Northern Ireland Branch

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

L ANDREWS, University of Essex, S JOSEPH, University of Warwick, T VAN ROOYEN, University of Essex & 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 component 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 RMST, 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 RMST, 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 HEPPER, 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.

Methods: 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 and on health seeking behaviour.

Conclusions: These findings are discussed in the light of the disinhibitory effect of the internet. The potential promotion in health seeking 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 solutions to the political violence in Northern Ireland

E BINKS & N FERGUSON, Liverpool Hope University

Background: Displaced people currently constitute Britain’s oldest and largest migrant ethnic group. Given the importance of Great Britain as a reception country and it’s 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, religious and social identity, and attitudes toward the political violence. No significant difference was found between the political and historical knowledge of the respondents.

Conclusions: The Irish in England elicit strong social identifications, although Protestant respondents exhibited a more orthodox and intrinsic attitude toward religion. Suggested solutions to the ‘Troubles’ in Northern Ireland differ significantly 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

J BOGUE, Edinburgh University & The State Hospital, Lanarkshire, S ALLEN, Edinburgh University, R CARLETON, The State Hospital, Lanarkshire, W McFARLANE, The State Hospital, Lanarkshire & LDG THOMSON, Edinburgh University & The State Hospital, Lanarkshire

Background: The State Hospital in Lanarkshire, Scotland is the largest municipal psychiatric unit in the United Kingdom. In 1985, treatment of schizophrenia was modified to treat patients with schizophrenia detained in a secure psychiatric environment over a five-year period.

Methods: All patients 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.

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 (intrusive experiences of memories, nightmares, or nightmames) 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 evaluated 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. The model 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 roles of denial, emotional numbing and avoidance, as manifested in traumatic stress are discussed.

Latent variable systems and their evaluation

BP BUNTING & M SHELVIN, 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 latent variable system is discrete while the latter two pieces of research assume an underlying continuous variable(s). Two applications of these models are very different. The first paper uses data from the Northern Ireland General Household Survey to make 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 second order differential items are used, within a cross-sectional design. This leads to useful 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 inpatient students. The last two papers evaluate (a) model fit indices and (b) missing data in the context of latent variable system.

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 (c) income (d) socio-economic status (e) age and family size.

Results: 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, P McLERNON, University of Ulster at Coleraine & IROE-CAIN, 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 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 intergroup 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 (52 per cent) university students completed self-report measures of inter-group forgiveness, religiosity, victimhood, and attitudes towards the out-group.

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

Conclusions: The data suggest that among a sample of Northern Irish students, inter-group forgiveness is not related to religiosity or personal levels of stress but 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. The fourth and fifth 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 employed the items careful/careless and clever/stupid respectively.

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 of bullying across several occasions across one year. A sample of 157 children from four primary schools in Greater Belfast completed the Child Victimisation Questionnaire on four occasions across one year.

Results: The frequency of involvement of pupils in bullying varied across the four testing intervals. It emerged that, while the frequency of victimisation decreased overtime, pupil reports of being involved as a bully/victim 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, physically apparences, and behavioural conduct) and one global measure of self-worth. The scale has been employed in numerous studies in the developmental and social development 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 study indicated that the SPPC had an acceptable psychometric structure. Issues regarding instability across repeated measurements are discussed.

Conclusions: 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 which 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 authors examined institutional and individual factors that were related to levels of anxiety, depression and psychological well-being within these groups (total n = 161).

Results: The results indicate that a latent growth modeling approach, rather than conventional factor analysis, provided a better fit to the data.

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 diagnostic use.

Method: The authors 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 variables were related to anxiety and depression. 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 consistent. The range of 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 important in the management of disease, little data is currently available on the HRQoL of people with ischaemic heart disease in Northern Ireland. This study was designed to assess HRQoL.

Aims: To investigate the construct validity of the HRQoL of people with ischaemic heart disease in Northern Ireland and to begin a research process that attempts to remedy this situation.

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

Results: The results indicate that a greater proportion of patients with domestic completed dissociation, peritraumatic dissociation, life-span traumatic experience, guilt and mental health.

Conclusions: These 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?

M J DORAHY, University of New England, Australia & The Cannan Institute, Brisbane, Australia

Background: Dissociative identity disorder (DID) is characterised by a range of memory anomalies, including psychogenic amnesia and flashbacks. Dissociative identity disorder (DID) is characterised by a range of memory anomalies, including psychogenic amnesia and flashbacks.

Aims: The results indicate that a greater proportion of patients with dissociative identity disorder (DID) may be different in terms of dissociative memory deficits.

