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Northern Ireland Branch

*Northern Ireland Branch Annual Conference,
The Park Hotel, Virginia, Co. Cavan, Republic
of Ireland, 11–13 May 2001.*

The structure of trauma-related inhibition processes in an emergency service sample

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T DALGLEISH, MRC Cambridge

Background: A recent theoretical conceptualisation of the underlying structure of inhibition processes employed following trauma, suggested four different types: controlled informational inhibition, controlled emotional inhibition, automatic informational inhibition, and automatic emotional inhibition.

Aims: The study aimed to empirically test this multidimensional theory of inhibition. Method: Items chosen to reflect the theoretical structure were included in a battery of self-report measures. These were completed by emergency service personnel from across the East Anglian region.

Results: A forced four factor principal components analysis of the inhibition items did not adequately reflect the original theoretical structure. Further analyses indicated one large controlled inhibition factor, and two smaller automatic factors.

Conclusions: Although the hypothesised factor structure wasn't wholly supported there is evidence supporting a multidimensional structure of inhibition processes.

Careers guidance – the value of psychometric intervention to school goers identified as high priority in relation to career advisory support needed

C ARMSTRONG, C CURRAN & B FOLEY,
Queen's University, Belfast

Background: Careers guidance has moved from the provision of recommendations to enabling

individuals to decide on and implement decisions for themselves, thus the individual becomes responsible for their own career decisions.

Method: This study employs a quasi-experimental design. 600 second level students received a baseline instrument, Getting Connected, to identify those as high priority in relation to career advisory support needed. The experimental group received psychometric intervention and the control group were left untreated until after the study. To establish the effectiveness of the Psychometric intervention, the baseline was administered two months post initial administration.

Results: The hypothesis is that experimental group will fall into the medium or low priority group following the Psychometric intervention.

Cognitive skills group rehabilitation in pre-vocational head injury training programme

E ARMSTRONG, The Cedar Foundation
Training and Resource Centre

Background: Long-term effects of head injury is estimated to have an impact on one family in every 300 in the UK. Meaningful participation in community life is a benchmark of recovery.

Aims: To examine the effects of a compensatory and education model of cognitive skills rehabilitation, delivered in a group setting, to individuals participating in a pre-vocational, community-based training programme.

Method: EG (n=10) attended cognitive skills sessions, which were not available to the CG (n=10), in addition to their vocational training programmes. All participants were assessed prior and after training, using RMBT, Everyday Memory Questionnaire (EMQ), DEX/BADS, and Brain Injury Community Outcome Scales (BICRO). Self-awareness was inferred from inter-rater agreement.

Results: EG performed significantly better on RMBT, EMQ, DEX (self-report) and all BICRO outcome measures, except Personal Care. The CG only showed gains after training on Psychological Well-being scale of the BICRO.

Conclusions: The cognitive skills training was effective on a range of measures. Difficulties with measurement of self-awareness in TBI

populations and need for development of informative measures of clinician characteristics are highlighted.

The effects of enclosure size on the captive welfare of young corn snakes

L BAIRD & P HEPPEL, Queen's University,
Belfast

Background: Reptiles are becoming increasingly popular as pets, yet little research has considered the most appropriate captive conditions under which to keep such animals.

Aims: The main aim was to consider the effects of enclosure size on the behaviour and physical development of young corn snakes.

Method: Snakes were housed in pairs in one of three different-sized enclosures. The following measures were observed and measured over four weeks: time spent in the open field, time spent climbing, time spent in water, feeding, growth, and shedding.

Results: 'Small enclosure snakes' gained significantly more weight, spent significantly more time in the open field and significantly more time in the water than 'medium or large enclosure snakes'. 'Small enclosure snakes' accepted significantly more feeds than those in the medium enclosures only.

Conclusions: These results suggest that small enclosures are more suitable and beneficial for young corn snakes. However, much remains to be studied about the factors influencing reptile welfare.

Researching health seeking behaviour on the Internet: The relative merits of real-life and experimental data

P BANYARD, Nottingham Trent University

Background: It has been argued that people may be more willing to seek potentially threatening information on the Internet than they would in 'real life'. It is difficult however, to gain direct evidence of this behaviour due to its private nature.

Aims: To investigate health seeking behaviour

contrasting methods and to evaluate the relative merits of these methods of collecting evidence.

Method: Two studies are reported: an observation of internet behaviour based on hit rates on a popular health site compared to requests to a telephone helpline, and an experimental comparison of responses to written and electronic text.

Results: Both studies find a significant effect of internet-based information on health seeking behaviour.

Conclusions: These findings are discussed in light of the disinhibitory effect of the internet. The potential role of the Internet in health promotion is considered and the difficulties of collecting data are explored.

The Irish in England: Catholic and Protestant religiosity, social identity and attitudes toward social and political violence in Northern Ireland

E BINKS & N FERGUSON, Liverpool Hope University College

Background: Irish people currently constitute Britain's oldest and largest migrant ethnic group. Given the importance of Great Britain as a reception country and its close proximity to both Northern and the Republic of Ireland, relatively little is known with regard to acculturation experiences and attitudes toward the on-going conflict in Northern Ireland for this subgroup of the Irish Diaspora.

Aims: To examine specifically religiosity, social identity, political and historical knowledge and attitudes toward social and political solutions to the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland.

Method: An opportunity sample of 75 respondents was selected. Within the sample, 54 per cent were raised within the Catholic faith, 42 per cent in the Protestant faith and 6 per cent specified some other or no religious denomination.

Results: Significant differences were found between Catholic and Protestant social identity, religiosity and social and political solutions to the political violence. No significant difference was found between the political and historical knowledge of the respondents.

Conclusions: The Irish in England do elicit strong social identifications, although Protestant respondents displayed a more complex identity. Catholic respondents exhibited a more orthodox and intrinsic attitude toward religion. Suggested solutions to the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland differ greatly between the Catholic and Protestant Irish in England.

Five year follow-up of cognitive and social functioning in schizophrenia within high security care in Scotland

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Background: The State Hospital in Lanarkshire, Scotland, provides psychiatric care under conditions of special security for patients from Scotland and Northern Ireland. The majority of patients in the State Hospital have a diagnosis of schizophrenia. The relatively young age of patients, length of psychiatric history and level of medication suggests a high prevalence of chronic and treatment resistant schizophrenic illness.

Aims: The purpose of the present study was to examine the cognitive and social functioning of a cohort of 34 patients with schizophrenia detained in a secure psychiatric environment over a five-year period.

Method: All participants assessed in the present study were drawn from a cohort previously described in an earlier published study thus allowing follow-up comparisons to be made.

Results: Analyses of these data indicated that on most measures of cognitive and social

functioning administered participants did not show significant decline from previous assessment despite the relative severity of their mental health problems.

Risk perception and communication on electromagnetic fields (EMFs)

G BRADLEY, & N SHEEHY, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: Risk perception studies help to inform about perception of technological hazards and are relied upon to construct risk communication literature for public use. Much literature explains that risk perception is socially constructed and while little exists on communication efficacy in perceptual change, some research has demonstrated an increase in participant anxiety on specific, pertinent factors after reading communications literature. By examining key differences in participant groupings from differing occupational and educational backgrounds, this study seeks to demonstrate that risk is socially construed, and that potential anxiety increase is mediated by educational and occupational factors.

Aims: Assessment of risk communications literature on perceptual change

Method: Participants from various educational and occupational groupings completed a rep-grid style perception questionnaire, then read a brochure and completed a further rep-grid questionnaire. Control groups read the brochure and completed the second questionnaire only.

Results: In process.

Conclusions: In process.

Alternative factor structures of the Impact of Event Scale: A confirmatory factor analytic approach

V BRUNSDEN, Derby University & S FORREST, Nottingham Trent University

Background: The Impact of Event Scale (IES) is a widely used self-report measure of intrusion (intrusively experienced ideas, feelings, or nightmares) and avoidance (conscious avoidance of reminders of the traumatic event), two of the main components of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Aims: The aim of the study is to assess the dimensionality of the IES using structural equation modelling procedures in a sample of fire-fighters.

Method: Three alternative psychometric models were proposed and specified in LISREL8.3. The first model proposed a single underlying 'psychological distress' factor. The second model was a two-factor model, with the respective items loading on either the intrusion or avoidance factor. The third model included three factors. In this model the intrusion factor was separated into a 'denial' and 'emotional numbness' factor. Model fit was assessed using global and comparative fit indices.

Results: The two-factor model was found to be the best explanation of the sample data.

Conclusions: The psychometric properties of the IES were found to be acceptable. Measurement issues in relation to the nature and roles of denial, emotional numbing and avoidance, as manifested in traumatic stress are discussed.

Latent variable systems and their evaluation

BP BUNTING & M SHEVLIN, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background & Aims: These five papers are concerned with latent variable models.

Main contribution: The first of these papers assumes that the underlying latent variable system is discrete while the latter two pieces of research assume an underlying continuous variable(s). However, the applications of these models are very different. The first paper uses data from the Northern Ireland General Household Survey to illustrate the use of latent class analysis in terms of consumer behaviour. The second paper uses the latent growth model methodology to establish the different types of evaluation that are made with regards to individuals who have been described as suffering

from AIDS. Such models invariably use time; however, in the present analysis a range of semantic differential items is used, within a cross-sectional design. This leads to useful way to evaluate hierarchical structures. The third paper keeps to the latent variable theme but uses the model within its traditional setting, i.e., repeated measures. This author introduces both time varying and time-invariant covariates to examine change among a group of undergraduate students. The last two papers evaluate (a) model fit indices and (b) missing data in the context of latent variable systems.

Conclusions: All five papers present sophisticated statistical modelling approaches to problems that could be easily generalised to a range of psychological issues.

A latent class analysis of the Northern Ireland General Household Survey

BP BUNTING, University of Ulster at Magee College & M MAGUIRE, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Background: This paper illustrates how a series of dichotomous items can be analysed in terms of underlying latent variables that are categorical

Aims: To (a) estimate class probabilities (b) relate class probabilities to a series of covariates

Method: In the first part of the paper an examination is undertaken of the number of latent classes required to describe the ownership of twelve commonly purchased consumers' durables. The probability of ownership is then described in terms of (a) income (b) socio-economic status (c) age and family size.

Results: It is shown that the ownership can be effectively summarised in terms of three discrete latent classes. Each person in the analysis will have a given probability of membership within each of the classes. However, most individuals will be clearly classified within a specific class.

Using the multinomial logistic regression with a latent class a series of covariates is introduced and this pattern of complex relationships described.

Conclusions: It is shown, through the use of a latent class model, that consumer purchasing behaviour can effectively be summarised within three different classes. Likely membership of these classes can be usefully examined in terms of a series of demographic covariates.

Correlates of intergroup forgiveness in Northern Ireland

E CAIRNS, University of Ulster at Coleraine, F McLERNON, University of Ulster at Coleraine, CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College & M HEWSTONE, University of Cardiff

Background: As societies such as Northern Ireland enter a post-conflict situation there is growing theoretical and empirical interest in the role of inter-group forgiveness.

Aims: To date most research on forgiveness has operated at the interpersonal level; the present aim, therefore, is to examine the relationship between inter-group forgiveness and measures that may be theoretically related, including religiosity, victimhood, and attitude towards the out-group.

Method: A sample of 402 Northern Irish Catholic (48 per cent) and Protestant (51 per cent) university students completed self-report measures of inter-group forgiveness, religiosity, victimhood, and attitude towards the out-group.

Results: The data suggest that for neither Catholics nor Protestants was religiosity significantly related to forgiveness. Instead, the main correlate of forgiveness for both groups was out-group attitudes as well as (for Protestants only) gender and victimhood.

Conclusions: The present data suggest that among a sample of Northern Irish students, inter-group forgiveness is not related to religiosity or personal levels of suffering as a result of the political violence but instead determined by overall attitudes towards the out-group. As such, inter-group forgiveness among the present sample, is perhaps best thought of as a socio-political rather than a religious concept.

Evaluation of the theory of a hierarchy of blame in AIDS using latent growth curve models

C O'LOUGHLIN, Isle of Man International Business School

Background: Latent growth models, to our knowledge, have not previously been used to structure responses to different statements hierarchically.

Aims: To investigate the theory of a hierarchy of blame in AIDS by adapting a latent growth curve model to assess the differentiation between individuals with AIDS.

Method: Five longitudinal growth models were specified ($n = 545$). The first three models pertained to the semantic differential item innocent/guilty. Models four and five employed the items careful/careless and clever/stupid respectively.

Results: The results indicated that those who had lower levels of blame in relation to a child have the most rapid rates of increase across the hierarchy of individuals with AIDS. Both models four and five describe the data and the rate of increase across the hierarchy of AIDS victims was not as pronounced, i.e. those who score low at the child level will have a moderate increase across the hierarchy.

Conclusions: The latent growth modelling approach can be adapted to test the theory of a hierarchy of blame in AIDS and provides valuable information about the rate of growth/difference across the hierarchy.

A longitudinal study assessing the extent and nature of bullying in primary schools

K COLLINS, University of Ulster at Jordanstown, G ADAMSON, University of Ulster at Magee College & M SHEVLIN, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: School bullying is recognised as a pervasive problem, which can have a detrimental influence on the educational, social and psychological development of pupils. Few studies have attempted to record the nature and extent of bullying across several time periods.

Aims: The study seeks to explore the stability of the various types of bullying and related behaviours in a sample of primary school across a period of one year.

Method: A longitudinal design was employed to explore the stability in incidence of bullying over one-year. A sample of 157 children from four primary schools in Greater Belfast completed the Olweus bullying questionnaire on four occasions across one year.

Results: The frequency of involvement of pupils in each bully/victim category varied across the four testing intervals. It emerged that, while the frequency of victimisation decreased overtime, pupil reports of being involved as a bully increased. A reduction in the number of pupils who were bully-victims was also observed.

Conclusions: The study highlights the importance of understanding the dynamics of bullying and demonstrates the value of exploring bullying behaviour overtime.

Construct validity and temporal stability of the Self-Perception Profile for Children (SPPC)

K COLLINS, University of Ulster at Jordanstown, G ADAMSON, University of Ulster at Magee College & M SHEVLIN, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: The Self-Perception Profile for Children (SPPC) is a 36-item scale that consists of five domain-specific sub-scales (scholastic competence, social acceptance, athletic competence, physical appearance, and behavioural conduct) and one global measure of self-worth. The scale has been employed in numerous studies in the developmental and social developmental literature.

Aims: The aims of the study were to assess the construct validity of the SPPC and determine the stability of the measure across time.

Method: Structural equation modelling was used

to model the factor structure of the SPPC across four waves of measurement.

Results: The results indicated that the SPPC had an acceptable psychometric structure. Issues regarding instability across repeated measurements are discussed.

Conclusions: Although the SPPC is widely used in research previous psychometric evaluations have not employed SEM techniques. Such an analysis suggests that the SPPC has a meaningful factor structure, although issues of temporal instability warrant discussion.

Exhaustive factor analysis

C COOPER, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: Conventional methods of exploratory factor analysis involve several difficult decisions, such as identifying the number of factors for rotation, and the most appropriate algorithm for rotation

Aims: It is shown that for 13 variables or less it is feasible to generate and test the fit of all possible simple-structure models that could possibly fit a set of data using conventional methods of structural equation modelling.

Method: The present study examined institutional and individual factors that were related to levels of anxiety, depression and psychological well-being within these groups (total $n = 161$).

Results: We report the results of applying this method of exhaustive factor analysis to artificial datasets to and several extensively-analysed datasets from the literature. These show that the technique is able to identify the most appropriate factor structure.

Conclusions: The technique appears promising, and may be applicable to other multivariate techniques. Suggestions are made for how larger datasets may be analysed.

Stress and coping in suicide-prone prisoners

C COOPER & S BERWICK, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: Being imprisoned leads some individuals to commit suicide whereas others appear to suffer little stress.

Aims: Individual differences in personality and coping mechanisms may influence prisoners' ability to cope with these stresses and may be of diagnostic use.

Method: We examined institutional and individual factors that were related to levels of anxiety, depression and psychological well-being within three suicide-prone groups of prisoners (total $n = 161$).

Results: Several behaviours were related to anxiety and depression, but the number and nature of coping mechanisms used was not.

Conclusions: Some variables do predict levels of depression, but the relationship is neither large nor clearly causal. The reasons why coping mechanisms seemingly fail to moderate levels of anxiety and depression are discussed.

Measuring health-related quality of life in ischaemic heart disease

M DEMPSTER & M DONNELLY, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: Although there is a general consensus that health-related quality of life (HRQoL) is an important consideration in the treatment of people with ischaemic heart disease, confusion remains about how it should be measured because of the abundance of available instruments.

Aims: This presentation reviews the psychometric properties of HRQoL instruments used among people with ischaemic heart disease, in order to determine which is most appropriate.

Main contribution: The SF-36 appears to offer the most reliable, valid and sensitive generic assessment of HRQoL. The Quality of Life after Myocardial Infarction questionnaire or the Seattle Angina Questionnaire should be the preferred disease-specific instruments.

Conclusions: Overall, research on disease-specific measures is sparse compared to the number of studies that have investigated generic

measures. Further research into the measurement of HRQoL of people with ischaemic heart disease is required in order to address the problems (such as lack of sensitivity to detect change) identified by this review.

The mental health consequences of domestic violence in Northern Ireland

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Background: The empirical study of the psychological consequences of domestic violence has been largely ignored in Northern Ireland. Similarly the study of automatic, involuntary reactions to stress, including peritraumatic dissociation, has evoked little attention.

Aims: The aim of the present study was to try and begin a research process that attempts to remedy this situation.

Method: A sample of women identified as victims of domestic violence and a control group of women not experiencing domestic violence completed measures of dissociation, peritraumatic dissociation, life-span traumatic experience, guilt and mental health.

Results: Results show significantly higher dissociation and trauma scores in women with histories of domestic violence. Furthermore, peritraumatic dissociation was positively related to both traumatic experience and indicators of mental health.

Conclusions: The findings are discussed in terms of dissociative theory and threats to mental health through direct exposure to domestic violence.

Working memory function in Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID): Does it differ from other psychiatric conditions?

MJ DORAHY, University of New England, Australia & The Cannan Institute, Brisbane, Australia, HJ IRWIN, University of New England, Australia & W MIDDLETON, The Cannan Institute, Brisbane, Australia

Background: Dissociative identity disorder (DID) is characterised by a range of memory anomalies, including psychogenic amnesia and flashbacks, however, little is known about idiosyncratic working memory features.

Aims: The aim of the present study was to examine the characteristics of working memory in DID.

Method: Markers of working memory function were examined in five samples: DID ($n = 10$), posttraumatic stress disorder ($n = 10$), schizophrenia ($n = 9$), depressed ($n = 10$) and general population control ($n = 11$).

Results: The DID, depressed and PTSD samples showed significant negative priming while the schizophrenia and control groups did not. Significant positive priming effects were only evident in the control sample. With the exception of the schizophrenia sample, interference effects were significant in all groups. Increased schizotypy scores were significantly related to reduced negative priming. The relationship between dissociation and negative priming was mild but fell marginally short of significance.

Conclusions: Results are discussed with reference to previous work on working memory markers in psychiatric conditions.

Devising a screening procedure for children who have been sexually abused

K DUFFY & M KEENAN, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background: One in four girls and one in four boys are victims of sexual abuse during childhood. Despite considerable research in recent years, definitions of child sex abuse vary and many of the studies are methodologically flawed.

Aims: This paper argues that procedures from the stimulus equivalence paradigm may offer a new avenue for achieving higher accuracy rates in the disclosure of child sex abuse cases.

Method: This experiment examined the efficiency of the stimulus equivalence paradigm in differentiating between two groups of subjects in relation to their prior history. Subjects were randomly allocated to one of two groups. Group 1 was firstly exposed to a video detailing the experiences of a female survivor of incest before being exposed to conditional discrimination training and testing. Subjects in Group 2 were not exposed to the video prior to training and testing.

Results: The general findings were that subjects in Group 1 responded differentially in a modified equivalence testing procedure using novel arbitrary and socially loaded stimuli. The performance of subjects in Group 2 generally was not affected by the presence of socially loaded stimuli. The results support the argument that modified equivalence procedures can differentiate between subjects with different histories.

Conclusions: This paper concludes by suggesting that refinements in these procedures could positively compliment current assessment procedures in the child sexual abuse investigations.

Who are you calling a cheat? A factor analysis of mark enhancing strategies adopted by higher education students in written assignments

M DUNN, University of Derby

Background & Aims: To identify strategies adopted which were aimed at enhancing the marks gained for written work.

Method: Students from three years on a business studies undergraduate programme (n = 230) completed a questionnaire. Whilst some strategies would be regarded as academically desirable others may be more dubious, and others still can be regarded explicitly as cheating.

Results: All items were endorsed by students, with percentage endorsements ranging from 2 to 76 per cent. A second order factor analysis was carried out using principal components analysis. At the first stage 12 components were extracted, accounting for 60 per cent of the total variance. In the second stage four higher components were extracted accounting for 55 per cent of the total variance.

Conclusions: As both student numbers and the resultant demands on lecturing staff increase, there is a need to develop innovative methods and systems of assessment in order to both reveal and attenuate such strategies.

Human aggression: Issues regarding neuroanatomical and neurochemical theories

K DYER & R BELL, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: Recent animal studies have focussed on specific neurobiological etiologies of aggression, (e.g. 5-HT_{1A} sub-receptors). Human studies on such receptors are less conclusive, however there has been a recent resurgence of human experimentation on the serotonin hypothesis. Similarly, the pre-frontal cortex has lately been recognised as the primary neurological structure involved in the regulation of aggression, rather than the amygdala. Recent theorists, however, have incorporated both structures and the serotonin hypothesis in a more integrated model.

Aims: This review outlines recent neurobiological theories of aggression, and discusses both the practical problems and the methodological shortcomings present in the current literature.

Main contribution: Previous literature on aggression neurobiology focuses on narrow sections of the problem. This review attempts to give a more global picture of the area by integrating disparate theories and addressing some unnecessary flaws in research.

Conclusions: Biological explanations of aggression are evolving; however they require more meticulous study.

The impact of longer-term counselling on client's lives

M FERGUSON, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: The impact of longer-term counselling on clients' lives is currently a matter of some controversy. Assumptions about the essentially positive impact of counselling on clients' lives have increasingly been subject to challenge. Of major concern is the likelihood of longer-term counselling leading to client dependency, powerlessness, self-blaming and social alienation due to its tendency to individualise human distress.

Aims: To identify and discuss: (a) the assumptions underlying the main theories in the subject area; and (b) the main criticisms that have been made of work on the topic. To use the ideas in the literature to justify research in the area

Main contribution: The review shall add significantly to the knowledge base in the area. Research needs shall be illuminated.

Conclusions: The literature review reveals the need for empirical study in the area.

Cross-cultural analysis of children's ways of coping

I-L FU, O MULDOON & N SHEEHY, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: Cultural factors almost certainly influence the emergence of children's ways of coping with a stress related episode. However, there is relatively little research on the nature of these cultural influences.

Aims: The purpose of this study was to examine differences and similarities in preferences for ways of coping among three cultural groups.

Method: In this cross-cultural study, 228 P4 students (mean age = 11) from three cultural groups: Taiwan (n = 103), Chinese-Irish (n = 50), and Northern Irish (n = 75) completed the revised Ways of Coping Scale (Folkman & Lazarus, 1985) in relation to a stressful episode. Eight coping factors: three problem-focused, four emotion-focused and one other (Support mobilisation) were identified.

Results: Multiple comparison analysis indicated that students from the three cultural groups adopt different coping strategies. The immigrant group (Chinese-Irish) adopted strategies that were similar to the host culture group (Northern Irish.) There were no differences between cultural groups in relation to the strategies: Exercise Caution, and Instrumental Action.

Conclusions: Results are discussed in relation to cultural influences on children's coping styles.

Increasing independent use of activity materials and extending high rates of meaningful interaction amongst the institutionalised elderly

SM GALLAGHER & M KEENAN, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background: Lack of meaningful social interaction and low rates of independent activity have been shown to have detrimental effects upon the institutionalised elderly.

Aims: To increase rates of meaningful interaction and independent use of activity materials among the institutionalised elderly.

Method: A table quiz implemented to extend periods of high frequency meaningful interaction and a lottery was implemented to increase frequencies of independent use of activity materials.

Results: Periods of high frequency meaningful interaction were extended by 90 minutes and a £20 lottery prize brought about a significant increase in independent activity use.

Conclusions: This research demonstrates that it is possible to introduce economical and effective behaviour modification programs into a long-term care setting for the elderly without disrupting the physical environment and routine of the institution.

Parental demand for Integrated Education: An application of the Theory of Planned Behaviour

M GILES, University of Ulster at Coleraine, P IRWING, University of Ulster at Coleraine, C McCLENAHAN, University of Ulster at Magee College, M STRINGER, University of Ulster at Coleraine & R WILSON, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background: Whilst the integrated sector continues to grow, the development and future of integrated education will be dependent on parental demand.

Aims: This study employed the Theory of Planned Behaviour to assess current support for integrated education and to determine the relative importance attributed to the reasons parents have for choosing integrated schooling. It was also the intention to explore the differential roles played by self-efficacy and perceived control within this theoretical framework.

Method: Questionnaires were administered to 1732 parents of post primary aged school children.

Results: Results showed that the majority of parents were in favour of integrated education and that the child and partner's wishes were paramount in the decision-making process. Enhancing self-esteem also emerged as a significant consideration and some importance was attributed to the standard of education on offer. From a theoretical perspective, support was provided for the discriminant validity of self-efficacy and perceived control.

Conclusions: This study supports the view that self-efficacy is an important and necessary addition to the Theory of Planned Behaviour.

Seasonal depression and autobiographical memory

S GILPIN & C McCONVILLE, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background: Depressed individuals give overgeneralised answers when asked to recall a specific autobiographical memory. Overgenerality is a trait marker indicating vulnerability to persistent depression and the negative bias in autobiographical memory has been implicated in the maintenance of depression.

Aims: The aims of the study are twofold: (1) Ascertain whether deficits in autobiographical memory exist for those reporting seasonal depression in a similar pattern to those who report non-seasonal depression; and (2) Establish whether the problems associated with autobiographical memory retrieval are permanent or seasonal, by testing during the winter and summer months.

Method: Subjects were tested using the Seasonal Autobiographical Memory Test based on the Autobiographical Memory Test for which a seasonal component was constructed.

Results: Results are presented and discussed in relation to seasonal depression and autobiographical memory.

An evaluation of computer anxiety correlates and their impact upon academic performance

MS GORDON & ME KILLEY, Liverpool Hope University College

Background: The rationale behind the study arises from the growing concern regarding computerphobia and the impact that using a computer in higher education may have on the learning experience and the academic performance of the computerphobe.

Aims: The study has two aims, firstly to identify the main factors that may contribute to a student developing computerphobia, and secondly to assess the level of impact that computerphobia may have upon academic performance.

Method: 139 undergraduate first-year psychology students participated in the study. The participants completed a number of questionnaires that measured their level of computerphobia, anxiety, previous computer experience, and academic performance.

Results: The results indicated, using a multiple regression, that computer use, negative computer cognitions, and general anxiety significantly predicted computer anxiety. Furthermore, significant differences, using a MANCOVA, were found between phobic and non-phobic groups for computer use and anxiety. However, non-significant differences between phobic and non-phobic were found regarding academic performance.

Conclusions: The research indicates that computer-related problems may have a detrimental impact upon the learning experience of the student. However, more research is needed to unravel the multifaceted components of computerphobia and the impact they may have on academic performance.

Assessment in Higher Education: Why personality and learning styles do not significantly predict outcomes.

J GRANLEESE, University of East Anglia

Background: There is a plethora of research studies which attempt to explain how personality and learning styles relate to student performance outcomes in Higher Education. To most such researchers the answer to student performance outcomes lies within the personal traits and or characteristics of the student. But are such traits and characteristics meaningful predictors of student performance?

Aims: This study examines the relationships of gender, personality and learning styles to student performance outcomes.

Method: 226 male and 232 female accounting students completed Honey and Mumford's Learning Style Questionnaire and the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire. Their scores were correlated with their coursework and exam marks in introductory accounting courses.

Results: Few significant correlations were found among the variables though patterns for male and females differ.

Conclusions: A more meaningful approach for educationalists to explain performance outcomes may be to address pedagogical factors other than student characteristics.

The effect of the stockperson on dairy cow behaviour and milk yield

D HANNA, I SNEDDON, V BEATTIE & K BREUER, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: Although much research has been undertaken to define environmental, nutritional or physiological correlates of welfare and production in farm animals, little attention has been paid to the effects of the quality and quantity of interactions between stockpeople and animals.

Aims: This study attempted to determine the effect of different stockpeople's interactions on the behaviour and milk yield of a herd of 250 dairy cattle.

Method: A range of interactional measures of two stockteams were observed during normal milkings and analysed with respect to a range of video recorded behavioural measures and milk yields of the cows.

Results: Results indicated that many behavioural measures differed between stockteams. It was also revealed that the stockteam who performed significantly more negative interactions had a significantly lower milk yield.

Conclusions: This study illustrates the importance of the role of the stockperson in the welfare of animals and farm output.

The Internet as a research tool: Investigating experiential haemorrhage following trauma

S HISKEY, University of Essex

Background: A series of focus groups conducted with survivors of stressful or traumatic life events informed the construction of two questionnaire measures, designed to examine both the negotiation and extent of change experienced following adversity (experiential haemorrhage).

Aims: The aim of this study was the further development and validation of these measures of experiential haemorrhage using Internet-based data collection.

Method: The web-based questionnaire was promoted via links from a number of advice and support groups around the world. Six-hundred-and-twenty participants completed a questionnaire battery on-line, including the measures of experiential haemorrhage and distress.

Results: Principal component analysis revealed sensitivity, connectedness, hostility and insight factors emerged from the change-based measure, while the negotiation measure produced factors related to event expressibility, processing and closure.

Conclusions: The use of the Internet as a platform for questionnaire distribution is discussed, as are issues of data validity and reliability.

The traumatic effects of imprisonment during a custodial sentence

K HOCKEN, Nottingham Trent University & V BRUNSDEN, University of Derby

Background: It is generally accepted that prisoners demonstrate an elevated incidence of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) but little attention has been given to the stressful nature of imprisonment itself.

Aims: To investigate whether criminal imprisonment in itself can qualify as a stressor responsible for PTSD development.

Method: The Life Event checklist and Clinician Administered PTSD Scale were administered to 50 male inmates serving their first custodial sentence at an English prison. The traumatic event was defined as the acts of arrest and imprisonment themselves.

Results: Over 30 per cent of the sample displayed symptoms sufficient for a diagnosis of PTSD. Using Discriminate Functional Analysis no significant relationship was found between previous critical life events, age or sentence type, and PTSD symptomatology.

Conclusions: The serving of a custodial sentence appears to contribute to the development of PTSD symptoms, with imprisonment itself acting as a critical traumatic event. Implications for prisoner induction and for treatment strategies are discussed

Using imagery in the treatment of a child with post-traumatic stress symptoms

M HORLER, University of Sheffield

Background: Various forms of imagery are used in the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder. Theoretical explanations for these techniques include providing the opportunity to process the traumatic memories along with established memories already held.

Aims: This case study demonstrates how guided imagery can be used for a child suffering post-traumatic stress to gain control over intrusive images of a road traffic accident.

Method: Treatment involved an imaginary 'video' technique to 'record' the events of the accident. During treatment, trauma and anxiety scales were completed, along with diary records.

Results: Post-traumatic stress symptoms reduced significantly following eight treatment sessions.

Conclusions: The use of imagery can enable children with post-traumatic stress symptoms to control intrusions. Cognitive theories regarding the assimilation of traumatic memories with established memories are discussed.

Spatial frequency affects colour appearance

SJ HUTCHINSON, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: Visual theories generally assume that chromatic and spatial characteristics of the external world are processed separately. However, there is some evidence to suggest interactions exist between colour and space.

Aims: The purpose of the study is to investigate if spatial frequency affects colour.

Method: An asymmetric colour-matching technique was used to measure appearance of

grey uniform strips (test) patches of light inserted into coloured stripped (background) patterns.

Observers adjusted the uniform (matching) patch beneath the pattern to appear the same as the test by changing hue, saturation, and brightness of the matching strip. Spatial frequency was varied. Three observers made five measurements for each test and strip colour.

Results: As spatial frequency of the pattern increases, colour appearance changes. A difference was noticed between equiluminance and non-equiluminance of the test and background strips.

Conclusions: Spatial factors affect colour appearance.

Confirmatory factor analysis of the Self-Perception Profile for children

P IRWING, University of Ulster at Coleraine, M STRINGER, University of Ulster at Coleraine, C McCLENAHAN, University of Ulster at Magee College, M GILES, University of Ulster at Coleraine & R WILSON, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background: The Harter Self-Perception Profile for Children (SPPC) is an extensively used multifaceted measure of self-concept, which is particularly favoured in Northern Ireland. The five-factor solution obtained previously by Harter, with American adolescents, has been frequently replicated in other cultures using exploratory factor analysis.

Aims: However, confirmatory factor analysis of the type reported here is unusual.

Method: The SPPC was completed by 772 girls, and 722 boys, aged 11 to 15, who attended, either segregated (5), mixed (1) or integrated schools (2).

Results: Exploratory factor analysis replicated the five-factor structure of the SPPC, however, confirmatory factor analysis showed that this solution did not provide a fit to the data (NNFI = .77, SRMR = .079), whereas, when a common factor was added, an acceptable fit was achieved (NNFI = .88, SRMR = .071).

Conclusions: Whether continued use of the SPPC in its current form is justified, may be dependent on whether self-concept conforms to an exogenous or a latent variable system.

Integrated education and political attitudes

P IRWING, University of Ulster at Coleraine, M GILES, University of Ulster at Coleraine, C McCLENAHAN, University of Ulster at Magee College, M STRINGER, University of Ulster at Coleraine & R WILSON, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background: Explorations of the aetiology of political attitudes are rare, and of questionable generalisability, since such attitudes tend to be context specific.

Aims: In the current study, we have developed a short adolescent version of the Northern Ireland Political Attitude Scales, with the objective of providing an initial exploration of possible correlates of these.

Method: Measures of political attitudes were obtained from 1732 adolescents, aged 11 to 15 years, and 911 of their parents, with the adolescents completing additional measures of religion, year group, school type, and inter-group contact.

Results: Using multivariate analysis of covariance, the principal unique correlates of political attitudes were parental attitudes (36.6 per cent variance), religion (16.2 per cent), and inter-group contact (14.4 per cent), with 16.8 per cent of variance associated with schooling.

Conclusions: Some 90 per cent of the variance in political attitudes is associated with parental, community, inter-group contact and schooling effects, however, unequivocal evidence for causal effects of schooling was not established.

Learning/Therapeutic factors in a small group of trainee counsellors

MM JENKINS, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: Therapeutic factors have been investigated primarily with patient groups. Little is known about their incidence/prevalence in health professional student groups.

Aims: The authors were curious to see how helpful trainee counsellors found these factors.

Sample: Six participants, three males and three females, in the final year of a two-year diploma in counselling course.

Measure: A short version of Yalom's Curative Factors Questionnaire.

Results: Self understanding, interpersonal learning 'input' and universality were rated as the most helpful factors while guidance and identification the least. The results are discussed in the context of personal knowledge and professional development, both of which are essential in learning to become a counsellor.

Conclusions: The findings are considered in the light of this one study and no account is taken of the leader/conductor role in the group. Some thought is given to treating the factors as learning factors.

Methodological issues in the study of excessive exercise

O JOHNSTON & J REILLY, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: Research on excessive exercise has not led to consensus regarding the definition, measurement, aetiology, or consequences of such exercise. Research in this area has been hindered by methodological limitations.

Aims: This paper outlines methodological difficulties which have been associated with research on excessive exercise, and suggests potentially useful methodologies.

Main contribution: Methodological shortcomings in research on excessive exercise have included an over-reliance upon quantitative measures, and the use of unsystematic qualitative approaches. In addition, research has often been influenced by potentially erroneous assumptions. Systematic qualitative methods, and investigation of the continuum of exercise experiences, may enable researchers to move beyond the constraints of existing assumptions about excessive exercise. The emergent design of a qualitative study of exercise experiences is discussed in relation to these methodological issues.

Conclusions: Systematic qualitative investigations may facilitate understanding of excessive exercise, particularly at this early stage in the development of the concept.

Massed versus distributed practice: which leads to more effective training on MIST-VR?

J-A JORDAN-BLACK & N SHEEHY, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: Traditional training of laparoscopic surgeons is concentrated into a 1 or 2 day course. Could increased training effectiveness be achieved by spreading the simulator training over several days?

Aims: To investigate the effects of different types of practice (e.g., massed, distributed or none) on laparoscopic psychomotor skill acquisition.

Method: 24 participants (12 female, 12 male) with no previous experience in laparoscopic surgery, were assigned to one of three training conditions: a massed training schedule on the virtual reality simulator MIST VR, a distributed training schedule on MIST VR and a control group who received no training. All participants performed a two-minute laparoscopic cutting for 5 consecutive days.

Results: Participants in the distributed training condition gained superior laparoscopic skill acquisition than those in the massed training condition and the control group.

Conclusions: This study suggests that a distributed training schedule on MIST VR for laparoscopic surgeons may be more beneficial than the present day 'massed' sessions.

A short-form of the Depression-Happiness Scale

S JOSEPH, University of Warwick, J HARWOOD, University of Kansas, CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College & P MCCOLLAM, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background: The Depression-Happiness Scale is a 25-item self-report measure. However, it is argued that there is the need to develop of a short-form of the measure for use when time or space is limited.

Aims: The aim of the present study was to develop a short-form of the Depression-Happiness Scale for research and clinical use.

Method: Five studies are presented. In the first study, factor analytic data are presented and used to select six items with high shared variance to compose the short-form. Reanalysis of data from four previous published studies was subsequently performed.

Results: The data confirm that the short scale has satisfactory properties of internal reliability, with Cronbach's alpha values ranging from .77 to .89, and convergent validity, with correlations with the total scale ranging from .89 to .94.

Conclusions: Internal reliability and convergent validity of the short scale were found to be satisfactory. The short-form of the Depression-Happiness Scale is recommended for research and clinical use.

Reliability of the Depression-Happiness Scale among USA students

S JOSEPH, University of Warwick, J HARWOOD, University of Kansas, CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College & P MCCOLLAM, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background: There is increasing interest in the Depression-Happiness Scale, however all previous work had been carried out among UK populations. Therefore, there is a need to examine the performance of the scale in other cultural contexts.

Aims: The aim of the present study was to examine the psychometric properties of the Depression-Happiness Scale among a sample of US students to facilitate the wider use of the scale.

Method: 137 students from the University of Kansas, US, completed the Depression-Happiness Scale.

Results: A Principal Components Analysis with a forced one-factor solution specified was conducted on the 25 items. Factor loadings ranged from .42 to .79 and the scale had an excellent level of internal reliability (Cronbach's alpha = .92).

Conclusions: The Depression-Happiness Scale is recommended for further use in the US.

Church attendance and happiness among Northern Irish undergraduate students: no association

CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: Robbins and Francis (1996) note that the relationship between religiosity and happiness varies according to the precise measures used and the samples studied.

Aims: To further explore the association between religiosity and happiness.

Method: 154 Northern Irish undergraduate students completed the Depression-Happiness Scale and a measure of frequency of Church attendance.

Results: No significant association was found between a greater frequency of Church attendance and happiness scores.

Conclusions: As such, these findings complement previous research using the Depression-Happiness Scale alongside an attitudinal measure of religion, and support the view that when happiness is operationalised in terms of the Depression-Happiness Scale there is no association with either attitudinal or behavioural measures of religiosity.

Interpersonal correlates of love styles: Empirical contributions with the Love Attitudes Scale

CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: Research has identified six main types of loving: the passion of Eros, the selfishness of Ludus, the companionship of Storge, the compatibility of Pragma, the insecurity of Mania, and the dutifulness of Agape. Within contemporary social psychology there is increasing interest in examining the relationship of individual differences and love styles.

Aims: The aim of the symposium was to examine some interpersonal correlates of love styles, as measured by the Love Attitudes Scale (Hendrick & Hendrick, 1991).

Main Contribution: In particular, the relationship between the five-factor model of personality, religious attitude, and gender orientation and love styles was examined. The results demonstrate the importance of personality, religiosity and gender orientation in accounting for individual differences in love styles.

Conclusions: The value of the Love Attitudes Scale (Hendrick & Hendrick, 1991) for mapping some interpersonal correlates of love styles is demonstrated. Suggestions for further research are provided.

The Depression-Happiness Scale: Current developments

CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: The growing interest in subjective well-being has been accompanied by the development of a number of new measures. One such measure is the Depression-Happiness Scale. McGreal and Joseph (1993) intended the scale to be used in the assessment of subjective well-being in non-psychiatric populations and were concerned that the measure should be able to capture individual differences in affect without floor or ceiling effects.

Aims: The aim of the symposium is to present research outlining current developments with the Depression-Happiness Scale.

Main Contribution: Three papers are presented that detail the ongoing work the Depression-Happiness Scale, including establishing the reliability among USA students, and the development of both a children's version and a short-form.

Conclusions: The various forms of the Depression-Happiness Scale are recommended for further research and clinical use.

The psychology of counselling: Perspectives on clients' experiences

CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: Over the last decade there has been continued growth in individuals seeking and undertaking counselling: this shows no sign of abating. Such growth has stimulated a focus on the experiences of clients within the context of reflection on evidence-based practice.

Aims: The aim of the symposium is focus on the experiences of various groups of clients.

Main Contribution: In particular, the experiences of trainee counsellors, those coping with loss of their mothers, and those undergoing general counselling.

Conclusions: It is proposed that the highlighting of such clients' experiences allows for reflection and discussion of on practice, but more importantly inform practice may result in improved practice.

Confirmatory factor analysis of the French translation of the abbreviated form of the Revised Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (EPQR-A)

CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College, LJ FRANCIS, University of Wales Bangor, M SHEVLIN, University of Ulster at Magee College & S FORREST, Nottingham Trent University

Background: There is increasing interest in the abbreviated form of the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire Revised (EPQR-A) as a research tool for psychologists.

Aims: The aim of the present study was to evaluate the psychometric properties of a French translation of the EPQR-A in order to facilitate its use among French researchers.

Method: Data from a sample of French undergraduate university students were used. The dimensionality of the EPQR-A was examined in terms of the underlying latent factors.

Results: Using confirmatory factor analysis, evidence was found for the unidimensionality of the four EPQR-A sub-scales of extraversion, neuroticism, psychoticism and the lie scale. These results are consistent with those of previous research with the original English version of the EPQR-A (Francis, Brown, & Philipchalk, 1992; Forrest, Lewis, & Shevlin, 2000).

Conclusions: It is concluded that the French translation of the EPQR-A can be recommended for further use.

The British and East European Psychology Group: Current directions

CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College, H GRAY, University of Nottingham & R RAWLES, University College London

Background: One consequence of the Cold War and the relative isolation of the Soviet Union was a marked difference in the developmental paths of psychology in Eastern and Western parts of Europe. However, since the end of the Cold War there has been increasing contact between British Psychological Society members and psychologists living in former parts of the Soviet Union. The British and East European Psychology Group was formed in 1992 to facilitate such contact.

Aims: To highlight the ongoing development of the British and East European Psychology Group.

Main Contribution: A review of the major developments since the foundation of the British and East European Psychology Group: hosting scientific meetings, conference organisation and participation, maintaining a email list server, hosting a website and publishing the newsletter *Up-Date*.

Conclusions: Over the last decade the British and East European Psychology Group has played an important role in continuing to develop contact and collaboration among British and East European psychologists.

Love styles and religiosity among Northern Irish undergraduate students

CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College, C McCONVILLE, University of Ulster at Coleraine & P McCOLLAM, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background: There is growing interest in examining the correlates of love styles. Of particular concern have been the inter-personal correlates of the six main types of loving: the dutifulness of Agape, the passion of Eros, the selfishness of Ludus, the insecurity of Mania, the compatibility of Pragma, and the companionship of Storge.

Aims: The aim of the present study was to further extend this literature by examining the association between love styles and religious attitude.

Method: A sample of Northern Irish undergraduate students completed the Love

Attitudes Scale (Hendrick & Hendrick, 1991) and the Francis Scale of attitude towards Christianity (Francis, 1993).

Results: A significant positive association was found between religiosity and the love style of Agape and a significant negative association was found between religiosity and the love style of Ludus.

Conclusions: The results provide some empirical evidence that among Northern Irish undergraduate students religiosity does play a significant role in the experience of loving.

A question of validity: Assessment of the Intrinsic – Extrinsic Motivation Scale for the Physical Domain

R LOWRY, J KREMER, D SCULLY & C COOPER, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: The proposed factor structure of the intrinsic-extrinsic motivation (IEM) scale is that of five bipolar factors.

Aims: This study aims to assess the internal construct validity of the IEM scale for the physical domain.

Method: Young people aged between nine and 19 years of age (n = 1328) (657 males and 666 females) completed the IEM scale.

Results: A confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) using the five-factor structure failed to meet the fit indices level of acceptability. An exploratory factor analysis on half the sample revealed that only 19 of the 30 items should be included and that a four-factor solution was extracted. This new model was subjected to a further CFA on the remaining half of the sample with fit indices afforded an acceptable model fit.

Conclusions: The hypothesised factor structure of the scale provided a poor fit. In contrast the exploratory factor structure provided an adequate fit but was theoretically unsound.

Part of the solution or part of the problem? The impact of the 1989 revolution on the outlook of young people in Romania

R LYNAS & E CAIRNS, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background: The re-emergence of Romanian psychology in 1990, following a 40-year ban under Communism, has meant that a higher research profile is needed. Few Western Psychologists have performed research in Romania and this study seeks to contribute positively to the discipline.

Aims: The present aim is to discover how young people in a Post-Communist State interpret problems facing them and what recommendations they would make to resolve them.

Method: High school students were asked to complete a questionnaire detailing their thoughts about issues facing themselves, their country, and their future. Data was obtained from a Romanian sample as well as from students from the Hungarian minority. It was interpreted using grounded theory and the NUD*ST package.

Results: Results show that many young people plan to emigrate and do not believe in the chance of democracy and prosperity in their own country. Other issues including education and the economy are highlighted as concerns.

Conclusions: The results echo Behr's suggestion that lack of faith, discouragement, and negative outlook could be seen as one of the triumphs of Communism (Behr, 1991).

Separating method from content in the GHQ-12: A factor analytic approach

J MALLETT, University of Ulster at Coleraine, BP BUNTING, University of Ulster at Magee College, M SHEVLIN, University of Ulster at Magee College & E CAIRNS, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background: The General Health Questionnaire GHQ-12 is a widely used screening self-administered instrument for detecting psychological disorder.

Aims: The primary objective of this paper was to use confirmatory factor analytic techniques to test the factor structure of the short version of the GHQ-12.

Method: The GHQ-12 was completed by 493 adults. Single, two factor and three-factor models were tested using confirmatory factor analytic techniques (LISREL).

Results: Results showed that a three-factor model including a positive item factor, a negative item factor and a general factor provided the best fit to the data. As with other measures of attitude, mood and personality, the positive and negative items contribute substantially to the factor structure of the GHQ-12.

Conclusions: Measuring subjective well-being using GHQ-12 requires an awareness of the psychological processes underlying responses to positive and negative items as well as the psychometric consequences of varying item format.

Modifying the 'crucial' test of the causation and selection hypotheses in a Northern Irish sample

J MALLETT, University of Ulster at Coleraine, E CAIRNS, University of Ulster at Coleraine & BP BUNTING, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background & Aims: Using a variation of Dohrenwend and Dohrenwend's (1974) 'crucial test' of the relative contributions of the social causation/stress model and the social selection hypothesis, this paper aims to infer directionality in the associations between socio-economic circumstances and psychological adjustment.

Method: Data were obtained as part of a larger random household survey of parental adults in their own homes living in the one local council area of Northern Ireland. The GHQ-12 and other self-reported health indicators were completed by 493 adults.

Results: Results showed that members of the lowest socio-economic grouping and members of the socio-economic minority grouping match have exhibited poorer psychological and self-reported health.

Conclusions: The evidence presented adds some strength to the social causation/stress model. Re-defining socio-economic and ethnic minority/majority status in ways which take account of social support mechanisms may help explain psychopathological differences within the community.

Gender and children's representations of self and future relationships

A McCALLION & K TREW, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: Children's perceptions of their future social relationships were conceptualised as components of their changing multidimensional future self-image.

Aims: To examine the development of the ability to express thoughts relative to the future.

Method: 119 5- to 9-year-olds participated in the study. The 'Me Tree', developed for the investigation, sampled children's hopes and fears

Results: Overall children's hopes and fears extended further into the future with increasing age. The pattern for family and friends was similar to the overall pattern but this was the only domain to show gender effects. Girls produced more future hopes than boys. They also tended to adopt a future perspective at an earlier age. A high proportion of boys and girl spontaneously expressed fear of the death of family and friends

Conclusions: Observed gender differences could be seen as connected to the greater importance of family and friends for girls' current and future self-definition.

The effect of Integrated Education on adolescent self-esteem

C McCLENAHAN, University of Ulster at Magee College, P IRWING, University of Ulster at Coleraine, M GILES, University of Ulster at Coleraine, M STRINGER, University of Ulster at Coleraine & R WILSON, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background: The integrated sector in Northern Ireland adopt a child centred philosophy in their schools and they aim to develop a high level of self-esteem in their pupils (Moffett, 1993). The Self-Perception Profile for Children (Harter, 1985) has been used successfully with adolescents in Northern Ireland (Muldoon, 2000; Granleese & Joseph, 1993, 1994). However, gender differences are evident in specific domains of this scale, some favouring boys and others favouring girls.

Aims: Given the presence of gender differences, the present study aimed to: (a) compare the self-perceptions of girls attending integrated comprehensive schools with girls at mixed gender, post primary, segregated schools in Northern Ireland; and (b) compare the self-perceptions of boys at both types of school.

Method: A cross-sectional study with Year 8 and 9 pupils in seven post-primary schools in Northern Ireland.

Results: While MANOVA showed differences within and between the populations of female pupils in the two types of school, no equivalent differences were found for males.

Conclusions: A longitudinal study is indicated.

A children's version of the Depression-Happiness Scale

P McCOLLAM, University of Ulster at Coleraine, CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College & S JOSEPH, University of Warwick

Background: The Depression-Happiness Scale is a 25-item self-report measure only previously used among adult samples. It is argued that there is a potential need to develop a junior version of the scale for use among children. It was proposed to examine the performance of children on the scale to guide any subsequent modifications that may be required to the scale.

Aims: The aim of the present study was to examine the psychometric properties of the Depression-Happiness Scale among a sample of children.

Method: The Depression-Happiness Scale was administered to a sample of 450 Northern Irish children aged between 13 to 15-years-old.

Results: A Principal Components Analysis with a forced one-factor solution specified was conducted on the 25 items. Factor loadings ranged from .42 to .79 and the scale had an excellent level of internal reliability (Cronbach's alpha = .92).

Conclusions: The data confirms the satisfactory psychometric properties of the Depression-Happiness Scale among the present sample. Based on the present findings suggestions are offered for further use of the scale among younger children.

Love styles and sex roles: Girl power?

P McCOLLAM, University of Ulster at Coleraine, CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College & C McCONVILLE, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background: Previous research suggests that certain styles of experiencing intimate relationships are likely to be adopted by people with particular individual difference characteristics. For example, the game playing' Ludic lover is most often associated with males and those with socio-pathic traits. On the other hand, females tend to score higher on measures of erotic, passionate loving.

Aims: The aim of the present study was to extend the literature on biological sex difference and loves styles, to incorporate the social construction of gender, that of femininity and

masculinity.

Method: A sample of Northern Irish undergraduate students completed the Love Attitudes Scale (Hendrick & Hendrick, 1991) and a measure of gender orientation, the Bem Sex Role Inventory (Bem, 1978).

Results: Significant associations were found between the Ludic love-style and masculinity, and between femininity and both the love-styles of agape and mania.

Conclusions: The present results suggest that sex-role typing maybe a useful predictor of the dominant love style an individual adopts.

The Five-Factor Model of Personality and the experience of loving

C McCONVILLE, University of Ulster at Coleraine, P McCOLLAM, University of Ulster at Coleraine, CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College & J ELLIOTT, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background: Early work by Lee (1973) identified six main types of loving. There is the passion of Eros, the selfishness of Ludus, the companionship of Storge, the compatibility of Pragma, the insecurity of Mania, and the dutifulness of Agape. Research has shown too that our dominant love style depends to some extent on our personality characteristics, for example an extravert may be more likely than an introvert to adopt a Ludic style of loving (e.g. Davies, 1996).

Aims: The current study considers the personality correlates of the six love styles among a sample of Northern Irish adults.

Method: 107 Northern Irish adults completed the Love Attitudes Scale and the NEO-FFI.

Results: Most of the predictions were substantiated with four of the five-trait factors significantly related to four love styles.

Conclusions: Personality played a significant role in the experience of loving.

Coping with university life: A comparison of non-traditional and traditional students – a preliminary study

CJ McDAID & CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: Previous research has highlighted stress as an impediment to learning. Factors that ameliorate stress within an educational context have been identified. Limited research has examined whether non-traditional students are impeded by the same factors as previously found among traditional students.

Aims: The present study compared the use of commonly used coping strategies between non-traditional and traditional students, as defined by Dill and Henley (1998).

Method: The Ways of Coping Scale was administered alongside measures of anxiety, self-esteem, daily hassles, social support, and religious attitudes among Northern Irish students.

Results: Non-traditional students report less trait anxiety and daily hassles in their academic lives than traditional students do. However, traditional students were found to use more coping mechanisms than the non-traditional students. In comparison, non-traditional students relied upon social support more than the traditional students did.

Conclusions: Non-traditional students may experience less stress and anxiety in their academic lives than traditional students do, primarily as a result of increase use of social support.

Contemporary measurement issues in bullying research

C McGUICKIN & CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: Within both the school and the workplace environment, bullying appears to be an increasing social problem within most industrialised countries. Recently the psychological community has paid particularly attention in trying to understand the psychological

sequela of bullying. To facilitate such research, a large amount of work has focused on the development of research tools to measure bullying.

Aims: The aim of the present paper is to critically examine some of the most commonly used measures currently employed in bullying research in various contexts and among various age groups.

Main Contribution: A number of commonly used self-report measures of bullying are critically examined. Methodological weaknesses are noted in some measures currently employed in bullying research. Suggestions are made to overcome these perceived weaknesses, and revisions and modifications to some of these measures are offered.

Conclusions: Within contemporary research on bullying behaviour there is the requirement for more critical reflection on the measures employed in research.

The psychology for education: Evaluation studies in real world contexts

C McGUINNESS, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: This symposium draws together six studies from the QUB School of Psychology's 'Psychology for Education' research group.

Aims: They show the application of psychology to education, from pre-school to higher education.

Main Contribution: The studies are characterised by the real-world contexts in which they are conducted and by the real-world topics which are investigated – early learning (papers 1 and 2), raising standards (papers 2 and 3), classroom pedagogy (papers 3 and 4), access to higher education (paper 5) and graduate skills (paper 6).

Conclusions: Together, they show the special contribution which psychology as a discipline can make to evidence-based practice in education.

Metacognition in classrooms

C McGUINNESS, C CURRY & N SHEEHY, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: 'Metacognition' refers to people's knowledge about thinking which helps them to effectively manage their thought processes in learning and problem solving and is increasingly considered to be important for classroom learning.

Aims: To review the literature on metacognition, to assess its relevance for classroom pedagogy and to discuss the development of a metacognitive framework for analysing teachers' talk.

Main Contribution: Conclusions from both developmental metacognitive studies and intervention studies will be reviewed. In the context of learning in classrooms, metacognition will be most visible in the pedagogic exchanges between teachers and pupils -in classroom dialogue.

Conclusions: The relevance of current metacognitive theory to classroom learning will be assessed and research progress on the development of a metacognitive framework, and a methodology for analysing and coding classroom dialogue in ordinary classrooms at upper primary level will be reported.

Pedagogy and learning outcomes in A-level and GNVQ classrooms: A longitudinal analysis

C McGUINNESS, A McEWEN & D KNIPE, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: A-level and GNVQ curricula differ in their underlying assumptions about the nature of learning and these contrasting epistemologies have traditionally led to polarised arguments about the relative merits of one or other curriculum.

Aims: To report a longitudinal analysis of pedagogy and learning outcomes in A-level and GNVQ lessons using a research diary methodology.

Method: Two dimensions of lessons are assessed: pedagogical activities and cognitive

outcomes. Nineteen teachers (57 diaries) plus 53 students (159 diaries) completed the research diary at the end of each lesson for a period of four weeks over at three different times in the school year.

Results: Distinctive patterns for A-level and GNVQ lessons emerged. These remained relatively stable over three four-week periods. Time of year effects were noted with increasing challenge towards the end of the year. There was good agreement between teachers' and students' diaries.

Conclusions: Reasons for similarities and differences are assessed.

A model to predict undergraduate students' statistics achievement and to suggest strategies to improve statistics performance

D McLROY, University of Ulster at Jordanstown

Background: Students consistently report statistics anxiety and negativity and these indices are universally related to underachievement in statistics. Psychology students encounter statistics recurrently, and are expected to acquire competence in it.

Aims: Aims were to validate a range of statistics related self-report measures that embody statistics anxiety, beliefs, cognition and behaviour, and to ascertain if pre-tertiary mathematics performance was related to these and to statistics performance.

Method: Participants were 110 University of Ulster undergraduate psychology students whose self-reports (prior to exams) and pre-tertiary mathematics performance indicators were taken as independent variables, with statistics exam performance as the dependent variables.

Results: The statistics related self-report measures were psychometrically validated and were related to performance in expected directions (negatively and positively). Multiple regression analysis demonstrated that the self-report measures provide more useful predictive information than pre-tertiary mathematics achievement.

Conclusions: Intervention strategies that encapsulate self-efficacy principles and cognitive anxiety reduction strategies are commended for improving statistics performance.

The effects of noise on performance the morning after a normal night's drinking

A MCKINNEY & K COYLE, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: Many real life tasks are performed the morning after a normal night's drinking, in stressful environments. Despite the prevalence of these factors in combination few studies have addressed their combined effects on performance.

Aims: This study aims to investigate the effects of ethanol induced hangover and white noise on performance.

Method: The study followed a repeated measure design. Thirty participants were tested in noise and 48 participants were tested in no noise. All participants completed a task battery of subjective and objective measures when no alcohol had been consumed in the previous 24 hours and again when alcohol had been consumed the previous evening.

Results: Data for each task were analysed using a mixed factorial ANOVA. The results indicate impaired performance on some of the tasks during the hangover state in the presence of white noise.

Conclusions: The pattern of results suggest that an external stressor interacts with ethanol induced hangover to produce performance decrements on some tasks.

An application of the Theory of Planned Behaviour: Intentions towards homosexuals

C McLAUGHLIN & M SHEVLIN, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: The Theory of Planned Behaviour has been widely used in the past 20 years in order to increase our knowledge in the area of the relationship between attitudes and behaviour. The Theory of Planned Behaviour model, according to previous research provides a parsimonious explanation of both the informational and motivational factors that may effect human behaviour towards a target.

Aims: To apply The Theory of Planned behaviour in order to predict and understand heterosexuals intentions towards homosexuals within a given scenario.

Method: The Theory of Planned Behaviour questionnaire was distributed, along with a scenario to a university sample at the University of Ulster at Magee College.

Results: Multiple regression (hierarchical or stepwise) is used in order to examine the psychological predictions of the respondents' intentions towards the target.

Conclusions: The application of this conceptual framework model will suggest firstly it's reliability in aiding in the predicting and understanding of respondents intentions towards the target. Secondly it will add to the on going research in the area of the nature of the relationship between attitudes and behaviour.

Work and family: The experiences of mothers and fathers in Northern Ireland

K McLAUGHLIN & O MULDOON, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: The past two decades have seen a dramatic increase in research relating the two most central domains of adult life; work and family. This research has almost exclusively focused on the conflict between female roles and failed to explore the consequences of male roles in work and family contexts.

Aims: The present research aims to address some of the limitations of previous research, namely exploring the experiences of working fathers and also non-professional workers, often overlooked in this type of research.

Method: Semi-structured interviews were conducted with mothers and fathers in paid employment (n = 30) for subsequent grounded analysis.

Results: Results confirm that women are still largely responsible for the majority of household and childcare duties within the home. Furthermore, the problems faced by manual semi-skilled workers are multifarious in comparison to those that affect professional workers.

Conclusions: Despite the common perception that a major shift in gender role attitudes has occurred, the present research indicates otherwise. Whilst there may be a trend towards a more egalitarian view of male and female roles, traditional gender roles remain largely prevalent.

Concepts of peace in the poems of Northern Irish schoolchildren

F McLERNON, University of Ulster at Coleraine, RA SMITH, University of London & E CAIRNS, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background: Modern societies socialise children into a view of society in which peace is a second-order phenomenon, based on the presence or absence of war.

Method: With this premise in mind, 809 primary school and secondary school children in Northern Ireland were asked to write poems entitled 'What peace means to me'.

Results: Analysis showed that the children possessed well-developed concepts of peace, which emphasised the position of peace as secondary to war. Evidence was also found for a gender-based stereotypical process of socialisation into ideas of peace, and for the influence of contemporary societal events on the

children's understanding of the concept of peace. **Conclusions:** Evidence for age-related changes in the understanding of peace was not conclusive.

Measuring the emotional content of music

E McMAHON, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: The relationship between musical form and its emotional content is much discussed, but empirical study is made difficult by the lack of sensitive and reliable ways of measuring emotional content.

Aims: This study explores the possibility of applying FeelTrace, a computer system which lets observers track the emotional content of time-varying stimuli as they perceive them. It is based on a psychological theory, describing emotion in terms of two dimensions, activation and evaluation.

Method: Users report emotional content by moving a pointer relative to axes representing the dimensions as they watch/hear the stimulus.

Stimuli were musical extracts, showing either relatively consistent emotion or emotion varying over time. Twelve subjects participated.

Results: Single-emotion passages showed the expected differences. To test that variation within passages showed the expected patterns, the passages were divided into portions and average ratings within portions compared using MANOVA. Relatively slow, gross changes were reliably detected.

Conclusions: The instrument appears to be potentially useful. Extensions are under development.

Elementary processes and intelligence

M McRORIE & C COOPER, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: Renewed interest in Galton's proposals regarding elementary processes has explored relationships between intelligence and nerve conduction velocity, and between intelligence and basic information processing.

Aims: In aiming to address criticism of such approaches, this study investigated relationships within similar but novel paradigms.

Method: Correlations between direct and indirect measures of neural transmission and intelligence were examined within a sample of 70 psychology students. Speed of withdrawal response following mild electric shock provided estimations of nerve conduction velocity, with further measures including patellar reflex response and perceptual and motor speed. Processing speed and efficiency were indirectly measured via simple and choice reaction time tasks.

Results: Correlations between variables are reported, and preliminary results indicate significant negative correlations between withdrawal response speed and the WAIS processing speed index, and between patellar reflex response and Ravens (Set 1) scores.

Conclusions: Theoretical implications are discussed in relation to the concept of biological intelligence.

Stress causes psoriasis? A test of the additive and multiplicative relationships using measures of personality

JNV MILES, Derby University, PC McGHEE, University of Central Lancashire & M SHEVLIN, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: There is a general consensus in the literature that 'stress' or 'anxiety' is either a cause of psoriasis, or can exacerbate a pre-existing condition, however we contend that the evidence that demonstrates the link between psychological stress and psoriasis does not stand up to critical review. The extent to which people believe that stressful situations exacerbate their psoriasis is referred to as reactivity, and previous research has found some differences between high stress reactive (HSR) and low stress reactive (LSR) psoriasis sufferers, in terms of disease outcomes. If stress or anxiety are factors

in the aetiology of psoriasis, it may be hypothesised that neuroticism will be a predictor of psoriasis severity, either alone, or moderated by reactivity.

Aims: To test this hypothesis 208 psoriasis sufferers were administered the EPQ-R, measures of disease status, and a measure of reactivity.

Results: The analysis found that neither neuroticism nor reactivity were significant predictors of disease severity, in both an additive and multiplicative relationship.

Conclusions: Results are discussed in terms of future research using the measure of reactivity, and the relationship between stress and psoriasis.

A longitudinal exploration of the role of self-efficacy in the adjustment of breast cancer patients

S MILLER, C COOPER & R DAVIDSON, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: This study examined the role of self-efficacy in the psychological adjustment of newly diagnosed breast cancer patients. To date self-efficacy theory has not been widely applied to the study of adjustment in women diagnosed with breast cancer.

Aims: The objective was to elucidate the relationship between self-efficacy, social support and quality of life and to chart the progression of these variables over a 12-month period.

Method: 65 newly diagnosed breast cancer patients participated in a semi-structured interview to elicit background information and administer a series of questionnaires. Patients were interviewed at Time 0 (as soon as possible after the surgery), at six months and at 12 months. The questionnaires were also administered to an aged matched cohort of healthy women.

Results: Self-efficacy was correlated with social support and quality of life.

Conclusions: The relationship is discussed in terms of the existing literature and the implications for clinical practice.

Dealing with missing data: Effective techniques for path analysis models

P MULHALL, University of Ulster at Jordanstown, G ADAMSON, University of Ulster at Magee College, M SHEVLIN, University of Ulster at Magee College & BP BUNTING, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: Missing data is generally an issue of concern for researchers, whether it is item non-response or subject attrition it can pose a serious threat to the internal validity of a study and affect the interpretation and generalisability of the results.

Aims: This paper provides an overview of the most widely available missing data techniques (MDTs), together with some of the more contemporary methods. The paper seeks to demonstrate the effectiveness of these various MDTs in a path analysis context, while varying various parameter estimates.

Method: Using the Monte-Carlo approach an investigation was conducted which simulated eight excogitated measures of physical and psychological dependence upon alcohol consumption. Data were removed in accordance with selective participant dropout. The MDTs were then applied to the data and their ability to re-capture the original results analysed.

Results: The findings indicate that the various MDTs perform differentially in terms of effectiveness, which were found to be, in part, due to the structure and extent of missing data and the structure of the path analysis model.

Conclusions: The major conclusions are that MDTs are not equally effective within the path analysis context and that applied researchers need to consider the overall structure and content of the missing data in relation to the model of analysis.

Confirmatory factor analysis of the Czech translation of the abbreviated form of the Revised Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (EPQR-A) among Czech students

M NAVRÁTIL, The Academy of Sciences of The Czech Republic, I CERMÁK, The Academy of Sciences of The Czech Republic, C MCGUCKIN, University of Ulster at Magee College, CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College & M SHEVLIN, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: There is increasing interest in the abbreviated form of the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire Revised (EPQR-A) as a research tool. A number of studies have begun to explore the psychometric properties of the EPQR-A among various cross-cultural groups, including Australia, Canada, Israeli, Northern Ireland, South Africa and the USA using the original English language version of the questionnaire. More recently, work has also begun on examining the psychometric properties of translated versions of the EPQR-A, for example French.

Aims: The aim of the present study was to evaluate the psychometric properties of a Czech translation of the EPQR-A in order to facilitate its use among Czech researchers.

Method: Data from a sample of Czech undergraduate university students were used. The dimensionality of the EPQR-A was examined.

Results: Using confirmatory factor analysis, evidence was found for the unidimensionality of the four EPQR-A sub-scales of extraversion, neuroticism, psychoticism and the lie scale. These results are consistent with those of previous research with the English and French versions of the EPQR-A.

Conclusions: It is concluded that the Czech translation of the EPQR-A can be recommended for further use. Of primary importance is the replication of the present findings among other groups.

Confirmatory factor analysis of the Richardson Conflict Response Questionnaire among Czech students

M NAVRÁTIL, The Academy of Sciences of The Czech Republic, I CERMÁK, The Academy of Sciences of The Czech Republic, C MCGUCKIN, University of Ulster at Magee College, CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College & M SHEVLIN, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: There is increasing interest in the Richardson Conflict Response Questionnaire (Green, Richardson & Lago, 1996) as a research tool. The questionnaire is a 28-item self-report measure of direct and indirect aggression, containing ten items measuring direct aggression, ten items measuring indirect aggression and eight filler items. There is increasing evidence for both the reliability and validity of the measure among USA samples.

Aims: The aim of the present study was to evaluate the psychometric properties of a Czech translation of the Richardson Conflict Response Questionnaire in order to facilitate its use among Czech researchers.

Method: Data from a sample of Czech undergraduate university students were used. The dimensionality of the Richardson Conflict Response Questionnaire was examined.

Results: Using confirmatory factor analysis, evidence was found for the unidimensionality of the two Richardson Conflict Response Questionnaire sub-scales of direct and indirect aggression. These results are consistent with those of previous North American research using the original English version of the Questionnaire.

Conclusions: It is concluded that the Czech translation of the Richardson Conflict Response Questionnaire can be recommended for further use. Of primary importance is the examination of the reliability and validity of the measures among children.

Personality correlates of direct and indirect aggression: convergent validity of the Richardson Conflict Response Questionnaire among Czech students

M NAVRÁTIL, The Academy of Sciences of The Czech Republic, I CERMÁK, The Academy of Sciences of The Czech Republic, C MCGUCKIN, University of Ulster at Magee College, CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College & M SHEVLIN, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: The Richardson Conflict Response Questionnaire (Green, Richardson & Lago, 1996) is a 28-item self-report measure of direct and indirect aggression. The questionnaire consists of ten items measuring direct aggression, ten items measuring indirect aggression and eight filler items. There is increasing evidence for both the reliability and validity of the measure among USA samples.

Aims: The aim of the present study was to examine the personality correlates of both direct and indirect aggression among a sample of Czech students.

Method: Czech translations of the Richardson Conflict Response Questionnaire and the abbreviated form of the revised Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (Francis, Brown & Philipchalk, 1992; Forrest, Lewis & Shevlin, 2000) were administered to a sample of Czech undergraduate university students.

Results: Significant correlations were found between both direct and indirect aggression and the four personality subscales.

Conclusions: The present results among a sample of Czech students attest to the convergent validity of the Richardson Conflict Response Questionnaire, and as well as provide further evidence of the role of personality in part understanding and explaining interpersonal aggressive behaviour.

Young people and political interest in Northern Ireland

U NIENS & E CAIRNS, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background: Political socialization theory assumes that the development of political knowledge, political interest and engagement in political activities can be predicted by background factors (e.g. age) and cognitive factors (e.g. intergenerational transfer of political attitudes).

Aims: It was intended to investigate young people's political interest in Northern Ireland and factors that might be possible predictors of political interest.

Method: The analyses were based on random survey data provided by the Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey in 1998 and 1999.

Results: The adolescents' age and their parents' level of political interest were positively related to the degree of political interest in young people. Attitudes towards teaching 'citizenship in schools' were also related to young people's level of political interest.

Conclusions: In Northern Ireland, young people's political interest was related to demographic variables as well as cognitive factors. As suggested by political socialization theory, adolescents develop their political interest with increasing age. Political education might foster young people's interest in politics.

Skills developed by psychology undergraduates: Views of academics, practitioners, postgraduates and undergraduates

L O'HARE C & MCGUINNESS, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: The question of graduate skills development is increasingly central in higher education for life-long learning and especially in the light of current exercises in subject benchmarking.

Aims: To examine different taxonomies of graduate skills and to assess the views of different groups on the skills developed by

psychology undergraduates.

Method: Undergraduates (n = 30), postgraduates (n = 42), practitioners (n = 18) and academics (n = 20) rated a list of 50 student skills on a five-point scale.

Results: Indicated that the views of groups differed on the development of 31 skills, with academics rating lower in the majority of cases. Factor analysis yielded three higher order groupings: scientific investigation and reporting skills (e.g. testing hypothesis), corporate skills (e.g. negotiating), and self-management skills (e.g. time management).

Conclusions: Academics rated student skills lower than the other groups particularly with regard to core psychology skills while all groups agreed that corporate skills are not well developed by psychology degrees.

Identification of profiles of change in student alcohol use through the application of baseline characteristics and time-varying predictors

G PRENTICE, University of Ulster at Jordanstown

Background: Advances in statistical analysis, particularly the use of latent growth modelling (LGM), have allowed the testing of more complex models in the area of longitudinal research.

Aims: The study aims to predict change in student alcohol use from the influence of a number of social, attitudinal, demographic and personality baseline characteristics on latent variables representing the intercept and change.

Method: As well as the static LGMs incorporating the baseline characteristics a more flexible, time-varying predictor, co-variate growth model was tested. Undergraduate students (Baseline: n = 491) completed the same measures at four time points (baseline, six, 17 and 24 weeks later) and an imputation strategy was used to maximise the sample size.

Results: The influential baseline characteristics included religiosity and place of residence. The time-varying factors like friend's drinking, among others, also affected the students' alcohol use.

Conclusions: The impact of the predictors on initial levels of and development of alcohol use are quantified and individual student profiles of change are illustrated through LGM structural equations.

An audit of crisis planning in schools in Northern Ireland

A PURCELL, E ENNIS & M STRINGER, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background: Although media reports show that schools have been experiencing many and varied types of crises during the past decade, education authorities and governments have been slow to put crisis planning on the agenda.

Aims: The present study sought to conduct the first known systematic audit of Northern Irish schools perceptions and experience of crisis, their views of such crises in terms of seriousness and their awareness, preparedness and needs in relation to crisis planning.

Method: A questionnaire was distributed to all 1300 schools across Northern Ireland.

Results: Results from 545 respondents (41.9 per cent response rate) show that schools have experienced varied types of crises, and do not have crisis plans, teams or training. Results will be discussed in terms of differences in rates of crisis by school level and urban/rural differences.

Conclusions: Overall results show a need to give crisis planning a higher profile on the education agenda.

The Greater Shankill early years project: A two-generation intervention in a community context

N QUIERY, H RAFFERTY, N SHEEHY & K TREW, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: An evaluation was undertaken of an intervention aimed to enhance educational opportunity in the long term, by means of a two generation strategy of family support with a

community dimension.

Aims: To evaluate the impact of the Early Years Project (EYP) on parents and children.

Method: Two broad measures were used to assess the impact of the intervention on children. The first explored the experiences and attributes which characterise the day-to-day lives of mothers as this is the primary environment for these children, and was the main focus of the intervention. The second was a measure of the school readiness of children on entering Primary One, and included an assessment of their progress at the end of the Primary One year.

Results: The EYP was found to have significant positive impacts on a range of outcome measures.

Conclusions: The implications of multi-service approach adopted by the EYP are considered.

Evaluation of an enriched early years' curriculum for primary 1 children

H RAFFERTY, L SPROULE, K DUDGEON, K TREW, C McGUINNESS & N SHEEHY, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: The Curriculum Review proposals for Key Stage I recommend a less formal approach in Primary Year I (and possibly into Year 2). These proposals are informed by evidence from several countries.

Aims: To evaluate the impact of an enhancement of the Primary I curriculum on sample of children.

Method: The impact of the enhanced curriculum in six schools is being compared on a range of process and outcome indicators with three matched control schools. The research uses a mixture of teachers' interviews (examining their attitudes and beliefs about the effectiveness of the enhanced curriculum), classroom observations and children's measures.

Results: Baseline and outcome measures on children's literacy, numeracy, concept acquisition and social behaviour will be reported, together with structured classroom observations and measures of teachers' and parents' reception of the curriculum.

Conclusions: The achievements of the intervention, expectations fulfilled, lessons to be learned, and improvements to be made are surveyed.

Roundtable: Working with men who have sexually abused children: a group process model

P RANDALL & D WALSH, Granada Institute, Dublin

Background: The Granada Institute has been providing an assessment and treatment service for men who have sexually abused children since 1994. The core treatment modality used is group psychotherapy. At present there are six core treatment groups in operation.

Aims: We will briefly describe the treatment process and therapeutic tasks used in the core programme.

Main Contribution: We will engage in an exploration and critique of the therapeutic process, which can be used to inform clinical practice.

Conclusions: These will be drawn from the discussion and compared to the most recent research findings.

Workshop: Working with men who have sexually abused children: a group process model

P RANDALL & D WALSH, Granada Institute, Dublin

Background & Aims: The Granada Institute has been providing an assessment and treatment service for men who have sexually abused children since 1994.

Main Contributions: The core treatment modality used is group psychotherapy. At present there are six core treatment groups running. The group therapy process used at the Granada Institute will be described briefly, and the therapeutic tasks outlined. Following this, participants will be engaged in a deeper

exploration of the therapeutic process from a critical perspective. The dilemmas and rewards of working with this population will be explored.

Poor visual depth and the framing effect: implications for visual-motor performance via TV monitors

T REINHARDT-RUTLAND, University of Ulster at Jordanstown

Background: Indirect visual-motor manipulations via TV monitors are becoming common; 'keyhole' surgery is an example. Inevitably, depth perception is compromised, e.g. through loss of binocular depth. Of interest here is the framing effect: the frame around the TV may reduce perceived depth.

Aims: To demonstrate the framing effect in surfaces with true or pictorially-conveyed slant relative to the frontal plane.

Method: 48 monocular observers estimated the slant-in-depth of surfaces with and without a rectangular frame ahead of the surface. Surfaces were: (a) a truly-slanted rectangular surface; (b) a truly-slanted but pictorially-frontal trapezoidal surface; and (c) – corresponding to TV viewing – a frontal trapezoidal surface pictorially conveying slant.

Results: Without the frame, judgments depended mainly on pictorial information. With the frame, slant was underestimated; this applied particularly to (c), which was underestimated by 70 per cent.

Conclusions: The framing effect may jeopardise depth perception at TV monitors.

The ratio rule-lightness constancy or inconstancy?

DA ROSS, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: The ratio rule is widely upheld as an explanation of lightness constancy does it also hold for shadows.

Aims: To test the effect of altered illumination and altered shadow depth.

Method: Measurements were taken for a series of four experiments. In series 1 and 2 an illuminant was altered at two levels for 10 different achromatic surfaces. A shadow was cast across each of these surfaces and observers were asked to match the colour of the surface that shadowed or highlighted. In series 3 and 4 the illuminant was kept constant but the depth of the shadow was also kept at a constant percentage for each of the 10 surfaces.

Results: Munsell values indicate that the ratio rule is upheld for highlighted but not for shadowed surfaces.

Conclusions: The ratio rule holds for global not local illumination and in particular not for shadows.

Taking laughter seriously

W RUCH, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: Laughter as a vocal expressive-communicative signal is one of the least understood and most frequently overlooked human behaviours. Its prominent role in human life is discovered in many applied fields warranting a scientific inquiry.

Aims: The review provides an overview of what we know about the expressive pattern of laughter (including work on respiration, vocalisation, facial action, and body movement) and attempts to arrive at a model of the mechanics of laughter.

Main Contribution: The importance of discriminating between spontaneous and contrived laughter is pointed out and it is argued that unrestrained spontaneous laughter involves inarticulate vocalisation.

Conclusions: Future work on the neural integration of laughter (fMRI- and stimulation studies) need to consider the different levels of integration in the production of spontaneous and deliberate laughter but also spoken laugh sounds. Studies are needed that explain the deviations from the schwa sound in a laugh pulse, as they carry the information about the affective state (or message) but also the specifics of the individual.

Contributions of visual and auditory channels to detection of emotion

S SAVVIDOU, R COWIE & E DOUGLAS-COWIE, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: Our PHYSTA project studies everyday signs of emotion, using a substantial database of real (not acted) interactions, and a dynamic quantitative measurement technique ('Feeltrace') based on the main dimensions of emotion, activation and evaluation.

Aims: To study the contributions of visual and auditory channels to emotion judgements.

Method: 12 subjects used Feeltrace to rate 20 clips spanning emotion space, each presented in four conditions – visual only, audio filtered to remove verbal content, full audio, and audio-visual (in that order) – with about one week between conditions.

Results: Ratings of activation based on audio information (filtered or full) correlated well with audio-visual ratings, ratings based on vision less so. All ratings of evaluation were close for negative emotions, but audio-ratings based did not discriminate positive emotions.

Conclusions: Dimensional ratings reveal that different modalities provide different kinds of information, and suggest integration is not as simple as Massaro's FLMP assumes.

Applications of contemporary statistical methods

M SHEVLIN, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: There have been many recent developments in the statistical methods used by social scientists. In particular the use of structural equation modelling (SEM) procedures have allowed a greater degree of flexibility in terms of specifying models that reflect psychological phenomena and processes. In addition, standard regression models now incorporate multiplicative, rather than just additive, effects.

Aims: The aim of the symposium is to demonstrate the use of contemporary statistical models within a psychological context. Data will be examined and results discussed that will demonstrate that standard behavioural statistical methods are limited in terms of the statistical functioning and poorly reflect the processes and structures they aim to describe.

Main Contributions: The first paper (Miles, McGhee & Shevlin) demonstrates how the standard regression models can be used to model interactions. Such an analysis is traditionally performed within an ANOVA context. However, this paper shows that the practice of median splits is not necessary in order for interactions between continuous variables to be estimated. The following two papers (Collins, Shevlin & Adamson; Brunson & Forrest) show how SEM can be used to assess the quality of measurement instruments. Within a SEM framework Collins, Shevlin and Adamson demonstrate how reliability, validity and temporal stability can be assessed from longitudinal data. Similarly, Brunson and Forrest show how competing theoretical factor analytic models can be specified and estimated, providing empirical tests of alternative models. The benefits of such an approach over exploratory factor analytic methods will be discussed.

Conclusions: This collection of papers shows that statistical models are currently available that have theoretical and statistical benefits over traditional exploratory factor analysis and ANOVA.

The performance of fit indices in structural equation models: The influence of sample size, parameter magnitude, and model misspecification.

M SHEVLIN, University of Ulster at Magee College, G ADAMSON, University of Ulster at Magee College & S FORREST, Nottingham Trent University

Background: Confirmatory factor analysis, or more general structural equation modelling (SEM), involves specifying a model, estimating its

parameters and evaluating how well the proposed model explains the pattern of observed variances and covariances. Various fit indices have been developed to assess model fit.

However, many have undesirable features such as an association with sample size.

Aims: The aim of this study was to assess the performance of a number of fit indices. These include the likelihood ratio test, the root mean square error of approximation and the root mean square residual.

Method: A series of Monte Carlo experiments were conducted. The experiments were based on a 5 (sample) x 3 (parameter magnitude) x 4 (mis-specification) design. One hundred replications of sample data drawn from population data with known parameters were analysed and the relevant fit statistics recorded.

Results: The results show that model fit is a multi-faceted construct. Interpretation of additive effects does not provide adequate guidelines for the assessment of model-data fit.

Conclusions: It was concluded that fit indices are influenced by factors other than the degree of model mis-specification. In interpreting the magnitude of a particular index considerations regarding sample size and magnitude of model parameters is necessary.

Confirmatory factor analysis of the abbreviated form of the revised Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (EPQR-A) among South African students

M SHEVLIN, University of Ulster at Magee College, CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College, LJ FRANCIS, University of Wales Bangor & S KERR, University of Wales Bangor

Background: There is increasing interest in the abbreviated form of the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire Revised (EPQR-A) as a research tool for psychologists.

Aims: The aim of the present study was to evaluate the psychometric properties of the EPQR-A among a South African sample in order to facilitate its use among South African researchers.

Method: Data from a sample of South African undergraduate university students were used. The dimensionality of the EPQR-A was examined in terms of the underlying latent factors.

Results: Using confirmatory factor analysis, evidence was found for the unidimensionality of the four EPQR-A sub-scales of extraversion, neuroticism, psychoticism and the lie scale. These results are consistent with those of previous research with the EPQR-A.

Conclusions: It is concluded that the EPQR-A can be recommended for further use in South Africa.

Loneliness and interpersonal trust in the police

KJ SKELLINGTON, Glasgow Caledonian University

Background: Historically, police occupational culture has been reported to nurture an 'us and them' philosophy that generates scepticism of non-police members.

Aims: This research attempts to measure police officers willingness to trust others outwith the work environment and explores feelings of loneliness and social isolation that may develop as a result of not trusting others.

Method: 92 serving police officers, stratified by rank and departmental expertise completed the Couch (1994) Trust Inventory for measures of Generalised, Network and Partner Trust and the UCLA Loneliness Scale (Version 3, 1988).

Results: Younger officers with shorter service bands reported greater willingness to trust than longer serving peers. Detective officers demonstrated more incredulity than uniformed or 'beat' officers towards all trust targets. Loneliness was negatively correlated with all trust measures and officers low in network trust demonstrated highest levels of loneliness.

Conclusions: Results are discussed in relation to police occupational culture and accountability.

An evaluation of a summer school promoting access to higher education

L SPROULE, K TREW, A LIVINGSTONE & S WILSON, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: The Discover Queen's 2000 Summer School was designed to promote access to the university by non-traditional students.

Aims: To highlight major findings of an evaluation of this innovatory access programme including the short and longer term impact of the project on students of differing abilities and aspirations.

Method: The project attracted 19 participants from six schools. Students completed a number of standardised measures before and after the course and a daily log. A participant observer was a mentor on the project and the views of students and staff were sampled in interviews and focus groups.

Results: The evaluation team judged the programme to have been successful in the short-term. It attracted students from disadvantaged groups, provided them with a challenging, enjoyable and useful course and improved their knowledge of university courses.

Conclusions: The findings of this evaluation are examined in the context of the efforts to widen access to universities.

The effects of Integrated Education on children's attitudes

M STRINGER, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background: The symposium presents a series of five inter-related papers examining the impact of integrated education on the attitudes of secondary school children in Northern Ireland.

Aims: The papers follow from the largest quantitative investigation to date into the effects of integration on secondary school children with over 1700 children and their parents being assessed on a variety of measures.

Main Contributions: Paper 1 outlines the approach adopted, the design and methodology and sets the scene for the rest of the papers. Paper 2 examines parental demand using the theory of planned behaviour and assesses reasons why parents might choose integrated education. Paper 3 examines intergroup contacts in integrated and segregated schools showing the effects that this has on contacts within and outside school. Paper 4 looks at the possible effects on self-esteem of attending differing school types. The fifth paper brings together the various strands of the investigation by examining the effects of these factors on children's political attitudes.

The effects of Integrated Education on intergroup contact

M STRINGER, University of Ulster at Coleraine, P IRWING, University of Ulster at Coleraine, R WILSON, University of Ulster at Coleraine, M GILES, University of Ulster at Coleraine & C McCLENAHAN, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: One of the most researched psychological approaches to the reduction of intergroup conflict is the contact hypothesis.

Aims: The present study examined the effect of contact across differing school types within Northern Ireland.

Method: The study was cross-sectional, with three age cohorts (8, 9 and 11 years; n = 1732) in eight schools being tested. Inter-group contact was examined using a measure devised by Stringer and Vhattung (1990) and friendship quality using a scale devised by Bukowski, Hoze and Boivin (1994).

Results: Results revealed school type as the most important determinant of in-school and out of school inter-group contacts. Inter-group contact occurred only occasionally in segregated schools. Inter-group contact increased with time spent in mixed or integrated schools but showed less change in segregated schools.

Conclusions: The results suggest that mixing Protestants and Catholics in integrated or mixed contexts enhances inter-group contacts both within school and more importantly outside the school environment.

Early childhood loss: the impact of maternal loss in early life on the lives of surviving daughters

A TRACEY, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: In recent years, assumptions about early childhood loss are being challenged in the literature: Depression in adulthood is not an inevitable result of loss in early life. Many of the previous studies of early loss have focused on psychiatric populations, are mainly quantitative in nature and have originated in America. Very few have concentrated on surviving daughters.

Aims: To examine how the early loss of mother impacts on the lives of daughters.

Main Contribution: To assess how the findings fit with/add to current models and theories of loss.

Conclusions: Research is needed to further develop our knowledge and understanding of bereavement and early loss in particular.

Focus group findings on women's experiences of reproductive health

F VALLELY, J REILLY & J KREMER, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: A preliminary review of reproductive health literature revealed the scope of this area for further investigation using qualitative methods. Focus Groups were conducted to allow women, across a wide range of age and experience, to discuss their reproductive health histories. Twenty-three women, age range 13 to 62 years, were contacted on a networked basis. Five focus groups, two with nine adolescents, two with ten from the middle band and one with four post-menopausal women were held at the researcher's home.

Aims: Issues introduced for discussion included: menarche, menstruation, pre-menstrual syndrome, contraception, motherhood, miscarriage, post-natal depression, infertility and menopause. Each discussion lasted approximately two hours.

Method: Discourse analysis of the resulting data was conducted. Main themes extracted were categorised as being life-stage related or overarching concerns.

Results: Each group had life-stage related concerns, in addition menstruation and motherhood emerged as overarching themes which were central to participants lives.

Conclusions: Easily accessed, reliable, life-stage related health information was important to all groups. Motherhood was seen as central to the self-definition of these women.

Partners of men who sexually abuse: Impact of discovery and implications for service provision

D WALSH & B HUSSEY, Granada Institute, Dublin

Background: Women whose partners have committed sexual offences involving children have been much maligned within the existing literature.

Aims: The study aimed to investigate the impact

on a group of women of discovering their partners had sexually offended against a child.

Method: Eight women, attending a support group for partners of men in treatment for sexually abusing children, were interviewed about their experiences and completed a set of questionnaires examining levels of psychological distress since discovery, current trauma symptoms, and self-esteem.

Results: All participants reported experiencing clinically significant levels of psychological distress in the aftermath of discovery. Seven women continue to report psychological symptoms. Three women currently meet criteria for chronic post-traumatic symptomatology. All participants reported impairments in self-esteem following discovery.

