The participants completed two questionnaires: the questionnaire of individual eating attitude (*Kwestionariusz do badania indywidualnego stosunku do jedzenia*) assessing anorexia readiness by PhD Beata Ziółkowska and the body self questionnaire (*Kwestionariusz Ja cielesnego*) assessing anomalies in the body self by PhD Olga Sakson – Obada. *Results*: We can observe anomalies in some of self body aspects among people diagnosed with ARS. However, they do not form a homogenous group – three clusters significantly different in terms of the self body scales were identified. *Conclusion*: The data can arouse concern since about 35% of the sample of questioned young women was diagnosed with ARS. The negative emotions about one's body – which characterize the women with ARS – are said to be the predictor of eating disorders so it is important to offer the prevention programs focused on developing positive attitude towards one's body in the early school years.

Keywords: anorexia readiness syndrome (ARS), body self.

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

CONSTRUCTIVE AND APPARENT NON-CONFORMISTS IN SCHOOL

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Abstract

While non-conformity as a dimension of personality has not yet been unambiguously defined, the knowledge collected so far indicates that this is a relatively permanent tendency of human beings to contradict opinions, judgements, social pressure, and opinions of others. Non-conformity denotes independence and autonomy in thinking, judging, and acting, which stem from an autonomous system of values. Non-conformists are not particularly sensitive to social norms, nor excessively geared towards breaking them. However, if need be, they are set to defend their point of view. Non-conformism has many faces. It may function as a creative force, thus fuelling creativity. What constructive non-conformists clothe in timelessness, apparent ones will express through over-advertised, kitschy and scandalising improvisation. Objectives: The aim of present study was to determine the occurrence of constructive and apparent conformity among students of middle schools, secondary schools, and undergraduate schools. Material and Methods: Studies performed on 2239 school students in Poland employed the Creative Behaviour Questionnaire KANH III (Bernacka, 2009) as a modified version of the KANH I is based concept of creative attitude formulated by Popek (1989). Results: There is a preponderance of constructive non-conformists over apparent ones on all three levels of education. Non-conformists are predominant in middle schools, and there are more constructive non-conformists among girls than boys. Conclusions: The study has shown that personality non-conformity, notably on the middle school level is mechanism if motivation and emotion which stimulates the conduct and mental functioning of adolescent students. The knowledge acquired can be used to diagnose and to develop the student psychological potential with a view to capitalising on the non-conformity.

Keywords: non-conformity, personality, school, student, gender.

HOW DO FUTURE TEACHERS HANDLE FEEDBACK REGARDING THEIR TEACHING SKILLS?

Dr. Kristin Behnke

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Abstract

The presented study deals with the attitudes towards and the handling of feedback in the context of German teacher training and education. During their teacher traineeship, future teachers already work at school and are furthermore accompanied by educators focusing on the enhancement of their didactical and methodological teacher skills (Kolbe & Combe, 2008). The traineeship is furthermore accompanied by theoretical seminars led by skilled supervisors. Regular classroom observations take place which are intensively supervised. There is an individual feedback opportunity after each classroom observation which is meant to foster learning and teaching improvement. Research has found that how trainee teachers are treated by their supervisors seems to be an area of critique and discontent (Ulich, 1996). Furthermore, supervisors seem to evaluate the lessons without using standardized criteria (Strietholt & Terhart, 2009). Additionally, the role of the supervisors as evaluator and counselor seems to be critical (Meyerhöfer & Rienits, 2006). In a quantitative study (N = 116 trainee teachers), we investigated, based on the state of the art, how trainee teachers evaluate the feedback which they receive by their supervisors and we analyzed via correlation analysis which character traits define, how well they receive it or whether they dismiss it. Our results show that feedback is generally accepted and seen as a good preparation for the teacher profession, but that there a several factors which hinder a greater acceptance. Also, some risk groups could be identified. Results and consequences are discussed from a social psychological point of view. Creating the practical and psychological precondition that feedback can be seen as a good and valuable learning opportunity is very important, since a negative attitude concerning feedback may lead to its rejection and may therefore hinder professional development.

Keywords: teacher education, feedback, rejection of feedback, character traits.

BEFORE AND AFTER INSPECTION: ATTITUDES OF HEADMASTERS TOWARDS EXTERNAL EVALUATIONS

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Abstract

School inspections have been widely discussed on an international level within the last years (Van Ackeren, 2007). In contrast to European countries such as England or the Netherlands, who already have a long inspection history, school inspections are a rather new phenomenon in Germany. Since schools have been working quite independently and without official external control before, the implementation of an external evaluation instrument may lead to a number of psychological effects (Bitan, 2014; Behnke, 2015; Steins, 2009). Studies on school inspections report a number of undesired side effects, stress, fear and negative attitudes towards school inspections (Brimblecombe, Shaw & Ormston, 1996; De Wolf & Janssens, 2007; Ehren & Visscher, 2006; Ouston, Fidler & Earley, 1997). This study presents results from a longitudinal qualitative research design, investigating the attitudes of headmasters of the German Federal State North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) before and after school inspection between 2009 and 2013. N = 50 headmasters were interviewed in T1 using loosely structured focused interviews as method of data collection. Interviews were transcribed, coded and then analyzed globally based on Grounded Theory and qualitative content analysis (cp. Bortz & Döring, 2006). Due to an organizational slow-down of school inspection in NRW, only N = 20 headmasters could be interviewed in T2. Our results indicate that headmasters experience more positive attitudes towards school inspection after they experienced it. Results and explanations will be discussed from a social psychological point of view. From our study, several implications for the future conduction of evaluations and inspections can be drawn from a psychological viewpoint.

Keywords: evaluation, school inspection, headmasters, attitude change.

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

DO SOVEREIGN PEOPLE COMMUNICATE MORE EFFICIENTLY?