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

Results: The DID, depressed PTSD samples showed significant negative priming while the schizophrenia and control groups did not. This suggests that priming effects were only evident in the control group. The findings are discussed in relation to previous work on working memory deficits.

Conclusions: Results are discussed with reference to previous work on working memory 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.

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2002 Proceedings
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 sexual abuse cases.

Method: This experiment examined the efficiency of the stimulus equivalence paradigm in differentiating the responses of subjects in relation to their prior history. Subjects were randomly allocated to one of two groups. Group 1 was 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 training and testing.

Results: The general findings were that subjects in Group 1 responded differentially in a modified equivalence paradigm 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 be used in 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 may 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-HT1A 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 identified as the primary neuroanatomical 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: The review outlines recent neurobiological theories of aggression, and discusses both the practical problems and the methodological shortcomings present in the current literature. More recently the study of neurocircuitry of aggression neurobiology focuses on narrow sections of the problem. This review attempts to give the whole 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 dependency, powerlessness, self-blaming and social alienation due to its tendency to individualise problems.

Aims: To identify and discuss: (a) the assumptions underlying the main theories in the subject area; and (b) the main criticisms that appear to have been made of work on the topic. To tackle 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 stressful episode. However there is relatively little research on the nature of these cultural influences.

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

Method: In this cross-cultural study, 228 P4 students (mean age = 11) from three cultural groups: Taiwanese (n = 50), Chinese-Irish (n = 50) and Northern Irish (n = 75) completed the revised Ways of Coping Scale (Falokan & 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: Propose the importance 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: The study 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 IRWIN, University of Ulster at Coleraine, C McCUNNAHAN, 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 of the attributes that influence parents 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 school 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. Overgeneralisation 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 who report seasonal depression in a similar pattern to those who report non-seasonal depression; and (2) Establish whether those who report seasonal depression with autobiographical memory retrieval are permanent or seasonal, by testing during the winter and summer months.

Method: Subjects were selected using the Seasonal Autobiographical Memory Test based on the Autobiographical Memory Test for which a seasonal component was validated. Results provided for the discriminant validity of self-efficacy and perceived control.

Conclusions: 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 students who majored in computer applications and psychoeducation participated in the study. The participants completed a number of questionnaires that measured their level of computer anxiety, previous computer experience, and academic performance.
Results: The results indicated, using a multiple regression, that computer use, negative computer cognition, and anxiety significantly predicted computer anxiety. Furthermore, significant differences, using MANCOVA, were found between phobic and non-phobic groups for computer 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 GRANLESEE, 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 good or bad and 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 industry 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 examine the physical or psychological correlates of welfare and production in farm animals, little attention has been paid to the effect of the stockperson on the quality and quantity of interactions between stockpeople and animals.

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

Method: A range of interactional measures of two stockpersons 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 stockpersons. 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 victims of stressful or traumatic life events informed the construction of two questionnaire measures, designed to examine both the narrative content 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-two 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 emerging from the questionnaire battery on-line, including the measures of experiential haemorrhage and distress.

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.

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

Results: Only a small proportion of the sample displayed symptoms sufficient for a diagnosis of PTSD. Using Discriminant Function 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 prison induction and for treatment strategies are discussed.

Using imagery in the treatment of a child with post-traumatic stress symptoms
M MORLER, 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 and verbal records were compiled.

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, the current evidence suggests interactions exist between colour and space.

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

Method: An asymmetric colour-matching technique was used to measure appearance of grey uniform strips (test) patches of light inserted into coloured striped (background) patterns. Observers adjusted the uniform (matching) patch between the on and the off test patterns and the prism test by changing hue, saturation, and brightness of the matching strip. Spatial frequency was varied. Three observers made five measurements for each test 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 and confirmatory 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 = .071) 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 exogenox 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 JENNINGS, University of Ulster at Magee College

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

Aims: The authors were curious to see how helpful therapeutic factors were rated as the most helpful factors by trainee student counsellors and to identify the least.

Sample: The sample consists of 37 students of an MSc in Counselling at Queen's University, Belfast.

Method: A short version of Yalom's Curative Factors Questionnaire was given to the students.

Results: Self-understanding, interpersonal learning, task accomplishment, and empathy were rated as the most helpful factors, while acceptance and ego-strengthening were the least helpful factors.

Conclusions: The findings are considered in the light of research in this area and no account is taken of the leader/conductor role in the group.

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 potential solutions to these methodological problems.

Main contribution: Methodological shortcomings in research on excessive exercise have included an over-reliance upon quantitative measures, and the lack of systematic 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.