Conclusions: Results suggest that for a woman to discover her partner has sexually abused is both an acute and a chronic stressor, affecting all aspects of her life.

Effects of the Troubles revisited: Some issues arising

J WHYTE, Trinity College, Dublin

Background: What factors may be influencing our perceptions of the effects on us of traumatic events?

Aims: The question explored in the present paper is whether these different perceptions were mediated by other factors among the variables yielded by the study – age, educational level or aspirations, socio-economic level of self or parents, degree of contact with the Troubles, religiosity, autonomy (for 27-year-olds) family support systems (for 17-year-olds) and self-worth.

Methods: In a study of 27-year-olds (n = 75) and 17-year-olds (n = 173) in West and East Belfast, subjects were asked whether they felt that the Troubles had affected them personally and if so in what way.

Results: There were two broad kinds of response: (a) those who saw the effects directly in relation to themselves – their feelings, their experiences and the aftermath and they included responses which reflected anger and bitterness, feelings of worry and insecurity, mistrust and fear and responses which expressed resentment at restrictions imposed on their lives because of the Troubles; (b) those who saw the effects in terms of wider societal issues. The latter included responses which mentioned community (both inter and intra) issues, awareness of sectarian overtones and divisions, attitudes towards the 'other side', and attitudes towards life in general and the individual's personal development.

Stress and coping in carers of a traumatic brain injury sample: A comparative study

G WILSON, Brain Injury Service, Ballymena

Background: This study examines stress levels in carers of traumatic brain injury (TBI), physical and learning disability groups. Differences in coping strategies and correlations with stress levels are also examined.

Aims: Two aims: Are there significant differences

in the types of coping strategies used by carers of traumatic brain injured, physically and learning disabled samples? And are specific coping strategies significantly associated with different levels of stress? Hypothesis examined was do carers of individuals with a traumatic brain injury will exhibit higher levels of stress than those caring for an individual with a physical or learning disability.

Method: It is a quasi-experimental, independent groups design. The independent variable is disability type. Dependent variables are stress levels (measured using the GHQ-28) and coping strategies (measured using the Brief Coping). Participants were an opportunistic sample of adult volunteers, consisting of 34 TBI, 27 learning disability, 6 physical disability and 10 acquired brain injury (other than TBI) carers. Samples were drawn from Headway, the CEDAR Foundation and adult day care centres. Controls used were the exclusion of those involved in the Brain Injury Programme at the CEDAR Foundation, those receiving residential care or who were still in hospital and carers for more than one individual.

Results: As predicted, a significant difference was found ($p < 0.01$) between disability type and stress level: the TBI sample exhibited the highest level of stress. Significant differences were found between groups in the use of active coping, positive reframing and planning. Self distraction, denial, substance use, behavioural disengagement, venting, planning. Humour and self blame were significantly correlated with elevated stress levels. Acceptance was significantly correlated with lower stress levels in the TBI group.

The effects of Integrated Education on children's attitudes: An introduction

R WILSON, University of Ulster at Coleraine, M GILES, University of Ulster at Coleraine, P IRWING, University of Ulster at Coleraine, C McCLENAHAN, University of Ulster at Magee College & M STRINGER, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background: Changes in children's social and political attitudes as a result of schooling are likely to be highly complex. This paper sets the scene for the series of papers in the symposium by describing the background and origins of the investigation.

Aims: This paper outlines the basic methodology adopted in the investigation outlining the schools selected for study, the age groups sampled and the measures employed.

Method: The cross-sectional approach adopted in the study is outlined and critiqued. The selection and development of the range of measures used in the investigation are outlined.

Results: The achieved sample of children and the parents is described along with the reliability of the measures used.

Conclusions: The issues and methodological problems involved in examining the impact of education on children's attitudes within a Northern Ireland context are outlined.

North West Branch

North West Branch in collaboration with The Forensic Research Group (d.a.holmes@mmu.ac.uk), 'Forensic Psychology in Prisons: Current Developments', Manchester Metropolitan University, 10 November 2001.

Human rights and criminal populations

R MAKIN, Solicitor, E. Rex Makin & Co., Liverpool

As keynote speaker, Robin Makin set the scene for the day by reviewing the issues of Human Rights within the legal field in the UK, making reference to cases that have resulted in appearances at the European Court of Human Rights as well as higher English courts. He gave extensive examples of where the individual's right to oppose the will of the institution (Prisons, Secure Units and Special Hospitals and other centres of detainment) could be argued in the context of both ethical and legal constraints.

Issues of palliative care in HMP Manchester

K CROWTHER, Primary Care Manager, Health Care Centre, HMP Manchester,
J RICHMAN, Department of Health Studies, Manchester Metropolitan University &
S ROCHFORD, Mental Health Manager, Health Care Centre, HMP Manchester

Palliative care is a new and dynamic discipline. It has demystified our last taboo – death. It is no longer hinged to death, pain, cancer and medicalisation. Its problematical when dying commences; other illnesses like CJD and AIDS are important and nurses currently play the major role. The care of dying prisoners is still contentious. The US (with a prison population of two million) has faced this issue, with AIDS patients and 'life means life' inmates. Prisoners as 'buddies' have been incorporated into the palliative process, despite risks of stolen drugs. This exploratory paper examines whether prison with its mechanistic rule structure and containment ethos is an appropriate place to die. Suggestions are made for a prison palliative care network: e.g. regional specialisation; change of rule structure to allow relatives and friends to participate in the dying trajectory; nurse support mechanisms. Case studies are offered to illuminate the above.

Why does bullying occur among prisoners?

JL IRELAND, Personality Disorder Unit, Ashworth Hospital Authority, Parkbourn, Maghull, Liverpool, L31 1HW and Department of Psychology, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, Lancashire, UK, PR1 2HE.

This paper outlines the importance of environmental and individual characteristics in providing an explanation of bullying in a prison setting, illustrating the need to take into account a range of influences if an adequate explanation of this complex behaviour is to be provided. Physical and social aspects of the environment such as material deprivation, population density, organisational structure, attitudes towards bullying, prisoner subculture and dominance relations are presented. Individual characteristics such as the amount of experience that prisoners have of prison-life and the level of physical and social skill

that they possess are also discussed. A model that conceptualises bullying as an interaction between the characteristics of the individual and the environment in which they find themselves will be presented along with the implications of this model in terms of how bullying is managed in a prison setting. The paper concludes by highlighting similarities between prisons and other settings where bullying is known to take place (i.e. schools, workplace), demonstrating how some explanations put forward to explain prison bullying can equally apply to that which occurs in other settings.

Suicide prevention in HM Prison Service

G BECK, HM Prison Service

An increased rate of self-inflicted deaths in prisons and a detailed review by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons resulted in a thorough review of Prison Service policy and practice in 2001. This has produced structure and policy changes that reflect heightened priority in this field. A new risk focussed approach is being implemented with several strategies aiming to reduce the rate of self-inflicted deaths in prisons year on year. The Prison Service is establishing a positive relationship with the Samaritans and has established area based forums for policy development, review of practice and sharing of good practice. This paper describes the background to change, some of the policies that are now being implemented and the role of forensic psychologists, prison managers, prison officers, the Samaritans and others in ensuring success.

Assessing prisoners' needs: The development of a process

R HORN, Psychology Unit, HMP Garth, Ulnes Walton Lane, Leyland, Preston PR26 8NE.

One of the main aims of the Prison Service is to help prisoners address their offending behaviour in order to allow them to lead as full and responsible a life as possible on release. The assessment of prisoners' needs is a crucial aspect of this process: 'For a correctional organisation to deliver effective services, it must have a way of assessing criminogenic needs [individual factors which relate directly to his/her offending]' (Bonta, 1997, p.15). An effective process of assessing individual needs is necessary if prisoners are to be allocated to rehabilitative activities (e.g. courses and programmes, training for work, education) which will be most appropriate for them in terms of reducing their offending behaviour. In this presentation I will outline the way HMP Garth has tried to introduce a system to assess prisoners' needs, and discuss its effectiveness.

Current practice in the risk assessment of sexual offenders in HM Prison Service and an overview of the core and rolling sex offender treatment Programmes.

S HUSSAIN, Senior Psychologist HMP Manchester & A BRICE, Higher Psychologist HMP Risley

There will be an examination of the Thornton, (2000), Structured Risk Assessment, which combines both static and dynamic risk prediction tools. We will then provide an overview of the

SOTP Rolling Programme, which is designed for low risk offenders and works on a roll on/roll off basis. This will include a look at theoretical and practical issues, based on practice at HMP Manchester. The Core SOTP will then be discussed. This programme is designed for medium and high risk sexual offenders and runs for approximately six months. This will be based on practice at HMP Risley.

Human rights in prisons

P OKOJIE, Department of Law, Manchester Metropolitan University

In 1992, Mark Leech published an account of his experience as an inmate in British prisons since he was aged nine. He, like many others before him, blamed prison policies for the failure of prisons. From the opposite end, Derek Lewis wrote about his turbulent experience as head of the Prison Services in England and Wales. The common ground between Leech and Lewis is that the criminal justice system is doomed to repeat policies that have never worked in any known prison system. The number of prisoners in England and Wales is currently 67,000 and 44,000 prison staff manages them. At current rate of growth, the prison population is expected to exceed 70,000 by the end of the year. This is expected to happen in spite of the Halliday Review of Sentencing Framework in England and Wales. Prisons define how societies conceive discipline and punishment. As a closed world, Leech described a prison system where less importance was attached to inmates' legal rights and where deliberate obstacles were erected to frustrate the ventilation of legitimate grievances. Leech and Lewis paint a bleak view of the prison system in England and Wales. There have, however, been remarkable changes in the structure, management and administration of prisons in England and Wales. One major development is the fact that there are nine prison establishments under private control and run for profit. This paper seeks to look at the inmate world in the age of human rights. Can an unreconstructed prison system function effectively under the new human rights environment? The concern in this paper is to use the reports of the prison inspectorates in answering this question. The paper will focus on the way prison inspectors have addressed the 'inmate questions' since the 1980s and examine future developments in light of the Human Rights Act 1998.

Further Reading:

Leech, M. (1992). *A Product of the System: My Life in and out Prison*. London: Victor Gollancz.
Lewis, D. (1997). *Hidden Agendas: Politics, Law and Disorder*. London: Hamish Hamilton
Halliday, J. (2001). *A Review of the Sentencing Framework for England and Wales*. Home Office, July 2001.
Klug, F. (2000). *Values For A Godless Age: The Story of the United Kingdom's New Bill of Rights*. London: Penguin.

The 2002 Annual Conference

*The 2002 Annual Conference, Blackpool,
13–16 March 2002*

From paragon to pariah: How groups react to deviance and extremism among their members

D ABRAMS & P HUTCHISON, University of Kent

Objectives: Traditional research shows that deviant group members are first pressured to conform and then rejected by other members. However, the subjective group dynamics model (e.g. Abrams, Marques, Bown & Henson, 2000) proposes that these reactions depend on aspects of the inter-group context. Thus, rule breakers may sometimes be treated leniently and at others harshly. Our previous laboratory and field studies testing this model show that people react very differently depending on the direction in which members deviate. The present paper reports a field experimental study of football supporters during the European Soccer Championships.

Design: A 2 (ingroup vs outgroup) x 3 (normative vs anti-norm vs pro-norm target) between-participants.

Method: 149 England soccer fans read about, and judged, other fans who engaged in normative or deviant behaviour.

Results: Consistent with previous research, ingroup-enhancing behaviour was evaluated most positively regardless of how socially desirable it was, and even when it was displayed by supporters of the opposing team. However, outgroup-enhancing behaviour was evaluated negatively, even when it was displayed by supporters of one's own team. Moreover, the more that fans identified with their team the stronger this effect was.

Conclusions: Together with other evidence, this study supports our view that reactions to deviant group members reflect a desire to control and maintain evidence that the group's position is both valid and positive. Discussion centres on the argument that this ingroup-serving function of subjective group dynamics has potentially serious consequences for the way marginalised or innovative individuals are treated in society.

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Policing the 'crisis': Public order policing and hooliganism at Euro 2000

O ADANG, Dutch Police Academy & C STOTT, University of Liverpool

Objectives: This paper will make two central points. First, in line with previous research, it will highlight the central role played by public order policing in the dynamics of 'public disorder'. Second, it will demonstrate that the major incidents of 'hooliganism' involving English fans in Brussels during Euro 2000 can only be adequately understood as an outcome of a complex dynamic of inter-group interaction.

Design: This paper draws upon results obtained from a major observational study of policing of all matches in all venues during Euro 2000 combined with an ethnographic study of English fans and questionnaire survey of Belgian Gendarmerie.

Results: The paper will draw a contrast between 'high' and 'low' profiles of policing and demonstrate that 'high' profile policing did have deleterious effects on the levels of observed disorder. Secondly, it will show how England fans arriving in Brussels were met by a social context in which they perceived the need to/or could otherwise not avoid congregating. The Gendarmerie understood this congregation as a manifestation of 'hooliganism' that in turn led to 'high' profile interventions and the subsequent detention of large numbers of innocent fans.

Conclusions: The paper concludes by discussing the importance of public order policing in structuring the identities underlying 'disorder' and outlines a major research project being undertaken by the authors on the policing of football fans in the European Union.

Social identity and responses to health messages

I ADARVES-YORNO & S A HASLAM, Exeter University

An experiment was conducted to examine the impact, in terms of influence, of social identity and message source on response to safe sex campaigns. Social identity salience and message source were manipulated in a between-subjects study. The experiment had three conditions each reflecting a different level of identity-source congruence: congruent (control); identity-incongruent and source-incongruent. Influence was measured directly in terms of agreement and indirectly in terms of participant's willingness to make suggestions supporting a health promotion campaign. Results showed that high congruence between identity source and recipient's identity led to passive influence, low congruence led to passive rejections but that moderate congruence could lead to active influence through a process of self-categorisation and cognitive dissonance.

This experiment is consistent with self-categorisation theory (Turner, 1985; 1991) in suggesting that agreement depends upon shared social identity and that influence involves more than just passive information processing.

Implications of the results are discussed as well as the practical implications of the findings.

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The effect that went away: Follow-up of a Year 1 cognitive acceleration programme

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Objectives: To test the hypothesis that a one year cognitive intervention programme for Year 1 children would lead to long term gains in measures of intelligence and academic achievement

Design: Quasi-experimental pre-intervention and post-intervention assessment of levels of cognitive development of experimental and control classes (previously reported Error! Reference source not found. with follow-up one year later using Ravens CPM and Key Stage 1 tests (to be reported here). The aim was to test the longevity of the gains previously observed and possible transfer effects to school achievement.

Methods: All children from the original 14 experimental and eight control classes for whom pre- and post-test data was available and who were still in the same groups (experimental or control) after a further year were tested with Ravens CPM, and their KS1 'SAT' scores collected.

Results: No significant differences, using either t-tests on the raw score means or analysis of covariance of delayed scores against various pre-test measures were found between experimental and control classes.

Conclusions: Results from parallel work in secondary school (Adey, Robertson & Veuville, 2002) had led us to suppose that gains in cognitive development as assessed by Piagetian tasks would be associated with subsequent gains in both general intelligence (assessed by Raven's) and academic achievement as measured by conventional tests. Three possible reasons for these hypotheses not being confirmed are discussed, and current on-going work in Year 2 and 3 described.

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Children, war and political conflict: Impacts and response

A AGER, Queen Margaret University College, Edinburgh

Overview: This symposium is designed to build upon some of the issues to be addressed in the Ager keynote 'Humanitarian Response to Conflict: A Psychological Perspective'. The focus of the symposium is on work with children in the context war and political conflict. The symposium seeks both to address the impacts of war and

political conflict on the lives of children (their social and emotional development, their livelihoods and their broader place in society) and responses by agencies to such impacts. The symposium begins with a review of findings from Northern Ireland regarding the impact of political violence there over the last forty years. The paper identifies sources of both vulnerability and resilience, a theme which is taken up in the second paper looking at adolescents' experience within war-torn Angola. While there is data supporting the emotional impact of on-going conflict, evidence is cited of the active coping and agency demonstrated by most adolescents. The third paper also focuses on the experience of children in war-affected areas of Africa. This paper, however, has a more explicit focus on the evaluation of a range of interventions targeting support for former child soldiers. Data is reported indicating the impact of such interventions on children's psychological and social functioning. The fourth paper then examines emerging principles to govern such interventions with children impacted by war and political conflict. Core domains of activity are specified, and a research agenda for the field identified. The symposium will conclude with a discussion led by a discussant, who will identify key issues for research and practice raised by the papers.

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Humanitarian response to conflict: A psychological perspective

A AGER, Queen Margaret University College, Edinburgh

Purpose: To consider the psychological consequences of war on civilian populations and identify the ways in which psychological principles can appropriately inform response by humanitarian relief and development agencies.

Background: Humanitarian agencies working in war-affected areas such as Kosovo or Afghanistan are increasingly addressing issues related to the social adjustment and mental health of populations alongside their work providing emergency medical care, food supplies and other emergency needs. The place of psychology in informing response to such issues is, however, widely contested. Psychological interventions are often characterised as involving the importation of alien ideologies, and the displacement of local beliefs and traditional coping strategies.

Key Points: Based upon fieldwork with Mozambican refugees, and with war-affected populations in Angola and Ethiopia, the place of psychological analysis – alongside that from other disciplines – in establishing effective and culturally-sensitive psychosocial intervention programmes is defended. Psychological concepts such as agency, identity and coping resources are identified as particularly valuable tools in shaping programming priorities. These principles are illustrated with respect to the work of the Psychosocial Working Group, a collaborative initiative between humanitarian agencies and academic centres working in this developing field. The need for rigorous research to underpin evidence-based practice development is emphasised.

Conclusions: Alongside other relevant disciplines, psychology – drawing from across its social, developmental and cultural as well as clinical domains – can play a valuable role in informing the response of humanitarian agencies to the needs of war-affected populations.

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The impact of media images on eating disordered women and normal controls

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Objectives: To explore in detail the impact of idealised media images on young women with and without eating disorders.

Design: In an interview study women with clinical

eating disorders were compared with student controls on the impact on self-image of media images of women in general and specifically presented media images of thin and curvaceous women.

Method: 48 eating disorder participants were mainly recruited through hospital clinics and 51 student controls from a university college. To gain a more detailed understanding of media impact semi-structured interviews were conducted with investigator-based ratings.

Results: Using case/control analyses, media images in general and specifically presented thin and curvaceous media models all exerted a significantly greater negative impact on the self-image of the eating disorder group than the student controls. Eating disordered women also reported a significantly greater influence of general media images on their eating behaviour. The content of women's responses revealed that the two groups were equally likely to report dissatisfaction with looks in response to media images. The observed group differences appeared to be a function of the eating disordered women's greater dissatisfaction with weight and size and more general feelings of inadequacy when faced with media images of women. Reports on the timing of the general media impact suggested that media exposure played a role in both causation and maintenance of eating difficulties.

Conclusions: This is the first interview study of its kind to compare women with clinical eating disorders with controls on media impact. The findings have implications for the prevention and treatment of eating disorders.

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Residential care and ageing

C ALLEN, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury

The symposium consists of research papers and discussion papers by leading experts on the theme of residential care and ageing. Issues covered during the symposia include, staff distress and turnover, staff practices, staff decision making, staff training, the use of quality of care assessments such as dementia care mapping and the establishment of units to care for people with frontotemporal dementia. This is an exciting symposium which attempts to put the often neglected area of residential care onto the psychology and ageing agenda. The papers attempt to understand the process underlying care practices, and outlines methods for improving the care of some of the most disadvantaged people in our society.

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Understanding the factors that influence the provision of 1:1 care in residential homes for older adults: An application of the theory of planned behaviour

C ALLEN, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury

Objectives: The theory of planned behaviour was used to explore the factors affecting the decision of professional carers to provide 1:1 care.

Design: A cross sectional survey design was used to assess 102 carers in 17 homes. A sample returned a repeat assessment allowing a longitudinal examination of the relationship between intention and actual behaviour.

Methods: A questionnaire was written in accordance with the theory of planned behaviour guidelines and developed through interviews with carers. Standardised questionnaires were used to assess resident ability, perceived involvement in decision making and the extent to which the homes were resident or institution focused.

Results: On average, carers intended to spend 27 to 45 minutes per shift providing 1:1 care. Perceived behavioural control was the strongest predictor of intention (accounting for 34 per cent of the variance). Low resident ability level correlated with low perceived behavioural control and predicted a lower intention to provide 1:1 care. Perceived involvement correlated with perceived behavioural control but was not

predictive of intention. Past behaviour retained predictive ability once the theory of planned behaviour components were accounted for.

Conclusions: Residential carers perceive factors within the resident and the organisation as barriers to 1:1 care. Carers may be less likely to provide 1:1 care to residents with lower ability levels.

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Choosing childlessness: An examination of attitudes associated with the decision to remain childless

T ALLEN, S COX, V EATOUGH & J UNDERWOOD, Nottingham Trent University

Objectives: The focus of this study was to develop a clear understanding of voluntarily childless participants' attitudes towards aspects of motherhood and pregnancy identified from an earlier in-depth qualitative study. These findings consequently facilitate an understanding of why some women may decide to remain childless. The data presented here comprises part of a wider investigation into attitudes towards motherhood and the decision to remain childless.

Design: This study employs a quasi-experimental design in order to test qualitative themes already identified with a greater degree of control and equivalency across the sample. A vignette questionnaire was adopted in order to fulfil these criteria.

Methods: 120 participants (60 voluntarily childless; 60 parents) read a vignette or hypothetical scenario of a professional couple faced with an unplanned pregnancy and responded to questions relating to experience of pregnancy, relationship, family support and desire for children.

Results: Data were subsequently analysed utilising a 2x2 MANOVA. Overall results for these data show that parents responded significantly differently to VC on questions relating to relationship, family support, desire for children and Helen's experience of pregnancy ($F = 15.25$; $df = 25$; $P < .001$).

Conclusions: The voluntarily childless participants in this study tended to view pregnancy as a physically destructive event with long-term physical consequences and motherhood as a position of dependence. This study, therefore, begins to provide strong evidence that the decision to remain childless is a combination of internal (attitudinal and biological) as well as external (social and economic) factors.

Ageing and executive functions: Can the speed of processing and frontal hypotheses explain it all?

P ANDRES, University of Plymouth

Objectives: The aim of this study was to look at the effects of ageing and focal frontal lesions on tasks assessing the functions of the Supervisory Attentional System and the central executive of working memory.

Method: Two groups of older ($n = 48$) and young ($n = 47$) participants were first compared. The results showed age-related differences in inhibition (Hayling test and directed forgetting in working memory), planning (Tower of London) and detection of logical rules (Brixton test). Processing speed, measured by means of a colour-naming task, explained some but not all of the age-related differences. The same executive tasks were then administered to a group of patients with focal frontal lesions. Special care was taken to select the patients. Any hint of lesion elsewhere than the frontal lobe lead to the exclusion of the patient from the study. Moreover, patients were examined long enough after the 'acute' period in order to avoid possible 'mass effects'.

Results: In spite of differences in working memory capacity and speed of processing, little, if any, deficit was observed in executive measures.

Conclusions: From a neuropsychological point of view, these results suggest that a specific frontal decline cannot explain on its own the effects of ageing on executive processes.

Altogether, our findings suggest that both single and general factors might be required to explain the effects of cognitive ageing.

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Eating can reduce negative mood: Effects in emotional and non-emotional eaters

K APPLETON & D KERR, University of Surrey

Objectives: This study investigated the effects of eating on mood, in self-reported emotional and non-emotional eaters.

Design: The study was a self-report diary study, conducted in the real world.

Method: Effects of eating on mood were reported using a self-report 24-hour diary, where mood was measured before and after every eating/drinking episode over a 24-hour period, using seven-point Likert scales. Moods investigated were described as feeling 'relaxed', 'hurried', 'irritated', 'sad', 'tired', 'tense', 'happy', 'angry' and 'fearful'. Responses were compared in 20 female emotional eaters and 20 female non-emotional eaters from the general population. Emotional and non-emotional eaters were defined using the Dutch Eating Behaviours Questionnaire (van Strien *et al.*, 1986).

Results: Data was analysed using ANOVA. Eating was found to have significant effects on various moods. Participants reported feeling significantly more 'relaxed', less 'irritated', less 'sad' and less 'tense', following eating compared to before eating (smallest $F(1,38)=5.90$, $p=0.02$). Emotional eaters were also found to report stronger moods than non-emotional eaters. Emotional eaters reported feeling significantly more 'hurried', 'irritated', 'tired', 'tense', 'angry' and 'fearful', than non-emotional eaters (smallest $F(1,38)=5.08$, $p=0.03$). Effects of eating on mood, however, were similar in emotional and non-emotional eaters (largest $F(1,38)=2.75$, $p=0.11$).

Conclusions: This study provides empirical evidence that eating can reduce negative mood in real-life situations. Interestingly, however, the effects of eating on mood were no greater in self-report emotional eaters than in non-emotional eaters. If the effects of eating on mood are similar in all individuals, why do some individuals become emotional eaters, whilst others do not?

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Testosterone and human aggression

J ARCHER, University of Central Lancashire

Purpose: To evaluate the claim that testosterone facilitates human aggression

Background: Testosterone is typically secreted during neonatal and during adult life in mammals, to produce organising and activational effects. Both of these facilitate male aggressiveness in a range of mammalian species. The case of the female spotted hyaena indicates that selection can favour pronounced aggressiveness in females, controlled by high levels of foetal androgens.

Key Points: The evidence on human aggression during childhood and through puberty indicates that a large sex difference in physical aggression occurs from early in life and is not increased by pubertal testosterone secretion. Nevertheless, studies of adult humans show an overall moderate correlation between testosterone and aggression, although there is variability between studies. Studies of the impact of winning and losing competitive encounters of various forms indicate that testosterone levels may rise in the first case and fall in the second. In contrast, studies involving administering testosterone to normal men have not shown a reliable increase in their levels of aggression.

Conclusion: The mechanism producing the typical sex difference in physical aggression in humans does not rely on the pubertal increase in testosterone, but arises from processes occurring early in life, which may depend directly or indirectly on perinatal testosterone.

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Non-shared environmental influences on individual differences in early behavioural development

K ASBURY, Institute of Psychiatry, London

Objectives: It is generally acknowledged that individual phenotypic differences not accounted for by genes are largely due to non-shared environmental (NSE) influence, making children in the same family different from one another. However, little progress has been made in determining what exactly NSE is or how it works. The current study aims to identify some of its operant aspects.

Design: A twin design with a sample of 4207 monozygotic twin pairs born in England and Wales between 1994 and 1996 and brought up in the same family. This design allows us to control for the influence of genes and shared environment.

Methods: We identified the 10 per cent of our sample who demonstrated the most extreme within pairs differences on each of six outcome variables – anxiety, conduct problems, hyperactivity, vocabulary, grammar and pro-social behaviour – at ages 2, 3 and 4, and peer relations at age 4 only. We related these behavioural differences to differences in experience such as differential parental treatment, time spent in hospital and childhood illnesses, all of which were measured by the Twins Early Development Study (TEDS) from which our sample was drawn.

Results: Extreme MZ discordance in behaviour could not be attributed to any of the differential treatment and experience variables measured by TEDS.

Conclusions: More potential NSE influences must be investigated. We are now exploring hypotheses that specific moderators of NSE may involve the way in which we process the world and represent it to ourselves; and whether we identify with a particular parent, grandparent, sibling or non-family member.

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Research students' expectations of joining the research staff

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Purpose: To represent the views of Research Students in PsyPAG on the prospects and problems of seeking and taking up a psychological research post in a university department.

Background: A substantial proportion of Research Students in Psychology wish to continue in psychological research for a shorter or longer time with a view to building a long-term career, whether in psychological research or in other research-based practice such as HE teaching of psychology or in the area of another Society Division.

Method: The presenters will draw on personal experience of career planning and on discussions with other research students about postdoctoral research and subsequent prospects.

Conclusions: There appear to be some difficulties at present in meeting some of the expectations of Research Students for brief or extended work on the Research Staff of a university psychology department.

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Correlates of distress in caregivers of people with Motor Neurone Disease

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Objectives: Much research into chronic illness has been devoted to the psychological implications of long-term care on informal caregivers. The issues facing caregivers of people with motor neurone disease (MND – a fatal, progressive neurodegenerative disorder resulting in complete paralysis) would appear to put caregivers at a greater risk of developing psychological distress. This suggestion is based mainly on the labour-intensive nature of the care but also the impact of symptoms such as emotional lability (pathological laughter or crying

which can occur in up to 20 per cent of cases) and the psychosocial implications these carry.

Design: Cross-sectional findings from a longitudinal data set are presented.

Methods: 50 spouse caregivers of people with MND, recruited from King's MND Care & Research Centre, London completed a number of measures to assess perceived burden, mood, blame, strain, coping styles, marital intimacy and carer reports of the person with MND's physical and cognitive symptoms.

Results: Significant associations were found between carers' subjective reports of increased perceived burden and the employment of negative coping strategies. Carers' ratings of a poorer quality marital relationship at the present time was found to be associated with reports of more severe emotional lability in their spouses, increased burden and increased psychosocial impairment. Carers who reported higher levels of emotional lability in their spouses were also more likely to report being more socially isolated and experiencing more strain.

Conclusions: The data presented demonstrate how caring for a spouse with MND impacts upon many different areas of the spouse caregiver's life. Negative affect, changes in the marital relationship and social life are shown to be associated with the caregiving process and need to be addressed in order that the caregiver can continue to provide support for their spouse without risk to themselves.

Acknowledgement: Our work is supported by the Motor Neurone Disease Association, UK.

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The influence of social problem-solving style on university adjustment, stress, health, and academic motivation and performance

S BAKER, Keele University

Objectives: To examine prospectively: (i) the predictive relations between social problem-solving style and subsequent adjustment, stress, health, motivational orientations, and academic performance; and (ii) the predictive value of adjustment to university, motivation, stress, and health on overall academic performance.

Design: The study utilised a prospective longitudinal design controlling for demographics (age, gender), academic aptitude prior to arrival at university, and prior health. Stage 1 (n = 104) involved the assessment of social problem-solving style, and baseline measures of psychological and physical health within two weeks of students' arrival at university. Stage 2 (n = 91) assessed adjustment to university, motivational orientations, stress, health, and academic performance during student's second year at university. Stage 3 (n = 91) involved the assessment of overall academic performance during students' three years at university.

Methods: A sample of first year psychology undergraduates completed a range of questionnaires used to measure stress, health, social problem-solving style, adjustment and motivational orientations. Academic performance and participants' entry qualifications were obtained from the university database.

Results: Controlling for gender, age and prior academic aptitude, hierarchical regression analyses indicated that self-perceived problem-solving abilities had direct beneficial effects on subsequent adjustment to university, perceived stress levels, self-determined motivational orientations, and academic performance during student's second year of study. In relation to overall academic performance, social problem-solving appraisals, adjustment, and intrinsic motivation towards accomplishment predicted higher marks over the course of students' three years at university.

Conclusions: These results are discussed in relation to social problem-solving and self-determination models, and the implications for interventions based on problem-solving training for stress management.

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Post-16 qualifications reforms and expansions: Implications for psychology

P BANYARD, Nottingham Trent University

Purpose: To explain the recent changes in post-16 qualifications in psychology and to explore their implications for teaching.

Background: In the past two years major changes have occurred in the provision of post-16 qualifications in all parts of the UK: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The introduction of A and AS-levels, together with National Qualifications in Psychology in Scotland have dramatically extended the level at which psychology can be studied and numbers who are likely to do so.

Method/Key Points: The talk will explain the nature of these developments, the curricula on offer, and the likely impact on staffing and resources at secondary level.

Conclusion: Discussion will centre on the relationship between levels of study and will be placed in the context of the current BPS Working Party on post-16 qualifications.

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Self-love and peak performance

R F BAUMEISTER & H M WALLACE, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio

Purpose: The purpose is to elucidate the relationship between narcissism (excessive self love and desire for admiration) and task performance. Our theory is that opportunity for glory will prove a crucial moderator.

Background: Past studies have found inconsistent results in the performance of narcissists. Across multiple studies, the general impression is that narcissists perform neither better nor worse than others. Our hypothesis is that the appearance of no-difference masks two contrary trends. Narcissists may outperform others when there is a good opportunity to garner the admiration of others. In contrast, when little is at stake, narcissists may withdraw effort and perform worse than others.

Methods: We conducted a series of studies in which the opportunity for glorifying the self was manipulated in different ways, such as by telling participants that either only 25 per cent or 85 per cent achieved success at the task, or that performance would be diagnostic of being able to perform well under pressure. Different performance measures were used for each study.

Conclusions: In every study, narcissists performed better than others when there was an opportunity for glorifying the self by means of good performance. The low challenge conditions (no chance for glory) elicited poorer performance by narcissists. Collapsing across conditions, narcissists performed about the same as other people, but this no-difference finding conceals the moderating effect of challenge. Narcissists respond to situational opportunities more than others, especially opportunities to glorify the self. When such an opportunity is present, narcissists perform very successfully, but in the absence of such opportunity narcissists perform relatively poorly.

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Rejected and alone: Impact of social exclusion on aggression, helping, emotion, cognition, maladaptive behaviours, and self-regulation

R F BAUMEISTER, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio

Objectives: This presentation will cover a program of laboratory experiments dealing with the impact of social exclusion and rejection.

Design & Method: There are two procedures. In one, a group of strangers meets, holds a get-acquainted conversation, and then separates, and each individual is asked to list which two other people he or she would like to work with on a dyadic task. Then each person is told that he or she was chosen by all or by none of the others. In the other procedure, people take a personality test and then receive bogus feedback indicating that in the future they will end up alone in life, or

surrounded by a network of caring friends and family, or prone to accidents (misfortune control). **Results & Conclusion:** Rejection has been found to increase aggression and antisocial behaviour. It also reduces helpful co-operative behaviour. Intelligent thought is reduced, especially on effortful reasoning tasks; simple information processing is unaffected. Self-regulation is impaired and there are some self-defeating patterns in the behaviour of people who have been rejected.
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Psychological processes and perceived quality of life in the healthy elderly

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Objectives: To better understand the role of residential status, and cognitive and psychological variables, in the perceived quality of life of healthy older people.

Design: Psychological measures were obtained from older individuals, classified by residential status (five groups: living alone for more than 10 years; for less than 10 years; living with partner, companion or family; in sheltered housing; in residential home) and analysed for their effect upon perceived (individual-centred) quality of life.

Methods: 200 residents, aged 65 or over, of a London borough were recruited in five equal groups according to residential status (see above). An initial selection interview excluded those who were not healthy, had significant physical disability, or were not within the normal range of cognitive ability. Selected participants were then assessed on cognitive variables (KASCA, AMI, Digit Span, social comparison interview), psychological variables (GDS, GSES, LOT) and individual quality of life measures (SEIQoL-DW, QoL VAS, WHOQoL-BREF).

Results: Data were analysed by appropriate univariate and multivariate anova models. Correlational analyses were also performed and structural equation modelling applied to a preliminary model of the determinants of individual perceptions of quality of life. The results indicate a complex interaction between psychological and social factors in which dispositional factors, perceived threats and social reference are the principal mediators of the relationship between residential status and perceived quality of life.

Conclusions: Conclusions are drawn about the factors which are important in determining the individual residential arrangements which will optimise the quality of life of healthy older people.

An investigation of social support type and source on the relationship between team working and well-being

J BELL, University of Aston

This study examined the impact that working in a clearly defined team had on the relationship among work stress, social support at work from one's manager, team members and other colleagues and well-being. It was proposed that those employees who work in teams will experience greater satisfaction with support from others in the workplace, and will therefore report better well-being than those employees who do not work in teams. This cross sectional study was carried out in a private sector service organisation. Previous research similar in nature had been carried out in the NHS, this study extends this research in a different organisational context. Seven-hundred-and-fifty Post Office employees were selected at random and sent a questionnaire containing measures of work characteristics, social support (amount and satisfaction) from manager, team members and colleagues, and seven types of support (amount and satisfaction) from these sources; job satisfaction, organisational commitment and well-being. Three-hundred-and-twenty-three employees returned their surveys, a response rate of 43 per cent. Analysis was conducted at

the individual level. Differences between employees working in clearly defined teams and those employees working in groups were explored using hierarchical regressions and discrimination analysis techniques. Working in a clearly defined team is associated with better well-being. Social support and influence mediated the relationship between team working and well-being. Employees working in clearly defined teams reported greater satisfaction with all types of support from their manager and colleagues. An unexpected and interesting finding was that there was no difference between the two work groups regarding satisfaction with support from team members. Further research is needed to consider these relationships at the team level.
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Gender differences in coping with widowhood

K BENNETT & G HUGHES, University of Liverpool & P SMITH, University of Reading

Objectives: The study examines the gender differences associated with widowhood in later life.

Design: 40 men and 40 women, over the age of 60, were interviewed about their experiences of bereavement and widowhood. In addition, they were asked whether they believed men or women coped better with widowhood. Finally measures of depression, anxiety and cognitive failures were taken.

Results: Data are being analysed using grounded theory methods, content analysis and multivariate techniques. Preliminary results indicate that both men and women agree that women are better equipped to deal with widowhood. Reasons given for this differences include women's domestic abilities and their social skills. However, preliminary analysis of the interview data suggest that the picture is more complex. There is evidence to suggest that men are able to deal with widowhood as effectively as women. However, men and women appear to utilise different skills in coming to terms with their loss.

Conclusions: Preliminary conclusions are that men's and women's experiences of bereavement and widowhood differ and that men and women cope in different ways. The study has enabled the synthesis of quantitative and qualitative data in order to present a more complete view of late life widowhood than has previously been possible. Finally, the study will allow recommendations to be made concerning the support of widowed men and women.
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Relationship between three tests of attention and measures of adjustment in eight-year-olds

M BEVERIDGE, University of Plymouth & D HERRICK & J HORWOOD, The ALSPAC Study team, Bristol University

Objectives: To assess children's different attentional capacities of selective attention, sustained attention and attention switching and investigate the relationship between these levels of attention along with latent characteristics and measures of adjustment.

Design: A standardised and normed clinical measure of attention (the TEA-CH) was used to collect measures of attention at age eight along with digit span as part of a wider battery of measures. Measures of adjustment and development were collected in self-completion questionnaires by the parents at 47 and 30 months respectively

Methods: Data are available from 3300 eight year old children involved in the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC) were assessed on three different kinds of attention (selective, sustained-divided and switching attention) as part of a larger test battery. This was compared with latent characteristics of sex, age and digit span, along with early measures of adjustment (Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire SDQ) and development (Denver Developmental Screen Test) completed in parental self-completion questionnaires.

Results: No significant relationship was found

between the three different types of attention, suggesting that they may well be measuring different underlying processes. There were significant associations between the gender and attention, with girls performing better on selective attention and attention switching tasks. There were also significant relationships between the attention tasks and measures of adjustment and development, these being strongest for selective attention and selective-divided attention. **Conclusions:** Eight-year-old children's abilities with selective attention, sustained attention and attention switching are differentially associated with earlier measures of adjustment and development.

Inter-personal conflict, mother's depression and disorder in offspring

A BIFULCO, Royal Holloway, University of London

Objectives: (i) To investigate the rates of psychological disorder in 16 to 25-year-olds whose mothers were assessed as vulnerable to depression over five years earlier. (ii) To examine intergenerational transmission of risk in terms of maternal depression, maternal vulnerability and neglect/abuse of offspring

Design: 176 mother-offspring pairs, half of whom comprised vulnerable mothers and half a representative series were examined in terms of rates of disorder in offspring. Both internalising disorder (depression or anxiety) and externalising disorder (conduct/antisocial disorder or substance abuse) were examined in offspring. Disorder was assessed by means of the SCID interview. Vulnerability in mother and neglect or abuse in childhood in both generations was determined by investigator-based, semi-structured interviews (SESS and CECA).

Results: Offspring of vulnerable mothers had four-fold higher rates of yearly disorder than the representative series (43 per cent vs 11 per cent, $p < 0.001$). Although gender differentiation in disorder was in the expected direction, both daughters and sons of vulnerable mothers had increased risk of internalising disorder with the boys showing increased rates of co-morbid conditions. Transmission of risk was mediated through neglect or abuse of offspring, particularly physical abuse perpetrated by mothers or fathers/surrogate fathers. Maternal depression did not add to risk of offspring disorder.

Conclusions: Psychosocial depressive-vulnerability in mothers is an important risk factor for future disorder in offspring. In particular, inter-personal conflict with partner and children relates to physical abuse of offspring. Targeting such vulnerability in mothers and offering early intervention and access to specialist health services is likely to reduce disorder in both generations.
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Children's language skills and the effects of poor attention, hyperactivity and impulsivity

S BIGNELL, Essex University

Objectives: Although the diagnostic subcategories of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) differ widely in behavioural criteria little is known about the relationship of these to children's specific language skills. Language comprehension problems in these children are more frequent than in comparable clinical populations. This study explores the relation of normally developing children's language comprehension skills with the symptoms commonly seen in children diagnosed with ADHD.

Design: Assessment included teacher and parent questionnaires and objective child measures that assess related aspects of language and behaviour. These included, reading ability, pragmatic language skills, verbal and non-verbal vocabulary, attention span, hyperactivity and impulsivity, non-verbal reasoning, and cognitive and behavioural inhibition measures.

Methods: A large sample of seven to 11-year-old schoolchildren was screened by teacher questionnaire of class behaviour and a selection

was assigned to one of three groups based on the DSM-IV criteria for ADHD subtypes. The groups comprised of: 'inattentive', 'hyperactivity-impulsive', and a 'combined group' who showed elevated test scores on both poor attention and hyperactivity-impulsiveness, a control group was also included. Participants were assessed individually and teachers and parents also completed detailed behavioural questionnaires. **Conclusions:** The language comprehension skills of normally developing children may be influenced to a lesser or in qualitatively different ways by symptoms similar to those seen in the diagnostic subtypes of ADHD. If this is the case, this has implications for professionals using educational techniques with children who may have subtle problems of poorer attention, hyperactivity-impulsivity.

Freud and the language of humour

M BILLIG, University of Loughborough

Freud's theory of humour is re-examined with particular attention paid to the issue of ethnic humour. The aim of this critical appreciation is to show the enduring strength of Freud's approach to understanding the role of humour, especially with its emphasis on the role of self-deceit. At the same time some surprising gaps in Freud's theory are also explored. The theoretical background for this analysis comes from a discursive reinterpretation of Freud's theory of repression. This perspective suggests that Freud's own language can be examined to see how his texts produce their own repressions. The sorts of jokes that Freud includes and excludes in Jokes and their Relation to the Unconscious are discussed. Particular attention is paid to Freud's Jewish jokes. These are considered in relation to the general historical background of Austrian anti-Semitism and also in the light of Freud's own complex Jewish identity. It is noted that Freud seems to avoid including in his analysis the very sorts of humour that would best substantiate his theory and this includes deeply anti-Semitic jokes. The reasons why he might have done this are discussed. Using insights from Freud's theory and the examples of his own omissions, it is possible to gain insights about the role of humour as a reaction to bigotry and also as part of bigotry.

Using psychology to enhance the training of laparoscopic skills

J BLAIN & N McCLURE, Queen's University Belfast at RVH

Objectives: Initial learning curves for laparoscopic surgery are steep. Current training programmes are brief and alternatives are being investigated. Psychology can inform trainers about how humans learn, human limitations and human interaction with their environment and equipment. Knot tying is an important component of laparoscopic skills training courses, being useful for its own sake and, positively transferring to other skills. However, it is difficult to learn. In general the structure of a task influences whether it is learned better in parts or as a complete unit. This study compares the effects of various part-task instruction methods on the acquisition and retention of laparoscopic knot tying skill.

Design: Prospective observational design with four independent training conditions: 1. Forward chaining; 2. Backward chaining; 3. Fractionisation; and 4. Simplification.

Methods: 32 laparoscopic novices (medical students) were randomly assigned to a training condition. After training each subject attempted 10 knots using standard laparoscopic equipment. Approximately two weeks later a further five knots were tied to assess skill retention.

Results: Time, stage achieved and number of knots tied by each group were examined using group means, ANOVA's and non-parametric tests. Condition 3 had the best performance scores on all tests but there were no significant differences between groups. All groups showed significant learning effects across trials and good retention. Condition 3 took significantly less training time than the other groups.

Conclusions: All four training conditions are satisfactory. Condition 3 may be the best part-task training method for novices. It also takes

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Sexuality and sexual health – Optimism and risk

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Objective: To examine the association between HIV optimism and sexual risk behaviour among gay men in 4 different countries

Design: Cross-sectional surveys

Methods: As part of ongoing behavioural surveillance, gay men were surveyed between January and October 2000 in Australia (n=3600), France (n=2000), England (n=800) and Canada (n=250). Information was collected on HIV status, unprotected anal intercourse (UAI) and men's response to a four-item HIV optimism scale.

Possible responses to each item were: strongly disagree (=1), disagree (=2), agree (=3), strongly agree (=4). Agreement indicated optimism in the light of new HIV drug therapies. Total scores could range from 4 (strongly disagree on all four items) to 16 (strongly agree on all four items).

Results: In all cities, overall mean scores on the four-item scale were low (<7) indicating that for the most part men did not agree with the optimism statements. Mean scores varied by HIV status, but there was no consistent pattern across the cities. It was generally seen that among HIV negative men, the mean scores of those reporting UAI with a casual partner (i.e. high risk sexual behaviour) were higher than those who did not report UAI (p<0.01). No consistent association between mean optimism score and UAI with a casual partner emerged among HIV positive men across the different cities.

Conclusions: In all countries, only a minority of gay men expressed optimism in the light of new HIV drug therapies. For some gay men, optimism in the light of new drug therapies may have triggered, or have been used as a justification for high risk sexual behaviour.

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Prospects and problems for psychology research staff in British universities

D BOOTH, University of Birmingham

A substantial proportion of the research (and some teaching) in British university departments of psychology is carried out by Academic Staff on short-term contracts. These may be as brief as a few months, and are seldom for more than three years. Research funders award grants of this brevity to Principal Investigators (PIs) without paying the full costs of employing the Research Psychologist, and without provision for career development of the researcher or for continuity of the PI's programme. The uncertainty of external funding means it is often difficult to find funds at the time needed to employ a finishing research student or a post-doc completing one project and wishing to continue in related research. These problems are especially acute for the many PIs with at most one or two grants at any one time. Alleviating the problem by collaboration across funded projects is hard because it is difficult for relevantly skilled Researchers and PIs to find each other where funds are only briefly available. Such problems add to the unattractiveness of any academic career, and deplete the research resource nationally. This Symposium considers expectations and experiences of research students, research staff and grant-holders, with a view to finding ways to improve prospects for Research Psychologists in universities. This will cover immediate initiatives (e.g. complementing the advertising of posts by a network of short-term exchanges of research staff between longer contracts) and more radical suggestions (e.g. a 'career tax' on funders and universities to provide for researcher development and bridging resources).

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The sexual imperative and male middle age

L BOUL, University of Sheffield

The baby boomer generation were reared by fathers who extolled the traditional virtues of responsibility and maturity into a youth society that viewed ageing as a crisis. This generation of adolescents have now entered 'middle age' at a time in which scientific and medical discourse has given rise to a biomedical model of male middle age, somewhat analogous to the female menopause. However, whereas female ageing has been measured in terms of reproductive dysfunction, the 'male menopause' focuses on sexual dysfunction.

Objectives: To investigate attitudes, perceptions and experiences of male middle age.

Design: Cross-sectional cohort study, using a sample obtained from an executive employment agency from which data was available for cross validation.

Methods: A postal questionnaire was mailed to a national sample of men aged 30 to 59 years and data analysis was restricted to 185 fathers in permanent relationships.

Results: The findings indicate that there is little support for middle age as the prime of life, crisis or male menopause with specific regard to sexual dysfunction. However, there was considerable uncertainty expressed with regard to the term 'male menopause', and conspicuous similarities of reported symptoms to female menopause.

Conclusions: It appears that there may be potential for the emergence of a 'male menopause' model based on the language of disease that has been prevalent in female menopause discourses. Implications of such a model on health service provision could have far reaching effects as the boomer generation rapidly approaches old age.

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Initial perception and influence of numerical formats on decision making

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Objectives: Research suggesting a superiority of frequencies over single event probabilities and of smaller reference classes over very large reference classes have utilised tasks varying in computational complexity. The present research sought to evaluate: (a) if, apart from simplifying statistical inference tasks, certain frequency forms are clearer than other formats; and (b) if other information formats are perceived in varying ways that could influence subsequent decision making.

Design: A series of experiments presented participants with simple statements of statistical information that utilised four different formats: Frequencies based on small reference classes (simple frequencies, e.g. 1/3), percentages (relative frequencies, e.g. 33 per cent), frequencies based on very large reference classes (total frequencies, e.g. 90 million Americans), or single event probabilities (e.g. .33). These formats were evaluated both separately (Experiments 1 and 2) and in comparison to each other (Experiments 3 and 4).

Methods: In total, 400 University undergraduates in the US and the UK participated as part of class exercises.

Results: In between-subjects comparisons, simple frequencies and relative frequencies (percentages) were perceived as clearer than total frequencies and single event probabilities. As predicted, total frequencies were more persuasive for smaller magnitudes, but less persuasive for larger magnitudes. In within-subject comparisons, simple frequencies were evaluated as clearest and easiest to understand, total frequencies were seen as inflating the importance of the information, and single-event probabilities were seen as minimising information importance.

Conclusions: These results have implications for the study of judgments under uncertainty as well as the study of social influence.

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Trust in online advice: How simple manipulations of a website may influence user judgments

P BRIGGS, University of Northumbria, A DE ANGELI, P LYNCH, NCR Financial Solutions Ltd & B SIMPSON, University of Northumbria

Objectives: Huge numbers of people are now using the internet to make commercial and other transactions, and are increasingly seeking advice online. This report describes an experimental investigation of two factors believed to influence users trust in online advice and subsequent willingness to engage in online-commerce. It was predicted that preparedness to take advice offered online would be influenced by (a) source credibility (the reputation of the organisation offering advice – a factor related to brand) and (b) degree of personalisation (the extent to which advice is tailored to the individual).

Design: A 2x2 factorial design was conducted in which the website for an online travel insurance broker was manipulated so that it represented high versus low source credibility, plus high versus low degrees of personalisation.

Methods: In this experiment, 107 users were logged on to one of four versions of a travel insurance Web site and asked to fill in insurance forms online, to make a decision as to whether or not they wanted to purchase insurance and then to answer a follow-up questionnaire. Behavioural measures of trust in the site were taken in terms of the degree to which users were prepared to reveal information about themselves, the extent to which they were guided by the advice offered by the site and the extent of their commitment to the product. Subjective measures of trustworthiness, and other attitudinal factors were measured by a follow-up questionnaire.

Results: A manipulation check in the follow-up questionnaire provided evidence that the personalisation manipulation had been successful. In other words participants did feel that they were more involved in the decision making process for the 'personalised' site than for the 'non-personalised' site, although they didn't really feel that company A was genuinely more reputable than company B. The predicted differences in user-behaviour (as measured by disclosure of personal information and purchase choice) were not significantly different, although for several measures, the trends in the data supported hypotheses – in that users of the site predicted to generate the least trust showed least inclination to buy the recommended product. However, personalisation of the site did lead to significant differences in user attitudes in terms of factors known to influence trust in e-commerce. It seems that relatively small amounts of personal tailoring of information can have reasonably significant effects on users judgements of the quality of the site, in terms of the number of choices they felt they were offered and the ease-of-use and predictability of the site itself.

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Attachment and the body in suicidal adolescents

S BRIGGS & J BEHRINGER, Tavistock Clinic, London

Objectives: The paper presents findings from an empirical study of the attachment patterns of adolescents at risk of suicide. It discusses why some adolescents through internalising strategies, turn to the body in self-destructive ways, and it compares the attitude to and relationship with the body of suicidal and non-suicidal adolescents.

Design: The design was qualitative using a two-sample comparative group.

Methods: 18 clinical adolescents, ten suicidal and eight non-suicidal were administered a semi-structured interview focusing on adolescents' experiences of bodily change during puberty, together with an attachment measure specifically developed for adolescents, the Adolescent Separation Anxiety Interview (ASAI) (Richard, Fonagy, Smith, Wright & Binney, 1998) together with a self-report measure of behavioural disturbance (YSF, Achenbach, 1991).

Results: The interviews were analysed using grounded theory, and three categories – defended/inhibited, objectifying, and controlling were developed. These were then used to compare the suicidal and non-suicidal adolescents. Suicidal adolescents were found to be more defended, objectifying and controlling with regard to the body compared with non-suicidal clinical subjects. Adolescents who were categorised as avoidant had few memories about the body and pubertal bodily changes, whilst ambivalent/enmeshed adolescents had a plethora of abject and disappointing memories.

Conclusions: It was concluded that the suicidal adolescents' attitude to her/his body differed from the non-suicidal adolescent in important aspects. Clinical and theoretical implications are discussed.

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Pushing back the frontiers

V BRUCE, University of Stirling

Academic researchers often express anxieties about the modern emphasis placed on applicability and/or relevance of research by funding agencies. In this address I will argue that – whether basic or applied in style – good research should have an impact upon something. Theoretical developments should find their way into the undergraduate or schools curriculum, and into the thinking of other disciplines. Practical applications must be exploited in some way, sometimes commercially but perhaps more often through effects on public services. For psychological research to have its maximum impacts on the international curriculum and/or public service agenda it is essential that research is communicated and disseminated broadly. Such activities are often not sufficiently valued in academic departments which focus too narrowly on the demands of the Research Assessment Exercise. I will give some examples from my own research of the pleasures, and pitfalls, of working and disseminating beyond the boundaries of my academic discipline. The British Psychological Society, with its combination of academic and practitioner professionals and perspectives, has a unique role to play in facilitating such activities, and one which we could strengthen in the future.

The science of the face

V BRUCE, University of Stirling & A YOUNG, University of York

Purpose: BPS Book Award. The presentation will be based on topics discussed in V. Bruce and A. Young, *In the eye of the beholder: the science of face perception*, Oxford University Press 1998.

Background: The human face is a rich source of social signals. It is used to infer age, sex, attractiveness, identity, emotion, gaze, and other important attributes.

Key Points: Scientists can exploit the properties of the face to unpack difficult theoretical questions. Few stimuli have such rich significance, and this allows us to ask whether the brain farms out the task of face perception to different specialist regions, or relies on common mechanisms for different types of social inference.

Conclusions: The study of face perception brings together biological, evolutionary and psychological issues. Advances in experimental techniques, neuropsychological case studies, and functional imaging methods have led to improved understanding. Much recent work has been underpinned by sophisticated computer-image manipulation techniques that open up new ways of tackling many research questions.

The relationship between beliefs about self, BMI and some healthy behaviours

R BURNS, University of Brunei

Objectives: Unhealthy diet and exercise habits are strongly indicted as major causes of increasing obesity, diabetes, and high cholesterol levels among youth that prognosticate future ill health, and escalating personal and national health costs. This relationship needs to be investigated in the context of individual self

perception since evidence from adults suggests that subjectively perceived self worth and self efficacy impact on eating and exercise behaviours. This study investigates the relationship between several self concept variables, Body Mass Index (BMI) and healthy lifestyle behaviour among adolescents.

Design: A comparative correlational survey.

Methods: Two adolescent samples (Brunei: n = 293 and Australia: n = 374) completed scales to measure self esteem, self efficacy, and health locus of control. An additional questionnaire sought information on eating and exercise habits, as well as height and weight data. Correlational and regression analysis was applied.

Results: Both samples demonstrated strong significant and positive relationships between both good eating and exercise behaviour and positive self esteem, self efficacy and internal locus of control. Step wise regression analysis revealed that self esteem, locus of control, efficacy and BMI measures combine significantly to predict total health behaviour (Brunei Males R2 = 62 per cent; Brunei females R2 = 68 per cent; Australian males R2 = 61 per cent; Australian females R2 = 69 per cent). Healthy eating behaviour produced a higher R2 (64 per cent) than healthy exercise (59 per cent) for both cultural samples.

Conclusions: Results suggest that health educators should raise self beliefs as one strategy to facilitate healthier behaviours among youth to reduce potential for ill health.

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Looking after your own: Ingroup love and outgroup hate in Northern Ireland

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Objectives: Allport (1954), unlike Sumner (1906), believed that positive feeling towards one's ingroup did not automatically lead to outgroup hostility. Empirical research over the last 50 years appears to confirm this. However, most of the evidence has come from experimental situations and relatively little from field studies. Because of this, recent reviewers of this literature (Brewer, 1999; Hewstone, Rubin & Willis, in press) have speculated that one situation in which one might expect to find a direct relationship between intense ingroup favouritism and outgroup antagonism would be in highly segmented societies 'that are differentiated along a single primary categorisation, such as ethnicity or religion'. As Northern Ireland meets this description it was decided to explore the relationship between ingroup and outgroup attitudes in Northern Ireland.

Design: This involved the selection of a random sample of adults from the population of Northern Ireland.

Method: A professional survey organisation carried out random sample surveys of the Northern Irish population in 2000 and in 2001. As well as the usual demographic information the questionnaire measured (among other things) ingroup identity, ingroup attitudes and outgroup attitudes.

Results: In both surveys the results were virtually identical with a modest but positive correlation between ingroup and outgroup attitudes. Further analyses suggested that this relationship was moderated by strength of ingroup identity such that participants (both Catholic and Protestant) with a weaker ingroup identity displayed a stronger positive relationship between ingroup and outgroup attitudes. However, even among those participants with the strongest ingroup identities the relationship between ingroup and outgroup attitudes was not negative but was virtually zero.

Conclusions: It would appear that Allport's (1954) suggestion that ingroup love is not a precursor to outgroup hate may hold true even in societies which lack cross-cutting social categories and where there is a long history of intergroup antagonism.

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Children and political violence: Northern Ireland

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Purpose: The aim of the paper is to review the literature concerned with the impact of political violence on children in Northern Ireland

Background: When the conflict began in the late 1960's it came as a shock to the general population of Northern Ireland, as well as to professionals and academics, including those in psychology. To begin with the now familiar moral panic ensued. Eventually, however, this was replaced by attempts to understand the wide ranging impact that the political violence was having on succeeding generations of children. Impacts related not only to the experience of violence, but also various attempts to involve children in the process of peacemaking.

Methods/Key Points: The review has been confined largely to published material, supplemented by findings from an on-going research programme regarding children and political violence.

Conclusions: Children in Northern Ireland have been impacted by the political violence in many ways. Such impacts can be measured by a variety of means, and are not usefully limited to such terms as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Further, while some children have clearly been 'damaged for life' through their experience, many others appear to have emerged from the context of conflict relatively unscathed.

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Barriers in physical activity in adolescent girls: Motivational or volitional?

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Objectives: There has been a recent increase in the number of overweight young people in the UK and decrease in physical activity (PA) levels. This study examined the health-related knowledge, attitudes and perceived barriers towards PA in a group of 11 to 15-year-old girls.

Design: Social Cognition Models (SCM's have been frequently used to attempt to understand how certain factors lead to behaviours such as PA. However, even when models predict exercise intention, the correlation between intention and behaviour is often low. Therefore, Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) was used, to investigate whether barriers to PA occur at the intention stage or the behaviour stage.

Method: Semi-structured interviews were conducted with a sample of 11 to 15-year-old girls (n = 14), selected at random from PE classes at a secondary comprehensive school. Interviews were transcribed and IPA was carried out.

Results: The main reason girls intended to participate in PA was enjoyment of a particular activity, whereas health or fitness did not motivate them. Barriers to PA fell into two categories: 1. Motivational barrier – No motivation or intention; 2. Volitional barrier – Motivated, yet have a perceived lack of time, low self efficacy and cannot translate their intentions into actions.

Conclusions: Using IPA highlights the difficulty of predicting behaviour using SCM's. There are two stages of behaviour change to consider and barriers occur at both stages. Health promotion campaigns could be improved by discovering whether the target audience lacks motivation to change, or whether they lack the skills to change their behaviour.

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Imagery-based priming onto a perceptual object recognition task

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Objectives: This experiment was designed to investigate the extent to which processes involved with visual imagery overlap with those involved in visual perception.

Design: The experiment employed a typical repetition priming design with a presentation phase followed by a test phase.

Methods: 18 participants were presented with colour pictures of current British road signs and asked to name the sign. They were also

presented with the names of other road signs and asked to describe what these signs would look like and use a pointer to depict the sign on a PC monitor. Later, at test, participants viewed a second set of stimuli consisting of familiar (real) and unfamiliar (made-up) road signs and asked to undertake a speeded recognition task. A subset of the familiar road signs was being viewed for the first time, while others had been seen before or imagined and described in the presentation phase.

Results: Mean reaction times for the three priming conditions were recorded and the application of a repeated measure ANOVA indicated that there was a main effect of priming. Critically, those items that had been imagined in the presentation phase received the same amount of priming as those that had been seen.

Conclusions: This finding has implications for published studies that show reduced priming for imagined objects compared to seen objects. The paper also offers an explanation as to why similar experiments using faces as stimuli have failed to show evidence of imagery based priming onto a purely perceptual task at test.

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The uses and abuses of assessments of cognitions and attitudes

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Objectives: This study was designed to test the reliability, discriminative validity, internal consistency and usability of a questionnaire on cognitions related to sex offending for use with men who have mild intellectual disability.

Design: An original questionnaire on attitudes consistent with sex offending (QACSO) consisting of 108 questions in seven sections: rape, voyeurism, exhibitionism, dating abuse, homosexual assault, offences against children and stalking was administered on two occasions to groups of men. The responses to these questionnaires allowed the above measures to be tested.

Methods: 41 untreated sex offenders with intellectual disability, 34 non-sex offenders with mild intellectual disability, 30 non-offenders with intellectual disability and 31 normal men who had not been charged with sexual offences, provided answers to the QACSO on two occasions separated by approximately a month.

Results: Test-retest scores, based on chi square tests, were used to investigate the reliability of the items. Analysis of the corrected item-total correlations and the computation of the coefficient alpha allowed an investigation of the revised items internal consistency. The results of an ANOVA based on the scores of the four groups of participations indicated that the revised QACSO has good discriminative validity – sex offenders with intellectual disability scored significantly higher than the other groups of participants.

Conclusions: The revised QACSO for use with offenders with intellectual disability has as good psychometric properties as published tests intended for use with offenders without intellectual disability. This paper discusses the way the QACSO and other measures of the cognitions of sex offenders have been employed by psychologists.

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A social psychological perspective on mobile phone use

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Objective: Much of the research involving mobile phone use is concerned with the possible negative health effects of radiation. Amidst a boom in mobile phone ownership, little attention has been paid to the origins and broader implications of the behaviour. One study suggests a possible link between increased mobile phone ownership and a fall in smoking amongst adolescents. The current study explores the proliferation of mobile phone use within a social psychological framework, addressing issues of image formation, social

identity, affect and risk taking.

Design: A semantic differential scale was developed and utilised in a questionnaire-based survey of undergraduate students.

Method: Participants completed the questionnaire requiring them to respond to aspects of mobile phone use using positive versus negative descriptors relevant to the social psychological concepts under investigation.

Results: Findings reveal that the mobile phone phenomenon is as worthy of investigation in a social psychological context as other extensively researched areas such as smoking. Like smoking, mobile phone use attracts strong attributes relating to concepts of image, mood and identity.

Conclusions: The study has constructed a social psychology of mobile phone use. As an initial step, this will enable further investigation of the phenomenon and the development of a theoretical position from which to consider the origins and consequences of mobile phone use. In particular, the study discusses findings in the context of addictive behaviour and considers the possibility that mobile phone use offers an example of a positive – as opposed to a negative – addiction.

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The development of the General Academic Self-Efficacy Scale (GASE)

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Objectives: It is suggested that a key feature of higher education should be to provide students with a variety of academic skills and achievements that might be subsumed under the heading of 'generalised academic self-efficacy'. The GASE scale was developed to provide a measure of generalised academic self-efficacy beliefs and provide diagnostic utility for professionals working with students in higher education. GASE is a refinement of an instrument previously developed to evaluate levels of self-efficacy in student health professionals. The success of that instrument suggested that a more generalised measure of academic self-efficacy may have utility within higher education.

Design: A longitudinal survey was undertaken to gather data to facilitate the development of the scale.

Method: A sample of 170 Undergraduate students from a variety of disciplines completed the instrument during enrolment and again upon completion of a three-year degree programme. Locus of control, learning style and academic performance were also measured.

Results: Reliability and factor analysis suggest that GASE is a unidimensional construct and offers a satisfactory degree of internal consistency. Significant correlations with academic locus of control, learning style and academic performance, together with a significant increase in GASE scores from first to final year, suggest that the scale has both construct and predictive validity.

Conclusions: The GASE Scale has been shown to have acceptable psychometric properties and as such provides a valid and reliable measure of students generalised academic self-efficacy beliefs. Assessing generalised academic self-efficacy beliefs is likely to inform and assist teaching and learning in higher education.

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Measuring computing locus of control and need for locus control

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Objectives: In the absence of domain-specific instruments measuring computing locus of control and computing need for control, the study aimed to develop new psychometric measures of these constructs, and in the process investigate the constructs' viability and relationships with other concepts such as computer comfort – anxiety and computer addiction.

Design: Exploratory factor analysis (EFA) was used to analyse data from Likert-type questionnaire items. EFA and correlational analyses were also used to validate subscales.

Methods: The main EFA was performed on data from 233 higher education students and employees who completed questionnaires voluntarily. Subsets of these respondents provided validation data.

Results: Preliminary analysis of items showed that few people attributed computing-related outcomes to luck or chance and indicated that the vast majority of people believed that in principle such outcomes were within their control. With the aforementioned types of item excluded, two factors were extracted during EFA: a Computing Autonomy factor and a Computing Need for Control factor. Subsequent analyses showed that the subscales represented by the factors were reliable and exhibited construct validity.

Conclusions: The instrument developed opens the way for research into many important areas, such as relationships between need for control over computers, computer-related addictions and psychophysiological reactivity in the face of non-optimally responding computers. Data suggested that it might not be viable to construct a computing-specific locus of control scale, but that the extent to which feelings of control over computers allow people to display computing autonomy might be studied profitably.

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Homelessness, social identity and relationships with formal authority

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Objectives: This field study examined the role of social identity and attitudes to formal authority in homeless people's uptake of outreach services. A theory-driven approach was used to predict intentions and behaviour and to examine the moderating role of identification with homeless people.

Design: A longitudinal correlational design that also compared two categories of homeless person, indigenous and refugee. At Time 1, participants responded to a structured interview measuring objective and psychological variables. At Time 2, we took objective measures of behaviour

Methods: 150 homeless people recruited from Birmingham and the West Midlands participated. Based on prior research with other populations, we assessed attitudes toward two types of formal authority (police and outreach programmes – staff), perceived closeness to relevant social categories (i.e. sub-populations of homeless people and institutional groups), and other measures of group-rooted or personally unique behaviour, based on the Theory of Planned Behaviour. Four weeks later, outreach programme staff reported the number of times each participant had made use of their services.

Results: Consistent with previous findings, indigenous homeless people reported negative attitudes towards formal authority at both super-ordinate level (i.e. police) and subordinate levels (i.e. outreach programmes). However, refugee participants were not prepared to express a view on the impact of the police on 'street life'. Furthermore, measures of perceived closeness to target categories accounted for variance in behaviour above and beyond more traditional attitude-based predictors.

Conclusions: The research illustrates the relevance and importance of studying not just economic factors, attitudes and beliefs about personal outcomes, but also identity as a member of different social categories, and relationships to other social categories. Practically, the findings enhance our knowledge of homeless people's decision-making, and shed light on the complexity of service use.

Theoretically, the research represents an important step to providing a more socially contextualised analysis of homeless people's behaviour in a complex cultural environment

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Coping with the onset of cognitive impairment: the perspective of the person with dementia

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Objectives: This study explored how people experiencing the onset of dementia of Alzheimer type (DAT) attempt to cope with what is happening to them.

Design: This was a qualitative interview study. The primary focus was on the perspective of the person with dementia. Triangulation of data from the separate accounts of participants and their partners was, however, used to enhance validity.

Method: The participants were 12 memory clinic attendees meeting diagnostic criteria for probable Alzheimer's disease and their partners. Individual interviews were conducted with participants and with their partners on two occasions. Transcripts were analysed using interpretative phenomenological analysis and emergent themes were identified.

Results: Coping strategies appeared to fall into two groups. Strategies aimed at holding on or compensating reflected attempts to maintain a sense of self and normality in the face of threat. Strategies aimed at fighting and coming to terms reflected attempts to integrate the observed changes within the self-concept and adjust accordingly. Most participants described strategies in the former category, while fewer used strategies from the latter category.

Participants and partners often differed in their views about the effectiveness of the strategies adopted. These results are considered in relation to theoretical models of coping and adjustment.

Conclusions: The findings provide a phenomenological understanding of coping in early-stage Alzheimer's disease that can serve as a basis for developing more sensitive and effective clinical interventions.

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Grandparenting in Britain

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Objectives: To explore the role of grandparenting in Britain.

Design: The paper will be based on data from a national quantitative survey and a follow up quantitative interview. In Stage 1 a nationally representative survey of about 900 grandparents of all ages was carried out by the Office of National Statistics using a previous Kinship Module to identify grandparents. In the second stage of the research, 60 in-depth interviews with grandparents provided a more detailed picture of the role of and meaning of grandparenthood

Method: Bivariate and multivariate analyses of contact and the importance of the relationship will be presented. Findings from, the economic, practical and financial exchanges between grandparents and grandchildren, how this is negotiated with the parents and whether there are differences according to the family type of the grandchildren.

Results: The national survey demonstrated that age has a major impact on grandparenting in terms of frequency of contact and how close grandparents live to their grandchildren, though not on the importance of the relationship. Social class does not have a major impact on the role of grandparents in Britain. Family breakdown affects grandparent/grandchild contact and the relationship with the grandchildren's parents is particularly important where this occurs.

Conclusions: Family relationships are more complex today but grandparenting remains an important family relationship for older people in Britain. There is great variation between grandparents and, however, in how this role operates.

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Talk about homophobic bullying: A discursive psychological approach

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Objectives: It is frequently claimed that children of lesbian and gay parents are the victims of vicarious social stigma. This claim is used to justify the view that lesbians and gay men should

be prevented from having and raising children. This study explores how lesbian and gay parents deal with the issue of homophobic bullying and its implications for their fitness to parent.

Design/Method: This study is based on the analysis of interviews with and television documentaries about lesbian and gay parents.

Extracts of data relevant to the issue of homophobic bullying were identified and analysed using discursive psychology.

Results: Detailed analysis of the interview and documentary talk show that lesbian and gay parents deal with the issue of homophobic bullying by normalising it. This means that they construct homophobic bullying as being 'no different' from more mundane and everyday bullying about issues such as hair colour and weight. My analysis shows that they advance this normalising discourse in order to manage their ascribed identity as 'bad' parents. By normalising homophobic bullying, they remove their responsibility for their children's victimisation and so avoid being labelled 'unfit to parent'.

Conclusion: My analysis shows that lesbian and gay parents are attentive to their oppression within the larger society and creatively manage both their accountability for their children's experiences of oppression and their identity as bad parents. They do so, however, at the cost of any direct challenge to homophobic bullying or to the social structures which sustain it.

The verbal overshadowing effect in eyewitness testimony

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Objectives: Recent studies have demonstrated that asking people to verbally describe a previously seen face can hinder subsequent attempts at identification of that face. This phenomenon is termed the verbal overshadowing effect (VOE). If this effect can be shown to be robust then it has massive implications for how police conduct initial interviews with witnesses and victims. At the most extreme it could suggest that police are actually hindering their investigations rather than enhancing them. However, this VOE seems to be somewhat fragile and 'author' specific, thus we began a programme of studies (funded by the ESRC) to establish the reality or otherwise of the effect.

Design/Method: A number of factorial studies, conducted with both adults and children, under varying delay intervals and utilising different modes of facial description, that sought to reveal the reality or otherwise of VOE are presented.

Results/Discussion: Loglinear and supplementary analysis revealed little if any evidence for the presence of the effect. Theoretical explanations for the appearance and non-appearance of the VOE are presented and policy implications are discussed.

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Dual task performance and executive functions: Evidence from healthy adults and Alzheimer's disease patients

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Objectives: The ability of human beings to perform more than one thing at a time has long been a focus of study in the literature on human attention and on memory, and failure in performing dual tasks has been described as a characteristic impairment of patients with mild Alzheimer's disease (AD). We aimed to investigate whether decrements in dual task performance were due to a limited amount of attentional resource, or to an impairment of one of the central executive functions of working memory thought to be responsible for dual task co-ordination.

Design: Performance under single task and dual task conditions was studied in a series of experiments manipulating the cognitive load of each task. The level of difficulty of each task was titrated for individual ability.

Methods: A group of eight AD patients and two groups each of eight healthy volunteers (young

and elderly) were asked to perform a verbal memory task (immediate oral recall of digit sequences) and a perceptuo-motor test (tracking a moving target), either one task at a time or both task concurrently.

Results: Increasing the level of cognitive load under in single task conditions produced a very similar pattern of performance in AD patients, healthy young and older volunteers. However, AD patients were differentially impaired when they performed two tasks at the same time, while healthy ageing did not affect dual task performance.

Conclusions: These results are consistent with the hypothesis of a specific cognitive function for co-ordinating performance under dual task conditions that is selectively impaired by AD, and that is independent of overall cognitive load.
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Symposium: Relationships, quality of life and health into later years

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Theme: With more people living longer into later life there is an added urgency to identify the factors likely to facilitate quality of life and health into the later years. One such factor is the quality of relationships adults have with significant others.

Objective: We highlight the crucial influence of relationships on well-being particularly through the expectations and representations people have of themselves and others.

Presentations: 1. In the first paper, Forbat adapts a qualitative approach to explore informal caregiving relationship difficulties from the perspective of both the carer and the 'caree'. Findings are presented which demonstrate the dynamic ways relationships can influence identity and well-being. 2. In the second paper, Faulkner takes an act frequency approach to examine formal caregiving relationships in hospital settings. Drawing on the learned helplessness paradigm, Faulkner discusses the ways in which caregiving interactions and relationships influence induced (in)dependence in older adults. 3. In the third presentation Steadman adapts a clinical perspective, to explore both the meaning adults with Alzheimer's disease attribute to this condition and also the implications of this diagnoses for professional relationships. 4. Drawing on data from a large questionnaire study, O'Hanlon and Coleman discuss the significant influence of close attachment relationships on attitudes to own future old age. This effect remains even when rival variables are controlled. 5. In the final presentation, Drew and Silverstein draw on data from an established longitudinal study to explore the influence of concurrent relationships (being a parent, grandparent and great-grandparent) on health and psychosocial well-being
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Spiritual beliefs and existential meaning in later life: The experience of older bereaved spouses

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Objectives: To explore spiritual beliefs and their relationship to personal meaning and well-being in a small sample of older bereaved spouses from a Christian background, with a view to designing a larger more representative study on belief, identity and well-being.

Methods: A sample of 28 older bereaved spouses were followed from the first to the second anniversary of the death, and interviewed in depth about their beliefs and their adjustment to bereavement. Individual case study analyses were carried out on the influence of these beliefs and support for them on personal meaning, well-being and adjustment.

Results: Individuals were divided into three levels of strength of belief in a power external to them: strong, moderate and weak or no belief ($n = 8, 11, 9$). Low levels of personal meaning and depressive symptomatology were concentrated in the middle group. They all engaged in prayer but tended not to be well integrated in their church communities, and had troubling questions about

their beliefs. The case studies provide evidence on the factors in each person's background associated with spiritual questioning and unease.
Conclusions: Although small, this study provides suggestive evidence for an association between spiritual belief and adjustment in later life. It is important to consider the pastoral care needs of the relatively large number of the present older British population who do not actively belong to faith communities and yet continue to maintain a measure of spiritual belief.

The olfactory effects of lavender and rosemary on cognitive performance

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Objectives: In recent years interest in the olfactory properties of odours, and in particular those used in aromatherapy has increased. It has been assumed that many of these essential oils have a direct pharmacological influence on human behaviour, including cognitive performance. In particular, lavender is purported to have sedative effects, and rosemary is believed to be stimulating. It has been widely suggested that both may impinge on cognition in a manner commensurate with these effects. This study aims to address this question.

Design: 144 healthy young adults took part in a three independent groups study.

Methods: Participants were tested individually in cubicles that were infused with lavender, rosemary or no odour. In an attempt to bypass the problem of no suitable placebo being available, the current study deceived participants into thinking that they were simply assisting in the validation of a new testing tool. The presence of the odours being dismissed as unrelated to this study. Cognitive performance was assessed using a tailored version of the Cognitive Drug Research (CDR) battery.

Results: Analysis by Anova and Dunnett comparisons revealed that compared to controls lavender impaired performance on a number of tests of attention, working memory and long-term memory. There were indications that rosemary may have enhanced aspects of memory, but these effects did not reach statistical significance.

Conclusion: The results indicate that small but consistent sedative effects exist for the essential oil of lavender. Rosemary did not produce any stimulant or memory enhancing effects.

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Improving the quality control of human expert cytological slide inspection

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Objectives: Improving the quality control of human expert cytological slide inspection through the application of advanced image analysis and pattern recognition methods.

Design: There are two experimental stages of this study. The first is a forced choice experiment and the second is a feature marking exercise. Both tasks are designed to gather data effectively.

Methods: Participants: Practising cytological slide screeners. Availability of qualified participants limits numbers.

Materials: This study uses an ASL4000 eyetracking system which is worn during inspection of images presented on a computer screen.

Procedure: After each image the participant has to decide the grading of abnormality they've seen. When this has been completed, a feature marking exercise is undertaken. The participants will be given a selection of printed cellular images on which to manually mark areas of abnormality. Areas indicated by eye fixations and marked features will then be extracted from the images with the surrounding foveal cone and independently verified for content.

Results: Notable features from both exercises are compared to a Multi-resolutional analysis of the images using an Atrous wavelet transformation to detect salient features. Results so far show a good relationship between human and computer marked features. More data needs

to be collected before this can be shown with scientific significance.

Conclusions: While there is not enough data yet to show our method of feature detection can be used to identify salient features at a cellular level, the results so far are promising. This provides a basis to continue this line of enquiry.
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Recreational drugs: A social representations approach to illicit drugs and substance use

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Objectives: To establish the social representations of recreational drug use which play a role in directing the actions of young people and substance-related policy making.

Design: The aim of this research is to gain an in-depth understanding of the social representations of recreational drug use using two modes of communication: formal communication (written texts) and informal communication (in-depth interviews). These semi-structured interviews were highly suited to this study due to the complex nature of recreational drug use. This is an area of research where issues can emerge spontaneously and the researcher needs an opportunity to obtain clarification or expansion of points, using probes, to explore the respondents' subjective sphere.

Methods: The text sources chosen were *Police Review*, *The British Medical Journal* and four media sources (*The Independent*, *The Guardian*, *The Times* and *The Daily Mail*). The three sources of written text were dictated by an attempt to examine three different milieus of contemporary society. Six semi-structured interviews were chosen to collect the remainder of the data for the study.

Results: Qualitative methods were used to analyse the interviews and formal text. Five social representations emerged from the formal text, the 'criminal' user, the 'vulnerable' user, 'soft' and 'hard' drugs, the 'addicted' user and the 'autonomous' user. Three social representations emerged from the interviews; the 'drug scene', 'soft' and 'hard' drugs, and the 'addicted' drug user.

Conclusions: The emerging social representations are discussed in relation to changes in social knowledge and implications for policy makers and health promotion are considered.

Taking a stance on the bodily expression of emotion: Evidence from the UK and China

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Objectives: To systematically investigate patterns of joint rotation and attributions of emotion to human bodies, and the degree to which these are consistent across two cultures.

Design: Schema for the bodily expression of Ekman's six 'basic' emotions were derived from theoretical and empirical research. These schema were translated into joint rotations and 'families' of postures for each of the basic emotions produced as computer images. The images were of a mannequin figure with eight degrees of freedom each of which had three or four levels. The Chinese version of the experiment was identical except for the translation of the instructions and computer program into Chinese.

Methods: Participants were presented with a six alternative forced-choice decision task. The task was to determine which of six emotions (anger, disgust, fear, happiness, sadness, surprise) best described what a person adopting each posture might be feeling.

Results: Analyses of agreement among participants suggested cultural differences across the samples were more salient than similarities. In particular, the Chinese sample was reluctant to attribute anger or fear, and neither sample identified disgust from body posture, a finding which replicates previous work.

Conclusions: These results mark one of the first systematic investigations of the way in which emotion is perceived through body posture, and identify a series of cultural differences. We

believe these findings offer a means by which the communication of emotion through movement and posture can be better investigated, and discuss their implications for the dominant model of emotional expression which emphasises universality and innate expressive behaviour over culturally relativist accounts.
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Emotion, Education and Evolutionary Theory: Researching social behaviour in schools

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Objectives: The development of pro-social and antisocial behaviour in children is of particular interest to psychologists involved in education research. Is there a link between children's accuracy in identifying facial expressions of emotion, their understanding of social behaviour, and academic performance? Previous research has shown a link between five and nine-year-old children's emotion knowledge, verbal ability and academic performance.

Design: This present research focuses on year 7 pupils (11/12 years) in two schools. In one school, a transition group (10 pupils identified as having coping problems) were taught in a separate group for some lessons.

Method: 191 pupils (66 school A, 125 school B) described an incident in which another child made them happy and an incident in which another child upset them. The pupils were also asked to identify facial expressions of emotions (happiness, sadness, fear, surprise, anger, and disgust) from photographs.

Results: The results demonstrated that some pupils in mainstream school with behavioural/coping problems had difficulty in accurately identifying facial expressions of emotions and were unable (or unwilling) to describe incidents in which other children had made them happy or upset them. Teachers supported this finding in their comments on some pupil's inability to pick up on emotional cues.

Conclusions: Research on pro-social and antisocial behaviour, academic performance and the role that emotions play needs to be extended through longitudinal study. An integration of research on emotional intelligence, social behaviour, and evolutionary theory is of both theoretical and empirical interest within the field of education.

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Tackling violence in schools in the UK

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Purpose: To document statistical information about the incidence of violence in UK schools, including types, frequency, causes, and different dyads (pupil/pupil, pupil/teacher, teacher/pupil, etc.). To describe national/regional policies regarding violence in schools, and interventions that have been developed to counteract it, and evaluations of their success.

Background: Violence has come to be recognised as a major social problem which can not only affect the happiness, well-being and educational achievement of school pupils, but which can undermine the task of the teacher and have a negative impact upon school functioning. The present study was undertaken for the EU-funded CONNECT project 'Violence in Schools'.

Key Points: An extensive literature search yields little in the way of a shared definition of violence. While violence in schools is reported anecdotally, there is no central register of violence in schools statistics available either from central government or from local education authorities. Currently the best indicators for violence in schools are available in the form of social exclusion statistics, parent/teacher violence statistics, and prevalence rates of pupil/pupil bullying, highlighted by independent research. Several Government initiatives and national/regional policies have been implemented in recent years to improve standards of behaviour in schools but nothing specifically aimed at tackling violence in schools. A number of successful local initiatives tackling

violence in schools are in place around the UK.
Conclusions: This paper demonstrates the gaps in our current knowledge and understanding of violence in schools. It would be worthwhile carrying out a full-scale national study to clarify definitions, incidence, frequency and types of violence in schools and to systematically evaluate local initiatives longitudinally to measure their effectiveness.
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Heterosexism in reports of psychotherapists' countertransference with lesbian and gay clients

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Objectives: To explore and theorise reports of countertransference reactions to lesbian and gay clients from psychotherapists who work in a lesbian and gay affirmative way and clients who had received affirmative psychotherapy.

Design: An interview-based, grounded theory study.

Method: Participants (14 therapists from a range of theoretical orientations and 18 clients) were recruited by advertising, networking and snowballing and were interviewed as part of a larger study on the meaning of 'affirmative therapy'. Data were subjected to grounded analysis.

Results: Participants consistently attended to the thoughts, feelings and values that therapists hold in relation to lesbian and gay clients and how these affect the meanings and practices available to them. These were linked with the therapist's sexual identity among other factors. Heterosexist reactions were regarded as potentially occurring among heterosexual and lesbian and gay therapists. Negative countertransference reactions were seen as arising from therapists' conscious and unconscious fears about lesbian and gay sexualities, thereby suggesting an unconscious basis for heterosexism. However, negative reactions were seen as potentially useful in identifying areas for further development among therapists.

Conclusions: Negative countertransference reactions to lesbian and gay clients need to be addressed in therapeutic training and supervision in order to reduce the risk of lesbian and gay clients encountering damaging therapeutic experiences. The challenges in achieving this in some psychotherapeutic traditions are acknowledged.

Quality of life in older renal patients

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Objectives: The objective of this pilot study is to compare how treatment for renal failure impacts upon QoL, in younger and older people.

Design: A cross-sectional semi-structured interview-based survey with age as the main IV and QoL, as the DV.

Methods: A group of 26 younger (<60 years of age) and 26 older (>60 years of age) patients attending for hospital dialysis treatment are consecutively recruited. For a comparison of younger vs. older patients QoL, to detect a large effect size ($f = .40$) with $\alpha = .05$ and $B = .20$, a sample $n = 52$ is required (26 per group). Participants are interviewed using the Schedule for the Evaluation of Individual quality of Life – direct weighting, and asked to explain their decision process when electing to have hospital haemodialysis treatment over home treatment. Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis is used on the transcribed interviews to examine the key thematic QoL issues for renal patients, and to compare younger and older patients broadly on QoL issues and decisions to elect home or hospital based treatment. SPSS v 10.1 for Windows is used to compare the profile of younger and older renal patients, both in terms of areas of life nominated as influenced by renal

failure and treatment and in their overall QoL score.

Conclusion: The information will be of great value to the further development of the local renal service, and will be used to develop a large-scale study of the impact of renal treatment on quality of life in older patients.

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Making the most of multiple memberships: Social categorisation and the reduction of intergroup bias

RJ CRISP, University of Birmingham

The social classification of ourselves, and others, is a pervasive psychological mechanism that has an important defining and explanatory role for prejudice, discrimination, and social conflict. Whilst existing theories of intergroup relations have typically focused on the most basic social context involving just one self-including and one self-excluding group, in an increasingly multi-cultural society, such simplified models of social categorisation may need to be revised. This paper reviews a recent programme of research on one such model of multiple and cross-cutting category membership. Social categories can be described as 'crossed' when (at least) two dichotomous and orthogonal dimensions of group membership are simultaneously salient. Three aspects of recent work into crossed categorisation are discussed. First, evidence is reviewed supporting the notion that multiple dimensions of categorisation can, and are, indeed processed and used in social perception. This use of multiple dimensions of classification in social judgement can be represented by a number of different models. Such models specify evaluations of the four composite groups formed by the conjunction of the two dimensions of classification. Evidence is reviewed for several moderators that predict what specific pattern of evaluation might emerge in particular contexts. Finally, the potential of crossing categories for reducing prejudice is considered. Recent findings suggest that when multiple dimensions of categorisation are made salient, a reduction in bias can be achieved. Mediation evidence is consistent with a proposed shift from a category-based to an individual-based mode of perception in multiple category contexts ('de-categorisation'). The implications of these collected findings for social categorisation, and attempts to attenuate the divisive nature of social classification, are discussed.

Symposium: Identity, inclusion and conflict

RJ CRISP, University of Birmingham, GR MAIO, University of Cardiff & M HEWSTONE, University of Oxford

This symposium will consider new developments in a variety of psychological domains that all enhance our understanding of, and efforts to promote, social inclusion. From basic level cognitive and social identity processes through to applications of intergroup and attitudes research, the six papers in this symposium will speak to psychologists' developing theoretical and practical approaches to attenuating conflict and aggression, and increasing social inclusion. The symposium will start with examining the most fundamental cognitive and motivation processes underlying intergroup perception, before going on to consider how social psychological approaches can be applied to pervasive issues of conflict, intergroup aggression, and social inclusion. In the first paper, Crisp and Nicel report an experiment that tested the implications for strategies of stereotype-change of a negativity bias in social information processing. Jetten, Postmes, and McAlliffe then consider new developments in social identity research, specifically, how identification with in-groups can influence group norms (individualism and collectivism) and self-definition. Maio et al. report recent work that has examined how anti-racist advertisements are processed as a function of perceiver's level of ambivalence about such issues and Christian and Abrams examine the relevance of social identity variables to attitudes of the homeless. Cairns et al. then examine the application of identity

motives to attempts at understanding intergroup conflict in Northern Ireland. Finally, Hewstone will consider the full spectrum of work into these issues, and suggest new directions for research attempting to aid reductions in intergroup hostility and aggression, and enhance the promotion of social inclusion.
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Implications for implicit bias-reduction of asymmetric evaluative processing

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Objectives: In human information processing negative information carries considerable weight due to its relatively high salience. This negativity advantage may have important implications for efforts to attenuate prejudice and discrimination between social groups, since many models of conflict-reduction focus on how counter-stereotypical information, which is usually of positive valence, can be incorporated into existing (predominantly negative) representations of out-groups. We report a study that examined how easy it might be to change the tendency to activate evaluatively congruent information when pre-consciously encountering in-group and out-group cues.

Design: A 2 (prime: in-group vs. out-group) x 2 (trait valence: positive vs. negative) x 2 (time: pre-test vs. post-test) repeated measures design was employed to test the effects of learning evaluatively incongruent group-trait associations on implicit bias.