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Abstract

The psychological sovereignty (PS) is a person's ability to keep his/her boundaries, and to control his/her personal space - body, territory, personal belongings, etc. (Nartova-Bochaver, 2005). This trait is responsible for keeping balance between the person's needs and other people's ones. PS is important for preventing transgressions of personal boundaries including unjust treatment, it helps to respect others and protect themselves as well. The opposite pole of this trait is designated deprivedness. In our research, the connection between psychological sovereignty and interpersonal interaction specificity was investigated on a Russian sample. The hypothesis assumed that sovereignty is positively connected with harmonious interpersonal relationships. In total, 399 respondents participated in this survey, 102 males, 297 females, Mage=23 years. The following tools were used: The Psychological Sovereignty-2010, Attachment -Separateness scale of Five Factor Questionnaire by A. B. Khromov, The experiences in Close Relationship Scale by M. Wei et al. Two empirical studies were conducted. In study 1, it was shown that the sovereignty level is positively connected with some attachment facets (warmth, trustfulness, and respect for others). In study 2, we discovered that the sovereignty level is negatively connected with anxiety and avoidance in close relationships. The discovered connections are more pronounced in females. Outcomes mean that people who feel safer have features helping them to establish more friendly attitudes toward others than people who feel vulnerable. Moreover, they communicate more confidently and authentically. Results are of high importance for applied social psychology.

Keywords: personal sovereignty, five factor model, communication, anxiety, avoidance.

THE EXPERIENCES OF SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN AUSTRALIA AND SINGAPORE

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Abstract

Human trafficking is a criminal activity and human rights violation essentially equivalent to slavery (Potocky, 2010). While it may take numerous forms, at the core of the definition of trafficking is the exploitation of an individual through the use of force, deception or coercion for the purposes of harnessing their productive potential without remuneration. While the consequences of trafficking on mental health have been documented, to the authors' knowledge, no theoretical model which comprehensively explains the development of such psychopathology has been created. In this study, semi-structured interviews were conducted with 11 trafficking survivors in Australia and Singapore. Using Grounded Theory, our interim model will suggest that, while survivors may have experienced developmental or relational trauma, their continued desire to improve their quality of life and that of their family is indicative of resilience. However, upon arrival at their destination, traffickers are able to enact a system of encapsulation that progressively undermines their sense of agency. They had their legal and identifying documentation taken, were placed under constant surveillance with no freedom of communication or movement, and were severely and arbitrarily punished for the most minor of infractions. Their complete dependence upon their traffickers and their lack of civil status was repeatedly evoked to remove any possibility to an alternative to acquiescence. This resulted in a lack of mentalization (Fonagy & Target, 1998), which prevented survivors contextualising their experiences and correctly attributing blame for their exploitation to their traffickers. Finally, the impact of different types of trafficking will be considered, with particular focus on dissociative states that are experienced by survivors of sex trafficking (Holmes et al., 2005).

Keywords: trauma, human trafficking, mentalization, dissociation, resilience.

WORKSHOPS

SELF DISCLOSURE IN PSYCHOTHERAPY: BUSINESS OR PERSONAL?

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Abstract

Purpose: A workshop designed to make health care professionals and therapists consider their own attitudes towards self-disclosure and a business vs. personal approach towards clients. *Background*: Self disclosure is a controversial topic in mental health care. This workshop argues that everybody should determine his own limits, but it can be rewarding to reflect on them thoroughly. It contains a mix of experiential exercises, theoretical reflections, discussion topics and a wide range of case examples to stimulate debate about the topic. *Key points*: The basic ideas on which the workshop builds are: 1) health care professionals use their own person and the therapeutic relationship as working instrument, 2) everybody has different limits, 3) self-disclosure can damage the therapeutic process and 4) self-disclosure can enhance the therapeutic process. The author has a Schematherapeutic background but integrates insights from different therapeutic schools and own experience to give a comprehensive view of different viewpoints on the issue. *Description of the participants*: All health care professionals who have direct client contact are welcome to join. Due to the interactive nature of the workshop, a maximum of 20 participants is set.

Keywords: self-disclosure, therapeutic attitude, therapeutic relationship.

COMPREHENSIVE BEHAVIORAL TREATMENT FOR BODY FOCUSED REPETITIVE BEHAVIORS

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Abstract

Behavioral interventions have demonstrated good effectiveness for body focused repetitive behaviors (BFRB), such as tics, hair pulling, and compulsive skin picking. However, expertise in providing this treatment is often lackning amongst mental health professionals. This workshop will help mental health professionals develop skills in comprehensive behavioral treatment of BFRBs in children and adults. Strategies will include Habit Reversal Training, response prevention techniques, cognitive reappraisal, and stress management techniques. Pharmacological options will also be discussed briefly.

Keywords: tics, hair pulling, compulsive skin picking, habit reversal training.

MEANING – ITS NATURE AND ASSESSMENT

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Abstract

The purpose is to introduce the meaning theory of Kreitler and Kreitler which provides a new way of defining the nature of meaning and exploring how it affects our cognitive and emotional functioning, our personality tendencies, and our worldview and construction of reality. It is based on a large body of empirical studies and expands previous approaches to meaning. It consists in characterizing contents in terms of the provided information and the manner of expression. The major concepts of the meaning theory are meaning system, referent, meaning value, meaning unit and meaning variables, The assessment technique enables assessing meaning of different kinds (e.g., verbal and nonverbal), and identifying meaning assignment tendencies of individuals of different ages. Applications of the meaning system include clarifying constructs, exploring the underlying dynamics and constituents of personality traits and cognitive acts, comparing worldviews of different groups and producing changes in states of consciousness.

Keywords: meaning, assessment, cognition, emotions, worldview.

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