Conclusion: 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: Training in laparoscopic surgery, currently undertaken in 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 women (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 compared to 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 a need to develop 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 examined 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 conducted.

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 a further cultural context.

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 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 scores.

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 the frequency of Church attendance and happiness scores.

Conclusions: As such, these findings compliment 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 selflessness of Ludus, the companionship of Storge, the compatibility ofPragma, the insecurity of Mania, and the duitfulness of Agape. While 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 loves 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. McGree 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: In particular, it is proposed that the highlighting of 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; there is 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 to present research 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 our 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, B 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 students were used. The dimensionality of the EPQR-A was examined in terms of the underlying latent factors. Results: 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, & Phillips, 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 Eastern Europe 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 formation 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 Update. 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 selfishness of Ludus, the passion of Eros, the selflessness of Agape, 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 attitudes.

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, 1990).

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 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 = 1326) (657 males and 666 females) completed the 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 submitted 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 Psychological research in Romania and this study seeks to contribute positively to the discipline.

Aims: The aim of the study 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 see 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 Behe'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 MALLET, 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: It was concluded 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 psychometric properties 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 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 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 IRWIN, University of Ulster at Coleraine, M GILES, University of Ulster at Coleraine

Background: The integrated sector in Northern Ireland is based on a constructivist philosophy in their schools and they aim to develop a high level of self-esteem in their pupils (Moffett, 1993). The Self-Esteem Profile for Children (Harter, 1985) has been successfully used with adolescents in Northern Ireland (Muldoon, 2000; Granlee & Joseph, 1993, 1994). However, gender differences have been particularly 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 and 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 6 and 9 pupils in seven post-primary schools in Northern Ireland.

Results: While MANOVA showed differences with girls, boys 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 for developing a child 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 acceptable 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, the love styles tend to be higher on measures of erotic, passionate loving.

Aims: The aim of the present study was to extend the literature on biological sex difference and love 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 Berm Sex Role Inventory (Berm, 1978).

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

Conclusions: The present results suggest that sex-role typing may be 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 selfless giving of Philia, the companionship of Storge, the compatibility of Pragma, the insecurity of Mania, and the dutifulliness of Agape. Research has shown too that our dominant love-styles to some extent on our personality characteristics, for example an extravert may be no more likely than an introvert to accept a Ludic style of loving (e.g. Davies, 1996).

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

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

Results: Most of the correlations were substantiated with four of the five traits 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 therefore been examined. 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 McGUCKIN & 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 particular attention in trying to understand the psychological sequelae 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. 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 continuous classroom observations 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 these 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 were obtained pre-exam and pre-tertiary mathematics performance indicators were taken as independent variables, with statistics exam performance as the dependent variable.

Results: The statistics related self-report measures were internally 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. 80 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 indicated 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 homossexuals

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 homosexualitys within a given scenario.

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

Results: Self-regulation (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 respondent 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 women and failed to explore the consequences of male roles 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 work in 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 a variety of positive 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 MAHON, Queen’s University, Belfast

Background: The relationship between musical form and its emotional content has been 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 intelligence and its causes has explored relationships between intelligence and nerve conduction velocity, and between intelligence and basic information processing.

Aims: In order to add to research of a similar nature, this study investigated relationships within similar but novel paradigms.

Method: Correlations between direct measurements 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. Performance and efficiency were indirectly measured via single and choice reaction time tasks.

Results: Correlations between two variables are reported, and preliminary results indicate significant negative correlations between withdrawal response speed and the WAIS 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 was 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:** A cross-sectional study of 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 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 exogenous 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 equally 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.

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

M NAVRATIL, The Academy of Sciences of The Czech Republic, CERMAK, 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 (Green, Richardson & Lago, 1996) is the abbreviated form of the revised Eysenck Personality Questionnaire Revised (EPQR-A) as a research tool. A number of studies have been conducted to explore the psychometric properties of the EPQR-A among various cross-cultural groups, including Australia, Canada, Israel and France.

**Results:** Confirmatory factor analysis, evidence found the unidimensionality of the four EPQR-A sub-scales of extraversion, neuroticism, lie scale 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.

**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 adolescent’s attitude towards 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
an audit of crisis planning in schools in Northern Ireland

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

Method: As in 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 predictor for students’ 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 are illustrated through LGM structural equations.

An audit of crisis planning in schools in Northern Ireland

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

Method: Two audit 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. This involved a measure for 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 audit measures had 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 GUINNESSON & N SHEEHY, Queen’s University, Belfast

Background: The Curriculum Review proposals for Key Stage I recommend a less formal approach to Early Years (1) or into Year 2). These proposals are informed by evidence from several countries.