Methods: Participants carried out an associative learning task in which they were required to learn evaluatively counter-stereotypical information about an in-group and an out-group. Implicit activation of evaluatively congruent and incongruent attributes was measured pre- and post-learning using a lexical decision task.

Results: Findings suggest that whilst negative information is incorporated into group representations with relative ease, positive information has a negligible impact. In the context of learning evaluatively incongruent group-trait associations, this was revealed by a significant modification of implicit in-group evaluation, but not of out-group evaluation.

Conclusions: The implications of this finding for efforts at reducing implicit and explicit prejudice are considerable. Since invariably out-group associated information is evaluatively negative, strategies that attempt to improve intergroup relations via repeated exposure to counter-stereotypical information may have to overcome this fundamental negativity bias.
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'Let me explain': Narrative emplotment and one patient's experience of oral cancer

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Purpose: The main aim of the paper is to document, for the first time, the process of 'therapeutic emplotment' from the oral cancer patient's point of view. Recent research has investigated the way in which serious illness potentially poses a threat to peoples' sense of ontological security by throwing into doubt assumptions about time and the future. One of the main ways in which people adjust to such threats is through the use of narrative which helps to make sense of illness. Of particular relevance to people learning to live with a cancer diagnosis, is the concept of 'therapeutic emplotment' developed by Del Vecchio Good *et al.* (1994). This concept refers to the way in which oncologists are taught to structure temporal horizons for their patients in a particular way in order to instil and maintain hope in the context of arduous and toxic treatments.

Method: Using a case-study of one man's process of adapting to oral cancer (John Diamond's posthumously published serialised diary entries in *The Times* over the four-year duration of his illness), this paper uses narrative style analysis to document the underlying temporal structure and themes accompanying various stages of illness adaptation.

Conclusions: The paper illustrates the way in

which 'therapeutic emplotment' encourages the patient to focus on the immediate present and to place faith in the efficacy of specific treatments. However, it also explores how the attempt to live in the context of such a plot is fraught with anxiety for the patient, and how it co-exists with other largely 'unspoken narratives' of uncertainty, fear and scepticism regarding the power of medicine.
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'Could you please pass one of those health leaflets along?': Exploring health, morality and resistance through focus groups

M CROSSLEY, Manchester University

Purpose: The main aim of this paper is to provide a detailed working example of the way in which attitudes and opinions towards health issues are actively constructed during the course of interaction. It does this by presenting an analysis of a focus group, illustrating the way in which health issues are routinely oriented to as an intrinsically moral phenomenon.

Background: This paper derives from research in which focus groups were used as a preliminary method of eliciting peoples' perceptions, attitudes and opinions towards health and health promotion in a Northern British city. However, recently emerging social constructionist work on focus groups (see Barbour & Kitzinger 1999; Bloor 2001) has suggested that their traditional use, as a 'window' onto peoples' attitudes and opinions, misses important dimensions of the way in which these phenomena are actively negotiated and constructed during the course of the focus group.

Methods: Using a social constructionist form of analysis, six extracts from a focus group are analysed. The paper ultimately identifies three 'positions' or 'stances' which develop over the course of the focus group, often in opposition to one another. These are: 1. 'positive mental attitude'; 2. 'genes and luck'; and 3. 'resistance'. Each of these positions becomes associated, not only with certain moral values but also 'attached' to certain people within the group.

Conclusions: Peoples' orientation to health related issues is routinely linked to social and moral actions such as the negotiation of blame and allocation of responsibility. It cannot simply be assumed that focus groups can be used to elucidate peoples' pre-existing attitudes and opinions because such groups are instrumental in the formation and constitution of such phenomena.
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The Health Resistance (HR) Scale: Developing a measure of resistance to health promotion

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Objective: Recent empirical and theoretical research suggests increasing resistance by the general public to health promotion messages and interventions. The aim of this exploratory study was therefore to develop a health resistance (HR) scale capable of measuring the degree of resistance to health promotion within different populations.

Study Design: A preliminary HR scale was generated through consideration of the existing literature, internet sites and a series of focus groups. The scale was distributed in the form of a questionnaire to 1000 people selected at random from the electoral register of central Manchester. Also included in the questionnaire were previously validated measures of health behaviours, health value and psychological 'reactance' in order to assess convergent validity.

Results: 204 questionnaires from the random sample were returned. The preliminary HR scale was Factor Analysed using Varimax Rotation, resulting in a four factor solution accounting for 64 per cent of the variance. The final 'health resistance' scale consisted of 17 items pertaining to four dimensions of health resistance. These included: 1. Scepticism (7 items); 2. Freedom/Resistance (5 items); 3. Individual responsibility (2 items); and 4. Trust and authority (3 items). The HR scale showed good test reliability ranging from 0.71 to 0.83 over three

weeks, while internal consistency reliability ranged from 0.70 to 0.90.

Conclusions: The results of this study support the use of the HR scale as a meaningful measure of health resistance. Further reliability and validity studies conducted with different samples, testing the HR scales' utility and theoretical applicability in different situations, are now required.
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Hostility and wit in recalled nicknames of teachers

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Objectives: To investigate the relationship between the aptness and wit of nicknames and their perceived offensiveness by means of examination of characteristics of teachers' nicknames as recalled by a sample of adults. Wit and humour contribute to the effectiveness of name-calling and nicknames but this relationship has been little researched. It is argued that it can be viewed from the perspective of intra-group and inter-group behaviour or in terms of psychological accounts of the relationship between wit and aggression.

Design: A survey of teacher nicknames as recalled by adults. These names can be vivid and readily recalled, and an autobiographical memory approach has been used effectively in previous research. The design involves correlational analysis of ratings of hostility and witness of names and content analysis of names generated and stated reasons for those names.

Methods: An opportunity sample of university social science students ($n = 103$) completed a questionnaire constructed for this study.

Results: Nicknames of men, older teachers and secondary school teachers were more frequently mentioned. Most nicknames expressed hostility, typically by drawing upon physical characteristics of the target person. Multiple regression analysis of ratings identified a negative relationship between perceived witness of name and its judged offensiveness, implying that wit has a moderating effect on the hurt caused by the name.

Conclusions: Findings are related to characteristics of nicknames obtained in research into children's name-calling. Their implications for psychological explanations of the contribution of wit to nicknames are discussed.
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Exercise therapy as adjunctive treatment for clinical depression: A case study

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Objectives: The primary purpose of this study was to assess the effects of exercise therapy as adjunctive treatment for clinical depression in an adult female aged 38 years. A secondary aim of this study was to investigate the relationship between exercise therapy and affective responses.

Design: In order to provide an in-depth understanding of exercise therapy in a clinical setting this study adopted a case study approach.

Method: Each exercise therapy session lasted 60 minutes and took place in a Northern English town where local amenities and facilities were used. The client was encouraged to participate in a range of physical activities (e.g. swimming and brisk walking) and to exercise at moderate intensity for 30-40 minutes twice per week for 10 weeks. The remainder of the session was devoted to exercise counselling. The supervised exercise sessions were on a 'one-to-one' basis with an Exercise Therapist. Depression was assessed pre-, mid- and post-intervention and Positive and Negative Affective responses were measured every week during the study.

Results: Depression scores decreased by 15.3 per cent from pre- to post-exercise therapy intervention. Positive Affect scores increased by 20.5 per cent and Negative Affect scores decreased by 41.3 per cent between pre- and post-intervention.

Conclusions: In a clinically depressed client, exercise therapy appeared to be associated with reduced clinical depression and improved affective responses. Consequently, exercise therapy might be a worthwhile adjunctive

intervention strategy which practitioners, researchers and clinicians might want to promote more actively with individuals who are experiencing clinical mental health problems.
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Physique and self-conscious emotion: A social comparison perspective

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Purpose: The primary aim of this paper is to describe and explain how individuals, participating in leisure activities within a health/fitness facility, may develop powerful self-conscious emotions (pride and shame) about the appearance of their physique via social comparison. A secondary aim of the paper is to place such emotions within a functionalist framework.

Background: A dominant feature in the sport and exercise psychology literature over the last decade has been the application of social physique anxiety to comprehend a variety of exercise and eating behaviours. However, this construct appears to be solely dependent upon reflected appraisal and thus ignores social comparison as a source of emotion-inducing information. By adopting a social comparison perspective it is possible to predict that individuals may develop a variety of self-conscious emotions as a result of their physique-concerns.

Methods: Empirical and anecdotal evidence from the psychology and sociology of sport literature is identified to demonstrate the emotional consequences of social comparison processes within the social exercise context. Contemporary emotion and social comparison theory is reviewed to explain not only how self-conscious emotion may actually arise, but also place such emotion within a social functionalist framework.

Conclusions: Social comparison should be conceptualised as an 'on-line' appraisal mechanism that detects threats and opportunities to belongingness status and/or social rank within the health/fitness facility. In addition, pride and shame that arise from social comparison may serve important social functions at the individual, group and cultural levels of analysis.
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The role of caregiver and patient emotionality (NEO-N) in caregiver distress in Parkinson's Disease (PD)

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Objectives: Caregiver (CG) distress may be a facet of CG emotionality. It was thus hypothesised that caring-specific psychological distress would be related to CG emotionality (NEO-N). The role of patient-N was also examined.

Design: 83 patient-CG dyads were interviewed and administered the 60-item version of the NEO five-factor inventory.

Methods: Dyads were referred from consultant-led clinics. They had a diagnosis of idiopathic PD and were cared for at home by a primary CG. None had other neurological disease. CGs also completed a NEO formatted to provide a score for CG perception of patient personality. Six measures of CG distress were measured: impact of caring on the relationship, impact on social life, emotional burden, GHQ, depression (CES-D) and life satisfaction.

Results: CG emotionality (N) was correlated with CG distress (on 5/6 measures, $p < .001$). On controlling for CG N in subsequent analyses, patient emotionality (N) was found to relate to CG distress concerning the impact of caring on the dyadic relationship. This remained so, when disease severity was controlled. CG perceptions of emotionality (N) in the patient were also related to dyadic distress.

Conclusions: CG personality is an important factor in assessing CG distress and needs to be controlled in CG studies. CGs who are emotional by personality will face different problems from

those who are less responsive and it is likely that they will need different types of psychological support.

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The effects of gender and sexuality on reactions towards depicted male rape

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Objectives: Until recently, little research had investigated reactions towards male rape victims. Several studies have now shown that men evaluate male rape victims more negatively than women do. Studies, however, have only investigated heterosexual men and women's reactions: no previous studies have investigated gay men's reactions towards male victims. The current study compared gay men's reactions towards a depicted male rape victim with those of heterosexual men and women. It was predicted that heterosexual men would be more negative towards the victim than either gay men or heterosexual women would. It was expected that gay men and women would be more aware of rape, more aware of the victim's suffering and less blaming.

Design: A between subjects design was employed.

Methods: 150 respondents (50 heterosexual men, 50 heterosexual women and 50 gay men) were recruited from an opportunity sample of young people (mean age = 28.7 years) from the public. The second author approached potential respondents in pubs and other social situations, and asked whether they would complete a psychology questionnaire. Questionnaires were returned by post. 159 questionnaires were returned (response rate = 84.75 per cent). Nine were excluded from the analysis. Respondents read a depicted male rape, then completed a 19-item questionnaire measuring victim blame and male rape myths.

Results: Results revealed that gay men blamed the victim less, and were more pro-victim than heterosexual men or women were – although heterosexual men were considerably more negative.

Conclusions: Results are discussed in relation to homophobia and empathy towards male rape victims.
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Prevalence and fear of crimes against the person: A preliminary study of male and female undergraduate using the Fear of Crime Survey (FOCS)

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Objectives: Studies have shown that women fear crime more than men do. Ferrero (1996) found that women's fear of crime could be explained by their fear of rape. Young women particularly fear rape, and often engage in behaviours that constrain their lives because they fear rape. Young men are particularly at risk of becoming victims of physical assault, and some young men become victims of sexual offences. However, young men's fear of crime is generally low. This presentation details the development of the FOCS and its potential usefulness in research. We also aim to provide preliminary, exploratory data on fear and prevalence of crime in a sample of UK male and female undergraduate students.

Design: The FOCS was developed to measure fear and perceived risk of crimes against the person, constraining behaviours, and prevalence of crime and the type of perpetrator. Other crimes included were flashing, hate crime and attempted murder.

Methods: To pilot the FOCS, 100 undergraduate students will be sampled, from an opportunity sample at one UK university. Participants are required to complete the FOCS in their own time and return it by post.

Results: This presentation will concentrate on fear of crime in relation to constraining behaviours used in students, and will provide

data on the prevalence of physical and sexual assault, and multiple victimisation. These data will be available at the time of presentation.

Conclusions: This presentation concludes by discussing the limitations of the current fear of crime research and suggests ideas for future research.

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Determinants of cognitive decline and health in old age

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Objectives: The study aims (i) to discover some determinants of cognitive change from age 11 to age 80 years, and (ii) to discover some determinants – including IQ at age 11 years – of health status at age 80 years.

Design: This is a series of studies which follow up the Scottish mental Survey of 1932 in which almost all children born in 1921 and at school in Scotland at age 11 took a valid test of general mental ability. Longitudinal cohorts studies were conducted in Aberdeen ($n > 200$) and Edinburgh ($n > 500$) in which survivors from the 1932 Survey were recalled for further testing in old age. Epidemiological studies were conducted which linked mental ability test scores at age 11 to Scottish medical records.

Methods: In the follow-up studies participants took mental tests, medical examinations and completed questionnaires, and DNA was collected for genotyping. In epidemiological studies mental test scores at age 11 were linked to mortality and specific diseases.

Results: In follow-up studies we inquire whether there are effects that contribute to variance in old age mental ability test scores once childhood mental ability has been controlled. These include genetic status, brain white matter lesions, illness variables, and psychological and social factors. In epidemiological studies we report associations between childhood mental ability and risk of death and specific illnesses such as cancers and cardiovascular disease.

Conclusions: Mental ability test scores at age 11 provide a valuable personal datum that enhances studies of mental ability and health in old age.
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Sex differences between proximal and distal muscles in visual tracking task

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Objectives: The objective of this study was to analyse sex differences in visual tracking tasks when using proximal muscles and distal muscles groups. Female participants were expected to show a greater accuracy in tracking a visual moving object when required to use fine motor movements. Female participants' accuracy was expected to decrease when required to use gross motor movements. The opposite was expected to occur in male participants' performance.

Design: The experiment was carried out using an independent group design. Participants' task consisted in using a lever mechanism to track a moving object appearing on a 17" computer screen. The entire experiment was composed of four main experimental conditions, which were subdivided in a further four sub-conditions.

Methods: 128 participants sub-divided into 64 males and 64 females, aged between 20 and 28. All participants were right-handed dominant and had not received an injury to the arms or hand within the previous 12 months.

Results: Analysis of Variance revealed a significant difference between males and females, supporting the original hypothesis. When using distal muscles there was a significant difference of $p < 0.01$ (Non-Preferred hand) and a significant difference of $p < 0.01$ (Preferred hand). When using proximal muscles there was a significant difference $p < 0.01$ (Non-Preferred arm) and a significant difference of $p < 0.01$ (Preferred arm).

Conclusions: This experiment suggested that a difference in accuracy of tracking a visual moving object between males and females, when using different muscular groups, existed. Female participants performed more accurately when

using distal muscles. Male participants performed more accurately when using proximal muscles.
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Saying nothing, 'doing thinking': Some features of activity filled silences in question answer interaction sequences

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Background: 'Non-verbal behaviour' has often been approached as somehow indicative of the 'real', 'underlying' thoughts or feelings on the part of the person displaying them.

Purpose: This paper seeks to understand non-verbal communication from a different perspective in which rather than being seen as unintended 'revelations' they are understood as participants resources drawn upon to successfully accomplish specific interactional requirements. Thus the paper addresses the issue of how participants draw upon a range of non-vocal activity in question answer interaction formats. In particular it seeks to clarify the ways in which non-verbal activities are used by participants during stretches of silence in question answer interaction formats.

Method: Consistent with the vast majority of conversation analytic research the design of this study involves the careful scrutiny of 'naturally occurring' talk data. A range of video material was drawn upon, including therapeutic training videos and 'reality' television in order to scrutinise the activity that occurs during silences within question and answer sequences.

Results: Initial analysis of the data has indicated that by using resources such as audible or visible in-breaths and movement in gaze, body orientation and facial expression, participants can signal a preparedness to speak and pre-indicate something of the content of that talk. Thus it is suggested that these activity rich non-verbal passages attend to issues of speakership by holding turns prior to the production of talk. Furthermore, analysis indicates that these resources can position subsequent talk as in some ways 'considered' rather than 'off the cuff'. Additionally, analysis points to a detectable synchrony between the tone of certain pre-lexical activities and the subsequent lexical matter – such that the former 'tills the soil' for the latter. Finally, it can be noted that these non-lexical precursors are deployed in a manner that displays sensitivity to the particulars of the interaction – including the extent to which participants are visible to each other.

Implications of findings: These analytic findings imply that rather than being simply revelatory in nature non-verbal activity occurring in silent passages within wordless passages of interaction can be approached as a wonderful set of resources that participants draw upon and orientate to in establishing certain sorts of embodied participation frameworks.
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'Nature didn't make the sheep and the goat to mix': Working models of contact in ordinary accounts of racial interaction and segregation

J DIXON, University of Lancaster

Objectives: This paper evaluates social psychological research on the contact hypothesis: the idea that regular interaction between members of different groups will reduce prejudice, providing it occurs under favourable conditions. Whilst research on contact has made important conceptual and practical contributions, it has several limitations as a theory of conflict reduction. Three of these limitations will be considered here: (1) the tendency to focus on contact occurring under 'optimal' conditions and to ignore the less sanguine realities of ordinary interaction between groups; (2) the reliance on research designs that either conceal participants' understandings of contact or else translate such understandings into a few descriptive 'variables'; and (3) the use of outcome measures that disregard the ideological nature and consequences of contact.

Design: In order to develop this critique, I present some recent research on contact and

desegregation in South Africa which uses interviews, observations and sophisticated computer analysis of physical contact in public space.

Results: Through a variety of analytical techniques this research examines the 'working models' of contact employed by 'white' South Africans as they attempt to make sense of the forms of intimacy enabled by the fall of apartheid.

Conclusions: The paper concludes by exploring how such lay constructions of contact are legitimising new varieties of racial distance and 'informal segregation', which are quietly replacing the formal divisions of the past.

Concrete ceilings and brick walls in academic research

IJ DONALD, University of Liverpool

Purpose: To examine the institutional, organisational and personal barriers to obtaining a first research post, as well as the development of long-term professional research (non-teaching) careers and continuous research teams in academic psychology.

Background: The notion of a career researcher, not holding a teaching post, is almost absent from the university system. Even one extension of an individual's research post is often difficult in the face of prevalent organisational and personal factors. Career development within research therefore relies heavily on initiatives at an individual level. Because both funds to carry out particular research tasks and research psychologists with the requisite skills are available only intermittently, the current conditions militate against effective development of individuals' careers and of research groups in Psychology. Moreover, the priority of maintaining a coherent, experienced team can reduce employment opportunities for researchers at the beginning of their careers.

Method: The speaker will draw on personal experience of sustaining a research group with both continuously employed and changing research staff.

Conclusions: Some strategies exist for matching funds to staff but further institutional and national developments are needed to improve the prospects for research psychologists in general and to strengthen the whole research effort in Psychology.

Family role investment as a parent, grandparent, and great-grandparent: Psychological well-being

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Background: Identity theory suggests that individuals who perceive their family roles as more salient and feel more competent in performing them have greater psychological well-being. We have assessed how aspects of parent, grandparent, and great-grandparent role investment affects self-esteem, levels of depression, and affect balance.

Method: The respondents (n = 188) occupied all three roles at the time of measurement, averaged 73 years, and were participants in the Longitudinal Study of Generations. Family roles were assessed for quality of performance, importance to one's identity, and role satisfaction. Psychological well-being was measured with the Rosenberg Self-esteem Scale (Rosenberg, 1979), the CES-D (Radloff, 1977) and the Bradburn Affect Balance Scale (Bradburn, 1969).

Results: Overall, levels of assessed performance, importance, and satisfaction of these three family roles declined consistently from parent to great-grandparent. Structural equation modelling revealed that parent and grandparent role structures formed a single meta-construct that was positively related to psychological well-being. However, no unique effects were found for each of the three roles due to their high inter-correlations. The great-grandparent role affected psychological well-being only spuriously through its correlation with parent and grandparent role investment.

Conclusions: In conclusion, the parental role appears to be the most salient intergenerational role, and, along with the grandparent role, has

the greatest effect on positive psychological functioning in older adults.

Inter-group dynamics and psychological change at an anti-roads protest

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Objectives: This paper will make three points.

(1) Inter-group dynamics of the type previously described in studies of football hooliganism and urban riots can also serve to explain collective conflict in a 'non-violent' crowd. (2) Psychological changes taking place in crowd conflict may endure over time, and hence feed into subsequent crowd events, to the extent that there is perceived to be a contradiction between participants' prior identities and the nature of the inter-group relations encountered in the crowd event. (3) Such change can be analysed in terms of (at least) four dimensions: content (who one is), power (what actions are perceived as possible), legitimacy (what actions are perceived as proper), and boundaries (who one includes and excludes from the definition of collective selfhood).

Design: The paper describes a participant observation study of an anti-roads protest event. Contemporaneous data, post hoc interview with participants and police, news coverage, internal documents and legal materials are analysed.

Results: The analysis reveals that the particular content of a collective identity can explain why participants in crowd conflict may remain 'non-violent', expressing their hostility to the outgroup only verbally and symbolically (e.g. public 'exposure' of out-group illegitimacy). However, violence can in principle become legitimate over time where out-group action is seen to contradict the 'humanistic' rationale for non-violence. Finally, it is only when boundaries change such that violent action is perceived to be widely supported within an in-group that participants feel they have the power to act in this way.

Conclusions: The paper will conclude by drawing together the theoretical issues raised in this and previous papers.

Emotional responsivity in human – robot interaction

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Objectives: The primary aim of this research was to demonstrate the feasibility of controlling a small mobile robot via emotional interaction with a human participant. The main objective was to show that through a telebiofeedback link it was possible for the participant to exert a simple level of control over the robot.

Design: This was a laboratory-based study in which the emotional responsivity of the human participant was monitored and through a system of biofeedback, used as a control parameter for a small mobile robot.

Method: Certain physiological responses (heart rate and GSR) were monitored via a Procomp+ biofeedback unit. Through a wireless modem link the output from this unit was used to control the behaviour of a Pioneer 1 robot.

Results: It was shown that using the biofeedback system, the participant could learn to change their own emotional responsivity and thus the behaviour of the robot. For example the system was programmed so that when the galvanic skin response went above a predetermined level, the robot would initiate a series of behaviours, i.e. movements, turns and sounds. Using this system, the participant very quickly learned to control the behaviour of the robot.

Conclusions: 'Emotional' robots may belong to the world of science fiction, but robots that are able to monitor the emotional responsivity of their human controllers and to alter their behaviour as a result, may offer many opportunities to those researchers seeking to blur the interface between humans and machines.

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Imagining things you have never seen: Imagery effects in individuals born totally blind

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Objectives: Without sight, direct perceptual experience of some objects is constrained (e.g. centaur). However, indirect perceptual information is often available (e.g. human torso attached to the body of a horse). Does this 'analogous' information get translated into a perceptual 'image' (e.g. spatial), or do people rely on semantic information alone?

Design: Following Kerr's (Experiment 2 – 1983) modified version of Kosslyn's (1975) scaling paradigm, participants verified a 'property' of a target object which had been paired in 'the mind's eye' with either a large or small context object. Two conditions were added. A 'rare' object condition – i.e. items participants were unlikely to have direct experience of – (e.g. emu) and an 'imaginary' item condition (e.g. centaur). A free-recall task was included.

Methods: 12 people born totally blind carried out all three conditions of Experiment 1, followed by a free-recall task of the target items (Experiment 2). Performance by 12 sighted participants on the free-recall task was also measured (Experiment 3).

Results: Experiment 1 confirmed the imagery effect found by Kerr (1983) but this did not extend to the 'rare' and 'imaginary' objects. A strong memory bias for 'imaginary' items was established both for the blind and sighted participants

Conclusion: The scaling effect for real objects supports the claim that these are spatially imaged by those without vision. However, this was not the case for rare or imaginary objects. In addition, imaginary objects are processed similarly by those with and without vision, at least in memory performance. This has implications for LTM organisation.

A case study of female anger and aggression: A narrative and phenomenological analysis

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Objectives: Women's aggression continues to be largely neglected within social psychological aggression research. It is defined and represented as much by its absence as by any detailed examination of what forms it might take, the specific contexts in which it occurs and the individual differences and unique lived experiences of women who engage in aggressive behaviour. The primary aim of the research was to attend to these concerns through qualitative analysis of interview material.

Design: Semi-structured interviews were carried out with a female participant aged 30.

Methods: Two different but complementary analyses were carried out on the data: a narrative analysis developed by the first author and interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA). These types of idiographic approaches are concerned with an individual's meaning making activities.

Results: Narrative analysis revealed a life trajectory with a powerful regressive form. Narrative themes of loss and rejection were dominant and emerged out of early familial relationships. Aggressive behaviour was interpreted as a desire to achieve positive interpersonal needs (such as affirmation of self-significance) despite its often destructive expression. IPA extended this analytic interpretation through a sustained focus on salient narrative events and the development of preliminary explanatory concepts.

Conclusion: It is suggested that these analytic approaches are particularly well suited to establishing the basis of an empirically grounded understanding of women's anger and aggression. Different qualitative analyses can be combined in order to make the analytic interpretation more powerful.

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Revalidation of the 6-CIT using a Genuine Memory Clinic Population

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Objectives: A screening test for dementia is an essential tool for many health care professionals. Presently, two such tests are available, Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) (Folstein *et al.*, 1975) and 6 Item Cognitive Impairment Test (6-CIT) (Brooke, 2000). Past research has shown the 6-CIT to correlate well with the MMSE and also to 'out-perform' it in mild dementia cases. This study aims to revalidate the 6-CIT using a genuine memory clinic population (n = 299).

Design: Correlational design. Each patient undertook the 6-CIT, MMSE and the American Memory and Information Processing Battery (AMIPB) delayed story recall test.

Method: The AMIPB delayed story recall test, has been found to be a sensitive measure for dementia. Therefore, the delayed story recall scores were correlated against the 6-CIT and both MMSE scores in order to infer sensitivity.

Results: Strong correlations (significant at the .001 level) were obtained between both 7's and world MMSE measures and the 6-CIT scores. All three screening measures were found to correlate significantly (at the .001 level) with delayed story recall scores.

Conclusions: Both the 6-CIT and the MMSE were found to be sensitive tests. However, as the 6-CIT is less time consuming, it could be suggested that it is superior to the MMSE.

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Sexuality and sexual health – The internet and sex

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Objective: To examine the association between seeking sex on the internet and sexual risk behaviour among gay men in London

Design: Cross-sectional survey
Methods: In 2000, gay men in London completed anonymous self-administered questionnaires concerning access to and use of the internet, HIV status, history of STD in the previous 12 months and unprotected anal intercourse (three months).

Results: Of the 743 gay men surveyed, 121 (16.3 per cent) were HIV positive, 465 (62.6 per cent) HIV negative, 157 (21.1 per cent) had never tested for HIV. 743 men, 80.9 per cent (601) had access to the internet. Of these, 34.4 per cent (207) had used the internet to find a sexual partner, mostly more than once. Use of the internet for seeking a sexual partner did not vary significantly by HIV status ($p = 0.3$). Internet sex seekers were significantly more likely to have had an STD (HIV negative men, 26.9 per cent v 17.5 per cent, $p = 0.04$) or gonorrhoea (HIV positive men, 22.2 per cent v 5.8 per cent, $p = 0.04$) in the previous year than other men with internet access. HIV positive internet sex seekers were significantly more likely to report unprotected anal intercourse (UAI) with another HIV positive man, usually a casual partner (37.8 per cent v 7.4 per cent, $p = 0.006$). HIV negative internet sex seekers were significantly more likely to report UAI with a partner of unknown or discordant HIV status (23.1 per cent v 11.8, $p = 0.01$).

Conclusions: Seeking sex on the internet was associated with recent STD and high risk sexual behaviour among HIV positive and negative gay men. The possibility of using the internet for HIV and STI prevention merits investigation

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Reflecting on the self in the past and present in older people

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Objectives: This study aims to investigate in detail processes of reflecting about the past and present in older people, focusing on both natural processes and those occurring during structured

activity sessions.

Design: This qualitative longitudinal study involved a baseline interview, four weekly activity session interventions, and follow up interview. A quantitative component assessed psychological measures before, during and after activity sessions.

Methods: Participants were selected from nursing/residential homes and one day centre. Twelve older people, 11 female and one male, aged 72–90, (mean age 81.8, standard deviation 6.24), have completed the project. Each participant took part in an initial interview exploring the 'natural' everyday processes of reflecting about the self, four structured group activity sessions, and a follow up interview exploring their thoughts about the group activities. Quantitative outcome measures regarding level of affect, social activity, morale and engagement were assessed prior to, during and after the activities. The interviews and group sessions were tape recorded, and a process of transcription and analysis using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis is underway.

Results: Analysis will examine processes of reflecting about the self naturally, processes in group sessions and how these compare. Older people's feelings about the activities and how this relates to quantitative quality of life outcomes will also be investigated.

Conclusions: Findings should inform conflicting theoretical accounts of ageing e.g. Eriksonian theory of later life vs Tornstam's theory of Gerotranscendence. Insights into the psychological benefits and costs involved in reflecting about the past and present will also contribute to care practice and health and social care policy.

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Age related variations in sleep sensitive parameters: Implications for research design and theoretical debate

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Background: Although many psychological characteristics related to the onset and maintenance of late-life insomnia have been identified, little is known about the relationship between these characteristics, their temporal stability, or whether these factors are age specific. These questions were addressed in a cross-sectional study of 416 older adults aged between 52 and 94.

Methods: Participants were recruited through an advertisement in a periodical aimed at older adults. The definition of insomnia conformed to the DSM-IV criteria for primary insomnia. However, those who reported insomnia in conjunction with a chronic illness were also included in the sample, to retain power and ecological validity. From the sample, 283 were identified as insomniacs and 133 as normal sleepers. Respondents were given a battery of questionnaires including a screening questionnaire, the Dysfunctional Beliefs and Attitudes to Sleep Scale (DBAS-10) and the Thought Control Questionnaire (TCQ). These factors were examined comparatively between insomniacs and normal sleepers and in relation to the length of insomnia in the insomniac sample. In addition, separate analyses were undertaken for different age groups.

Results: Overall, perceiving the bedroom as a noisy environment, having an irregular sleep pattern, use of medication, levels of daily tea/coffee consumption, and levels of pre-sleep cognitive thought were the only items significantly related to insomnia classification. Further, punishment and worry were identified as the thought control strategies used to deal with insomniacs' pre-sleep cognitive thought. However, differences between age groups were also found.

Conclusions: The findings suggest that theoretical models must account for different age brackets within an overall framework of late-life insomnia. In addition, the differences between groups highlights the need for tailored intervention strategies based upon age. However, further longitudinal data is needed to fully explore

the temporal stability of psychological factors in late-life insomnia.
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Cyclical variations in temperature in the human male: Exogenous or endogenous?

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In a study of the 90-minute sleep/dream cycle, using penile temperature as an indicator of REM sleep, it was found that there was a long-term, 20-day periodicity in temperature, later also confirmed as a general body temperature variation, in one subject. A larger study of daily oral temperature in 21 male subjects was conducted, with subjects providing temperature recordings and mood and sleep quality estimates for 49 to 102 days. Auto-correlogram for temperature showed a peak at the 20 day interval, with 17 of 21 subjects having positive correlations. Auto-correlation at the 21 day period was similarly high, with 15 out of 21 having positive correlations. Cross-correlations failed to show any peak, indicating that this fluctuation was by no means sinusoidal. Of the mood scales (alertness, anxiety, depression) only alertness showed a corresponding periodicity, with peaks at 21 and 23 days in auto-correlograms, 15 subjects out of 21 having positive values at the 22 day interval. Is this cycle endogenous, like the circadian rhythm, or an exogenous cycle like the female menstrual cycle? It has been suggested that it could arise from the interaction of two endogenous circadian cycles with slightly different periods – for instance 23 and 24 hours. This would result in greater circadian variations in testosterone and temperature on about a 20-day cycle, as a result of a statistical phenomenon known as ‘spindling’. A re-analysis of data from Doering *et al.* (1975) suggests that plasma testosterone variation is sinusoidal in character, unlike the temperature variations described above (which would support the hypothesis that it is an endogenous cycle).

Group involvement and outcomes in a programme of interpersonal cognitive problem solving

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Objectives: To examine the impact of patterns of involvement within social problem solving intervention groups as potential predictors of improvements in functioning.

Design: Participants were tested for Interpersonal Cognitive Problem Solving (ICPS) ability before and after a social problem solving intervention. Two sets of comparisons are made: First, between the ICPS abilities of the intervention (training) group and a no-training control group. Second, within the training group, based on a median split of levels of improvement at post-test: patterns of group interaction were compared for participants showing high and low levels of improvement.

Methods: Participants were a class of 31 primary school children. All children were initially tested on three social dilemmas (derived from previous research) to determine ICPS abilities. Following pre-test assessments half the participants were assigned to experimental group and half to a no-training control group. The participants in the experimental group participated in eight sessions (over four weeks) of ICPS training in small groups of four or five individuals. Training sessions lasted approximately 30 minutes and were video recorded. Following the final training period, all children were again tested for their ICPS abilities, using vignettes different from those used at the pre-test.

Results: Analyses were by means of a series of t-tests. As expected, participants receiving training showed a significantly greater improvement in ICPS ability than children in the control group. An examination of the codings of patterns of interaction in the training groups revealed that the amount of time ‘uninvolved’ and the number of ‘negative affective responses’ were predictive of improvements in ICPS outcomes.

Conclusions: The analysis of the effectiveness if

ICPS training in improving children’s social problem solving skills supports the findings of previous research. The finding that patterns of improvement in ICPS performance are related to patterns of involvement in the training groups extends the existing literature in the area and suggests the importance of a positive, involving group climate for individual ICPS outcomes.
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Engagement in and response to CBT for persistent insomnia in later life

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Around 25 per cent of those over the age of 65 have significant difficulty in the initiation and/or maintenance of sleep. Sedative-hypnotic drugs are particularly contraindicated in this age group, however, non-pharmacological intervention in the form of CBT has demonstrated efficacy across a range of population samples, including older adults. This paper will review this evidence, and will present data from recent studies in the West of Scotland, demonstrating that older people are equally enthusiastic about the CBT approach and achieve similar clinical outcomes to younger people. This is an important finding because medical prescribers who continue to prescribe may hold the false belief that older people seek, or prefer to have, sleeping pills.

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Adolescents in Angola: War, distress and coping

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Purpose: This paper examines the concerns, worries and difficulties adolescents in Angola face in relation to their experiences of war and displacement. In addition, the personal, social, cultural and spiritual coping strategies and resources the youths draw on are discussed. The results of a psychometric PTSD scale which was applied to adolescents in order to assess the presence of symptoms of trauma are critically analysed in light of other findings of the study.
Background: This study was conducted in the south-east of Angola with war-displaced youths over an eight-month period. It arose out of a broader investigation of how war-related distress is conceptualised by displaced people and by psychological service providers, and what resources are available to local populations for coping with the suffering of war.

Methods: Three methods were used: ethnography, participatory rapid appraisal and a psychometric PTSD scale (the Escala de avaliação da reposta ao acontecimento traumático, versão adolescentes).

Conclusion: The youths were predominantly preoccupied with their prospects of the future, as well as with issues of poverty, general violence and the frequent deaths that occurred in the family and social circles. According to the EARAT scale, 71 per cent of these youths experienced symptoms of trauma indicative of a diagnosis of PTSD. These results are inconsistent with other findings of the study which show that the youths are able to function in various aspects of their lives and make active use of various coping strategies.

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Exploring the automaticity of inter-group bias: Implicit and explicit processes

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Objectives: Discrimination against members of minority groups, although socially unacceptable, persists in ‘hidden’ forms such as institutional racism. Such covert biases could be the result of pre-conscious cognitive and motivational mechanisms at the heart of social categorisation processes. The aim of this experiment was to investigate, in detail, the relationships between implicit and explicit processes at different levels of self and group evaluation in the minimal group paradigm.

Design: A 2 (target prime: in-group vs. out-group) x 3 (trait valence: neutral vs. positive vs. negative) within-subjects design was employed to test the effects of minimal group affiliation on implicit and explicit information processing and evaluative judgement.

Method: 30 participants undertook a ‘perceptual task’ before being given bogus performance feedback allocating them to one of two artificial groups. Participants then completed a computerised lexical decision task involving the paired presentation of group category labels with trait words. Following this, participants completed explicit measures of inter-group evaluation and the putative processes underlying in-group favouritism.

Results: Findings suggest a complex pattern of relationships between implicit and explicit underlying processes and resulting implicit and explicit inter-group bias.

Conclusions: This research forms the first stage of a systematic assessment of the relationships between intergroup bias and its underlying determinants at both the implicit and explicit levels of analysis. Delineation of the precise interrelationships between these processes will have implications for explanations of real social conflicts, and the development of strategies for implicit and explicit bias-reduction.

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Models of empowerment and disempowerment relevant to hospital staff/patient interaction

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Objectives: This study aimed to explore interactions and relationships between staff and patients as a means of generating a greater understanding of how models of empowerment and disempowerment are expressed in health care.

Design: This involved submitting the concepts of empowerment and disempowerment to an Act Frequency Approach (Buss & Craik, 1983).

Method: Using this approach, registered nurses (n = 38) were asked to nominate empowering and disempowering acts relevant to staff/patient interactions yielding a list of 98 acts. Following this, older hospitalised people (n = 20) were asked to hypothetically judge these acts as to the extent they would be ‘control giving’ if personally experienced. The 20 highest scoring acts for each concept were then incorporated into an act frequency observation scale. Using this composite scale, older hospitalised people (n = 102) were asked to judge how often they had encountered each act in relationships and interactions with staff over a predetermined period of time. Act frequencies for each concept were then submitted to a principle components factor analysis.

Results: The principle components of empowerment were identified as ‘promoting patient independence’, ‘promoting information exchange’ and ‘being aware of patient needs’, and for disempowerment, ‘impeding patient collaboration in care planning’, ‘domination’ and ‘indifference to patient needs’.

Conclusion: Models of these concepts illustrate the therapeutic and non-therapeutic aspects of care in interpersonal relationships. Here the provision of empowering care is predicted to optimise patient independence in line with Learned Mastery theory whilst the provision of disempowering care is predicted to lead to greater patient dependence in line with Learned Helplessness theory.

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Odours trigger non-specific symptoms in Gulf War veterans

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Objectives: A bio-associative model has been proposed to explain the breadth and persistence of symptoms reported by veterans of the Persian Gulf War. This model suggests that odours present in the Gulf became associated with a set of symptoms (based on the interleukin-1 sickness response), and subsequently similar smells in the

home environment invoke the same symptom response. Based on this model it is hypothesised that, for veterans, there should be a positive association between variation in the experience of current daily odours and daily symptom severity.

Methods: This hypothesis was tested using a fixed occasion eight-day diary study. Twenty-nine healthy undergraduate comparisons and 17 veterans completed the diary assessments, recording both the intensity and duration of odours and sound experienced each day and the severity of their symptoms each day. Sound was included as a within subjects contrast. Both the comparisons and veterans also provided average baseline estimates of symptom levels.

Results: The diary data were analysed using 2 level Hierarchical Multivariate Linear Modelling (HMLM). Daily assessments were the level-1 unit and baseline symptoms the level-2 unit. The results showed that for the veterans only, odour was positively associated with the severity of the same day and subsequent days symptoms. These effects were moderated by levels of perceived general health. Odour was not a trigger for the comparison participants, but sound was. There were no moderating effects for the comparisons.

Conclusions: There is evidence, consistent with an associative mechanism, that odour can act as a trigger for the symptoms reported by veterans of the Gulf War. Attentional shift is one potential mechanism explaining the results for the comparison group.

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The effect of occupational risk communication design on intentions to wear ear defenders

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Objectives: Traditional models of health behaviours have focused on the importance of cognitive and emotional factors in predicting intentions. Little attention has been given to the role of the materials used to communicate risk. This study explored the relationship between the design of workplace risk communications and intentions to follow safe practice.

Design & Methods: 200 foundry and mine workers read one of two sample leaflets with average reading ease levels. Participants completed a questionnaire rating the leaflets according to how easy they were to read, understand and remember and how accurate, relevant, informative and helpful they were. Items also measured cognitive and emotional factors relating to noise-induced hearing loss, and intentions to wear ear defenders at work.

Results: A factor analysis showed participants identified two components to the leaflets – usability and usefulness. A hierarchical linear regression including biographics, cognitive and emotional responses and leaflet ratings revealed usability of the leaflet to be the biggest predictor of intentions to wear ear defenders, with perceived severity of hearing loss the only other significant predictor.

Conclusions: Results demonstrated that the usability of risk information had an important role in influencing intentions, greater than the role of both cognitive and emotional factors. This highlights the importance of optimising usability when designing risk communication materials in order to increase intentions to follow safe practice in the workplace.

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Student-student mentoring

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Objectives: The project was undertaken on behalf of the North West Region of the Open University to evaluate the benefits to new Open University students of having a student mentor. This work was part of a wider initiative on student retention aimed to encourage new students to pursue their studies and provide support and advice from a more experienced student.

Design: The student mentor will have been studying for a degree at the University for at least one year. Three level two courses were targeted as the focus of the study and volunteer mentors

and mentees were sought to participate from these courses. Questionnaires were used based on evaluation of the mentoring experience from both mentor and mentee perspective.

Method: A total of 49 mentors and mentees were involved in the project. Mentors were matched by certain criteria including those who were studying for the same course and similar geographical locations. Progress and feedback from both mentors and mentees were evaluated both during the course of study and after course completion. Telephone interviews were also carried out regarding the benefits of the mentoring experience. Retention rates of both the experimental group and comparative control group would be evaluated at the end of the course.

Results: The project has yet to be evaluated in the final phase but interim results suggest the project has been largely successful. The project will be completed by January, 2002.

'... and don't talk to any strange animals': Do we teach children to be phobic?

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Objectives: This experiment investigates the effect of fear-related information on the fear beliefs of children towards previously un-encountered animals. Unlike past research in which phobic patients report the importance of verbal information in the development of their phobia 10–20 years retrospectively, this study uses an innovative prospective paradigm in children.

Methods: Children aged six to eight ($n = 36$) and 10–12 ($n = 45$) had their normal fear levels assessed using the Fear Survey Schedule for Children (FSSC-R) before being shown pictures of three animals of which they had no prior experience. The children were then told two stories, one in which an animal was portrayed as potentially harmful and one in which a different animal was portrayed as safe. As a control, no information was provided about the third animal. The type of information associated with each animal was fully counterbalanced. Fear-beliefs about each animal were measured before and after the information using a self-report scale.

Results: The results of this experiment demonstrate that at both age groups: (1) negative information about an animal significantly changes fear beliefs about that animal – fear beliefs became more negative compared to when positive or no information was given; and (2) positive information significantly changed fear beliefs – compared to negative and no information beliefs became more positive.

Conclusions: This study is the first to show, prospectively, that fear information dramatically affects the fear beliefs held by children. This is the first step in understanding how normal childhood fears develop into adult phobias. The effects of positive information also suggest a possible means by which educational programs can attempt to prevent common adult fears.

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Personal and social effects of peer-tutoring on child tutors

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Objectives: Despite widespread interest in peer-tutoring, it is argued that its personal and social effects on the child tutor are under-researched, particularly from the child's viewpoint. Thus, the present study has investigated the effects of peer tutoring compared with individualised teaching methods on children's social interactions, locus of control and self-esteem. The effects of gender have also been investigated.

Design: Opportunity samples of two matched groups (peer tutors and non-peer tutors) were post-tested.

Method: The questionnaire respondents were 34 (17 of each gender) peer tutor and 32 (18 boys, 14 girls) 'individualistically' taught children. All of these pupils were 10-years-old and were in four Scottish primary schools matched for their socioeconomic backgrounds. Two of these schools used Topping's (1999) paired reading

programme. In the other two schools, no peer-tutoring strategies were used in any area of their activities. Participants completed three Likert-type questionnaires each designed, separately, to measure locus of control, classroom social interaction and self-esteem. The questionnaires were group administered by the first author in the presence of the pupils' class teacher.

Results: Contrary to the findings (based largely on teacher reports) of other published studies, no significant differences between the peer-tutor and 'individualistically' taught groups were found for any of the dependent variables investigated. Furthermore, no significant interaction effects between gender, teaching method and social interaction or between gender, teaching method and self-esteem were found. Also contrary to other studies, no significant correlation between locus of control and self-esteem was found. However, a significant positive correlation was found between self-esteem and social interaction.

Conclusions: Although possible criticisms of the present study are considered, the main implication of its findings is that peer-tutoring does not enhance the child peer tutor's internal locus of control, self-esteem or encourage more positive social interaction than does 'individualised' teaching. In support of Topping's (1999) suggestions, it is argued that peer-tutoring may encourage greater internal locus of control and positive self-esteem in tutors in academic contexts. It is suggested that further studies investigate the effects of context, for example, academic versus non-academic, on the outcomes of peer tutoring and attempt to compare the experiences of tutor and tutee children.

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The nature of age related impairment in memory updating

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Objectives: Memory updating involves presenting lists of consonants with participants required to serial recall the last six items in each list. For long lists the central executive is assumed to update the contents of the phonological loop. Consistent with an executive deficit, older persons were impaired in the updating component of this task (Van der Linden, Bredart & Beerten, 1994). The present study seeks to replicate this and establish whether the age effect is eliminated following control for various central executive measures.

Design: The design was mixed with age (young and old) between, and list length (6, 8, 10, 12 consonants) and serial position (1 to 6) within participants.

Method: 35 younger (average age 24) and 35 older persons (average age 67) completed the consonant updating task, health and education questionnaires and working memory tasks including various executive measures (random generation, word fluency, Wisconsin card sort).

Results: Consistent with Van der Linden *et al.*, relative to their younger counterparts older persons were relatively more impaired when list length exceeded six items and the deficit was attenuated following control for the executive measures. However, control for health related differences also attenuated the age effect.

Furthermore, there was a large main effect of age and a significant age by serial position interaction (older persons worse on the middle and early serial positions).

Conclusions: At least in the context of memory updating, the results suggest a more broadly based age deficit rather than a specific central executive impairment.

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Caregiving relationships: Two sides to the story

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Objectives: In this paper I report my investigation of how people in informal care relationships construct accounts of relational difficulties.

Method: 12 semi-structured biographical interviews and a modified version of The Bene-Anthony Family Relations Test (1965) were carried out with carers and 'carees'. By involving both carer and 'caree' it was possible to hear two

sides to the story, to reflect on the dynamism between accounts, and on the differing constructions of the current relationship and family history.

Results: I report a discursive analysis, focusing on how care and relational difficulties were articulated. The analysis of carer and 'caree' accounts indicated a mismatch in how the relationship was constructed, and the range of identities created for each of the participants. Analysis focused on the competing interpretative repertoires and subject positions in the talk of carers and 'carees', and on the accountive role of rhetoric in speech.

Conclusions: I reflect on the need to pay close attention to the discursive construction of care, difficulties and relationships by suggesting the lessons it offers practitioners in health and social care. In addition, talk of past family relationships, elicited at interview and through the Family Relations Test, enabled an analysis of how accounts of the past can be mobilised to explain difficulties and successes within the current relationship.

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Adult indirect aggression: Do men 'catch up' with women in using indirect aggression?

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Objectives: Research has shown that as people develop social intelligence skills they largely abandon direct aggression in favour of indirect aggression (i.e. social ostracism and gossiping), and that girls favour indirect aggression more than boys. Despite indirect aggression being described as the most 'adult' form of aggression, research has neglected the study of indirect aggression in adult populations. Additionally, there are speculations that in adulthood the reported gender differences disappear, and men and women use indirect aggression equally. This study aimed to test these speculations, whilst additionally examining the validity of the Richardson's Conflict Role Response Questionnaire (RCRQ) and the Emotional Intelligence Scale (EIS).

Design: This study was a questionnaire design, implemented to examine the trends in the usage of indirect aggression in adult men and women.

Methods: This preliminary study (n = 209) uses the RCRQ to measure both direct and indirect aggression, along with measures of self-esteem, emotional intelligence, and personality.

Results: Multiple Regression revealed that people who use one form of aggression are also likely to use the other form, men and women use equal amounts of indirect aggression, and usage of both direct and indirect aggression decreases with age. Using indirect aggression is significantly correlated with low self-esteem and low emotional intelligence. The validity of the RCRQ and EIS were examined using factor analytic procedures.

Conclusions: The findings are consistent with the speculation that men 'catch up' with women in their usage of indirect aggression, although surprisingly both sexes do continue to employ direct aggressive strategies. Areas of further research are considered.

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Developing a measure of adult indirect aggression

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Objectives: Evidence suggests that indirect aggression is the most 'adult' form of aggression, although studies to date tend to have focussed upon investigating this form of aggression within childhood and adolescent populations. The aim of this study was to establish indirect aggression behaviours that occur in adulthood, and then create a new measure of adult indirect aggression.

Design: This study describes the development of a psychometric measure of indirect aggression for use in an adult population.

Methods: Items were derived from a qualitative typology generated from two interview studies. Two versions of the scale were developed; the Indirect Aggression Scale Aggressor version (IAS-A) and Target version (IAS-T). Both versions of the scale were administered to separate samples (n1 = 294; n2 = 294).

Results: Scales were analysed using item analysis of internal consistency, and both exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis. Both versions were found to have the same consistent three sub-scales: social exclusion, use of malicious humour, and guilt induction. All sub-scales had Cronbach's alpha coefficients of .80 or above.

Conclusions: Preliminary psychometric evaluation suggests that the scales are both sufficiently reliable and valid. Future validation and potential usage of the measures are discussed.

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Hurt the ones you love: Indirect aggression in adult primary group relationships

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Objectives: Aggression is often equated with physical aggression, leaving women's aggressive expression largely ignored. The influential work of Björkqvist and colleagues re-conceptualised aggression by including indirect aggression. The aim of this research was to extend the study of indirect aggression to adult primary group relationships (e.g. relationships with partners/spouses, family, close friends), by conducting a series of in-depth interviews into indirect aggressive experience.

Design: In a series of two in-depth qualitative interview studies the nature of indirect aggression experiences from both target and aggressor perspectives are investigated.

Methods: Men and women aged between 18 and 42 were interviewed (n = 12). The interview transcripts were analysed using the Miles and Huberman (1994) approach to thematic analysis.

Results: Themes were identified and two explanatory models formulated based upon the thematic analysis both within- and across-cases. Of particular interest and importance was the finding that there is a cyclic nature to indirect aggression victimisation. Themes of power and control, identity and status were also apparent. Finally, examples of indirect aggression within the context of primary group relationships were analysed, and different types of adult indirect aggression revealed.

Conclusions: It was concluded that indirect aggression has an alarming potential for harm over the long-term course of a relationship. Indirect aggression was commonly used and experienced within close primary group relationships. A number of different forms of indirect aggression were identified. The implications of these findings are discussed, and plans for future study outlined.

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Disability and satisfaction with accommodation in older people

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Objective: To determine how disability level in older people impacts upon their perceived satisfaction with different aspects of their home accommodation.

Design: Cross-sectional structured interview with standardised assessment instruments.

Methods: Approximately 100 older people are to be recruited via a day rehabilitation unit. Participants receive a structured interview incorporating two standardised instruments: the Elderly Assessment system (EASY-Care), and the Housing Options for Older People (HOOP) questionnaire. The former instrument provides a weighted index of disability derived from the Barthel and Duke OARS assessments, and a measure of depression (a four-item version of the Geriatric Depression Scale), while the second instrument contains ratings of satisfaction with

eight different aspects of accommodation. Analyses examine to what extent a person's disability level is associated with their satisfaction with their accommodation, and whether level of depression mediates this relationship.

Conclusions: With policy throughout Europe focused on maintaining older people in their home environment as long as possible, it is important to understand what factors influence older people's perceptions of their home environment. This study's findings provide information of value to social care practitioners and psychologists working in social and health care settings who are faced with difficult decisions regarding older people's competency for independent living.

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Bias in meta-cognition: The effects of confidence and hindsight bias on perceptions of risk

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Objectives: To explore the relationship between confidence bias, hindsight bias, and perceived risk, in a sample of motor cyclists.

Design: A quasi-experimental survey design was used.

Methods: A sample of 68 motor cyclists, were assessed in terms of their experiences of motor cycling, estimation of comparative and absolute risk, levels of hindsight and confidence bias, and psychological distress.

Results: From hierarchical multiple regression analysis the direct predictors of total absolute perceived risk were confidence bias, hindsight bias and having a friend who had been involved in a motor cycling accident. Risk compared to car drivers was predicted by levels of psychological distress, hindsight bias and not having taken advanced training in motor cycling. Risk compared to other motor cyclists was predicated by less experience of motor cycling, having a friend who had an accident, and levels of psychological distress.

Conclusion: The study shows that bias in cognition which could be equated with unrealistic optimism does influence perceptions of risk in this sample of motor cyclists. While having a friend who had an accident increases perceived risk there is some evidence that confidence bias increases with age and experience. The latter might be described in terms of the overconfident or unrealistically optimistic expert.

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Satisfaction with immediate breast reconstruction following mastectomy

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Objective: Increasingly, immediate breast reconstruction is being offered to women undergoing mastectomy. However, little attention has been paid to factors associated with patient satisfaction with the decision-making process, and the outcome of reconstruction.

Design: This study used standardised and ad hoc questionnaires to investigate factors associated with patient satisfaction with immediate breast reconstruction.

Method: A consecutive series of 77 women, who had undergone immediate breast reconstruction, were invited to participate in the study.

Results: 55 patients (71 per cent) completed the questionnaires. Overall, 90 per cent were satisfied with the information they had received before the decision to have reconstruction was made. However, 17 per cent felt pressurised to some extent to accept breast reconstruction by the surgeon, and 14 per cent by the breast care nurse. Ten per cent felt they had insufficient time to consider their decision. Ten per cent regretted the decision to have reconstruction. Compared with satisfied women, dissatisfied women were significantly less likely to have a family history of cancer; to have had tissue expansion; to have poor mobility and to be more dissatisfied with cosmesis. Dissatisfied women also scored

significantly lower on the Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy General Scale ($p = 0.04$) and the Breast Cancer Module ($p = 0.02$). Marital status, age, mood disturbance, deprivation category and smoking did not distinguish satisfied from dissatisfied women.

Conclusions: The findings indicate that, whilst the majority of women are satisfied with the decision to have reconstruction, and the outcome at follow-up, a few women clearly regret the decision. These findings have obvious implications for pre-operative counselling.
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Increasing sex offender self-report honesty on a cognitive distortion questionnaire

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Objectives: Cognitive distortions are statements made by sex offenders that attempt to justify and rationalise their crimes. The Sex Offender Treatment Programme involves challenging these pro-offending beliefs so that they can be restructured into more socially appropriate beliefs. However, the evidence suggesting that these distortions are beliefs relies heavily on transparent questionnaires.

Design: This study employs the bogus pipeline technique to enhance honest responding in sex offenders on the Opinion Questionnaire over a one-week period. The bogus pipeline procedure typically involves presenting impressive apparatus to a participant and convincing them that dishonesty can be detected.

Methods: 60 sex offenders (who have offended against children or adults) are given the Opinion Questionnaire to complete under standard transparent conditions. A week later, they are given this questionnaire to complete again under the bogus pipeline condition (where they are wired up to a skin conductance machine and told the experimenter is interested in dishonesty). The control group simply completes the Opinion Questionnaire under the same standard condition as the previous week.

Results: The degree of shift over the one week period was analysed using 2×2 factorial ANOVAS. No significant shifts in responses were found for the bogus pipeline participants. However, these participants did report a strong belief that the bogus pipeline could detect lies.

Conclusions: The findings are discussed in relation to the level of criticism currently directed towards questionnaire measurements of cognitive distortion. It may be that questionnaires do reveal a more unbiased picture of cognitive distortions than previously thought.
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Sex, lies & anonymity: Virtual bodies online

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Objectives: Recently, researchers have argued that rather than leading to a hostile and shallow environment, the anonymity of cyberspace allows a unique freedom of self-presentation and experience, unconstrained by the physical realities of the body. The current research seeks to extend this debate, with a particular focus on the meanings attached to young people's self-descriptions in online Chat.

Design & Method: In-depth interviews were conducted with 45 Chat users, ranging in age from 19 to 26. The interview transcripts were analysed using an extension of grounded theory.

Results: The data indicate that the internet does allow Chat users to escape the physical constraints of the body, with users routinely misrepresenting themselves online. However, social norms around the body nonetheless play a powerful role in shaping online self-presentations and serve to encourage dishonesty. Surprisingly, rather than rendering internet interactions hostile and shallow, these lies pave the way for an increased level of emotional honesty and intimacy. Furthermore, the social cues to trust and commitment in online relationships involve increasing levels of corporeal involvement with one's online partner.

Conclusions: Rather than freeing chat users from the 'tyranny of the body', the tacit rules of cyberculture exaggerate (and almost parody)

social norms around the body and serve to maintain only an illusion of liberation. The paper points to the need for a reconceptualisation of 'real-world' self-presentation, and further research on the use of lies to protect emotional honesty in traditional face-to-face relationships.
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The psychological antecedents of profitability and performance

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Objectives: The research aimed to develop a structural model of the relationships between organisational climate, customer satisfaction, operational performance and profitability within a major UK retail bank and test hypotheses in previous literature that these variables are related.

Design: A structural equation model was set up to represent the central hypotheses. Relationships between the observed and latent variables were first established and then the structural model constructed. Finally, the parameters of the model were estimated. In order to ensure the psychological measures could be seen as antecedents, climate measures were taken at t1, customer satisfaction measures at t2, and measures of performance and profitability at t3.

Methods: Measures of organisational climate were derived from an attitude survey of employees in 200 branches in the bank's retail branch network. Customer satisfaction data were derived from a randomly sampled customer survey. Measures of net customer growth, compliance, turnover, absenteeism and sales activity were taken for each branch.

Results: A structural equation model was developed linking organisational climate, customer satisfaction, operational performance and sales activity in the branch network. A variety of goodness of fit measures was calculated, indicating a well-fitting model.

Conclusions: The results provide strong evidence that organisational climate is related to customer satisfaction and other indicators of organisational performance. The model indicated that climate had a stronger link to sales than did customer satisfaction. These findings have important applied implications as well as theoretical implications on the psychological route from organisational climate to performance.
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The role of emotional perception in attentional bias for threat

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Objectives: A considerable literature exists which demonstrates that threatening information has the capacity to seize attention, and these effects have been shown to be accentuated in individuals who are highly anxious. Few studies, however, have considered the role of other variables on attentional bias. The present study examined the contribution of anxiety and emotional perception (EP) to attentional focusing on threat.

Design: Two experiments were conducted. In the first, which used the dot probe methodology, two separate 2×2 independent groups ANOVAs were carried out using trait anxiety scores (high vs. low) and EP scores (high vs. low) as the independent variables, and either angry or happy bias scores as the dependent variable. In the second, which used a schematic version of the face in the crowd paradigm, two mixed ANOVAs were conducted with the two independent groups factors outlined above (anxiety and EP) and a within groups factor of type of crowd or type of target.

Methods: For both experiments, participants completed questionnaires assessing anxiety (State Trait Anxiety Inventory) and EP (Affective Perception Test). In experiment 1, participants completed a dot probe task which used emotional faces from Ekman's series. In experiment 2, participants completed a face in the crowd task which used schematic faces from Fox et al. (2000). Measures of attentional bias were calculated from reaction times.

Results: Experiment 1 found a threat bias for

participants who were high in anxiety and low in EP. In experiment 2, detection of threat was again facilitated by a combination of high anxiety and low EP. Due to the lack of correlation between anxiety and EP, their mechanisms are likely to be different.

Conclusions: When considered together, EP and anxiety have more of an influence on attentional bias for threat than anxiety alone. They seem to function in an engage-disengage model, where anxiety affects the allocation of attention while EP determines how long it takes to move on. This indicates that other factors, rather than just emotional disorders, have an important role to play in attentional processing.
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Mid-life predictors of cognitive functioning in old age

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Objectives: To examine the extent to which risk factors measured in middle age predict cognitive functioning in old age.

Design: Follow-up survey and health assessment in sample of previously assessed community population.

Method: 144 participants were drawn from those who had taken part in the Paisley-Renfrew Epidemiological Study (MIDSPAN), conducted 30 years ago, with stratification for gender, health status, and social deprivation. In MIDSPAN, health assessments included blood pressure, blood glucose and cholesterol levels, smoking behaviour, FEV1, etc. Cognitive functioning of participants in the current sample was assessed in three domains: abstract; real world problem solving; social and emotional problem solving.

Result: Several risk factors measured in mid-life were significantly associated with current cognitive functioning, e.g. FEV1, body mass index, and blood cholesterol. The most intriguing finding was that high blood pressure (systolic and diastolic) was associated with better performance on a number of the cognitive functioning measures.

Conclusions: The finding that several of the risk factors predicting cognitive functioning in old age are modifiable has potentially interesting and important policy implications.

Psychology, ageing and the body: Delight, denial or disgust?

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Purpose: This paper is concerned with the way psychology has addressed the topic of bodily ageing.

Background: Three themes will be pursued – studies relating to the topic of ageing and sexuality (delight), the dominance that studies relating to cognition have exercised over the field (denial) and the psychological assessment tradition relating to loss of function (disgust).

Methods & Key Points: I will suggest that these three themes can be reframed to constitute a different agenda for psychology, one that studies how people experience and make meaningful the various phenomena that represent bodily ageing.

Conclusions: Consideration will be given to what might constitute some of the methodologies needed to flesh out our understanding.

Mental toughness and hardiness at different levels of the game of Rugby League

J GOLBY & M SHEARD, University of Teesside

It is becoming increasingly accepted that sporting performance at the highest level is largely contingent upon psychological strength and mental preparation. Recent research has identified potentially important psychological differences between rugby league players representing different nationalities.

Objectives: The present study used a cognitive-behavioural analysis, to extend previous work in

order to examine further the psychological differences between players performing at the three top levels of the contemporary game.

Design: Data were collected using questionnaires designed to measure attitudes, feelings and behaviour in order to identify potential differences in the specific areas of mental toughness and hardiness.

Methods: A sample of 115 rugby league players, functioning at the mutually exclusive playing levels of International, Super League and Premiership League, were included in the study. Mental toughness was evaluated using the PPI (Loehr, 1986) and PVSIII-R (Maddi & Khoshaba, 2000). Players were tested at World Cup and club training camps. MANOVA and Discriminant Analysis were performed.

Results: Preliminary findings indicated significant differences between players operating at each of the three levels. These differences included the variables of; negative energy, attention control, commitment, control, challenge and hardiness.

Conclusions: Results are discussed in terms of the subsequent development of appropriate strategies for improving mental toughness in rugby league and the need for intervention studies to confirm their benefits.

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Maintaining clear interpersonal boundaries between direct care workers and offenders with learning disabilities: Developing thoughtful practice in learning disability services

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Purpose: This paper explores the interpersonal boundaries between paid care staff and adult service users with learning disabilities, including those who have offended or are at risk of offending. It proposes a framework for understanding how interpersonal boundaries become blurred, and highlights the need to develop thoughtful practice in services with the aim of minimising the occurrence of abuse.

Background: There is a growing awareness within learning disability services of the vulnerability of adults with learning disabilities to abuse from paid staff. There is recognition of the need to maintain clear, professional, interpersonal boundaries between paid staff and service users in a number of the caring professions but this does not extend to unqualified nursing staff. Direct care work with people with learning disabilities involves staff adopting many different roles which can lead to confusion. This is further complicated by the value base underpinning the framework of social role valorisation necessitating a blurring of the interpersonal boundaries between paid workers and service users.

Key Points: A Continuum Model is presented as one way of understanding the role of staff behaviour in relation to interpersonal boundaries with service users. The model highlights how boundaries may become blurred and gives examples of this.

Conclusions: The paper concludes by describing some of the ways clinical psychologists can help to identify cultural indicators of abuse. This includes helping managers and staff to develop a culture where they are aware of these issues, are thoughtful about their actions and seek supervision appropriately about such matters.

The neurobiology of childhood aggression

SHM van GOOZEN, Cambridge University and UMCU, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Objectives: In this presentation the neurobiological foundation of aggressive behaviour will be addressed by reporting evidence from our studies on hospitalised children who display severe and persistent oppositional behaviour (oppositional defiant disorder: ODD) and aggressive or antisocial behaviour (conduct disorder: CD). The prognosis for these children is rather unfavourable. Although environmental factors have traditionally received most attention in explaining the origin

and persistence of CD/ODD, there is increasing evidence showing that the child himself or herself also plays an important role. The concept of 'vulnerability' suggests that certain children have an increased risk of developing psychiatric disorders. This natural disposition is presumably partly biologically determined.

Design & Methods: We examined the involvement of those neurobiological systems which have been found to play a key role in adult antisocial behaviour: the serotonergic system, the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis, androgens, and the autonomic nervous system (ANS). The clinical groups were compared with normal control children under a variety of conditions, including ones in which children were subjected to stressors.

Results: We found that young aggressive children exhibited the same neurobiological deficits as adult anti-socials. This finding is important because it could help explain why ODD/CD children are at risk for later and more severe forms of violent and antisocial behaviour.

Conclusions: It is argued that the neurobiological consequences of adverse early life experiences form part of the explanation for the origin and persistence of severe aggression. daryloc@psychology.leeds.ac.uk

Repetition, homophone and phonological priming of object naming from naming words to printed definitions

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Objectives: To investigate the locus of the repetition priming effect within speech production models by examining repetition, homophone and phonological priming of object naming from the prime task of naming-to-definition.

Design: Participants named a word to a printed definition and then (after a lag of 0 or 2 intervening items), named a picture. Four conditions were compared: repetition (e.g. rain-RAIN), homophone (e.g. reign-RAIN), phonological (e.g. pain-RAIN) and un-primed (e.g. carpet-RAIN).

Methods: Participants were presented with a definition on the screen followed by the first letter of the word corresponding to the definition. This letter was their cue to produce the prime word, and also served as an aid to producing the correct response. Following the response, a picture was presented which had to be named.

Results: At both lags picture naming times in the repetition and homophone conditions were faster than in the un-primed condition. Furthermore, the magnitudes of the repetition and homophone priming effects were not significantly different. Pictures primed by phonologically related words were not named reliably faster than un-primed pictures, despite a small facilitatory trend.

Conclusions: It is proposed that repetition priming of picture naming observed from naming to definitions reflects facilitation of lemma-to-wordform connections, while homophone priming arises from the repeated activation of phonological word-forms. Since repetition and homophone priming effects did not differ, it is suggested that homophone priming may additionally benefit from wordform-to-lemma feedback.

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The association between controlling behaviours, physical aggression and injuries in heterosexual relationships

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Objectives: This study investigated the association between the use of non-violent controlling behaviours and physical aggression towards a spouse and injuries sustained for both men and women in three samples.

Design: Three groups were sampled: refuge women, students and male prisoners. It was predicted, based on feminist and evolutionary psychology, that only men would show an

association between physical aggression and controlling behaviours.

Methods: Data was obtained for the following sample groups; women's refuge residents (n = 44) and their male partners, male and female students (n = 113) and partners, and male prisoners (n = 108) and their female partners.

The measures used were the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS, Straus 1979), Controlling Behaviours Scale (CBS, Graham-Kevan & Archer 2000a) and measures relating to injuries (Morse, 1995).

Results: Both women and men in each sample group showed significant positive relationships between controlling behaviours, physical aggression and injuries. Regression analysis revealed that controlling behaviours accounted for significant proportions of variance of the use of physical aggression and inflicting injuries for both men and women.

Conclusions: The implications of these findings are that the association between controlling behaviours and physical aggression is not a male characteristic, as implied by feminist and evolutionary analysis, but instead is a characteristic of those inclined to use physical aggression against partners, regardless of sex. Therefore existing analyses, from feminist or evolutionary, need to be extended to encompass not only the reasons for men's but also for women's, use of controlling of physical aggression. Ngraham-Kevan@uclan.ac.uk

11th September 2001: The deterrent effect on travel

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Objective: The research investigated the impact of the terrorist events of the 11th September 2001, and subsequent reprisals, on attitudes to travel.

Design: A questionnaire was completed two days and six weeks after the attacks in America to measure changes over time in participants' fear of and intention to travel, varying both mode of transport and destination.

Method: A convenience sample of 408 people took part in the study. Participants were approached, advised of the subject matter of the study, and invited to complete the questionnaire.

Results: There were no statistically significant differences in either levels of fear or intentions to travel between the two samples indicating, consistent with Friedland and Merari (1985), that there is no 'decay' effect in attitudinal response to this particular event over a six week period. Analysis of the impact of the terrorist acts on fear and intention to travel indicate that people's responses vary by mode of transport and destination. Participants expressed significantly more fear and reluctance to travel to, or be in, the US than other destinations. Similarly the terrorist acts had a greater effect on attitudes to flying than other forms of transport.

Conclusions: The results show that, rather than generalising to travel per se, reactions are directed towards the most salient aspects of this particular attack, that is, the use of planes and the target of America. The implications of these findings and the ongoing 'war against terrorism' are discussed for policy makers, businesses associated with travel, and for further research. jmg3@ukc.ac.uk

Deficits in emotional processing following right hemisphere damage

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Objectives: Previous research has established the right cerebral hemisphere's special role in the processing of emotional stimuli. In order to determine more precisely the nature of this role a comparison was made between Right Hemisphere Damage (RHD) and Normal Control (NC) participants on a battery of tasks designed to evaluate emotional processing abilities.

Methods: The tests included: the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale - Revised (WAIS-R), Right Hemisphere Language Battery (RHLB), Benton Face Recognition Test (BFRT), Visuo-

Spatial/Constructional sub-tests from the Repeatable Battery for the Assessment of Neuropsychological Functioning (RBANS), Eckman Face Stimuli (EFS), and a series of Situational Cartoons (SC) depicting emotional cues.

Results: Results revealed a significant difference between RHD and NC groups in the discrimination of facial affect and affective situational cues, the comprehension of visual metaphor, the understanding of inferred meaning, and general discourse competency. Ongoing evaluation of data collected from a Left Hemisphere Damage (LHD) group is also being used to clarify the lateralised nature of emotional processing.

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Attitudes and satisfaction at work amongst community mental health team staff

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Objectives: To examine any change in attitudes, perceived effectiveness, perceived quality, difficulties encountered, satisfaction and stress at four community mental health teams (CMHTs) over a three year period covering local government (LGR) and health authority reorganisation (HAR).

Design: The study employed a repeated measure design. Given the small number of staff working in each CMHT, a cross-sectional approach was adopted for the analysis, providing a representative time series of the teams and allowing examination of change at the macro level.

Methods: Data was gathered from staff at the four CMHTs annually (1995–1997), using interviewer administered questionnaires. The sample comprised of 87 members of staff in the first assessment, 95 in the second and 90 in the third assessment.

Results: LGR had more of an impact than HAR, 53 per cent to 87 per cent reported the work of their team was affected by LGR. Post LGR results were more negative than those found in the first two assessments. Perceived quality of the service provided, job satisfaction and morale, all declined.

Conclusions: The results of this study have found declining morals for most individuals and teams, a reduction in perceived effectiveness and quality of service at the same time as generally declining levels of satisfaction, lending support to the relationship between performance and satisfaction. The decline in satisfaction is alarming as it has been suggested that it can ultimately lead to burnout, withdrawn behaviour, staff turnover and absenteeism.

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Self-assessment of mental health in a community psychiatric population

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Objectives: To examine for a cohort of users of services provided by community mental health teams, the reliability of users' perceptions of their health and measure the stability in the relationship between psychiatric assessments and service users' perceptions of mental health status.

Design: A repeated measure design was used for the study.

Methods: A cohort of 122 enduring service users of community mental health teams situated in North Wales had their psychiatric symptomatology rated and were administered questionnaires at two points, separated by 12 months. Measures incorporated in the study included the BPRS and the SF-36.

Results: The results of assessments with service users using the Brief Psychiatric Rating Scales (BPRS) showed that while there were significant improvements in anxiety-depression and total psychiatric symptomatology there were no other significant changes in factor scores of the BPRS over the 12 month period. There were significant relationships between independent measures of psychiatric symptomatology and service users'

subjective perceptions of mental health.

Conclusions: The results provided evidence that enduring users of community psychiatric services do accurately assess their own mental health status. This supports the value of including user perceptions in rating psychiatric symptomatology and in decision making about therapeutic interventions.

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Projections of gay men: A psycho-discursive analysis of heterosexual men's talk

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Objectives: This paper looks at how a sample of heterosexual male university students talk about male homosexuality. In particular, it is concerned with how ostensibly homophobic statements are constructed and defended.

Design: This is a qualitative research study which uses interview data to examine the meanings (or 'discourses') used by participants in discussing sexualities.

Methods: The data reported here derives from three focus group discussions with heterosexual male university students (average of three participants per group). A semi-structured format was deployed, whereby particular areas were covered (e.g. gender equality, relationships) but allowing for participants to explore topics of their own choosing. Techniques drawn from discourse analysis were employed to identify significant discursive strategies and repertoires used to construct gay men. There is also some recourse to psychoanalytic concepts to address the emotional (defensive) investment in particular subject positions.

Results: Pejorative constructions of gay men predominated in the participants' talk. For example, gay men were presented as dangerous paedophiles as well as effeminate 'poofs'. At times this discourse was 'softened' with reference to discourses of tolerance and equality to produce disclaimers and fend off accusations of prejudice (e.g. 'Personally I'm not bothered, but... they should do it in private'). In addition, constructions of gay men were often imbued with anxiety and defensiveness – the fear of being attacked by a gay man seemed to be a salient concern.

Conclusions: It can be concluded that homophobic discourse still holds some appeal for sections of 'educated' heterosexual men. It is also suggested that concepts from discourse analysis and psychoanalysis can fruitfully be used to document and explain this fascination, although some care needs to be taken in attempting to integrate these two traditions.

Suggestibility since Eysenck and Furneaux (1945): Theoretical and empirical aspects

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Eysenck and Furneaux's early and influential work into the nature of suggestibility was to establish, by the use of factor analysis, the extent to which different suggestibility tests were functionally related. The result of these studies was to demonstrate that there are at least two independent types of suggestibility, labelled 'primary' and 'secondary' suggestibility. Eysenck and Furneaux also raised the possibility of 'tertiary' suggestibility, which bears some resemblance to interrogative suggestibility. In this paper the history of 'interrogative suggestibility' is reviewed, its relationship and differences with other types of suggestibility are discussed, and the theoretical and empirical aspects are presented. It will be shown that since the development of the Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scales and the Gudjonsson and Clark theoretical model in the mid 1980s, a large number of studies have been carried out into interrogative suggestibility. One of the greatest impacts of the work has been the increased recognition of suggestibility as an individual differences variable. Interrogative suggestibility correlates with a number of cognitive and personality measures. Of particular importance is the ability of the person to cope with the demands,

expectations, and pressures of the interrogative situation. The concept of interrogative suggestibility as a type of psychological vulnerability, and its measurement, have had a major impact on a number of legal judgments, including those of the House of Lords.

Family first: A parenting skills programme for people with learning disabilities

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Objectives: The past two years has seen an increase in the number of families headed by a parent with learning disabilities being referred to clinical psychology services in Edinburgh. A recent Scottish Office mapping exercise identified few resources for these parents. In response to this gap in service delivery funding was secured from a government initiative 'Sure Start Scotland', to design and implement a parent education programme. Research indicates that IQ alone is insufficient as an indicator of parental inadequacy and that parents with learning disabilities can be taught a variety of skills.

Design: Family first is a multi component, group based teaching package, to deliver and evaluate parenting skills. Teaching procedures adopted aimed to meet participant's particular cognitive requirements.

Methods: Teaching including verbal instruction, modelling and supported behavioural rehearsal delivered over 12 weeks in a group setting. Learning was reinforced by pictorial workbooks, home visits and practice with a Real Care Baby simulator doll. Topics covered included knowledge and skills considered crucial for ongoing care of new-borns to three-year-olds. Three families comprising parents with mild learning disability took part.

Results: Pre- and post-assessments were carried out, using components from the 'Parental Skills Model' and included psychometric assessment, parental physical and mental well-being and knowledge of child development and child rearing. Evaluation to date has demonstrated an increase in knowledge of childcare and some positive change in parenting practices. The issues of long-term generalisation and maintenance require to be addressed. tanyalee88@hotmail.com

Is the validity of the Bem Sex Role Inventory dependent upon the gender of the judge?

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Objectives: While international research has suggested that the Bem Sex Role Inventory appears to have retained its validity, a recent UK-based study, with a women only sample, found little support for this suggestion. The objective of the current research was to provide further evidence relating to the BSRI validity in the UK with a sample including both gender.

Design: A non-experimental design was employed where the participants were required to judge the desirability of the BSRI characteristics for men and women in UK society.

Methods: An opportunity sample of young adults were allocated to one of four conditions: (1) Women judging the desirability of these characteristics for women in society (n = 85); (2) Women judging the desirability of these characteristics for men (n = 74); (3) Men judging the desirability of these characteristics for women (n = 73); and (4) Men judging the desirability of these characteristics for men (n = 79).

Results: With the full sample, 23 of the conventionally labelled gender characteristics were judged to be significantly different in desirability for men and women. With female judges only, the number of items showing a difference dropped to four, but with males, 29 of the characteristics were stereotypically differentiated.

Conclusions: These results suggest that with the full sample, a small majority of items were judged to be desirable for women or men. However, these results indicate a major difference in judgement between male and

female judges. Female participants judged the vast majority of characteristics to be equally desirable for men and women, while the males' judgements appeared more stereotypic in nature.

Genetic and environmental origins of mild mental retardation in early childhood

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Objectives: Although family studies indicate that the risk of mild mental retardation (MMR) increases with degree of genetic relatedness, this trend may reflect reasons of nurture rather than nature. Surprisingly few studies have endeavoured to disentangle the roles of genetic and environmental factors in MMR. The present study sought to elucidate the aetiology of MMR in early childhood using a genetically informative design with a large, representative sample.

Design: A longitudinal twin design was used to compare concordance rates of MMR among monozygotic (MZ) and dizygotic (DZ) twins at ages two, three and four.

Method: A sample of 2351 MZ and 2322 same-sex DZ twin pairs born in England and Wales between 1994–1995 was assessed using parent-report and parent-administered measures of verbal and non-verbal ability. A composite score was derived from these measures as an index of general cognitive ability. MMR was defined in terms of the low fifth percentile cut-off at each age.

Results: We found consistently higher probandwise concordance rates for MZ compared to DZ twins. At each age, DeFries-Fulker (DF) extremes analyses indicated that a moderate proportion of the mean difference between probands and the entire sample could be ascribed to genetic factors, while a somewhat higher proportion was due to shared environmental factors.

Conclusions: The results demonstrate that MMR is moderately heritable in early childhood and that shared environmental factors also play an important aetiological role. One direction for future research is to identify some of the genes responsible for MMR as it emerges in early childhood.

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Speeded lexical processing: Differences between young and old

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The Speed-Accuracy Trade-off (SAT) paradigm offers the possibility of mapping the time-course of information processing by examining accuracy rates as a function of processing time. Despite the frequent use of this procedure, it is rarely used in cognitive ageing research where rates of processing often come into question.

Objectives: We used the SAT in lexical decision and word naming tasks with young and elderly participants in order to examine the effect age has on the time course of lexical processing and the types of errors made under constrained time limits.

Design: Two groups of participants, young and old, completed a word naming task (Experiment 1) or a lexical decision task (Experiment 2). Baseline RTs were obtained and in five subsequent conditions stimuli were presented at progressively briefer durations to encourage speeded responding.

Results: Young participants were faster and more accurate than the old. The groups appeared to use different strategies to complete the tasks.

Conclusions: The results offer insights into the time course of lexical processing and their implications for models of cognitive ageing will be discussed.

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Gender at home: Growing up with brothers and sisters in one- or two-parent families

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Objectives: This study examines patterns of gender development occurring in five-year-old

children from families of different structure (with one or two parents, and with an older sibling of the same or other-sex). It examines how children's gender-related attitudes, stereotype flexibility, gender-typed preferences and gender-role behaviour vary with parental gender-typed behaviour and attitudes, and siblings' gender-related attitudes, stereotype flexibility and gender-role behaviour.

Design: Children aged five years with an older sibling up to the age of eight years will be recruited. Families will be selected to include 100 five-year-olds from single-parent families and 100 children from two-parent families.

Methods: Parents' involvement in child-care will be measured to assess their gender-role behaviour, and the traditionality of their attitudes towards the other sex will also be assessed. Parents will complete a measure assessing their children's gender-role behaviour. During home visits, measures of gender-related attitudes, preference and stereotype flexibility will be administered to each sibling individually.

Results: Multivariate analyses of variance will examine group differences in the five-year-olds' gender-typing (for fathers and mothers, between family types, and siblings of the same or other sex). Multiple regression analyses will examine the relations between measures of the five-year-olds' gender-typing (dependent variables) and parents' and siblings' measures (predictor variables).

Conclusions: The findings will contribute to our understanding of the role that brothers and sisters play in the gender development of their younger siblings, the contribution of parental factors to young children's gender-typing and how these interact with family structure.

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Sexuality and sexual health – Peer education

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Objective: To evaluate the impact of community-based peer-led HIV prevention initiatives among gay men in Glasgow and London.

Design: Controlled trial.

Methods: Employing a diffusion of innovation model, peer-led HIV prevention programmes were developed for gay men in bars in Glasgow and gyms in central London. Both interventions focused on sexual risk behaviour and HIV testing, the uptake of sexual health services (Glasgow) and steroid-injecting behaviour (London). Data were collected by means of self administered questionnaires distributed at baseline and follow up.

Results: In Glasgow (intervention city) and Edinburgh (control city), 2276 men participated at baseline (1996) and 2498 at outcome (1999). The intervention did not produce community-wide changes in sexual health behaviours. The only significant intervention effects were amongst men who had direct contact with the intervention, with higher uptake of Hepatitis B vaccination and HIV testing. In London, between baseline and 18 month follow up, the proportion of men ($n = 1000$) reporting high risk sexual behaviour remained constant (14 per cent) while there was an increase from 73 per cent to 79 per cent in the proportion ever-tested for HIV. No significant differences were found between intervention and control gyms in the rate of change of any of these outcome variables at follow up.

Application of results: Peer education was not an effective tool for sexual behaviour change among gay men in bars in Glasgow or central London gyms. Peer education for safer sex may be inappropriate for UK gay men at this stage of the HIV epidemic.

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New technology and writing: The effects of using voice recognition software

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Objectives: Previous studies of the effects of using new technology on writing have had mixed results. Some studies have claimed that although the methods of writing are different, this has little effect on the resulting text. Others have disputed this. The aim of this study was to assess whether or not using voice recognition software would change the nature of one experienced writer's writing style.

Design: Opportunistic 'before' and 'after' study of the effects of using voice recognition software on academic correspondence.

Method: 14 typed word-processed letters from ES to JH were compared with 14 dictated word-processed letters written by ES after he had changed to using Dragon Naturally Speaking. The present authors compared, amongst other things, average sentence lengths, Flesch Reading Ease scores, numbers of long sentences, typographical and grammatical errors, the use of specific vocabulary, and the author's comments on the experience.

Results: There were no significant differences between the average letter lengths, numbers of paragraphs written and number of sentences used. Nor were there any significant differences in terms of readability, or typographical and grammatical errors. However, the dictated letters had significantly shorter sentences generally, and significantly fewer particularly long sentences (i.e. more than 50 words). The dictated letters also used the first-person pronoun more frequently.

Conclusions: The new technology thus had some effects upon the written products but the greatest effects lay in the changes in the method of writing experienced by the writer.

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Risk-taking and sensation-seeking: A comparison of police drivers and non-police drivers

T HEFFERNAN, & P PIMM, University of Northumbria

Objective: There is a general perception that professional police drivers, e.g. those, who drive in 'pursuit' scenarios, engage in greater 'risk-taking' behaviour than the norm. Accidents involving police cars has become a contentious issue after a series of well-publicised cases of accidents (e.g. Hattenstone, 2000). Since there is no systematic research in the UK that has assessed risk-taking in police drivers, the aim of the present preliminary study was to compare professional police drivers with non-police drivers on risk-taking indices.

Design: A between-subjects design was used, with three groups of 'driver type', comprising: 57 professional police drivers (e.g. those who are 'pursuit' drivers), 50 professional public drivers (e.g. cab drivers), and 46 non-professional public drivers (e.g. those who merely drive to work). The participants were aged between 22 and 55-years-old. A risk-taking inventory was used as the dependent measure.

Results: Public non-professional drivers scored significantly higher on the risk-taking inventory than both public professional and police professional drivers, with no difference between the latter two groups. This indicates higher risk-taking behaviour in the non-professional public drivers.

Conclusions: The findings suggest that professional police drivers do not differ in terms of their risk-taking behaviour from professional non-police drivers, and engage in less risk-taking behaviour than non-professional public drivers. Thus, the 'myth' that police drivers are 'risk-takers' is not supported by the present findings.

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Self-rated prospective memory impairments associated with excessive alcohol use

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Objective: Chronic, heavy alcohol use has a detrimental effect on retrospective memory. Less is known about its putative effects on everyday memory. This study looked at self-ratings of everyday prospective memory (PM) (memory for future events) in those who ingest amounts of alcohol that exceed those recommended by Government health guidelines, as compared to a low-dose/alcohol-free group.

Design: A between-subjects design was used. Forty-four high-dose alcohol individuals (ingesting significantly above the weekly 21 units for females/28 units for males, as recommended by Government health guidelines) were compared with 55 low-dose/no-alcohol individuals. The alcohol users had reported consuming such amounts over a long period of time. The groups were compared on the Prospective Memory Questionnaire (Hannon *et al.*, 1995) which measures long-term, short-term, and internally-cued, prospective memory (PM), as well as the number of strategies used to aid remembering. Other drug use per week was also assessed.

Results: A series of ANCOVAs revealed that the high-dose alcohol group reported significantly more errors in their short-term and internally-cued PM, with no significant difference between the groups in terms of their long-term PM, nor in terms of the number of strategies used. These results were observed after controlling for other drug use.

Conclusions: The pattern of results suggests that persistent high-dose ingestion of alcohol impairs prospective memory functioning. The findings are explicable in terms of high doses of alcohol interfering with the storage and/or retrieval processes associated with prospective memory.

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Self-rated prospective memory impairments in teenage alcohol users: Some preliminary findings

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Objective: Persistent, heavy alcohol use in adults has a detrimental effect on retrospective memory (Bachara *et al.*, 2001), as well as memory within an everyday context (Knight & Godfrey, 1985). Less is known about its effects on memory in adolescents. The Present study looked at self-ratings of everyday prospective memory (PM) (memory for future events) in teenagers who ingest amounts of alcohol in excess of the recommended limits suggested by Government health guidelines, as compared to a low-dose/alcohol-free teenage group.

Design: A between-subjects design will be used. Two groups of 16 to 18-year-olds were studied. A high-dose alcohol group, defined here as those ingesting significantly above the weekly 21 units for females/28 units for males recommended by Government health guidelines, and a low-dose/no-alcohol group will be compared. Other drug use will also be recorded. The Prospective Memory Questionnaire (Hannon *et al.*, 1995) will be used as the main dependent measure. The PMQ measures long-term, short-term, and internally-cued, prospective memory (PM), and the number of strategies used to aid memory.

Results: Results will be presented at the conference itself.

Conclusions: The pattern of results that emerge from the study will be discussed in relation to putative effects of alcohol use on memorial systems in adolescents, as well as potential biological mechanisms.

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New methods – new results? Behaviour genetics and the Big Five in a combined twin and family study

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Objective: This paper presents behaviour genetic analyses for the Big Five personality factors based on a combination of a twin and family study.

Design: The design provides a variety of nature-nurture combinations (MZ, DZ, Siblings, Parent-Child, Midparent-Child, Aunt/Uncle-Niece/Nephew, Child-MZ of parent, Cousins, genetic Half-Siblings (Cousins in MZ families)). It offers additional estimates of the shared environment (comparing parents and children v children and MZ twin of parent). It allows differentiation between non-additive genetic effects by providing information from relatives who share dominance effects (e.g. siblings) with relatives who don't (e.g. parent-children) and differentiation between effects of the shared environment by estimating effects of the sibling environment independently from effects children share with their parents.

Method: The study is based on ratings of over 1000 family members for Extraversion, Neuroticism, Openness to experience / Intellect, Agreeableness and Conscientiousness.

Results & Conclusion: Applying usual ACE models, genetic effects explain 25 per cent (Extraversion) to 52 per cent (Openness), shared environmental effects 0 (Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness) to seven per cent (Openness) and specific environment effects 41 per cent (Openness) to 75 per cent (Extraversion) of the variance. However, taking non-additive genetic effects into account describes the data for Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness and Conscientiousness significantly better. Separate estimates for shared environment effects for siblings and for children and their parents revealed that the parent-child environment explained a substantial part of the variance for neuroticism, extraversion and conscientiousness. Rater bias effects are discussed as an alternative explanation of the data.

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Intergroup contact: Panacea for prejudice?

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Purpose: To evaluate and present new evidence concerning the 'contact hypothesis', the idea that we can reduce prejudice and improve intergroup relations by bringing together members of different groups under specific conditions.

Background: I explore the assumptions underlying the contact hypothesis, and review the evidence for it based on the most recent meta-analysis and a comprehensive narrative review of the literature. I also argue for a more comprehensive set of outcome measures than simply 'out-group attitudes'.

Key Points: I then argue for an approach that is based on both intergroup and interpersonal relations, and that concentrates on both moderational and mediational evidence that better explains when and how contact works most effectively. I illustrate these points by drawing on my own work that has explored: (a) mediation of the effect of contact on outcomes by affective measures, especially reduced intergroup anxiety; and (b) moderation of the effects of contact by the salience of group categorisation during contact (contact is more effective when salience is high vs low). I illustrate with reference to studies on diverse social groups, including Hindus and Muslims in Bangladesh, straight people's views of gays, Italians' views of immigrants, and Catholic-Protestant perceptions in Northern Ireland.

Conclusions: Intergroup contact can be an effective means of reducing prejudice, but is not a panacea. It is most effective when it draws on the psychology of interpersonal relations to optimise social interaction between members

from different groups, and on the psychology of intergroup relations to optimise generalisation from contact with one or two out-group members to views of the out-group in general.

Intergroup conflict: Some causes and 'cures' of inter-group bias

M HEWSTONE, Oxford University

Inter-group conflict is a major global problem, involving a variety of phenomena and multiple determinants. But there are still certain types of conflict, and aspects of conflict, that social psychology is well suited to address. A core aspect of inter-group conflict is inter-group bias: unreasonable or unjustifiable instances of favouring the in-group over the out-group. Forms of inter-group bias range from prejudice and discrimination to ethnic cleansing and genocide. To understand this kind of conflict we have to understand 'us' and 'them' thinking (e.g. Tajfel, 1981) and what Brewer (1997) has called the 'in-group/out-group' schema (inter-group accentuation, in-group favouritism, and social competition). In this paper I review some classic and contemporary theories of inter-group bias; the nature of inter-group bias (in-group favouritism vs out-group derogation), and when in-group love becomes out-group hate. I also consider what is involved when we move from inter-group bias to more dramatic collective phenomena such as ethnic cleansing and genocide, and argue that these topics should be studied by social psychologists, but rarely have been. Finally, this paper looks briefly at interventions that hold out promise for reducing inter-group conflict, focusing on inter-group contact and models of social categorisation, and problems posed for these approaches by real-world outbreaks of conflict, as in former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

Behaviour and perceptions of luck concerning the United Kingdom National Lottery

E HILL, Bolton Institute

Objectives: To illustrate how people of different gambling status play the lottery, and their beliefs in luck relative to the game.

Design: Various tasks and a questionnaire were used to investigate people's behaviour when playing the lottery, and their perceptions regarding the influence of luck.

Methods: 124 adults classified as either social, rational, persistent or non-gamblers took part. In two hypothetical scenarios involving gambling when the lottery draw is a regular draw and when it is a rollover, participants were asked how much they would spend on various forms of gambling should they have a limited amount of money. They were then required to indicate the methods they would use to buy any lottery tickets, and asked how they would explain any wins.

Results: One-way ANOVAs indicated persistent gamblers would spend the most money on the lottery, and rational and non-gamblers would spend the least. For lottery tickets regular lottery players favoured numbers of special significance whereas those who buy just the occasional ticket preferred to choose their own random combinations. A Kruskal-Wallis analysis of variance found those who rarely play believed a win was mostly due to chance, whereas regular players perceived other factors, in particular personal luck, to be more involved.

Conclusion: Unlike other gamblers rational gamblers prefer games of skill and avoid the lottery. It is clear that a belief in luck plays an important role in maintaining lottery gambling. eh1res@bolton.ac.uk

'We've had a good innings': Sexual health and the ageing self

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Objective: This paper will explore the ways in which age can mediate the impact of sexual health problems on sense of self.

Design: Qualitative interviews were conducted to allow for an in-depth and sensitive exploration of sexual health issues and to ensure that the

perspectives of the participants emerged. These were supplemented by physical and mental health data, collected via quality of life questionnaire.

Method: 66 participants were identified from patients on the age/sex register of a General Practice in Sheffield. Sampling was purposeful, and the following selection criteria were used: age 30–49; age 50–69; age 70 and above (with each age group stratified by gender and marital status). Data were collected using individual interviews and WHOQOL-100

Results: Interview data were analysed using the 'Framework' approach (NCSR), and the following findings emerged. Sexual relationships were perceived by most participants to contribute to quality of life, though specific barriers to engaging in sexual activities were often experienced; these barriers differed with regard to age, where older participants reported physical conditions of a long-lasting nature and younger participants experienced more shorter-term problems; the effect these had on the sufferer varied with age, for instance some problems were perceived by older participants to be age-related and were accepted as such, thereby limiting impact on sense of self.

Conclusions: The findings will support policy development in meeting the sexual health needs of older people, and will help determine the development of a research agenda in this field by indicating where further work is needed.

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Identifying planar-rotated objects: Effects of category and presentation order

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Objectives: The effects of object category and presentation order on the identification of planar-rotated objects were investigated. In support of dual-route accounts of object recognition, it was predicted that naming latencies would reflect a change in strategy from feature extraction of invariant properties to orientation-invariant identification due to object familiarity.

Design: Two 4x4 related factorial experiments were conducted which employed colour photograph stimuli from four object categories. Each object was presented at four angles of orientation (0, 45, 90 and 135 degrees). In experiment 1, presentation of stimuli was fixed by order of presentation and randomised by object, moving from the furthest orientation of 135 degrees toward the canonical position. For experiment 2, object presentation began at the canonical position and moved away at 45 degree angles to 135 degrees.

Method: 24 participants took part in each experiment. Response latencies to object identification were recorded as the dependent measure.

Results: Main effects were reported for both category and orientation in both experiments. No category x orientation interactions were significant. Across both studies, no significant differences in response times were reported as a function of presentation order, indicating that naming latencies remained consistent independently of the objects' orientation.

Conclusion: This pattern of results supports viewpoint-invariant identification at a basic naming level. Familiarity of stimuli in the present experiments elicited faster response times, independent of orientation, than response latencies for an object's initial presentation. The implications of these findings for current theories of viewpoint-dependence in object recognition are discussed.

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Predicting and explaining the intention to sign an organ donor card

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Objectives: This paper examines the decision to sign an organ donor card or join the NHS Organ Donor Register within the theoretical framework of the Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA). The assumptions that underpin the TRA have been

questioned, with suggestions of potentially useful additional constructs that may increase the model's predictive and explanatory powers over and above those provided by attitude and subjective norm. Accordingly, Perceived Behavioural Control, Moral Obligation, Affect and a measure of Belief Importance were tested here in an expanded model of the TRA. The expanded model was assessed within the context of gender differences since women are twice as likely as men to sign an organ donor card /join the NHS Organ Donor Register.

Design: A two-stage research design was followed which utilised 'elicitation' stage and 'main' stage questionnaires.

Method: Stratified by occupational classification, a total of 356 members of the general public of the North West of England provided useable data. One-hundred-and-ninety were female and 166 were male. Two separate sub-samples completed stage one (n = 100) and stage two (n = 256) questionnaires.

Results:

1. Affect and moral obligation increased the prediction of intention beyond that explained by the basic TRA.
2. The predictive power of the various constructs differed between males and females.
3. A measure of belief importance in the expectancy-value measure of attitude improved the prediction of both intent and the direct measure of attitude.

Conclusions: The expanded model with resultant conceptual and applied implications affords improved predictive and explanatory power. ch4@bolton.ac.uk

Environment and identity in later life: A cross-setting study

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Objectives: The paper describes on-going empirical research on the significance of home and neighbourhood in supporting senses of identity as people age.

Design: The study has involved both group discussions and individual interviews with older people living in a range of domestic and institutional environments, in three areas (city, town, and village).

Methods: Initial discussions with ten groups of people (male, female, and mixed; ethnically selective and mixed) produced key issues for discussion with individuals. Individual interviews allowed the interviewer/interviewee to address these issues using a specific discussion 'wheel' designed for the study. Interviews also included biographical elements, geographic work, NEO inventory, and semi-structured questioning.

Results: The paper will present the work at the analysis stage (fieldwork having been completed).

Conclusions: The paper will present some methodological findings about the use of the group work to refine the interview schedules, and the use of a 'open' interview technique, in this case the 'wheel'. It will also present initial findings from the analysis of both the group discussions and the interviews. These will include elements relating to:

- self-identity – in terms of embeddedness and the identification which a person has with their homespace;
 - identity in relation to others – those living with you, around you, apart from you;
 - the social environment which allows most people to locate themselves relative to other people;
 - group identities – identifications with particular locales and neighbourhoods; being of a particular age, gender, culture.
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The Hopkins Verbal Learning Test: Can it distinguish between dementing and non-dementing patients?

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Objective: The Hopkins Verbal Learning Test (HVLT: Brandt, 1991) was designed in the USA,

in an attempt to offer a brief, clinical memory test that could be used to carry out repeat assessments of the same person over time. has suggested that the HVLT can be used as an alternative to the Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE: Folstein *et al.*, 1975), the advantage of the HVLT over the MMSE being that there are six equivalent forms to aid retest. The current investigation is concerned with examining the use of the HVLT with older adults from a UK population.

Design: A between subjects designs was employed. Participants were randomly allocated to one of the six versions.

Method: Data was collected from 216 volunteers and 396 patients; patient data was collected from neuropsychological testing within a memory clinic. We sought to confirm whether the different forms were equivalent. We also investigated whether cut-off scores were applicable with our (larger) sample.

Results: In support of Brandt (1991) no significant differences were found between the six forms of the HVLT. However, scores indicating sensitivity and specificity conflicted with Brandt's original findings. Results are discussed in relation to the utilisation of the HVLT within a UK population.

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How iconic gestures and speech interact to represent semantic information in talk

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Objectives: The study investigated a core aspect of human communication, namely how the linguistic and the gestural systems interact in the representation of information relating to a range of core semantic features in talk.

Design & Method: 38 participants were asked to narrate cartoon stories while they were being filmed. To create a situation similar to natural face-to-face conversation, the cartoon stories were projected onto the wall so that the experimenter could not see them, and each participant was asked to narrate the stories as to someone that does not know the content of the stories, while the experimenter interacted verbally with the participant.

Results: From the video-recorded material, six semantic events were selected, of which each was referred to verbally and accompanied by an iconic gesture by an average of 10 participants. Subsequently, the 58 iconic gestures and speech extracts were analysed with regard to semantic information that was not represented, information that was ambiguously represented and information that was clearly represented according to 22 detailed semantic categories.

Conclusions: The study found that the way in which the linguistic and the gestural systems interact seems to be more multifaceted than previously assumed, since some semantic features were found to be represented by both communicational channels, whereas others were represented almost exclusively by iconic gestures but not by speech and others predominantly by speech but not gesturally.

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Force-modified imagery and temporal functional equivalence in basketball and golf

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Objectives: To empirically test the force manipulation element of Holmes and Collins' (2001) functional equivalence approach to motor imagery.

Design: A repeated measures design examining the effect of force manipulation on the timing of motor imagery generation by varying the hypothesised functional equivalence between the behaviour in physical task condition and that of motor imagery.

Method 1: 12 National University League basketball players participated in the first study. Participants performed a basketball free-throw in physical practice conditions and in either a

traditional imagery condition or a force-modified condition.

Result 1: A 2x2 mixed factorial ANOVA showed significantly greater temporal variance between the physical and traditional imagery conditions. In contrast, there was no significant difference between the physical and force-modified conditions.

Method 2: In study two, force-modified imagery was extended. Twenty County-standard golfers performed their normal seven-iron golf swing in physical and four different force-modified imagery conditions.

Result 2: ANOVA and post-hoc Tukey HSD tests revealed significant temporal differences between the physical and imagery conditions and within the four imagery conditions. The hypothesised change in timing for the different functional equivalent imagery groups was seen in part in the timing data and also in consistency through standard deviation scores.

Conclusions: The results suggest that force manipulation has a significant effect on the temporal nature of motor imagery. However, there may not be a simple linear relationship between the two. Functional equivalence is highly individualised. Whilst postural afference was important to some, others found the haptic and force afference provided by the equipment to be of more use.

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Are children more willing to say 'don't know' to unanswerable questions after a delay?

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Objectives: Our previous research has shown that when young children are asked unanswerable questions that prompt yes/no responses they will often attempt to answer rather than say 'don't know'. In our previous studies children were questioned about an event immediately after that event. In the present study there was a delay between the event and the questioning. We predicted that after a delay children would be more likely to say 'don't know' to unanswerable yes/no questions.

Design: 48 five-year-olds and 42 eight-year-olds took part in an event. Half the children were questioned about the event immediately after, and half were questioned a week later. Half the questions were unanswerable (i.e. children did not have sufficient information from the event to answer). Half the unanswerable questions were phrased in open (wh-) format and half were closed format (i.e. implied a yes/no response).

Results: Irrespective of delay, children's response to unanswerable open questions were generally correct (i.e. they said 'don't know'), but responses to unanswerable closed questions were usually incorrect (i.e. children wrongly responded yes or no). Contrary to our prediction children were no more likely to say 'don't know' after a delay.

Conclusions: These results extend previous findings by showing that children try to give a response to unanswerable questions even when there is a delay before they are questioned. In other words the finding is robust, and it has major implications for interviewing children in forensic contexts. If interviewers use closed questions they are likely to prompt children to give a response even when the child does not know the answer to the question.

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Sleep need, daytime sleepiness and human ageing

J HORNE, Loughborough University

While the seriousness of sleep apnoea and periodic leg movements in later life is now established in the clinical literature, the personal and clinical implications of insomnia in elderly people is less clearly understood. One hypothesis, however, is that many older people do not realise that their sleep problem may simply reflect the natural ageing of sleep and circadian rhythms. Reviewing the current evidence this presentation examines late-life

insomnia in relation to daytime sleepiness and sleep state misperception, and considers the proposition that, when accompanied by 'good wakefulness', dissatisfaction with sleep quality may indicate an unrealistic attempt to maintain 'good sleep'.

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The experiences of evacuee hosts during the Second World War

N HUNT, Nottingham Trent University

Objectives: The main objective of the poster is to examine the psychological impact of being an evacuee host during the Second World War. Evacuees were sent to a range of reception areas around the UK, and were billeted in other people's houses. There has been a lot of research into the effects of evacuation on evacuees themselves but none on those who acted as their hosts.

Design: This is a two-part study. The first stage is a questionnaire to be completed by evacuee hosts detailing their experiences of evacuees during the war. The questions relate to both short-term and long-term effects. The second phase is a series of interviews with hosts, to explore the issues in more depth.

Methods: Participants were selected via evacuee organisations and by letters in local newspapers across the UK. 150 participants have replied to this and completed a questionnaire.

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The experiences of veterans: War and remembrance

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Objectives: The study examined the longer term psychological consequences of war experiences among a group of veterans of the Second World War and the post-colonial wars of the 1940s and 1950s. The study examined the impact of age, wartime experience, and coping strategies in dealing with psychological distress. The study follows up previous research in the area.

Design: Data was collected via questionnaire and written accounts of experiences. The questionnaire enabled conclusions to be drawn regarding the particular problems experienced by veterans, and the written materials provided detailed and personal accounts of events.

Methods: 150 veterans of wars of the 1940s and 1950s were obtained by publishing letters in local newspapers around the UK, and by contacting veterans associations. The questionnaire contained standard measures of combat experience, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other psychological consequences, and biographical details of personal and wartime experiences. Accounts were requested that contained details of personal wartime experiences.

Results: Analysis is still in progress. The questionnaire was analysed using multiple regression and ANOVA. The findings indicate that a significant proportion of ageing veterans have some psychological problems associated with their wartime experiences.

Conclusions: The findings support previous research which indicates that ageing veterans can have serious long-term psychological problems associated with their wartime memories. The population which fought in wars in the 1950s are now retiring or reaching retirement age so it is likely that there will be increasing trauma-related problems in this group.

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When the red light goes on: impression management in television presenters

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Objectives: Eight national and five regional television presenters were interviewed to ascertain their awareness, and use of, image management techniques; in reference to Goffman's (1990) dramaturgical model of the self. Design: The rationale behind this study is the assumption that TV presenters are actively

enhancing their personas on-screen to increase their audience appeal and success. This is based on the idea that the perception of self is fluid and constructed in a social environment through language and behaviour. It is this fluidity that enables the active management of an image, to suit a general understanding of a role that is to be played in a frontstage social context. This presenter role is one that encompasses bright, lively, congenial, and interesting personal characteristics that are endearing to a majority of the audience. In reference to Goffman (1990) this includes the suppression or accentuation of behaviour. In television there is a definite distinction between frontstage (on-screen) and backstage (off-screen) events, therefore the question addressed is whether this obvious disparity between on and off-screen, supports the idea of image management as postulated by Goffman (1990).

Methods: This was a qualitative study of individuals working in a social environment, where their relationship with an audience is paramount to the success of the individual and the programme they are fronting. Television presenters actively use verbal and non verbal communication to construct para-social relationships with viewers and often find themselves engaged in interview situations. Therefore, discourse analysis of semi structured interviews with the participants, was deemed the most appropriate approach for this study.

Results: The qualitative findings suggest a possible differentiation between experienced and non-experienced presenters. The latter (novices) tend to construct and act out an image of their perceived role as television presenter where as, the more experienced presenter (expert) delivers a more natural image through a system of context related attenuation. This serves to accentuate the best parts of their personality (those that are socially attractive) and filter out the inappropriate (socially unattractive).

Conclusion: These findings support Goffman's idea of impression management and the concepts of a frontstage and backstage image. A model of presenter naturalisation is proposed to represent the experiential development of television presenters and future avenues of research are discussed.

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Differential coping between IVF and non-IVF male patients

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Objectives: The literature is equivocal regarding male factor sub-fertility and its associated psychological sequelae, due to the heterogeneous samples reviewed. This study aimed to investigate differences in coping with unwanted childlessness between males attending a general sub-fertility clinic (ACU), and those attending for IVF.

Design: The study utilises a four group between-subjects comparison, of males attending the general ACU, and those attending for IVF, whilst controlling for their diagnoses.

Methods: 99 male patients referred for sub-fertility investigations and treatment were recruited (n = 50 IVF; n = 49 ACU). Participants were allocated to fertility condition (using WHO criteria) based upon their semen profiles (Group A = IVF patient-abnormal profile; B = IVF-normal; C = ACU-abnormal; D = ACU-normal). Participants were matched demographically, and completed the Meaning of Parenthood Scale, Perceived Stress Questionnaire and Stress Coping Inventory, in relation to their unwanted childlessness.

Results: IVF participants had tried to conceive for significantly longer than general ACU clinic attendees ($Z = -5.38, n = 96, p < 0.001$). All participants placed similar importance on the Meaning of Parenthood ($F_{394} = 0.26, p > 0.05$), and reported similar levels of stress ($F_{394} = 0.83, p > 0.05$). Multivariate analysis revealed coping with unwanted childlessness differed across the groups ($F_{390} = 3.85, p < 0.05$), with

Group A employing more coping efforts than Groups C and D.

Conclusions: Group A used more avoidant coping behaviours than their counterparts, which are unlikely to mitigate their distress in the long-term. This differential coping is an indication of the unique salience afforded to the sub-fertile state by Group A.

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Four-year follow-up of treatment of children with severe behaviour problems

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Objectives: To compare two treatments for children with severe behaviour problems. A six-month follow-up has been previously reported. This paper reports on the four-year follow-up data.

Design: Parents of 42 children referred to a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), for treatment for severe conduct disorder, participated in a research evaluation of their children's treatment. Treatment involved restricted random allocation to two groups, standard CAMHS treatment or a more structured and intensive behavioural intervention. Both treatments mainly involved management advice to parents. The intensive treatment also included video observation and guided practice.

Methods: A number of parent and child behaviour measures, including measures of parental mental health and child IQ, were taken at baseline, at six-month follow-up and again at four-years post-treatment.

Conclusions: At six months both groups had shown improvement and, although outcomes were better on all measures for the intensive treatment group, most of these differences were not significant. Preliminary results of the four-year follow-up demonstrated that treatment gains found at the six-month post intervention follow-up have been maintained for the intensive group, but not for the standard treatment group. The majority of the intensive group means are now below the clinical cut-off, whereas the standard means remain about this level. The difference between initial and four-year follow-up measures of child behaviour are significant for the intensive group only. Over a recent six-month period, children in the standard treatment group on average received family support, such as Disability Living Allowance and social care, costing £1244.02. This was over twice the cost of services received by the intensive group who on average received £569.18, over the same period. The cost of health care was also higher for the standard group, an average of £71.69 compared to £57.45 for the intensive group although this was far less than the cost to social welfare agencies. It would appear that now, by average age 10, the costs of these children have fallen predominantly to social welfare agencies rather than the health service.

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Combining social categorisations: Congruence and emergent attributes

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Objectives: In an increasingly multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, and multi-racial world old boundaries and distinctions are beginning to give way to more complex conceptualisations of identity. Perceiving the social categories to which people belong is no longer a zero-sum affair – there can be multiple, cross-cutting, and conjunctive bases for membership and correspondingly complex mental representations of such inter-group relations. The aim of the present research was to investigate, in detail, when and how distinct new stereotypes, featuring emergent attributes (Kunda, Dale, Miller & Claire, 1990), are formed.

Design: Participants were allocated to a 2 (congruence: congruent vs. incongruent) x 2 (categorisation: constituent vs. composite) between-subjects design.

Method: Participants (n = 80) were required to generate attributes for either constituent (single

category) descriptions or composite (combined category) descriptions. The categories could be congruent combinations (e.g. working class and bricklayer) or incongruent combinations (e.g. working class and art critic).

Results: Analysis of the generated attributes for each of the constituent or combined categorisations suggested that 'online' emergence of novel stereotypical attributes varied as a function of congruence.

Conclusion: Incongruent social categorical combinations appear to present the perceiver with a dilemma, i.e. how to categorise the target person. This dilemma may be resolved through the use of an 'on line' causal reasoning process leading to new emergent attributes, independent of their original constituent categories. Repercussions for the reduction of inter-group bias and the creation of new stereotypes are discussed.

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Well-being of police personnel following the Paddington rail crash

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Objectives: To examine the effects of the Paddington rail crash upon staff of a police service involved in the emergency response in terms of trauma/stress. To identify mediating factors thereby informing major incident planning.

Design: Postal questionnaire survey of staff involved in the incident, sent 12 months after the crash.

Method: 651 staff were identified by the police service as being involved in the incident. These were sent a questionnaire comprising the GHQ-12, Foa *et al.*'s (1993) measure of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and measures of involvement and prior training designed to be relevant to this incident. 306 questionnaires (47 per cent) were returned.

Results: 13 per cent scored above threshold stress and 6 per cent met conservative criterion for PTSD. Staff with greater involvement reported higher PTSD symptoms ($\rho = .41, p < .001$). Those involved in gruesome tasks (e.g. body handling) reported lower PTSD symptoms if they had prior specific training ($t = -3.27, p < .005$). Previous experiences of trauma and psychological distress were associated with higher PTSD symptoms. The longer staff worked continuously at the scene, the higher their PTSD scores ($r = .17, p < .01$), with a sharp increase in PTSD cases among those working longer than 12 hours.

Conclusions: Prevalence of PTSD/stress was low among this sample compared to studies of other emergency service personnel after traumatic events. Prior training/preparation appear important in minimising stress/trauma symptoms among staff. Implications for future planning include: screening to identify staff at risk, appropriate training/management of those undertaking gruesome tasks, limits on time worked during incidents.

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Fear of crime: An analysis of concepts and measures

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This paper reports on an empirical examination of the conceptual and methodological underpinnings of survey research into the fear of crime (e.g. the British Crime Survey). The study took a psychological perspective, analysing the building blocks of enquiry into a topic that has been largely sociological or criminological in character. Numerous criticisms have been raised in this literature about the validity and reliability of standard measures and conceptual clarity. But only one study has empirically assessed how this construct has been conceptualised and operationalised. The research reported on here builds upon this. The paper draws on data from two complementary studies. The first used in-depth interviews (n = 24) combining cognitive question testing procedures with open-ended discussion. The second involved a postal survey (n = 1200) that employed techniques that included experimental rotation of question wording and response alternatives. The analysis

focused on three aspects of three sets of measures (perceptions of safety, worries about becoming a victim of crime, and estimates of the likelihood of victimisation). Firstly, the ways in which respondents understood central concepts. Secondly, the meaning and adequacy of response alternatives. Finally, the ease with which respondents carried out the tasks these questions request of them. The paper concludes with some discussion about the limitations and implications of the study. In particular, two applied/policy issues are discussed. Firstly, these findings suggest ways of more accurately interpreting data from national and local surveys. Secondly, they suggest possible avenues for conceptual and methodological development through the application of psychological theory.

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An investigation into priming effects in mental imagery and perception using Pavio's Mental Clock Task

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Objectives: Two studies investigated positive and negative priming during presentation of imagery and perceptual versions of Pavio's (1978) mental clock task.

Design: Both studies employed a two-way within-subject design, i.e. Type of Priming (positive priming versus negative priming versus control) by Angle-Size Difference (30° versus 60°). Reaction time (ms) and error scores were recorded to assess priming and equivalence effects.

Methods: 60 students volunteered to take part in the experiments. The first study required 30 participants to make mental comparisons about clock couplets following positive, negative, and control presentations. Ninety-six trials were presented and harmonic means were used to derive reaction time scores. The second experiment employed a mental imagery version of the task.

Results: In the first experiment analyses of prime-control scores (using ANOVAs and t-tests) showed main and interaction effects. These were qualified through the findings that participants performed significantly faster following positive priming and significantly slower during negative priming during the 60° comparison condition. The negative priming effect was not found in the 30° comparison task. Analyses of error scores supported these findings. The second study yielded equivalent significant main and interaction effects for the prime and angle size variables. Further analyses of the error scores supported the reaction times scores.

Conclusions: These findings are discussed in the context of bottom-up versus top-down models of processing (Houghton & Tipper, 1994; McDonald, Joordens & Seergobin, 1999). Tentative support for perceptual equivalence models of mental imagery is also reviewed (e.g. Finke, 1985).

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Predictors of soldier retention in the British Army

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Objectives: The objective of this aspect of the research was to determine the key factors that predicted retention of Army personnel from existing data collected by the Army's Continuous Attitude Survey.

Design: Anonymous self-completion questionnaires were administered by post to the work address. This approach was taken because the target population is located throughout the UK and to ensure respondents' privacy and anonymity during completion.

Method: A four per cent stratified random sample of the Army population was generated from the Army pay database. The sample size was based on the number required per cell for intended statistical analyses. There was an overall response rate of 57 per cent.

Results: Direct-entry Discriminant Function Analysis (DFA) was carried out to establish if

there was any relationship between previously validated indices and soldier retention. The strongest predictor of retention was well-being. Further analysis was conducted to determine which indices correlated with well-being. The strongest correlates were: Management, Job Autonomy, Career Development, Promotion Prospects, Impact on Personal and Domestic Life, and Job Turbulence. The weakest correlates were: Tours and Postings, Social Facilities, Dining, Healthcare, and Independent Lifestyle. **Conclusions:** In policy terms, the more challenging aspects of organisational development are the areas that influence retention. Recent focus has been on improving the infrastructure of the organisation such as social facilities and dining facilities. A reassessment of personnel strategy should place higher emphasis on supporting the 'softer' areas of organisational function.

Neuropsychological development of children with specific language impairment: Intellectual abilities, memory functions and educational attainments

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Objectives: The main aims of the study were to:

1. Try to identify which genes may be involved in language impairment in children with SLI;
2. Identify concomitant cognitive and literacy deficits in a group of children with SLI defined by ICD10 criteria;
3. Examine if there is a memory impairment in SLI.

Methods: We report on results of the neuropsychological assessment of 95 school age children with SLI, selected from 45 families with two or more children with SLI. Testing included measures of intelligence, WISC-III, language skills, CELF-R; educational attainments, WORD and WOND; and memory functions, WRAML.

Results: Preliminary results suggest that:

- Children with SLI form a heterogeneous group, which is in keeping with previous research findings;
- The discrepancy between VIQ and PIQ does not identify SLI;
- Results of the WRAML suggest normal learning ability through repetition and over-learning, though auditory short-term memory is very restricted;
- Despite the severity of their language disorder, a large proportion of this group performs well on standardised tests of literacy and numeracy.

Conclusions: These results are discussed in terms of identifying reliable measures to define and classify SLI, since the widely used definition based on a discrepancy between Verbal and Performance IQ is not a good predictor of SLI. The findings are discussed in terms of identifying predictors of good outcome of literacy and numeracy skills among children with SLI. leila.jannoun@kcl.ac.uk

'We're all Individuals': Group norms of individualism and collectivism, levels of identification, and identity threat

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Objectives: The aim of the present research was to investigate the power of group norms of individualism and collectivism to guide self-definition and group behaviour for people with low and high levels of group identification.

Design: Three studies were conducted in which the influence of individualism and collectivism was either assessed by manipulating these concepts in the laboratory, or by relying on pre-existing cultural norms.

Method: Data were collected among university students in the US (66), Indonesia (35), Australia (140), and the Netherlands (261). Measures included perceived collectivism and self-stereotyping.

Results: Study 1 demonstrates that in an individualist culture (US), those who identify

highly with their national identity are more individualist than low identifiers. In contrast, in a collectivist culture (Indonesia) high identifiers are less individualist than low identifiers. Study 2 shows a similar pattern on a self-stereotyping measure: High identifiers are more likely to incorporate salient group norms prescribing individualism or collectivism into their self-concept than low identifiers. Study 3 replicates this effect and shows that high identifiers conform more strongly to group norms, and self-stereotype themselves in line with the salient norm than low identifiers when their group is threatened.

Conclusions: The findings suggest that when there is a group norm of individualism, high identifiers may show individualist behaviour as a result of conformity to salient group norms. r.crisp@bham.ac.uk

Psychological status of women with pre-labour rupture of membranes

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Objectives: To investigate the impact of the management environment on women with pre-labour rupture of membranes (PROM) as assessed by measures of locus of control (LC) orientation and general health perception.

Design: A mixed-group design was used with the Multi-Dimensional Health Locus of Control (MHLC) scale and the General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-12) administered to pregnant PROM women. The cohort was randomised into two clinical management groups, and assessed on three occasions (baseline, 48 hours and 28 days) following initial admission to hospital with PROM.

Methods: 56 women acutely admitted to a maternity unit in Northern England with a confirmed spontaneous PROM were randomised to two environments for a period (48 hours) of expectant management (home or hospital). Questionnaires were administered by hospital-based (baseline and 48 hours) and community-based midwives (28 days).

Results: Women in the home management group scored significantly ($t = 2.19, p < 0.05$) higher on the 'internal' sub-scale of the MHLC than those in the home management condition at the second (48 hours) observation point. No other statistically significant differences were observed on either MHLC sub-scales or GHQ scores.

Conclusions: This study suggests that women with PROM feel more in control when managed in hospital compared to home management 48 hours following admission. The suggestion that women with PROM could be managed satisfactorily at home compared to hospital is not supported when patient-centred psychological factors including internal locus of control and perceived vulnerability are taken into account. cm29@york.ac.uk

Factors associated with client drop-out from NHS psychological therapy

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Objectives: Previous studies investigating client drop-out from National Health Service (NHS) psychology services have often failed to control for statistical multiple-comparisons. The aim of the present research was to establish some of the factors associated with client drop-out in a way that did control for this.

Design & Method: Data was collected from the files of the 200 clients who were seen in an NHS cognitive-behaviour therapy service for adults between its inception, in April 1999, and March 2001. For each client this included: whether they had dropped-out, their age, their gender, their primary presenting problem, whether they had a secondary problem, the distance between their home and the clinic, the inter-session-interval, the treatment location, the referrer's identity, the therapist's identity, the time between referral and the first appointment, and whether they had returned an attendance confirmation form. No other usable information was consistently recorded in the files. Fourteen clients were excluded due to missing data.

Results: Bonferroni corrected, pair-wise comparisons revealed that the clients who dropped-out were significantly younger than those who did not (mean ages: 33.7 and 39.5), and that there were no reliable differences on the other measures. A direct logistic regression analysis demonstrated that 'age' was the only significant predictor of drop-out.

Conclusions: Younger clients were more likely to drop-out from treatment at an NHS cognitive-behaviour therapy service for adults. While further research is needed to establish the reasons for this, this finding does suggest that interventions designed to reduce drop-out should target younger clients.

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The role of cognitive biases on sport performance expectations and anxiety interpretation

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Objectives: The objective of this research was to examine Eysenck's proposal that cognitive biases within high-anxious individuals and repressors lead them to be overly pessimistic or overly optimistic, respectively, regarding future events. The influence of cognitive biases on the directional interpretation of anxiety was also examined.

Design: The performance expectations and state-anxiety (intensity and direction) of sports performers (classified as high-anxious, low-anxious, defensive high-anxious and repressor) were recorded prior to competition.

Methods: Experiment 1: 72 archers completed the Sport Anxiety Scale (Smith et al., 1990) and the Marlowe Crowne-Social Desirability scale (Crowne & Marlowe, 1964). In competition state-anxiety was measured using the Mental Readiness Form (Murphy et al., 1989). Participants' predicted and actual scores were recorded. Experiment 2: Experiment 2 replicated experiment 1 with the exception that pre-competition state-anxiety was measured using a modified version of the Competitive State Anxiety Inventory-2 (Martens et al., 1990). 80 golfers formed the participant base.

Results: Experiment 1: A significant difference was evident in the accuracy of predicted scores between groups, ($p < .05$). Post hoc Scheffé analysis showed significant differences between the repressor and defensive high-anxious groups ($p < .05$; $ES = 0.92$). No significant difference was found between the repressor and low-anxious groups ($p > .05$; $ES = 1.00$). ANOVA analysis showed no significant between-group differences in the directional interpretation of anxiety symptoms. Experiment 2: Data currently being analysed.

Conclusions: Experiment one provided partial support for Eysenck's predictions regarding cognitive biases towards future events. Experiment two further examines the influence of cognitive biases on performance expectations and anxiety symptom interpretation. k.jones@mmu.ac.uk

The impact of prior knowledge on the decisions of football referees

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Objectives: To investigate whether sports officials are more likely to penalise individuals who participate in a team with an aggressive reputation.

Design & Method: In a balanced design 38 football referees were randomly assigned to either an experimental or control group, and were presented with the same 50 video clips of incidents from football games, all involving a team in a blue strip (blue team). Following a pilot study the incidents were categorised into fouls committed both by, and against, the 'blue team', where participants agreed that a foul had been committed (certain incidents), disagreed it was a foul (uncertain incidents), and agreed that there was no foul (innocuous incidents). While both groups received written instructions prior to the task the experimental group were also informed that the 'blue team' present in all of the clips had

a reputation for foul and aggressive play. For each incident participants were required to indicate if they believed a foul had occurred and which of the following actions they would engage in if refereeing the game: (a) issue a red or yellow card; (b) speak to the offender; or (c) take no further action.

Results: The experimental group did award significantly more red and yellow cards against the 'blue team' for the certain incidents. * 2 (1, n = 317) = 7.52, p < .0083. No other significant differences were observed.

Conclusions: Prior knowledge may impact referees' behaviour and these findings are of relevance to other situations where individuals have to make important decisions under time pressure.

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Cognitive motivational relational theory as a framework for emotion in sport and exercise

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Each symposium paper reports on aspects of emotions in sport and exercise, the central and pervasive role of which is underpinned by the various topics and contexts that are addressed. Nevertheless, each paper can be embedded in the Cognitive Motivational Relational theory of emotion recently proposed by Lazarus. The Cognitive Motivational Relational theory is based around the three antecedents of emotional responses: cognition, motivation and relations. This theory of emotion is relational in that emotions are generated from relations between the individual and their environment. It is motivational in the sense that emotions result from the outcomes of these goal-oriented interactions, and cognitive in that resultant emotions derive from an individual's knowledge and appraisal of this environmental encounter, including an assessment of its personal salience. Lazarus suggests that emotions are generated by person-environment relations, but only if the individual has set goals in relation to the encounter and the achievement of these goals carries personal consequences for the individual. These goals influence subsequent appraisal processes; primary appraisal determines if, and which, emotions are generated. Following this, secondary appraisal assesses potential coping strategies, either problem- or emotion-focused. Thus cognition and emotion share a circular relationship; cognition influences emotions and emotions, in turn, influence future cognition and emotions. These, and other, aspects of Cognitive Motivational Relational theory are discussed, both implicitly and explicitly, in the papers presented in this symposium.

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The structure of avoidance following trauma in emergency service personnel

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Objective: The aim of the present study was to investigate the multi-dimensionality of trauma-related avoidance processes in order to examine the relationships between specific types of avoidance and post-traumatic stress symptoms.

Design: Cross-sectional survey.

Method: 485 self-selecting emergency service personnel completed a 44-item self-report measure of avoidance in relation to an identified occupational trauma. Other measures completed were: the Impact of Event Scale; the Post-traumatic Stress Disorder Symptomatology Scale; the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale; and the Crisis Support Scale. Questionnaires were distributed via internal mail within the participating emergency service departments.

Results: Principal components analysis provided evidence for a distinction between controlled and automatic avoidance processes. The emergence of a third factor measuring controlled approach towards trauma material indicated that avoidance

and approach are empirically distinct constructs. Furthermore, post-traumatic avoidance strongly predicted levels of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder symptomatology, whereas there was no relationship between post-traumatic approach and symptom outcome.

Conclusions: This study provides evidence for a distinction between different types of trauma-related avoidance. A longitudinal study is in progress to examine the predictive nature of these different types of avoidance on post-traumatic stress symptoms over time.
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The Coach-Athlete Relationship Questionnaire (CART-Q): Development and initial validation

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Objectives: The purpose of the present study was to develop and validate a self-report instrument that measures coaches' and athletes' relational aspects.

Design: The study included processes recommended and applied by researchers for the development and validation of new instruments. The first part of the study involved item generation, content validity, as well as item and principal component analyses. The latter analyses involved 120 coaches and athletes.

Methods: The principal component analysis revealed three components that reflected relational aspects of coaches' and athletes' Closeness, Commitment, and Complementarity. The second part of the study included confirmatory factor analysis. Confirmatory factor analysis was applied to confirm the multi-dimensionality of the coach-athlete relationship as manifested in the principal component analysis. The responses of 214 coaches and athletes were analysed.

Results: Results indicated that the coach – athlete relationship was best represented in a higher-order model in which the factors of Closeness, Commitment, and Complementarity were subsumed (i.e. Robust Comparative Fit Indexes .96, Non-Normed Fit Index .94, Standardised Root Mean Square Residual .05, Root Mean Square Error of Approximation .09). The internal consistencies of the factors were acceptable (* > .70). The Coach-Athlete Relationship Questionnaire (CART-Q) is a brief, simple-to-use 11-item measure that reflects affective (Closeness), cognitive (Commitment), and behavioural (Complementarity) aspects of the coach – athlete relationship.

Conclusions: The development of the CART-Q provides a means by which researchers could investigate the coach-athlete relationship and promote knowledge in a fertile research area of sport psychology.

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Autistic children and their parents: Facilitating their interaction through play

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Purpose: The main aim of this paper is to present parents of autistic children with ways of interacting with their children using play.

Background: Play has been generally overlooked as a therapeutic method and the limited research on play focuses mainly on its educational use in the treatment of autism. When parents play with their children they take on the role of the educator and teach them joint attention, turn taking, and a variety of skills that are essential for socialisation and communication. The presence of autism usually inhibits parents from playing with their children, maybe because they are not sure how they should play. The standard ways of communicating do not seem to be effective.

Methods: Extensive literature review and experience from working with autistic children and their parents will be used to make suggestions on how a relationship between autistic children and their parents can be established around play.

Conclusion: If parents are shown how to play appropriately with their autistic children, they can form a solid relationship with them. They can help their children generalise the knowledge that they have acquired and help them find productive and effective ways of spending their time at home. Parents can also guide the siblings of their autistic children to play with each other and to function as a family, as a whole. Autistic children can become active members of the family life and participate in many of its functions, once they become more aware of them through play.
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Older drivers: The relationship between raising self-awareness and enhancing safety

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Objectives: An increase in the populations of elderly drivers has been noticed in western societies, accompanied by an increase in their accident rates. On-road risks may be reduced when self-protective behaviours (avoiding driving at night, or at rush hours, or complex traffic environments) are adopted. However, the impact of fading abilities may not be compensated for when elderly drivers are not aware of or are unwilling to admit (e.g. on the absence of alternative transportation) any deterioration of their abilities. The objective of the present study was to explore whether raising the self-awareness of the elderly drivers, by keeping a Driving Diary, would result in the adoption of self-protective driving behaviours. Moreover, the role of other factors was examined: driving exposure and experience, accident involvement, driving-related difficulties /stress, perceived health, the role of significant others, use of public transport.

Design & Method: 221 drivers over 60 years of age took part in this quasi-experiment and completed the Driving Experience Questionnaire. Of those, 61 kept the Driving Diary. Changes in self-reported driving behaviours were assessed by a second Driving Questionnaire.

Results: It was found that, after keeping the Diary, drivers reported less avoidance of driving at rush hours, at night, at complicated junctions, or when feeling sleepy or tired, and less avoidance of parking in busy roads or narrow spaces. However, they reported less stress before they kept the Diary when: manoeuvring, finding unfamiliar traffic signs, driving in a hurry or while having conversations/eating, or when drivers in front of them brake suddenly. In addition, they saw themselves as more skilful than their peers, but in general they described themselves as less confident when driving than they used to be. Regression analysis will be conducted to investigate which factors predict the adoption of self-protective driving behaviours.

Conclusions: The study is in progress, and results will be discussed within the context of various Theoretical Models of Health Behaviour.
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Psycho-social aspects of young pregnant women in urban populations in Sunderland (UK) and Tashkent (Uzbekistan)

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Objectives: To investigate the experience of pregnancy in urban populations in Sunderland (UK) and Tashkent (Uzbekistan).

Subjects: 50 primigravid women from Sunderland and Tashkent aged 18–22 years.

Design: The study involved both quantitative and qualitative methodologies and included the following questionnaires: (1) 'Attitudes towards Pregnancy and the Baby Scale'; (2) 'Social Support Scale'; (3) 'Cambridge Worry Scale'; and (4) 'Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale'. The questionnaires were translated into Russian and back-translated into English. Qualitative methods included semi-structured, in-depth interviews.

Methods: Questionnaires and semi-structured interviews were administered at 12 and 34 weeks of pregnancy. Non-parametric tests have been

utilised for analysis (Mann-Whitney, Wilcoxon Signed Ranks, and Spearman correlation tests).

Results: Quantitative methods revealed that Sunderland women had a significant increase in emotional disturbance than Uzbek women, whose attitudes towards their babies and pregnancy were more positive. Sunderland women were more concerned about own health and labour, whereas Uzbek women were worried about their baby's well-being. The 'support system' also varied with Uzbek women receiving more support from the father of the baby and family in general. Qualitative methods confirmed the quantitative outcomes.

Conclusions: Pregnancy is seen as a social role, primarily constructed through 'symbolic interaction processes'. Women from different cultures perform the role of 'being pregnant' differently. Sunderland women viewed the pregnancy as deviating from the ideal of being a 'successful woman'. Uzbek women believe that the pregnancy role can lead them on to their ideal of 'being a mother', a highly valued position for women in Uzbek society. As in any other social role, the pregnancy role, as well as the motivations and desire to have children are likely to be socio-culturally predetermined.

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Witnesses with and without learning disabilities in court: The role of judge interventions

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Objectives: The aims of this study were to describe the frequency, nature and impact of judge interventions in court cases involving a witness with or without learning disabilities.

Design: The design was a two-group quasi-experimental design, with transcripts of court cases matched on location of court, type of alleged offence and year of court case.

Participants: Transcripts involving 16 court cases with a witness with learning disabilities and 16 court cases with a witness without learning disabilities were compared. All witnesses were alleged victims of the crime being prosecuted.

Methods: Transcripts of evidence-in-chief and cross-examination of all witnesses were coded according to different types of interventions made by the judge. Inter-rater agreement on two transcripts yielded 93 per cent agreement across all categories.

Results: The number of interventions from judges was low in all cases, with no differences in cases involving a witness with or without learning disabilities. In cases with a witness with learning disabilities, on average 10.7 judge interventions were directed towards the witness, 4.3 towards the questioning lawyer, and 0.4 towards the jury. In cases with a witness without learning disabilities, on average 7.4 judge interventions were directed towards the witness, 2.9 towards the questioning lawyer, and 0.4 towards the jury. Furthermore, very few judge interventions were designed to protect the witness from coercive questioning.

Conclusions: In court cases involving a witness with or without with learning disabilities, judges intervene rarely and appear to offer little protection from coercive lawyer questioning.

Incidental learning in the real world

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Objectives: Despite several demonstrations of incidental invariance learning in the laboratory, attempts to show similar learning in real world settings have tended to produce negative results. Previous real world experiments tended to use relatively insensitive recall measures to assess learning whereas this study examined real world incidental learning of invariant characteristics in two separate cultures using a more sensitive test procedure. It was expected that evidence for real world incidental learning would be found given that such learning is demonstrable in the laboratory under sensitive testing procedures.

Design: British and Japanese participants were tested on orientation of five stimulus items, two from the British culture and three from the Japanese. Hence, each group formed a control

group for the other for those items which were not encountered in that particular culture.

Methods: 48 British and 48 Japanese participants were recruited via advertisements. Stimulus items with definite orientations which would also be encountered on a regular basis within each culture were chosen. The British coin and stamp were shown (which have the Queen's head facing to the right and left, respectively) and the Kirin logo from Kirin Beer, the Japanese Football Association logo and the cartoon character, Miss Kitty, which all have definite orientation within the Japanese culture.

Results: Chi-squared analyses demonstrated that participants were aware of the regularities of the stimuli from their own culture but not those of the other culture.

Conclusions: Incidental learning of invariant characteristics is possible and can be demonstrated using a suitably sensitive test.

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Topographic EEG effects of single doses of Panax ginseng and Ginkgo biloba

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Objectives: Whilst the effects of Ginkgo biloba on the EEG of various pathological and healthy populations has been investigated, no study to date has looked at the effects on EEG recordings of Panax ginseng.

Design: A double-blind, placebo-controlled, counterbalanced crossover experiment investigated EEG and cognitive effects in 15 healthy volunteers.

Methods: Participants attended the testing suite on three occasions. Full head EEG recordings (17 electrodes, plus references) and a short version of the CDR cognitive assessment battery were completed four hours following ingestion of a single dose of a placebo, 360 mg Ginkgo (GK501), or 200 mg Ginseng (G115). Order of treatments was dictated by random allocation to a latin square, with a seven-day wash-out period between testing days. EEG measures included Evoked Responses and Fast Fourier Transformations producing Alpha, Beta, Theta and Delta wave bands.

Results: The most notable results were topographic reductions in P300 latency, and reductions in power across all wave bands, following 200mg of Ginseng. While there were no significant effects on cognition following either treatment, there were significant positive correlations between change in P300 amplitude and both secondary memory performance and speed of attention task performance following ingestion of Ginseng.

Conclusions: This first investigation of the EEG effects of Ginseng suggests that it has a greater effect on electrophysiological activity than Ginkgo biloba, and that at optimal doses Ginseng may well enhance cognition.

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Ginseng as a cognition enhancer: Modulation of cognitive performance, mood and EEG

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Objectives: Ginseng has an illustrious history as a herbal medicine, and has been attributed with a number of in-vitro, in-vivo and ex-vivo physiological effects in the laboratory. However, the general tenor of the extant human behavioural literature is equivocal.

Design: A series of double-blind, counterbalanced, multiple-dose, placebo controlled studies were undertaken.

Methods: The studies applied appropriate methodology to investigate the effects on cognitive performance and electrophysiological parameters following single doses of Panax ginseng (G115, Pharmaton SA, Switzerland) administered to healthy young participants.

Results: The demonstration of notable cognitive

benefits across the studies included significant improvements in memory performance. This effect was largely restricted to secondary memory tasks. The doses of Ginseng less mnemonically active were also associated with cognitive costs in terms of reduced speed on attention tasks and self-ratings of alertness. EEG recordings suggested that in comparison to placebo Ginseng had a more pronounced effect on bio-electrical activity than Ginkgo biloba, with topographic modulation of the P300 wave and reductions in power for all wave lengths.

Conclusions: Overall the pattern of results suggest that at optimal doses Ginseng may well be useful as a cognition enhancer. Furthermore the data from comparative studies suggest that Ginseng may be particularly useful as an adjunct to treatment with Ginkgo biloba.

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The role of psycho-social and demographic variables in the reporting of symptoms associated with Sick Building Syndrome

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Objectives: A body of research has linked the indoor environment to a cluster of symptoms that typically grow worse when the individual is in the workplace, and disappear or diminish when they leave. Sick Building Syndrome (SBS) is perceived as an emerging and significant problem in many industrialised countries. Whilst a number of characteristics of the indoor environment have been related to SBS, it has been suggested that demographic and psycho-social factors might be at least as important as the external working environment in predicting self-reported symptoms. This study examined the relationship between a number of such variables and self-reported symptomatology.

Design: A cross-sectional design was utilised.

Methods: 112 office workers (4.7 per cent female) in four buildings with no known environmental problems completed a checklist of perceived symptoms typical of SBS, Job satisfaction, job control, job-related mood and negative affectivity were also assessed by questionnaires.

Results: Relationships were found between SBS symptomatology, job control, job satisfaction, work-related mood and negative affectivity. Contrary to previous research findings, no gender differences were found in the prevalence of symptoms, although multiple regression revealed differences between males and females in the predictors of symptoms.

Conclusion: The results of this study indicate that psychological factors, as well as the objective physical environment should be considered when investigating SBS. It is suggested that the SBS phenomenon is the result of a synergistic relationship between environmental, social and individual factors. Accordingly, future research should use a multi-disciplinary team, and utilise a larger sample and a prospective design in order to further investigate links between the objective physical environment and health complaints.

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Sex as cultural practice: Cognitions and contexts are only part of the picture.

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The argument that sexual behaviour can only be fully understood as a social and cultural practice is pursued with reference to examples from empirical research, both quantitative and qualitative. I will draw on three research projects. One is a longitudinal study of the sexual behaviours of young heterosexuals. The second is a study of the sexual adventurism of gay men in the context of HIV. The third is a qualitative study of anal sex and power. In different ways these three studies illustrate the ways in which meanings are produced between people in specific locations and contexts. 'Context' is important but context must include or make reference to broad cultural settings and social and institutional structures as well as the more

local and specific.

What do we 'know'? The research interview as process

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Examples from interviews with 'older' people (approximately 40 to 50 age range) about their approach to sexual intercourse with a new partner, illustrate the tenuous nature of 'what we know' and how this may develop even over the period of a relatively brief interview. Drawing from these examples I will explore the concept of the research interview as a process of 'discovery' – not only, intrinsically, for the interviewer but also, less obviously, for the interviewee. Taking up the symposium theme, these findings highlight some of the challenges of exploring 'cognitions and contexts' – especially wherever we are inclined to treat 'cognitions' as reasonably stable, persistent and easily reportable. I will suggest some implications for research method (including the Social Cognition Model paradigm), theory and, time permitting, safe(r) sex intervention.

Reproducing normative heterosexuality in calls to the doctor

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Objectives: It is frequently claimed that children of lesbian and gay parents are the victims of vicarious social stigma. This claim is used to justify the view that lesbians and gay men should be prevented from having and raising children. This study explores how lesbian and gay parents deal with the issue of homophobic bullying and its implications for their fitness to parent.

Design & Method: This study is based on the analysis of interviews with and television documentaries about lesbian and gay parents. Extracts of data relevant to the issue of homophobic bullying were identified and analysed using discursive psychology.

Results: Detailed analysis of the interview and documentary talk show that lesbian and gay parents deal with the issue of homophobic bullying by normalising it. This means that they construct homophobic bullying as being 'no different' from more mundane and everyday bullying about issues such as hair colour and weight. My analysis shows that they advance this normalising discourse in order to manage their ascribed identity as 'bad' parents. By normalising homophobic bullying, they remove their responsibility for their children's victimisation and so avoid being labelled 'unfit to parent'.

Conclusion: My analysis shows that lesbian and gay parents are attentive to their oppression within the larger society and creatively manage both their accountability for their children's experiences of oppression and their identity as bad parents. They do so, however, at the cost of any direct challenge to homophobic bullying or to the social structures which sustain it.

The impact of work values on satisfaction and commitment: Does congruence really matter?

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Objectives: This study aimed to investigate whether value congruence effects are relatively unimportant compared to main effects in predicting job satisfaction and organisational commitment.

Design: A cross-sectional survey was used to collect employee value and attitudinal information.

Methods: 126 teachers from 11 schools were asked to judge their personal preference for 24 work values and the extent to which those same values were operating in their organisation. They also completed Meyer and Allen's (1991) commitment scales and the Minnesota Satisfaction Survey.

Results: Response surface methodology using polynomial regression was employed to examine congruence effects of values at the item level. The polynomial method permits examination of the interaction between person and environment

variables as well as the independent contribution of each. The results indicate a general lack of support for congruence effects with none of the tested models meeting all the conditions for congruence. Instead, satisfaction and commitment were most often predicted by main effects, in particular employees' perception of the values of the organisation. In addition, job satisfaction, affective, normative, and continuance commitment were each predicted by different values.

Conclusion: This study shows that job satisfaction and organisational commitment, at least from an individual's perspective, are based more on reactions to particular situations than value congruence. These findings replicate recent research efforts which increasingly call into question the importance given to the value congruence construct and suggests a need to consider whether the construct should be complemented or replaced with main effect models.

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The impact of burnout on primary teachers' evaluations of pupils' undesirable behaviours

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Objective: Teacher affect is an important determinant of student academic and behavioural outcomes. Teaching is generally regarded as a stressful occupation. The present study examined whether burned-out teachers' perceived seriousness of pupils' problem behaviours was different from that of their non-burned-out colleagues. The study also sought to investigate the impact of a number of teachers' variables on their perceptions.

Design: All data presented were collected using a questionnaire-based survey design.

Method: 28 (17 males and 11 females) burned-out Greek primary school teachers were identified using the Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI – Educators Survey) out of 430 who participated in the study. They also rated the degree of perceived seriousness of 24 selected problem behaviours, exhibited by boys and girls. The questionnaire tapped four dimensions of undesirable behaviours, namely disruptive, withdrawal, dissocial/overtly challenging and lack of self-discipline. Information on teachers' personal and professional background was also collected.

Results: Findings revealed that burned-out teachers were more likely to perceive the given behaviours as more serious compared to their non burned out counterparts. Burned-out teachers rated boys' and girls' disruptive behaviour as more serious as well as girls' withdrawal behaviour compared to their counterparts. While burned-out teachers' age, grade level they teach and school area differentiate their responses, only teaching experience has a statistically significant impact on perceived seriousness of girls' dissocial/overtly challenging behaviours.

Conclusions: Increased levels of stress among teachers may be contributing to the way they perceive pupils' undesirable behaviour, form attitudes and develop coping responses. kokkino@cytanet.com.cy

Understanding teacher efficacy in primary school teachers

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Objective: Teacher efficacy is one of the few teacher characteristics that consistently relates to teaching and learning (Woolfolk & Hoy, 1990). Several theoretical models have been proposed and various efficacy scales have been developed to assess the construct. Based on Bandura's social learning theory, the purpose of this empirical study was to explore the construct of teacher efficacy and to identify the underlying dimensions and the factors that may influence it. We were also interested in perceived sources of

information regarding teachers' sense of efficacy.

Method: A total of 50 Greek-Cypriot primary school teachers were asked to complete a free response format questionnaire regarding their views to the above issues. They were also asked to state the characteristics of the effective teacher. Qualitative data were content analysed and quantified in order to assess the reported frequency.

Results: The results provided support for the multidimensional approach to the conceptualisation and measurement of teacher efficacy. Teachers' sense of efficacy is influenced by personality characteristics, pre and in service training, lesson planning and classroom management skills as well as by pupils' background and school – home relations. The effective teacher possesses organisational and planning skills, has an ability to relate to pupils and is patient, flexible and consistent. Pupils' academic achievement and feedback from pupils and parents were reported as sources of information on teachers' sense of efficacy.

Conclusions: Teacher efficacy should be measured as a multi-dimensional construct where all different aspects of the teaching profession should be included. Beliefs of what constitutes good teaching and the sources of information they consider important will also influence perceptions of teachers' efficacy. kokkino@cytanet.com.cy

Emotional expressiveness in women diagnosed as having an eating disorder

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Objectives: The aim of this study is to investigate the emotional expressiveness in women with eating disorders and to examine whether different patterns of eating behaviour reflect different styles of emotional expression.

Design: This study is a prospective comparative study. It is based on self-report measurements, which measure eating patterns, attitudes and behaviour towards emotional expression.

Method: A total of 90 women were recruited for the study from a Specialist Eating Disorders Clinic. Women had to be over 18-years-old and had to be identified by their GPs or a Clinical Specialist, as having anorexia or bulimia nervosa. They completed the Toronto Alexithymia Scale (TAS-26), the Emotional Expressiveness Questionnaire (EEQ), the Ambivalence over Emotional Expression Questionnaire (EEQ) and the Eating Disorders Inventory (EDI-2), in order for their eating patterns and their emotional expression to be assessed.

Results: Results showed that women with anorexia nervosa were more alexithymic and less expressive than women with bulimia nervosa. There were significant differences between the two groups in the TAS and the EEQ scores, but no significant differences in the AEQ scores were found. Additionally, their scores differed significantly on Ineffectiveness, Interpersonal Distrust, Asceticism and Social Insecurity subscales in the EDI-2.

Discussion: The results of the study suggest that although women with anorexia and bulimia nervosa share common characteristics, their style of emotional expression differs significantly and it is related to their eating patterns. mdp99mk@sheffield.ac.uk

Older and wiser? Age and the realism of confidence judgements

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Objectives: Considerable research has examined the extent to which an individual's level of confidence on various tasks correlates with their actual performance (likelihood of being correct) on the task ('realism' of confidence judgements), and the extent to which confidence judgements differentiate between responses that are correct versus incorrect ('discrimination'). Tasks that have been explored include assessments of general knowledge, tests of episodic memory (e.g. recognition) and sensory-perceptual tasks. Researchers have generally

found over-confidence on cognitive tasks (confidence is higher than what is warranted given the level of accuracy actually obtained), but under-confidence on tasks involving sensory-perceptual judgements. However, the vast majority of these studies have been conducted with younger adults. The few studies that have examined confidence in older adults have yielded conflicting outcomes; some conclude that older adults are more appropriately cautious and 'wiser,' but others that they are more overconfident. Evidence from studies of false recognition also indicates that older adults often show higher rates of highly confident false recognition than younger adults. This study evaluates the effects of age and task domain on confidence.

Design & Method: In a within-subject, within-session design, older adults (aged 60–75 years) and younger adults (undergraduates) gave item-by-item task decisions and confidence ratings for a general knowledge task, two episodic memory tasks (one involving a false recognition component), and a perceptual line-judgement task.

Results & Conclusions: Realism, discrimination, and accuracy outcomes are considered as a function of age and task domain. Implications and limits of age-related differences in confidence judgements are evaluated.

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Barriers to pathways to care for elderly Asians

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Purpose: Despite predicted increases in the numbers of ethnic elders, existing health services are perceived to be inaccessible for this group of the population. This review highlights factors that influence the pathways to care primarily for elderly Asians. This is to deter against stereotypes that elderly Asians do not have specific needs as families 'look after their own'.

Background: Goldberg and Huxley (1980, 1992), from the pathways to care model proposes five levels and four filters which guide people suffering mental illness in the community (level one) through to being referred for specialist care at level five. This review focuses more specifically on issues relating to level one (the community) and filter one (the illness behaviour).

Methods & Key Points: Risk factors were identified using Psychlit and Medline. Level one risk factors were identified as 'culture shock', social isolation, adaptation to late life events and dementia. Filter one highlighted the psychological variables of how elderly Asians may make sense of their illnesses, thereby acting as possible barriers to seeking health services. Influences at filter one include the use of primary care, health beliefs, language barriers, somatisation, issues with diagnostic tools and alternative medicines.

Conclusion: The review concludes by suggesting that more research is required on the difficulties of the interface between primary and secondary care utilisation by elderly Asians. Due to the limited understandings of help seeking behaviour, it may be more appropriate to undertake research which employs open-ended qualitative methodology to identify the needs and beliefs of elderly ethnic minorities.

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Qualitative investigation – cultural influences on Gujarati-speaking Hindu Asians understanding of old age

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Background: With an increasing percentage of minority ethnic people reaching retirement age over the next decade, there is a need to provide appropriate services to meet their needs. Research suggests that people from minority ethnic groups have restricted access to services due to stereotypes such as 'they look after their own' (DoH, 1998). Literature highlights the need to improve recognition and diagnosis of illnesses

such as dementia and the need for provision of culturally appropriate information.

Objective: To understand how Gujarati-speaking Hindu adults who may have had contact with ageing relatives or be elders themselves, conceptualise old age.

Method: Ten interviews were undertaken with participants whose ages ranged from 46 to 87 years. All the participants were migrants from Africa or India. All the interviews were tape-recorded, translated and analysed using the principles of grounded theory.

Results: A tentative model was derived identifying 16 main categories and five themes.

The five include, living arrangements, understanding of illnesses, coping, access to services, and uncertainties. These themes are based within an overarching dimension of being 'culturally centered' to being in an 'alien culture'. **Conclusion:** This study highlights the importance of cultural perceptions in understanding illness. The research stresses the need to deconstruct stereotypes. Although Asian elders may be living with their children, often, they remain emotionally isolated. Clinicians, therefore, have to find ways of responding to their needs whilst respecting the cultural norms, which may otherwise lead to an increasing number of ethnic elders suffering mental health problems, yet remaining undetected.

TMS to the left and right cerebral cortex differentially affects S-IgA secretion

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Objectives: To explore the effect of transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) on secretion of S-IgA and cortisol in normal participants.

Design & Methods: We used TMS to activate discrete parts of the cerebral cortex in normal conscious subjects. Right-handed participants (n = 19) received 100 electro-magnetic stimuli (90 per cent intensity; four-second) to the right and left temporo-parietal-occipital cerebral cortex (a discrete area of cortex bordering these three regions) on two separate occasions, at least one week apart (order of stimulation was randomly rotated). Unstimulated two-minute saliva samples were collected at 20-minute intervals for one hour immediately before and immediately after the stimuli were delivered.

Results: Volume of saliva was reduced immediately post TMS to the right hemisphere, but not the left resulting in a significant interaction. Secretion of S-IgA was increased significantly immediately post left hemisphere stimulation, but not the right. Free cortisol concentration, which was stable for the hour immediately prior to TMS fell immediately post stimulation to both hemispheres. Changes in secretion of cortisol and S-IgA were not related.

Conclusions: These findings demonstrate that TMS-induced activation of a discrete area of the left and right cerebral cortex of conscious subjects can differentially affect salivary volume and secretion of S-IgA. The mobilisation of S-IgA was not associated with stress in as much as levels of cortisol were reduced by the same procedure.

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Relationships between psychological skills and pre-competition emotion

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Objectives: The purpose of the present study was to investigate the relationship between psychological skills and pre-competition emotion.

Design: A cross-sectional design was used. **Methods:** Sport Studies students (n = 106, m = 20.55 years, SD = 4.19 years) completed the 64-item Test of Performance Strategies (TOPS; Thomas *et al.*, 1999) one week before competition. The TOPS assesses eight different psychological skills related to competition: Self-talk, Emotional control, Automaticity, Goal setting, Imagery, Activation, Negative thinking, and Relaxation. To assess pre-competition emotions, participants completed the Profile of Mood States-Adolescents (POMS-A; Terry *et al.*, 1999)

immediately before a basketball free-throw competition.

Results: Multiple regression was used to predict pre-competition emotion from psychological skills. Results indicated that goal setting, imagery and negative thinking collectively accounted for 62 per cent of the variance in Anger. Self-talk, Goal setting, Imagery, Activation, and Negative Thinking scores collectively accounted for 41 per cent of the variance in Depression; Self-talk, Goal setting and Negative Thinking collectively accounted for 30 per cent of the variance in Tension scores. Automaticity accounted for 22 per cent in the variance of Vigour scores.

Conclusions: Findings from the present study show that psychological skills before competition relate with pre-competition emotion. We suggest that future research should investigate the effects of applied interventions designed to improve psychological skills and the attendant influence on emotion.

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The influence of context on the use and non-use of aggressive stereotypes

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Objectives: Contemporary research suggests individuals' perceptions of each other and the context they are within is crucial in understanding aggressive interactions. This study firstly examines the existence of an aggressive occupational stereotype for public house licensees; and secondly, the influence of environmental context on memory for stereotypically congruent and incongruent information. Door supervision and interior untidiness have been previously associated with aggression in the public house domain and so are manipulated here as contextual variables.

Design: Following identification of an aggressive licensee stereotype, a 2 (presence or absence of door supervisor) x 2 (tidy or untidy interior) between subjects design was employed to manipulate environmental influence on the memory of stereotype-relevant information.

Hypothesis: Memory for stereotype-consistent information will be superior in aggressive (congruent) contexts, while memory for stereotype-inconsistent information will be superior in non-aggressive (incongruent) contexts.

Methods: 154 undergraduates confirmed the aggressive stereotype, and 60 undergraduates participated in the examination of context effects on memory. Subjects made judgements about the stereotyped group (using a 14-item questionnaire) in the light of one of four combinations of context (manipulated photographically). They were then given a surprise memory test on the questionnaire items they had earlier responded to.

Results: Superior memory for stereotype-inconsistent items in tidy conditions without door supervision was found. In untidy settings when door supervisors were present, superior memory was found for stereotypic statements.

Conclusions: Implications for the non-use of aggressive stereotypes are discussed. This study also highlights the role of environmental context in producing superior memory for individuated information.

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A proposal for assessment and management of stalking behaviour in Hong Kong

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Purposes:

1. To highlight the problems of stalking behaviour in Hong Kong;
2. To highlight the current shortcomings in the civil laws, as well as the importance of making stalking a criminal offence, in Hong Kong;
3. To make suggestions as how to assess, manage and prevent stalking behaviour to the professionals in Hong Kong.

Background: This paper looks at the classification of stalking behaviour proposed by Mullen *et al.* (1999). As stalking is not yet a criminal offence in Hong Kong, the author

illustrates the legal vacuum by using a local case study. This paper also updates the latest legal development towards criminalising Stalking behaviour in Hong Kong, probably the first such development in the Far East. As there is no prevalence study yet, a short summary that highlights some of the suffering of stalking victims in the 36 cases (cited in the Law Reform Commission Report submitted to the Executive Council) is used to demonstrate the need for law reform in this area. The author agrees with the need to criminalise stalkers. Suggestions are also made as to how we can protect victims, provide counselling and make psychological treatment available to victims. A case is made for the importance of assessment and treatment in prisons, as well as in the community, so as to stop them from re-offending.

Methods & Key Points:

1. Literature search – Local Law Reform Commission report 2000 submitted to HKSAR Executive Council;
2. Discussion sessions with local professionals – social workers, Clinical psychologists, Professor of law, Civil servants;
3. Current case management;
4. Counselling staff on risk assessment case management.

Conclusion: What is said in this poster has important policy implications and applications in Hong Kong. Professionals and Administrators are working on the law reform, despite some local objections with regard to human rights.
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Violence and the bystander: The importance of social category relationships for explaining violence trajectories

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Objectives: This paper begins with the part played in 'violent' incidents by bystanders. How bystanders behave determines whether violence is stopped, is allowed to continue or is even escalated. Despite the importance of bystander behaviour for the trajectory of violence, there is very little work on the role of the bystander in traditional violence research. Drawing upon the theoretical issues outlined in the first paper this paper aims to add empirical evidence and challenge the individualism of early bystander theory (cf. Latané & Darley 1970).

Design: This paper draws upon a combination of experimental, field and interview studies.

Results: The paper presents evidence to show that: (i) ingroup bystanders will be more influencing (either in the promotion or the inhibition of intervention of violence) than outgroup bystanders; (ii) when victims are seen as ingroup as opposed to outgroup members, bystanders are more likely to experience feelings of shared fate and concurrent responsibility for welfare of others. Thus, ingroup victims are more likely to receive help than outgroup victims; and (iii) it is the inter-relationship between salience of identity and content of group norms which shapes the kinds of (non)intervention behaviour of bystanders.

Conclusions: The paper concludes with discussing the importance of the inclusivity of both group boundaries and group norms for increasing the likelihood of bystander intervention on behalf of victims of violence.

The internal consistency reliability and construct validity of the German translation of the Oxford Happiness Inventory

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Objectives: The Oxford Happiness Inventory was developed by Argyle, Martin and Crossland (1989) to provide a general measure of happiness. Drawing on earlier discussion by Argyle and Crossland (1987), they suppose that happiness comprises three main components: the frequency and degree of positive affect or joy; the average level of satisfaction over a period;

and the absence of negative feelings, such as depression and anxiety.

Design: In order to extend the work so far undertaken with the Oxford Happiness Inventory into different cultural contexts, the aim of the present study was to develop a German translation of this instrument and to examine its internal consistency reliability and construct validity in terms of Eysenck's dimensional model of personality among a sample of German speaking students.

Methods: German translations of the Oxford Happiness Inventory and the short-form Revised Eysenck Personality Questionnaire were completed by 331 students in Germany.

Results: First, the Oxford Happiness Inventory achieved a satisfactory alpha coefficient of 0.8594. Second, happiness scores were significantly related positively with extraversion and negatively with neuroticism, but unrelated to psychoticism.

Conclusions: The findings confirm the internal reliability of the German translation of the Oxford Happiness Inventory and support the construct validity of the instrument according to which 'happiness is a thing called stable extraversion.' Further replications are now required to check these findings among other samples in Germany.
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Sexuality: Expressions and meanings for a sample of older women

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Objectives: To explore how a sample of older women from a primary care population express their sexuality, and the associated emotional and cognitive meanings.

Design: A qualitative case series of semi-structured interviews, analysed using grounded theory. Several myths are associated with the sexuality of older adults in spite of published research to the contrary. There is also a bias towards researching the sexuality of older adult males. Some studies have been conducted with older women, but have generally used pre-selected variables set in a quantitative framework.

Methods: Invitation letters were sent to 190 older adult women aged 65+ from general practitioner lists, 21.6 per cent responded positively. Nine women aged 68–83 years were selected using grounded theory sampling methods, and a semi-structured interview administered. Demographic information was also collected and the audio-taped interview later transcribed.

Results: Analysis was conducted using procedures informed by grounded theory. Over 100 concepts and their dimensions and properties have been identified. Four central categories have been drawn: attractiveness, sexual activity, sexual desire and influences on sexuality.

Conclusions: The findings of this study do not support the myth that older women are asexual. Expressions of sexuality, and its meanings, vary within this sample of older women. Their sexuality appears to be mediated by several influences including, marital and family histories, psychosocial development, and the cultural/societal context. The findings have implications for healthcare professionals working with older women as well as those researching their sexuality.

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Psychological risk factors in offenders with learning disability

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Theme: Studies on risk assessment with offenders has grown considerably over the last decade. Indeed, it may now be considered as one of the most important social policy issues in the field of offending. However, there has been very little research in the field of risk assessment with offenders with intellectual disability. This

symposium brings together a number of studies which investigate some psychological variables relevant to offenders with intellectual disability. **Objectives:** Several static and dynamic variables have been identified in research over the last ten years. This symposium reviews these variables in relation to offenders with intellectual disabilities. We explore their relevance to assessment and prediction of offending and re-offending in this client group. It is also intended to allow discussion among participants on the relevance of the range of psychological variables for the treatment, management and risk assessment of this client group.

Reliance of individual contributions: The individual contributions describe empirical investigations on a range of relevant variables for risk assessment. They include impulsiveness, empathy, emotion, cognition and selective attention. One study also looks at the predictive validity of static and dynamic risk factors.

Therefore, all studies in this symposium are directly relevant to the assessment of risk in offenders with intellectual disability.

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University students' beliefs about the causes of examination failure

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Objective: Examination failure is of paramount importance in higher education, from the level of the institution down to teaching staff and students. Nonetheless, little quantitative research has attempted to examine the reasons for exam failure.

Design & Methods: In the present study, 73 participants completed a questionnaire in which rated various causes of exam failure. There were 11 causes, including lack of studying, little intelligence and biased teaching. Participants were asked to decide how likely it was that each of these causes led to the others. Responses were examined using network analysis.

Results: Results indicated several perceived causes that led directly to exam failure. These causes were sickness, lack of intelligence and little studying. Students also linked poor time management and mind wandering in the exam with failure.

Conclusions: These findings are discussed in terms of previous research on exam failure, as well as different approaches to network analysis. We argue that network analysis is a valuable tool for the survey of student attitudes towards their education, and can help facilitate a closer match between elements of course delivery and student expectations.

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Social representations of crime: A comparison of US and UK law enforcement officers

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Objective: Perceptions of the specific causes of crime may have profound implications for law enforcement practice. In this preliminary study, law enforcement agents from the UK and US were asked to rate a series of causes of crime before considering the interrelationships between causes that they had highlighted.

Design & Methods: 25 law enforcement agents from each country completed a research instrument in which they first rated a series of variables according to how likely they felt each factor was related to crime. The officers then indicated perceived relationships between these factors and crime, rating them in terms of strength and whether they were causes or effects of other factors.

Results: Officers' responses are explored using network analysis. Network analysis reveals the extent and complexity of the interrelationship between the rated factors. The data are explored by inductive eliminative analysis in order to make comparisons between the two sets of data. Results are presented at the conference.

Conclusions: The patterns of the ratings of the

two groups of officers are compared and discussed in relation to both law enforcement practice and research into the social representations of the causes of criminal behaviour.
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Links between work stress and physical health among brain injury care staff

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Objectives: This study explored the relationship between work related stress and physical health among care staff working with adults with an acquired brain injury. It was expected that perceived levels of stress would be positively correlated with physical health problems. Appraisal and coping were also investigated as possible mediators in the relationship between work related stress and physical health.

Design: A cross-sectional research design was employed, with a questionnaire format.

Methods: 51 care staff employed by the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust completed one questionnaire, covering the following areas: background information, stress outside work, perceived work related stress, appraisal and coping strategies (in relation to work stress), and physical health. Three physical health measures were calculated from the data: long term health problems, short term health problems, and sick leave taken during the past year.

Results: Perceived levels of work related stress were generally found to be positively correlated with physical health problems. For full-time staff, threat appraisal was shown to mediate the relationship between work related stress and short term health. No evidence was found to support the role of coping as a mediator. However, higher use of alcohol-drug disengagement was associated with poorer physical health.

Conclusions: This study suggests that high levels of perceived work related stress are generally correlated with high levels of physical health problems among care staff in a brain injury rehabilitation setting. This finding is in accordance with research concerning health care workers and nurses serving other client groups.
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Autobiographical memory in the elderly: How do word, odour and taste cues affect recall?

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Objective: Previous research has found that odour-cues given to elderly people evoked a 'reminiscence bump' from the six- to ten-year-age period, with word-cues evoking the bump in late-adolescence to early-adulthood (Chu & Downes, 2000). This study extended this by comparing word, odour and taste 'cues' in relation to 'reminiscence bumps' in the elderly.

Design: A pilot study assessed the validity of the cues used by asking a group of 61+ years to rate each cue item on its likelihood to evoke a past memory. The 20 highest rated items per cue-type were used. A between-subjects design was used, with 'cue-type' as the independent factor.

Participants 61+ years were randomly assigned to either a 'word-cue', 'odour-cue' or 'taste-cue' condition and asked to recall memories from each five-year period 'time-bin' of their life. The number of memories recalled per time-bin constituted the dependent measure.

Results: Odour cues produced a 'reminiscence bump' in the six- to ten-year-age period; word cues produced a 'bump' at the 11- to 15-year-age period; and taste cues produced a 'bump' at the six- to ten-year-age period.

Conclusions: The findings support the 'reminiscence bump' found for odour cues, but demonstrate an earlier 'bump' for words, compared to the work by Chu and Downes (2000). The early 'bump' associated with the taste-cue condition is a new finding in the literature. The validation of the items in a pilot study may make these findings more ecologically valid than previous findings.
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What is it important to learn in a heart failure education class?

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Purpose: To review guidelines for health education in heart failure (HF) and illustrate different perspectives in deciding the syllabus for a hospital based HF education class.

Background: Heart failure is a chronic condition affecting around 10 per cent of those reaching age 80. Mortality is high and functional impairment considerable. Medication compliance is poor, leading to hospital re-admissions in a third of cases. About a half of these re-admissions could be prevented. Health education classes at the point of hospital discharge have been proposed as a method of educating patients about how to recognise symptoms and act upon them.

Methods: Guidelines drawn from the US, European and Australian literature since 1994 were critically reviewed and compared with how a HF class in an acute hospital setting was implemented. An interview study compared what a group of nine health professionals thought was important for inclusion in the class and what 40 older HF patients thought they would like to learn.

Conclusions: There were major differences between the guidelines set out in the literature surveyed and the implementation of the HF class, particularly concerning the role of self-monitoring and the methods of delivering information. Patients and health professionals had very different views about what should be included in the class and consultants and cardiac nurses also differed. These different perspectives must be considered if patients are to benefit from health education and alternatives to didactic classes should be explored.
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The psychosocial adjustment of formerly abducted child soldiers in Sierra Leone and Northern Uganda

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Objectives: To investigate the differential effects, if any, of various rehabilitative interventions on the medium and long-term psychosocial adjustment of former child soldiers in Sierra Leone and Northern Uganda

Design: In the first phase of the study, using the Child Behaviour Inventory as a point of departure, research instruments were constructed which had meaningful and relevant indicators of adjustment for use with former child soldiers in Sierra Leone and in Northern Uganda.

Subsequently, in Northern Uganda, four groups of children were identified for interview. Three of the groups of children had been abducted and released. Group 1 had returned home without assistance, Group 2 had entered a lengthy rehabilitation process in a Non-Governmental Organisation's (NGO) institution and Group 3 had received brief assistance from a local NGO before returning home. Group 4 comprised a group of children who had never been abducted but had lived in the region.

Results: The piloting of the instrument in Sierra Leone revealed that overall the instrument had adequate psychometric properties (cronbach alpha of .85). In particular, the instrument's 'positive items' were able to discriminate between adjusted children and those thought to be poorly adjusted.

Conclusions: Work in the initial phase of the study suggests that it is possible to construct an instrument measuring social adjustment that is meaningful and discriminatory in Sierra Leone and Northern Uganda. The paper reports the finding of the interviews with the four groups of children in Northern Uganda.
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The role of structural processes in object recognition

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Objectives: Ignoring a stimulus can lead to slowed responding to the same stimulus when it subsequently becomes attended. This

phenomenon is known as 'negative priming (NP)'. Two experiments investigated whether slowed responding also occurs when the stimulus which is presented on the second trial is structurally similar, rather than identical, to that presented on the first trial.

Design: A one-way within participant design was based on that of Tipper (1985), and DeShepper and Treisman (1996). Prime-probe pairs of (identical, structurally similar or novel) objects were presented on successive trials. The ignored object on trial T1 was either identical, structurally similar, or unrelated to the attended object on trial T2.

Methods: In both experiments, on each trial, two objects were presented side-by-side, and participants were required to respond to the one enclosed in a square frame (and to ignore the other). The task involved judging whether or not the objects were symmetrical in the vertical plane.

Results: In Experiment 1, a one-way within analysis of variance showed significant differences in reaction times to the different object types. Post hoc analyses revealed that participants responded more slowly to structurally similar and identical objects in comparison to novel ones. The effects were replicated in Experiment 2, with additional analyses confirming that the findings could not be attributed to response bias.

Conclusions: The results show that NP effects can extend to structurally similar, as well as identical, stimuli, and are discussed in relation to Biederman's (1987) Recognition-By-Components theory and Damian's (2000) response repetition explanation.
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Is there a ninth stage to Erikson's theory of psycho-social development?

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Objectives: To investigate Joan Erikson's (in EH Erikson, 1998) suggestion of a psycho-social development opportunity beyond Stage 8: ego integrity versus despair. Tornstam (1989) and Schroots (1996) discussed a stage of 'gerotranscendence' – a move from a materialistic to cosmic/transcendent view in extreme old age. Hypothesis: individuals aged 80 to 90+, will resolve Stage 9 more favourably than will those in their 60s, but there will be no such difference with Stage 8.

Design: Self-report survey using closed questions based mostly on Erikson's descriptions of the life stages. Findings will be amenable to quantitative analyses.

Method:

Participants: A convenience sample of 70 women, aged 53 to 93 (mean 75.04), divided into high and low age groups.

Materials: 48-item questionnaire comprising Stage 8 and Stage 9 items drawn mostly from Erikson's descriptions. Five-point Likert response options.

Procedure: Younger age group mostly returned questionnaire by post; older group seen personally and assisted where necessary.

Results: Correlation between age and resolution of Stage 9 items significant and positive, but not so for Stage 8. Group differences confirmed by multivariate analysis. The 10 most discriminatory Stage 9 items identified.

Conclusions: Hypothesis supported: there are challenges and development opportunities beyond that of ego integrity and despair. What may appear to be classic Disengagement behaviour in the very old may be an active engagement but on a different plain. There are implications for relatives and other carers of the very old, and in attitudes toward ageing. Further work is indicated to confirm these findings and expand generalisability.
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Motivation to volunteer befriend: A functional analysis

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Objectives: Motivation for volunteer befriending, a process whereby a volunteer is matched with a service user with the aim of developing an

informal social relationship, was examined in light of the functional approach to volunteerism. Volunteers who befriend are a scarce commodity – recruiting and retaining these volunteers is often paramount to the very existence of befriending organisations. The functionalist approach hypothesises that six functions are potentially met by volunteering. It proposes that, by appealing to their motivations, volunteers can be effectively targeted, and that volunteers satisfied in their role, and whose motivations are being met, will continue to volunteer.

Methods: The Volunteer Functions Inventory, an instrument designed to assess motivation for volunteering, was postally administered to 249 active volunteer befrienders from 18 organisations servicing a variety of user groups.

Results: Volunteer motivation for befriending is analysed in light of type of user group, gender, age, frequency of volunteering and length of time volunteering. Motivation for befriending is also examined against volunteering outcome, satisfaction and long-term intent of volunteer service. Findings are discussed within the context of motivation in other areas of volunteerism.

Conclusions: The theoretical relevance and appropriateness of this six-factor model for understanding motivation to volunteer befriend is critiqued. On a practical level, these findings are a valuable resource for organisations recruiting, training and supporting volunteer befrienders.
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Well-being in women caring for an elder: Motivations for caring and relationship with the elder

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Objectives: To determine the factors that predict psychological well-being or distress when caring for an elder.

Design: Correlational, employing questionnaires and semi-structured interviews.

Methods: Interviews with 14 carers were analysed by grounded theory to identify factors influencing the caring experience, and two questionnaires developed to assess prominent new factors which emerged from the analysis: the Motivations in Elder Care Scale (MECS) and Relationships in Elder Care Scale (RECS). These questionnaires were administered to a sample of 275 NHS employees who were caring for an elder, together with previously validated measures of: level of carework provided; carer stress; carer satisfaction; health status; work characteristics. Psychological well-being and distress were assessed by the positive affect sub-scale of the PANAS and the GHQ, respectively.

Results: Multiple regression analyses revealed that: (a) positive affect was negatively related to extrinsic motivation to care, and positively related to better health; (b) psychological distress was predicted by carer stress and poor health; and (c) carer stress was predicted primarily by a poor quality of relationship with the elder and an extrinsic motivation to care, and also by low work satisfaction.

Conclusions: Motivations for caring and the quality of the relationship with the elder have received very little attention in previous studies of the factors influencing the well-being of carers. Our study has developed reliable and valid measures of these variables, and has shown that these variables are stronger predictors than are characteristics of psychological well-being and distress in working women caring for elders.
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Adult ageing and creativity as predicted by divergent thinking measures

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Objectives: The aim of the study was to investigate age changes in creativity as predicted by divergent thinking tests. Some previous studies suggest a decline in creativity with age whilst others propose that creativity remains stable throughout the lifespan.

Design: Divergent thinking is thought to be essential for creativity since individuals who can

produce large numbers of ideas are more likely to have creative ideas. The study examined age changes in creativity by comparing performance of young, middle-aged and older age groups on various divergent thinking tests.

Methods: 90 participants (60 female, 30 male) took part. There were 30 participants each of three age 'bands': young (18–39 years), middle-aged (40–60 years), and old (60–82 years). All participants received eight verbal and three non-verbal timed pencil-and-paper divergent thinking tests, measures of verbal and non-verbal abilities, and measures of speed of handwriting and information processing.

Results: MANOVA's indicated that divergent thinking tests showed highly significant age declines, with the young and middle-aged groups performing at similar levels, but with the older participants performing worse. However, covarying for handwriting and information processing speed accounted for most of the age-related variance in all but one of the divergent thinking tests (initial letter fluency). Verbal and non-verbal abilities did not appear to influence divergent thinking performance.

Conclusions: This study suggests that age declines on divergent thinking tests may be due to declines in handwriting and processing speed, and not necessarily in creativity. These findings have implications for adult education and methods for enhancing creativity.

The potential of principle

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Objectives: The present research tested theoretical and practical implications of the hypothesis that social values, such as freedom and equality, are cultural truisms (i.e. beliefs that are widely shared and rarely questioned.)

Design & Methods: Many social psychological experiments were used to examine the implications of this hypothesis for understanding value endorsement, value change, the influence of values on behaviour, and the resistance of values to change. Two or three experiments addressed each of these issues. For example, if values are rarely questioned, people should not bother to form arguments supporting values. Two experiments examined this hypothesis by testing whether or not analysing reasons for one's values causes the values to change – a finding that is expected only when people lack argumentative support for their values.

Results: As expected, analysing reasons for values caused the values to change, and this result was eliminated only when participants were given a prior opportunity to form and store reasons for their values. Moreover, research that used a priming paradigm further supported the notion that values are more closely linked with affective than with cognitive support. Additional results indicated that providing cognitive support for values makes them more resistant to subsequent persuasive attack and more powerful motivators of pro-value behaviours in situations where there are incentives to behave an anti-value manner.

Conclusions: Overall, this research demonstrates that knowledge of the cognitive underpinnings of values is crucial for understanding value-relevant judgments and behaviour.

Effects of anti-racism messages on inter-group attitudes: The moderating role of attitudinal ambivalence

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Objectives: The present research investigated whether the effect of anti-racism messages on attitudes toward ethnic groups depend on the message recipients' initial ambivalence toward the groups. In addition, the research tested whether the moderating role of ambivalence is similar across implicit and explicit inter-group attitudes.

Design: In two experiments, participants took part in a pre-test session that measured several attributes of their attitudes toward ethnic minority people, such as attitude valence, embeddedness,

and ambivalence. Several months later, participants were exposed to an anti-racism message.

In Experiment 1, participants read either a flawed anti-racism editorial that argued in favour of increased quotas for immigration to Britain or a neutral filler editorial.

In Experiment 2, participants read either an anti-racism advertisement or a control advertisement, and the anti-racism advertisements targeted either utilitarian or value-expressive functions of participants' attitudes.

Results: In Experiment 1, the results indicated that exposure to the anti-racism editorial positively influenced non-ambivalent participants' implicit inter-group attitudes, whereas the anti-racism editorial negatively influenced ambivalent participants' implicit inter-group attitudes. In Experiment 2, exposure to the anti-racism ads positively influenced non-ambivalent participants' implicit and explicit inter-group attitudes, whereas the anti-racism ads negatively influenced ambivalent participants' implicit and explicit inter-group attitudes. The attitude function targeted by the anti-racism ads did not moderate these effects.

Conclusion: These results help determine which target audiences may be most affected by persuasive messages against racism. In particular, equality advocates who distribute anti-racism messages should be wary of potential backlash effects among ambivalent individuals.

Do people pay attention to base-rate information in The Cab Problem?

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Objectives: There has been considerable debate about when people do and do not pay attention to base-rate information during decision making. Although early research indicated that people neglected such information, recent research has demonstrated that people do pay attention to base-rate – when it is in the right kind of format. One line of research suggests that people pay attention to base-rate information when it is presented in frequency format, as opposed to probability format. The present paper presents evidence against the frequentist view.

Method: In Experiment 1, 172 participants were presented with base-rate information in either probability format or frequency format. Each participant was given one problem to solve. The problem was a modification of The Cab Problem. The participant is given information about an accident involving a cab and from this information has to give the likelihood that a particular cab caused the accident. A second experiment presented 356 participants with a different type of base-rate information. This time participants were presented with information using natural language quantifiers.

Results: Neither Experiment 1 nor Experiment 2 showed any difference in decision making due to the format of the base-rate information.

Conclusions: The format of base-rate information does not affect decision making in The Cab Problem. A closer examination of previous studies suggests that it is not format (frequency versus probability) which is crucial to decision making, but rather how information is presented (focused versus unfocused).
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Lesbians, gay men and therapy: An exploration of systemic psychotherapy

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Background: This paper considers systemic psychotherapy as a modality in working with lesbians and gay men in psychotherapy and the strengths and weaknesses inherent in both its theory and practice.