Aims: To evaluate the impact of an enhancement of the Primary 1 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 variety of measures of teachers’ interviews (examining their attitudes and beliefs about the effectiveness of the enhanced curriculum), class data, 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:

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 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:

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.

Main Contributions: 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.

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 illuminated was altered at two levels for ten 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 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 role of laughter

To demonstrate the framing effect in surfaces with true or pictorially-revealed 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-framed trapezoidal surface; and (c) – corresponding to TV viewing – a trapezoidal surface pictorially revealing slant.

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

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

An evaluation of the therapeutic process within a new model of an enriched early years’ curriculum

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.

Main Contributions: 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:

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Main Contributions: 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.

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 opportunities 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 audit 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. This involved a measure for 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 audit measures had significant positive impacts on a range of outcome measures.

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

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

TREINHARDT-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-revealed 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-framed trapezoidal surface; and (c) – corresponding to TV viewing – a trapezoidal surface pictorially revealing slant.

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

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

The role of laughter

RUC, 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 actions, and body movement) and attempts to arrive at a model of the mechanics of laughter.

Main Contribution: The importance of distinguishing 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 (IMRI and stimulation studies) need to consider the different levels of integration in the production of spontaneous and deliberate laughter by spoken and unspoken laughter 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.

The British Psychological Society

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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 has 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 how the SEM procedures 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 effects of interaction to be identified. [Paper 2] shows that SEM allows examination of non-polynomial variables to be estimated. The following two papers (Collins, Shevlin & Adamson; Brunsden & 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, Brunsden and Forrest show how competing theoretical factor analytic models can be evaluated by providing empirical tests of alternative models. The benefits of such an approach over exploratory factor analytic methods will also be discussed.

Conclusions: This collection of papers shows that statistical models are currently available that can reflect psychological phenomena and processes. In addition, standard regression models now incorporate multiplicative, rather than just additive, effects. However, this paper shows that the practice of median splits is not necessary in order for effects of interaction to be identified.

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

M SHEVLIN, University of Ulster at Magee College

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 covariances and covariances. Various fit indices have been proposed as a way of determining model fit. However, many have undesirable features such as an association with sample size.

Aims: The present study aimed 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 error of approximation (ECRM) error of fit. [Method] A series of Monte Carlo experiments were conducted. The experiments were based on a 3 (parameter magnitude) x 4 (mis specification) design. One hundred replications of sample data drawn from population data with known parameters were conducted and the relevant fit statistics recorded.

Results: The results show that model fit is a multi-faceted construct. Interpretation of additive effects on cutoff values needs to be undertaken 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.

Conversational analysis of the abbreviated form of the revised Eyseckn 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 Eyseckn Personality Questionnaire Revised (EPQR-A) as a research tool for psychologists.

Aims: To assess 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: Confirmatory factor analysis, demonstrated no evidence with a satisfactory fit 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 paper 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 this lack of trust.


Results: Younger officers with shorter service records reported a lower willingness to trust than longer serving peers. Detective officers demonstrated more incredulity than uniformed or ‘beat’ officers towards other police officers. Loneliness was negatively correlated with all trust measures and officers low in network trust demonstrated the 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 QUB Summer School was designed to promote access to the university by non-traditional students.

Aims: To highlight major findings of an evaluation of an innovative access programme, and to report on the short and long term impact of the project on students of differing abilities and aspirations.

Method: The project provided access for students 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 who met with students and staff were interviewed in 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 being educated in mixed schools.

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. Paper 3 examines 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 effects of 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 MCCoLENAH, 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 by a self-report questionnaire using a Likert-type scale and assessed for the 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 effects of 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.
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: 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, asylum, (for 27-year-olds) family support systems 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 Cope). Participants were an opportunist 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 group 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 UK (in 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 care environment.

Issues of palliative care in HM Prison 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
Prison palliative care is a new and dynamic field. 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 completely a joint task. Current practice in the risk assessment of sexual offenders in England and Wales has faced this issue, with AIDS patients and ‘life means life’ inmates. Prisoners as ‘buddies’ have been incorporated into the palliative care environment.

Assessing prisoners’ needs: the development of a process
R HORN, Psychology Unit, HMP Garth, Ulises 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] (Boyle, 1997, p.14). 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 & ARICE, Higher Psychologist HMP Risley
In terms of practical issues, based on an overview of the Thornton, (2000), Structured Risk Assessment, which combines both static and dynamic risk prediction tools. We will then provide an overview of the SOPR 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 SOPR 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 inspectors 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:
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 deviants get organized after they are first pressured to conform and then rejected by other members. However, the subjective group dynamics model (e.g. A. Abrams & Marques, Bow & Henzi, 2000) proposes that the reactions depend on aspects of the inter-group context. Thus, rule breakers may sometimes be treated leniently and at others harshly. The present study 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.