Key Points: The key theoretical premises of systemic therapy are considered; that it sees behaviour as relational (affected by and affecting of connected others) and by its insistence on the importance of context in the therapeutic process. Systemic therapy acknowledges that some societal 'voices' or groups are more 'dominant' than others and that these groups will define the

desirable 'norms' of their society. There is also acknowledgement that the therapist is not an objective 'observer' or protagonist within therapy but will affect and be affected by, the therapeutic encounter. Given these elements, systemic psychotherapy seems well-placed to be considered as a 'socially conscious' form of psychotherapy – one which may consider as relevant issues of difference and inequality. However, there are factors within systemic thinking, which may be less productive in working with this client group – the use of 'normative' concepts of relationship or 'family' and the technology of 'teams' and 'screens' often associated with systemic practice.

Conclusions: It will only be if issues of sexual identity are addressed in systemic training, supervision and therapeutic practice that systemic therapy (and systemic therapists) will be enabled to realise its true potential as a therapeutic modality for use with lesbian and gay male populations.

The BPS Qualifying Examination

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Purpose: The paper describes the background to the BPS Qualifying Examination (QE), outlines the relation between the indicative content of the QE and other developments.

Background: The QE sets the standard curriculum for Graduate Basis for Registration (GBR) with The British Psychological Society. It provides a pathway to GBR for individuals who do not have a first degree in psychology that has been recognised by the Society as meeting the requirements for GBR. Candidates for the QE are required to have obtained an honours undergraduate degree in another subject. A review of the content of the QE has been undertaken over the last two years. This included a survey of curricula in Psychology Departments in the UK. A document summarising recommendations from the review is a subject of wide consultation at the time of writing this abstract.

Method & Key Points: The paper outlines the outcome of the review, the recommended changes, and the relation between the QE and other curriculum based initiatives, i.e. HEFCE/QAA benchmarks in psychology. **Conclusions:** The presentation concludes with an invitation for and comment and debate from the 'audience' on: (1) issues identified in relation to the QE specifically; and (2) developments summarised by other presenters in the symposium.

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The evolving role of a memory clinic

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Purpose: The present study sought to investigate the influence of the licensing of the first cholinesterase inhibitor drugs for Alzheimer's disease (AD) upon the role of a memory clinic.

Data from 1270 patients referred to the memory clinic at Victoria Hospital Swindon between March 1994 and September 2001 was analysed.

Background: Since 1995 the number of UK-based memory clinics has increased from 20 to at least 58 and it is likely this is partially a consequence of the new therapeutic drugs available. It has been argued that more emphasis must now be placed on diagnosing dementia in the mild stage as opposed to primarily assessing moderate to severely demented patients. This applies especially to AD as the pharmaceutical treatments retard, but do not reverse, cognitive decline therefore early administration is crucial.

Method: The demographic details of the patients are displayed in addition to a breakdown of subsequent diagnoses and the referral sources.

Conclusions: Since the licensing of drug therapy the proportion of patients diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment has doubled. These patients would be considered a high-risk group for the development of AD and thus can be carefully monitored and treatment commenced at a suitable time. Early diagnosis by memory clinics is partially dependent upon prompt and appropriate referrals and the majority of patients are referred by GPs. To investigate if there is a

need to promote awareness of the clinic in specific areas the rate of referrals from local practices and individual GPs are presented. ammarriott@hotmail.com

Conflict in the self: Beliefs that enable multiple social identities in refugees

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Objectives: Authors expanding Social Identity Theory (SIT) and researchers interested in immigration and refugee resettlement have recently approached agreement that the maintenance of dual or multiple social identities is both possible and beneficial to the individual. The available evidence increasingly highlights the advantages of identity integration (high identification with both own and host culture; acculturation theory). However, the work derived from the recent marriage of SIT with acculturation theory has not yet progressed far enough to be able to offer specific insights into the factors facilitating multiple identification on the one hand, and adaptation and well-being on the other. The present study explored this issue by focusing on a largely under-researched element of SIT: social mobility belief structures.

Design: Cross-sectional survey

Method: Serbo-Croatian questionnaires, containing mental health and adaptation measures and a new tool assessing subjective perceptions of host culture permeability (SPHCP) were administered to 76 Bosnian refugees in England and Slovenia (mean age = 37), 20 months after resettlement.

Results: Regression analyses and ANOVA results identified high SPHCP as a crucial variable in refugee resettlement, facilitating host (and dual) identification, recovery, positive future-related thinking and self-esteem, whilst being linked to low Culture Shock and depression.

Conclusions: Whilst previous research merely highlights that assimilation into a dominant group may be resisted and is associated with poor mental health, the present findings indicate that it is nevertheless essential for the well-being of acculturating individuals to perceive full membership and acceptance of self within the host culture as possible for themselves.

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Utility of the hospital anxiety and depression scale in coronary care patients

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Objectives: To investigate the psychometric properties and utility of the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) in coronary care patients following myocardial infarction.

Design: A within-subjects design was used with the HADS administered to patients on three occasions (five to seven days, six weeks and six months) following initial admission to hospital following acute myocardial infarction.

Methods: 335 patients consecutively and acutely admitted to hospitals in a northern region of England with a confirmed diagnosis of myocardial infarction were invited to take part in a survey examining factors, which may impact on the effectiveness of treatment. A project research nurse conducted administration of the HADS on all three occasions.

Results: A maximum likelihood factor analysis followed by oblimin rotation was conducted on the complete 14-item HADS at each observation point. A two-factor solution was found at each observation time representing the dimensions of anxiety and depression. The extracted depression factor was consistent across all three observation points with all HADS depression sub-scale items loading on this factor. The anxiety factor extracted was less consistent across time with variable and inconsistent loading of HADS anxiety sub-scale items on this factor.

Conclusions: Consistent with previous research in other clinical areas the HADS was demonstrated to have a two-factor structure. Though quick to administer and acceptable to

patients, the HADS anxiety sub-scale appears to have an inconsistent underlying factor structure when used with myocardial infarction patients across time. Caution is recommended regarding clinical decision-making based on observation of HADS anxiety sub-scale scores. cm29@york.ac.uk

Description of a group therapy component designed to enhance sexual offender's empathy for their victims

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Objectives: A component designed to enhance empathy was introduced to an established cognitive behavioural treatment programme for sexual offenders.

Method: The empathy component was introduced twice, two years apart. There were four male sexual offenders in treatment programme 1 and ten male sexual offenders in treatment programme 2. The empathy component included the following: – setting group rules; discussing sexual offence committed most recently; discussing different types of sexual offending; discussion of feelings, thoughts and reactions to the offenders offence and discussion of the impact of the offence on the victim.

Therapeutic efficacy was assessed using a standardised general measure of empathy, The Interpersonal Reactivity Index (Davis, 1980). The IRI consists of 28 items, which assesses fantasy; perspective taking; empathic concern and personal distress experienced due to others misfortune.

Design: Therapeutic efficacy was assessed pre-treatment, post-treatment and at three-month follow-up. A control group was also assessed. Repeated measures t-tests were used to assess differences in empathy between pre- and post-assessments. A two-way analysis of variance was used to assess differences between pre-, post- and three-month follow-up, over time.

Results: Treatment programme 1 produced tentative results indicating improved empathy. Treatment programme 2 produced significant differences between pre and post assessment, indicating increased empathy in terms of fantasy ($t(9) = 3.325, p = 0.009$), perspective taking ($t(9) = 4.630, p = 0.001$) and empathic concern ($t(9) = 2.882, p = 0.018$). Three-month follow-up assessments indicated that the increase in empathy had been maintained. Control group assessments indicated that the increase in empathy was due to the empathy component.

Conclusion: The empathy component introduced to a cognitive behavioural treatment programme for sexual offenders demonstrated increased empathy. Future research to compare different empathy measures would be beneficial, and looking more specifically at the relationship between what is taught in empathy programmes and what is measured by empathy assessments.

Does the disgust emotion play a causal role in anxious psychopathologies?

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Objectives: Disgust has been implicated in several anxiety disorders. This research investigated whether there was a causal relationship between anxiety and disgust, and considered the implications of this for the role of disgust in anxiety disorders.

Design: In a series of studies, anxious, disgust and neutral moods were induced with three different mood induction procedures to determine whether there were underlying causal relationships between moods.

Methods: In study 1, a guided imagery and music mood induction procedure (MIP) was used to induce anxious, disgust, sad, happy, angry and neutral moods ($n = 121$). In study 2, a video MIP was used to induce anxious, disgust and neutral moods ($n = 60$). In study 3, an

autobiographical and music MIP was used to induce anxious, disgust and neutral moods ($n = 60$). Moods were measured before and after inductions using visual analogue scales.

Results: A 3 (mood induced) \times 3 (induction type) MANOVA was conducted on the mood change scores from all three studies. There was a significant effect of mood induced, but not induction type. Raising anxious mood also raises sad, disgust and angry moods. Raising disgust mood also raises anger and contempt moods, but not anxiety.

Conclusions: As disgust mood does not raise anxiety, this suggests that disgust may not play a causal role in anxiety disorders. As raising anxious mood also raises disgust, this suggests that disgust sensitivity may be raised in people with anxiety disorders due to elevated levels of anxiety. Further studies have also suggested this. smarzillier@hotmail.com

A path analysis from lower socioeconomic status to psychosocial problems in childhood: The mediating and moderating effects of parental involvement and stress

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Objectives: We explored the hypothesis that parental stress and involvement mediate the relation between family socioeconomic status and children's cognitive competence, academic achievement, and behavioural problems.

Design: To eliminate intervention effects, we used a cross-sectional design to include all kindergarten and first-grade students at baseline in a prospective study (Early Risers) being conducted to study the effects of intervention in development of antisocial behaviour.

Methods: Participants: The sample was drawn from 12 inner-city schools in Minneapolis, Minnesota, US ($n = 538$) and 20 schools in several Minneapolis metropolitan area suburbs ($n = 365$) to ensure economic heterogeneity.

Materials: Instruments administered to children include Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test (KBIT), Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Achievement (Applied Problems, Broad Reading, and Basic Reading subscales), Pictorial Scale of Perceived Competence and Social Acceptance in Young Children. Parent measures included the Alabama Parenting Questionnaire, the Behaviour Assessment System for Children-Parent (BASC-P), and the Parenting Stress Index (PSI). Teacher measures included the Behaviour Assessment System for Children-Teacher (BASC-T), and the Teacher's Rating Scale of Child's Actual Competence and Social Acceptance.

Procedures: Following Institutional Review Board Approval, principals and/or school district administrators gave permission to recruit child and parent participants for the study. We obtained parental consent for children's participation. Children in homes below the 50th percentile on the Hollingshead Scale of Socioeconomic Status were classified as Lower SES, whereas those above it were assigned to the Higher SES group.

Results: Bivariate relations were found between SES and scores on the Woodcock-Johnson and KBIT. Bivariate relations were found between SES and PSI subscales, including parental involvement. Lower SES is associated with higher scores on the PSI. Higher scores on the PSI are related to lower scores on the Woodcock-Johnson and KBIT. SES was found to mediate the relation between scores on the PSI and Woodcock-Johnson. Structural Equation Modelling (Path Analysis) is being used to further examine these relations.

Conclusions: These findings suggest that interventions designed to ameliorate parental stress and increase parental involvement may help prevent the deleterious effects that lower SES exerts on children's academic performance and intelligence, which is associated with the development of antisocial behaviours.

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The role of imagery in rehabilitating neglect patients with complex disabilities

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Objectives: This study was designed to investigate the effects of imagined limb activation in participants with unilateral visual neglect and severe complex disabilities.

Design: Two single case studies are presented.

Method: In the first case, a standard ABBABBA design was employed, where the participant was asked to imagine making movements with his left arm during the intervention conditions. In the second case, an ACCABBACCABBA design was used in which the participant imagined movements of the left arm during the intervention conditions, and the right arm during control conditions. Neglect performance was systematically assessed using standard neuropsychological measures at each stage of the design.

Results: In case 1, a comparison of intervention and baseline conditions suggested that imagined activation of the left arm significantly reduced the severity of left neglect. In case 2, no significant reduction in the severity of neglect performance was observed for imagined left arm activation, but an increase in neglect symptoms was present for imagined right arm activation.

Conclusions: The findings suggest that imagined limb activation can influence the presentation of neglect, but the effects appear to be specific to the arm used. The application of this technique for the clinical practitioner working with severely disabled brain injured adults with neglect is discussed. The cognitive mechanisms underpinning the ability to imagine are also considered.

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Attentional bias for near and far space using a line bisection task

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Objectives: The current study addressed the direction and magnitude of attentional bias in normal adults. The sensitivity of this attentional bias effect with respect to the direction of scanning was also investigated. It was predicted that differences in bisection performance as a function of viewing distance would be observed and that performance might be modulated both by scanning direction and line length.

Design: A 4 (viewing distance) \times 4 (line length) \times 2 (cursor starting position) repeated measures factorial design was employed.

Method: All participants were required to bisect lines of four different lengths (20mm, 40mm, 60mm and 80mm) from four distances: personal (300mm), peripersonal (600mm), peri-extraperpersonal (900mm), and extraperpersonal (1200mm). The starting position of the cursor was balanced for each set of lines: from the left or right extreme of the line. The direction and size of line bisection error were the dependent measures.

Results: As expected, differences in bisection performance as a function of viewing distance were observed. The findings confirmed that scanning direction but not line length, significantly modulated this effect. The direction of bias across near and far space yielded a progressive shift from a left-ward bias in near space to a rightward bias in far space.

Conclusions: The results provide important behavioural support for the proposal that dissociated neural sub-systems may be responsible for attending and acting in near and far space. The findings have both interesting clinical and theoretical implications, both of which are considered.

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The Nottingham Mental Health Service for Children/Young People Looked After

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Objectives: The main objective of this audit was to evaluate the specialist Mental Health Service for Children/Young People Looked After, covering the Nottingham district health authority.

Design: The design of this study was influenced by the service it evaluated. This is a baseline audit of the service it therefore sets out to measure initial service user satisfaction; the effectiveness of a prototype consultation form as a tool to guide the consultation sessions, and to quantify professionals' 'first' opinions about the service. Implicit within these measures was the development of service standards. This specialist service was set up in September 2000 to offer a high quality access route to a mental health professional to all of the Children's Homes, and the Fostering and Looked After Social Work Teams in Nottingham.

Method: Data was collected using four different methods: structured interviews with young people who were 'Looked After' in Nottingham (10); assessment of consultation forms were analysed for quality and quantity (337); focus groups were conducted (12); and evaluation questionnaires were designed and collated (103).

Results: The key findings indicated that professionals were unclear about the purpose of the consultation service, which also had an impact upon their views of the conclusions and recommendations made at the end of a consultation session. There was also very clear evidence that the consultation form was not being used to its full potential and would need to be altered to address this.

Conclusions: The results indicated that this new service has had an extremely positive affect upon the professionals' practice and understanding of the mental health issues for children/young people who are looked after. Professionals agreed that this service had increased accessibility and should continue with adjustments.

Tracking the development of mental state and non-mental state skills in autism

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Objectives: There has been considerable speculation about the nature of the theory of mind difficulty in autism, including whether children have a deficit or delay in understanding mind. Cross-sectional findings have indicated delay, and some research also suggests that mental state abilities as measured by false belief tasks, are linked to non-mental state abilities such as language and some executive function skills. However, there has been no longitudinal research. The aims of the study were to test longitudinally the hypothesis that theory of mind understanding may be delayed in autism; and to test for any accompanying development of non-social features.

Design: The experimental conditions were times of testing, which were three years apart, and the measures were scores across a range of cognitive tests, both mental state and non-mental state.

Method: The group comprised 17 children with autism, mean CA nine years, mean verbal mental age, six years at first time of testing. Children were first given two language tests, (BPVS and TROG), then six false belief tasks and six false photo tasks which incorporate memory and reality questions.

Results: Analysis showed a statistically significant increase at time 2 on false belief and false photo scores, and also in language scores, both verbal mental age and standard scores, but no improvement on reality and memory answers.

Conclusion: These findings indicate development of mental state understanding, supporting the delay hypothesis, with associated development of some non-social abilities.

However, some children did not improve, indicating variety across the autism continuum.
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The Richardson Conflict Response Questionnaire among Northern Irish and Czech students: A cross-cultural comparison of direct and indirect aggression.

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Background: There is increasing interest in cross-cultural comparison on different indices of aggression, including suicides, murders, violent crimes, and bullying. One popular approach involves the examination of differences between cultural groups on various self-report measures of aggression.

Aim: The aim of the present study was to compare levels of direct and indirect aggression between Northern Irish and Czech students

Method: The Richardson Conflict Response Questionnaire, containing direct and indirect aggression sub-scales, was administered among a sample of Northern Irish and Czech undergraduate university students.

Results: Comparisons were drawn between scores on the direct and indirect aggression sub-scales between the Northern Irish and Czech respondents. For either measure of aggression, no significant differences were found between the two cultural groups.

Conclusion: Despite the marked cultural differences with respect to the saliency of aggression between Northern Irish and Czech society, no differences were found on scores of either direct and indirect aggression. Results are discussed with respect to cultural and conceptual issues relating to the measurement of direct and indirect aggression.

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Major developments for teaching psychology

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For several years we have witnessed the spectacular rise in the numbers of students who study, and who apply to study, psychology in both secondary and tertiary education. Designing curricula which are uniquely suited to each level of education, which maintain coherence between levels and ensure progression has not always been easy, given the differing aims and goals of secondary and tertiary study. The purpose of this symposium is to draw together major developments for teaching psychology at both national levels and within the Society. Benchmarking is part of a national strategy to make more explicit what graduates in psychology know and can do and will have an impact on undergraduate curricula and teaching. The Society's Qualifying Examination has recently undergone a review. The further expansion of secondary study through A and AS level psychology together with the introduction of National Qualifications in Psychology in Scotland are likely to increase the number of students seeking to study at the next level. LTSN Psychology is part of a national investment to provide resources and support for teaching psychology and to encourage innovation in learning and teaching practice. The symposium provides a forum to explore the relationships between these developments and their implications for psychology teaching at a national level.

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The relationship between novelty seeking and taste preference for sweetened drinks in humans

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Objectives: Studies have shown that animals

exhibiting high levels of novelty seeking and high intake of sugar solutions also demonstrate elevated levels of dopamine-mediated behaviours and elevated responses to dopaminergic drugs (e.g. amphetamine). The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship in humans between preference for more concentrated sweet solutions and high scores on the novelty-seeking dimension Cloninger's Temperament & Personality Questionnaire (TPQ).

Design: A regression study examined the relationship between the personality variables: novelty seeking; harm avoidance and reward dependency and preference for one of a range of glucose concentrations in a lemon flavoured drink.

Method: An opportunity sample of 74 participants (age range 18 to 85) from a town in the North of England completed the TPQ and stated a preference after tasting five lemon-flavoured glucose drinks ranging in concentration from 0–0.3g/ml glucose. Participants tasted the five solutions in random order, once only, and then completed the questionnaire. In addition, participants rated their preference for sweet foods in general ('sweet tooth') on a 10cm rating scale from not at all to very much. Pearson-correlation between glucose drink preference and self-rated 'sweet tooth' were determined.

Results: There was a significant correlation between taste preference and self-rated 'sweet-tooth' scores $p < .001$. Taste preference choices showed that in general individuals with higher scores on the novelty seeking scale of the TPQ preferred sweeter drinks. A multiple regression showed that two novelty seeking subscales: NS1 (exploratory excitability vs stoic rigidity) and NS3 (extravagance vs reserve) accounted for 6.8 per cent of the variance on the choice of drink (taste preference). This was significant at $p < .05$.

Conclusions: There is a relationship between novelty seeking and preference for sweeter solutions in humans. This mirrors findings in animals, which have been used as behavioural markers for elevated activity in the mesolimbic dopamine reinforcement system. Further work is required to explore this relationship in humans and to evaluate the involvement of dopaminergic systems. This work is a potential paradigm for investigating individual differences in substance abuse. Self-rated 'sweet-tooth' scores are an appropriate way to gain information on participants' preference for sweet foods and can be used in future research to gain information relating to taste preference.

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The ageing person: Caring, assessing, constructing

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This symposium approaches the topic of ageing through examples of research drawn from three dominant strands within health psychology: caregiving, dementia, and quality of life. Each contribution attempts to move forward our understanding of health issues relating to ageing and older people. The first two papers examine how the relationship between a carer and a frail care-receiver can impact upon carer health and well-being, and the outcomes of the caregiving relationship. The third paper, while retaining an interest in the perceptions of family carers of frail older people, moves attention more towards the older person, focusing on their coping strategies during the early stages of dementia. The fourth paper examines through focus groups with older people and informal and professional carers the issues that are central to an older person's quality of life, placing this research in the context of quality of life assessment. The final paper, by Chris Gilliard, places psychological research on ageing itself in the spotlight, by considering how psychological research on older people's sexuality, cognitive functioning, and psychosocial functioning, has framed ageing and the older person in particular ways, and proposes an agenda for reframing bodily ageing.

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Outcomes of disagreement between carer and care-receiver over activities of daily living

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Objectives: To determine how carers' and care-receivers' disagreement over care-receivers' level of dependency for instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs) impacts on a range of carer and caregiving outcomes.

Design: Structured interviews with two-year follow-up

Methods: Older people (65+ years) resident in the community were identified through general practice records and recruited to the study ($n = 115$). Through interview, family caregivers were also identified. Structured questionnaire-based interviews were carried out separately with the older person and his/her carer, focusing on reported dependency for IADLs and incorporating a range of measures of psychological well-being and relationship functioning. After two years, the surviving members of the sample were contacted and re-interviewed, and changes in health status and place of residence of the older person noted.

Results: Bivariate analyses within the cross-sectional data demonstrated significant relationships between levels of carer/care-receiver disagreement and outcomes. Total disagreement between carer and care-receiver was correlated with carer self-reported stress ($r = .39, p < .001$), carer willingness to continue caring ($r = .190, p = .042$), carer acceptance of institutional care ($r = .21, p = .025$), and carer-receiver's social death ($r = .18, p = .049$). Longitudinal analyses demonstrated similar relationships over time, while different patterns emerged relative to whether the carer or care-receiver perceived higher dependency in the care-receiver's IADLs.

Conclusions: Much caregiving research has concentrated on the carer, whereas less research has focused on the relations between carer and care-receiver as a determinant of outcomes of caregiving. This study demonstrates the importance of assessing the nature of the carer/care-receiver relationship, and provides important information for potential supportive interventions.

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Age and quality of life (2): Cognition and psychological well-being

K MCKEE, University of Sheffield

The ESRC Growing Older Programme has funded over 20 research projects that focus on the potential for extending quality of life in later life. This symposium brings together four projects that have as a common theme the importance of psychological factors or processes for quality of life in old age. Paper one, presented by Professor Mary Gilhooly, reveals the mid-life health-related variables that predict cognitive functioning in later life, and also considers how cognitive functioning relates to quality of life in older people. Paper two, presented by Professor Graham Beaumont, considers how a range of psychological factors mediates between environmental factors (specifically residential status) and perceived quality of life. Paper three, presented by Fiona Wilson, considers the value of reminiscence for older people in residential settings, both for the promotion of personhood, and for relationships with informal and formal caregivers. Finally, in Paper four, Professor Peter Coleman examines through a case-study methodology, the importance of spiritual beliefs for the psychological well-being of bereaved spouses. The four papers therefore offer a synopsis of the considerable breadth of research designs and methods employed within the Growing Older programme. Professor Ken Gilhooly acts as a discussant, drawing together the evidence from the four papers to consider what new insights the described studies offer into the importance of psychological factors and processes for quality of life in older people.

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Prediction of risk in sex offenders with learning disability

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Background: Prediction of risk in offenders generally considers both static and dynamic factors. The former is an actuarial prediction based on histories of subject (Quinsey *et al.*, 1997) and the latter is a clinical risk assessment based on clinicians estimates of an individuals response to treatment and likelihood of re-offending. This presentation builds on findings of Quinsey (unpublished) in which the VRAG, which has been found to be an excellent predictor of violent or sexual offences, was confirmed as a similarly good predictor in this client group.

Method: 52 sex offenders with learning disability were included in the study. A series of both static and dynamic variables was taken from existing literature and completed for all subjects. Three dependent variables were employed – evidence of re-offending, suspicion of re-offending and increased risk of re-offending.

Results: The most significant static variables to emerge included poor relationship with mother, age at first arrest and sexual abuse in childhood. Several dynamic factors emerged as predictive variables including denial of crime, antisocial attitude, poor response to treatment, and frequent sexual fantasising.

Conclusions: The results strongly support the efficacy of dynamic variables in clinical risk assessment. This would contradict some claims in the literature that dynamic variables have little validity as predictors and also supports the conclusions by Quinsey that dynamic staff ratings in addition to static variables were reasonable risk predictors in offenders with intellectual disability.

Does participation in a person centred group benefit young men with testicular cancer?

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Objectives: This study aimed to develop a support group for men under 40 with testicular cancer and to evaluate its impact on the participants' psychological well-being, groups having been shown to benefit other cancer patients.

Design: Quasi-experimental, in which quantitative data from the group participants was compared to that of comparable control subjects who did not take part in the group, to determine whether any improvement in psychological well-being in the group members was attributable to group participation. Qualitative data was also collected from group members only as this related to expectations around, and observations about, the outcome of group participation.

Methods: Eight men, recruited from a hospital outpatient clinic, participated in an eight-session person-centred group co-facilitated by a counsellor and an oncologist. Members completed questionnaires, pre- and post-group, on mood state (POMS), quality of life (FLI), cancer concerns (CCC), coping (MAC) and sexual functioning, plus a semi-structured interview pre-group, addressing presenting issues, expectations and concerns about the group, and post group, concerning perceived efficacy. Eight controls completed questionnaires only.

Results: Questionnaire data was analysed using SPSS; qualitative data was content analysed. There were no statistically significant changes in group members or controls, however there were clinically significant improvements in mood state and coping responses of individual group members.

Conclusions: Data suggested that the group was a valuable experience for most members and for the oncologist. Findings have informed the format of subsequent groups.

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Denial and attitudes in sex offenders: Treatment for offenders against adults and offenders against children

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Objectives: Lindsay *et al.* (1998) developed methods for the treatment of men with an intellectual disability that had been convicted of exhibitionism and sex offences against children. This paper aims to assess the effectiveness of these methods by analysing denial assessments (Kennedy & Grubin 1994) and attitudinal change (Lindsay & Smith 1998).

Methods: Denial assessments developed by Kennedy & Grubin (1994) were administered at three-monthly intervals to eight men who had been convicted of sexual offences against adults and eight men convicted of sexual offences against children. The participants attended a weekly treatment group for people with an intellectual disability who had committed a sexual offence. Attitudinal change was assessed via questionnaire developed by Lindsay & Smith (1998), again at three-monthly intervals.

Design: A within-subjects repeated measures design was used to determine differences over time in denial and attitudes.

Results: Group 1 – sexual offences against adults. There was a significant decrease in denial over time ($f(8,63) = 5.95, p < 0.001$). There was a significant decrease in inappropriate attitudes consistent with sexual offences against children ($f(8,63) = 3.422, p = 0.003$). There was however no significant change in relation to attitudes consistent with sexual offence against adults.

Group 2 – sexual offences against children. There was a significant decrease in denial over time ($f(8,63) = 2.182, p = 0.041$). There were also significant differences in relation to attitudes consistent with sexual offences against adults and sexual offences against children, with attitudes becoming more socially acceptable ($f(8,63) = 3.141, p = 0.005, f(8,63) = 2.81, p = 0.041$ respectively).

Conclusions: There was a significant reduction in denial, for participants in groups 1 and 2. Group 1 consisted of male sexual offenders who had committed sexual offences against women. This group displayed changes in attitudes towards children and no change in attitudes towards women. It may be that participants found it easier to alter inappropriate attitudes that are not directly related to their own offending behaviour. Future research looking at recidivism rates could ascertain if participants with increasingly socially appropriate attitudes re-offend less often than participants with more socially inappropriate attitudes.

Depression and quality of life: Are they interlinked?

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Objectives: Measurement of QoL is important as an outcome measure in the area of mental health. One recognised definition of QoL in health care is based on the 'wants' approach. This defines QoL as the discrepancy or 'gap' between the individuals 'actual' QoL and their 'aspirational' QoL, the latter being the QoL which they want or aspire to. The definition suggests that the larger the gap between actual and aspirational QoL, the poorer the individual's QoL. The model being tested in this study predicts that depression affects the size of this gap and thus the depressed individuals QoL.

Design: A repeated-measures, within-subjects design was used to operationalise the model.

Method: 18 in-patients with a diagnosis of moderate to severe uni-polar depression agreed to participate. Measures of depressive symptomatology and an individualised QoL measure were administered at two time points, T1 one approximately five days after admission and T2 approximately 12 weeks later.

Results: Bi-variate analyses were used to detect associations between measures and obtain scores for the 'gap' between participants actual and aspirational QoL across time. Multivariate

analyses were used to explore the factors influencing these associations. Results confirmed the prediction that depressive symptomatology affected the size of the 'gap' between actual and aspirational QoL.

Conclusions: Depression was shown to impact on participants' perception of their QoL in that there was a relatively large gap between actual and aspirational QoL when participants were more depressed. This gap became smaller as they improved. However, aspirational QoL remained consistently high whether participants were depressed or beginning to recover. This finding has implications for the nature and focus of psychological intervention in depression. maggiemoore@ntlworld.com

The role of autonomic feedback in the appraisal of media violence

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Objectives: The debate surrounding the effects of watching and interpreting media violence has been a long and controversial one. This research seeks to investigate the role of the perception of self arousal in appraising film violence. Little attention has been given to the potential role that viewers physiological arousal might play in responses to and interpretations of such violence. Zillman (1978) and Valins (1966) have suggested the impact that arousal perception plays in emotional and cognitive appraisals.

Design & Methodology: 60 undergraduate participants viewed a seven-minute film (rated as being violent by a comparable population of people) whilst receiving false auditory feedback about their heart rates throughout the film duration. Participants actual heart rates were measured throughout the experiment. Subjects were randomly assigned to one of three conditions in a unrelated design: In the first group participants were given the impression they had aroused heart rates throughout the film; the second group a resting heart rate and third group a lowered heart rate.

Experimental Hypothesis: It was predicted that participants would use this information in subsequent cognitive appraisals of the film and that the first group (perceived aroused heart rates) would show more negative appraisal of it (rating the film as being more violent, more memorable, more vivid, etc.) and more negative mood changes to it (feeling sadder, angrier, more anxious, etc.).

Results & Conclusion: Such results would suggest that physiological arousal can play a significant role in appraising and responding to social stimuli. Analysis is in progress. S.moore@unl.ac.uk

Exorcising the broken spirit: sleep, psychology and insomnia in later life

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Disturbed by the nocturnal pacing of Captain Ahab on the upper deck of the Pequod, Ishmael, the narrator of Moby Dick, reflects that 'Old age is always wakeful; as if, the longer linked with life, the less man has to do with aught that looks like death'. Melville's observation, first published in 1851, neatly captures both state (late-life insomnia) and process (ageing sleep), and leaves little doubt that age-related change in sleep quality has long been recognised. Today, laboratory and community-based studies provide apparently complementary views of ageing sleep, with EEG studies showing a steady ageing-related decline in the length, depth and continuity of sleep, while population studies show a reciprocal increase in the prevalence of insomnia. Yet paradoxically, the research evidence does not support a simple cause-effect interpretation. This presentation explores age-related change in the structure and experience of human sleep in relation to health, lifestyle and individual differences. Drawing on current evidence it will examine the causes and consequences of late-life insomnia and aim to identify the role of psychological theory in understanding and responding to a major public health issue which,

for many, results in too many sleepless nights when '...all the causes of conflicting passion, of anxiety, and of corroding feeling, rise up with redoubled energy, and haunt the broken spirit' (Sigmond, 1836).

Psychological treatment in the management of hypnotic dependent chronic insomnia in primary care

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Background: While it is accepted that hypnotic therapy beyond three to four weeks duration is clinically undesirable, long-term use remains common. Such prescribing has been specifically addressed in the UK National Service Framework (NSF) for Older People which recommends that primary care agencies should actively provide withdrawal support. Psychological approaches to sleep management appear well placed to deliver this support, but remain under researched in primary care settings. This study was designed to evaluate the clinical and cost effectiveness of a CBT 'package' for hypnotic dependent chronic insomnia delivered by primary care counsellors supervised by a clinical psychologist.

Method: 209 participants aged 31 to 92 who met DSM IV criteria for insomnia, and had been taking prescribed hypnotics for at least one month, were recruited either into a CBT treated 'sleep clinic' group, or a 'no additional treatment' control group, with post-treatment assessments at three and six months.

Results: At three- and six-month follow-ups, CBT treated patients showed significantly improved Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index scores ($p < 0.05$) and significant reductions in drug use ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusions: In primary care settings using existing general practice staff, psychological treatment for insomnia is effective in reducing drug use and improving quality of sleep among chronic hypnotic-dependent patients.
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Post-event processing and autobiographical memory retrieval in socially anxious individuals

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Objectives: This experiment investigates whether post-event processing affects the retrieval of autobiographical memories rated as negative, anxious and shameful in socially anxious individuals.

Methods: Groups of socially anxious and non-anxious participants were asked to describe a recent ambiguous social event or interaction. Participants in each group were then randomly allocated to one of three conditions. Participants engaged in either positive or negative rumination about the event described, or were assigned to a distraction task which acted as a control condition. Participants were then asked to recall several specific events or experiences from memory. Memories were rated along three dimensions of positivity, anxiety and shame. Changes in mood were assessed at the start of the experiment and before memory recall.

Results: The results indicated that, compared to non-anxious controls, socially anxious individuals recalled significantly more negatively rated memories. However, this effect was not mediated by the type of rumination (positive vs negative). In addition, these memories were generally rated as more shameful. An unexpected finding revealed that socially anxious individuals recalled significantly less anxiously rated memories after negative rumination.

Conclusions: This study suggests that ruminative responses in socially anxious individuals appear to increase the salience of negative self-related information, leading to recall of adverse, negative social events and experiences in memory. However, post-event ruminative thoughts may not be maintained by pre-existing anxious memories, these memories appear to be negative but calming. These findings lead to a reconsideration of the nature of post-event processing in social phobia,

developing Clark and Wells cognitive model of social phobia. The present study suggests that post-event processing occurs because pre-existing memories and beliefs about past social failures support the negative self-perceptions inherent to ruminative thinking.
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A cognitive approach to understanding psychosis: Current evidence and future possibilities

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A cognitive approach to the understanding of psychosis is outlined. This approach highlights several common cognitive processes and structures that appear to be involved in the development and maintenance of both psychosis and anxiety disorders; these processes include misinterpretation, self-focused attention, safety behaviours, strategies used to control unwanted thoughts, imagery and metacognitive beliefs. The results of several experimental studies examining the roles of such processes in psychosis are summarised. The implications of this approach for research and practice are discussed. In particular, the possibilities regarding prevention of psychosis are considered. There is emerging evidence that risk indicators can predict psychotic episodes; some combinations of indicators (both state and trait factors) can effectively identify a high-risk sample of whom 40 per cent became psychotic after just six months. A study is described that aims to evaluate the effectiveness of a psychological intervention (based on the above model) in preventing, postponing and/or ameliorating transition to psychosis over the subsequent year in a randomised trial against a monitoring control. Interim results from this study are presented.

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Towards memory rehabilitation in Alzheimer's disease: Experiments on metamemory

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Objectives: Metamemory can be thought of as of the higher level or executive processes that co-ordinate memory. It has been conceptualised as comprising monitoring and control. Alzheimer's disease (AD) has been described as combining executive and memory deficits. Thus, there may be aspects of memory impairment that arise from the executive – or metamemory – deficit.

Because proficient metamemory can compensate for memory inadequacies, the study of metamemory is central to attempts to rehabilitate memory in AD. We examined monitoring processes for a range of tasks that are known to improve memory.

Design & Methods: We studied people with AD and older adult controls. We measured participants' monitoring abilities by asking them to predict their performance on ten-word memory tasks before and after an opportunity to learn the list. We varied the encoding task and materials used in order to see what influenced memory in AD.

Results: People with AD were sensitive to factors that influence memory such as list length, retention interval and word type, but they did not appreciate other factors that improved their memory – e.g. a deeper level of processing.

Conclusions: We discuss the implications of this work has on theories of memory monitoring. Importantly, we suggest ways in which our work may influence rehabilitation of memory in AD. We conclude that metamemory is largely based on 'rules of thumb' and that the memory impairment in AD affects the ability to monitor memory, not vice versa.

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The name game: Applying retrieval practice to name learning

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Objectives: To extend our previous research showing the name game to be a very effective technique for name learning by members of

groups to explore the contribution of retrieval over and above repetition, to evaluate three forms of the name game, and to confirm that the game is beneficial for moderately large groups
Design: In Experiment 1 different schedules of retrieval practice, achieved through variants of the name game (forward and reversed), were contrasted with one another and with a procedure matched in every detail but without the requirement for retrieval. In Experiment 2 variants of the reversed name game were contrasted with a non-retrieval condition and with techniques that were not retrieval-based.

Methods: Participants were students meeting in classes for the first time. In Experiment 1 there were 34 groups, mean size seven. Recall was tested after 30 minutes and two weeks. Experiment 2 involved four groups of approximately 25 students tested after five minutes.

Results: Retrieval-based techniques and reversed name game schedules were superior. In Experiment 1 over half the students using the reversed name game recalled all of the full names correctly after 30 minutes delay and after two weeks they recalled three times as many full names as those in the non-retrieval condition. In Experiment 2 performance was also very good and the pattern was the same.

Conclusions: The name game is a very effective way for groups up to 25 to learn each other's names. Retrieval practice plays a central part in the technique's effectiveness.

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Admission measures of motivation and confidence in in-patient opiate detoxification

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Objectives: To study changes in scores representing three motivation factors over three months from admission for in-patient opiate detoxification, and the ability of admission scores on these factors, together with confidence ratings for post-discharge abstinence, to predict post-discharge outcomes as a model.

Design: A prospective study comprising three measurement points; admission, one-month, and three-month follow-ups.

Method: A motivational questionnaire comprising 16 items previously shown to represent factors labelled 'Private Affairs', 'External Constraints', and 'Negative Effects' motivation to stop using heroin was administered to 57 patients at admission for in-patient detoxification. Confidence ratings for maintaining post-discharge abstinence were obtained using a visual analogue scale. Follow-up data was obtained by subsequent interviews, or by postal or telephone contact, and included at each point, where possible, scores from the re-administered motivational questionnaire and details of post-discharge drug use.

Results: Separate repeated measures ANOVAs for each motivation factor revealed no significant main effects across the measurement points, although Helmert contrasts showed a significant rise in External Constraints scores between the two follow-ups. As a predictive model, regression analyses showed admission scores to predict abstinence from illicit opiates 30 days after discharge, and the number of days free from illicit opiates in the three months following admission. However, this was mostly attributable to the confidence ratings.

Conclusions: Self-report motivation measures fluctuate little in the three months after admission. They may not be reliable predictors of outcomes in this treatment modality, whilst single scale confidence scale measures may be potentially useful indicators for clinical staff.

HSP70: A candidate gene for gender-specific brain atrophy following chronic alcohol exposure?

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Objectives: To identify possible candidate genes involved in gender-specific and region-specific brain injury following chronic alcohol exposure within an in vivo experimental comparative paradigm.

Design: A mixed-group comparative design was used. Male and Female Wistar rats were assigned to either a chronic alcohol or non-alcohol group (between-subjects factor). The dependent variables were c-Fos and HSP70 mRNA levels in each brain region (within-subjects factor).

Methods: Male (n = 20) and female (n = 16) rats were fed nutritionally complete diets containing either ethanol as 35 per cent of total calories (treated, n = 18) or isocaloric amounts of the same diet in which ethanol was replaced by isocaloric glucose (controls, n = 18). At the end of six weeks, rats were killed and c-Fos and HSP70 mRNA analysed in midbrain, cortex, brainstem and cerebellum by reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) with an endogenous internal standard, b-actin.

Results: Significant regional differences ($p < 0.05$) in both c-Fos (cerebellum > cortex > midbrain and brainstem) and HSP70 (brainstem and cerebellum > cortex and midbrain) were observed. However, the only statistically significant effect of alcohol feeding occurred in the HSP70 mRNA in the mid-brain of male rats, which was reduced by approximately 50 per cent ($p < 0.01$).

Conclusions: This study suggests that HSP70 mRNA is reduced by alcohol feeding and that this appears to be a regional and gender-specific effect. This suggests HSP70 may be a candidate gene implicated in gender-specific neurological insult and neurocognitive impairment following chronic ethanol exposure.

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Perceptions of reciprocity and risk in caregiving relationships

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Objectives: To examine how perceptions of reciprocity and risk in the caregiving relationship impact upon the willingness to continue caring in family carers of frail older people, and on carers' and care-receivers' psychological well-being.

Design: Cross-sectional interview-based questionnaire survey.

Method: Frail older people were accessed through local luncheon clubs and day centres, and carers accessed through local carer groups. Questionnaires were completed through interview on location, or arrangements made to visit the participant in his/her own home at a later date for interview. During interview, the identity of a carer (for the frail older person) or a frail older person receiving care (for the carer) was established, and this person subsequently contacted, recruited to the study, and interviewed. Thus, the final sample consisted of a number carer/care-receiver dyads. The questionnaire contained (for carers and care-receivers): items on demographics; a scale assessing the carer-receiver's problems with instrumental activities of daily living; the General Health Questionnaire; indirect and direct measures of attitudinal ambivalence to giving or receiving care; the Caregiving Mutuality Scale; two items assessing conflict over care provision or receipt; and measures of risk perception regarding potential accidents for the care-receiver. The carer questionnaire also included the COPE Index (a measure of negative impact and positive value in caregiving) and items assessing caregiving reciprocity.

Results: Analyses will indicate the relative

influence of perceptions of risk and reciprocity on psychological outcomes for carer and carer-receivers. Findings will be related to policy in the area of community care for older people.

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The effects of media representations of personal relationships

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Objectives: This exploratory study examined the impact of media representations of intimate relationships on participants' attitudes about sexuality and their own sexual behaviour.

Design: A pre-test/post-test design examined changes in sexual attitudes and behaviour in a group of participants that viewed sexually explicit television over the course of a month.

Methods: Participants were 12 couples that had been together for at least nine months. Each participant completed a questionnaire gathering basic biographical data and information on sexual attitudes and behaviour. Questions gathered quantitative and qualitative data. Participants were then required to view a minimum of 20 hours of adult sexual media over the month following completion of the questionnaire; this could be material broadcast on terrestrial television or other sources available to the participants. The cover sheet to the questionnaire provided advice on the types of television programmes that would be appropriate. Following the viewing period, a second version of the questionnaire, containing additional items, was completed by the participants.

Results: Analyses are preliminary and still being completed. Main statistical analyses are by means of series of chi square tests comparing pre-test and post-test answers to the questionnaire. Results showed attitudes to watching 'soft' and 'hard' pornography were significantly more positive at post-test. There was also a significant increase in the frequency of some specific sexual behaviours. Participants with higher levels of viewing also reported corresponding increases in the levels of their own and their partners levels of sexual desire, sexual experimentation and frequency of sex.

Conclusions: Though a preliminary study, these results are suggestive of an important link between media use, sexual attitudes and sexual behaviour.

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Benchmarking for undergraduate degrees

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Purpose: To disseminate the contents of the Psychology Benchmarking statement.

Background: From 2000–2001 a group of psychologists met under the auspices of the Quality Assurance Agency to devise benchmark standards for psychology.

Method & Key Points: The talk describes the way in which the benchmarking group approached the task, the consultations it held and the final outcome, which will be published by QAA in 2002.

Conclusions: The implications of the benchmarking statement are discussed, and the way in which it will feed into course planning and approval and into the QAA's inspection regime.

Regulating sexual relationships: An analysis of discourse

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Objectives: Informed by social constructionism and feminist post-structural writing, the study aimed to explicate discursive constructions of 'infidelity' and 'monogamy' as contextualised by accounts of personal relationships.

Design: An integrated form of discourse analysis and conversational analysis was implemented in the study

Method: 10 interviews were conducted, the participants included both males and females of various ages and furthermore 'media texts' relating to issues of 'infidelity' and 'monogamy'

were opportunely gathered.

Results: 'Man: A sexual being', 'passive/aggressive infidelity' and 'relationship parameters' discourses were proposed. In addition the 'monogamy – a state of mind' and 'infidelity – in the eye of the beholder' repertoires were explored.

Conclusions: It was concluded that a thorough exploration of these discourses and repertoires reflected the fluid and contextually dependent constitution of 'infidelity' and 'monogamy' in personal relationships. Such critical analysis joins a body of research that may be seen as providing a level for challenging dominant meaning systems that enable the construction of particular personal and sexual relationships as 'normal', 'right' or 'appropriate'.

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Learning to construct 'normal' heterosexual desire: Young women's early sexual experiences

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Objectives: This study examined women's descriptions of their early sexual experiences with the aim of understanding how they came to make sense of their sexual development in the context of their biographies.

Design: This cross-sectional study used in-depth semi-structured interviews to collect qualitative data from women, the focus of which was a biographical reconstruction of their sexual knowledge and sexual experiences. The interviews were tape-recorded and then transcribed verbatim.

Methods: 33 women participated, recruited through local advertisements. They were mainly middle class professionals or students and mostly identified themselves as heterosexual. Ages ranged from 18 to 60. All had had heterosexual experiences although some identified themselves as bisexual or lesbian at the time of the interview. The data were examined using a symbolic interactionist approach, specifically to identify and describe: (a) the context in which the women enacted their early experiences of heterosexual intercourse; and (b) the emotional content implicit and explicit in their accounts.

Results: The results indicated that even women at the younger end of the sample (whose parents grew up in the 1960s) had been told very little about sexuality and grew up in ignorance seeing sex as mysterious, embarrassing and taboo. This impacted upon their subsequent experiences and attitudes to sexual health. However they did 'understand' early on in their lives that there was a 'double standard' and that boys 'needed' sexual intercourse and girls were 'responsible' for the couples' behaviour. They also 'accepted' that coercion was a normal part of the early sexual experience of women.

Conclusions: It is clear from the accounts in this study that despite good intentions of parents and educational institutions, many women are socialised into feeling guilty about sexual feelings and desire at least in part because sexual education still contains elements of mystery and information about female sexual desire is indirect.

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Patriotism's evil twin? Inter-nation comparisons and their evaluation in an interview setting

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Objectives: An interview study explored whether expressions of patriotism depended on inter-nation comparison. Another consideration was to test a theoretical sub-division of the content of national identity into symbols, values, and traits.

Design: Semi-structured interviews were conducted to scrutinise respondent's idiosyncratic accounts of their national identity. Participants were invited to elaborate points that were important to them personally. This was done to assess both the presence and the salience of the issues under consideration.

Methods: 19 student volunteers from 11 nations participated. Seven interviews were transcribed fully. These were qualitatively analysed following the methodological recommendations of Smith

(1995). Case summaries and a cross-case review were produced.

Results: Inter-group comparisons consistently constituted the most common class of comparisons, with temporal comparisons somewhat less frequent and normative comparisons quite rare. The significance of inter-nation comparisons was explicitly acknowledged by some participants. It was not the class of comparisons, but their evaluation, that seemed to be mediated by a stance of national assertion, traditionalism, or universalism (Gallenmüller & Wakenhut, 1992) in the respondent. Patriots differed from more sceptical individuals primarily in their attachment to national symbols. The common differentiation between 'patriots' and 'nationalists' found no support.

Conclusions: Inter-group comparisons appear essential to accounts of national identity, regardless of the level of patriotism in the individual. Stance is an important factor in the evaluation of such comparisons and may be more valid than a simplistic nationalism/patriotism distinction. Symbols, traits and (to a lesser extent) values are identified as meaningful and psychologically veridical sub-divisions of identity content.

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When do young children understand television advertising?

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Objectives: The primary objective was to determine when children begin to understand the persuasive intent of television advertising. Although studies exist in this field, the age at which children are said to understand advertising is contested, with claims ranging from four years up to 12.

Design: Most previous studies are of a quantitative nature but to investigate children's understanding in their own words, focus groups were used.

Method: 182 children aged between five years six months and 11 years were interviewed in forty small focus groups. The children were divided into three age groups.

Results: None of the six-year-olds, a minority of the eight-year-olds and the majority of ten-year-olds were able to attribute persuasive intent to television advertising. The six- and eight-year-olds largely explained advertising as opportunities for breaks, for both viewers and those on television, and as providers of information. Ten-year-olds continued to mention breaks and information, but realised that the discrepancy between advertisements and the actual products was due to the desire of advertisers to increase sales.

Conclusions: This research challenges previous findings that suggest children as young as four understand the persuasive intention behind television advertising. The range of understanding exhibited by the children, even in the same age group, indicates that age on its own is not a reliable predictor of understanding. The implications are that children are not the sophisticated audiences suggested by marketers and media regulation is still required to control children's advertising.

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Hormones and behaviour: Does testosterone really matter?

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The effect of hormones on behaviour, and in particular aggression, has received considerable attention over the last decade. Much of this research has been over-reliant on correlational methods thus making it difficult to draw clear conclusions. This symposium examines important, recent experimental investigations into the relationship between androgens (e.g. testosterone) and a range of behaviours. The first paper explores the testosterone-human aggression relationship, presenting evidence from several investigations, including studies involving administering supraphysiological testosterone to normal men. The second paper reports evidence for the neurobiological foundation of childhood aggression from studies of hospitalised children

with oppositional defiant disorder and conduct disorder. In particular, the key neurobiological systems including androgenic effects are explored as mechanisms accounting for persistent childhood aggression. The final paper investigates the hormonal basis of territorial aggression in humans in the form of 'home advantage' documented in a variety of sports. This study considers whether this form of territorial aggression is under-pinned by fluctuations in testosterone levels. All the papers included in this symposium are relevant to the 'Psychology of Aggression and Conflict' theme and attempt to unravel the complex relationship between hormones and a variety of child and adult behaviours. These findings may have implications for a range of clinical, academic and professional agencies.

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Illness perceptions, psychological adjustment and physical functioning in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease patients

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Objectives: The primary objective of the study is to examine the relationship between illness perceptions, psychological adjustment and aspects of physical functioning in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease patients (COPD). A specific aim is to investigate to what extent illness perceptions predict objective outcome measures such as physical functioning and severity.

Design: Cross-sectional design

Methods: 70 COPD patients were recruited and completed The Illness Perceptions Questionnaire (IPQ), COPD Symptom Control Questionnaire (CSCQ), the Psychosocial Adjustment to Illness Scale (PAIS), The Cope Inventory, Impact of Respiratory Symptoms Questionnaire and the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS). In addition to the questionnaire measures, patients were also asked to rate their physical functioning using an Oxygen Cost Diagram. Airways obstruction was also assessed using spirometric tests (e.g. Forced Expiratory Volume in one second [FEV1]).

Results & Conclusions: Implications of these results will be discussed in relation to the self-regulatory model and future intervention studies targeting illness perceptions, coping, and physical functioning.

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Assessing the ecological validity of the 'Hayling and Brixton Tests': Two tests of Dysexecutive Syndrome

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Objectives: This study aimed to ascertain the ecological validity of the 'Hayling and Brixton Tests' of executive functioning. Ecological validity was conceptualised along the lines of the WHO model of illness. The main hypothesis being that performance on the Hayling and Brixton Tests would correlate with everyday functioning in the domain of executive disability and handicap, with a greater correlation between impairment and disability, than between impairment and handicap.

Design: A correlational design was employed, investigating the relationship between the executive test results, executive behavioural measures, and community integration measures. This is a common design for establishing veridicality of a test (the accuracy of predicting executive behaviours in the free environment).

Method: 64 brain-injured participants and their 'significant other' were selected from a brain injury rehabilitation centre patient list. The brain-injured participant was administered the executive tests, together with behavioural and community integration questionnaires, while their 'significant other' was given an equivalent behavioural questionnaire and structured interview.

Results: On correlational analysis, the tests had modest ecological validity, comparable with

previous studies assessing other executive measures. Hayling scores had highest correlations with disability measures, while Brixton scores correlated best with the handicap measure. Regression analyses confirmed these findings. Correlations with the handicap measure were generally lower than with disability measures, in accordance with the WHO model of illness.

Conclusion: These tests are clinically useful in understanding the impact of executive impairment on everyday functioning. However, such modest correlations suggest that caution should be applied when interpreting the results.

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Coping and psychosocial functioning in CVID (Common Variable Immunodeficiency)

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Objectives: Previous research on chronic medical conditions highlights the importance of addressing psychosocial factors and coping as part of standard care. This study aimed to investigate psychosocial issues, coping and quality of life in patients with CVID and identify common themes pre and post-diagnosis. We also explored individual accounts of CVID in relation to how the quality of physical and psychological care may be improved.

Design: As there is no existing published literature in this area, a qualitative design was used to explore issues and themes related to psychosocial functioning in this patient group.

Methods: 15 participants with CVID from centres in South England and volunteers from the PIA (Primary Immune Association) were invited to participate in a semi-structured interview. Data was analysed using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis.

Results: The following themes were identified from the analyses.

Pre-diagnosis: Long Search for diagnosis and health consequences; Symptom attributions; Being believed; Coping with symptoms. After diagnosis: Value of a label; Lack of public understanding (e.g. confusion with HIV); Lifestyle disruption; Invasiveness of treatment; Impact on significant others; Stigma; Isolation from others with CVID

Conclusions: Public understanding of CVID remains low leading to difficulties with stigmatisation and disclosure of diagnosis. Interviewees reported considerable ongoing stress around diagnosis and coping with a chronic illness. They felt that clinical care should also address psychological needs. A larger quantitative study is underway to make clear recommendations for establishing appropriate support services and establishing psychosocial models of care.

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Getting over getting older: Adapting to challenges associated with own future old age

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Objectives: Many people have worries and concerns about their future old age and about what this time of life will mean for them. These worries and concerns have the potential to impair current health and quality of life. The current study aimed to examine the influence of coping strategies on age-associated challenges.

Method: Adults of all ages were individually recruited from the high street and from their attendance and social and religious events (n = 322) and assessed at two time points. Age-associated challenges were assessed by the general attitudes to ageing scale, the fears of ageing measure and the ageing optimism scale (O'Hanlon & Coleman, in prep). Measures of adaptation included selective optimisation with compensation (Baltes & Baltes, 1990), primary and secondary control (Wrosch *et al.*), assimilation and accommodation (Brandtstädter *et al.*, 1997) and the COPE (Carver, 1997).

Results: Results indicated: (1) that around a

quarter of the sample viewed their own future old age in negative or very negative ways; (2) that coping strategies did predict a large proportion of the variance in threat scores; and (3) this effect remained even when a range of rival explanations were considered; these included levels of neuroticism, expected financial status and knowledge about ageing.

Conclusions: Although many of the negative stereotypes of ageing need to be refined and amended, there are challenges associated with own ageing which need to be managed if adults are to retain health and well-being. The current research discusses the efficacy of different strategies for managing age-associated challenges and enhancing well-being.
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The influence of close attachment relationships on attitudes to own future old age

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Objectives: Adults' attitudes to own future old age can be understood in relation to the level of favourability or threat being associated with the latter part of the life cycle. The current study aimed to examine the influence of close attachment relationships on those attitudes via representations of self and others and via coping strategies.

Method: Adults of all ages were individually recruited from the high street and from their attendance and social and religious events ($n = 322$). Data on recruitment and response rates were maintained. Incentives were offered to encourage participation. Participants completed a range of questionnaire measures in their homes including attitudes to ageing scales, self-report measures of past and current attachment relationships, coping measures and rival variables such as expected financial status, knowledge about ageing and neuroticism.

Results: Multivariate statistical analysis indicated: (1) that all measures had good psychometric properties and did provide a good fit of the data; (2) that coping strategies and self/other representations were related to patterns of attachment; and (3) that experiences in close attachment relationships were related to attitudes to ageing through self/other representations and through coping strategies. This effect remained even when rival variables were controlled.

Conclusions: Evaluations of favourability or threat with own future old age have the potential to impact significantly on health and quality of life into later years. Research on this important topic should include consideration for contextual factors like close attachment relationships.
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Genetic and environmental influences on the language abilities of four-year-old children

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Objectives: Surprisingly little is known about the aetiology of individual differences in early language development, although studies in later life suggest substantial genetic influence. This study aimed to examine language development in pre-school children.

Design: A twin design comparing the resemblance of monozygotic (MZ) and dizygotic (DZ) twins was used to estimate genetic and environmental influences.

Methods: A sample of 305 twin pairs born in England and Wales in 1994 and 1995 were assessed at home at age four on nine language measures.

Results: We found evidence for the presence of a general language factor, which accounted for 30 per cent of the total variance. This factor showed moderate heritability and substantial shared environmental influence. Analysis of the measures individually indicated modest heritability for most measures and moderate shared environmental influence. Bivariate genetic

analyses of the covariance between language and non-verbal intelligence tests showed that on average about half of the genetic influence on language measures is unique. Most of the shared environmental influence of each test can be accounted for by non-verbal intelligence.

Conclusions: Genetic influence found for a general language factor is also found for most of our diverse tests of language. Some of the genetic influence is general and shared even with non-verbal intelligence but, importantly, some of it is unique to each of the language tests. Shared environmental influence is also important for nearly all of the measures of language; clues to identifying these influences come from the finding that this shared environmental influence largely overlaps with non-verbal intelligence.
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False confessions of childhood: A model for understanding retractors' experiences?

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Objectives: This paper examines reports by 'retractors' (i.e. adults who have retracted their earlier claims of childhood abuse) to explore suggestions in the literature of possible similarities between their experiences and the experiences of individuals who falsely confess to criminal acts.

Design: The present study examined retractors' responses to a 62-item questionnaire relating to the initial development of abuse claims and their subsequent retraction.

Methods: This questionnaire was distributed either by e-mail or letter via the British False Memory Society and the False Memory Syndrome Foundation in the USA to 22 self-reported retractors (mean age 43.6 years, s.d. 8.73 years, range 28 to 60 years of age). Our sample was generated by taking every fifth name from the databases of the above organisations.

Results: Comparisons were made between retractors' responses to items in the questionnaire and three psychologically distinct types of false confession (voluntary, coerced-compliant and coerced-internalised, Kassin & Wrightsman, 1985) and the eight tactics that have been shown to increase the likelihood of a false confession (Ofshe, 1989; Gudjonsson, 1992).

Conclusions: Our analysis indicated that all of these tactics were present, to a greater or lesser extent, in the reports the retractors gave of experiences of coming to make abuse claims. In addition our analyses suggest that the three distinct types of false confession could all be applied to describe the experiences of the respondents. This paper discusses the relevance of these findings to the current debate over recovered/false memories.
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False reports of childhood events: Social pressure and dissociation

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Objectives: Recent studies of 'false memory' creation in the laboratory have suggested that one way of increasing the likelihood of an individual making a false report is to increase the social pressure. However, no study to date has examined in any detail the role of perceived social pressure in the genesis and development of such reports. In addition, the present study investigated whether the creation of 'false memories' in the laboratory was associated with particular individual differences (specifically compliance and dissociative experiences).

Design: An interview methodology was used for this study. Participants were each interviewed about two different events (one 'real' and one 'false') on three separate occasions, each roughly one week apart.

Methods: Participants' parents were initially contacted and asked to provide details of eight events that had (or had not) happened to their children. These events (or the lack of them) were then used to devise an interview protocol in which participants were asked about one event

that had occurred (real) and one event that had definitely not occurred (false). Thirty-one participants completed all three interview sessions.

Results: Analysis revealed one participant (three per cent) who was rated as having produced a 'full' false recall and six (18 per cent) as having produced a 'partial' false recall. Examination of the participants' self-reports of social pressure indicated that they gave higher ratings of social pressure in relation to the experimenter-created event than the parentally-reported event ($t(30) = -2.88, p = .007$). Analysis of the individual differences measures indicated that there was a positive correlation between scores on the dissociative Experiences Scale (DES) and levels of recall for the false event (Spearman's $\rho = 30, p = .046$).

Conclusions: These findings suggest that there is indeed a relationship between perceived social pressure, dissociative experiences and false reports of childhood events that need further examination. Implications are discussed.
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Commitment and response to interpersonal conflict among Cypriot couples

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Objective: Rusbult's (1980) model of commitment in marital and other close relationships posits that commitment is a function of satisfaction, investments and alternatives. Hence, the more satisfied one is in a marriage, the more resources one has invested and the less attractive and available alternative relationships appear, the more committed one feels. Additionally, partners handle distress and conflict in several ways including loyalty, voice, neglect and exit (Rusbult, 1986), which affect satisfaction and commitment. The model has been found to hold in several countries and their applicability to marriages in Cyprus was tested in this study.

Design: Married couples with at least one child were examined. Participant responses were examined both at an individual and at a couples level.

Method: 70 Greek-Cypriot couples varying in ages, years of marriage and number of children responded to standard questionnaires based on Rusbult's model and to a measure of passionate love. Both partners completed the same questionnaires independently. Data were subjected to analyses of variance, and regression analyses.

Results: Results provide support for the prediction that Rusbult's model of commitment also holds in Cyprus. Commitment increased with years of marriage and was also related to passionate feelings, at least during the early years of marriage. Commitment was negatively related to voice.

Conclusions: Rusbult's model of commitment appears to have cross-cultural validity and has now been found to hold true in Cyprus. Variables such as age and passion are also related to commitment. Results were similar to previous findings regarding the relationship between style of handling conflict and marital satisfaction and commitment.

Exploring the links between location memory and memory for spatial mental models

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Objectives: Spatial mental models may be constructed from spatial information as a tool with which to draw inferences (Johnson-Laird, 1983). Location memory for visually presented stimuli results from exact encoding, which supports an 'all or none' recall pattern, and inexact encoding, whereby an object's location is represented with varying precision, characterised by near-miss errors in recall (Lansdale, 1998). This research explores whether memory for spatial mental models constructed from written descriptions has an unexact component.

Design: The design comprised two between-

subjects factors: stimulus material type (spatial versus non-spatial) and processing instructions (reading versus modelling). This aimed to compare the response pattern supported by a spatial mental model with a text-based representation.

Methods: The sample comprised 40 undergraduates. Allocation to the conditions was random. Two types of stimulus material were presented: spatial and non-spatial. The spatial descriptions outlined the relative location of six items along vertical and horizontal dimensions. The non-spatial material duplicated the spatial, only items were described in terms of relative age and weight. The processing instructions emphasised remembering either the sentences (reading group) or the relations between the items (modelling group). Recall of the relations between items was cued separately, using a diagram placement task.

Results: Analysis centred on levels of correct recall and the distribution of error responses. Performance in the four conditions on each measure was compared using two-way ANOVAS/analysis of variance.

Conclusion: The response pattern derived from memory for a spatial mental model of written information shows evidence of exact and inexact recall processes, similar to those constituting location memory for visually presented stimuli. j.k.parkin@lboro.ac.uk

Impulsiveness as a factor in sexual offending by people with learning disabilities

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Objectives: It has been argued that sexual offending in people with learning disabilities is due to a pattern of impulsive behaviour that is consistent with psychosocial disadvantage, rather than sexual deviancy *per se* (Gleaser & Deane, 1999). This study aimed to explore this hypothesis by assessing whether levels of impulsiveness were higher in sexual offenders than in non-sexual offenders and non-offenders with learning disabilities.

Design: An independent samples design was employed.

Methods: Levels of impulsiveness in sexual offenders with learning disabilities were compared to that in non-sexual offenders and non-offenders with learning disabilities. Impulsiveness was assessed using a modified version of the Barratt Impulsiveness Scale (11th Edition). The 30 items of the scale remained the same, however, the wording was adapted to suit the level of understanding of the participants. A four-point Likert response format was used: Always, Most of the time, Sometimes or Never and scores were assigned according to the direction of the item so that the highest score (three) always indicated high impulsivity.

Participants: Selection was made on the basis of offending history and contact with learning disability services. Most participants lived within the community although a few were in-patient within hospital premises, and most were receiving psychology input. The majority of sexual offenders were attendees at a group treatment programme as part of a probation or social care order. In general, participants were functioning within the mild range of learning disability.

Results: An independent samples t-test showed that there is a significant difference in the levels of impulsiveness between sexual offenders and non-sexual offenders with learning disabilities ($t = 2.83, p < 0.01$). Sexual offenders with learning disabilities in this study have been found to be less impulsive than non-sexual and non-offenders.

Conclusions: This study did not support the hypothesis that sexual offending by people with learning disabilities is due to impulsive behaviour rather than sexual deviancy. Impulsiveness was found to be greater in non-sexual offenders with learning disabilities than sexual offenders.

Comparison of ADI-R and ADOS in the Diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder

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Objectives: To compare the findings from the Autism Diagnostic Interview – Revised (ADI-R), with those derived from the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS). The ADI-R is a semi-structured, investigator-based interview, lasting two to three hours, for parents/caregivers of children and adults for whom autism or pervasive developmental disorder is a possible diagnosis. Questions cover the domains of Early Development, Communication, Social Development & Play, Interests & Behaviours and General Behaviours. Many of the diagnostic algorithm items relate to behaviour and skills during the 4:0 to 5:0 age period. The ADOS is a semi-structured, standardised assessment of Social Interaction, Communication, Play and Imaginative Use of Materials, and consists of four 30–45 minute modules, each designed to be administered to individuals according to their age and level of expressive language. As part of the schedule planned social occasions (or 'presses') are created in which a range of social initiations and responses is likely to appear. The diagnostic algorithm items are drawn from the Communication and Qualitative Impairments in Social Interaction domains. Both the ADI-R and ADOS are linked to ICD-10 and DSM-IV criteria. The analysis investigates the relationship between early deficits and behaviours associated with autism as described by parents, and later outcome, as well as providing a comparison between caregivers' reports of current behaviour and observations made by professionals. This is the first analysis of the relationship between these instruments, and it is based on one of the largest collections of such data available in the UK.

Methods: The study draws on data from ADI-R and ADOS scores gathered from 257 individuals from the UK who are participants in a study conducted by the International Molecular Genetic Study of Autism Consortium (IMGSAC). Researchers within the consortium are fully trained in the administration of these two instruments, and regular meetings are held to ensure the reliability of scoring for the ADOS. The relationships between the instruments in terms of relevant domain scores, diagnostic thresholds, and past and current findings are analysed.

Results: Analysis of the data is in progress.

Conclusions: The relationship between these two diagnostic assessment instruments is established, and the implications for their use in clinical and research settings discussed.

Predictors of life satisfaction in 80-year-old men and women

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Objectives: To examine childhood and late-life cognitive function in relation to childhood, mid- and later-life social circumstances and life satisfaction in old age in the Lothian Birth Cohort 1921 Study.

Methods: In 1932, 87,498 schoolchildren, all born in 1921, sat a validated test of mental ability that was administered by the Scottish Council for Research in Education (SCRE). SCRE retained the pupil's scores in their archives. In 1999–2000, surviving members of the tested group were recruited to take part in a follow-up study in Edinburgh. Participants ($n = 581$) attended a research clinic to assess their cognitive and health status. One to two years after their initial appointment, all subjects still living were sent a questionnaire regarding their past and current life circumstances which included the Satisfaction With Life Scale.

Results: Of the 564 questionnaires sent out, 405 (71.3 per cent) have been completed and returned (to date). Four people refused to fill in the questionnaire (0.7 per cent). Questionnaire data collection will finish in November 2001; data entry will be completed by February 2002. The analyses will relate childhood cognitive ability and social circumstances to: (1) mid-life occupation and social class; and (2) later-life cognitive functioning, social circumstances and life satisfaction.

Conclusions: Data have been obtained on childhood and late-life cognitive function, childhood, mid- and later-life social circumstances and life satisfaction in old age. Multiple regression and structural equation modelling will be used to examine whether mid-life factors mediate childhood influences on cognitive function and life satisfaction in old age. alison.pattie@ed.ac.uk

Visual classification of clinical ultrasound images by naive participants

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Objectives: We aim to investigate the nature of skills in interpreting medical images, specifically ultrasound images of the breast. Expert radiologists point to the advantage of in vivo sonograms over still images as providing multiple and dynamic viewpoints of tissue structures. They argue that diagnostically successful classification depends on appropriate knowledge structures. If this argument is valid, naive participants should not be able to classify the images into diagnostically relevant categories. We aim to demonstrate that visual information contained in still sonograms is sufficient for basic diagnostic classification.

Design: As there is little prior research in the area, we have adopted a qualitative approach, based on a free sorting task.

Methods: In the first study, 20 student participants with no prior experience in interpreting ultrasound images were required to sort 30 breast ultrasound images from medical atlases representing different diagnostic categories once. In study 2, 30 participants conducted multiple sorts of 32 images, which were clinically derived.

Results: Data were analysed by means of Multiple Scalogram Analysis, a method for scaling categorical data which plots sonograms in a geometric space based on similarity in the sorting. Our first study showed that naive participants were able to successfully classify sonograms into diagnostically relevant groups. However, the selective nature of images from medical atlases may have facilitated the classification. Preliminary analysis of the second study shows that our initial findings are replicated with clinical sonograms.

Conclusions: Indications are that diagnostic categorisation of medical images are primarily visual in nature. Initial training of radiologists should focus more on training the recognition of appropriate visual feature.

Computers, clinicians, conundrums and controversial conclusions

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The widespread availability of new technologies such as videoconferencing and computers has facilitated the development of non-face-to-face delivery of psychological therapies. The evidence strongly suggests that, for some problems, non-face-to-face methods are at least as effective as traditional face-to-face methods, if not more so. There is also a compelling evidence to indicate that a good therapist-client relationship is critical in producing therapeutic change. It is not obvious how these positions can be reconciled, but a brave attempt will be made.

Challenging homophobic attitudes: Is lesbian and gay affirmative education effective?

E PEEL, Loughborough University

Objectives: Since the 1970s psychologists have been concerned to measure and evaluate the impact of interventions designed to undermine anti-lesbian and anti-gay attitudes. This study addresses lesbian and gay affirmative training with professionals, and assesses the impact that short courses have on the reduction of expressed homophobia.

Design & Methods: The present study investigated the attitudes of 138 professionals, who attended 13 in-service lesbian and gay awareness training

(LGAT) courses. The participants were 88 women and 48 men (aged 19–62), working in professions ranging from social work to the police. Pre- and post-training Attitudes to Lesbians and Gay Men (ATLG) scales were administered to participants in order to quantify their level of 'homophobia'.

Results: Analysis of the ATLG scale indicated that overall there was a significant decrease in 'homophobia' following training. Participants viewed gay men more negatively than lesbians, both before and after training. Female participants were less homophobic than males, and younger trainees were less homophobic than older participants. Both older participants and those with higher pre training levels of homophobia were more likely to significantly decrease in homophobia following LGAT.

Conclusions: I conclude on the basis of this investigation that LGAT is successful, and works to undermine homophobia. Further, I critically evaluate the political costs and benefits of strategic essentialism, and suggest psychologists should deploy all the resources at our disposal to undermine homophobia and heterosexism.

Positive approaches to the management of challenging behaviour in severe brain injury

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Purpose: To illustrate and discuss theoretical approaches to the management of severe and challenging behaviour in patients with complex disabilities.

Background: Challenging behaviour is common in severe brain injury. This occurs as a result of both neuropathological, learning and environmental factors. The current paper discusses the role of positive behavioural interventions in managing such behaviours in brain injury rehabilitation. These interventions are well documented in the learning disabilities literature but have not as yet been successfully applied with brain injured patients.

Methods & Key Points: The benefit of such positive approaches are addressed through the single case approach illustrating the use of these interventions within the context of a multi-disciplinary team approach to rehabilitation.

Conclusions: Complex and challenging behaviour can be successfully managed using completely positive behavioural techniques. Such interventions are both ethically justified and scientifically important. The cases are discussed with reference to the current literature on managing challenging behaviours.

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Fractionating recognition memory in Huntington's disease

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Objectives: Patients with Huntington's disease experience relatively better recognition memory with respect to free recall. However, this is still significantly impaired with respect to healthy controls. The current study aims to investigate the fractionation of recognition processes in greater detail. More specifically, the contributions of automatic familiarity processes and controlled retrieval processes are considered. It is hypothesised that HD patients will perform better on standardised familiarity-based recognition tasks than those which force a retrieval approach.

Design: A sample of HD patients were compared to healthy matched controls on tests of recognition memory. The techniques employed were adopted from Jacoby's (1991) processes dissociation framework, which enables the fractionation of controlled and automatic processes in memory.

Methods: Patients and controls were assessed on experimental measures of recognition memory presented on an adapted laptop computer. The participants were also assessed on standardised measures of recognition memory and free recall.

Conclusions: It is expected that the current study will have three primary outcomes. In the first, that

HD patients will be impaired on recognition tests that encourage active retrieval while being relatively intact on tests of familiarity. It is also expected that patients will be less impaired on standardised measures of recognition memory relative to the experimental approaches.

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Factors associated with clinical psychology trainee job performance at one year

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Objectives: This research is part of the Clearing House Project: Improving the Selection of Trainee Clinical Psychologists. One aim of this national prospective cohort study is to investigate which applicant personal characteristics, experience, knowledge, skills and abilities are associated with later job performance throughout training.

Design: The research is a longitudinal prospective cohort study, following one intake of successful clinical psychology applicants through training.

Methods: Participants are the 390 successful year 2000 applicants to clinical psychology training, who have been previously assessed using a variety of selection measures and an application form analysis. The cohort has recently been surveyed one year into training using a job performance measure.

Results: Job performance data will be used to evaluate the predictive power of the previous selection measures, and the efficiency of course selection procedures by investigating the extent to which courses select applicants with the characteristics deemed necessary of acceptable job performance. Both univariate and multivariate analyses will be conducted to discover which factors are associated with positive job performance scores.

Conclusions: This research will have implications for clinical psychology courses, in terms of whether current procedures are efficiently selecting and training a workforce who will be competent clinical psychologists.

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The effects of age and induced positive and negative mood on planning

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Objectives: Cognitive impairments as a result of adult aging and positive and negative mood states have been explained in terms of reduced working memory capacity. However, it is not known whether older adults show differential impairment under negative or positive mood states. The current study investigates the effects of age and induced mood on planning performance.

Design & Methods: The current study investigated the hypothesis that older adults would show greater cognitive impairment following mood induction than younger adults. Ninety-six participants (half aged 19–37, half aged 53–80) completed a neutral, positive or negative mood induction procedure, followed by the Tower of London planning task.

Results: A significant interaction was found between age and mood, such that older adults showed greater planning impairment than young in both the positive and negative mood conditions. Age-related impairment was most apparent in the negative mood condition.

Conclusions: These results indicate that commonly occurring emotionally salient events such as watching television or hearing music may substantially impair executive functions such as planning in older adults.

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Understanding everyday negotiations of sexuality: Homophobia and masculinity in 11- to 14-year-old boys

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Recent ethnographic and qualitative research in schools has noted the ubiquity of homophobia among boys and young men. This raises the issue of why boys are so homophobic and how this affects their sexualised identities and relationships with young women. This paper uses data from a study of 11- to 14-year-old London boys to argue that homophobia affects not only those who are subjected to homophobic name calling, but also has an impact on the identities and experiences of boys in general. The boys in the study used homophobia as a means of publicly and repetitively constructing their masculinity as 'normal', meaning 'not gay'. Because of its status as 'not masculine', homosexuality was associated with femininity and the construction of masculinity was partially underpinned by projecting this 'femininity' onto particular boys who were singled out as gay or not sufficiently masculine. An examination of the boys' accounts indicates that homophobia cannot be understood as part of individualised sexual identities in isolation from other identities, but is, instead, part of the complex everyday negotiation of masculinities in schools as well as schools' tolerance of homophobia.

Locus of control: An exploration of the nursing students' views on control

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Objective: The aim of this research is to explore the influence of the locus of control (LOC) on the perception of control, autonomy and college satisfaction of the nursing students.

Design: The research follows a case study design, employing quantitative and qualitative research during three different phases.

Method: The three phases comprise a cross-sectional survey and a longitudinal qualitative study involving semi-structured interviews. Phase 1 – Purposive and volunteer sampling was used to survey 170 participants from four groups of nursing students using LOC (Rotter, 1966) and college satisfaction (Pennington *et al.*, 1989) questionnaires. The effects of LOC on satisfaction were analysed on SPSS using descriptive statistics and one-way ANOVA. The findings show that Internals perceive greater satisfaction than Externals and that satisfaction decreases with time on the course. Phases 2 and 3 explored the LOC construct of graduate students who came to learn nursing, at beginning and the end of their course. Participants (n = 11) were surveyed on LOC and Satisfaction and interviewed. The semi-structured interviews explored the impact of the nurses' course on the students' ideas about control, autonomy and satisfaction. The data collection used a phenomenological approach and data were analysed thematically using work of Moustakas (1994) and Smith (1999).

Results: The findings show that nursing students tend to be externally orientated even though the interview data suggest otherwise.

Conclusions: The implications of the findings for nurse education are that nursing appears to attract externally orientated individuals. If the future of nursing is dependent on the autonomous professionals then the students' currently undertaking nursing will not be the agents of change.

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The influence of long-term racial desegregation on subjective well-being in African Americans

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Objectives: The impact of the racial composition of the long-term environmental context on the psychological well-being of African Americans was investigated in two studies. The hypothesis was that the influence of desegregation on well-being is psychologically mediated by two

variables. Desegregation can influence feelings of rejection by other in-group members, and to a lesser extent perceived acceptance by out-group members. Feelings of rejection in turn influence identification with the in-group, which is hypothesised to predict well-being.

Design & Methods: Structural equation modelling on survey data gathered in two separate samples (undergraduates and general public, $n = 126$, $n = 114$ respectively). Questionnaires included measures of racial composition of the long-term environmental context, psychological well-being, perceived in-group and out-group rejection, and identification with in-group. The hypothesised model is compared with alternative mediational models.

Results & Conclusions: Data provide support for the hypothesis that living in a predominantly White environment heightens perceptions of in-group rejection compared to living in a racially segregated environment. Such perceptions of the in-group and out-group in turn influence identification with the in-group, which is critical for psychological well-being. Thus, for African Americans, growing up in a White environment can have harmful effects by increasing perceived rejection by the in-group and decreasing identification with their racial group. More segregated environments protect well-being by increasing perceived in-group acceptance and thereby encouraging identification with the in-group. The theoretical implications for how minorities manage the dilemmas provoked in segregated or more racially integrated contexts are discussed.

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Starting school: Family factors that predict initial adjustment

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Objective: This poster describes the first phase of a longitudinal investigation of attachment, school adjustment, peer relationships and bullying among reception class children.

Design: The study follows a mixed, multi-method design, including longitudinal comparisons at three time points (before starting school, week one, and one month later).

Method: Participants were 28 reception class children (14 boys and 14 girls) and 55 of their caregivers. Time 1 measures included parent interviews regarding the child's birth and first six months; any post-natal depression; pre-school care arrangements; parental contact (especially where parents were separated), birth order of siblings and parental attitudes towards discipline. Parents also completed questionnaires assessing their own attachment and personality types. The primary caregiver completed a Q-sort to measure the child's attachment type and a questionnaire regarding the child's temperament. At Time 2, children were observed on their first day in school, and primary caregivers underwent a structured telephone interview about their child's adjustment to school. At Time 3, observations were conducted during two free-play periods in the classroom, with particular attention paid to interactions among classmates.

Results: Analysis using Structural Equation Modelling shows how parental characteristics and school factors combine to influence initial school adjustment.

Conclusions: The findings suggest that schools can reduce the distress experienced by new pupils on their first day at school by limiting the time that parents have to say 'goodbye' to their children. Furthermore, it is suggested that lunchtime arrangements can also effect children's adjustment.

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Self-perceived health and loneliness in older people and satisfaction with accommodation

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Objective: To determine how self-perceived health and loneliness in older people impacts upon

accommodation satisfaction and quality of life.

Design: Cross-sectional structured interview with standardised assessment instruments.

Methods: Approximately 100 older people are to be recruited via a day rehabilitation unit. Participants receive a structured interview incorporating two standardised instruments: the Elderly Assessment System (EASY-Care), and the Housing Options for Older People (HOOP) questionnaire. The former instrument contains single-item measures of self-perceived health and loneliness, and a four-item version of the Geriatric Depression Scale. The second instrument contains ratings of satisfaction with eight different aspects of accommodation and a single item measure of quality of life. Analyses examine to what extent a person's self-perceived health and loneliness is associated with their satisfaction with their accommodation and quality of life, and whether level of depression mediates this relationship.

Conclusions: With policy throughout Europe focused on maintaining older people in their home environment as long as possible, it is important to understand what factors influence older people's feelings of loneliness and perceptions of their home environment. This study's findings provide information of value to social care practitioners and psychologists working in social and health care settings who are working to support older people in their home and to maintain their quality of life.

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Life narratives of elderly people at transition to supported accommodation

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A process of progressive disengagement has characterised the behaviour of elderly people. With retirement, loss of roles and of status, opportunities to interact with others are reduced often leading to withdrawal and distancing from society. Increasing fragility and declining health may necessitate admission to residential homes, nursing homes or sheltered accommodation, further exacerbating this process. Implicated in the psychopathology of ageing are factors such as poor health, social isolation and cognitive impairment. Using a narrative social constructivist perspective, qualitative findings from interviews with fifteen elderly people in supported or residential care are reported. Disengagement was a marked feature of a life transition involving a change of residence. Changes in the self-concept with a reduction in present and future schemas were revealed in life stories which frequently showed closure at the time of transition. Depression in the majority of interviewees was a concomitant of this disengagement, increasing the withdrawal of the individual. Care of the elderly should address issues arising from these findings which highlight a need for purposeful activity, facilitating social interaction, in addition to psychological and physical care.

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The influence of speech confidence on choice and decision confidence

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Objectives: The influence generated by the confidence of a person's speech was investigated, firstly on the choice of answers that people make and secondly on the confidence that they then hold in those answers. The influence of the gender of the speaker and listener on persuasive impact were also investigated.

Design: A mixed factorial design was employed: 3 (degree of confidence of the text's 'speaker'; within subjects) x 2 (speakers' gender) x 2 (group). Choice of answer and confidence in it were the DVs.

Methods: 120 undergraduates participated and were asked to choose the correct definition of 9 unusual words. In the experimental group the three definitions were supplemented by 'tag phrases' (previously developed in a pilot study)

indicating the confidence of the speaker to be either high, medium or low, which the control group did not receive. The genders of the three speakers were either all male or all female. Participants were also asked to give their impressions of the three speakers, using seven-point Likert scales.

Results: Significant interactions showed that high and low speech confidence had the most aversive impact on the choices of females who listened to males. Speech confidence had some influence on choice and raised listeners' confidence by around 10 per cent.

Conclusions: This research shows that the gender of the speaker and listener does influence whether confident speech is perceived positively or negatively. Knowing the confidence of the speaker raises confidence in one's own choices and also influences the impressions formed about the speaker's character.

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Interpreting age-related changes in memory

P RABBITT, University of Manchester

A 17-year longitudinal study of 6500 older residents of Manchester and Newcastle has revealed a substantial minority who have shown progressive decline in scores on memory tests over 17 years, with contrasting stability of health, information processing speed and fluid intelligence. We report cognitive and scanning data for this subset and for closely matched controls who have shown no memory loss. We suggest some necessary adjustments to theories of changes in memory function in old age.

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Predicting road safety and confidence of older drivers

P RABBITT, University of Manchester & P SUTCLIFFE, University of Oxford

To assess the difficulties faced by older motorists, their confidence in overcoming them, and factors contributing to their safety two thousand older drivers aged from 50 to 86 years completed a questionnaire and rated self-rated their health status on the Brodman and Woolf (1947) Cornell Medical Index. Six-hundred of these drivers were given a battery of 51 different tests of cognitive function and physiological integrity. Two-hundred of these individuals were then, twice, assessed for driving competence on inter-city routes. Health status rather than calendar age predicted mileages and reported difficulties with driving. Cognitive and physiological tests significantly predict previous accident records. This encourages hopes that very easily administered tests can identify older drivers who are at risk of accidents, and allow appropriate, timely, advice or interventions.

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Subjective group dynamics: Is subjective validity of norms a key motivator?

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Objectives: One key assumption of Subjective Group Dynamics (SGD) theory is that validation of group norms motivates derogation of deviants. This study determines if the reason the ingroup anti-normative deviant is derogated is due to the threat they pose to the in-group norm.

Design: The experiment was a 2 (target group rated: in-group vs. out-group) x 3 (leader position: anti-norm deviant/threat vs. anti-norm deviant/no threat vs. not specified/control), between-participants factorial design.

Method: 142 students were randomly allocated to condition. Participants were provided with information regarding the issue of asylum seeking. A summary of the attitudinal positions and leadership information from a small group (putatively representing students or asylum officers) on the issue was also provided. These members had varying opinions, some normative and some deviant (derived from pilot testing). Participants then completed a questionnaire with a series of dependent measures, including

questions pertaining to their perception and evaluation of the target group members.

Results: ANOVA and post-hoc analyses demonstrate that reactions and evaluations of in-group deviant and modal members are affected by the perceived threat of the anti-normative leader (mandated to represent the group or not) and the target group rated.

Conclusions: These results provide support for SGD theory and suggest that reactions to deviant and normative group members will vary under different intra-group contexts. Specifically, results clarify the posit that the motivation behind derogation of deviants is threat to subjective validity of group norms.

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A process tracing study of consumer credit decision making

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Objectives: To describe how people think about credit and its risks at the point of purchase, to describe their decision strategies and to assess the validity of a dual mental account model of instalment credit.

Design: Conversational process tracing techniques elicited evidence of the information people regard as important, their mental representations and evaluation strategies.

Methods: 96 non-student adult volunteers took part, with a range of experience of consumer credit. In realistic scenarios involving purchases of consumer durables, participants were presented with minimal descriptions of three alternative credit offers. They sought further information before making decisions and spoke aloud their thoughts.

Results: Most respondents sought information on interest rates and frequently asked about monthly repayment amounts and loan duration. Some also asked about total interest charges. There was a general preference for shorter loans and, not surprisingly, lower interest rates. People who had previously experienced repayment difficulties preferred lower monthly repayments rather than shorter loans. Verbal protocols suggested that respondents often framed instalment credit in terms of a recurrent budget period account, with monthly repayment amount the most important aspect of cost. There was also evidence of the use of a total account representation within which the most important cost measure was the nominal value of total interest charges across the whole duration of the loan.

Conclusions: For informed decision making consumers need full and clear information about all credit costs: interest rate alone (APR) is insufficient.

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Psychosocial needs, social support and estimates of psychological distress among unaccompanied refugee minors in Ireland

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Objectives: This study examined symptoms of psychological distress, levels of social support and post-migratory problems of 28 unaccompanied minors seeking asylum in Ireland.

Methods & Design: Participants were randomly selected from the total number of unaccompanied minors in Ireland and included in the study if they fulfilled a number of inclusion criteria. Levels of distress were evaluated using a selection of items (32 from Achenbach's (1991) Youth Self Report (YSR) version of the Child Behaviour Checklist (CBCL), Social Network Map (Tracy & Whittaker 1990) and Post-Migratory Living Problem Checklist (Silove *et al.*, 1997). The design of the study was a needs based survey and was exploratory in nature.

Results: More than half of the sample was found to be functioning in the moderate or severe range of problem behaviour when evaluated with the YSR. Associations were found between YSR scores and attendance at church, anxiety/depression and present stressors; Length of time in Ireland was associated with thinking problems: 100 per cent were afraid of being sent

home; 89 per cent had problems with racial discrimination; Number of people in social network was associated with levels of concrete support; Few had contact with Irish people; and higher levels of English was associated with lower YSR scores. The longer these adolescents were in Ireland, the greater the psychological distress. Current stressors contributed to psychological dysfunction and there was little integration into Irish culture. Social support networks consisted of other unaccompanied minors or asylum seekers.

Conclusions: Unaccompanied minors are a highly vulnerable group and current asylum policies may add to behaviour symptoms and psychological distress.

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Making sense of identity and collective conflict

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Purpose: By reference to a variety of studies, I argue that collective conflict generally arises where the existence or actions of another group are construed as undermining core aspects of in-group identity. Such conflicts become particularly acute where there is an asymmetry between the understandings of different parties such that the one perceives and treats the other as a danger but the latter does not see itself as a danger or even an out-group to the former.

Background: There is a long tradition in social psychology which sees people in groups as inherently anti-social, conflictual and violent. Classically, this has been expressed through the view that in groups (and particularly in crowds) people become anonymous, lose their identity and lose control over their behaviour.

Key Points: Recent work has suggested that people do not so much lose identity as shift from acting in terms of a personal identity to acting on the basis of social identity. However, even within the 'social identity' tradition, there has been a tendency to argue that inter-group discrimination is an inevitable consequence of group identification as people seek to enhance their social identity by denigrating that of out-group members.

Conclusions: The problem with such an approach is that it ignores the understandings and values associated with specific social identities, the relationships between the understandings held by those in different groups and the ways in which such relationships both fuel and are fuelled by the developing interactions between groups. Seen in this context, the classical view of groups as inherently dangerous does not merely misconstrue but contributes to collective conflict.

More than 'coping': How do women with multiple sclerosis achieve a quality life?

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Objectives: Progressive disabling illness such as MS presents many barriers to achieving a quality life. Without seeking to minimise these difficulties, this qualitative study has focused upon the strategies that women identify as contributing to their quality of life with MS.

Method: 28 women with relapsing-remitting or progressive forms of MS volunteered to participate in the study. Semi-structured interviews were carried out at a location of the participant's choice. Data analysis of the audio-taped, transcribed interview material followed the constant comparative method.

Results: Whilst almost all of the women managed their illness symptoms through a variety of health promotion strategies, most emphasised that a quality life involved more than 'coping with MS'. Participants maintained a quality life through, for example, engaging in meaningful occupation, caring for others, adapting pre-illness skills to their changing levels of physical functioning, developing new interests and goals, using precious time constructively, making positive social comparisons and retaining a sense of humour. One participant summarised the views of many, by emphasising that 'Friends,

communication, sticking jewels in your life, and remembering that you are here to enjoy life' were central to her positive philosophy.

Discussion: Inevitably a volunteer sample is not a random representation of people living with chronic illness. Nevertheless, the themes and interview extracts suggest that a quality of life is not narrowly dependent upon strategies of coping with illness, but with maintaining aspirations to achieve personally valued goals. The findings confirm a need for a more holistic approach to health and health-care.

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The effect of manipulated state anxiety and the accuracy and suggestibility of eye witnesses

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Objectives: To assess the effects of manipulated state anxiety at the encoding of misleading information and at the time of its possible retrieval on subsequent suggestibility.

Design: 2 x 4 factorial design. Between groups factors were: Misinformation Condition (misinformed group and non-misinformed controls) and Anxiety Manipulation (4 levels). To allow differentiation between encoding and retrieval processes, there were four different timings of the anxiety manipulation: at encoding only, at both encoding and retrieval, at retrieval only and none.

Method: 160 first-year students participated. They were shown a video of a non-violent kidnapping. This was followed by an interview containing 20 cued recall questions. Misleading information was embedded in five of these questions. Later, in a second interview five questions (out of 20) tested for misled responses following the misleading information supplied earlier. Anxiety was manipulated by giving evaluative instructions and filming participants while they were interviewed.

Results: Analysis of variance was carried out with the number of misled responses as the dependent variable. The misinformed participants were significantly more suggestible than controls. Within the misinformed group, those who did not have their anxiety manipulated gave significantly fewer misled responses than any other group.

Conclusions: The presence of an anxiety manipulation at any stage reduced suggestibility. In applied terms, the findings suggest that witnesses who become anxious in police or courtroom interviews may, if they have been exposed to incorrect information, perform better than less anxious individuals.

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Effectiveness of stage-based interventions promoting individual behaviour change

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Purpose: A systematic review was undertaken to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions based on a stages of change approach to promote individual behaviour change.

Background: Much health promotion aims to prevent morbidity and mortality through promoting individual lifestyle changes. Interventions used to modify risky behaviours are frequently based on stage theories, such as the transtheoretical model. However, despite widespread use of this approach, there is little evidence of its effectiveness.

Methods: 35 databases were searched. Search terms included stages of change, transtheoretical model, motivational interviewing and tailored interventions. Study designs eligible for inclusion were RCTs. Extracted data included theoretical basis, intervention details, participants and setting, behaviour change outcomes, intermediate outcomes, and implementation measures. Two reviewers carried out all stages of the review independently. Data were synthesised narratively according to target behaviour.

Results: 38 RCTs were included in the review. Methodological quality of trials was mixed. Eleven

trials showed effects in favour of the stage-based intervention. Effectiveness was not related to methodological quality, target behaviour, comparison group, or exposure to the intervention.

Conclusions: Given the limited evidence for the effectiveness of stage-based interventions promoting behaviour change, both practitioners and policy makers need to recognise that this approach has a status that is unwarranted when it is evaluated in a systematic way.
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Gay 'hoodies' and masculine trainers: Negotiating heterosexual masculinity and appearance

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Objectives: To explore the relationship between heterosexual male-identity and embodiment in the context of changing patterns of consumption, which place an emphasis on appearance. Male-heterosexual identity has traditionally been predicated on 'othering': being different from, and superior to, females and homosexual men. How then do young men negotiate their gendered-sexual identities around a need to attend to appearance that has traditionally been associated with women?

Design & Method: 25 male self-selecting students aged 18–25 participated in one of six audio taped discussion groups. The participants were asked to perform a 10-card Q-sort as a group. For three of the groups the cards contained various images of men, in the other groups the cards had written statements about masculinity and appearance. The discussion provided rich data upon which discourse analysis was performed.

Results: Tension between the femininity associated with attention to appearance and the definitions of self as not gay/female were evident in the participants talk and were negotiated through three accounts. First, the reduction of sexual/gender ambiguity through the dichotomising of clothes and behaviours associated with heterosexual men and females/gay males. Second, the use of multiple masculinities in definitions of heterosexual men. Third, defining heterosexual masculinity through the female gaze. Women were presented as conferring heterosexual masculinity onto men, who in turn viewed this approval through the male sex drive discourse.

Conclusion: While shifts in consumption patterns have opened up space for multiple meanings of heterosexual masculinity they have failed to provide resistance to traditional oppressive male identities.

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Changes in femininity and masculinity across the menstrual cycle

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Objectives: Whether the reciprocal performance fluctuations in the area of cognition and motor functioning across the menstrual cycle with women at menses displaying a more male-typical behaviour pattern than at the midluteal phase are expendable to the sexually dimorphic areas of aggression, social sensitivity sexual attraction and sex role.

Design: Repeated measures design with Factor SEX (m/f) and Factor PHASE (menses/midluteal)

Methods: Participants: 20 female and 20 male right handed, healthy and heterosexual participants

Materials: Targeted-Throwing Task, Vandenberg Mental Rotation Test, Colour Naming Test, Finger-Tapping Task, Eye-Test, Facial Attractiveness Test, Antill Sex-Role Test and Aggression Questionnaire.

Procedure: Females were tested at menses and during the midluteal phase, while males were tested 14–20 days for a comparable inter-test interval.

Results: Performance during menses on a mental rotation task was significantly enhanced and targeted throwing with the left hand tended to be better as compared to the midluteal phase. Women at menses were significantly more

physically aggressive, showed a significantly higher preference for masculinised faces and had higher levels of masculine characteristics in comparison to the midluteal phase of their menstrual cycle. There was no sex difference or significant change in performance across the menstrual cycle in social sensitivity.

Conclusions: The current findings strongly suggest that the influence of Oestrogen and Progesterone is still reflected in adult women across the menstrual cycle. The transient hormonal fluctuations of these hormones across the menstrual cycle have shown to exert measurable effects on human behaviour. This supports the view that hormonal mechanisms may account at least in part for sex differences in cognition, motor functioning, aggression and gender.

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A bridge too far: The social inclusion of lesbians and gay men

I RIVERS, York St John College

Purpose: The aim of this lecture is to explore contemporary issues related to the social exclusion of lesbians and gay men placing them within a socio-historical context.

Background: Taking as a starting point a debate between two contemporary moral philosophers, the lecture explores some of the arguments that have been used by those opposed to the equalisation in the age of consent and, more recently, civil unions. The question is posed: should the Society actively contribute to such debates, and what has it to lose by its contribution? Finally, clinical definitions of homosexuality, heterosexuality and heterosexuality are discussed contrasting social conventional definitions of sexuality with those employed by psychiatrists and sexologists.

Methods/Key Points: The key arguments raised in this lecture are that civil unions and same-sex marriages are, in fact, nothing new and have been recorded throughout history; that objections to homosexuality on religious/theological grounds are problematic; and that being heterosexual might not be as 'normal' or as 'healthy' as we think.

Conclusions: While it is clear that various debates will continue as to whether or not the Society has a role in the social debates surrounding the social inclusion of lesbians and gay men, it is clear that the process of recognising same-sex relationships is underway, and we should recognise this advancement in all aspects of our work as psychologists.

Quality of life in children with severe learning disabilities: What factors predict challenging behaviour?

T ROACH & M ESLEA, University of Central Lancashire

Objectives: Quality of Life (QoL) in people with severe Learning Disabilities (LDs) is typically equated with a lack of challenging behaviour (CB). Few researchers have tried to determine QoL from subjective reports in this population.

This poster presents the first phase of a longitudinal study to assess QoL and relate it to CBs among children with severe LDs.

Design: This study uses a multi-method, multi-measure approach to study CBs in children with severe LDs. Longitudinal repeated measures allow the effects of a number of situational and individual variables to be assessed (for example: family visits, school attendance, type of activity) in relation to CBs.

Method: This poster presents the data from three case studies of children; one girl and two boys aged 15, 13 and 15, from a residential school for children with LDs in central Lancashire, covering a period of two years.

Results: Several key variables were found to predict the occurrence of subsequent CBs. Time series graphical representations make clear the relationship between drug reduction programmes, community access, school attendance and CBs.

Conclusions: It is suggested that several factors, independent of CB, could be used to assess QoL in children with severe LDs. Further work will

examine this possibility further, to develop a reliable QoL measure for children with severe LDs.
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A web-based study into self-reports of memory ability in recreational drug users

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Objectives: The legal status of recreational drugs, including MDMA ('ecstasy') and cannabis, raises a number of methodological problems. These include issues of anonymity, disclosure, and representative sampling, and face-to-face access to participants is sometimes difficult. The number of participants in such studies is variable, the average n is around 30. Therefore, access to a larger number of participants is clearly desirable. The internet is an ideal medium for such questionnaire-based research as it permits access to large numbers of participants. The present investigation attempted to access to a larger sample using the internet.

Design: A web-based design allowed regression analyses to isolate the contribution of that substance to any variance on measures of 'day-to-day' cognitive functioning.

Methods: A website (www.drugresearch.org.uk) was developed and used for data collection. Prospective memory ability was assessed using the Prospective Memory Questionnaire. Self-report of 'day-to-day' memory performance was investigated using the Everyday Memory Questionnaire. The UEL Drug Questionnaire assessed the use of other substances although the focus was on MDMA and cannabis. The number of mistakes made while completing the questionnaires was also taken as an objective measure of performance errors.

Results: Preliminary findings, based on data sets submitted from several hundred respondents, indicate a dissociation between the effects of cannabis and ecstasy on self-reported memory functioning.

Conclusions: The present study demonstrates the potential utility of web-based studies into the effects of drug use. Furthermore it shows that such methods can reveal differential effects of various drugs on aspects of cognition, including 'day-to-day' memory functioning.

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Phenotypic 'g' and the etiology of cognitive abilities in a large twin study

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Objectives: We investigated the emergence of general mental ability (g) in early development and its relative genetic and environmental etiology.

Design & Method: A representative population sample of 6963 pairs of twins was assessed on verbal and non-verbal measures at two, three and four years using parent-administered tests and parent reports of children's abilities, from which four reliable indicators of cognitive ability were derived.

Results: Principal component factor analyses of the data showed a single prominent g factor that accounted for approximately 50 per cent of total variance at two, three and four years. Factor scores for g showed remarkable stability of .69 from ages two to three and .71 from three to four. Scalar sex-limitation model fitting suggested moderate but consistent additive genetic influences on phenotypic g ($a^2 = 0.27-0.30$) whereas most interindividual variance was accounted for by shared environmental influences ($c^2 = 0.61-0.65$). Allowing for quantitative differences in parameter estimates for boys and girls did not improve the model fit. Interestingly, at two years we found strong indication for a qualitative difference in etiology between the sexes.

Conclusions: This study corroborates with a much larger sample three conclusions from earlier research using standard tester-administered measures. First, phenotypic *g* is clearly evident early in life. Second, genetic influence is less in early childhood (about 20–30 per cent) than in middle childhood (about 40 per cent) and after adolescence (about 50 per cent). Third, shared environmental influence is greater in childhood than after adolescence when its importance declines to negligible levels, although our high estimates of shared environmental influence (about 60 per cent) are probably inflated by use of twins and perhaps by the measures used.

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Working memory in depression: An fMRI study

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Objective: To determine whether patients with Major Depressive Disorder are impaired on tests of working memory (WM) compared with normal controls, and whether this deficit corresponds to either under- or over-activation in areas of prefrontal cortex (PFC), including dorsolateral PFC.

Design: The study is conducted in two phases. In both, severity of depression, state anxiety, and stress are assessed, and participants complete two tests of attention and a parametric spatial WM task. The first phase consists purely of behavioural and neuropsychological assessment. Whereas, the second phase additionally involves a functional MRI scan during completion of the WM task.

Methods: In phase one, participants are 20 patients with major depression, aged 18–50, with no history of head injury or major physical health problems, and 20 healthy matched controls. Participants for the second phase are 10 patients and 10 controls, which meet the same inclusion criteria.

Results: Data thus far indicate a significant main effect of both group (i.e. $F_{3,1} = 7.83$, $p < 0.05$) and task difficulty (i.e. $F_{3,1} = 35.29$, $p < 0.01$), with no significant interactions. Preliminary imaging data from control participants, analysed using SPM99, indicates a reliable increase in activation in prefrontal and parietal cortex with increased task difficulty.

Conclusions: Preliminary results suggest that individuals with major depression are impaired on tests of WM. Though it would seem that this deficit is consistent in nature. In addition, the data suggests that the WM task is reliant on those regions identified as essential for normal WM function in previous studies.

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European self-definition: The influence of race and religion

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Objectives: Research examining EU citizens' levels of European identity or self-definition has mainly centred on the EU nation-state as the unit of analysis, for example, by comparing the citizens of each EU nation-state with each other (Eurobarometer surveys). While this research has been valuable it has not addressed the possible influence of other social groups people belong to. This paper reports the results of a study that explored the influence of race and religion on European self-definition within one EU nation-state – Britain. We hypothesised that religious/racial minorities would more strongly define themselves as European when they believed the superordinate group was tolerant of religious and racial difference. Moreover, we hypothesised that this relationship would be mediated by whether the minority individual also believed that other Europeans (i.e. other in-group members) acknowledged that this claim to group membership was legitimate. Adopting a correlational design the data was explored using path models. The method of data collection was by survey ($n = 150$). The results indicate support

for the hypotheses: the above relationships were only apparent in the religious/racial minority group and not in the majority group. In conclusion we propose that while it is not possible to draw causal links between the variables in this study, it highlights the importance of exploring the interaction between belief systems associated with multiple identities. Furthermore, the differing factors that may influence identification with one group based on identification with another group need to be considered in identity research.

Perceived importance of psychological factors in elite and non-elite junior golfers

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Objectives: Athletes have for a long time recognised the important role of psychological skills in successful sport performance. Previous research, using undergraduate students, demonstrated the perception that to successfully play elite level golf requires a significantly greater psychological component than to play non-elite golf. Subsequent research demonstrated that elite golfers utilise psychological skills more frequently than non-elite golfers. This study was designed to identify the differences in the perceived relative importance of psychological factors in successful golf performance between elite and non-elite junior golfers. The experimental hypothesis stated that elite junior golfers would perceive psychological factors to be more important for successful performance in golf than non-elite junior golfers.

Design: The study adopted an independent samples design, using a modified version of the Psychological Performance Scale.

Methods: 50 elite junior golfers (aged 14–17) from two Junior County Development Squads and 50 junior club golfers (aged 14–17) completed a modified version of the Psychological Performance Scale. The participants rated, as a percentage, the relative importance of psychological and physical factors for successful performance in golf.

Results: The data collected was subjected to an independent t-test, the analysis revealed that elite junior golfers perceived psychological factors (64.5 per cent) to be significantly more important for successful golf performance than non-elite junior golfers (51.4 per cent).

Conclusions: This acknowledgement of the important role that psychological skills play in golf by elite junior golfers could have implications for the future coaching and development of these golfers.

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The prescription of typical and atypical antipsychotic drugs to people with schizophrenia: Relationships between advice, information, choice and the type of drug prescribed

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Objectives: This study examines the relationship between type of antipsychotic drug prescribed ('typical'/'atypical') to people with schizophrenia and information and opportunity for discussion provided by the prescribing health professional.

Design: This study employs a correlational design with categorical variables obtained from questionnaire responses.

Method: The data reported here comes from a large national survey ($n = 2663$) of mental health service users (with a range of diagnoses) and carers conducted by Mind, the Manic Depression Fellowship and the National Schizophrenia Fellowship in 2000 to collect information about experiences of the mental healthcare system. This report focuses on responses from service users with a diagnosis of schizophrenia, who indicated that they were currently taking an antipsychotic as their main medicine ($n = 525$), to questions about written information and verbal advice about prescribed drugs and also involvement with choice of treatment.

Results: Chi-square tests with post-hoc analyses indicate an association between written information, verbal advice & involvement with choice of treatment with the prescription of 'atypical' antipsychotic drugs.

Conclusions: Prescription of 'atypical' antipsychotics, which often result in less severe side-effects than 'typical' antipsychotic drugs, is frequently associated with service user choice and information. Whether this finding is an indicator of resource limitation or variation in mental healthcare practice should be the subject of further investigation.

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Cognitive distortions of religious professionals who sexually abuse children

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Cognitive distortions facilitate sexual abuse by allowing offenders to overcome their internal inhibitions against offending and to maintain the behaviour once it has become established. Very little is known about clergy child molesters and even less is known about their cognitive distortions. This study used grounded theory to investigate the cognitive distortions in the self-report statements of 14 clergy who sexually abused children. Purposive sampling was used to select the participants from an assessment and treatment centre for male child molesters. Firstly, the content of the offenders' cognitive distortions was identified and categorised into 10 thematic groups. Secondly, the categories of cognitions were found to relate to the various stages of the offending cycle. A tentative model was generated that illustrated the relationship between the categories and the hypothesised sequence of thought that facilitates the initiation and maintenance of the sexually abusive behaviour. A number of cognitive processes were also identified as contributing to the offenders' beliefs. Thirdly, the study also revealed that the clergymen used their religious role and relationship with God within their distorted beliefs. Our model indicates that religious professionals are like other sexual offenders in that they too hold many similar cognitive distortions throughout the cycle of offending, sexualising children and minimising and denying the harm caused by sexual activity between an adult and a child. In addition to these, religious offenders also use many 'religion related' cognitive distortions to facilitate their sexual offending. These findings have specific implications for the effective treatment of clergy offenders.

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Connecting loneliness and social deprivation in later life

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Objectives: To examine the prevalence and concomitants of loneliness amongst older people living in socially deprived urban neighbourhoods.

Design: The research adopts a mixed methods approach, combining quantitative (survey) and qualitative data to address themes relating to social exclusion and quality of life of older people in socially deprived neighbourhoods.

Methods: Analysis of survey data collected in structured interviews with 600 people aged 60 and over living in nine electoral wards of Liverpool, Manchester and Newham (three wards in each area). Study locations were selected according to their ranking in the 1998 Index of Local Deprivation. Potential respondents were identified from electoral registers ($n = 501$), with additional targeting of older people from black and ethnic minority groups ($n = 99$). Loneliness data were collected using the 11-item De Jong Gierveld scale. Poverty was measured according to individuals' ability to afford necessities of daily life ('Breadline Britain' method).

Results: Higher rates of loneliness were found in this study in comparison with (national) surveys using the same measure. 60 per cent of the

sample reported some feelings of loneliness compared with 32 per cent in a Dutch study. The mean loneliness score was 4.28 (standard deviation = 3.56). Loneliness was closely associated with socio-demographic variables such as gender, age, ethnicity and marital status. A strong relationship was found between loneliness and poverty.

Conclusions: Older people living in socially deprived urban areas may be more prone to feelings of loneliness than those living in other environments. People experiencing poverty are more likely to experience loneliness than those not in poverty.
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Novel approaches to cognitive enhancement

A SCHOLEY, University of Northumbria

Over the past decades there has been an emerging literature focusing on potential psychopharmacological manipulations which may enhance cognitive performance. Agents which target particular neurotransmitter systems (or subsystems) have reasonably well specified effects. At the same time other research has taken a less reductionist approach by examining the potential beneficial effects of interventions where the biological effects may be unspecified or uncertain. The results from such studies from the basis of this symposium. The first speaker describes experiments examining the enhancement of aspects of memory associated with the consumption of a glucose drink. The research presented specifically examines the impact of concurrent attentional loading on this effect. The second speaker presents experimental data comparing the effects of a glucose with that of a low dose of alcohol. The results suggest that the two substances may improve memory through different but overlapping biological mechanisms. The third speaker provides the first evidence in support of the widely-held belief that chewing gum can improve aspects of cognitive function. The fourth presentation reports on the modulatory effects of exposure to aromatherapy oils, and reports on both enhancement and anxiolytic properties of specific oils. The final paper describes cognitive enhancement associated with administration of Ginseng and provides the first human electrophysiological data regarding possible mechanisms. This series of papers represents a series of experiments which may help to form a coherent view of interventions which improve cognitive performance. A discussion will consider potential common mechanisms of these effects.
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Potential mechanisms involved in the retrograde enhancement of memory by alcohol

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Objectives: A number of studies have reported that administration of low levels of alcohol in the immediate aftermath of learning target material is capable of retrograde enhancement of memory. Two experiments aimed to assess if this phenomenon involves the liberation of glucose, reinforcing 'euphorogenic' mood changes, and/or arousal systems.

Design: Both studies employed a double-blind, placebo-controlled design. In each case there were 15 volunteers per group.

Methods: In the first experiment participants were randomly allocated to a condition wherein they consumed a drink containing either alcohol (0.38g/kg), glucose (25g), or a placebo immediately following the learning phase of a kinaesthetic memory paradigm. Blood glucose levels were monitored and mood effects were assessed using the Profile of Mood States. In Experiment 2 the impact of alcohol was compared to placebo with respect to emotional memory. This was assessed using recognition and recall of word lists containing neutral and emotional words. Heart rates were monitored throughout the experimental procedure.

Results: In Experiment 1 both alcohol and glucose significantly enhanced kinaesthetic

memory. Only glucose ingestion resulted in significantly elevated blood glucose levels. There were no mood effects of either active treatment. In Experiment 2 alcohol differentially improved memory for emotional over neutral words.

Conclusions: We conclude that low dose alcohol consumption does not result in the release of glucose nor does it significantly change any aspect of mood. However the data do support the notion that the effect may be mediated via autonomic mechanisms.
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Effect of alcohol on judgements of performance

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Objectives: Ethanol impairs performance on a wide range of cognitive and psychomotor tasks. In general slowing is less with ethanol than with other CNS depressant drugs, and error rates are higher. Here we investigated the possibility that ethanol affects the judgement of performance by the individual.

Design: 18 healthy young volunteers took part in a three period crossover study.

Methods: Participants received: (1) ethanol 0.8 g/kg (males) and 0.7 g/kg (females); (2) 75 per cent of dose 1; (3) placebo; in randomised order on three study days. A general knowledge (GK) test, administered 75 minutes after the drink, consisted of a series of Yes/No questions presented on a pen computer. An adaptive algorithm adjusted the difficulty of subsequent questions so that volunteers' GK scores were always similar. After the GK test, volunteers rated how well they had performed the task using a visual analogue scale. A battery of other performance tests and mood ratings was also completed.

Results: Previously used performance measures and the mood scales showed the expected effects of ethanol. There were no significant differences in scores on the GK test between treatment sessions. There was a highly significant ($p < 0.001$) effect of alcohol on volunteers' ratings of performance: placebo 37.2; medium alcohol 53.6 high alcohol 65.0 mm (0 = very poor; 100 = very well).

Conclusions: These results indicate a substantial effect of ethanol on subjective ratings of confidence in task performance, and suggest that the relative tendency to speed up with ethanol may be due to an over-optimistic assessment of ability rather than, for example, an increased willingness to take risks.
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Can the use of intuition improve lie detection accuracy?

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Objectives: The aim of the study was to test claims, made by several popular self-help books, that using intuition can be beneficial. Specifically, the study aimed to test whether using intuition significantly improved lie detection accuracy.

Design: A between-subjects, quasi-experimental design was employed.

Method: A call was put out in the National Press for people who claimed to be highly intuitive ($n = 96$). A similar number of people were recruited who made no such claims regarding their intuitive ability ('non-intuitives'). Both sets of participants were asked a number of questions concerning their intuition use, and were then shown a number of short video clips in which senders were either lying or telling the truth about their favourite films or preferred ways of relaxing. Participants were asked to judge which senders were lying and which were telling the truth.

Results: The results confirmed that the intuitive group rated themselves significantly more highly than the 'non-intuitive' group regarding the degree to which they used intuition generally, and the degree to which they used intuition (successfully) for deciding whether people were

lying to them. However, the most interesting result showed that the intuitive participants were significantly less accurate than the non-intuitives ($p < 0.001$) at detecting the lies of the senders.

Conclusions: The results suggest that using one's intuition is not a good strategy for accurately detecting lies. The findings may have important implications for so-called lie detection professionals who claim to have 'gut instincts' as to whether or not someone is lying.
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Social inclusion and exclusion

C SEDIKIDES, University of Southampton

This symposium considers issues of social inclusion and exclusion. Abrams and Hutchison discuss how deviant group members are treated as a function of inter-group context. Based on the subjective group dynamics model (Abrams, Marques, Bown & Henson, 2000), they argue that reactions to group deviants sometimes are treated leniently and other times are treated harshly. Van Vugt talks on how leadership style affects the inclusion and exclusion (i.e. exit) decisions of groups members. Members exist the group under autocratic leadership, because they perceive their personal welfare, sense of autonomy, and dignity as threatened. Baumeister presents on the impact of social exclusion and rejection. He finds that rejection increases antisocial behaviour and reduces or impairs co-operative behaviour, intelligent problem solving, and self-regulation.

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Investigating the cognitive disturbance in eating disorders using a modified lexical decision task

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Objectives: Previous research has indicated that the lexical decision paradigm (LDP) may be a viable alternative to the modified Stroop (1935) paradigm in investigating the cognitive disturbance in eating disorders (Seed *et al.*, 1997). The aim of the present study was to determine whether a more finely tailored task might be useful in identifying cognitive differences between Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia Nervosa, with a view to informing therapy.

Design & Method: 15 patients with Anorexia Nervosa, 15 patients with Bulimia Nervosa and two individually age- and sex-matched control groups were asked to make word/non-word decisions about food-related words, body-related words, matched and non-matched neutral words and orthographically feasible non-words presented in a random order in a lexical decision task. Reaction times (msecs) were recorded using a customised two-button response module.

Results: An Analysis of Variance using median reaction times revealed both patient groups, but not controls, to display significantly reduced response latencies to both classes of experimental stimuli, relative to matched neutral stimuli. *Post hoc* analyses revealed no significant differences between patient groups in terms of the size of these effects.

Conclusions: These findings again indicate the LDP to be sensitive to state-related disturbances in cognition in eating disorders. They do not however support the view that the cognitive disturbance in Anorexia Nervosa is different from that in Bulimia Nervosa, at least with respect to food- and body-concept sensitivity. Theoretical and clinical implications of these findings are discussed, as is the potential for future development of the modified LDP as an objective research tool.
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Stability and change in video game playing of children and young adults: Usage, liking and learning transfer

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Objectives: This study reports the results of two surveys with: (i) children (6–11 years) and their

parents; and (ii) undergraduates. The relation of past playing habits to current ones is examined in terms of play changes as a function of age. In addition, the extent to which game playing may foster learning transfer and skill generalisation in children is considered.

Method: Parents (150) were randomly selected and asked to complete a questionnaire about their child's game usage. From the 83 replies, 37 female and 37 male children completed a similar questionnaire, and played a novel game. Undergraduates (400) completed the questionnaire, which also asked about past game play behaviour.

Results: Access was high, varying from 95 per cent among male children to 65 per cent in female undergraduates. Play frequency increased with age in the children's sample, although it substantially declined amongst undergraduates, for whom game playing was no longer the preferred activity. Males played more than females, however, only female undergraduates reported less liking for games. In the children, females rated games as enjoyable in general as did males, and rated the specific game played as more enjoyable. Scores on the novel game were higher for males, older children and those who had played games more often.

Conclusions: Game playing was widespread and was the preferred activity for children. Play frequencies decreased through adolescence to early adulthood, but were still fairly stable. Although males played more, females found games as enjoyable. Previous game playing experience predicted performance on the novel game, suggesting that skills generalise to new game formats.

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Self perception in Iranian children

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Objectives: The purpose of this study was to study the responses to the Perceived Competence Scale for Children from Iranian elementary schools. The first question was whether the scale has sufficient stability and factorial reliability for application in Iran. The second issue was the question of possible gender differences in different domains of perceived competence.

Design: Cronbach's alpha was used to estimate reliability of the scale. Construct validity of the scale was verified using factor analysis. Gender differences were investigated using t-tests.

Methods: The items were translated with minor changes in wording. The scale was administered to 199 children aged nine to 11 in Shiraz, Iran.

Results: The results revealed satisfactory coefficients alpha reliabilities. Three factors cognitive competence, social competence, and physical competence emerged using varimax rotation. The factorial structure of the PCSC was not totally replicated in this analysis; self-worth did not emerge in this study. Sex differences were not significant in different domains except girls perceived themselves significantly more competent than boys in social competence.

Conclusions: These results reveal some unique characteristics of Iranian children's self-evaluation.

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Cultural issues in pre-natal care: Views of health practitioners

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Objectives: The paper aims to make a preliminary enquiry in midwives perceptions of and understandings about, cultural issues in midwifery practice, and formative associations between cultural practices and professional prenatal care, with particular reference to British Asian pregnant women.

Design: The study employs a self-completed questionnaire session in a formal setting in order to achieve independent professional perceived response-sets.

Methods: 23 midwife students completed a questionnaire that contains various aspects of cultural issues, such as preferential choices of five distinctive sociocultural elements, strength and frequency of the connection between cultural practices and pre-natal care, and culture-specific

symptomology of pregnancy among Asian women. Formal consent is obtained from respondents and all ethical issues are considered.

Results: Due to the exploratory nature of the study, descriptive statistics and correlation are used to treat the data. The major findings show that comprehension (52 per cent) is the first preferential component for a multicultural framework in midwifery practice. The respondents perceive a significant positive association between age and regular attendance ($r = .48^*$) to pre-natal care implying the older the pregnant women the less likely they will attend to the prescribed pre-natal care. Similarly, significant positive associations between religious practices, cultural taboo and pre-natal care indicate that the more religious and cultural taboo pregnant women have the less likely that they will attend pre-natal care regularly.

Conclusion: Midwifery practice needs to be informed by the cultural practices in pregnancy for British Asian women. The findings are discussed in the light of Leinenger's culture care theory.

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Equity of use of psychosocial support services for cancer patients

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Objectives: It is widely recognised that the diagnosis and treatment of cancer are stressful. Consequently, there is a need for psychosocial support and information services for cancer patients. A potential problem for all such services is equity of use; previous studies have found that middle class women with breast cancer are over-represented amongst those accessing support services.

Design: The Oncology Health Centre, Princess Royal Hospital Hull, provides evidence-based psychosocial interventions and support and is fully integrated with mainstream oncology provision. The service includes a 'Drop-in Centre' offering open access to cancer patients and their relatives, and a referral based service. This study reports an audit of patients using these services.

Method: Age, gender, cancer diagnosis, and Townsend deprivation scores were recorded for all patients who used the services (both referral and drop-in) since the Centre opened. One-hundred-and-eighty to 220 patients attend the Centre each week.

Results: 63 per cent of referred patients and 69 per cent of drop-in patients were female. Patient's ages ranged from 21 to 84 years (mean = 53.58, s.d. = 23.54, mode = 56). Patients accessing the service had the full range of diagnoses. Social deprivation scores showed that the majority (58 per cent) of patients came from the two most deprived categories as defined by Townsend scores.

Conclusions: Findings indicate that a fully integrated approach to the provision of psychosocial support services enhances equity of use. Continued effort will be required to improve equity of use with regard to gender.

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Effects of modality and word frequency on implicit and explicit false memories

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Objectives: This experiment investigated the effects of modality and word frequency on false memories engendered from studying Deese-Roediger-McDermott lists in both an implicit test (repetition priming in the lexical decision task) and an explicit test of recognition memory.

Design: The experiment manipulated modality of study (visual vs. auditory), word frequency (high vs. low) and priming (primed vs. control) for both studied words and critical lures.

Methods: Participants (56 undergraduates) studied a subset of the Deese-Roediger-McDermott lists that varied the word frequency of the critical (non-presented) lures and the

presented (studied) words. Half studied the lists visually and half auditorily. After a filler task (of simple mathematics), participants completed a lexical decision task followed by a recognition memory task, both of which contained studied words and the critical lures. The lexical decision task was used to investigate implicit memory, whilst the recognition memory task tapped explicit memory.

Results: There were clear priming effects in the lexical decision task for both the studied (i.e. repeated) words and the critical (but non-presented) lures. Furthermore, both priming effects were larger for low- than for high-frequency words. The analysis of the explicit recognition memory performance is still in progress.

Conclusions: These results suggest that words activated as false memories in the Deese-Roediger-McDermott paradigm also show 'false repetition' priming in the lexical decision task, and will be interpreted in terms of Morton's logogen model.

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Sexuality and sexual health

L SHERR, Royal Free and University College School of Medicine, London

Sexuality is intricately bound with sexual health. This Health Psychology symposium brings together a range of perspectives on sexual health, HIV infection and sexuality through 5 papers. The aim is to describe up to date experience, to comment on the increase in sexually transmitted infections and to explore pathways for intervention/prevention.

1. Optimism and Risk: This international study presents data examining the effect of optimism around HIV treatment advances and new therapies on sexual risk behaviour and explore implications for prevention. Samples are compared from the UK, France, Canada and Australia.

2. Safe sex and Viagra: This paper studies the extent of Viagra use among gay men (HIV positive, Negative and untested) and monitor Viagra taking in the context of drug and sexual risk taking.

3. HIV Prevention and peer education: This paper focuses on the only two UK randomised controlled trials to evaluate peer education as an intervention for sexual health and HIV prevention. (Scotland and London).

4. Sexual Risk and the internet: This paper explores the role of the internet as a risk environment and set out findings in the light of potential utilisation of the internet for prevention and sexual health interventions.

5. Sexuality and reproduction in the presence of HIV: This paper explores the views on parenting and procreation by pregnant women and HIV Positive women. It will examine the extent to which sexually transmitted diseases and the advent of new treatments impact on sexuality and childbearing.

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Sexuality and sexual health: Safe sex and Viagra

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Objectives: To examine the use of Viagra (sildenafil) among gay men in London and its association with sexual risk behaviour.

Design: Self report survey questionnaire
Methods: Nearly 800 gay/bisexual men (128 HIV positive, 477 HIV negative, 169 never tested) were surveyed in central London in January–February 2000 regarding use of sildenafil and high risk unprotected anal intercourse (UAI) in the previous three months (i.e. UAI with a person of discordant or unknown HIV status).

Results: Overall, 20 per cent (158.789) of the men surveyed had taken Viagra in the previous 12 months. HIV positive men 36.8 per cent, HIV negative men 19.2 per cent never tested men 8.9 per cent ($p < .001$). Most men had used sildenafil recreationally and less than one-in-five users had taken it on prescription. HIV positive and negative men who had taken Viagra were no more likely to

report high risk UAI while taking Viagra than men who had never taken the drug ($p < .3$). However, those who had taken sildenafil were more likely than those who had not to have used recreational drugs ($p < .01$), taken anabolic steroids ($p < .001$) or report high risk UAI overall (not necessarily while they were on the drug) $p < .03$).

Application of results: One in five gay men in this study had used sildenafil. While use appeared to be associated with general risk taking behaviour there was no evidence that Viagra per se led to high risk sexual behaviour among HIV positive men or negative gay men. Over one third of HIV positive men had used the drug, both they and their physicians should be aware of its potential interaction with protease inhibitors.

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Sexuality and sexual health – HIV and reproduction

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Objectives: The aim of the paper is to explore HIV and reproduction by examining the views of pregnant women on HIV and the views of HIV positive women on pregnancy.

Design: Questionnaire data from women ($n = 1096$)

Methods: Data from ante-natal attenders ($n = 697$), termination clinic attenders ($n = 141$), family planning clinic attenders ($n = 160$) and HIV positive women ($n = 98$) exploring views on reproduction in the presence of HIV, the impact of new therapies on pregnancy decision making, relationship and sexuality measures.

Results: An overview of data show high levels of information and concern about HIV. Risk exposure is widespread, but not often associated with HIV testing decisions. Views on consent and informed choice were of concern. Women with HIV were often drawn from ethnic minorities and more than half were in a relationship. Over half were contemplating pregnancy and some (five per cent) were experiencing fertility problems. 52.3 per cent noted that HIV played a part in their reproductive decision making. Knowledge of interventions was wanting. Anxiety was higher in relation to antiretroviral treatment in pregnancy than for Caesarean Section delivery or the prospect of formula feeding. It was difficult to disclose HIV status to partners for some women.

Conclusions: Although considerable policy and expense has provided HIV testing for all pregnant women, less attention has been given on reproduction issues for all HIV positive women. Fathers are relatively neglected from the research and policy arena. The new therapies have opened up opportunities for prevention and may trigger HIV testing for all pregnant women and reconsideration of childbearing for HIV positive women. Disclosure, consent and support are issues still needing attention.

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Measuring quality of life in the elderly: Challenges in conceptualisation and measurement

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Objectives: To review the subjective measurement of quality of life in older adults, with particular reference to theories of successful ageing. Concepts and methods of assessing quality of life in cross-cultural work are outlined and their applicability to older adults discussed. The case for a new measure of quality of life for use by the elderly is reviewed with reference to the younger adults' version of the WHOQOL.

Design: Qualitative study using focus group methodology

Methods: Heterogeneous focus groups of sick and well older adults (structured by age and sex) informal caregivers and relevant health professionals were convened to discuss quality of life and to comment on concepts that might be included in a new assessment. Participants also suggested wording for the items of the new questionnaire.

Results: The focus groups were successful both in terms of validating internationally accepted

areas of quality of life and in eliciting new ones. Several issues such as loss of sensory functioning, bereavement and changes to social relations were cited as key areas for inclusion in the new measure.

Conclusions: The inclusion of items that are of specific concern to the elderly will provide a more holistic and comprehensive assessment of quality of life, as well as increased sensitivity to changes in condition over time. The new instrument will enable conclusions to be drawn about which areas of quality of life are most pertinent to successful ageing.

Imagery modality and golf putting performance

D SMITH, Chester College & P HOLMES, Manchester Metropolitan University

Objectives: To examine the effect of various imagery modalities on golf putting performance. **Design:** In order to enable evaluation of the relative effectiveness of the differing imagery modalities, a between- and within-participants design was employed.

Methods: 40 experienced male golfers were assigned to a written script group, and audio group, a video group or a control group. The written scripts were personalised and laden with the physiological responses reported by the participants. While performing their imagery, participants in the audio and video groups listened to an audiotape of themselves putting or watched a first person perspective videotape of themselves putting, respectively. Control participants spent an equivalent amount of time reading a biography of golfer Jack Nicklaus. Each participant performed a 15-ball putting task twice per week for six weeks, and performed his imagery or reading daily. Pre- and post-intervention tests were also carried out. Two dependent measures, the number of putts holed and a performance score based on the proximity of ball to hole, were used.

Results: Group x test ANOVAs were calculated to examine the putts holed and performance score data. No significant differences in performance were revealed by the pre-test ($p > .05$). However, in the post-test, in terms of both putts holed and the performance score, the video and audio groups performed significantly ($p < .01$) better than the written script and control groups.

Conclusions: This result indicates that the form in which imagery intervention is delivered can have a significant impact upon its effectiveness.

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A WAIS-III short-form for mild and borderline learning disability

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Objectives: To determine whether a short-form version of the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale – Third Edition (WAIS-III), is viable for clients with a suspected learning disability.

Design: Regression analysis of a database of WAIS-III records to determine short-form models that predict Full Scale IQ.

Method: 67 clients (mean IQ = 70) referred to a community learning disability team over a 19 month period were administered the 11 main (of 13) WAIS-III sub-tests. Reasons for referral included legal reports, child protection and parenting issues, and screening for learning disability. Multiple linear regression was used with Full Scale IQ as the dependent variable, and the 11 subtests of the WAIS-III were entered stepwise as independent variables. Regression short-form models were compared with pro-rated short-form for specificity and sensitivity.

Results: Multiple regression of age-scaled subtest scores on Full Scale IQ yielded four and five subtest short-forms accounting for more than 90 per cent of the variance, with the matrix reasoning subtest alone accounting for 70 per cent of variance. Concerning the intellectual criterion (IQ below 70) for learning disability, multiple regression short-forms produced far fewer misclassifications than pro-rated prediction.

Conclusions: Despite the caution about learning disability short-forms for earlier versions of the

WAIS, satisfactory short-forms of the WAIS-III for this population are feasible. One probable reason is the inclusion, for the first time, of matrix reasoning, which has a very high correlation with Full Scale IQ. In general, such short-forms are not recommended for legal casework or where brain damage or severe epilepsy is suspected.

Aggression, and impulsivity in forensic and non-forensic populations

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Objectives: To examine the relationship between questionnaire measures of aggression and impulsivity in forensic and non-forensic populations as part of the development of an aggression model.

Design & Method: Using a sample of prisoners at three closed prisons in the North of England (HMP Durham, HMP Hull and HMPYOI New Hall), and a group of undergraduates at the University of Leeds. Participants ($n = 464$, offenders male 115, female 133; undergraduates male 94, female 122) completed a series of four questionnaires (The Revised Expagg Questionnaire, the Buss-Perry Aggression Questionnaire, the Aggressive Acts Questionnaire and the Barratt Impulsivity Scale). Analyses were conducted by index offence and aggression score.

Results: Violent offenders scored significantly higher on measures of instrumentality, physical and verbal aggression, anger, hostility and impulsivity than the non-violent offenders and undergraduates. However, violent men and violent women did not differ significantly on their scores. Violent offenders (male and female) used recent referents more frequently to answer questions about their beliefs on aggression, and offenders in general used more early experience referents than the undergraduates. Violent men and women (offenders and undergraduates) were equally likely to report involvement in physical acts of aggression.

Conclusions: The results confirm that gender differences in self-report measures of aggression (on cognitive, affective and behavioural dimensions) in forensic populations may be less clear-cut than many have previously believed. Questionnaire measures frequently utilised with student populations also appear able to discriminate between violent and non-violent offenders. It appears that previously reported gender differences might become minimalised in extremely aggressive individuals.

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Post-traumatic stress and anxiety symptoms in children exposed to the 1999 Greek earthquake

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Objectives: To identify the main predictors of post-traumatic stress symptoms in children exposed to the 1999 Greek Earthquake.

Design: Between-groups comparison of post-traumatic stress symptoms in children of two different age groups (nine and 14 years) in three different regions of Athens at different distances from the epicentre.

Methods: Five months after the Athens earthquake, symptoms of post-traumatic stress and anxiety were measured in 178 children from three different regions of Athens, using the Impact of Event Scale (IES) and the Revised Children's Manifest Anxiety Scale (RCMAS) respectively. The Earthquake Trauma Exposure Scale was used to assess exposure to threat, damage to house, and loss of parents' employment. The effects of age, gender, and proximity to the epicentre, on IES and RCMAS scores were analysed (using MANCOVA), with measures from the Earthquake Trauma Exposure Scale as covariates.

Results: Exposure to threat, proximity to the epicentre, and gender, all had a significant effect on stress and anxiety symptoms. Females reported more stress and anxiety than did males overall. Although age had no main effect on either anxiety or stress symptoms, there were

significant interactive effects. In the two districts closest to the epicentre of the earthquake, the younger group of children reported higher stress symptoms than did the older group. The youngest females who were closest to the epicentre reported the highest anxiety and stress symptoms of all.

Conclusions: Counselling should be targeted at those groups identified in this study as being at high risk of post-traumatic symptoms.
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Relating to older adults diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease: Exploring the experience of Alzheimer's disease

L STEADMAN, Wirral & West Chester Community NHS Trust

Objectives: To explore the ways adults recently diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease understand and interpret this condition. To consider the influence of this diagnosis on personal and professional relationships.

Method: Four men and four women diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease were interviewed about their experiences. Spouses were sometimes present and also contributed to the interviews. Interviews were transcribed and the data analysed drawing on principles from grounded theory and discourse analysis.

Results: A thematic analysis highlighted the complex, diverse, and often contradictory nature of participants' accounts, which were characterised by multiple losses, negative emotional consequences and disempowerment. However, participants' accounts also highlighted that a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease could have positive outcomes. It enabled participants and significant others to make sense of previously confusing experiences and also legitimised them receiving care from health and social services.

Conclusion: The present study shows the ways diagnosis can impact powerfully on ways people view themselves and are viewed in relation to others. The use of language in this way opens up many possibilities for the ways in which professionals relate to people in clinical practice. The use of language through professional relationships can open up space for the person diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease to express a range of 'valued' identities; alternatively, language can restrict that space so that identity is limited to that of Alzheimer's disease sufferer alone.

Identity and social relations: The emergence, escalation, control of collective 'violence'

C STOTT, University of Liverpool

Current understanding of violence and aggression focuses predominantly upon the nature of human individuality at the expense of an analysis of collective or group level processes. This symposium aims to redress this imbalance through a focus upon the social psychological dynamics of social conflict. The symposium begins by outlining a theoretical model that emphasises the importance of social identity, category construction and inter-group dynamics in the production and normative structure of collective conflict. This is followed by a series of studies that provide powerful empirical support for the model while at the same time challenging contemporary understandings of the nature of conflict and our attempts to reduce it. These studies begin with analyses of football 'hooliganism' and public order policing which contradicts the causal role normally attributed to hooligans and demonstrates how attempts to control 'disorder' can ironically play a role in its production. This is followed by a study of bystander intervention that highlights the importance of category membership in determining individual involvement in 'violent' incidents. The symposium then provides an analysis of inter-group conflict in South Africa and Northern Ireland that radically challenges currently dominant social psychological models of conflict reduction. Finally, through a study of an anti roads protest we draw the theoretical and empirical issues together. In so doing we argue

that group level process not only structure collective conflict but change the nature of identity itself in an ongoing dynamic of social psychological inter-relationship.
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Hooligans in Marseille? Social identity, inter-group dynamics and 'football hooliganism'

C STOTT, University of Liverpool

Objectives: In Marseilles, during the 1998 Football World Cup Finals in France, English supporters were involved in three major incidents of collective 'disorder'. Explanations for these incidents concentrated overwhelmingly upon the presence of 'hooligan' fans. In contrast, Scottish supporters attending the same tournament displayed norms of non-violence that were attributed to the absence of 'hooligans'. Paradoxically, in the domestic league in Scotland 'hooliganism' between opposing supporters is not uncommon and the vast majority of English supporters arrested during the disturbances in Marseilles had no previous record of involvement in 'disorder'. In this paper, we address this paradox and challenge the dominant tendency to explain and police 'hooliganism' solely in terms of 'violent' individual pre-dispositions.

Design: This paper is based upon data obtained from an ethnographic study of both Scottish and English supporters (n = 121) combined with questionnaire data from a further 90 supporters.

Results: Using the results of a thematic analysis this paper will add empirical support to the theoretical arguments made in the previous paper by outlining the social psychological processes through which ordinarily 'peaceful' supporters would or would not become involved in collective conflict.

Conclusions: The paper concludes by discussing the challenge posed by the analysis to current individualistic theoretical models of football related 'disorder' and discuss: (a) the importance of a 'dynamic' reading of Self Categorisation Theory; and (b) the implication of this research for public order policing.
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Towards a conceptual framework for psychosocial programming in complex emergencies

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Purpose: To outline ways of conceptualising psychosocial programming, and to explore the implications for effective focus of programme design and evaluation.

Background: The search for more effective approaches in response to the psychosocial needs of refugees and war-affected populations has led to the development of new paradigms. It is characteristic of such pioneering work that there should be a lack of consensus on goals, strategy and best practice. The Psychosocial Working Group (PWG) has been established to facilitate dialogue between and amongst academics and practitioners within humanitarian agencies regarding different approaches to psychosocial interventions.

Key Points: The PWG has worked to identify the core factors considered, by those working in the field, to influence the psychosocial well-being of a community, and to begin to explore empirically the relationships between those factors. The approach has been to draw together from a breadth of experience (through a series of consultations), the issues considered relevant in the field. This paper introduces the emerging conceptual framework and explores some of the issues raised for research and evaluation. It reports on further pilot work which is considering the feasibility of developing a decision-making tool for psychosocial programme planners.

Conclusions: Two priorities emerge. Firstly to broaden the forum for debate to allow for communication and modification of the conceptual framework. Secondly, to use the framework as a basis for supporting the practitioner, policy-maker and researcher.
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Retrograde and anterograde glucose administration facilitates memory performance in healthy young adults

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Objective: Previous research in our laboratory demonstrated that memory for a list of 20 words can be enhanced by preceding learning by consumption of 25g of glucose, compared with consumption of an equally sweet aspartame solution. The aim of the present study was to investigate the effect of anterograde and retrograde administration on memory performance.

Design: A placebo-controlled, double-blind design was employed.

Methods: 60 healthy young adults were randomly allocated to conditions where participants were administered 25g of glucose immediately before or immediately after presentation of a word list. Moreover, in order to investigate whether the effect of glucose administration on memory performance is time-dependant, a third group received 25g of glucose 15 minutes before learning the word list. Word list recall was tested 30 minutes and 24 hours after word list presentation. Measures of spatial memory performance and working memory were also evaluated.

Result: The results of this study showed that both pre- and post-acquisition oral glucose administration can improve memory performance. However, as the time interval between anterograde glucose administration and memory encoding increased, the glucose memory facilitation effect decreased.

Conclusions: This study provides evidence that retrograde glucose administration enhances memory, and that the facilitative effect is observed at least up to 24 hours after anterograde and retrograde glucose administration. Moreover, it provides evidence that the effect of glucose on memory performance may be time-dependent, as the enhancement of retention was decreased when the administration-learning interval was increased.
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Glucose facilitation of memory performance: The significance of task difficulty and divided allocation of psychological and/or physiological resources

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Objective: Previous research has demonstrated that administration of glucose after overnight fasting can facilitate performance on delayed recall measures of memory in healthy young adults. The present study examined the extent to which different elements of cognition can interact and influence each other when carried out within the same temporal window, and how these interactions may relate to the glucose facilitation effect.

Design: A placebo-controlled, double-blind study was employed.

Methods: The effect of glucose administration on word recall performance in eighty healthy young participants was examined under conditions where the primary memory task and a secondary task were competing for cognitive resources (across a range of secondary tasks), and where task difficulty was increased, but dual task mediated competition for cognitive resources did not exist. Measures of non-verbal and working memory performance were also compared under the different glycaemic conditions (glucose versus aspartame drinks).

Results: A beneficial effect of glucose on memory was detected after participants practised a 20-word list while performing a secondary task, but not when participants practised the list without a secondary task, nor when task difficulty was increased. Moreover, glucose significantly enhanced performance on spatial and working memory tasks.

Conclusion: The findings do support a 'competition for resources' hypothesis inasmuch as carrying out a concomitant task whilst listening to the word list seems to be an important feature in order to demonstrate a facilitative effect on verbal long-term memory performance.
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Living confidently with HIV: Evaluating a chronic illness group

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Objectives: As the typology of HIV is changing in the West from terminal to chronic post combination therapies, infected individuals are negotiating new issues due to the different meanings being HIV+ has. Infected individuals need to adjust to the new meanings, feel confident in facing the future, engage in healthy lifestyles, meaningful activities, relationships and enlist social supports. However, a variety of factors including the stigma and secrecy of being HIV+ can impair individuals' abilities to negotiate life's demands. The primary objective of this study is to test the efficacy of a 'chronic illness' group for HIV+ individuals. This is a pilot group. The group aim is to facilitate the adjustment process in relation to living with HIV and to enable negotiation of life demands.

Design: The group is closed, adopting a brief-focused interventionist approach of six sessions over 12 weeks. Psychological techniques employed are multi-theoretical, including psycho-education, cognitive-behavioural and systemic. A particular emphasis is on goal planning and problem-solving.

Methods: Participants are recruited with pre-set inclusion/exclusion criteria. Group entry is for clients experiencing problems living with HIV. Standardised measures of mood, adjustment, coping and quality of life are administered pre and post-group and at six months follow-up.

Results: Work in progress. Results are available at presentation.

Conclusions: Group therapy is an efficacious psychological treatment in HIV. A social intervention that enhances mood, adjustment and self-efficacy will facilitate achievement of goals by increasing participants' capacity to cope with life's obstacles.

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Congruency-based investigations of the relationships between decentralisation of managerial decision-making and subordinates' affective reactions

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Objectives:

1. To examine the relationships between the congruence of perceived-desired decentralisation and subordinates' affective reaction.
2. To explore the impact of using various congruence indices on the relationships between decentralisation and subordinates' affective reaction

Hypothesis:

1. Degree of supplied-desired congruence of decentralisation relates to degree of subordinates' affective reactions;
2. Subordinates' affective reactions will be related more strongly to subjective congruence than to objective or perceptual congruence.

Design: A mixed design, including a combination of within-subject and between subject analysis, was used to obtain different congruency and its consequence. Different method for classification and computing methods were used to obtain various congruence indices.

Methods: This research emphasises a dyadic approach by examining responses from both managers and their immediate subordinates (1310 dyads) from two large industries: Banking and health care. The measures include three self report questionnaires: (1) Supplied and Desired Decentralisation Scale; (2) Job Satisfaction Scale; and (3) Intention to Leave Scale.

Results: The findings supported not only the significant relationships between supplied-desired decentralisation and subordinates' affective reactions, but also proved that using different congruent categories and different methods of computing the congruence indices can yield different size and directions of the relationships.

Conclusions: Firstly, the findings help to encourage managers concern more on subordinates' desires and involvement in the decision process. Secondly, they help to remind the congruency analysts pay more attention on defining definition of the congruence index and also methods for computing the different scores to avoid misinterpreting the results.
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An intervention to increase children's consumption of fruit and vegetables

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Objectives: To evaluate the effectiveness of a 'whole school' peer modelling and rewards based intervention, aimed at increasing children's consumption of fruit and vegetables.

Design: A control group design was employed to ensure that any changes were not due to the presentation of additional fruit and vegetables.

Method: Two schools (children aged five to 11) from a deprived inner-city area were selected for participation. Children from one school participated in the intervention (n = 148) whilst children from the other acted as a control group (n = 206). In both schools, over a five-month period, children were presented with one portion of cooked vegetables and one piece of fruit with their midday meal. Infant children received an additional piece of fruit mid-morning. In the experimental school children also participated in the intervention. Observers rated lunchtime consumption in both schools on a five-point scale at Time 1 (pre-intervention) Time 2 (intervention) and Time 3 (follow-up, four months later).

Results: Data were analysed using ANOVA and post hoc t-tests. Results showed that in the experimental school fruit and vegetable consumption at lunchtime were significantly higher at Time 2 and 3 compared to Time 1 whilst in the control school both fruit and vegetable consumption showed significant decreases.

Conclusions: The results of this study, together with previous research, indicate that the intervention is effective at increasing consumption of both fruit and vegetables at lunchtime. We are now hoping that the government will implement this programme in schools across the UK.
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Perceptions of 'us' and 'them': Does subtyping prevent stereotype change for in-groups and out-groups?

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Objectives: The subtyping model of stereotype change assumes that group members who disconfirm the stereotype are cognitively isolated from the group, leading to the insulation of the stereotype from change. We report a study investigating the impact of the perceiver's group status (in-group vs. out-group) and an exemplar's consistency with the group stereotype on its accessibility in memory, the perceived typicality of this instance and the similarity to other group members. The role of 'displacement' of disconfirmers from the group (subtyping) in stereotype change was explored.

Design: A 2 (group status: in-group vs. out-group) x 3 (consistency with the stereotype: consistent vs. inconsistent vs. irrelevant) within-subjects design was used. To explore the role of subtyping on stereotype change, we split participants at the median into 'high' and 'low' subtypes, and compared each group to a no-information control group.

Methods: Participants learned information about members of an out-group and an in-group which either confirmed, disconfirmed or was irrelevant

to the pre-tested stereotype. The change in response times compared to a baseline in a category verification task, the perceived typicality of individual group members and their perceived similarity to other group members, as well as perceptions of the group in general (stereotypicality and variability) were assessed.

Results: Our findings suggest that although stereotype-disconfirmers seem to be more accessible in memory than confirmers, they are perceived as less typical of the group and less similar to other group members. This was especially evident for out-group members. A comparison of high and low subtypes to a no-information control group suggested that high subtyping preserved the stereotype whereas low subtyping increased perceived group variability of both, the in-group and the out-group.

Conclusions: Results are discussed in terms of subtyping as an active process constituting a default response aimed at preserving the stereotype in the face of disconfirming information. Suggestions for future research on an informational approach to stereotype change are made.
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Anger treatment for offenders with learning disability: Results of a controlled study

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Objective: Aggression is the primary reason for people with learning disabilities to be admitted or re-admitted to institutions. It is also the main reason for this client group to be prescribed anti-psychotic and behaviour control drugs. Anger is a significant predictor and activator of aggressive behaviour. There is some limited evidence for the value of cognitive-behavioural treatments for anger problems with people with intellectual disabilities. However, no controlled studies of anger treatment involving intellectually disabled offenders living in secure settings have been conducted to date.

Method: In this study 40 detained patients with intellectual disabilities and histories of offending were allocated to specially modified cognitive-behavioural anger treatment (AT group) or to routine care waiting-list control (RC group) conditions. Eighteen sessions of individual treatment were delivered over a period of 12 weeks. The effectiveness of the treatment was evaluated by comparison of post-treatment outcome scores for the AT group with pre-treatment scores for the RC group using repeated measures ANOVA.

Results: Patients' self-report of anger using several reliable and validated measures of anger was significantly lower following intervention in the treatment condition, compared to the wait-list condition. Limited evidence for the effectiveness of treatment was provided by staffs' ratings of patient behaviour post-treatment.

Conclusion: Detained offenders with intellectual disabilities can benefit from intensive individual cognitive-behavioural anger treatment. Further research is required to examine the mechanisms for change and their sustainability.

Effects of defendant attractiveness and motives on the judgements of male and female mock jurors

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Purpose: To investigate the effects of extralegal defendant and juror characteristics (facial attractiveness and sex respectively) on judgements of guilt, sentence and probability of intent in a simulated mock jury study.

Argument: It is hypothesised that female mock jurors will be more punitive in their ratings of the defendant than male jurors; the unattractive defendant will be rated harshly and jurors will be more sympathetic towards the coerced defendant than defendants in the misled or pleading innocent conditions (despite the gravity of evidence).

Design & Method: Photographs of facially attractive or unattractive females representing the defendant were attached to one of three versions

of a fictitious court case transcript. The content of the transcript was controlled and varied only in the defendant's motive. Seventy-two college students adopted the role of juror and independently assigned ratings of guilt, sentence and probability of intent which were represented using a Likert scale.

Results: Backward Stepwise Multiple Regression analysis found that ratings of guilt, sentence and probability of intent significantly correlated. A 3 x 2 x 2 ANOVA showed differing motives to be the best predictor variable of sentence ratings. The direction of difference showed that the defendant in the 'pleading innocent' condition was treated more leniently. Sex of the juror and facial attractiveness of the defendant showed no influence on ratings of guilt, sentence or probability of intent.

Conclusions: Results are discussed using equity theory and Lerner's just desert hypothesis. In this case motives determine mock juror judgements more than extralegal defendant and juror characteristics.

'Her behaviour was undignified': Benevolent sexism and victim blame in acquaintance rape cases

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Objectives: Our previous studies have shown that individuals who are high in benevolent sexism (BS) are more likely to assign blame to acquaintance rape victims in comparison to stranger rape victims. We have argued that high BS individuals assign blame to acquaintance rape victims because they perceive them as having violated traditional gender role expectations. The present study directly investigated whether perceptions of the victim's behaviour as 'inappropriate for a woman' mediates the relationship between BS and victim blame.

Design: A within subjects design, with all participants completing scales assessing benevolent sexism and victim blame was employed.

Methods: 43 participants (18 males; 25 females) took part in the study. Participants were all presented with an acquaintance rape scenario, after which they were asked to attribute blame to the victim and the perpetrator. Also measured were participants' levels of benevolent sexism.

Results: Multiple regression analyses yielded findings consistent with our expectations. The relationship between BS and victim blame was found to be significantly mediated by perceptions of the victim's behaviour as inappropriate.

Conclusions: Individuals who are high in BS appear to assign blame to rape victims who they view as violating traditional gender role expectations. Implications of the findings are discussed with regards to rape victims and their treatment within the criminal justice system and broader society.

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Stress and self-presentation concerns in Rugby League officials

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Objective: Using a self-presentation (SP) framework this study examined sources of stress and SP issues in Rugby League (RL) officials.

Design: To provide an in-depth, phenomenological account of stressors and their underpinnings, an interpretative approach was used.

Methods: 12 (11 male; one female) RL officials participated in individual, semi-structured interviews. Following transcription, interviews were analysed, inductively and deductively, using content analysis, producing hierarchies of meaningful categories of increasing abstraction. Member checks and peer debriefing confirmed the validity of this analysis.

Results: According to the general dimensions identified, positive stress originated from the following sources: desire for a smooth game, match importance, career development, and, others' expectations, as did negative stress: decision making, expectations and evaluation, difficult match situations, personal factors,

uncontrollable factors, and, SP. For some respondents, SP implicitly underpinned other experienced stressors (listed in italics). Although not perceived as stressful, respondents identified a number of salient SP issues: dealing with self-presentation discrepancies, projecting competence and influencing significant others, explicit impression management strategies, and, SP concern.

Conclusions: SP is a feature of these officials' experiences, therefore, SP theory appears useful for furthering understanding of the issue and could be used to underpin future investigations. Considering the implicit and explicit role of SP in the negative stress experienced by these officials, interventions aimed at diminishing the effects of these negative stressors may benefit from the inclusion of strategies for dealing with SP issues. Future research should attempt to evaluate this claim and should attempt to replicate these findings in similar samples.

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Psychological and cultural politics from the worlds of home-education

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Objectives: Research from the world of home-education has tended to focus on scientific concepts such as socialisation and normal child development. The main objective of this research is to provide a culturally and politically sensitive account of the heterogeneous worlds of home education.

Design: Rhetorical and visual approaches applied to constructions of home education are aimed at accessing the political fecundity of this field of research.

Method: Ten families were recruited through a UK-based home education organisation. Aimed at eliciting contextualisations of their decisions to home educate, semi-structured interviews were conducted with parents and children from these families. Analysis of the transcribed interviews is concerned with the rhetorical strategies employed in accounting for a preference to home educate. Families also produced short home videos based on their children's 'alternatives to schooling'. Thematic analyses are applied to these visual texts.

Results: In constructing the appropriateness of home education both offensive and defensive rhetorical strategies were employed around 'the system' (as representative of schoolcentric culture) and 'choosing home education' (as representative of necessary, though occasionally problematic, educational thought). Themes emanating from the home video texts include 'Locating education' – depicting a broad range of sites of education, and 'Peopling education' – concerned with social interactions in educational contexts.

Conclusion: Home educating families, embodying a diverse non-school culture, resist homogenising consideration from psychological and educational researchers and practitioners. Constructions of home education may be viewed as invoking a complex of psychological, educational and cultural contestations. Where a scientific gaze is cast over home education en masse this may be seen as denoting politicised science.

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The Clock Drawing Test: Does it differentiate between type and severity of dementia?

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Objectives: Clock drawing has been shown to be effective at differentiating between controls and Alzheimer's disease (AD) sufferers, as well as those suffering from depression. However, there is still some discussion regarding the Clock Drawing Test's (CDT) sensitivity in differentiating between types of dementia, and between mild and very mild stages. This study aims to identify the most effective of three scoring systems of the Clock Drawing Test (CDT), for differentiating between AD, Vascular dementia, MCI, and controls; and between very mild, mild and moderate dementia.

Design: A within subjects design was employed, and inter-rater reliability across the three scoring

systems was assessed.

Methods: 197 subjects took part in the study (97 controls, 30 MCI patients, 20 VAD patients, and 50 AD patients), completing a battery of assessments including the CDT. Patients were attendees of the Kingshill Research Centre Memory Clinic. Controls were part of a volunteer cohort seen annually. Clock drawings were scored using three well-used systems and compared for their effectiveness in differentiating between type and severity of dementia.

Results: Kappa coefficients will be calculated as a measure of assessment agreement regarding the three scoring systems. Sensitivity and specificity scores will be used to determine the most effective scoring system out of the three.

Conclusions: Discussion focuses on the effectiveness of the CDT in differentiating between diagnoses and severity of dementia, and on its usefulness as part of a battery of assessments. The authors also discuss the possibility of a standard scoring system being used for the CDT.

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Modelling research in clinical practice: Treating insomnia in older adults

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Objectives: Several recent papers have renewed the argument for closer links between clinical practice and research, particularly in clinical psychology training programmes. The Psychology Centre in Hamilton, New Zealand, is an independently funded, joint venture with the local university and community mental health services. It aims to promote innovative and evidence-based clinical services, to act as a catalyst for clinical research, and to provide clinical psychology students with high quality supervision. One example of this is a treatment outcome research project designed to treat older adults with insomnia. Students under supervision of Centre staff were involved in assessment, programme facilitation, data analysis and dissemination of results. Through effective supervision, the Centre aims to facilitate the development of students' skills and greater integration of research with clinical practice.

Design: The sleep study used a waiting-list control group treatment design. Supervision of students involved in the project was reviewed retrospectively.

Method: Behavioural (stimulus control, sleep restriction), cognitive (reframing dysfunctional beliefs), and educational (teaching healthy sleep practices) components were employed to alter maladaptive sleep behaviours. Students working in the sleep research project were supervised using standard clinical supervision practices.

Results: Sleep study findings indicated that insomnia in older adults can be treated successfully with cognitive behaviour therapy. Review of supervision strategies suggested that the Centre could enhance integration of clinical practice and research by adapting a commonly used model of clinical supervision for supervising students involved in clinical research.

Conclusions: Future directions are outlined for sleep (and other behavioural health care) interventions, and modelling research in clinical practice.

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The development of a group treatment approach for post traumatic stress disorder

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Objectives: This paper describes the development and preliminary evaluation of a cognitive behavioural group intervention for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a commonly recognised distressing psychological condition that can occur following association with a traumatic incident. A variety of individually focused psychological treatments exist and have been subject to evaluation. Cognitive behaviourally (CBT)

informed approaches involving exposure and cognitive restructuring have received particular support within the literature. However, there is a dearth of literature describing group treatment approaches. This paper describes the development of a group CBT treatment package for PTSD associated with road traffic accidents. This forms part of a larger ongoing study to evaluate similar groups for assault victims.

Design: The pilot study reported on here uses a pre and post treatment design. Participants were allocated on the basis of choice and suitability. Participant satisfaction was also assessed.

Method: The clinical effectiveness of the first pilot group was evaluated using four standardised questionnaires, administered at pre-treatment, following treatment and at a three month follow-up. A specifically developed participant satisfaction questionnaire was also used.

Results: High levels of participant satisfaction were reported amongst the six participants completing the group. Examination of the four measures using descriptive statistics generally show a reduction in symptoms but not to non-clinically significant levels.

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Distraction burglaries: Vulnerability factors and crime impact amongst older adult victims

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Objectives: Despite the prevalence of distraction burglaries involving older adults, no research evidence exists concerning vulnerability to and impact of this crime on the physical and mental health of older people. This Home Office funded research aims to explore psycho-social factors contributing to the deception of older adults in the instance of distraction burglaries, and the impact of this crime on the mental and physical health of its victims.

Design: A semi-structured questionnaire design using repeated measures both within and between participants is used to interview 300 older adults (100 victims, 100 repellers and 100 controls). The questionnaire focuses on risk factors that may be associated with becoming a victim of distraction burglary, such as compliance and doorstep etiquette, and the physical and mental health consequences of distraction burglary.

Method: Participants are interviewed at two time points, one-month post-victimisation and four-months post-victimisation. In addition to the client interview, with consent, GP records are scrutinised at Time 2.

Results: Analyses will be conducted using Time 1 data, involving a series of one-way analyses of variance (with post hoc tests as required) and multinomial logistic regressions or discriminant function analysis to predict group membership from potential risk factors. Crime impact data has not yet been analysed.

Conclusions: By identifying risk factors associated with vulnerability to this crime it should be possible to guide policy aimed at reducing distraction burglary and education aimed at preventing victimisation.

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Effects of acute doses of Salvia lavandulaefolia (Spanish Sage) on cognitive performance and mood in healthy young volunteers

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Objectives: Sage is reputed in British herbal encyclopaedias to enhance memory. Although there is little systematic evidence regarding the efficacy of sage, recently we found that Salvia is capable of acute modulating mood and cognition in healthy young adults. However the data indicated that lower doses may be of equal or greater efficacy. This premise forms the basis of

this present study.

Design: This study utilised a placebo-controlled, double-blind, balanced, crossover design.

Methods: 24 participants received placebo, 25ml and 50ml of a standardised oil extract of *S. lavandulaefolia*. Doses were separated by a seven-day wash-out period using a pseudo-random treatment order. Cognitive assessment was undertaken using the Cognitive Drug Research (CDR) computerised test battery, subjective mood ratings were measured using Bond-Lader visual analogue scales. Assessment took place prior to treatment and 1 hour, 2.5 hour, 4 hour and 6 hour thereafter. The primary outcome measures were four aspects of cognitive performance derived by factor analysis of CDR subtests and three mood dimensions.

Results: The significant effects on cognition associated with the administration of Salvia included a consistent dose-dependent improvement for the 50ml dose in 'Speed of Attention' coupled with reductions in self-rated 'calmness' at 2.5 hour and 6 hour. 'Quality of Secondary Memory' was improved at 1 hour and 4 hour for the 25ml dose. The same dose was associated with increases in self-rated 'alertness' at 4 hour and 6 hour and 'contentedness' across most time-points.

Conclusions: These results represent further evidence that Salvia is capable of acute modulation of mood and cognition in healthy young adults.

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Building a research career: Confessions of a serial contract worker

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Purpose: To analyse prospects and problems of working as a research psychologist in a British university on short-term contracts.

Background: The system of funding the salaries of research staff in universities through short-term grants to individual investigators provides flexibility to the funders but imposes considerable insecurity on post holders and makes a research career extremely difficult.

Method: The speaker draws on personal experience of building a research career on a succession of short-term contracts. The consequences of this form of work are outlined and discussed in relation to the concordat for short-term contract staff and the proposed fixed-term work directive.

Conclusions: There are strategies for obtaining funds to match the staff available. Desirable further developments within and between Psychology departments and by the funding bodies are also feasible.

LTSN psychology

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Purpose: This paper provides an overview of current research and targeted activities undertaken by the Learning and Teaching Support Network (LTSN Psychology) to support the teaching and learning of psychology in UK Higher Education.

Background: LTSN Psychology supports a wide network of expertise within the psychology academic community through funding for specialist coordinators and miniprojects. Specialist coordinators have the role of stimulating discussion and debate in particular areas of teaching and learning, of encouraging the sharing of expertise and of helping to disseminate good practice. The miniproject scheme is designed to promote the use of effective learning and teaching activities in Psychology, to encourage the development and sharing of innovative approaches and to raise awareness of the importance of evaluating the effectiveness of educational methods.

Methods & Key Points: The paper reports on: (1) work being coordinated by LTSN Psychology specialists including: practical teaching in biopsychology, innovative forms of assessment, action research related to the teaching of psychology, teaching demonstrations for cognitive psychology, experiential learning in psychology and the use of virtual learning environments in psychology departments; and (2) progress

reports from funded mini-projects.

Conclusions: Participants are invited to identify other areas of need and discuss ways in which the LTSN Psychology network can be expanded.

An examination of error performance across language production tasks in a case of non-fluent progressive aphasia

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Objectives: This work focuses on KT, a gentleman diagnosed with non-fluent progressive aphasia, a disorder that involves the degenerative loss of language production. A detailed case study of his performance on a variety of both verbal and non-verbal tasks was undertaken to further understand the problems underlying this disorder. Special consideration of his writing to dictation ability was also undertaken as such testing has rarely been considered in previous research.

Methods: A case design was adopted, and formal tests of language processing were utilised to examine KT's performance, including tests of reading, naming, repetition, spelling and writing to dictation. Various non-verbal tests were also administered in order to highlight the fact that this disorder is exclusive to language function. Planned studies carefully examined performance on writing to dictation to determine which psycholinguistic variables best predicted error performance.

Results: Various statistical analyses were conducted on KT's performance on the formal tests that were conducted. The types of errors were classified and considered in detail.

Conclusions: KT demonstrates semantic errors in writing but not repetition a pattern that is rarely reported in the context of non-fluent progressive aphasia. The implications of KT's pattern of impairment are considered with reference to both modular and connectionist models of language production.

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Mood and quality of life in kidney transplant patients: Is there an influence of organ source?

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Objective: The study aimed to assess the mood and quality of life of kidney transplant patients, grouped according to source of organ donation. It was hypothesised that significant differences would be observed between transplant patients and waiting-list controls, but it was unclear where any differences would lie between transplant groups.

Design: The study incorporated an independent groups design, comparing scores between one waiting-list control group (haemodialysis patients) and three transplant groups: (1) non-heart beating donor transplant (NHBD); (2) heart-beating donor transplant (HBD); and (3) living-related donor transplant (LRD).

Methods: 88 volunteer kidney patients, either at least one year post-transplant, or on the transplant waiting-list completed the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale and the Kidney Disease Quality of Life questionnaire.

Results: The LRD group were significantly younger than other groups, so age-corrected data was used for the analysis. As predicted, transplant groups scored significantly higher on quality of life scales and lower on mood scales than waiting-list controls. However, the LRD group scored significantly higher on the depression scale than either the NHBD and HBD groups.

Conclusions: Although the study is limited, these results warrant further investigation. Due to organ shortages, living-related kidney donation has increased over the last few years. However, psychological factors have been under-investigated and it is unclear how family dynamics are affected. If LRD patients are experiencing greater psychological distress than other transplant groups, this has implications for both the assessment and support of patients and related donors.

So you think you're an adult?

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Objectives: To determine whether traditional markers of adulthood (finishing education, marriage, children, etc) are relevant to young adults.

Design: The perceptions of adulthood of young adults were examined using an online questionnaire. This was the most feasible method of recruiting young adults in the general population.

Methods: 607 people aged 18+ responded to an online version of the Markers of Adulthood questionnaire ($n = 18-20$ years = 134, $21-24$ years = 154, $25-30$ years = 156, $30+$ years = 163). Participants indicated on a four-point Likert scale the degree to which they thought certain markers conferred adult status. They then indicated to what degree they thought these characteristics of adulthood were true of them.

Results: Markers relating to independence, emotional maturity and responsibility were the most frequently endorsed by all age groups. 'Accepts responsibilities of actions' was the most important characteristic of adulthood, followed by 'decides on personal beliefs and values independently of parents or other influences'. Although there was a slight change in the order of some markers, the same nine markers were endorsed by all age groups in the top ten markers. Traditional markers of adulthood were ranked as slightly important at best. Age did have an effect on the way people responded to certain questions with the 30+ age group rating responsible behaviour as more important than the other age groups.

Conclusions: The results suggest that personality characteristics relating to individuality were more important than the traditional markers. This has important implications for the way transition to adulthood is researched.
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Sex, drugs, violence and alcohol: The influence of short stature

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Background: The Wessex Growth Study is a longitudinal study examining the psychological development of a community based sample of short normal and average height control participants from school entry in 1985/86. They are now aged 18 to 20 years and their transition to adulthood is being studied to determine the effect of short stature on their psychosocial development as adults.

Methods: This preliminary report is based on 46 short normal and 60 control subjects. The participants were interviewed using a standardised psychiatric interview (ADAPFA) which measures functioning in six domains: education and employment, love relationships, friendships, coping and independence, non-specific social contact and negotiations.

Results: There was no effect of childhood stature ($p = .53$) or adult height ($p = .23$) on the incidence of dysfunction ($p = .53$). Salient aspects of daily living for this sample were identified from the interviews (prevalence per cent): alcohol consumption (93 per cent), further education (70 per cent), drug use (53 per cent), love relationships (51 per cent), violence (30 per cent), unemployment (12 per cent) and parenthood (10 per cent). Stature did not affect functioning in any of these areas.

Conclusions: The effect of height on the psychosocial development and aspects of daily living pertinent to young adults was examined. There were no significant differences between the control group and the short normal group based on childhood or adult height. Although short stature has been linked to poorer psychosocial adaptation in the literature the present study could find no evidence to support this. This has important implications for the treatment of short stature.
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Evaluation of a 'Coping with Irritable Bowel Syndrome' Group

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Objectives: The aim of the study was to evaluate the effectiveness, efficiency and acceptability of a psycho-educational group for patients with Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS).

Design & Method: The IBS group comprises five, two-hour sessions of information giving, stress management and cognitive behavioural strategies for coping with IBS symptoms run by a Clinical Psychologist. The main outcome variables measured were IBS symptoms, IBS Quality of Life, anxiety and depression. Patients completed standardised questionnaires, before and after the group and at six and 12-month follow-up. Patients also completed a satisfaction measure.

Results: To date 12 groups have been run, comprising 70 patients. The average duration of symptoms is 6.5 years. Following the group there was statistically significant improvement on the variables measured (symptoms, QOL, anxiety and depression) using T-tests to compare means ($p > 0.000$). Furthermore, analysis of variance of the means over time showed that improvements were sustained over one-year follow-up. Attendance at the group was high and satisfaction with the service was excellent.

Conclusions: The 'Coping with IBS Group' has been demonstrated to be an effective, efficient and acceptable intervention for patients with IBS.
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The antecedents of emotions in elite athletes

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Objectives: To examine the applicability of Lazarus's (1991) Cognitive Motivational Relational theory to sport by investigating the antecedents of a range of emotions in elite athletes.

Design: A qualitative interview methodology underpinned by a phenomenological perspective was used to investigate the elicitation of emotions in elite athletes during competitive sport.

Methods: Semi-structured interviews were conducted with an opportunistic sample of 10 elite athletes (competing at an international level) from a variety of team and individual sports. The interview guide was based on Lazarus's Cognitive Motivational Relational theory (1991), existing qualitative guidelines and refined following a series of pilot interviews ($n = 3$). All interviews were conducted by the first author, were tape-recorded and lasted between 45 and 90 min. Interviews were transcribed verbatim and content analysed using both inductive and deductive procedures. Consensus between researchers was obtained at all stages of the analysis procedure.

Results: Interview data provided preliminary support for the theoretical predictions of Lazarus's (1991) Cognitive Motivational Relational theory with regards to the antecedents of specific emotions in sport. Deductive analysis suggested that athletes' goal hierarchies were important in the elicitation of a range of emotions, while emotion-focused coping helped athletes regulate their emotions. In addition, inductive analysis indicated that self-talk affected athletes' emotional responses.

Conclusions: Lazarus's (1991) Cognitive Motivational Relational theory provides an efficacious framework for understanding the antecedents of emotions in sport. Knowledge regarding how specific emotions are elicited can assist sport psychologists in refining the delivery of emotional control interventions.
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Fluctuating asymmetry, digit ratio, aggression, sociosexual orientation and rape proclivity

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Fluctuating asymmetry (FA) is the deviation from symmetry of bilateral traits (Moller & Swaddle,

1997). Both sociosexual orientation (Gangestad & Thornhill, 1998) and aggression (Manning & Wood, 1998) have been found to be negatively related to FA. It was predicted that FA would be negatively related to sexual aggression proclivity and behaviour. The second to fourth digit ratio is associated with prenatal testosterone (i.e. a longer fourth digit is related to higher testosterone levels and, therefore, a low digit ratio). Different cultural groups have been found to differ in their digit ratio (Manning *et al.*, 2000) and homosexual men have a lower digit ratio than controls (Robinson & Manning, 2000). The association of this trait with aggression, sociosexual orientation, and sexual aggression has not been investigated. It was predicted that a low digit ratio would be associated with aggression, sociosexual orientation and rape proclivity. One-hundred-and-twenty-five male participants took part in this study. They completed four questionnaires: the Attraction to Sexual Aggression Scale, the Aggression Questionnaire, the Sexual Experiences Survey and the Sociosexual Orientation Inventory. In addition, they had nine bilateral traits measured with digital callipers. It was found that an FA composite of all nine traits was predicted by the Sociosexual Orientation Inventory, in that those who had a more unrestricted orientation were more likely to be asymmetrical. The right hand digit ratio was significantly predicted by the Sexual Experiences Survey (offender subscale). Males with a high digit ratio (i.e. indicative of lower testosterone prenatally) were more likely to have sexually offended.
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Leadership style affecting the inclusion and exclusion of group members: A dynamic systems perspective

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Objectives: A key factor determining the performance and viability of many groups is membership stability (Van Vugt, Jepson, & De Cremer, 2001). Stability of group membership is hard to maintain in groups with permeable boundaries (i.e. 'open' group). The present research examines the influence of leadership style on the stability of groups involved in a social dilemma. We hypothesised that, compared to more open leadership styles, a closed, autocratic leadership style would have a destabilising influence on groups by excluding valuable members from the group.

Design: A single factor between participants design with three levels (Leadership style: Autocratic, democratic, laissez-faire).

Method: 126 individuals were working in groups of six each on several dilemma tasks under the supervision of a team leader. Depending on the condition the leader either adopted an autocratic, democratic, or laissez-faire leadership style. Halfway through the task group members were asked whether they wanted to stay or leave the group to complete a subsequent task.

Results: As expected, many more group members wanted to exit the group under an autocratic leader than under a democratic or laissez-faire leader. This suggests that an autocratic leadership style has a non-inclusive, destabilising influence on groups, because it excludes members whose investments are vital to the group's existence. These results were replicated in a field experiment in which employees of a fast-food restaurant were confronted with a new team leader who adopted a closed (vs. open) management style. Additional results provided some explanations for the non-inclusive role of autocratic leadership. Members left because they felt that their personal welfare and sense of autonomy were being threatened, they were mistrusted, and treated with disrespect.
Conclusions: Autocratic leadership is an ineffective long-term solution to conflicts within open groups.
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Odour-based context-reinstatement: Does attentional focusing influence cue effectiveness?

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Objectives: We used a context-reinstatement paradigm to investigate the influence on word-recall of instructions drawing participants' attention to the presence of ambient odours. The research aimed to examine whether such attentional focusing has facilitatory or inhibitory effects on the recall of words that are semantically related to the reinstated odour.

Design: Experiment 1 reinstated a contextually-appropriate odour (lemon) that had been present during learning, and manipulated attentional instructions (present vs. absent) as a between-participants factor, and word type (lemon-related, coconut-related, or odour-unrelated) as a within-participants factor. Experiment 2 employed an identical design and materials-set, but reinstated a contextually-inappropriate odour (coconut).

Methods: Both experiments employed incidental-learning and free-recall techniques. The interval between encoding and testing was one hour.

Results: In Experiment 1, attentional focusing interacted with word type, with follow-up analyses revealing increased levels of recall facilitation for odour-related words compared with other items. In Experiment 2, attentional focusing again interacted with word type, but this time revealed increased levels of recall inhibition for odour-related words compared with other words.

Conclusions: The observation that odour-related words are maximally sensitive to attentional manipulations supports a role for semantic mediation in context-cued retrieval. The reversal in the effects of attentional focusing, dependent upon the contextual appropriateness of the reinstated odour, is intriguing. Focusing attention on a contextually-appropriate odour (lemon) may promote the salience of a cue that would normally be dismissed. Focusing attention on a contextually-inappropriate odour (coconut), may, paradoxically, diminish the impact of a cue that would normally be more salient because of its suspiciousness.

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A comparison of the effects of chemotherapy and radiotherapy on quality of life

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Objective: In clinical practice patients often ask about the relative effects of chemotherapy and radiotherapy on various aspects of quality of life. However, there are insufficient published data to provide authoritative, comprehensive, comparative information for patients.

Design: We have carried out two studies with women with locally advanced breast cancer in which we collected extensive serial data before, during, and after neoadjuvant chemotherapy (cyclophosphamide, vincristine, adriamycin and prednisolone [CVAP] or CVAP followed by docetaxel, before and after surgery, at the beginning and end of radiotherapy, and four weeks and 12 weeks after radiotherapy. This permitted an investigation of the relative effects of these treatments on quality of life.

Method: Women were assessed by means of the Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy-Breast Version, the Rotterdam Symptom Checklist, the Mood Rating Scale (MRS), the Profile of Mood States (POMS), the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale and Patient Global Ratings.

Results: In total, 204 (108 + 96) patients were recruited. Overall the data indicated that physical side effects, breast cancer concerns, functional activities, unhappiness and anxiety were substantially worse during chemotherapy compared to radiotherapy. Although radiotherapy had an adverse effect on energy, the POMS and MRS both found that energy was significantly higher at the end of radiotherapy than during, or at the end, of chemotherapy.

Conclusion: The detailed results of this study provide valuable information to inform clinical practice.

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A longitudinal study of emotional responses to sports injury

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Objectives: This study examined athletes' emotional responses to sports injury, from injury onset to the return to physical activity.

Design: To obtain in-depth, subjective accounts of athletes' emotional responses to injury, qualitative interviews were conducted, and were guided by an Existential Phenomenological perspective.

Methods: Purposive sampling was used to obtain study participants. Five male athletes met the study's inclusion criteria, having sustained an athletic injury in the previous week. Athletes were interviewed at the onset of injury and on a fortnightly basis until their return to physical activity. Tape-recorded interviews were transcribed and analysed using inductive content analysis, including reliability checks by secondary data analysts.

Results: Whilst some individual differences in emotional response to sports injury were apparent, a common pattern of largely negative affective responses emerged. Anger was a dominant theme throughout. Optimism increased in prominence towards the return to physical activity, however, and fear of re-injury was the dominant theme upon return to physical activity.

Conclusions: These athletes may have been physically ready to return to physical activity but clearly were not emotionally prepared.

Practitioners, therefore, need to ensure that the emotional effects of injury are dealt with as an integral part of the rehabilitation process.

Research is required that addresses the effects of psychological interventions to help athletes to deal with affective responses to injury, and in particular, the anger experienced throughout rehabilitation and fear of re-injury encountered on re-entry to physical activity.

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Nature, nurture and academic achievement

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Objectives: While research has consistently shown considerable genetic influence on cognitive ability, much less is known about the heritability of academic achievement. The current study aims to elucidate the genetic and environmental influences on school achievement based on teacher ratings of seven-year-old twins.

Design: The study utilised a twin design, which compared the similarity between identical and non-identical twins to clarify genetic, shared environment and non-shared environmental influences on behaviour.

Methods: The study consisted of 462 identical twin pairs and 797 non-identical twin pairs born in England and Wales in 1994. Teachers completed postal questionnaires in which they evaluated student academic achievement in six subjects related to Mathematics and English.

Results: Maximum-likelihood model-fitting analyses estimated that more than half of the variance in performance across academic subjects could be accounted for by genetic factors, a lesser amount by shared environment, and the remainder by non-shared environment.

Conclusions: Teacher ratings show higher levels of heritability than objective standardised tests of academic achievement, as well as cognitive abilities. It is possible that teacher ratings yield a more complete representation of a child's capabilities by capturing important phenotypic traits such as personality, motivation and resilience that are not measured in objective tests of cognitive ability. The overlap between genetic influence on school performance and cognitive ability is investigated in future research.

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Prospects and problems for psychology research staff in British universities

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Purpose: To identify currently feasible ways to improve the prospects of research psychologists in the universities in the UK.

Background: Earlier in this Symposium, analyses of the problems and prospects of research psychologists on time-limited contracts in the universities have been presented from the viewpoints of research students, research fellows, and principal investigators who obtain grants to fund the salaries of research staff.

Method: Professor Wall elicits comments and further suggestions from the audience and speakers, with a view to generating a structured analysis of the ameliorable problems and practicable ways forward. It is anticipated these will encompass issues applying to individuals, networks, departments, university managers and funding bodies.

Conclusions: The BPS Division of Teachers and Researchers in Psychology can endeavour to facilitate or promote better collaborative management of the problems of short-term funding in the interests of the careers of individual research psychologists in the universities and to the benefit of the whole of Psychology in this country.

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Caseload factors and the psychological health of community mental health staff

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Objectives: This study investigated associations between staff mental health, caseload factors and perceived work characteristics.

Design: Data from a questionnaire survey sent to 176 staff were combined with caseload data from service records and relationships between them were statistically analysed.

Methods: 79 multi-disciplinary community mental health workers returned questionnaires (44 per cent) measuring mental health (GHQ - 12, Job Satisfaction, Maslach Burnout Inventory) and the perception of work characteristics including demand, control, support and role clarity. Caseload details including client diagnosis, numbers, gender and level of need were obtained from service records.

Results: Multiple regression revealed that staff mental health was positively related to level of client need. This counter-intuitive result may be understood by the additional finding that level of client need was positively related to role clarity. A higher proportion of clients with psychosis was associated with lower role clarity and higher demand. Staff mental health was also related to the proportion of clients with depression, caseload size and client gender.

Conclusions: This study has provided new information about the caseload factors associated with staff mental health. The effects of some caseload features may be understood by their links with work characteristics, particularly role clarity. This has implications for job design and staff training which should be aimed at improving role clarity. This is especially important at a time of crisis in the recruitment, retention and well-being of mental health workers.

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The psychological impact of aggression to healthcare staff

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Objectives: To investigate the extent and some of the determinants of adverse psychological reactions following aggression to staff in a community NHS Trust.

Design: A prospective survey method was used. **Methods:** For three months, all staff reporting an aggressive incident at work (n = 318) were sent the Impact of Event Scale (Revised) and a questionnaire which included items about overall

impact, level of expectation and preparedness. Demographic and incident data were obtained from the Trust's incident records.

Results: 126 questionnaires were returned (40 per cent). Despite the minor physical nature of the incidents, 42 per cent (n = 53) respondents reported that the incident had had 'moderate' to 'very great' overall impact on them with 6.5 per cent (n = 8) scoring at least 'moderate' levels of symptomatology on the IES-R. T-tests revealed that verbal aggression had greater impact than physical aggression and resulted in higher IES-R Intrusion scores. Pearson correlation coefficients showed that severity of response was related to whether the incident was expected and whether the staff member felt prepared for managing aggression.

Conclusions: The finding that verbal aggression and apparently minor incidents can result in significant distress is important as verbal aggression is widely experienced in the health service. Increasing staff preparedness and their expectation of incidents may help to reduce the impact. Cognitive theories of traumatic stress suggest that perceived threat and control are important determinants of response and may help to explain why verbal aggression is so impactful. brwalsh805@aol.com

A longitudinal analysis of memory consistency and development in primary school children through cognitive advancement and operational transition

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Objectives: Few studies have longitudinally examined memory and cognitive development throughout the five- to seven-year-old 'cognitive shift'. The main aims of the current research were to investigate whether: (1) children suffered significant memory loss for educational material as they advanced to concrete operational reasoning – as suggested by unpublished pilot studies and indirect evidence of a temporary 'amnesia' after other Piagetian stage transitions; (2) the developmental course for executive functioning (EF) has an impact on educational test and false belief (FB) performance; and (3) these developmental changes affect SATs performance administered at seven years. **Design:** A longitudinal study consisted of four test phases between Year 1 and Year 3; phases one and two involved tasks embedded within a 'play' context.

Methods: 72 primary school children were tested on a series of measures including memory for recently-taught educational material (EdM), event memory (EvM), EF and FB understanding. Phase four incorporated a misinformation task.

Results: Although this period was one of rapid cognitive development, its developmental course was not uniform across measures and recall performance differed according to memory stimuli, memory type and retention period. ANOVAs found no trans-operative amnesia effect and no impact of late operational (or other) change on SATs performance. SATs scores were associated with non-verbal reasoning and not with EdM.

Conclusions: The dynamic, non-linear development of children's cognitive functions and memory demonstrates the value of longitudinal enquiry. Despite progress made during this period, eight-year-olds still have relatively poor long-term memory particularly for source information and are susceptible to misinformation. mbrxgmmw@fs4.psy.man.ac.uk

Paid employment and psychological health in older adults

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Objectives: This paper examines the role of paid work in older people's psychological health, and seeks to identify mediating features in the environment.

Design: 1168 community-living adults aged between 50 and 74 completed a questionnaire about their employment status (employed, unemployed or retired), perceived environmental

characteristics and typical activities. Their mean age was 61 years, and 49 per cent were male.

Methods: Dependent variables were psychological well-being and satisfaction with life. Information was also gathered about ten environmental features proposed to be important to psychological health. These included the quality of interpersonal contact, the availability of money and one's opportunity for personal control.

Results: Employed respondents reported better psychological health than others. However, below retirement age this difference arose from extremely low scores among unemployed people (i.e. those who were looking for a job). Employed and early-retired individuals had more positive health, and did not themselves differ in well-being or life satisfaction. In the sub-sample of employed people, poorer psychological health was linked to a stronger need to work for financial reasons. Hierarchical multiple regression analyses examined the importance of demographic and environmental factors in associations with psychological health. Differences between employed, unemployed and retired people were shown to be mediated by specific environmental characteristics.

Conclusions: It is misleading to compare individuals merely in terms of their employed or non-employed status. Psychological health is influenced by certain environmental factors that may be present whether or not a person is in paid work.

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Little evidence for central executive impairment among light/moderate users of MDMA

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Objectives: Two studies evaluated whether the executive deficits observed in heavy users of MDMA ('Ecstasy') were also apparent among light/moderate users. Previous research (using random letter generation) demonstrating executive deficits among MDMA users has been criticised since the individuals tested had consumed atypically large amounts of the drug.

Design: In Study 1 (n = 61) user group (current, previous, and non users) was between participants and rate of letter generation (4, 2, and 1 second rates) was within. In Study 2 (n = 38) user group (users versus non users) was between participants and letter set size (A-D, A-H, A-P, A-Z, consonants only) was within. DVs including redundancy, alphabetic, and repeat sequences, intrusions, and number of letters generated were analysed separately.

Method: Participants were asked to try to generate letters randomly either at various rates (Study 1) or as many letters as possible within two minutes from letter sets of different sizes (Study 2).

Results: For all measures in both studies, none of the main effects of user group were significant. Group interacted with generation rate for both number of letters generated and for repeat sequences with users performing worse at the faster generation rates (Study 1). However these interactions were reduced to just below statistical significance following control for the effects of cannabis consumption. No significant effects relating to user group were obtained in Study 2.

Conclusions: These outcomes suggest that significant executive deficits are confined to chronic users of MDMA. However, given the power of the present studies smaller deficits among light and moderate users cannot be excluded.

Linking the understanding of modesty with children's self-reported peer relations

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Objectives: Previous research has demonstrated that the understanding of modesty – downplaying one's achievements to evoke a positive social evaluation – develops in children at around the age of eight years. The aim of the present study was to investigate children's understanding of

modesty in front of different audiences and, crucially, to investigate associations between this understanding and self-reported sociability and perceived popularity.

Design: All children from both age groups completed two measures: a task measuring the understanding of modesty, and a newly-developed Social Self-Awareness Scale (SSAS; tapping sociability and perceived popularity).

Methods: A group of eight- to nine-year-olds (n = 47) and a group of ten- to 11-year-olds (n = 45) from two schools participated in this study. This study entailed each child viewing a multimedia presentation of eight short scenarios, which each depicted a social situation where the protagonist received praise from an audience (adult or peer) for an accomplishment, and then responded either modestly (e.g. 'Oh, I was just lucky.') or immodestly (e.g. 'Well, that's because I'm the best.'). Children were asked if the protagonist's response was a good or bad response and why. Additionally, the children were asked to complete the SSAS questionnaire.

Results: Results showed that with age, children increasingly understood the social evaluative benefit of modesty. Also, children believed modest responses were more appropriate in the presence of peer rather than adult audiences. Finally, it was found that the understanding of modesty, particularly in the context of peer audiences, was positively correlated to both sociability and perceived popularity.

Conclusion: Results are discussed in the light of emerging insights into the connections between peer relations and social cognition. Indeed, children's understanding of modesty is tied to specific aspects of their social experience. dawnwa@cogs.susx.ac.uk

Issues in psychoneuroimmunology

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Psychoneuroimmunology (PNI) is an emerging interdisciplinary field within psychology and seeks to explore the neural and neuroendocrine links between psychological factors and immunology. Psychological factors are known to mediate hormonal and immune parameters, which in turn influence disease processes and outcomes. PNI research is, therefore, essential to the understanding of these processes, and in particular, the importance of individual differences in predicting susceptibility to disease. This symposium comprises three extended papers from the field of PNI, which together provide a greater insight into PNI research in general (Frank Hucklebridge), and two specific areas of research, namely, the impact of exercise (Mike Gleeson) and psychological stress (Matt Bristow) upon immunity. Frank Hucklebridge presents an overview of PNI research. The paper introduces the underlying principles of PNI research before discussing the implications both for future research and the individual. The symposium then presents two specific areas of PNI research. Mike Gleeson presents research regarding the effects of exercise upon disease susceptibility. In particular, he discusses potential strategies that can be adopted to combat the immunosuppressive effects of exercise in athletes and the subsequent increases in susceptibility to illness. Finally, Matt Bristow presents research concerning the effects of psychosocial stressors upon one immunological parameter (S-IgA). Research in this area appears somewhat contradictory, however, findings are clarified through the use of a model emphasising the importance of the timing of samples in relation to the onset of the stressor. mwetherell@plymouth.ac.uk

Courtroom interviewing and eyewitness confidence and accuracy

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Objectives: Little research has been conducted on the effects of courtroom examination/questioning styles on witness confidence and accuracy; two studies were,

therefore, conducted to examine this issue. It was hypothesised that a lawyerese questioning style (i.e. one containing leading and suppositional phrases), and negative feedback (questioning that implies initial responses were incorrect) would have adverse effects on confidence and accuracy.

Design & Methods: In Study 1, after observing a video event, 60 witnesses were individually interviewed about the event according to one of three conditions (1) simple questioning style; (2) lawyerese questioning style; and (3) lawyerese with negative feedback style. In Study 2, 60 observers/jurors observed a good and a poor witness under examination by one of the three questioning styles.

Results: In the main, significant results were only found for question items classed as difficult to remember. The lawyerese style appeared to have an adverse affect on confidence-accuracy relationships. Adding subtle negative feedback reduced the problem, but at the price of reduced overall accuracy. Observers (jurors) also seemed to be most affected by observing the negative feedback style; judging the witness overall to be less accurate. An unexpected result was that, regardless of questioning style, presenting the testimony of the least confident witness first appeared to spuriously boost confidence and thereby perceived accuracy, in that witness's testimony. No significant effects were found for perceived fairness.

Conclusion: In general, these results lend some support to those who have asserted that the lawyerese style of questioning may be unwise. j.wheatcroft@mmu.ac.uk

'Unusual experiences' in Parkinson's: Does sleep disruption predict hallucinations?

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Objectives: Sleep disturbance in Parkinson's Disease (vivid dreams, night terrors, sleeptalking and sleepwalking) is more prevalent in those patients who experience hallucinations. This study investigated the feasibility of using self-reported sleep variables to identify those patients vulnerable to daytime hallucinations and other unusual perceptual experiences (UE).

Design: A self-report questionnaire was used in a single sample of Parkinson's patients.

Methods: Self-report scales for subjective sleep disturbance, UE and hallucinations were constructed following pilot interviews (coefficient alphas: .81, .79, .73). Questionnaires were administered at movement clinics and branch meetings of the Parkinson's Disease Society across the North-West, and completed for 113 patients.

Results: All three scales were highly correlated, and the sleep scale remained correlated with both UE and hallucination scores after disease severity and duration were controlled for (.58, .48, $p < .001$). Items from the sleep scale underwent factor analysis, yielding 2 factors; 'altered dream events' and 'sleep activity'. Factor 1 scores ('altered dream events') correlated with a visual hallucinations score, but Factor 2 scores ('sleep activity') did not, once the effects of motor severity were controlled ($r = .34$, $p < .003$; $r = .07$, $p = .57$). However, multidimensional scaling techniques could not identify a significant hierarchy amongst the individual items, in terms of frequency.

Conclusions: Nocturnal dream-related variables are associated with daytime hallucinations, however, sleep activity variables are not. Future longitudinal studies must address the question of whether sleep symptoms emerge prior to or simultaneously with hallucinations.

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Effective literacy intervention for all: A study with Blackpool schools

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Objectives: Early identification of and intervention with literacy difficulties promises to

be effective both in terms of outcome for the children involved and in terms of cost, but how early can these processes be usefully applied? This paper reports on the use of a literacy screening test in Reception class and follow-up interventions in Years 1 and 2.

Design: Screening in Reception identified two matched groups of children (at-risk and not-at-risk of reading difficulty). At the end of Year 1, the at-risk group was divided into beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries having taken part in the same intervention. The children are now in Year 2. Non-beneficiaries are undergoing further intervention.

Methods: 75 children at risk of literacy difficulties and 75 control children were identified in Reception class. In Term 1, Year 1, the children were assessed on a range of cognitive-linguistic abilities. In Term 2, a daily 15 week, literacy intervention was implemented with the at-risk children. In Term 3, all children were re-assessed. Beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries were identified through an inspection of pre- and post-intervention data. In Year 2, non-beneficiaries are undergoing further intervention.

Results: Year 1 assessment confirmed the effectiveness of the Reception screening. Following intervention most at-risk children had moved into the average range on literacy measures. Non-beneficiaries had fallen further behind. Three early screening measures distinguished between later beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.

Conclusions: Implications of the data are considered in terms of the development of early screening and intervention measures that will be effective for all children. hewhiteley@uclan.ac.uk

Chewing gum improves aspects of cognitive performance

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Objectives: Many people chew gum in the belief that it improves concentration. The present study was aimed at objectively determining the effect of chewing gum on cognitive performance and heart rate.

Design: A parallel groups design was employed to assess 75 healthy young adults.

Methods: Participants were randomly allocated to one of three groups ($n = 25$ per group): (1) chewing sugar-free gum, (2) sham chewing (where the action of chewing was mimicked in the absence of gum), or (3) a quiet control condition. Cognitive performance was assessed using a range of tasks drawn from the Cognitive Drug Research (CDR) battery, and heart rate was monitored throughout.

Results: Compared to both the sham chewing and quiet control conditions, chewing gum significantly improved both immediate and delayed word recall, and a spatial memory sensitivity index. Compared with quiet controls, both chewing and sham chewing conditions significantly improved Numerical Working Memory reaction times. There were no significant differences between conditions on any of the measures of attention. Both chewing gum, sham chewing and task performance led to distinct but additive increases in heart rate.

Conclusions: These results indicate that chewing gum in a natural manner can improve performance on a range of cognitive tasks. These improvements may be as a result of increases in heart rate elevating the delivery of neural substrates.

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Emotional Labour Lost? – the psychological contract and stress in the public sector

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Purpose: This paper examines how in the last ten years, the changing psychological contract in three public sector areas has impacted on workers' experiences of emotional labour and stress.

Background: Emotional labour refers to managing feelings to create an impression that is part of a job, while the psychological contract is

the set of expectations existing between an employer and their employees: both concepts influence attitudes and behaviour at work. Most jobs require that the task and the way it is accomplished are integral to success. The psychological contract in public sector occupations has been radically altered by shifting expectations of performance and work focus, while levels of stress at work have also been relatively high.

Methods & Key Points: The Community Care and NHS reforms heralded a new emphasis in how care is delivered. Social Services' care managers have increasingly replaced face-to-face contact with administrative duties. Thus emotional labour involves suppressing the more traditional social work approach. Similarly aspiring to added value in NHS settings has been accompanied by findings that lack of management support and under-utilisation of skills contribute to poor psychological health. Levels of stress among new national politicians can also be attributed to the weight of the often conflicting expectations of constituents, party and family, wherein emotional labour is invested in maintaining a competent public face.

Conclusions: There are acceptable limits of emotional labour which need to be considered within changing psychological contracts, thus facilitating better psychological health for public sector employees and those in receipt of their services.

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Developing the Objective Measure of the Workplace Environment (OMWE)

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Objective: To design a measure of characteristics common to a range of working environments, which would overcome some of the methodological limitations of surveys and permit a more objective evaluation of levels of exposure to work stressors. Criticisms of research into workplace stress have focused on the reliance on employees' subjective perceptions of the working environment recorded in questionnaires. This rests within the context of genuine attempts to understand and quantify the workplace and its impact on workers.

Design: A case-control comparison design was employed to strengthen the methodology previously used in researching stress at work. **Methods & Key Points:** 199 employees from one NHS Trust were interviewed using a clinical measure of psychological health, the OMWE and the Life Events and Difficulties Schedule. The OMWE focused on 13 domains of the working environment and contained 20 objective items for assessment by the interviewer, e.g. experience of quantified workload, presence or organisational obstacles, frequency of role conflict, quantity of interpersonal communication with colleagues. The interviewer rated each item for levels of difficulty on a Likert scale. The item information was presented to an independent rater who was blind to the interviewees' identity and psychological health and the interviewer's ratings. Thus the second rater scored the problem on objective criteria only.

Results: Analyses to date have included comparison of the objective ratings for 64 cases of poor psychological health and 64 controls matched for sex, occupational group and age.

Conclusions: Significant differences between the frequency of objectively rated aspects of the work environment were found between employees with or without poor psychological health.

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Information processing strategies employed by sexual and non-sexual offenders with mild intellectual disabilities

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Objectives: Prior research has suggested that sex offenders may have problems with making decisions as they are unable to attend to all the

necessary information which would enable them to be decisive. In light of such research findings this may suggest that sex offenders have attentional deficits. The current study, therefore, investigated the divided and selective attentional abilities of sexual offenders with mild intellectual disabilities.

Design: This study has a between participant design.

Method: 20 sexual offenders with intellectual disabilities, 20 non-sexual offenders with intellectual disabilities, 20 non-offenders with intellectual disabilities and 20 normal males participated in this study. Participants were shown pictures of children, women or objects. They were then asked to complete a simple task while pictures of children, women or objects appeared while they did the task or before they started it. The time it took the participants to complete the tasks was measured. These results lay the foundations for the next part of the study which specifically examined the attentional abilities of the participants by using a variation of the Navon task.

Results: The mean and standard deviation scores for time spent looking at pictures and completion of tasks were compared for the four groups of participants. Analysis of variance and t-tests were performed to investigate the difference between the groups on their performance of the tasks.

Conclusion: The results are discussed in terms of their contribution to our understanding of attentional ability of sexual offenders with mild intellectual disabilities. Implications for future research are discussed in relation to the current findings from this study.

Cardiovascular disease and cognitive function in 65- to 84-year-old men and women

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Objectives: To assess the impact of cardiovascular disease on cognitive change over ten years in an older cohort.

Design: Longitudinal cohort study.

Methods: In the Edinburgh Artery Study, data on myocardial infarction (MI), angina, stroke, intermittent claudication and asymptomatic peripheral arterial disease were collected systematically from 1988–1998 on 1592 subjects aged 55–74 years. Subjects were randomly sampled from the general population. The following cognitive tests were administered in 1998 ($n = 717$): digit symbol (DS), verbal fluency, memory and Raven's progressive matrices. Mood state was measured. The National Adult Reading Test (NART) was used to estimate premorbid ability.

Results: A higher NART score was significantly correlated with more education ($n = -0.55$) and higher social class ($r = -0.51$) but not age ($r = -0.03$). A higher NART score related to better performance on all cognitive tests and to a decreased prevalence of cardiovascular diseases ($p < 0.001$). Subsequent analyses were adjusted for both age and NART. Subjects with MI ($n = 78$) had significantly lower scores on the digit symbol test than the healthy group ($n = 675$; DS scores 37.5 v. 40.6; $p < 0.001$). Premorbid ability accounted for 35 per cent of the variance in DS. Symptomatic cardiovascular diseases and depression each added another one to two per cent of the variance.

Conclusions: Premorbid ability is part of a group of psychosocial risk markers for cardiovascular disease and is, therefore, a confounder in studies of cardiovascular disease and cognitive function. Nonetheless, cardiovascular disease was related to cognitive decrements independently of ability. In this study, cognitive ability acted as both an antecedent and outcome with respect to cardiovascular disease.

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Patterns of Post-traumatic Stress (PTSD) Symptoms, alcohol misuse, and problems with pain and sleep in brain injured and non-brain injured medico-legal claimants

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Introduction: A recent population based survey revealed a significant suicide risk in Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) groups. Consequently, assessment and management of mood disorders in Traumatic Brain Injury has been identified as a key issue in neurological services. PTSD has recently been revealed to be a significant mood disorder in TBI and is often associated with maladaptive coping patterns, such as alcohol misuse, and to co-existing pain and sleep problems. In this study we investigated the symptom patterns of three TBI groups against a non-TBI group. In doing this we aimed to provide guidance for assessment and management of PTSD and associated mood and adjustment issues in these groups.

Method: We investigated the prevalence of patterns of symptoms of Post-traumatic stress Disorder (PTSD) with the Impact of Events Scale (IES), alcohol misuse, pain and sleep problems in a 208 medico-legal claimants. All claimants had suffered road traffic accidents, industrial or other accidents, or assaults. Participants were taken from a consecutive series of medico-legal claimants seen for assessment by the second author. Of the 208 participants, 60 per cent had no TBI, 19 per cent mild TBI, 10 per cent moderate TBI and 12 per cent severe TBI.

Results: Analyses revealed significant presence of PTSD symptoms, alcohol misuse, and presence of pain and sleep problems in the non-TBI and TBI groups. Overall, 36 per cent TBI group, and 30 per cent of the non-TBI had severe symptoms of PTSD on the IES. Presence of pain problems were similar across all groups. Sleep problems were common in all groups, but somewhat elevated in the non-TBI group. The TBI group – particularly the moderate group – appeared to be more at risk of increased alcohol use.

Discussion & Conclusions: In this study, there may have been biases for positive reporting of symptoms due to the assessments being within a medico-legal context. Furthermore, the assessment process may be made more difficult by the presence of cognitive difficulties. However, there appeared to be specific patterns of distress across and within groups. Implications of this study for assessment and rehabilitation are discussed.

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Stand by your plan: The effect of implementation intentions on simple and complex goals

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Objective: People generally underestimate the time it will take them to complete an upcoming task (Buehler, Griffin & Ross, 1994). This optimistic bias has been coined the planning fallacy (Kahneman & Tversky, 1974) and is thought to be a product of fallacious reasoning. However attempts to correct this fallacious reasoning are rarely successful. The present paper sought to take a different approach to correcting the optimistic bias characteristic of the planning fallacy by increasing behaviour rather than reducing prediction.

Design: A repeated measures questionnaire design was employed. Participants' predictions for completion date of an academic assignment were compared with the actual date of completion.

Method: 95 undergraduates predicted when they would complete an academic assignment by (formal deadline) and when they would complete some mid-point in that assignment (informal deadline). Half formed implementation intentions (Gollwitzer, 1993) for those goals, the other half did not.

Results: The results show that participants made optimistic predictions both for the informal deadline and for the formal deadline. Participants

who were encouraged to furnish their goals with implementation intentions did predict to complete later than participants not encouraged to do so. However this did not reduce the unrealistic optimism since they also took longer to complete the task.

Conclusion: The results contradict a wealth of self-help literature and study skills programs designed to help the procrastinating student. The discussion addresses this and considers the role of implementation intentions on complex goals achievement.

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Views about a biopsychosocial assessment for older people

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Objectives: To identify the perceived benefits to Care Managers and General Practitioners, of a medical and psychological component to the assessment of older people receiving care from social services.

Design: A survey methodology, in the form of a postal questionnaire including quantitative and qualitative aspects was used. This allowed a high response rate, whilst providing some in depth information.

Method: For each case the clients Care Manager and GP were asked to complete a postal questionnaire, to identify in what ways the biopsychosocial assessment process effected the clients future care.

Results: 89 questionnaires were returned by Care Managers and 63 by GPs (response rates of 80 per cent and 59 per cent respectively). The quantitative data was analysed using non-parametric methods. The qualitative data was analysed using thematic content analysis.

Generally the Care Managers found that the additional assessment helpful, provided new information and made a difference to the clients' care. The GPs reported less benefit, but were generally positive about the scheme. Further analysis will be completed to identify in which cases the professionals found the information most helpful. In addition the actual outcome for the client and carer over 12 months will be compared with the perceived usefulness of the report by the Care Manager and GP.

Conclusion: The use of standardised medical assessments for social services clients, brings a biopsychosocial dimension to assessment of older people. This additional input is found to be useful by Care Managers and GPs, who traditionally work within a social or biomedical framework.

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Reminiscence in care-settings for older people: The impact of reminiscence on the therapeutic relationship

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Objective: To explore the role of reminiscence in the therapeutic relationship between older people in care settings and their carers.

Design: A series of focus groups aiming to explore the processes around reminiscence were conducted with carers and older people throughout a twelve month period of data collection in 16 care settings (nursing, community and residential).

Methods: Five separate focus groups ($n = 4-6$ per group) were conducted with care staff ($x 2$ groups), informal carers, activity workers and older people themselves. Two larger mixed focus groups of older people ($n = 7-8$) and carers ($n = 4-6$) served to consolidate themes.

Participants discussed the role of reminiscence in their everyday interactions, and explored their perceptions of reminiscence as a therapeutic activity. A phenomenological approach using grounded theory was applied to transcripts. Emergent themes were coded and related to the original transcripts, before producing a final table

of master themes.

Results: The discourse across all six groups indicated that reminiscence was a naturally occurring process in everyday interactions. The processes involved were complex and involved conflictual as well as positive dynamics.

Drawbacks to reminiscence centred at the individual level with recognition that the past is not positive for everyone. Generally however, reminiscence was valued as facilitating personhood, particularly in working with older people with dementia.

Conclusion: Reminiscence fulfils a number of functions in providing social care and facilitating a therapeutic care-giving relationship. Whilst many interactions around reminiscence occur naturally, a greater sensitivity and awareness of the role of reminiscence may enhance care-giving.
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Anxiety and performance: A test of processing efficiency theory in golf

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Objectives: This study tested postulates of Eysenck and Calvo's (1992) processing efficiency theory using a golf chipping task. High trait anxious individuals were predicted to experience greater cognitive anxiety and disruption to performance in high stress conditions than participants low in trait anxiety. Higher levels of mental effort were also predicted in high anxious performers in situations where performance effectiveness was equivalent.

Design: Golfers high and low in dispositional anxiety performed under each of three randomly allocated conditions: A baseline condition (no hazard/task-involving instructions), a low anxiety condition (bunker between ball and flag/task-involving instructions) and a high anxiety condition (bunker between ball and flag/ego-involving instructions).

Methods: 18 female golfers from Alsager Golf Club played a series of chip shots to a flat, under conditions of varying difficulty and pressure. Self-reports of cognitive anxiety and mental effort were collected and strategic behaviour was assessed through video analysis. Player performance was measured using outcome error and selected kinematic and temporal swing variables.

Results: Participants' intra-individualised scores were subjected to mixed design, 2 x 2 ANOVA analysis (Condition x Trait Anxiety). Significant differences in cognitive state anxiety, mental effort and performance were apparent between high and low trait anxiety groups in the high anxiety condition. A continued increase in mental effort in high trait anxious golfers was evident, despite declining performance.

Conclusion: The findings suggest that processing efficiency theory provides a useful theoretical framework for examining the relationship between anxiety and performance in sport.
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Testosterone and the 'home advantage' in football

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Objectives: The 'home advantage' has been well-documented in many sports. A number of explanations have been proposed to account for this robust effect, including crowd support, familiarity, referee bias, and disruption to the opponent's routine. However, perceived territoriality may well be a particularly potent factor in this home advantage. Territoriality is prevalent among many animal species, and numerous studies have shown a 'home advantage' for an animal defending its territory, even when the defender is smaller than the rival. This suggests an important motivational incentive in defending a territory. Territorial aggression in animals and humans has been related to levels of the steroid hormone testosterone, which rises in anticipation of a forthcoming contest, remains high in eventual winners, but drops in losers. This study investigated relationships between testosterone levels and territoriality in English football players.

Design: Repeated measures.

Method: Salivary testosterone was measured in 10 football players in a semi-professional team before a home game, an away game against the same rival team, and at a training session. Diurnal and seasonal factors that can influence testosterone levels were controlled.

Results: While testosterone measures remained stable, a related samples t-test revealed a significant difference between average testosterone levels at a home (99.3 pg/ml) versus an away game (57.9 pg/ml).

Conclusions: These results suggest that a surge of testosterone among players before a home game may partly underlie the home advantage phenomenon. Like other animals who guard and protect their home territory, footballers may feel more energetic, activated and assertive when faced with threats from out-groups.

Physical and relational bullying in primary school in three large samples in the UK and Germany

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Objectives: By using identical definitions and methodologies for assessing bullying in primary schools, direct comparisons can be made between two regions of the UK and Germany, allowing intra and inter comparisons between the two countries.

Design: A cross-sectional, cross-national comparison design was used between two areas of England (Hertfordshire/North London and Bristol/former Avon area) and Germany (Munich/Augsburg and surrounding areas).

Method: A total of 2377 children (six-year-olds/Year 2: 1072; eight-year-olds/Year 4; 1305) were recruited in Hertfordshire and North London primary schools; 6142 (eight-year-olds/Year 4) were recruited from the cohort of The Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC) from Bristol and the former Avon area and 1538 children (eight-year-olds/Year 2) in Germany were questioned individually using a standard interview about friendships and social relations in school.

Results: The major differences between the groups were found in the rates of victimisation for overt bullying in eight-year-olds, with 39.9 per cent in Hertfordshire compared to 17.9 per cent in Avon and 16 per cent in Germany.

Conclusions: Overall rates of victimisation of overt bullying in Avon were more similar to German children than children in Hertfordshire/North London using identical interviews. The impact of methodological issues (interviews in schools vs. clinics), cultural differences and inter-regional variations are discussed.

The impact of staff training on quality of care for people with dementia

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Objectives: To evaluate the impact of a staff training and development programme in a nursing home for people with dementia, on staff attitudes and behaviour and on resident well-being.

Design: Longitudinal care-study design, with evaluation of staff and resident variables at six-month intervals for two years.

Methods: The staff training and development programme included two days of training for all staff in person-centred care, followed by action-planning based on results from six-monthly Dementia Care Mapping (DCM). This detailed observational approach provides indices of well-being for individual residents, as well as overall profiles of quality of care. Staff attitudes and behaviour were assessed using the Dementia Care Practitioner Assessment (DCPA) devised for this study. Eighty-eight staff and 52 residents participated.

Results: The reliability and validity of the DCPA was assessed and found to be satisfactory, as was the validity of the DCM approach in this context. Whilst staff attitudes and behaviour

showed improvements in the period immediately following training, changes in resident well-being, on the DCM, were only evident after organisational changes were introduced following action-planning.

Conclusions: Staff training in isolation may not be enough to make a real difference to the lives of people with dementia. Without steps being taken to support and encourage staff in putting training into practice, changes are likely not to be maintained or generalised. DCM with timely feedback and action plans that are pursued and supported by management, provides one method of providing the support that is required for training to be effective.

The relationship between abnormal patterns of cerebral lateralisation and the cognitive and emotional deficits associated with Autistic disorder

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It is well established that Autistic individuals suffer from deficits in their cognitive, social and emotional understanding, including difficulty determining another's emotional state. This ability has been called a 'Theory of Mind' (TOM), and has been used to explain deficits observed in Autism. However, as of yet there has been no definitive research to pinpoint areas of the brain that, when damaged/impaired, may be the cause of this TOM deficit. A number of studies have demonstrated that damage to the right hemisphere can result in reduced ability to interpret emotional content of a message, problems in recognising facial emotions and deficits that overlap with deficits in TOM that autistic individuals display.

Objectives: This study tests for any abnormal patterns of lateralisation that may be informative of the gross hemispheric basis of autistic disorder and the neural substrate for the development of TOM.

Design: Patterns of lateralisation in emotional processing are tested for using a series of pictorial chimeric faces. These pictures present separate emotional facial expressions to either the left or right visual field, thus being initially processed by the contralateral hemisphere.

Method: Four groups tested for comparison include, Autistic, Aspergers, Downs syndrome, and Unimpaired individuals matched for mental age with the previous three groups. Strong indications of asymmetries of processing are achieved by asking participants on which side of the face is the emotion most strongly expressed, when centrally viewing the chimeric faces.

Results: Data collection is currently in progress.

Factors affecting children's tendency to admit lack of knowledge

A WATERMAN & S LEEKHAM, University of Durham

Objectives: Our previous research showed that children sometimes answer questions to which they do not know the answer. This is surprising given that 'theory of mind' research has found that even four-year-olds understand the mental states of knowledge and ignorance. Young children therefore may understand when they don't know an answer but fail to say so. The purpose of this study was to explore further this failure to admit lack of knowledge.

Design & Methods: In Study 1 we tested the influence of developmental and pragmatic task factors in a situation where children either did know the answer or were ignorant. Forty-nine four- to five-year-olds, and 44 six-year-olds were asked to name animals from pictures, some of which were clear (knowledge condition) and some were obscured (ignorant condition). Each child received one of three pre-interview instructions: neutral; incentive to tell the truth; incentive to get as many answers right as possible. In Study 2 we examined children's judgements about another person admitting lack of knowledge when asked a question.

Results: In the knowledge condition, both age groups performed well. In the ignorant condition,

older children were more likely to indicate when they did not know the answer. The interaction between condition and instruction group approached significance. In the ignorant condition, children from the 'tell the truth' group gave more correct answers than the 'get as many right' group. This pattern was reversed for the knowledge condition. Results from Study 2 are being analysed.

Conclusions: Implications for interviewing children in different contexts, e.g. empirical research, the forensic setting, are discussed.
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Counselling psychology in South Africa – A well-established discipline

R WORTLEY, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

Purpose: To give administrators of the Counselling Division of BPS information about a cognate Division which has had 50 years' experience in administration.

Background: Counselling psychology has been only very recently established in the UK. The writer feels that practitioners may benefit from the experience of this discipline in South Africa. The South African Psychological Association was founded just after the Second World War and counselling psychology was from the first recognised as a discipline. Psychology was brought under statutory control by the establishment of a Psychology Board under the Medical Council, (now Health Professions Council) in 1974. The Act recognised Clinical, Counselling, Industrial and Research Psychology.

Method: Consideration of documentation held by various committee members.

Key Points: From the first the statutory Board found difficulty in setting the limits of expected expertise and therefore of practice for each of the areas. A definition of the field of counselling psychology at first limited it to vocational and marital counselling, but this was largely ignored and seemed to be tacitly accepted by the Board, provided that no formal complaints were received. After much debate in many committees, the present rule was accepted which merely states that psychologists should not engage in activities for which they are not competent by virtue of their training and experience. New developments include provision for suitably qualified psychologist to prescribe certain drugs, and this will include counselling psychologists. The new and important area of community psychology, together with the proposed category of registered counsellors (with a lesser qualification than the six-year training of psychologists) is subsumed under counselling psychology and is hoped to provide sorely-needed counselling for the greater mass of South Africans, especially in the matter of AIDS counselling.

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Do transformational leaders lead safer businesses?

SJ YULE, University of Aberdeen

Objectives: It has long been recognised that the behaviours of managers at every organisational level hold an influence on worker behaviour and hence on workplace safety. Senior managers

may be very influential in this respect and have only recently begun to be studied scientifically by organisational psychologists. This study correlates upward perceptions of leadership style with safety performance data.

Design & Method: 25 senior managers working in the UK energy sector were appraised by their immediate subordinates ($n = 115$) using the Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire version 5X (MLQ, Bass & Avolio, 1995). Self-perceptions of leadership style and safety performance data in the form of standardised accident and injury rates were also collected.

Results: Only three elements of leadership style significantly correlated with lower accident rates. They are 'intellectual stimulation' ($r = .508$, $p < .01$), 'idealised consideration' ($r = .366$, $p < .05$), and 'contingent reward' ($r = -.387$, $p < .05$). Moreover, larger differences between the leaders' self-perception and their upward appraisal scores were significantly associated with higher accident rates. This means that managers who are less 'in touch' with how their style is received generally lead businesses with poorer safety records.

Conclusions: These findings do not discount the fact that other transformational leadership behaviours (e.g. vision, charisma, being a role model, idealised behaviours) may encourage optimal performance for business goals such as productivity and innovation. However, the findings do suggest that leaders who are stimulating, treat their employees as individuals, and are rewarding will lead the safest businesses. The applied use of these results will be discussed, focusing on the potential development areas of junior managers who are expected to take on senior roles in the future.

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Division of Clinical Psychology

Conference held during the 2002 Annual Conference, Blackpool, 13–16 March 2002

Audit of axis I and II disorder in a day care service: Impact on the service

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Objectives: To identify the composition of the population of our Day Care Service in terms of axis I and axis II disorders as defined by DSMIV to inform service developments and delivery.

Design & Method: We administered the Symptom Checklist 90 Revised (SCL90R), the Million Clinical Multiaxial Inventory Version III (MCMI III) and the Trauma Symptom Inventory (TSI). The first 50 new referrals who agreed to take part made up the sample.

Results: Descriptive statistics indicated that 55 per cent of the population met the criteria for axis II disorder, 53.2 per cent achieved a clinical level of distress as measured by the SCL90R and 57 per cent of the sample met the criteria for PTSD. Forty-four per cent of those identified as having a personality disorder could be classified as within the anxious/avoidant cluster of personality disorders, 22 per cent in the dramatic erratic cluster and four per cent in the eccentric cluster.
Conclusions: We have subsequently begun to develop services to address the axis II context within which any axis I symptoms develop, leading to a model of service which integrates the concepts of insight and change and provide treatments based upon formulation rather than diagnosis. Internal audit of this new service is positive with clients showing a high level of satisfaction with the service and a significant level of subjective change.

The emotional lives of people with learning disabilities: Raising the stakes

A ARTHUR, Tamarisk Trust, London

Emotions reflect the existence of self, personality and inner life and until recently did not receive much therapeutic or research attention in learning disability. Because interest is increasing it is time to pause and reflect on the direction this takes. Attempts are made to apply group and individual psychotherapy, psychosocial educational training, picture stimulus materials, training packs, anger management and staff consultation to heal and develop the emotional lives of people with learning disabilities. However, raising the stakes means not just employing these methods to control, normalise or treat emotions but discovering new ways to develop and negotiate access to the inner lives and worlds of people with learning disabilities. How can this be achieved? The processes whereby this happens to people without learning disabilities need to be considered. Early emotional childhood experiences start with parents and their families, the identification and communication of emotional states develop in relationship formation, in adolescence puberty instigates sexual and gender identification, and finally race, culture and spirituality contribute to a growing sense of self-identity. This identity consists of thoughts and feelings about self and others, it requires experience and interaction with others in the world. But above all it needs valuing. This paper anticipates developments that could enable people with learning disabilities to learn more about processes that facilitate self development, how these will require psychologists to acknowledge the very real differences between learning and non-learning disabled people, and how this may challenge their world-view.

Computerised CBT for anxiety and depression: A randomised controlled trial

K CAVANAGH, Ultrasis plc, J PROUDFOOT, D GOLDBERG, A MANN, B EVERITT,

I MARKS & J GRAY, Institute of Psychiatry
Objectives: Cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) is recognised as a treatment of choice for anxiety and depression. However, delivered in its usual one-to-one, face-to-face manner, CBT is expensive and its availability is limited and inequitably distributed. Beating the Blues, a computerised CBT programme for anxiety and depression, is an innovative solution to this problem. This study evaluates the effectiveness of Beating the Blues in comparison to general practice treatment as usual (TAU) for anxiety and depression.

Design: Randomised controlled trial.

Methods: 167 adults suffering from anxiety and/or depression were recruited from seven general practices in south-east England and randomly allocated to receive, with or without medication, Beating the Blues or TAU. The computer therapy programme consisted of nine sessions, TAU was heterogeneous. Measures of patients' depression, anxiety and work and social adjustment were taken on five occasions: prior to treatment, two months later (on completing Beating the Blues) and at one, three and six months follow-up.

Results: Initial levels of anxiety and depression were moderate-to-severe and typical for general practice. Patients who received Beating the Blues showed significantly greater improvements in depression and anxiety compared to TAU, improvements which were retained, undiminished at six-months follow-up. Symptom reduction was paralleled by significant and enduring improvements in work and social adjustment.

Conclusions: These results demonstrate that computerised, interactive, multimedia CBT under minimal clinical supervision is feasible and acceptable in general practice. It adds significantly to short-term and long-term symptomatic improvement and to work and social adjustment. These findings permit wider dissemination of CBT for patients suffering from anxiety and/or depression.

Men's responses to their partner's experience of sexual assault

C CONNOP, University of East London & J PETRAK, Barts and The London NHS Trust

Objective: To investigate the experiences of men in heterosexual relationships following their partner's disclosure of a sexual assault.

Design: Exploratory using quantitative and qualitative methods.

Method: Questionnaire and semi-structured interviews were completed by 11 men in relation to their emotional and behavioural responses to the assault, the impact on their relationship and their understanding of the meaning of the assault. Due to difficulties in the recruitment of men for the study, three women were also interviewed about their partner's response.

Results: A majority of men describe prolonged psychological distress in the aftermath of the assault. They appear to experience particular difficulty in understanding issues of blame and responsibility and draw on a number of social stereotypes or 'rape myths' in order to make sense of the meaning of the event. The assault impacts on a variety of domains, including the men's physical and emotional health, their relationship with their partner and their sexual functioning. In many cases it also caused men to question their beliefs about sexuality and sense of their own masculinity.

Conclusions: The findings of this study offer some evidence to support theories of 'secondary traumatisation' although men's responses also extend beyond trauma responses into others' psychological domains. The clinical and research implications of these findings are discussed.

Utilising the SWAP-200 to assess aspects of personality disorder

K DAVIDSON & M OBONASWIN, University of Strathclyde, M SEILS, Greater Glasgow Primary Care NHS Trust & L PATIENCE

Objectives: To assess what extent clinicians and patients agreed on the assessment of personality disorder. A preliminary investigation of the SAWP-200.

Design: Within subjects design.

Methods: Mental health clinicians were approached and asked to describe current patients with a diagnosis of personality disorder or significant personality pathology using a modified version of SWAP-200 procedure. The nominated patients also completed the SWAP-200. A total of 23 pairs of clinicians and patients were studied. Bland Altman analysis was conducted to investigate clinician and patient agreement on traits.

Results: Patients and clinicians show good agreement on some traits such as dysphoric, emotional dysregulation, avoidant, narcissistic and dependent but agreement is poor on depressive, paranoid, hostile externalising, schizoid and antisocial traits.

Conclusions: Patients and clinicians vary in the extent of their agreement, depending on the personality traits assessed.

Introducing psychotherapy to learning disability services in a closed institution

P FRANKISH, Care Principles, York

Purpose: The aim of this paper is to describe the process, difficulties and consequences of bringing a psychodynamic approach into a traditionally hostile environment. The implications for psychologists and the new regulation of psychologists working as psychotherapists are discussed.

Background: High-secure services for people with learning disabilities have been run on largely behavioural, cognitive and medical lines until recently. In 1999 an attempt was made to introduce psychodynamic therapy for individuals and groups into Rampton Hospital, which provides the national high-secure service for people with learning difficulties for England and Wales. Previous attempts had been made in other services in the hospital with some success, but not learning disabilities.

Key Points: It became clear that the dynamics of the institution were as relevant as the inner world of the patients:

- Opposing forces were found in the psychology service more than elsewhere;
- The therapy was possible in group and individual form;
- The hostility towards the approach manifested as hostility towards the therapists;
- The learning disability service wanted more and invested in developments;
- The evidence base began to be established and continues to grow;
- The limitations to psychologists of opting for a cognitive-behavioural approach at the expense of all are damaging to the profession and the patients we treat.

Occupational standards and Continuing Professional Development

P FRANKISH, Linden House, York

The British Psychological Society has made a commitment to the establishment of occupational standards for applied psychology. The government is following a policy, through the DFES of ensuring that all professional bodies and awarding bodies can demonstrate that holders of qualifications or registrations are fit to practise as measured against these standards. This has implications for all practising psychologists as well as those yet to qualify. Information about the project and the standards will be provided for

discussion of the implications for the CPD plan for the Society.

Assessment of prevalence of personality disorder in primary and secondary care

S JONES

The theme of this symposium is personality disorder and in particular its prevalence across different service settings. The objectives of the symposium are to highlight: 1. Similarities and differences between prevalence in primary and secondary care settings; 2. Different methods of assessment of personality disorder; 3. The role of social problem solving and social cognition in personality disorder; and 4. Issues concerning therapy outcome and service delivery.

The first paper (N Alwin) reviews rates of both axis I and II disorder in a day care service and the impact of these findings on service delivery issues. Paper 2 (S Jones) presents results from a study of the rates of personality disorder in a primary care mental health setting and relationships with a therapy process and outcome measure. Paper 3 (P Kinderman) reports on the prevalence of personality disorder in a psychiatric outpatient population and patterns of service use and social cognition. Paper 4 (K Davidson) investigates the extent to which clinicians and patients agree on the assessment of personality disorder. Paper 5 (S Bray & F Lobhan) report on social problem solving skills in patients with borderline personality disorder and the implications of this for treatment. It is intended that the range of presentations in this symposium illustrates the diversity of issues associated with personality disorder, not least its high prevalence rate across service settings and the potential importance of this for provision of appropriate and effective treatments.

Personality disorder in primary care: Frequency of personality disorder in routine primary care referrals

S JONES, Withington Hospital, Manchester, G TATE & B FOWLER, Rochdale Healthcare Trust

Objectives: This project set out to assess rates of personality disorder in primary care clinical psychology referrals. It was hypothesised that:

1. High rates of personality disorder would be observed in the group assessed.
2. Evidence of personality disorder would be associated with greater problems in the process of therapy.

Design: Incidence of personality disorder was assessed in a descriptive epidemiological design, subsequent assessment of problems in therapy as a function of personality disorder were assessed in a correlational design with additional logistic regression.

Methods:

Participants: 149 clients routinely referred to primary care clinical psychology service, were asked to complete Millon's MCM-III (1997). Clinicians completed a therapy process and outcome questionnaire for 101 of the clients. This was developed for the study and provided information on clinician's rating of presence or absence of personality disorder and on five measures of therapy process and outcome.

Results: Although none of the GP referrals cited personality disorder as a primary problem, 56.4 per cent of clients met Millon's criteria for one personality disorder and 30.9 per cent for two or more. In terms of DSM-IV clusters, 34.5 per cent were anxious-fearful, 18 per cent were dramatic-erratic and 11.5 per cent were odd-eccentric. Analysis of data from the therapy process and outcome questionnaire indicated that the presence of personality disorder was generally associated with increased problems in treatment. Clients who were identified as personality disordered by their MCM-III score were significantly likely to be also identified as such by their clinicians.

Conclusions: High rates of personality disorder were observed in clients routinely referred to a primary care clinical psychology service. The presence of personality disorder was associated

with more problems in treatment. These findings have implications for routine screening of such clients and for how services might be better structured to meet their needs once identified.

Social cognition in personality disorders

P KINDERMAN, University of Liverpool

Objectives: Estimates for the prevalence of personality disorders in psychiatric outpatients is around 50 per cent. They are associated with challenges for mental health services and with frequent use of mental health services and with frequent use of mental health services. The present study aimed: 1. To assess the prevalence of personality disorders in the population served by one community NHS Trust, to assess their severity and the associated clinical needs; and 2. To collect preliminary data on social cognition in people diagnosed with personality disorders.

Design: An epidemiological survey design was employed. Participants in receipt of outpatient psychiatric care with and without a diagnosis of personality were also compared in a quasi-experiment on a range of relevant measures.

Methods: Patients attending outpatient psychiatry were systematically assessed using a well-validated measure of personality disorder (the SCID-II), the Client Service Receipt Schedule and a range of measures of personality and social cognition.

Results: Absolute prevalence rates of personality disorder in an outpatient psychiatry population were revealed to be close to the generally accepted figure of 50 per cent. Concurrent diagnoses of more than one personality disorder was surprisingly common, as was the prevalence of markers of so-called 'dangerous and severe personality disorder' – DSPD. Specific patterns of service use in the personality disordered population were identified, as were potential patterns of abnormalities in social cognition.

Conclusions: Clinically useful indications of service use and psychological need can be identified. This preliminary study also indicated potential routes for the further research potential of social cognitive abnormalities in personality disorder.

Social problem solving skills in people with Borderline Personality Disorder

F LEBBAN, Tameside C&PS NHS Trust and University of Manchester & S BRAY, Tameside C&PS NHS Trust

Objectives:

1. To assess the social problem solving skills of people with a diagnosis of Borderline Personality Disorder (BDP);
2. To compare social problem solving skills of people with BPD with a psychiatric control group and a non-psychiatric control group;
3. To explore the relationship between social problem solving skills and symptom severity;
4. Identify implications for future interventions.

Design: Three group comparison of social problem solving skills.

1. BPD.
2. Psychiatric control.
3. Non-psychiatric control.

Methods: All participants were interviewed using the following instruments:

1. SCID II
2. Means End Problem Solving
3. Social Problem Solving Inventory
4. BDI and Symptom Checklist 90-R and BAI and Social Adjustment Scale.

IQ was controlled for using NART. Scores between the three groups were compared to identify differences.

Results: Pending completion of data collection.

Conclusions: Pending results.

The range of application for cognitive issues in people with learning disabilities

W LINDSAY, Tayside Primary Care NHS Trust & University of Abertay, Dundee

Background: Although the volume of published research in cognitive therapy for people with

intellectual disabilities does not match that of other populations, there is a clear and developing history of clinical research in this area. There are now good reasons to accept that this type of therapy will be useful for many people with intellectual disability, but the range of application and effectiveness has not yet been considered.

Objectives: This presentation reviews a range of studies by both the author and other clinical researchers which employ the methods of cognitive therapy to help people with intellectual disabilities in a variety of personal areas.

Method: Several therapeutic models for cognitive therapy are summarised. They include self-instructional training, more complex cognitive models based on the work of Beck *et al.* in relation to anger and depression, and the work of Novaco and colleagues in relation to anger. Methods employing social problem solving and decision making skills are also reviewed. A range of studies investigating self-protective strategies in potentially abusive situations, decision making in relation to parenting, facilitating the planning of leisure pursuits, making choices concerning health care issues and deciding whether to participate in psychological research will be integrated.

Coping with disfigurement: A qualitative study

S MEASON & G KENT, University of Sheffield

Objectives: To increase understanding of how people cope with vitiligo, a disfiguring skin disorder.

Design: Previous quantitative research has pointed to the need for a deeper understanding of how people cope with their own disfigurement. A qualitative approach was used to explore the factors that influence choice of coping strategies in people with vitiligo. Interpretational Phenomenological Analysis was used to identify common factors in choices around coping.

Methods: Participants were selected through The Vitiligo Society, a national support group for people with the skin condition. The research was limited to women aged between 45 and 60 who lived in Sheffield. Eight women were interviewed using a semi-structured interview schedule.

Results: Belief about the importance of appearance influenced how the respondents assessed the need for coping strategies. There was a common use of avoidance behaviours, but also pushing the self to carry on in difficult situations. Comparison with people in better or worse situations was an important factor in how the participants dealt with their own visible difference.

Conclusion: The Transactional theory of coping applies to appearance as well as other life challenges, extending the importance of this theory. Social comparison is also an important factor in dealing with visible difference, linking to Leary's work on social anxiety.

Completing your CPD log book

Z NADIRSHAW

Continuing professional development activity is part of the life-long learning agenda set by the government to ensure that there is a competent workforce in Britain. In keeping with such an agenda, The British Psychological Society and the Division of Clinical Psychology now view continuing professional development as an important activity linking improved practice to quality of service provided. The CPD Subcommittee of the Division of Clinical Psychology has produced the second edition of the guidelines for continuing professional development to assist individual practitioners to keep up to date with development in clinical psychology. Similarly, the guidelines are also intended to prove useful to decision makers, line managers, commissioners, auditors, assessors – who have an influence in the CPD of clinical psychologists. The presentation focuses on a practical approach to CPD activity.

Psychotherapeutic approaches for people with learning disabilities: Who benefits?

Z NADIRSHAW

It is well known that people with Learning Disabilities experience the whole range of emotional and behavioural difficulties whilst living their ordinary lives in their community. There is a small body of knowledge relating to the different psychotherapeutic approaches and interventions offered to people with learning disabilities to cope with such difficulties. There is a need to take stock and to develop a more comprehensive overview of these approaches and interventions and their impact on the lives of people with learning disabilities. The aim of this symposium is to offer a forum for reflection upon the current thinking in the world of psychotherapy for people living with learning disabilities and to look at individual practitioners' practical in undertaking such activities such as, who benefits from such activities, what are the clients' motivation to change and engage in the treatment, what are the environments which are conducive to good psychotherapy, what is the role of carers in supporting clinical psychologists to undertake such activity? It is expected that the individual presentations will reflect the diversity in thinking in the field of clinical psychology and psychotherapy and encompassing the clinical governance agendas of evidence-based practice in work with people with learning disabilities.

From research and development to practice-based evidence: Clinical governance initiative for adults with dual diagnosis

D NEWMAN, S KELLETT & N BEAIL, Barnsley Psychological Health Care

Practice-based evidence represents the contribution of practitioners who utilise research methodologies to examine the quality of their clinical practice and service provision. This presentation describes four phases of research and development taking place in a service for adults with mild intellectual disabilities who have mental health needs. This work has provided the foundation for a routine practice-based evidence system (PBES) capable of profiling the individual mental health needs of service users and examining service effectiveness and quality at an organisation level. The PBES is outlined and discussed according to its current utility and possible directions for future development.

Performance appraisal: The link between occupational standards and CPD

H NIGHTINGALE

This discussion draws on the uses of the occupational standards in performance appraisals and show how they can be used to assist in CPD. Performance appraisal is a regular assessment of staff in organisations, in which ranges of skills can be identified according to the occupational standards and then used to develop CPD at any level of post qualification. This talk describes how the process of performance appraisal can use the occupational standards and both line manager and employees together may identify strengths and areas for further development, thus identifying potential goals and tasks for CPD over the following period of time.

New research in HIV and sexual health

J PETRAK

Sexual health, including HIV, continues to be an active field for psychological research. Clinical work in sexual health may include a range of issues related to, for example, reproductive health, sexual dysfunction, sexual abuse and rape, sexuality and relationship, and prevention and intervention for sexually transmitted diseases and HIV infection. The aim of the symposium is to familiarise individuals with the diversity of research opportunities and to inform clinical psychology practice within sexual health. Two papers are presented on current challenges in

HIV particularly reflecting changes in the population following the introduction of improved medical treatments. These include papers examining the relationship between quality of life and self efficacy in people with HIV infection and presenting data on a group intervention for 'living with chronic illness' in HIV positive individuals. Services for rape and sexual assault are being established in many sexual health clinics. The next two papers present new and important areas of research in sexual assault. These include an exploration of the psychological impact of drug-rape and an investigation of the secondary impact of sexual assault on the heterosexual male partner. Many individuals present in sexual health clinics with psychosexual concerns, and the final paper examines sexual functioning within a specific population, women with diabetes. While sexual health is a specialised medical area, the papers presented are of relevance to psychologists working in other areas of health.

Estimates of psychological distress among unaccompanied refugee minors in Ireland

A REA, Queen's University, Belfast

This study examined symptoms of psychological distress, levels of social support and post-migratory problems of 28 unaccompanied minors seeking asylum in Ireland. The design of the study was a needs based survey and was exploratory in nature. Participants were randomly selected from the total numbers of unaccompanied minors seeking asylum in Ireland. Levels of distress were evaluated using the Adolescent Self Report (AZR) (a selection of items from the Youth Self Report version of Achenbach's (1991) Child Behaviour Checklist), Social Network Map and Post-Migratory Living Problem Checklist. More than half of the sample was found to be functioning in the moderate or severe range of problem behaviour when evaluated with the AZR. Associations were found between AZR scores and attendance at church, anxiety/depression and present stressors; Length of time in Ireland was associated with thinking problems; 100 per cent were afraid of being sent home; 89 per cent had problems with racial discrimination; Number of people in social network was associated with levels of concrete support; Few had contact with Irish people; and higher levels of English was associated with lower AZR scores. The longer these adolescents were in Ireland, the greater their psychological distress. Current stressors contributed to psychological dysfunction and there was little integration into Irish culture. Social support networks consisted of other unaccompanied minors or asylum seekers. Unaccompanied minors are a highly vulnerable group and current asylum policies may add to behaviour symptoms and psychological distress.

Access and effectiveness in psychological therapies: Self-help as a routine health technology

D RICHARDS, University of Manchester

There is a good evidence base for the effectiveness of psychological interventions for common mental health problems, however the demand for psychological services exceeds supply. The ability of primary care services to deliver effective and accessible care as demanded by the National Service Framework (NSF) for mental health is compromised by several factors. These are: 1. The traditional nature of psychological therapies delivery which is based on traditional assumptions about the importance of repeated one-hour, hour long sessions between therapist and patient; 2. The marginalisation of self-help into an adjunctive role or waiting list management tool despite a considerable evidence base for the effectiveness of brief and self-help approaches; 3. The dangers of gatekeeping where primary mental health services offer screening or waiting list management strategies. Self-help, a powerful ideology and a clinically effective health technology, is given insufficient prominence in primary mental health care psychological treatment service plans. The stark fact is that with

more than 95 per cent of mental health care being delivered solely in primary care, primary care mental health services must be 19 times more than productive than their secondary care counterparts. The presentation examines the development of alternative routes of access for psychological therapies – including computer-based approaches – in terms of this broader perspective. It is argued that service protocols must be developed which promote equity, accessibility and choice using a model of therapy access organised around multiple levels of entry and service delivery rather than through the more usual secondary care referral systems. In this model, alternative delivery systems (e.g. service users) are the first point of entry for people accessing psychological therapy rather than – as is more usually the case – being used as waiting list management strategies for traditional models of therapy delivery. The formal integration of these systems into psychological therapies provision is the only way to enfranchise the majority of potential service users and reduce the highly variable service availability, anathema to modern mental health policy.

Sexual function of diabetic women: A psychological perspective

C ROCKCLIFFE-FIDLER, University of Wales Bangor, Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust

Objective: To assess a range of psychological factors likely to impact on the sexual function of diabetic women and to compare self-reported sexual function between various diabetic subgroups.

Design: A cross-sectional between-groups survey. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were employed in order to draw from the strengths of statistical analysis and the richness of participant experience.

Methods: 19 Type 1 and 25 Type 2 diabetic women (aged 24 to 83) completed a diabetes adjustment scale (ATT-19), the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale, the Sexual Function Questionnaire (SFQ), and the Sexuality Scale. Eight women participated in semi-structured interviews.

Results: Between-groups analysis indicated that when compared with Type 1 diabetic women, Type 2 women reported significantly less sexual preoccupation and lower overall SFQ scores, with significantly lower scores in the domains 'desire' and 'enjoyment'. These differences remained significant when age was controlled for. While psychological factors such as anxiety and adjustment to diabetes were significantly correlated with aspects of sexual function, only depression accounted for significant variance in overall SFQ scores. Data from the interviews supported these findings. Factors including presence of diabetic complications, body mass index and body satisfaction were not significantly correlated with sexual functioning.

Conclusions: These results appear to confirm the presence of important differences in psychological factors associated with the sexual function of Type 1 and Type 2 diabetic women. Implications for future research and practice in assessment of sexual function and the care of diabetic women are discussed.

The psychological consequences of drug-rape

E RUSSELL & V CURRAN, University College London

Objectives: 'Drug-rape' is an increasingly prevalent crime. The effects of the drugs used to perpetrate drug-rapes include muscle relaxation, reduced anxiety and fear, behavioural disinhibition and subsequent anterograde amnesia for explicit, but not implicit, memory. The effects of these drugs share similarities with peritraumatic dissociation, a known predictor of PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). This study investigated how such drugs affected emotional processing during the assault (including dissociative experiences), traumatic memory and post-traumatic appraisals about the rape. The relationship of these variables to PTSD severity was also investigated.

Design: A retrospective, non-experimental, survey and interview design was employed.

Method: 29 female drug-rape survivors (over 18 years old) were recruited through voluntary rape support organisations. The mean time since assault was two years. All 29 participants completed questionnaire measures of relevant constructs, and 12 participants took part in additional interviews.

Results: Correlational and multiple regression analyses were employed. Eight per cent of participants reported moderate to severe PTSD, which was of comparable severity to other trauma populations. Impaired fear response during rape was associated with greater negative appraisals about the assault, fear and PTSD symptomatology. All participants reported extensive, persistent anterograde amnesia for rape, and negative post-traumatic appraisals about the assault. However, even with extensive impairment of explicit memory, all reported distressing, involuntary intrusive memories ('flashback') characterised by a strong sense of 'reliving' the rape. The prevalence and severity of PTSD was not significantly associated with loss of consciousness during rape, or perceived extent of amnesia. Although negative appraisals were significantly correlated with PTSD severity, only peritraumatic dissociative symptoms showed an independent association with PTSD severity.

Conclusions: The results of this study suggest that the drugs used in drug-rapes impair cognitive and emotional processing during sexual assault. The effects of the drugs during trauma, which share similarities with dissociation, were shown to have negative repercussions for subsequent emotional processing and were associated with more severe and persistent PTSD. Furthermore, the results demonstrate that significant PTSD symptomatology is not precluded by a reduced emotional response during rape, or by persistent and severe impairment of explicit memory. Rather than being protective, amnesia for rape may lead to chronic emotional processing and more enduring PTSD symptoms. These findings are considered with relevance to their therapeutic and theoretical implications.

Computerised CBT in primary care: Prediction of outcome and drop-out

C RYDEN & J PROUDFOOT, Institute of Psychiatry & D SHAPIRO, University of Leeds and University of Sheffield

Objectives: The aim of this study is to identify patient characteristics which are associated with response, recovery and drop-out after the application of computerised cognitive-behaviour therapy (CBT) for depression and anxiety in primary care.

Design & Methods: 314 primary care patients suffering from depression and/or anxiety were randomised to either computerised CBT (Beating the Blues™), or treatment as usual (TAU). Outcomes were measured at post-treatment and one, three and six months follow-up by Beck Depression Inventory, Beck Anxiety Inventory, Work and Social Adjustment Scale, and for half of the sample, the Clinical Interview Schedule-Revised CIS-R (a computerised psychiatric assessment). Predictor variables include patient's depression, anxiety, work and social adjustment and psychiatric status at pre-treatment, demographic data such as age, sex, ethnic status, years of education, as well as duration of current episode, patients' attributional style, and commitment to treatment. The computerised CBT and TAU groups are compared to examine whether there are patient characteristics uniquely related to response and recovery in the CBT group. In addition, the same analyses are carried out on a further stratification of the groups based on use of psychopharmacological medication.

Results: Data collection is almost complete and the analyses will be concluded in November 2001.

Conclusions: The results will provide preliminary data on the effectiveness of this new delivery vehicle for CBT in relation to different demographic and clinical presentations in primary care. The results may inform clinical decision-making with regards to the choice of treatment path for individual patients, and may also cast some light on the mechanisms of action of computerised CBT.

Computerised cognitive behavioural therapy for anxiety and depression

D SHAPIRO, University of Leeds and University of Sheffield & K CAVANAGH, Ultrasis plc

Anxiety and depression are major burdens on public health, with enormous personal and economic costs to sufferers, the healthcare system and to society. Whilst cost-effectiveness medications exist, their clinical effectiveness is limited and patients prefer psychological treatments. Psychological treatments, particularly cognitive behavioural therapies, have a strong and growing evidence base. However, their accessibility is extremely poor and inequitably distributed. NHS policy calls for their increased availability. However, that appears impossible to achieve in the foreseeable future, given the severe shortage of appropriately trained therapists. Computerised delivery of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) is a promising solution to this accessibility problem. Evidence from prior studies shows this to be effective and acceptable to patients. This symposium presents four new empirical papers investigating computerised CBT. First, Cavanagh reports clinical outcomes data from a large RCT comparing Beating the Blues, a computerised CBT programme, to primary care treatment as usual. Second, McCrone presents health service use and costs data collected during the Beating the Blues trial which support its cost-effectiveness. Third, Shapiro reports on an open trial which investigates the generalisability of computerised CBT in primary care. Forth, Ryden presents a study designed to identify patient characteristics which are associated with response, recovery and drop-out after the application of computerised CBT for depression and anxiety in primary care. These four empirical papers are set in the context of primary care mental health service provision in a theoretical paper delivered by Richards. Finally, a discussion regarding the benefit and barriers for computerised CBT is led by Davey.

The effectiveness of computerised CBT: An open trial in primary care

D SHAPIRO, University of Leeds and University of Sheffield, J PROUDFOOT, Institute of Psychiatry, K CAVANAGH, Ultrasis plc, C RYDEN & S SWAIN, Institute of Psychiatry

Objectives: We report early findings of an effectiveness study of Beating the Blues, a computerised cognitive-behavioural therapy of anxiety and depression. This seeks to establish the generalisability and relationship to patient predictor variables of the favourable outcomes obtained in a randomised, controlled trial, and to benchmark the gains reported against outcomes of face-to-face therapy.

Design: We conducted an open trial of Beating the Blues in primary care settings throughout England.

Methods: Outcomes were measured using weekly ratings of anxiety and depression and by the CORE outcome measure which is widely used for evaluation and benchmarking of psychological therapy and counselling services. The convergent validity of these two methods of assessing change was evaluated. Growth curve analysis of weekly ratings was applied alongside an index of the clinical significance of change on each variable for each patient.

Results: Outcomes were generally favourable, with changes in anxiety and depression within the range associated with face-to-face treatments. Week-by-week changes in anxiety and depression suggested a generally linear trend of progressive improvement across the eight sessions. The convergent validity of week-by-week ratings and pre-post CORE outcome measures was acceptable.

Conclusions: The efficacy of Beating the Blues established by randomised, controlled trial appears to translate into worthwhile effectiveness in routine practice settings. On average, patients improve progressively over the course of the programme. Further predictor analyses will allow us to profile those patients most likely to persist with and benefit from following the programme,

enabling efficient allocation of patients to Beating the Blues who are likely to improve with this low-cost psychological intervention.

Living confidently with HIV: Evaluating a chronic illness group

E TACCONELLI, L SHAW, St Ann's Sexual Health Centre & R WATSON, Mortimer Market Centre, Camden & Islington

Objectives: As the typology of HIV is changing in the West from terminal to chronic post combination therapies, infected individuals are negotiating new issues due to the different meanings being HIV+ has. Infected individuals need to adjust to the new meanings, feel confident in facing the future, engage in healthy lifestyles, meaningful activities, relationships and enlist social supports. However, a variety of factors including the stigma and secrecy of being HIV+ can impair individuals' abilities to negotiate life's demands. The primary objective of this study is to test the efficacy of a 'chronic illness' group for HIV+ individuals. This is a pilot group. The group aim is to facilitate the adjustment process in relation to living with HIV and to enable negotiation of life demands.

Design: The group is closed, adopting a brief-focused interventionist approach of six sessions over 12 weeks. Psychological techniques employed are multi-theoretical, including psycho-education, cognitive-behavioural and systemic. A particular emphasis is on goal planning and problem solving.

Methods: Participants are recruited with pre-set inclusion/exclusion criteria. Group entry is for clients experiencing problems living with HIV. Standardised measures of mood, adjustment, coping and quality of life are administered pre and post group and at six-months follow-up.

Work in Progress: Results are available at presentation.

Conclusions: Group therapy is an efficacious psychological treatment in HIV. A social intervention that enhances mood, adjustment and self-efficacy will facilitate achievement of goals by increasing participants' capacity to cope with life's obstacles.

Does general self-efficacy explain distress and quality of life in people with HIV infection?

R WATSON, University College London, L SHAW, Enfield & Haringey, St Ann's Sexual Health Centre & P SCRAGG, University College London

Objectives: Despite improved medical treatments HIV infection continues to be associated with adverse psychological outcomes in some people. General self-efficacy has been proposed as a personal resource factor that influences how people cope with life difficulties and, therefore, may be relevant to coping with HIV infection. This study tested the hypothesis that higher degrees of general self-efficacy would be associated with lower levels of psychological distress and higher quality of life in HIV positive people.

Design: Cross-sectional non-experimental survey design.

Methods: 70 participants, who were selected using non-random sampling methods, completed questionnaire measures of relevant constructs.

Results: Spearman correlation coefficients were employed. Higher degrees of general self-efficacy were associated with lower levels of anxiety and depression, and greater quality of life. Personality traits and coping strategies were also found to be associated with anxiety and depression, and quality of life. Linear regression analysis failed to show any independent effects for general self-efficacy; only personality traits and coping strategies displayed independent effects.

Conclusions: General self-efficacy appears to have limited value in explaining individual differences in psychological differences in psychological distress and quality of life in people living with HIV. It ignores cross-situational variation in self-efficacy by assigning people a single score and supposedly represents a unitary dimension that is relatively fixed across individuals. Moreover, it is likely to be related to certain aspects of the higher order constructs of personality and coping.

Student Members Group

Conference held during the 2002 Annual Conference, Blackpool, 13–16 March 2002

Transgressions in close relationships

S ANGUS

Objectives: The aim of the present study is to look at the personality and behavioural characteristics associated with sexual betrayal. The three main hypotheses tested are: (1) Women will show more emotionally laden infidelity compared to men who will show higher rates of purely sexual betrayal; (2) Low agreeableness and high psychopathy scores will be correlated with those who have committed sexual betrayal; and (3) Men will report more acts of sexual betrayal than women.

Design: The design is questionnaire based and qualitative. The rationale for this is based on previous research findings identifying characteristics common among the perpetrators of sexual betrayal using questionnaires.

Method: An opportunistic sample of between 100–150 participants is used. The study utilises four psychological scales testing personality, mating behaviour, psychopathy and social desirability. Participants are assured of confidentiality and are instructed to place their completed questionnaires in an envelope.

Results: The study is still in progress, therefore, the results are not yet available. Analysis of data will be mixed using both correlation and difference testing. As the current study is in progress.

Conclusions: No conclusions are available until completion.

ADHD and children's language: Understanding the hype

S BIGNELL

Objectives: Although the diagnostic subcategories of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) differ widely in behavioural criteria little is known about the relationship of these to children's specific language skills. Language comprehension problems in these children are more frequent than in comparable clinical populations. This study explores the relation of normally developing children's language comprehension skills with the symptoms commonly seen in children diagnosed with ADHD.

Design: Assessment included teacher and parent questionnaires and objective child measures that assess related aspects of language and behaviour. These included, reading ability, pragmatic language skills, verbal and non-verbal vocabulary, attention span, hyperactivity and impulsivity, non-verbal reasoning, and cognitive and behavioural inhibition measures.

Methods: A large sample of seven- to 11-year-old schoolchildren was screened by teacher questionnaire of class behaviour and a selection was assigned to one of three groups based on the DSM-IV criteria for ADHD subtypes. The groups comprised of: 'inattentive', 'hyperactivity-impulsive', and a 'combined group' who showed elevated test scores on both poor attention and hyperactivity-impulsiveness, a control group was also included. Participants were assessed individually and teachers and parents also completed detailed behavioural questionnaires.

Conclusions: The language comprehension skills of normally developing children may be influenced to a lesser or in qualitatively different ways by symptoms similar to those seen in the diagnostic subtypes of ADHD. If this is the case, this has implications for professionals using educational techniques with children who may have subtle problems of poorer attention, hyperactivity-impulsivity.

Tackling violence in schools in the UK

HELEN COWIE, D JENNIFER, S SHARP

Purpose: To document statistical information about the incidence of violence in UK schools,

including types, frequency, causes, and different dyads (pupil/pupil, pupil/teacher, teacher/pupil, etc.). To describe national/regional policies regarding violence in schools, and interventions that have been developed to counteract it, and evaluations of their success.

Background: Violence has come to be recognised as a major social problem which can not only affect the happiness, well-being and educational achievement of school pupils, but which can undermine the task of the teacher and have a negative impact upon school functioning. The present study was undertaken for the EU-funded CONNECT project 'Violence in Schools'.

Key Points: An extensive literature search yields little in the way of a shared definition of violence. While violence in schools is reported anecdotally, there is no central register of violence in schools statistics available either from central government or from local education authorities. Currently the best indicators for violence in schools are available in the form of social exclusion statistics, parent/teacher violence statistics, and prevalence rates of pupil/pupil bullying, highlighted by independent research. Several Government initiatives and national/regional policies have been implemented in recent years to improve standards of behaviour in schools but nothing specifically aimed at tackling violence in schools. A number of successful local initiatives tackling violence in schools are in place around the UK.

Conclusions: This paper demonstrates the gaps in our current knowledge and understanding of violence in schools. It would be worthwhile carrying out a full-scale national study to clarify definitions, incidence, frequency and types of violence in schools and to systematically evaluate local initiatives longitudinally to measure their effectiveness.

The ability to detect unseen staring

G LOGUE

Objectives: This study has been undertaken to empirically test the ability to detect unseen staring that has been demonstrated in previous research where people have been found to report, with greater than chance accuracy, when they are being stared at. This study examines whether or not this effect is still demonstrable when the starers eyes are shut, thus implying an unknown source of transmission not directly linked to the physical act of staring. It is hypothesised that the staring effect will remain as it has been demonstrated before in separate rooms via a video link. Additionally, the number of correct responses is correlated with starees scores on the three scales of the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (EPQ). It is hypothesised that those with lower extraversion scores may score more correct responses, in line with the assumption of arousal theory that introverts may have a lower threshold for stimulus.

Design: This study is experimental in design using repeated measures. Two conditions are used: The standard staring condition and the eyes shut condition, where the starers; eyes are kept shut throughout. The independent variable is whether or not the starers eyes are open. The dependant variable is the starees score for each condition; number of correct responses out of 12.

Methods: Around 30 participants take part by recording whether or not they feel they are being stared at for each trial, on a response sheet.

Conclusions: There is compelling evidence for the existence of this ability. Previous work by the author and colleagues found that feedback on performance improves scores. More research is required in this area before we can have a reasonable understanding of the underlying mechanisms of this phenomenon and the variables involved.

Explicating accounts of 'infidelity' and 'monogamy' in personal relationships: An analysis of discourse

K NICHOLLS

Objectives: Traditional psychological research centring on personal relationships has often focused on the gendered nature of relationship behaviour, presenting realist and positivist assumptions and based on essentialist notions of inherent gender differences. This research is firmly located within a social constructionist, feminist post-structural framework and as such sought to explicate notions of 'infidelity' and 'monogamy' in personal relationships.

Design: A form of discourse analysis was employed in this study to examine discursive constructions of 'infidelity' and 'monogamy' as contextualised by accounts of personal relationships.

Method: To collate a body of 'data' deemed suitable for such analysis, interviews were arranged (10 in total) with people to talk about relationship issues, also, 'media texts' relating to issues of 'infidelity' and 'monogamy' were opportunely gathered. A search for variability, contradictions and consistencies in the accounts (both interview and media texts) took place. Discourses were suggested and located within the body of texts.

Results: Analysis of interview transcripts and the media texts did not yield unitary accounts of 'infidelity' and 'monogamy' in relationships. Instead 'infidelity' and 'monogamy' were discursively regulated when participants drew on the 'Relationship Parameters', 'Man: A Sexual Being' and 'Passive/aggressive Infidelity' discourses. These discourses were found to work as explanatory devices, particularising instances of infidelity in relationships. The categories of 'infidelity' and 'monogamy' were found to be functionally situated during conversational interactions, the meaning of the categories continually shifted dependent on the context of which the participants spoke.

Conclusions: It was concluded that a thorough exploration of such discourses reflected the fluid and contextually dependent constitution of 'infidelity' and 'monogamy' in personal relationships. Such critical analysis joins a body of research that may be seen as providing a lever for challenging dominant meaning systems that enable the construction of particular personal and sexual relationships as 'normal', 'right' or 'appropriate'.

Personality, recall and emotion: The effect of individual differences on recall of emotionally affective pictures and on the recall of emotional detail within them

C SMYTH

Objectives: This experiment was undertaken to establish whether individual differences, namely the different personality traits of extroversion, neuroticism and psychoticism, affect the recall of emotional data.

Design: This was a quasi-experiment with a mixed design. The two between-subjects factors were personality (with three levels: neurotic, psychotic, extrovert, each with a further two levels: high, low), and gender (with two levels: male, female). The within-subjects factor was the emotionality of the photographs shown (with two levels: positive, negative). There were two dependant variables; Emotional Detail Recall, and Picture Recall. The data collected took the form of an interval scale.

Method: Each participant completed the EPQ-R, viewed a randomised presentation of sixteen emotionally affective pictures (eight positive, eight negative) and undertook a distraction task. Participants were asked to recall all the pictures in as much detail as possible.

Results: The results showed that the personality traits had no effect on recall of emotional data, nor did gender, however the results did provide

evidence that: 1. overall, negative pictures were recalled more than positive pictures, and 2. a higher proportion of positive than negative pictures (in relation to participant's original picture recall) were recalled in terms of emotional detail. **Conclusions:** According to these findings, individual differences do not appear to have an effect on recall of emotional data, however there is indeed a difference in the recall of positive and negative emotional data. Repression, encoding and/or retrieval processes, narrowing effects of negative recall, and importance of mood are highlighted as important avenues for future research.

Effectiveness of inoculation treatment: Varying source credibility of attack

A SPENCE

Objectives: The present study examines inoculation and the effect on attitudes and ability to defend attitudes of manipulating the source of the attack used during the presentation of inoculation treatment. It is hypothesised that inoculation utilising an initial attack source of low credibility will induce a stronger level of inoculation.

Design: A simple two groups repeated measures design is utilised in this study. The independent variable manipulated is the credibility of the source of the attack used during the inoculation treatment. Dependent variables measured were the participant's change in attitude and the participant's ability to defend against a subsequent attack.

Method: A total of 24 participants were recruited and randomly assigned to two different groups. Attitudes were assessed towards topics utilised both before and after inoculation treatments were presented. The two different types of inoculation treatment were presented to both groups, one received treatments utilising low credibility attacks first and the other received treatments utilising high credibility attacks first. Reasoning to a further attack statement was also recorded.

Results: A matched pairs t-test was used to test the significance of the change in attitudes found and an ANOVA was used to investigate the significance of the differences in arguments and counter arguments generated during reasoning and any interaction effects with the level of credibility. Although results were in the direction predicted, these were not significant.

Conclusions: Alternative theoretical reasoning as well as methodological reasons are considered when attempting to explain findings. Ratings of perceived credibility of attacking sources used in conjunction with evidence from previous studies indicates that it is possible that the lack of significant results could be due to the low salience of the source.

Youth at-risk: Evaluation of the Wycombe Motor Project – SKIDZ

C THORN

Objectives: The primary objective of the study was to support the notion that the Wycombe motor project – Skidz, is a successful project. The major hypothesis tested was that youths attending courses at Skidz would attach significantly higher importance to a variety of their life goals compared to youths not attending Skidz.

Design: The study used independent measures design, as time restrictions deemed it more appropriate to compare a control group to the group of youths attending Skidz.

Methods: In order to form the experimental group, 23 male participants were selected randomly. In order to form the control group, 23 male participants were selected from local school's that were involved with Skidz by way of referral. In order to measure the participant's life goals, the 'Importance of Goals Scale' was used. The 'Importance of Goals Scale' was used as a questionnaire and was read to the participants on an individual basis by the experimenter. Participants were aware of their ethical rights.

Results: The data was analysed using a one-way ANOVA and the main null hypothesis was rejected. The participant's attached significantly more importance to a variety of their life goals if they were attending skidz, when compared to the control group.

Conclusions: It was argued that Skidz is a valuable resource for the prevention of delinquent behaviour and for the increase in positive aspirations in its attendees. The methodological problems with the study were outlined and discussed.

Siblings of children with autistic spectrum disorders

M WALLACE

Objectives: The main aim of this study is to identify some of the factors influencing the relationship between children with autistic spectrum disorders and their siblings. The main hypotheses are that an understanding of autism and positive reactions from parents and peers towards the autistic sibling will encourage a positive sibling relationship. The severity of the autistic spectrum disorder will have a negative impact on the sibling relationship, and siblings who are younger than the autistic child will feel more resentment towards their brother or sister than older siblings will.

Design: Data is to be collected by means of semi-structured interviews and questionnaires.

Method: 20 volunteers have been recruited through the National Autistic Society's Scottish Branch. Nine of the families participating have a child diagnosed as mildly to severely autistic. The remaining 11 families have a child diagnosed with Aspergers syndrome. Demographic information will be collected from parents who will also be given three questionnaires, an adaptive behaviour questionnaire, a questionnaire on the family's acceptance of the autistic child's condition, and the Sibling Relationship Questionnaire-Revised. Parents will then take part in a short semi-structured interview asking them about their perceptions of the relationship between their children. Siblings will be asked to complete the Sibling's Problems Questionnaire, and take part in a short semi-structured interview. They will be asked about what the good points and bad points are of having an autistic brother or sister, and what would help most to make life easier to live with their sibling.

Northern Ireland Branch

Northern Ireland Branch Annual Conference, The Park Hotel, Virginia, Co. Cavan, Republic of Ireland, 26–28 April 2002.

The effects of bloated specifics in undermining the reliability and validity of questionnaires

G BRESLIN & C COOPER, Queen's University of Belfast

Background: Co-efficient alpha is based on the internal consistency between items. Bloated specifics can artificially enhance co-efficient alpha.

Aims: Compare two psychometric tests and illustrate how similar meaning words within a test can enhance co-efficient alpha.

Method: Four tasks were implemented; A word rating task, a questionnaire task a memory task and a betting task. Eighty-seven participants were tested. The study consisted of two within factors, word type, with three levels, and questionnaire type with two levels.

Results: Multidimensional Scaling concluded differing stress levels on the rating task. Correlations found that there was significant relationships and consistency between words with similar meaning. There was a memory task questionnaire effect, a word-type effect, and an interaction between word-type and questionnaire. There was a significant difference between questionnaires on the betting task.

Conclusions: Caution has to be taken when including similar meaning items when constructing a psychometric test.

The importance of the 'correct' cognitions in achieving high marks: A canonical correlational approach to the collinearity problem in multiple regression

B BUNTING, University of Ulster at Magee College & D McILROY, Liverpool John Moores University

Background: Anxiety has been shown to be associated with exam test results. This study separates anxiety into two broad domains: (1) cognitive and (2) emotionality. The cognitive domain was assessed in terms of worry and test irrelevant thoughts, while emotionality was evaluated by the factors of tension and bodily symptoms.

Aims/Method: As might be expected in this situation, some of the correlations between these factors are high. This can present a statistical problem when exam results and coursework are to be explained in terms of multiple factors, e.g. where a multiple regression is used.

Results: In this paper, a series of analyses is used, to establish the association between anxiety and test scores, while minimising the potential bias due to the collinearity between the factors.

Conclusions: It is shown that both exam results and coursework are related to the two factors used to assess the cognitive components of anxiety and that test results are unrelated to either tension or bodily symptoms.

Religious segregation and psychological adjustment in a Northern Irish sample

E CAIRNS & J MALLETT, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background: Research has pointed to an inverse association between the proportion of an ethnic minority living in a particular area and rates of admission for mental illness.

Aims: Given the nature of religious segregation in Northern Ireland, this study examined whether living in areas where own religious group density is high relates to higher psychological adjustment.

Method: Data from 1000 randomly selected households in Northern Ireland were analysed

using structural equation modeling techniques to test relationships between social class, religious integration, levels of political violence and psychological adjustment.

Results: Increased political violence was associated with higher levels of religious segregation and both produced significant, if small effects on psychological adjustment.

Conclusions: The 'ethnic density effect' reported in other cultures/ contexts may operate in a limited way in the Northern Ireland.

Personal goals for older adults: Implications for exercise promotion

P CAMPBELL, D MacAULEY, E McCRUM & A EVANS, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: Given the increasing proportion of older adults in the general population it is important not to overlook this cohort when promoting health behaviours by assuming that the same factors will motivate older as well as younger adults to exercise.

Aims: To compare the personal goals of older adults with those of younger adults with a view to influencing the content of exercise promotion programmes.

Method: Data were collected from a random sample of adults aged 16–69 ($n = 843$) by way of a computer assisted interview.

Results: The most important personal goals for both older and younger adults were 'to feel in good shape physically', 'to learn new things' and 'to feel mentally alert'. However, significantly fewer older adults rated 'to have fun' 'to look good' and 'to improve or maintain your health' as important personal goals compared with younger adults.

Conclusions: Older and younger adults differ in their personal goals to some extent therefore a 'one-size-fits-all' approach to exercise promotion may be inappropriate. Rather than concentrating on the improvement or maintenance of health, exercise promotion programmes should perhaps concentrate on other factors such as the retention of mobility, daily functioning skills and psychological well-being.

Issues of 'control' in relation to depression and diabetes

P CARMICHAEL, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: Metabolic control has been analysed in relation to coping skills, depression and locus of control. Few articles have explored the relationship between depression and locus of control.

Aims: The aim is to explore the issues of 'control' and highlight Locus of Control as an area of perception that may influence the development of depression in people with diabetes.

Main contribution: Studies have indicated a relationship between metabolic control and Locus of Control, where people with diabetes who have good control also tend to have a strong internal locus of control. Similarly poor metabolic control has been linked to levels of depression. A better understanding of the perceptions influencing depression is required and must include Locus of Control.

Conclusions: Further research is required to explore perceptions of control and their influence on depressive symptomatology and metabolic control. The therapeutic applications of perceptions of control should also be explored.

Two methods of measuring health status of people with heart disease – a comparison

M DEMPSTER & M DONNELLY, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: The SF-36 has been shown to be the most appropriate generic instrument for measuring the health status of people with heart disease. A shorter form of this instrument (the SF-12) is available.

Aims: To compare the summary scores obtained

on the SF-12 and the SF-36 for a group of cardiac patients in order to determine whether the SF-12 could replace the SF-36.

Method: The SF-36 and SF-12 were administered to 105 cardiac patients in a hospital setting.

Results: The SF-36 summary scores were strongly correlated and similar to the SF-12 summary scores. The SF-12 scores were as powerful as the SF-36 summary scores in discriminating between subgroups of patients categorised according to their self-reported health status or angina classification.

Conclusions: When there is a need to collect routine information about cardiac patients' general physical and mental health the SF-12 is preferable to the SF-36 because of its brevity and acceptability to patients.

Cognitive inhibitory functioning in dissociative identity disorder: The effect of emotional context.

MJ DORAHY, Queen's University, Belfast, HJ IRWIN, University of New England, Australia & W MIDDLETON, Cannan Research Institute, Belmont Private Hospital, Brisbane, Australia

Background: Cognitive inhibition is the ability to withhold distracting information from target stimulus selection. Recent work has shown that cognitive inhibition is weakened in dissociative identity disorder (DID) samples compared to control groups when words are used as experimental stimuli. However, there is no weakening in cognitive inhibitory ability in DID when assessed with single digit number stimuli. Given that words may be deemed more anxiety provoking than numbers a possible explanation for previous findings is that cognitive inhibitory functioning in DID is dependent on emotional context.

Aims: The current study was designed to directly test the hypothesis that DID is characterised by effective cognitive inhibitory functioning in emotionally neutral, non-threatening environments, but by cognitive disinhibition in environments perceived as unstable, threatening or anxiety-provoking.

Method: A DID sample ($n = 11$) and a clinically depressed sample ($n = 11$) were administered a flanker task designed to assess cognitive inhibition through the paradigm of negative priming. Single digit numbers were used to assess negative priming and in a repeated measures design the first (neutral) experimental context presented neutral words (e.g. book, table) intermittently throughout the procedure and the second (negative) context, administered approximately a week after the first, presented both neutral and negative words (e.g. hate) intermittently throughout the test session.

Results: Consistent with some findings, the depressed sample showed no evidence of cognitive inhibition in either neutral or negative contexts. The DID sample however, displayed significant negative priming (i.e. efficient cognitive inhibition) in the neutral context, but no evidence of cognitive inhibition in the negative context. These results are consistent with the hypothesis that cognitive inhibition in DID is dependent on emotional context of the experimental environment.

Conclusions: Results are discussed with reference to the trauma model of DID.

Does dissociation in religious settings provide an explanation for denominational shifts and declining religious participation?: Data from Australia and Northern Ireland

MJ DORAHY, Queen's University, Belfast & CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: Within contemporary psychology altered states of consciousness are often referred to as dissociative states. Schumaker (1995)

proposed the importance of dissociation to religious beliefs and worship. Interestingly, many mainstream religions have reduced dissociative triggers and outlets for dissociative functioning during worship and most of these have also experienced a reduction in participation.

Aims: The present aim was to test Schumaker's theory that religious traditions that facilitate dissociation during worship would also show the most resistance to members leaving the church.

Method: Official statistics between 1980–2000 were examined to measure changes in religious denominational affiliation among Australian and Northern Irish churches.

Results: The Institutional Churches of Australia and Northern Ireland have met with mixed fortunes over the last 20 years, with the former experiencing losses, while the latter have seen little change. Among the Free Churches patterns of membership have been more consistent between the cultures, with large gains having been experienced by the Pentecostal, New, and Baptist Churches. In contrast membership has fallen in both the Methodist and Independent Churches.

Conclusion: The results demonstrate support for Schumaker's theory with Pentecostal Churches, which are characterised by overt levels of dissociative functioning, reporting the greatest increase in membership in both Australia and Northern Ireland. These data are interpreted as providing support for Schumaker's theorising.

Breadwinning with breastfeeding

J BYRNE-DORAN, Waterford Institute of Technology

Background: The rationale for relating 'breadwinning with breastfeeding' emerged from an open analysis of a broad range of literature relating to women's lives and loves.

Aims: This paper aims to introduce a theoretical understanding of the concept breadwinning with breastfeeding. This concept is explored and the role of breastfeeding is highlighted especially in relation to women's identity and self-image. In particular, what are the psychological effects of breastfeeding?

Main contribution: At present the relationship between breadwinning and breastfeeding has not been empirically examined. It is proposed that such work should be undertaken to fully elicit whether breadwinning can be related to breastfeeding, using both quantitative and qualitative research methods.

Conclusion: Such research would provide a unique individual perspective with which some women perceive the activity of breastfeeding.

A study of the perception of academics and students in relation to student academic dishonesty

M DUNN, University of Derby

Background: Research indicates that students seek to work to implicit as well as explicit rules of mark enhancing strategies.

Aims: To identify which strategies are adopted by students to enhance marks.

Method: Students from three years on a business studies undergraduate programme (n = 230) completed a questionnaire to identify strategies adopted which were aimed at enhancing the marks gained for written work. Groups of students and groups of academics met in focus groups to discuss these strategies and to rank them in terms of how acceptable it is to adopt such strategies in the preparation of course work assignments.

Results: Both similarities and differences were found in the views of the students and academics.

Conclusions: These findings are discussed in relation to recent developments in electronic forms of academic dishonesty such as web-based plagiarism.

The importance of pre-morbid personality in the post-morbid aggression of head-injured

K DYER, R BELL & R RAUCH, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: Research into the nature of aggression after head injury has traditionally focussed on types of neurological impairment. An overlooked variable is pre-morbid aggressive proclivity.

Aims: This literature review describes the relationship between pre-morbid aggression and post-morbid aggression in victims of head-injury. It illustrates how the pre-morbid disposition interacts with the effects of neurological damage to shape post-morbid aggression. Problems in assessing pre-morbid personality are also addressed.

Main contribution: Aggression significantly hinders rehabilitation processes. The psychological literature is replete with claims that the pre-morbid aggression of patients with head-injury is important in shaping post-morbid aggression, however there have been few attempts to research the area. Recent studies have suggested that head injury simply exacerbates a pre-existing tendency to aggress rather than create an aggressive individual.

Conclusions: Aggression after head injury has numerous etiologies and consequences. In order to understand these behaviours complex influences such as pre-morbid personality traits must be examined.

Discursive context of qualitative research teaching in psychology

C EVANS, The Open University and Queen's University, Belfast

Background: This research is set in South Africa, against the background of the generation and implementation of a National Qualifications Framework.

Aims: The general aims of the study were to generate debate, which would facilitate the teaching of qualitative research, and to understand how teaching is contextualised in particular institutions. A specific objective was to identify discursive contexts through which qualitative research teaching takes place. This aspect is the focus of the current presentation.

Method: A multiple case study formed the basic design, in which data was acquired mainly through observation and interviews. Analysis was informed by the post-modern writings of Jean-Francois Lyotard.

Results: Results of the study are discussed in relation to subjectivity, resource management, the post-modern context, and philosophical approaches.

Conclusions: In conclusion, the research results are abstracted, and related to qualitative research teaching, irrespective of any particular nation, or geographical context.

A pilot investigation of clients' experiences of the impact of longer-term counselling on their lives

M FERGUSON, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background: In spite of increasing professional interest in client experiences of the impact of longer-term counselling on their lives and a growing body of theoretical literature on the topic, clients' experiences of counselling has received little research attention. Recent challenges to prevailing views of the impact of counselling on clients' lives have come from the 'critiques of counselling', and in conjunction with published anecdotal accounts of experiences of therapy, provide an ethical as well as an academic imperative to conduct research in this area.

Aims: The overall aim of this study is to provide a descriptive account of clients' experiences of the impact of longer-term counselling on their lives.

Method: Unstructured interviews were analysed using a transcendental phenomenological approach.

Results: Preliminary results indicate complex issues arising for clients.

Conclusions: In keeping with other studies using this method it would appear that transcendental phenomenology is a valuable tool for eliciting experiences.

A validation study into the effectiveness of the 'challenging attitudes to violence' programme for primary school children

N FERGUSON, Liverpool Hope University

Background: The main aim of these studies are to evaluate the violence prevention programme entitled 'Challenging Attitudes to Violence' currently being piloted in Liverpool schools.

Aims: The main aim of these studies are to evaluate the violence prevention programme entitled 'Challenging Attitudes to Violence' currently being piloted in Liverpool schools.

Method: A sample of 148 children participated in the two studies which explored changes in attitudes towards violence before participating on the programme, after the programme was completed, then six and 12 months later.

Results: The main findings indicated that the programme reduced general beliefs in and approval of aggression in children who undertook the programme and that the benefits of the programme increased up to six months after children had completed the programme. The studies also reported gender differences in attitudes towards violence held by the children

Conclusions: The findings indicate that the Challenging Attitudes to Violence is having a positive impact on the children and reducing their acceptance of aggression.

The Short-Form Revised Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (EPQR-S): A German edition

LJ FRANCIS, University of Wales, Bangor, CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College & H-G ZIEBERTZ, University of Würzburg, Germany

Background: At present it seems that the short form of the psychoticism scale may function more satisfactorily in some cultures than in others.

Aims: The aim of the present study is to explore the psychometric properties of the German translation of the EPQR-S.

Method: A sample of undergraduate students in Germany completed the German translation of the short form Revised Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (EPQR-S).

Results: The findings support the psychometric properties of the extraversion, neuroticism and lie scales. The psychoticism scale, however, was found to be less satisfactory.

Conclusions: On the basis of these data the German translations of the extraversion, neuroticism and lie scales of the EPQR-S can be commended for further use. At the same time these data emphasise the need for further research and development to produce a more reliable short index of psychoticism.

The psychometric properties of the Francis Scale of Attitude toward Christianity among German students

LJ FRANCIS, University of Wales, Bangor, H-G ZIEBERTZ, University of Würzburg, Germany & CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: During the second half of the 1990s a series of attempts has also been made to translate the Francis Scale of Attitude toward Christianity into other languages, recognising that integration of cross-cultural quantitative studies in the psychology of religion has been hampered by the lack of common instrumentation.

Aims: As part of this programme, a German edition was proposed by Francis and Kwiran (1999). The aim of the present study is to examine the psychometric properties of this German edition of the Francis Scale of Attitude toward Christianity among an older population than that chosen by Francis and Kwiran (1999).

Method: A sample of 311 undergraduate students in Germany completed the German translation of

the Francis Scale of Attitude toward Christianity. **Results:** The data support the unidimensionality, internal consistency reliability and construct validity of the German translation of this instrument.

Conclusions: The scale can, therefore, be recommended for further use within Germany and should lead to valuable cross-cultural comparisons in the empirical psychology of religion.

The relationship between religion and happiness among German students

LJ FRANCIS, University of Wales, Bangor, H-G ZIEBERTZ, University of Würzburg, Germany & CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: Recent studies in the UK and in the US have reported an association between the Oxford Happiness Inventory and the Francis Scale of Attitude toward Christianity.

Aims: The aim of the present study was to this association among German students.

Method: A sample of students completed the German edition of the Oxford Happiness Inventory and the Francis Scale of Attitude toward Christianity, together with the short-form Revised Eysenck Personality Questionnaire.

Results: The data demonstrated a significant positive association between scores on the Oxford Happiness Inventory and scores on the scale of attitude toward Christianity. However, this association disappeared after controlling for personality.

Conclusions: These data provide no evidence for a relationship between religiosity and happiness among German students, contrary to the conclusions of recent studies in the UK and in the US.

The validity of student evaluation of teaching in higher education: Love me, love my lectures too

MS GORDON, Liverpool Hope University & M SHEVLIN, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: This paper examines the validity of student evaluation of teaching (SET) in universities. Recent research demonstrates that evaluations can be influenced by factors other than teaching ability such as student characteristics and the physical environment.

Aims: In this study, it was predicted that students' perception of the lecturer would significantly predict teaching effectiveness ratings.

Method: In the first study, using an 11-item student rating scale ($n = 199$), a two-factor confirmatory factor model of teaching effectiveness was specified and estimated using LISREL8; the factors were 'lecturer ability' and 'module attributes'. This initial model was extended to include a factor relating to the students' ratings of the lecturer's charisma. The second study ($n = 310$) employed 35 statements relating to teaching effectiveness and 12 items relating to irrelevant lecturer characteristics.

Results: The first model was an acceptable description of the data. The charisma factor explained 69 per cent and 37 per cent of the variation in the 'lecturer ability' and 'module attributes' factors respectively. In the second study a second-order five-factor confirmatory model indicated that the teaching effectiveness factors were an acceptable description of the data. Subsequent analyses included an exogenous latent variable, labelled 'positive attributes', which explained 89 per cent of the variation of teaching effectiveness.

Conclusions: These findings suggest that student ratings do not wholly reflect actual teaching effectiveness. It is argued that a central trait exists which influences a student's evaluation of the lecturer.

The effect of auditory enrichment on the behaviour of sheltered dogs

L GRAHAM, DL WELLS, & PG HEPPER, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: The influence of auditory enrichment on the welfare of captive animals has been subject to recent investigation on a variety of species, with the exception of the domestic dog.

Aims: To examine the influence of auditory enrichment on the behaviour and welfare of dogs housed in a rescue shelter environment.

Method: 50 dogs housed at the National Canine Defence League were employed as subjects. The dogs were exposed to five conditions of auditory stimulation: (1) Control; (2) Human voice; (3) Classical music; (4) Heavy metal; and (5) Pop music. Dogs were exposed to each condition for four hours on five separate days. The dog's activity, vocalisation and position were recorded every ten minutes for four hours.

Results: Dogs spent more time barking during the heavy metal condition and less time barking during the classical music condition ($p < 0.001$). Dogs spent more time resting and less time standing during the classical music condition ($p < 0.001$) than other conditions.

Conclusions: The findings suggest that the behaviour and welfare of sheltered dogs is influenced by auditory stimulation.

Personality and self-monitoring: Gender difference considerations

J GRANLEESE & M TOOKEY, University of East Anglia

Background: Are socially skilled performers successful because of their deliberate and intentional strategies (i.e. monitoring the situational appropriateness of their expressive self-presentation) or does this skill reflect an ingrained trait? Is self-monitoring impression management or personality? What explains the extant contradictory findings?

Aims: This exploratory study examines the relationship of personality as measured by the EPQ and a self-monitoring scale (Gangestad & Snyder, 2000).

Method: 85 final year business undergraduates (mean age 22 years) completed both measures and a biographic questionnaire. Their scores were correlated.

Results: Total sample correlations support the self-monitoring as personality trait hypothesis. Self-monitoring is significantly and positively associated with psychoticism and extraversion, as well as, significantly and negatively with the lie scale. However, when analysed separately for gender, only females exhibit a significant positive correlation with any personality measure: extraversion accounting for 24 per cent of the variance in their self-monitoring scores.

Conclusions: Future research in this area needs to take account of gender differences.

Evaluation of a head controlled pointing device

D HANNA, D HALE & R COWIE, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: To evaluate the potential of head control as an input method for computer systems.

Aims: To compare average movement times and error rates over a range of target sizes and angles for the headway pointing device and a mouse.

Method: Participants took completed a series of trials on a pointing task programme with both the mouse and the head mounted pointing device.

Results: The experiment concluded that head control was significantly slower than hand control and more error prone. Fitts' law provided a robust predictor of movement time and learning effects followed the power law of practice for the head controlled device.

Conclusions: This study indicated that the mouse was the more efficient device. However, implications for head controlled devices and novel findings relating to angle of approach were also discussed.

A qualitative study on quality of life issues in younger people with dementia

T HEGARTY, University of Ulster at Jordanstown

Background & Aims: The present study sought to obtain information about the experiences of younger people with dementia. The impact of a diagnosis was explored from a quality of life perspective.

Method: Ten younger people with dementia and their carers were interviewed using a semi-structured interview schedule. Several psychometric scales were used to gather supplementary quantitative information.

Results: Overall the quality of life of the person was seen to be influenced by a diagnosis of dementia. The younger people interviewed adapted positively to many changes in their lives as a result of a diagnosis of dementia. Certain areas were also highlighted that compounded dementia related difficulties.

Conclusions: Younger people with dementia are able to express and articulate how their life has changed as a result of dementia. Service developments can and should be based on the expressed needs of younger people with dementia.

When there are no words: A two factor neuro-cognitive model of the language of post-traumatic stress disorder

SG HIGGINS, Trinity College, Dublin

Background: Clinical practice and anecdotal evidence suggest that clients presenting with eating disorders, depression, deliberate self-harm, substance abuse, and borderline personality disorder often have histories of trauma, which is under-diagnosed and misdiagnosed in Irish clinical settings.

Aims: The research sought evidence of a relationship between trauma and specific psychiatric disorders (eating disorders, depression, deliberate self-harm, substance abuse, and borderline personality disorder), and of an explanatory model of the pathways between trauma and its clinical correlates.

Main contribution: Epidemiological evidence, from populations with complex post-traumatic stress disorder, demonstrates the under-diagnosis of trauma in Irish clinical settings. A two-factor neuro-cognitive model explains the cognitive and emotional consequences of trauma and their relationship to other psychiatric disorders. The Neurological Factor presents evidence from neuroimaging and animal studies of the impact of trauma on brain structure and function, and the role of the hippocampus, amygdala and neurochemicals in trauma and its clinical correlates.

Conclusions: The two-factor neuro-cognitive model accounts for observed levels of misdiagnosis. It explains the inability to linguistically communicate trauma, and for its tendency to be expressed as symptoms characteristic of other diagnoses.

Problems, experiences and beliefs of therapistpatients

MM JENKINS, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: Therapistpatients is the term given to therapists who become patients either by way of a training course requirement or through choice. There is little research on the types of problems that therapists bring to therapy or indeed how they experience therapy.

Aims: The aim of the work is to replicate Pope and Tabachnick's (1991) Therapists as Patients study. He investigated APA members. Here the client population are professionals in psychological therapies in Northern Ireland.

Method: A questionnaire comprising four sections – background information, therapistpatient experiences, therapist and therapistpatient behaviours, and beliefs around training was forwarded to 110 individuals in statutory services, voluntary agencies and in private practice.

Results: Results replicate original findings and additionally highlight the relationship between therapist behaviours and the helpfulness or harmfulness of therapy for therapist patients.
Conclusions: The study concludes by discussing these findings and their implications for training and practice in the psychological therapies. Limitations of the work are also noted.

Effect of instructions on male and female estimates of intelligence

J REILLY & O JOHNSTON, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: Previous studies have found that women's self-estimates of intelligence tend to be lower than men's self-estimates. Explanations have ranged from female modesty to actual gender differences in intelligence. However, results of these studies may have been influenced by differences in the instructions used to elicit self-estimates.

Aims: To investigate the impact of instructions upon self-estimates of intelligence.

Method: Participants ($n = 350$) were 91 male and 259 female psychology undergraduates, aged 17 to 38. An independent groups design was employed, with instruction type and gender as independent variables and estimated IQ as the dependent variable.

Results: Instruction type significantly influenced female self-estimates, which were significantly lower than male self-estimates for only three of the eight instruction types.

Conclusions: Self-estimates of intelligence appear to be influenced by factors such as experimental instructions, indicating that perceptions of the meaning of intelligence may play an important role in determining such self-estimates.

An evaluation of therapeutic community residential care for severely mentally ill clients

R KAPUR, D CAMERON & P CAMPBELL, Threshold

Background: There is growing evidence that community based and psychosocial interventions may be effective forms of care for those with severe and chronic mental illness. The Therapeutic Community model is a specialist, yet needs adapted model of residential care, rooted in contemporary objects-relations theory, which attends to the complex interplay between the inter- and intra-personal relationships of staff and residents.

Aims: To evaluate the effectiveness of a therapeutic community approach to the residential care of adults with severe and enduring mental illness

Method: A three-year longitudinal study of case series design was employed. Global and psychiatric functioning in patients at time of admission to a therapeutic community were compared with functioning at subsequent follow-ups. The outcome measures used were the Global Assessment Scale and the Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale.

Results: Improvements were found in global functioning at one-year follow-up ($p = .028$) and affective functioning at six months ($p = .038$) and at one-year ($p = .048$) follow-up. Improvements were also found in the physical concomitants of mental illness at two-year follow-up ($p = .020$).

Conclusions: The consistent and reliable environment of a therapeutic community may help patients to feel more settled and more able to explore and talk about their more disturbed states of mind.

Symposium: The psychology of religion: current research in Ireland

CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: Ireland is traditionally viewed as the home of 'saints and scholars', and as such would seem to be a fertile ground for researchers interested in the social scientific study of religion.

Aims: To provide a forum for the discussion of current empirical research in the psychology of religion by Irish psychologists.

Main contribution: Four distinct studies are presented that operationalise religion in differing ways. The first two papers use a cross-section design and employ self-report measures of religiosity. Francis, Ziebertz and Lewis use the Francis Scale of Attitude toward Christianity to examine the relationship between religion and happiness among German students. Mullan and Lewis also use the Francis Scale of Attitude toward Christianity, alongside questions on religious observance to examine various social and personal factors that are related to the moral judgements and morality of young people in Northern Ireland. The third paper of Whyte uses the interview method within a longitudinal design to ascertain the importance of religion among adolescents and young adults growing up in Ireland. The final paper by Dorahy and Lewis use official statistics to examine changes in Church membership between denominations over the last 20 years in both Northern Ireland and Australia to address the question, are dissociative cues more prominent among denominations experiencing a greater growth in membership?
Conclusion: The four papers clearly illustrate the breadth of research currently undertaken in the psychology of religion in Ireland.

The significance of exposure to political violence on children's aggression levels

R LYNAS, University of Ulster at Coleraine, S MOORE, University of North London & E CAIRNS, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background: Researchers have reported that political violence increases aggression in children's play behaviour as well as in their real lives, for example, in their interaction with peers. It has been suggested that this happens because children are modelling themselves on the adults around them or because aggressive behaviour is a form of coping (Cairns, 1996).

Aims: A call has been made for a higher cross-cultural research profile in this area.

Method: 600, eight to 14-year-old children, equal numbers of boys and girls from Northern Ireland and Romania were presented with a revised form of Rosenzweig's Picture-Frustration test (1948). The sample included participants from each Country's largest ethnic group alongside the predominant minority ethnic group.

Results: The data demonstrate significant interactions between males and females, and between differing ethnic groups, in response to potential situations of conflict.

Conclusions: Results are discussed further in relation to Tajfel and Turner's Social Identity Theory (1979), inter-ethnic conflict, and other cross-cultural research.

The convergent validity of inspection time paradigms

C MCCRORY & C COOPER, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: Visual and Auditory Inspection time tasks were designed to be experimentally analogous but modest cross-modal concordance rates raise the interesting possibility that these supposedly parallel tasks are indexing different underlying processes.

Aims: The present study was therefore designed to examine the convergent validity of a range of tasks designed to assess IT, as well as their association with ability factors. This battery of tasks included several conventionally used to assess IT, plus several novel measures.

Method: 80 participants completed the Multidimensional Ability Battery and a variety of IT tasks (three auditory, three visual). IT threshold was modelled using a three-parameter logistic function.

Results: Experimental results are reported and theoretical implications discussed.

Conclusions: The emergence of a consistent pattern of results across a wide number of paradigms would re-affirm belief in the use of IT as an index of g.

Assessing peer aggression in the Northern Ireland school system

C MCGUCKIN & CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: Given increased attention to school bullying, it is incumbent upon researchers to critically evaluate methods for determining the prevalence of school bullying. The importance of such work in Northern Ireland becomes apparent in the light of impending legislation regarding bullying schools.

Aims: To review the utility of the most common measures to assess school bullying, and to determine their usefulness or otherwise within the context of the Northern Ireland education system.

Method: Data were collected using the five commonly used instruments (The Olweus Bullying Inventory, The Life In School Checklist, The Peer Relations Assessment Questionnaire, The Bullying Behaviour Scale, and The Peer Victimization Scale).

Results: Data are presented on the efficacy of each of the instruments to assess school bullying in Northern Ireland.

Conclusions: Given the move towards legislation for Anti-Bullying Policies in Northern Ireland, it is pertinent that strategies are developed from within an evidence-based framework. However, an accurate assessment of school-bullying prevalence is required and for this appropriate and robust instruments are vital.

Significant social and personal factors in the moral judgements and morality of young people in Northern Ireland – pilot data from two schools

M MULLAN & CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: In response to both theological and psychological enquiry, there is growing interest in empirically examining what factors are related to the morality and moral judgements of young people in contemporary Northern Ireland. Research to examine such questions has recently commenced

Aims: The aim of the present study was to present initial findings related to establishing current levels of values among teenagers in Northern Ireland.

Method: 100 children aged between 14 and 15-years-old, from two Catholic schools in Northern Ireland completed a questionnaire booklet, containing a number of self-report questionnaires, including measures of religiosity, personality and morality, alongside some demographic variables.

Results: Data pertaining to values were analysed and comparisons drawn with the data of Francis and Kay (1995) drawn from English and Welsh teenagers. Differences between the present data and that of Francis and Kay (1995) were noted, and were related to themes of 'moral law' and 'civic law'.

Conclusions: The present data provide preliminary current levels, a 'snap-shot', of values among teenagers in Northern Ireland. Further work should seek to increase the database on which the present study is drawn.

Level of education and global self worth of women in midlife

K MURPHY, Trinity College, Dublin

Background: This study explored the relationships between education, global self worth, socio-economic status and timing of life events of five groups of women in midlife.

Aims: The study was designed to explore the links between education and global self worth in a broad sample of women from different socio-economic backgrounds.

Method: The research focused on five groups of women ($n = 100$) with different levels of education. The Global Self Worth Sub-scale of the Adult Self-Perception Profile was used to assess perception of self worth.

Results: The results clearly indicate that women's level of education has a strong impact on their perceived level of global self worth in midlife.

Conclusions: Women with higher levels of education and higher socio-economic status have higher perceived levels of global self worth.

The Student Internet Counselling Center – a pilot project

M NAVRÁTIL, The Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Brno, J PROKĚŠ, Masaryk University, Brno & J RÁCSEK, Masaryk University, Brno

Background & Aims: The practice in running the pedagogically psychological counselling center at the Faculty of Computer Science (Masaryk University, Brno) has taught us that students and young teachers prefer an electronic form of communication to other alternatives.

Main contribution: The objective of the nascent e-center utilized for this counselling is to offer an introductory contact with its clients together with the provision of initial information in an electronic way. The introductory part of the article describes the experience the authors have attained hitherto and contains a discussion pertaining to pros and cons of such a service. The other parts focus on the development of the web application proper. Stress is placed on database structure, security issues and the IT suitable for their implementation. Moreover, the article also introduces fundamental functions of the whole system.

Conclusion: The utility of the project is worthy of further research.

Symposium: Research in counselling psychology

M NAVRÁTIL, Czech Academy of Sciences, Brno & CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: There is growing attention within Ireland on research in counselling psychology.

Aims: To provide a forum for the dissemination and discussion of current empirical and theoretical work in the psychology of counselling by Irish psychologists.

Main contribution: Four individual papers are presented of which three are empirical. The first paper by Tracey, examines the loss experiences across the life-span and some of the factors that have influenced the journey among participants who were maternally bereaved as children. The second paper by Ferguson focuses on the descriptive account of clients' experiences of the impact of longer-term counselling on their lives. The third paper by Jenkins examines the problems, experiences and beliefs of therapistpatients based among professionals in psychological therapies in Northern Ireland. The final paper, by Byrne-Doran provides a theoretical account of the concept breadwinning with breastfeeding. The discussants, Navrátil and Lewis, will focus on key themes raised individually and collectively by the papers presented.

Conclusion: The symposium clearly illustrates the breadth of research in counselling psychology in Ireland.

Research in counselling psychology: symposium discussions and critical reflections

M NAVRÁTIL, Czech Academy of Sciences, Brno & CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background & Aims: To provide a review of the salient points of the four papers presented in the symposium, and provide critical reflection and facilitate specific discussions.

Main contribution and conclusion: The key points raised by the authors were identified and critically reflected on. Moreover, these points served as the basis for specific discussions. Of particular note were the recurring themes around the methodological procedures employed by the speakers. The challenges of doing empirical work in counselling psychology were reflected on.

Previous exposure to breastfeeding is associated with more positive attitudes in young people

B STEWART-KNOX, J GREENE & M WRIGHT, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background & Aims: Given that Northern Ireland has the lowest rate of breastfeeding in the world and that attitudes toward infant feeding are formed at an early age, the aim of this research has been to determine attitudes to breastfeeding and its promotion in adolescents.

Method: A questionnaire was constructed on the basis of themes arising out of previous qualitative research. Teenagers ($n = 419$), mean age 14 years, were surveyed in seven schools located throughout Northern Ireland.

Results: Attitudes to breastfeeding in public reflected preferred infant feeding method and were positively influenced by prior exposure to breastfeeding ($p = 0.024$). Females were more positive than males both in relation to breastfeeding in public ($p = 0.002$) and breastfeeding promotion ($p = 0.003$). Females were also more likely than males to agree that breastfeeding promotion should form part of the school core curriculum ($p = 0.001$) and that it should be undertaken by teachers ($p = 0.001$). Although those who had received previous breastfeeding education did not differ in terms of attitudes to breastfeeding in public, those who had received breastfeeding education were more likely to advocate promotion on television ($p = 0.042$) and in schools ($p = 0.027$).

Conclusions: Recommendations for breastfeeding promotion include specific targeting of young people, both male and female as well as enabling contact with nursing mothers as far as possible.

Factor analysis of UK psychology students' responses on the California Critical Thinking Dispositions Inventory

L O'HARE & C McGUINNESS, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: The California Critical Thinking Disposition Inventory is a US instrument used to assess dispositions towards critical thinking. The inventory consists of 75 self-rating items and seven sub-scales (e.g. open mindedness and inquisitiveness).

Aims: Factor analysis of inventory responses using a UK sample in order to remove low loading items and create new subscales. Also to check the reliability and validity of the revised inventory.

Method: The sample consisted of 191 first year undergraduate psychology students attending Queen's University, Belfast. An exploratory factor analysis was carried using SPSS.

Results: 57 items were found to load highly on seven newly derived factors. The overall alpha co-efficient for the revised inventory was 0.84 ($n = 191$). Initial attempts at estimating concurrent validity on the new set of items showed a significant correlation with previous scholastic achievement (A-Levels) ($r = .179$, $n = 148$, $p < 0.05$).

Conclusions: Future directions and implications are discussed.

Police decision making in investigations of rape: The role of beliefs and the process of attrition

S O'KEEFFE, J BROWN & E LYONS, University of Surrey

Background: The study of police-decision making is a virtually un-researched subject. This is particularly so with respect to the crime of rape.

Aims: This paper presents a naturalistic decision making model, that describes the social-cognitive processes of police investigations of rape. In particular, this paper is concerned with the relationship between the social psychological role of beliefs, subsequent investigative information processing and attrition.

Method: A total of 33 semi-structured, in-depth

interviews were conducted with members of the police. Retrospective verbal accounts were analysed to examine how police conceptualise their role as investigators, what they define as the key decisions that have to be made when investigating rape and how they go about reaching those decisions.

Results: Findings illustrate that shared beliefs play a key role in defining the investigative decision frame and in defining case-specific decision goals. In particular, the goal of deception detection plays a key role in framing the investigating officers' decision space. Story construction on the basis of victim statement and other evidentiary information is a critical iterative evaluative technique employed by investigators. Cognitive biases affect the way investigative decisions are made, future investigations framed and how attrition is experienced and interpreted by investigators.

Conclusions: This model has important theoretical implications for how we understand police decision making and has important applied value with respect to police training and the investigation of sexual crime.

Longitudinal assessment of a community-based alcohol treatment programme

GR PRENTICE, University of Ulster at Jordanstown, B BUNTING, University of Ulster at Magee College & C WEIR, NICAS Belfast

Background: In the past evaluators of programmes have, on a weak basis, declared their treatment to be highly effective.

Aims: The aim of this study was to investigate variables that operate outside-therapy in relation to longitudinal treatment outcomes in order to identify their contribution to effective treatment.

Method: Latent Growth Modelling was used. In relation to dependency, the outside-therapy variables addressed were age, gender, employment, relationship support, health, marital problems and alcohol intake. Clients ($n = 145$) completed questionnaires on entry, three, nine and 15 months later.

Results: The majority of clients steeply decreased from high dependency at time one to much lower dependency at three months and levelling off thereafter. Out of the outside-therapy factors addressed, clients' alcohol use had the strongest influence.

Conclusions: The significant decrease in dependency level suggests the persuasive effectiveness of the treatment. However, therapists should consider offering more 'intensive' treatment to those individuals with higher levels of use.

Psychosocial functioning among unaccompanied refugee minors in Ireland

A REA, North Western Health Board, Sligo

Background: This study sprang from an urgent need to evaluate appropriate services for the large number of unaccompanied refugee minors seeking asylum in Ireland, as it is a new phenomenon for Irish Health Services and there is little known about their needs.

Aims: Its aims were to measure psychological distress, establish whom minors rely on for social support and find what difficulties were experienced since their arrival.

Method: 28 minors were randomly selected and a number of measures were translated and administered including the YSR, Social Network Map and Post Migratory Living Problem checklist.

Results: 50 per cent indicated moderate to severe problem behaviour and the most common problems were somatic complaints and attention difficulties. Length of time in Ireland contributed to psychological distress and there was little integration into Irish society. The most significant difficulties were around practical issues, loneliness, boredom and racial discrimination.

Conclusion: Unaccompanied minors are a highly vulnerable group and current asylum policies may add to behaviour symptoms and psychological distress.

Clinical trainees career preferences: An application of the Theory of Planned Behaviour

A REA, North Western Health Board, Sligo
Background: Given the inequitable distribution of Clinical Psychologists within different specialities, this study employed the Theory of Planned Behaviour to investigate what factors were important for determining the area trainees intend to work upon qualifying.

Aims: The aim was to determine which factors were the most important determinants of intention and to establish which clinical areas were the most popular.

Method: A pilot study was first conducted to determine the underlying beliefs about each core clinical area and in order to construct behavioural belief statements in the main questionnaire. Ninety-five trainees from selected BPS accredited training courses completed the main questionnaire that measured career intentions, attitudes, subjective norms, confidence and perceived behavioural control, all major determinants of intention.

Results: Results were evaluated using multiple regressions and t-tests and revealed that trainees were more likely to pursue a career in either an Adult Mental Health or Child and Adolescent specialism and that Attitude and Confidence were important variables for determining trainees' career choices.

Conclusion: The Theory of Planned Behaviour was useful for predicting trainees' intentions and actual behaviour and for predicting future clinical training needs.

Competing approaches to understanding behaviour on the road: Risk and rutting

AH REINHARDT-RUTLAND, University of Ulster at Jordanstown

Background: Driving is not simply a perceptual-motor skill, a point exemplified by models concerning (a) risk, particularly Wilde's *risk homeostasis*, and more recently (b) human and non-human learning (Fuller).

Aims: To compare the models and determine which is more useful.

Main contribution: Risk-homeostasis suggests that interventions – e.g. reducing road curvature – entail behaviour – e.g. faster driving – to maintain risk. Unfortunately, the proposed mechanism is physiologically dubious, especially regarding its time constant. Learning dependent on appetitive stimuli (e.g. early arrival) and aversive stimuli (e.g. collision) avoids such considerations. Also, one seeming limitation – dependence on physical outcomes – is overcome in phenomena such as *visual looming*.

Conclusions: By easing its implicit restrictions, the learning model can provide more fruitful insights. Also, it avoids the dubious physiological concomitants of risk.

Challenges to psychosocial well-being: Lone parent refugees in Ireland

KM SMYTH & J WHYTE, Trinity College, Dublin

Background: Research indicates that refugees and asylum seekers commonly face a wide range of challenges to psychosocial well-being. Recent research has found that lone parents are a particularly vulnerable group in Ireland. Lone mothers among refugee and asylum seekers face additional challenges.

Aims: To identify factors contributing to the psychosocial well-being of the participants.

Method: Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 30 mothers from Africa and Eastern Europe who are bringing up their children in Ireland without a partner.

Results: Qualitative analysis identified a variety of factors contributing to acculturative and psychosocial stresses.

Conclusions: These factors were found to emanate from both the Irish setting and the ethnic and cultural background of the participants. The complexity of responding to these issues is discussed.

The effects of intergroup contact and friendship quality on political attitudes

M STRINGER, P IRWING, R WILSON, M GILES, C McCLENAHAN & J MALLETT, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background: This study examines the effects of integrated and segregated schooling on children's self-reported contact and friendship with other group members and how these variables relate to extreme political attitudes.

Aims: The study presents a model of the relationships between in school and out of school contact and friendship quality and extreme political attitudes.

Method: A cross-sectional design was employed with 1732 children being assessed at three age levels 11, 12 and 14 years in eight-matched integrated, maintained (Catholic) and controlled (Protestant) schools.

Results: Intergroup contact within and outside school was reported frequently in integrated schools but only occasionally in segregated schools.

Conclusions: Lisrel modelling revealed that intergroup contacts outside school were associated with less extreme political attitudes.

Identity, relative deprivation, and collectivism in Northern Ireland

P SURGENOR & E CAIRNS, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background: This study intends to analyse the conflict by looking primarily at the individual and the role of identity, perceived equality, group dynamics, and levels of collectivism within the communities.

Aims: The study will utilise three closely associated models – Relative Deprivation, Social Identity Theory, and Collectivism/Individualism – to investigate whether these separate theories can be combined to provide a greater insight into the roles, perspectives, and identities in Northern Ireland.

Method: Initially, the three models will be investigated independently. Data relating to Relative Deprivation and Collectivism/Individualism will be gathered via questionnaires administered to a random Northern Irish sample – scales will be grounded in existing measures, and data for Social Identity Theory will be gathered through an experimental design.

Results and conclusions: Results will be discussed in relation to the models both independently, and interdependently.

Early childhood loss

A TRACEY, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: It is recognised that early maternal loss impacts profoundly on the lives of females. There has been little focus to date on non-clinical populations. This study will attempt to address this gap in bereavement research.

Aims: The aim of the study is to examine, in depth, the loss experiences across the life-span, and the factors, personal, familial and cultural that influenced the journey.

Method: Semi-structured interviews will be conducted with 25 participants who were maternally bereaved at or before the age of 11. Analysis will be the Grounded Theory method (Glaser & Strauss, 1967).

Results: Retrospective grief experiences of daughters will be analysed, allowing the theory to emerge through the data.

Conclusions: This research will make a contribution to existing theories of early childhood loss. It will help to enlighten and inform therapeutic and medical services, families, communities and employers of the needs of this bereaved population.

Round table discussion: Issues in evaluation

L SPROULE, C McGUINNESS, CF BYRNE & K TREW, Queen's University, Belfast

Aim: The round table discussion entitled, 'issues

in evaluation' will be focused around the description of three projects.

Project 1: The first presentation, by Liz Sproule is entitled 'Fostering good relationships amongst parties involved in an education project'. Summary: The Early Years Enriched Curriculum Project implements an innovative P1 curriculum. Interested parties are Northern Ireland Council for Curriculum Assessment and Examinations (CCEA), education and library boards (ELBs), teachers and evaluators. The evaluation team have encountered problems; teachers who don't understand evaluations, objections to tests used, inappropriate release of information, difficulty accessing parents and difficulty in specifying the intervention. The evaluation team and CCEA set up a communications committee to represent all parties. It agrees the evaluation programme in advance and airs issues of concern. Evaluators have resolved many problems, e.g. dissemination of information about characteristics of good evaluations, reassurance to teachers, arrangement of cover for teachers' interviews and access to required documents and information. Evaluators have contributed towards the intervention by suggesting a private website where teachers could communicate within a supportive environment. A written communication strategy and a policy for disseminating reports are in the process of being agreed.

Project 2: The second presentation, by Karen Trew is entitled 'Discovering Queen's: A co-operative cumulative evaluation project'. Summary: The Discovering Queen's summer programme has been evaluated by a team from Queen's School of Psychology since the 1999 pilot project. The project has been divided into a number of distinct programmes and it has been possible for members of the team to evaluate a single programme. This co-operative approach has benefits for the evaluators and the clients.

Project 3: The third presentation, by Clare Fiona Byrne is entitled 'Research in the real world: Issues encountered in the design, delivery and evaluation of an experimental violence intervention programme'. Summary: The aim of this contribution to the round-table discussion will be to give my personal reflections on some of the lessons learned from my involvement in a fourteen-month project that aimed to 'design, deliver, monitor and evaluate a programme addressing issues of violence and masculinity in young men'. 'Real world research' is a hugely rewarding activity that can be exciting, fulfilling, and lead to a real involvement in local communities. However, there are costs associated with this kind of research too, in that it can be difficult to manage the interface between research and practice successfully, or to balance the different needs and priorities of researchers, practitioners, and the people and communities taking part in a project. A number of issues were encountered during the course of the 'young men and violence project'. These included: tensions between the priorities and methods of the academics and practitioners involved; maintaining programme integrity; and balancing the need for flexibility and responsiveness with the need to work within the constraints of a pre-determined project specification.

Religion as an opiate in Ireland north or south?

J WHYTE, Trinity College, Dublin

Background: This study was part of a project on developmental pathways.

Aims: The aims were: (i) to establish whether findings on religious variables would be different for West Belfast Catholics, East Belfast Protestants and participants from Dublin; and (ii) to determine whether they would be related to other aspects of their lives.

Method: 27-year-olds (n = 131) and 17-year-olds (n = 311) in Dublin and Belfast completed questionnaires and the Harter scale.

Results: Differences were found between the groups at both age levels; scores were lower at age 27. Religious variables had more significant correlations with other variables for 17-year-olds than for 27-year-olds.

Conclusions: Huge decline in value attached to religion and religious practice in 27 year olds; may be having far-reaching effects on other aspects of their lives.

Investigations into the relationship between mood and folic acid

EB WILLIAMS, B KNOX & C McCONVILLE, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background: Folic acid (FA) has been linked to mood regulation and may have antidepressant effects. The impact of FA supplementation upon the mood of a group of healthy individuals has not previously been investigated.

Aims: To evaluate the impact of FA supplementation upon mood.

Method: Males ($n = 26$) received increasing doses of a FA supplement (100/200mg) for a period of 18 weeks. They also completed the EPQ-R Personality Assessment, the Mood Survey and the PANAS scales. Blood samples were measured for serotonin. Data was analysed using SPSS.

Results: There was a significant negative correlation between the PANAS positive mood mean and serotonin variation (standard deviation) at two different stages of intervention where ($r = -0.445$, $p < 0.05$, one-tailed) at stage one and ($r = -0.511$, $p < 0.05$) at stage two, using Pearson's, one-tailed test.

Conclusions: Psychometric measures clearly exhibit a relationship with blood measures indicating validity. Continued research is necessary to further explore this relationship.

Using a chronometric measure to investigate spelling automaticity and reading comprehension

J WYLIE & G MULHERN, Queen's University, Belfast

Background: Previous research suggested a relationship between spelling automaticity and reading comprehension ability in adults.

Aims: This study examines the relationship between spelling automaticity and two reading variables, comprehension and rate, in 13-year-olds.

Method: A chronometric method for estimating spelling automaticity used 20 commonly misspelt words in 3 conditions (1 – word/common misspelling; 2 – word/letters of the word in a jumbled sequence; 3 – word/string of the opening letter of the word). Participants' spelling automaticity was calculated by subtracting the mean reaction time for Condition 3 from that of Condition 1.

Results: A significant negative correlation between spelling automaticity and reading comprehension scores was obtained. The correlation between reading rate and automaticity was not significant.

Conclusions: The chronometric measure of spelling automaticity is not a measure of speed *per se*; automaticity for spelling may underpin more demanding cognitive activities such as reading comprehension, rather than less demanding activities such as reading speed.

Division of Counselling Psychology

Division of Counselling Psychology Annual Conference, The Grand Hotel, Torquay, 17–19 May 2002.

Training to be a Counselling Psychologist

S BARTLETT, A REAY, J WILKINSON & R WOOLFE, Manchester Mental Health Partnership

This workshop is designed for those who want to train to be a counselling psychologist, and for those who have already embarked on a training programme. It will provide a brief overview of the two principle routes to qualification and will suggest how best to prepare for these. It will also offer some guidance how to manage the training process.

There will be presentations from the Registrar of Diploma in Counselling Psychology and from a member of the Examination Board. There will also be an opportunity to hear from two recently qualified counselling psychologists, one who followed an accredited course, the other through the Independent Route.

'With 'mental' you think mental': Perceptions of mental health and of mental health professionals

S BARTLETT, Manchester Mental Health Partnership

This paper considers the findings of a small-scale study which used a qualitative feminist framework to explore the meanings underpinning 'lay' and professional constructs of mental health. The study used a multi-methodological design in which a brief questionnaire was used to elicit broad topics which were developed in the subsequent semi-structured, in-depth interviews, as well as in a focus group discussion.

A thematic analysis of the interviews indicated the extent to which participants perceived mental health in terms of illness and an absence of pathology. It also explored the meanings given to distress and well-being and highlighted the fears of exclusion and the assumption of shame. Participants' conflicting views of mental health professionals and their ambivalence in seeking help suggest implications for workers in mental health.

In placing distress in a social and political context, I consider a conjunction of distress and deprivation, and how class and gender intersect.

Counselling Psychology in the NHS

A BELLAMY, Pembrokeshire and Derwen NHS Trust

This workshop/discussion will be an opportunity for Counselling Psychologists working in the NHS, or considering doing so, to discuss their experiences and share information and views on issues such as the place and role of Counselling Psychologists in the NHS and in Departments of Psychology, working alongside Clinical Psychologists and other health professionals, pay scales and conditions of employment and career prospects. What can we offer, and what should we expect? We will begin by listing the issues that participants consider important, and then take them one by one to open up a discussion. It is hoped that Counselling Psychologists at all levels in the NHS, as well as representatives of the Division and the trade union, will contribute to the discussion.

Investigating paradigms of helping and healing in mental health: Confused clients and potluck psychotherapy professionals?

P CAHILL, J WAITE & K GLEESON, University of the West of England

Objectives: Three approaches to mental health are studied:

- Medical – psychiatrists and general practitioners;

- Psychotherapeutic – psychotherapists and counsellors;
- Psychological – clinical and counselling psychologists.

The debate within the psychology profession is seen in discourses between clinical and counselling psychology and in conflicts within counselling psychology.

Aims:

1. Explore/clarify discourses and paradigms used in defining and debating differences within and between the three approaches, and examine the effect of these paradigms on multidisciplinary mental health working.
2. Analyse the conflicting discourses and paradigms within counselling psychology.

Design: Literature review; development of core questions; pilot and main interviews; analysis of transcripts to reveal discourses and underlying paradigms.

Method:

Interviews

Participants selected for experience, diversity of approach: psychiatrists, GPs, clinical and counselling psychologists, psychotherapists, counsellors.

Twelve in-depth semi-structured interviews exploring four aspects: change, therapist's self, profession, society. Twelve so far (four pilot), six remaining.

Analysis

Interviews transcribed and analysed using critical discourse analysis:

1. discourses identified;
2. how individuals use them;
3. picture of each professional group;
4. individual's relationship with own story and larger picture.

Two themes explored:

- (1) knowing; (2) power/authority.

Results:

- Knowing
 1. Body of knowledge exists: how we use, hide behind it, e.g. medical model, psychoanalysis.
 2. How much does an individual assimilate of the knowledge? Expert? Fraud? Fundamentalist?
 3. Can we really know?

- Power/Authority

1. Images of self: who individuals are, how they see themselves.
2. Influencing others: professionals, clients.
3. Self-awareness.

- Relationship between knowledge and power/authority.

Conclusions:

Next stages of research:

- Six more interviews; extensive data analysis.
- Application to the different professions – focus group to address concerns and effective multidisciplinary working.
- Application to counselling psychology – an emerging profession.

Doing it on the phone!

L CHARLES & J HOPKINS, PPP Employee Support, Redhill, Surrey

Purpose: To offer an overview of an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) and to consider the role of Counselling Psychology within this rapidly expanding field.

Background: In the EAP context, much counselling work takes place over the telephone. Indeed more generally, it seems that the use of the telephone as a vehicle for counselling is increasing. This paper considers the inherent changes facing counselling psychologists and allied professionals in shifting their practice from a face-to-face to a more remote encounter.

Key Points: Drawing on the experiences of counselling psychologists employed in-house by a large EAP provider, the role of the counselling psychologist, the aims of an EAP, client accessibility to the service and the interface between the corporate and counselling worlds are discussed. There is an emphasis upon:

1. The characteristics and skills of telephone counselling.
2. Counselling Psychologists' experiences within an EAP.

3. Clients' experiences of an EAP.

Conclusions: Current and ongoing developments within an EAP are discussed. There is a particular focus on psychological assessments and contracted counselling over the telephone including issues such as risk assessment.

'Giving psychology away': Empowerment through endings

S CHURCHILL, University of Southampton New College

Purpose: This paper aims to help counselling psychologists empower their clients by creating endings which give both practitioner and client a sense of acknowledgement and completion.

Background: The major theoretical approaches to psychotherapy each have their own different emphasis on what constitutes a 'good' ending. Defining 'good practice' for counselling psychologists, who are, by definition, competent in at least two theoretical approaches, requires a transtheoretical approach. The values of autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, justice and fidelity can be applied to endings, as can underpinning knowledge, research and values from within the field of psychology as a whole.

Key Points: Miller's concept of 'giving psychology away' is applied to counselling endings, and explored through its resonances with the five core ethical values. Clarkson's model of five therapeutic relationships is then used to explore how endings may be experienced by client and counsellor. The Gestalt cycle is offered as one example of a theoretical model that honours endings, and insights on 'letting go' derived from research on bereavement and trauma are articulated. Guidelines for making the ending of counselling an empowering experience for client and counselling psychologist are then derived from these theoretical principles.

Conclusions: The major conclusions drawn from this paper are practical, in that principles for good practice in ending counselling relationships are offered, including referring on. It is suggested that a 'good' ending leaves both client and counsellor with an experience of acknowledgement, closure and empowerment.

The origins of the understanding of others: I-Thou relationships in young infants and adults

R DRAGHI-LORENZ, University of Surrey

With few exceptions academic theories humans' understanding of others assume that the other's mind is inaccessible to direct human perception (the so-called 'problem of the other's mind'). On the contrary, if not in theory most often in practice, the psychotherapeutic endeavour is based on a different assumption, namely that to some extent others' mind *can* be perceived (though not infallibly). Possibly, this is why I-It relationships (or 'objective' research methods) have been largely favoured within the academic tradition, whereas I-Thou (or intersubjective) relationships have been favoured within the therapeutic tradition.

One aim of counselling psychology is to move beyond some unfruitful oppositions resulting from this difference of method. This paper presents the audience with data and experiential work supporting the idea that I-Thou relationships need some serious epistemological re-evaluation as an appropriate method of data collection and knowledge development and testing. Data consist of videos of early interactions between infants and adults suggesting that both implicit (procedural) and explicit (propositional) forms of knowledge of others stem from direct contact between selves/minds (intersubjectivity) - rather than the contrary. The experiential work consists of an exercise to enhance awareness of whether one is taking and I-It or I-Thou stance towards the events portrayed in the videos, and the different consequences this has on one's understanding of these events.

The paper concludes by presenting various

problems for discussion, including that of the relation between various forms of knowledge, and how to best avoid mistaking self-projection for perception of others.

Varieties of depression: Differential dynamics and treatments

M DUFFY, Texas A & M University

Purpose: The purpose of this paper is to critique and challenge current views of depression and its treatment.

Background: In the recently dominant climate of empirically supported treatments and related manualised treatments, depression has, been typically viewed as a monolithic phenomenon. Since depression symptomatically looked the same it was viewed and treated as the same. It was, therefore, possible to design treatments which are essentially similar and can be manualised. Many experienced therapists, however, have encountered situations where depressed clients have been resistant to traditional psychological treatments, where medications seem not to be effective, where usually helpful prescriptions for lifestyle change go ignored. Experiences such as these suggest a second look at what seemed like a straightforward diagnosis of depression. A more complex picture emerges. While depression often LOOKS the same at the behavioural level, at the psychological, internal, level it has a variety of dynamic meanings. This variety, in turn, is suggestive of series of more specific treatment strategies. This paper reviews a series of distinct dynamic patterns/problems which lead to depressive symptomatology. These include complicated bereavement, depressive personality, abandonment depression, sociopathic dejection, anxious 'entrapment' and existential depression. Targeted treatment strategies related to specific dynamic patterns are presented.

Conclusion: This material has relevance to psychotherapists who work with depressed clients. It is suggested that this approach is consonant with the developmental tradition of counselling psychology.

A web-based study of psychotherapy style: Personality, developmental and professional influences

M DUFFY, R ZELINER, C LONG, B DAVIS, R JACOBS, AM KIMBELL & D VANDENBOSCH, Texas A&M University

Objective: The purpose of this research was to explore various influences in the development of a psychotherapy style or 'theroretical orientation'. Research in common factors underlying the effectiveness of psychotherapy is suggestive that an individuals temperament of personality style may be a guide to choice of therapy approach, as it is clearly implicated in overall career choice. Also, this study investigated the role of developmental experience and professional experience, such as influential supervisory experiences, on development of psychotherapy style.

Design: To capture a specific portrait of the variables mentioned above, the research team used an intensive, ethnographic approach. This approach is ideographic rather than the traditional (generalising) nomothetic approach. We were interested in with-subject portraits, rather than across-subject generalisations. We used an interactive web method to interview participants.

Method: We selected 15 experienced psychotherapists who are Diplomats of the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP). After the usual informed consent procedure-modified for internet use, the research team sent a set of standard questions related to the above variables to the six Diplomats who agreed to the intensive study. The second phase of the web interaction was for the team to review the first set of participant responses and generate individualised follow-up questions to each participant. The third phase allows them to communicate with each other on salient issues at a common web address.

Results: Results indicate individual and

contrasting trajectories and developmental experiences leading to their career and to a particular theoretical approach. The influence of professional mentors and clinical supervisors was common but not important in every case. Temperament and personality style in most cases seemed consistent with career and psychotherapy style direction.

Conclusion: This research suggests a tentative map for trainers as they work with trainee psychotherapists. It seems likely that finding a psychotherapy style is not serendipitous, but rather is predictable within the idiosyncratic patterns of trainees. Future research is designed to look at the prevalence of common patterns across trainees.

Ethical and practical considerations for the Counselling Psychologist working with clients detained in hospital for treatment under the Mental Health Act (1983)

P FORD, Kneesworth House Hospital, Royston, Herts

Counselling psychologists practice in a greater variety of contexts than ever before. This paper explores some of the ethical and practical issues that arise for those working with psychiatric patients who are detained in hospital. When working with this group of clients, psychological counselling falls within the rules for medical treatments as set out in the Mental Health Act (1983). This results in the need to establish, not only the prospective client's consent to undertake counselling, but also their capacity to consent to counselling. The counselling psychologist will be part of a multidisciplinary team and the broader system of mental health law. This constrains the autonomy of the counselling psychologist's practice; one consequence is a qualitative change in the confidentiality afforded between counsellor, client and the wider system. The psychologist's dual roles of therapist and risk assessor are considered, with particular reference to material disclosed during counselling. People detained for treatment in a psychiatric hospital tend to be socially isolated with defensive interpersonal styles. The emphasis placed on the therapeutic relationship by counselling psychologists makes them well suited to successfully engage such people in psychological treatment. During counselling, the counsellor will be faced with some aspect of the client's behaviour that is very disagreeable. Progress can only be made if the counsellor gives careful attention to their responses to such material. Supervision and sensitivity to the process of counselling is held to be essential when working in these settings.

Practical ways of using systemic and social constructionist ideas in Counselling Psychology

V GEORGOPOULOU, London

Systemic and social constructionist ideas have found application in a wide range of settings (i.e. therapeutic, organisational, academic). The aim of the workshop is to provide a forum to discuss ways systemic ideas can contribute to the practice of Counselling Psychologists. The workshop is open to anyone who is interested in the topic (practitioners, trainees, organisational consultants, academics). The facilitator will bring examples from practice to illustrate ways systemic ideas can be used in different aspects of our work. Some of the areas covered are: receiving referrals, working with larger systems, the context of our practice, different ways of writing and using client notes, incorporating social issues into our practice, working with individuals, asking for feedback from clients. Participants will be encouraged to share their own examples and areas of interest.

The main methods to be used are: short presentation from the facilitator, work in small groups, case studies, general discussion. New ideas will be formed on the different perspectives and experiences of participants. The final purpose is not to arrive at conclusions that hold true for everyone but to a pool of ideas from which true participants can choose those that are

helpful to their working context.

'It's something I'm aware of but I'm concerned about': The therapeutic implications of men's talk about body-weight

E GILLON, Glasgow Caledonian University

Objectives: The paper will identify and discuss the therapeutic implications of a discursive strategy employed by men that functions to downplay, but not deny, concern about body-weight.

Design: The paper is based on a completed doctoral research study which examined men's talk about food. A discourse analytic perspective was employed to examine, in-depth, the ways in which language may be used by men to construct 'food' and its relationship to self.

Method: Eight men from a diverse range of ages, occupations and social contexts were interviewed four times over the period of a year. The interviews focused on a broad range of themes relating to food. Detailed discursive analysis, employing a modified version of the Discursive Action Model (DAM), was undertaken on the transcribed data.

Results: The paper will identify a discursive strategy employed by men which functioned to downplay, but not deny, body-weight as a basis for concern. It will be suggested that this strategy emerges from the 'dilemma' presented by two contradictory cultural 'discourses' formulating, firstly, male awareness of body-weight as a positive feature of 'self', and secondly male concern regarding body-weight (and its implications) as a negative feature of 'self'. The existence of 'discourses' such as these, and their emergent contradictions, have many implications for therapeutic practice. The paper will examine these implications and propose that concerns relating to weight and body are likely to be relevant to men (a recognition that runs contrary to many traditional assumptions) but that these may be presented in a manner downplays their significance or basis.

Conclusions: The paper will conclude by considering how the 'downplaying but not denying' discursive strategy may impact upon the counselling process, particularly at the assessment stage, and argue that practitioners must be alert to the possibility of this strategy working to affirm traditional conceptions of the relationship (or lack of it) between men and body-weight.

Traumatic incident reduction for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: A single case

S GRBIC, London

Objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate the effects of a relatively new therapy - Traumatic Incident Reduction (TIR; a regressive desensitisation procedure), as a treatment technique for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Diagnosis of PTSD was made by the use of a clinical interview using DSM-IV criteria and confirmed by elevated scales on the Post-Traumatic Diagnostic Scale (PDS), the NEG Personality Inventory-Revised and the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI-2; looking at the PK and PS supplementary scales). The hypothesis was that the PTSD scores on the various scales used would show significant reductions following TIR and that the client would no longer qualify for a diagnosis of PTSD. This improvement would remain at one-year follow-up.

Design: This research was conducted on a single case, where the effect of TIR was examined using psychological instruments.

Method: The participant was a white female presenting with PTSD symptoms. Treatment was conducted bi-weekly in two to three hour sessions for a period of four weeks, totalling 16 hours of treatment. The client was given the PDS, the NEO PI-R and the MMPI-2 before and after treatment.

Results: The hypotheses were supported. As predicted, significant reductions were obtained on all measurements and the client no longer qualified for a diagnosis of PTSD. At one-year follow-up, these improvements were maintained.

Conclusions: This study lends support to the consensus of studies demonstrating effectiveness for exposure-based therapies in the treatment of PTSD.

The corporal effects and expression of trauma: The challenge to Counselling Psychologists

S HIGGINS, Ireland

Aims & Rationale: A review of the literature was undertaken in order to establish whether clients in clinical settings tended to report histories of trauma to Counselling Psychologists, and whether the literature had established an under-reporting of trauma histories. The underlying assumption is of a relationship between trauma and psychological disorders (such as substance abuse, borderline personality disorder etc) and particularly the corporal expression of psychological difficulties, in the form of eating disorders and physical self harm, and a history of trauma.

Method: Key words pertaining to trauma, eating disorders and self-harm were searched using databases and extant literature.

Presentation: A history of psychotraumatology is outlined, and the current diagnostic nomenclature is demonstrated as insufficient to capture the holistic nature of the effects of, and expression of, trauma. An overarching two-factor model, which takes cognisance of neurological and psychological factors, provides the framework within which the effects of trauma on the body and the psyche, and the expression of trauma corporally, emotionally and cognitively are treated. Interesting evidence on the effects of psychotherapy on levels of neurotransmitters and possibly neural networks is presented, in addition to effect of psychotherapeutic intervention on the phenotypic expression of genotypes. The review is thematic and theoretically oriented in an attempt to create a meaningful overview of the various aspects of PTSD whilst simultaneously adding a degree of order and organisation to the complexity of the area. Issues for counselling psychologists working in the area of trauma are outlined, within a neuro-cognitive framework, in relation to treatment formulations, assessment and other salient issues such as vicarious traumatisation.

Findings: Evidence is presented for a strong relationship between eating disorders and other types of physical self-harm following traumatic experiences. Findings suggest a neurobiological and psychological explanation for this relationship.

Conclusion: Therapeutic approaches and models are evaluated in light of the findings. Issues which are salient for Counselling Psychologists working in the area of trauma are discussed, and recommendations for future research are suggested. The review concludes with the potential benefits which may be conferred on those unfortunate enough to have suffered trauma, but which has been successfully diagnosed and appropriately treated.

Muslim identity in transition: Implications for counselling

Q INAYAT, University of Greenwich

The bombing of the twin towers on 11 September 2001 invoked public outcry. Muslims in Britain are facing their own twin disaster. The destruction of their current understanding of what it means to be a Muslim and the need to grieve as human beings for the tragic loss of human life, for which they are by implication responsible. Parkes (1975) theory of psychosocial transitions is extended to include the mechanism through which Muslims are beginning to rebuild their religious and spiritual identity. The first twenty-one consecutive clients requesting therapy for dealing specifically with the events of Sept 11 form the sample for this ongoing study. Twenty-one British Muslims (11 female, 10 male) were interviewed for 40-45 minutes in their own homes. Discourse analysis is a particularly powerful qualitative tool for examining the construction of a person's reality. Because these participants were, in fact, in the process of constructing the meaning of a particular life event, discourse analysis became particularly

salient as the method of choice. Five basic themes emerge consistently, moderate view of Islam, loss, confusion, five pillars of Islam, and god consciousness. Implications for counsellors working with British Muslims are considered. To work effectively counsellors need to recognise the diversity of Muslim views and what this diversity means in terms of working with Muslim clients. Also, religion may or may not be important to a particular Muslim client. Thus counsellors need to be aware of religiosity and religious identity (Banawi and Stockton. 1993).

Counselling psychology in the NHS: Adult mental health. What are the issues?

P JAMES, Liverpool John Moores University

This paper reviews some of the salient issues that are current in departments of psychological therapies where counsellors, clinical and counselling psychologists are employed. The following issues are raised: rationale for theoretical and philosophical base, the impact of evidence-based practice, supervision, status and progression. Running alongside are further factors: number of sessions, assessment, the role of psychometric tests, attitudes towards the use of medication and the medical model. Do counselling psychologists hold and contain some of the tensions produced at professional boundaries? What role do they play in challenging medicalisation whilst continuing to work in a medical setting? Are the answers to these questions dependent on the practitioners understanding of the structure and dynamic of the personality, and how we as human beings cope (or not cope) when confronted with the perceived stressors of everyday life? The paper aims to put forward some answers and invite others to see where they stand.

Who cares for the mental health of the mental health carer?

Occupational stress and the mental health professional

R JORDAN, University of Surrey

This paper will review the literature on occupational stress in mental health helping professions. In 1998, Williams and Michie reported inordinately high levels of stress and stress-induced illness in the NHS helping professions. The irony of the fact that those specialising in 'mental health' care are particularly at risk of mental health problems should not be lost on us. Here, the possibility that NHS organisations are to some extent culturally disposed to induce stress is considered. Specifically, three areas of 'stress' will be explored in connection with the mental health professional: externally precipitated stress from clients and from organisational sources, and internal sources of stress for the individual practitioner. It is argued that recent work on the so-called 'psychological contract', and in particular the notions of 'obligation' and 'mutual exchange' afford a theoretical means of understanding and investigating the rising levels of stress being witnessed in the NHS workforce. This framework has the potential to integrate sources of stress arising from the individual, the organisation and the client/patient. The paper culminates in a research agenda including some novel methodological suggestions for investigating the multi-dimensional complexity of the stress concept among mental health professionals.

Professional impairment in psychological therapists:

A UK survey

R KENT, Prevention of Professional Abuse Network, London & R LEIPER, INVICTA NHS Trust

An anonymous survey of 400 therapists (counsellors, psychotherapists, counselling psychologists and clinical psychologists) was conducted to explore types and incidence of personal distress or dysfunction and its reported

effects on clients/patients. There was a usable return rate of 29 per cent (n = 118). Of these, 75 per cent acknowledged an experience of working below their normal level of competence and 45.7 per cent reported being aware of such impairment in a colleague. Precipitants of impairment were as likely to be personal (e.g. relationship problems) as work-based (e.g. organizational stress); anxiety (24.7 per cent), depression (20.2 per cent) and crises in personal relationships (19.1 per cent) were the most common symptoms affecting work, and tended to result in tiredness and forgetfulness (60.7 per cent) and difficulty concentrating (58.4 per cent). Participants also reported vulnerability and loss of confidence, some inappropriate therapy behaviour and disruption to the therapeutic alliance. Colleagues appeared to experience similar symptoms of distress and impairment to self-reporting therapists, but effects on work were seen to have a somewhat different pattern. Responses to impairment included seeking increased supervision or consultancy (36 per cent) or stopping/reducing client work (42.7 per cent). Various other remedial actions were identified. Participants also gave reasons for not acting at the time in the way that they with hindsight thought they should have, and for why they may not have discussed a colleague's impairment with either him/her or a responsible other person. Some of the implications of these findings about impairment were discussed in relation to therapists themselves and the therapeutic professions generally.

Growth Therapy: An alternative psychotherapeutic method for working with Typell PTSD

A MAILLARD & N WILLIAMS, Gulson Hospital, Coventry

Purpose: The aim of this paper is to present an innovative approach to psychotherapy when working with individuals diagnosed with Type II PTSD and MDD.

Background: Historically, survivors of extreme torture are notoriously difficult to engage in traditional psychotherapy. This is further compounded when the client originates from another country as cultural differences in expectations of responses to trauma and culture-specific gender-role socialisation, can and does impact on the successful outcome of any proposed intervention. This paper aims to explore and evaluate the importance of alternative, meaningful psychotherapeutic interventions and illustrates how a busy NHS department can offer an innovative therapy that is effective, productive and engaging.

Key Points: This discussion will present Growth Therapy as a bridging method for successfully engaging clients who have suffered extreme experiences and who have been diagnosed with Type II PTSD and MDD. When working with people from other cultures, Growth Therapy is an acceptable intervention due to the inherent productivity of the work.

Conclusions: Growth Therapy, as any land-based horticultural method, uses the earth and the seasons as a medium for the therapy to take place and thereby creates the conditions for free dialogue to occur. The cyclical nature of the seasons allows for the use of metaphor to describe what most survivors of torture cannot verbalise within normal discourse. This type of therapy manages to encapsulate the innovative without losing sight of the conventional while also maintaining a deep respect for other cultures.

Lessons learnt in developing group therapy for Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

A MAILLARD, Coventry NHS Trust & H SEQUEIRA, St George's Hospital Medical School, London

Purpose: This paper offers an insight into the development of short-term group therapy for Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) within a busy N.H.S. department. The objective is to disseminate the lessons learnt and to encourage further research based practice in this area.

Background: From a practical point the paper

follows the development of group therapy, from an initial eight-week pilot study to conclusion in a 16-week programme. The programme is conducted within a structured cognitive behavioural and behavioural framework and also includes psycho-educational sessions for both clients and their families.

Key Points: The content of the sessions is discussed, in addition to the group selection criteria and the use of standardised tools for assessing therapeutic outcome. Furthermore, the strengths and limitations of group therapy are examined as well as the day to day difficulties in offering group therapy to this challenging client group. The latest outcome research, indicating effectiveness of the group programme in reducing symptoms and maintaining progress are discussed.

Conclusion: Outcome research supports the implementation of OCD group therapy, indicating that it can be an effective long term treatment for OCD, as well as being financially viable for the department. Therapeutic factors associated with group treatment such as 'universality' (not being alone) and interpersonal learning are reported by clients as very important elements provided by the group programme. The aim is to encourage further research based practice by counselling psychologists in this area.

Putting people in their place: Evolutionary psychology and the Counselling Psychologist

F GILLIES & M MILTON, University of Surrey

Purpose: This paper offers, insight into the usefulness of the evolutionary psychology literature for counselling psychologists.

Background: Evolutionary psychology has received increased attention in recent years – both as a broader academic discipline and more recently with regard to its implications for other fields of psychology. Indeed, a recent issue of *The Psychologist* was dedicated to this very topic.

Methods/Key points: This paper presents the findings of a literature review undertaken to see how the evolutionary psychology literature can be usefully considered for counselling psychologists at both a conceptual and practice level. Difficulties with this perspective are considered as well as the creative possibilities it offers.

Conclusions: The paper suggests a particular role for evolutionary psychology in the efforts of counselling psychologists to work in an integrative manner - integrating a broader understanding of human development over time, the evolutionary functions of some types of psychological difficulties and the implications for methods of intervention.

Evidence-Based Practice: The nature and meanings of 'evidence'

M MILTON, University of Surrey/North East London Mental Health Trust

Purpose: This paper aims to assist counselling psychologists in understanding some of the dynamics at play in the current debates about evidence-based practice

Background: Evidence-based practice is a central concept of the organisation of psychological therapies in the UK and US. Its current discourse considers a range of advantages and disadvantages including better 'treatment' for clients, the ethical advances in greater accountability, or the machinations of a political and financial rationing. Evidence-based practice is a minefield with misunderstandings as to what the evidence actually is, let alone the problems in agreeing what constitutes evidence in the first place.

Methods/Key Points: This paper reflects on the nature of the evidence based practice debate, explores the nature of evidence and the possible factors involved in our relationship to this debate. Suggestions are made as to the meaning and function of the stance that counselling psychologists take in relation to this debate whether it be a passionate embracing of the notion or a vehement resistance.

Conclusion: As evidence-based practice is a central part of the organisation of psychological

services at this point in time counselling psychologists have to engage with it in some form or another. This paper argues that it is important to do this in a thoughtful and informed manner, alert to the personal and professional dynamics involved.

Being-in-the-Wild: Living with nature

M MILTON, University of Surrey

Purpose: This paper aims to highlight some existential themes that can impact upon us all. It focuses on one particular setting and the implications it has for social, biological and psychological aspects of existence.

Background: Many different populations are represented in the counselling psychology literature – sometimes organised around presenting problems (depression, etc) or organised around population groups (e.g. cross cultural therapy, etc). The readership is often invited to think of the difficulties manifest in western urban populations and ways in which to address such difficulties. There are advantages to this, but one limitation is that the counselling psychologist is asked to see the familiar rather than attend to the myriad of, often unusual, ways in which a phenomenon can be manifest.

Methods/Key Points: This paper reviews the natural history literature – an unusual literature for counselling psychology. In doing so, the focus is not, the usual descriptions of the wildlife, but the experiences of those that dedicate their life to understanding our environment and our neighbours of other species – an unfamiliar population for many counselling psychologists. The focus is on how these texts illustrate the ways in which people negotiate survival and meaning in difficult and hostile environments.

Conclusions: While we are not likely to see many naturalists descending on our urban consulting rooms, this paper outlines the fundamental issues that affect us all, but which are illuminated when manifest in this environment.

A phenomenological investigation of the experience of being bulimic

L MORIETTE, London

This phenomenological research centres on six, hour-long structured interviews with individuals who have defined themselves as being bulimic. The analysis of the research suggests that bulimia is best understood as a means of communication about self and ones relationship with the world. As such, bulimia cannot be examined or explained separately from the person 'having it', 'being' it or 'speaking it'. Further, the research suggests that a more open, less certain attitude on the part of the counselling psychologist may be both uniquely helpful and, perhaps, necessary in order to understand both the behaviour and the intended communication underlying a bulimic stance or attitude. What emerges most clearly from this initial phenomenological research is the divided stance that characterises bulimic persons. Their felt experience of the various symptoms associated with 'being bulimic' emerges as being deeply ambivalent. Symptoms are both comforting and disgusting, the impact upon their bodies is both violent and appreciated. Further, while the 'messages' or statements that the symptoms attempt to convey to both the bulimic individual and to 'significant others' in that individual's life are of a desired attractiveness, these same 'messages' reveal beings who are deeply frightened of any real openness and acceptance toward self and others. Finally, the research uncovers a wide range of significant themes with regard to how bulimia comes about, changes through time, and what it provides for the person. These findings reveal important limitations within predominant interventive approaches to bulimia and may explain their low rate of success.

The challenge of integrative training and what students say about it

S MUNT, University of Surrey Roehampton

Objectives: By requiring competence in two practice models and knowledge of three, the BPS implicitly defines counselling psychologists as

integrative practitioners. But integration in the psychological therapies is by no means a fully developed discipline and there are many possible integrative models. The aim of this paper is to report some of the experiences of students in getting to grips with the integrative task.

Design & Method: Members of the School of Psychology and Counselling at the University of Surrey Roehampton deliver a course in integrative Theory and Practice at masters level, which attempts to address some of the difficulties inherent in trying to achieve a suitable integration for counselling psychologists. As part of the learning, students are asked specific questions about their experiences of engagement with the development of integrative practice. They are further asked to process their answers so that what emerges is an authentic account rather than one designed with assessment in mind.

Results & Conclusions: The collected results cast light on the process of integration and are relevant to counselling psychologists at all stages of their professional development. There are implications for the design of both initial training and CPD programmes for counselling psychologists.

Insight and responsibility

J NOERO, City University, London

Objectives: Insight is a term that is widely used by a variety of mental health professionals, but there is little consensus on its definition. This may have implications for clients in terms of the service they receive, so it is argued that the concept is in need of clarification. This study attempted to provide an empirical investigation on the differing uses of the concept of insight in mental health settings, focusing on the potential effect of context on insight.

Design: Discourse analysis was used as it deals with the constructed nature of talk, its variability, the relationship of variability to context, and what purpose might be served by particular versions of insight.

Method: Nine professionals working in the mental health field as psychologists, psychotherapists, psychiatrists and nurses were interviewed for approximately half an hour each. Interviews were semi-structured, and the recordings were then analysed.

Results: There was evidence that participants conceived of insight in terms of the context they worked in, and conceptualisations incorporated issues of responsibility. Two particular contexts were identified: 'duty of care' and 'change and responsibility'. Duty of care led to clinicians ascribing responsibility to clients for change and clients' insight being of less importance. Change and responsibility led to clinicians ascribing responsibility to clients for change, with insight on the part of clients being more significant.

Conclusions: The question of responsibility appears to have an influence on the way in which professionals work with clients and patients and this has a variety of implications that will be discussed.

A reflective practitioner from practice to theory

M O'BRIEN, Oxford

Purpose: Demonstrates and explores what therapists with a different theoretical orientation do in the interaction with a client and how they understand what they do.

Background/Key Points: Therapists bring into a therapeutic encounter something of their own world view usually derived from their training. Theory has a powerful influence on what we perceive and how we intervene as therapists. It is vital that the therapist is aware of her/his theoretical assumptions. In other words they need to be familiar with their own lenses for looking at the world. Schon has coined the terms 'espoused' theory i.e. what therapists say they do and which is usually linked with how they have been brought up during their training. This may not be consistent with what the therapists actually do i.e. their 'theory in use'.

Method: The RTD focuses on how experienced therapists (the participants) working from different theoretical models engage with actual session material to be followed by reflection and debate on what they did and why. The audience is

invited to parallel this process and to reflect further on the links observed between the espoused theory and practice and to discover new theoretical possibilities derived from observed therapists' actions.

Conclusions: The approach here adopted is seen as a model that could be used in training for developing the skills of a 'reflective practitioner'. It is seen also as a means to finding some answers to theoretical questions about what is involved in the process of change during therapy.

Coronary heart disease: A possible consequence of poor emotional processing

D PURVES, M GRIFFITHS, Guildhall University & P ERWIN, Edge Hill College

Objectives: This study investigated the relationship between measures of alexithymia, operationalised as an inability to identify and describe feelings and Coronary heart disease (CHD) in clinical and control samples. It was considered that patients scoring highly on a measure of alexithymia would also score highly on a scale of anxiety and that both of these scores would differ significantly from the control group. In addition CHD patients would manifest difficulty in recognising the origins of their feelings of anxiety.

Design: This research used an NHS patient cohort from a single general practice surgery. Two groups, one with a pre-existing diagnosis of CHD and one without were matched on a number of variables.

Method: Each patient in both samples, CHD sample (n = 82) and the control sample (n = 74) were administered the following instruments: Toronto Alexithymia Scale, Courtauld Emotion Control Scale, Marlowe Crowne Social Desirability Scale and Manifest Anxiety Scale.

Results: MANOVA revealed that CHD patients were significantly worse at identifying and describing feelings than were the control patients. They also exhibited significantly higher levels of anxiety compared to the control group.

These differences in our study were neither due to repression, (faking good) nor to attempts to control emotions.

Conclusions: This study provides the first research evidence of the link between CHD and an inability to recognise and describe feelings. Patients scoring high on measures of alexithymia may use maladaptive attempts to cope with stress leading to high levels of arousal over prolonged periods, ultimately resulting in CHD. As such this research has implications for the future treatment of CHD patients in General practice settings.

Frontier Territory: The Crisis Intervention Service at Holloway

A REAY, London

Purpose: I would like to present an overview of the Crisis Intervention Service at Holloway Women's Prison. The service is a subsidiary of the Forensic Psychology Department, but is run and staffed by two Chartered and four volunteer Trainee Counselling Psychologists. It is the first Crisis Intervention Service to be offered in a prison. The service is available to all women whom a Prison staff member has judged to be at risk of self-harm or suicide and who are therefore placed on an 'at risk' register. The Chartered counselling psychologists assess each woman on the 'at risk' list the day after they are placed on it and offer her either individual short-term counselling or refer them to the psychology department's group work programme, or to other agencies. Holloway is a remand prison, so there tends to be a rapid turnover of inmates. At the moment there are 468 women in Holloway, with 40-55 of them on the 'at risk' list at any one time. Therefore, it is important that the women receive counselling as quickly as possible. Most women receive their first counselling session within 10 days of being referred. Clients are offered three to four sessions, with the possibility of continuing counselling or referring on to other services if the client is still in crisis. The counselling psychologists use a range of theoretical approaches, most commonly solution-focused, or cognitive behavioural.

Conclusion: Counselling psychologists have skills that are highly relevant to working with challenging and suicidal clients in secure settings. Counselling psychology's emphasis on the importance of the therapeutic relationship, generating solutions and emphasising the client's strengths are crucial qualities when working with this client group. Moreover, the value given therapist's reflexivity and the use of supervision throughout one's career, give us the support and thoughtfulness necessary to avoid burnout.

The three approaches to a therapeutic relationship: Instrumental, authentic, transpersonal

J ROWAN, Independent Consultant, London

This theoretical paper says that there are only three approaches to a therapeutic relationship, in spite of the fact that there are over 400 different therapies on offer. This offers a theoretical elegance which is potentially helpful to practitioners. In the past, there has been great competition between schools, which is widely seen to be wasteful even if historically understandable. To see the field in this new way is to envision how we can move on from the old rigid structures. The three approaches are: (1) the instrumental, where the therapist sees the client as a problem to be solved; (2) the authentic, where the therapist sees the client as a person to be met; and (3) the transpersonal, where the therapist sees the client as someone sharing the same sacred space. On a thorough examination of the present divisions in the field, it appears that in cognitive-behavioural therapy, the interaction is mostly at the instrumental level, though there is no reason why this has to be exclusively so; in the humanistic therapies, the interaction is mostly at the authentic level, though there is no reason why this has to always be so; in the psychodynamic tradition, the interaction may be instrumental, authentic or transpersonal; and in the transpersonal tradition, the interaction may be any one of the three quite freely, because the vision is wider. All three are legitimate.

Interpersonal space in counselling

B RUDD, East Sussex

Objective: The objective of this research was to ascertain awareness of interpersonal space within individuals who practice counselling.

Design: The design used was in-depth interviews of at least half an hour, with counselling students and professional counsellors. The rationale was to allow each of the participants to speak for themselves in order to investigate their perceptions of the impact of interpersonal distance in relation to a counselling relationship.

Method: This qualitative study involved 17 adults who were voluntary participants. A doctoral student in counselling psychology interviewed these individuals. A portable cassette recorder was used for tape-recording the interviews in order to collect the data to study the interviewees' perceptions and awareness regarding interpersonal space within a counselling relationship. The procedure used was to transcribe each interview. Colour coding of the transcripts was utilised as a tool to help identify emergent themes.

Results: The results of this study were firstly, that five themes were identified in relation to interpersonal space in counselling. Secondly, that all of the students interviewed disclosed that they had been aware of interpersonal space in a counselling relationship and thirdly, that half of the professionals interviewed disclosed that they had not been aware of interpersonal space in a counselling relationship.

Conclusion: The conclusion that can be drawn from this study is that one's physical position regarding interpersonal distance has an impact on one's counselling relationship, yet some people who practice counselling may not be aware of this; it could therefore be useful to those who practice counselling to have an awareness and understanding of interpersonal space. The implications of this study's findings are discussed in relation to training counselling psychologists and further questions are raised.

Survivors of sexual abuse who have learning disabilities: Implications for Counselling Psychologists

H SEQUEIRA, St George's Hospital Medical School, London

Purpose: Counselling psychologists work therapeutically in a range of settings including services for people with learning disabilities. The aim of this paper is to consider the evidence on how people with learning disabilities are affected by sexual abuse and how therapeutic work with this client group is best implemented.

Background: Within the general population, experience of sexual trauma or abuse is associated with a range of psychological problems (for example, PTSD, depression, anxiety). However, it is not known whether these findings can be applied to people with learning disabilities as particular responses may be mediated by cognitive impairment. The consequence of this may be that the effects of abuse go unrecognised and untreated by potentially effective therapeutic interventions.

Method: The current paper discusses the sexual abuse literature in relation to people with learning disabilities. In particular the findings from the only known controlled study into the effects of abuse on people with learning disabilities are examined.

Conclusions: Findings suggest that people with learning disabilities share a similar range of behavioural or psychological reactions to abuse as people in the general population, but that additional difficulties such as hypersomnia and aggressive and withdrawn behaviour difficulties may also be prevalent. In order that therapeutic work is effective, practise must be grounded in research that takes account of the cognitive, emotional and social development factors that are an integral part of the difficulties experienced by people with learning disabilities. The current paper outlines the potential effects of abuse and offers ideas for effective therapeutic work with this frequently overlooked group of people.

Experiences of psychologists working with clients prescribed psychotropic medication

E SOUTHGATE & A MacDONALD, City University, London

Objectives: Psychological therapies are commonly conducted with people concurrently taking prescribed psychotropic medication, yet there is minimal data on the extent of psychologists' experiences of this type of work. The aim of the present study was to investigate psychologists' current practice with clients prescribed psychotropic medication, in relation to the management of medication needs and the interaction of psychotropic medication and the therapy process.

Design: A postal survey was conducted using a questionnaire.

Method: 150 Counselling psychologists and 150 Clinical psychologists selected randomly from the BPS register were asked to complete a postal questionnaire. The survey questionnaire included questions providing demographic data, and level and type of experience of working with clients on a variety of psychotropic medication.

Results: 128 completed questionnaires were analysed (response rate 45 per cent). Respondents worked in a range of settings across primary care, CMHTs, private practice and specialist settings. Over 93 per cent of respondents reported working with people prescribed psychotropic medication. The majority (73.3 per cent) considered they collaborated with the prescribing medical practitioner regarding clients' medication dose, type or toxicity, and only a minority (8.3 per cent) said they would never make a suggestion in relation to medication to the prescribing physician.

Conclusions: The results support anecdotal evidence that suggests Counselling and Clinical psychologists work with large numbers of people prescribed psychotropic medication. Further investigation is needed to ascertain how psychologists work with the prescribing medical practitioner and the impact of psychotropic medication on the therapeutic process.

Conflict resolution - Sartre's lessons for counselling psychology: A discussion workshop

E SPINELLI, Regent's College, London

The workshop focuses upon the critical consideration of the possibilities and limitations of therapeutic interventions designed to reduce, remove or resolve conflict from the standpoint of a number of key ideas presented in the work of Jean-Paul Sartre. Sartre's (in)famous statement that 'hell is other people' is considered as a central aspect of the therapeutic relationship itself, whether viewed from the standpoint of the client or the counselling psychologist. Further, the workshop introduces participants to Sartre's descriptive notions of being-in-itself, being-for-itself and bad faith and considers these as useful means with which to investigate the varied disturbances presented by clients. The application of Sartre's ideas leads the practice of counselling psychology away from notions of a dissolution of human conflict and, instead, places such dilemmas within the confines of more adequate possibilities of 'living with conflict' in one's relations with self and others. Workshop participants are encouraged to engage in an experiential exploration of their work as counselling psychologists so that the implicit assumptions regarding conflict resolution that guide their interventions can be examined and discussed.

Doing phenomenological research: Structure and diversity

E SPINELLI, Regent's College, London

This symposium presents an overview and introduction to phenomenological research followed by a series of four student research papers that have utilised a phenomenological methodology. Phenomenological research provides a structured approach to the investigation of any facet of lived human experience. Descriptive in focus, its aim is to arrive at increasingly adequate statements whose intent is to elucidate the principal, often complex and complementary, experiential features and characteristics of a particular defined lived or 'felt' experience. While eschewing the more traditional, natural science assumptions of experimental research that incorporate factors such as a null hypothesis, control group, isolated variables and the like, phenomenological research, nonetheless, provides researchers with a powerful 'tool' with which to clarify and delineate specific and verifiable factors that 'make up or are inherent within a given life event'. The breadth of research possibilities open to phenomenological enquiry is suggested by the diversity of topics that are presented in this symposium. The specific topics under discussion in the symposium deal with 'the experience of seeking support for states of distress and confusion', 'the experience of bulimia', 'the experience of meditation in conjunction with psychotherapy' and 'the experience of addiction'.

An overview of phenomenological research

E SPINELLI, Regent's College, London

This presentation introduces the basic features of phenomenological research enquiry. It contrasts this approach with more typical, quantitatively-focused approaches to psychological research and sets out the aims and objectives of phenomenological enquiry. Further, this presentation sets out the broad structural components of phenomenological research as developed by Paul Colaizzi. The presentation also argues that many of the particular concerns and arenas of enquiry central to counselling psychology readily lend themselves to phenomenological analyses and that, through such, many relevant expository features of a given event/experience pertinent to either the theory or practice of counselling psychology stand revealed for further enquiry. Finally, this presentation attempts to demonstrate how phenomenological research can act as a critical counter-balance to many of the hypotheses and assumptions influencing current thought and practice in counselling psychology.

CBT for Obsessive Compulsive Disorder in a group setting – A pilot study

M SPRAGG, City University & I MALLANDAIN, Barnet & Haringey NHT

Objectives: This pilot study evaluates the outcome of a time limited cognitive behavioural group targeting responsibility beliefs for obsessive compulsive disorder. The group ran over 10 weekly 90-minute sessions plus two sessions for data collection.

Design: A randomised clinical trial incorporating a pre- and post design with a 3 month follow up. **Method:** 11 participants were randomly allocated to one of two conditions; experimental group (n = 6) and waiting list control (n = 5). Outcome measures were administered in the first and final group and were re-administered at the follow up meeting for the experimental group. The control group were called in on the same day to complete the measures. The experimental group received cognitive behavioural therapeutic interventions and results were compared to the control group who remained on a waiting list for therapy. Pre- and post-measures comprised of a battery of self-report questionnaires, which were administered in the group setting.

Results: Post-test assessment revealed significant differences between the two conditions in the expected direction in terms of 'frequency' and 'strength' of responsibility beliefs. Scores on other measures changed in the expected direction but were not statistically significant.

Conclusions: Time limited group cognitive behaviour therapy is a useful and cost effective approach for some people with QOD. This is important given the number of clients who refuse or drop out of exposure based therapies which have been considered the therapy of choice for this problem and further research using a larger scale is needed to validate these findings.

'McDonaldisation' or 'fast-food therapy'

S STRAWBRIDGE, Hull

Purpose: To consider the usefulness of Ritzer's concept of 'McDonaldisation' in understanding current pressures on therapeutic practice.

Background: Second to extra-therapeutic 'client factors', the quality of the therapeutic relationship, being-in-relation', is widely recognised as the most significant factor in successful therapy. There is, nevertheless, an increasing tendency to emphasise 'technical expertise' and pressure to package and manualise 'treatment'.

Theoretical Position: This paper argues that this tendency is best understood in the context of a wider social-historical process first described, and termed 'rationalisation', by Max Weber. It draws on the recent work of George Ritzer who argues that the process of rationalisation has continued to intensify. He has developed the metaphor of the fast-food restaurant, built on principles of efficiency, calculability, predictability and control and coined the term 'McDonaldisation' to characterise the tendency. Increasing areas of social life are subject to McDonaldisation through, for example, shopping malls, packaged holidays, hotel chains and digital television. Even areas such as education and medicine are subject to this process. The stress on grades and league tables in education focus attention on what is quantifiable in the end product, rather than the quality of the experience, and health care is increasingly impersonal and technological. Both clients/consumers and workers are systematically disempowered in this process. The tendency to standardise, package and manualise therapy is considered as another manifestation of 'McDonaldisation'.

'Penetrability' and the 'dual task': A tentative model of childhood bereavement

L THORNTON, Sussex

Objectives: To explore the experience of those bereaved in childhood of a parent, using their own words and meaning frames to develop a grounded theory to account for the data. To allow 'the voice' of the participants to make transparent their 'reality'.

Design: Qualitative, using retrospective report within an open-ended counselling interview.

Method: Eight participants were chosen using snowballing, and applying ongoing theoretical sampling. Males and females participated. A range of types of death were experienced, and both mother's and father's deaths are represented. The transcripts were analysed using the constant comparison method, and emerging themes were hierarchically assembled into a model.

Results: The model signals the importance of five dynamic central categories within the bereavement process of children, and the core category of 'Penetrability' illuminates the Dual Task required of children in this respect. The notion of 'Inclusion' and 'Exclusion', when applied to the model, explicates the process enacted.

Conclusions: Results suggest that five central categories are necessary, and possibly sufficient, when within an 'Inclusive' dynamic, for children to engage with the grieving process. When 'Exclusion' is encountered, then there is the potential for a life-long resolution ahead. The data resonates with an 'experiential deficit' in relation to the children's developing life-schema and knowledge of death, and raised questions as to the current notions relating to developmental immaturity within this process. Verification of these findings, within a larger arena, is important to challenge the model, elaborate, enhance and mould it into one in which the child's voice continues to be the dominant one.

Core human needs as the basis of therapeutic practice

W WAHL, Devon

Based in the work of Maslow, Bowby, Wilber, existential theorists, object relations theorists and others, this paper argues that there are essentially four core human needs that are intrinsic to human nature and experience. Furthermore, understanding these needs can serve to guide the therapeutic focus and process in a manner that is intimately related to the client's historical and current life experiences. Symptoms or presenting problems are seen as the voice of unmet human needs, and a template for recognising such needs is presented. This inclusive, integrative and clinically-based model aims to help a therapist listen for, co-construct and work with situational or chronic unmet human needs. Clinical case examples will be used to illustrate the theory and skills associated with the model and audience discussion will be encouraged concerning the approach.

Addictions – Are we treating the symptom and disregarding the cause?

Y WALSH, City University, London

Drug addiction is viewed as a relapsing disorder. It has major health and social implications both for those who suffer from this problem and for society in general. This paper raises the question of why drug services within the UK, which are good at detoxifying those clients who are addicted to drugs, do not seem to have equal success in keeping these clients from returning to their drug addiction. The revolving door scenario of addictions suggests that we may be missing something in our approach to working with this client group. The paper also raises for discussion the notion that psychotherapy/counselling is a key requirement in moving forward in working with this client group. There is increasing evidence that people with drug and alcohol problems have higher rates of mental health problems. There is also a strong correlation between childhood abuse and addiction. However, on assessment the client is frequently told to return when detoxified, ignoring the reality that often drugs are the only thing keeping their psychological and emotional life manageable. This paper views addiction from within a cognitive developmental model. It suggests that the emphasis should be moved from reacting to the consequence of the misuse of drugs to tackling its root causes. It suggests that services need to move from a more traditional medical model treating the symptom of addiction to a model which treats the cause of psychological distress leading to symptom alleviation by drug abuse.

Application of hypnosis to counselling psychology

V WALTERS, Hypnosis Unit, University College London

Purpose: The purpose of this workshop is to introduce participants to hypnosis in general and, in particular, to the application of hypnosis to counselling psychology.

Background: Over the last 40 years there has been an upsurge of interest in the field of hypnosis among applied psychologists (and other health professionals). There has recently been a growth in clinical hypnosis research and studies have shown that the addition of hypnosis to CBT increases the effectiveness of therapy for a range of problems.

Methods/Key Points: This workshop will summarise theories that underpin practice. Examples of styles of hypnosis, such as indirect and direct methods, will be described, as will specific examples of induction and deepening. Participants will have the opportunity to either observe, or take part in, demonstrations designed to illustrate hypnotic phenomena, experience a group hypnotic routine and be introduced to techniques of self-hypnosis. The presenters will give clinical examples illustrating their own

experience of using hypnosis as an adjunct to therapy. Participants will also have the opportunity to discuss the potential of using hypnosis in their own clinical settings.

Conclusions: Misconceptions about hypnosis may prevent it being more widely used in therapy. Furthermore, hypnosis has often been misinterpreted as a therapy in itself rather than as a therapeutic adjunct or tool which is applied to established psychological therapies (such as CBT and Psychodynamic). The workshop addresses these issues and will enable participants to have an informed understanding of hypnosis as an adjunct to therapy.

From 'boozed-up' to 'stressed-out': The continuing evolution of Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs) in the UK

M WINWOOD & T KARPAS, PPP Employee Support, Redhill, Surrey

Purpose: The history of EAPs will be outlined in relation to their development in the UK in the latter part of the 20th Century. The main issues addressed by a major EAP provider will be examined and the implications for the future role

of counselling psychology in this context will be discussed.

Background: The EAP is a benefit increasingly provided in the UK by employers to reduce the effects of stress on employees and organisations. It is based on a US model developed in the 1930's to manage alcoholism in the workplace. In the UK the EAP is positioned as a management tool to improve workplace performance, productivity and to respond to trauma. As a key component to organisations EAP's endeavour to influence the future well-being of both the employees and their workplace.

Points:

1. Clinical issues addressed by an EAP provider in the UK will be presented;
2. Types of interventions used will be outlined;
3. Development and practice of an EAP in client organisations will be discussed.

Conclusions: The utilisation trends of an EAP can reflect the 'health' of an organisation. Stress due to pressures of work is an increasingly litigious issue compelling employers to provide psychological support for their staff. The EAP can provide an effective support system in the current climate of an over-burdened NHS system.