Method: A 2x2x2 factorial design was used with two conditions on police response (norm vs anti-norm vs pro-norm target) between-participants.

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 ingroup-serving and outgroup-enhancing function of subjective group dynamics has potentially serious consequences for the way marginalised or innovative individuals are treated in society.

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

Social identity and responses to health messages
I DARVES-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: directly incongruent; identity–congruent and source–incongruent. Influence was measured directly in terms of agreement and indirectly in terms of participant's willingness to make suggestions to health promote safe sex amongst the 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, whereas disagreement involves more than just passive information processing. Implications of the results are discussed as well as the practical implications of the findings.

The effect that went away: Follow-up of a Year 1 cognitive acceleration programme
P ADEY, King's College London

Objectives: To test the hypothesis that a one year cognitive acceleration 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 performance and mental control classes (previously reported Error! Reference source not found.); Reference source not found. However, with follow-up one year later using Ravens CPM and Key Stage 1 tests (to be published June 2003), 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 experimental (experimental 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 (Adye, 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 the lack of significant results 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 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 UK children's experience within war-torn Angola. While there is data supporting the emotional impact of on-going conflict, evidence is less robust regarding the political and agency demonstrated by most adolescents. The third paper also focuses on the experience of children in war-affected areas of Africa. This paper explores, has proposed, and evaluated the potential 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 primary care responses to the impact on 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 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 children and adolescents 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 and emotional development and 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 assessing and culturally-sensitive psychosocial intervention programmes is defended. Psychological concepts 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 to the impact of the agencies to the needs of war-affected populations.

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The impact of media images on eating disordered women and normal controls
M AITKEN & B ANDREW, Royal Holloway, University of London

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

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

**Method:** 48 eating disorder participants were matched with female hospital clinic and 51 student controls from a university college. To gain a more detailed understanding of media impact, structured interviews were conducted with investigator-based ratings. 

**Results:** Using case/control analyses, media images in general and specifically presented thin and curvaceous 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 more girls 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 within a sub sample of 51 women, reports on the timing of the general media impact suggested that media exposure played a role in both causation and maintenance of disordered eating. 

**Conclusions:** This is the first interview study of its kind to compare women with clinical eating disorders and healthy women in order to examine the impact of being raised with thin 'female' media images. The findings have implications for the prevention and treatment of eating disorders.

**Residential care and ageing**

C ALLEN, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury

The symposium consists of research papers and discussion papers by leading experts on the theory of planned behaviour. The symposium covered the impact of abnormalities such as dementia on carers and the training of carers. The symposium included a workshop on the care of older people with dementia. This is an exciting workshop which aims to help professionals of all types to put the often neglected area of residential care onto the agenda. The papers attempt to understand the process of decision making and the impact of care practices, and outlines methods for improving the care of some of the most disadvantaged people in our society.

**Objectives:** The theory of planned behaviour was used to explore the factors affecting the decision to remain childless. 

**Method:** Aylesbury

**Objectives:** T ALLEN, S COX, V EATOW & J UNDERWOOD, Nottingham Trent University

**Methods:** Two groups of older (n = 48) and young (n = 47) participants were first compared. The results showed significant differences in inhibition (Hayling test and directed forgetting in working memory), planning (Tower of London) and detection of logical rules (Brixton test). Process scores on the Hayling test indicated that some of the colour-naming task, explained some but not all of the age-related differences. The same executive tasks were also given to a group of patients with focal frontal lesions. Special care was taken to select the patients. Any hint of bias from the testing of the patient was made. Moreover, patients were examined long enough after the acute period 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 fronto-dorsolateral lobe lead to the exclusion of the patient from the study. Moreover, patients were examined long enough after the acute period to avoid possible ‘mass effects’.

**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. 

**Method:** Eating was found to have significant effects on various moods. Participants reported feeling significantly more ‘relaxed’, ‘hurried’, ‘tired’, ‘tense’, ‘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:** Eating was found to have significant effects on eating mood. Emotional eaters reported feeling significantly more ‘relaxed’, ‘hurried’, ‘tired’, ‘tense’, ‘angry’ and ‘fearful’, than non-emotional eaters (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 operate as a mood-regulatory mechanism in real-life situations. Interestingly, however, the effects of eating on mood were not 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?

**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 organisational and activational effects. Both of these facilitate male aggressiveness in a range of mammalian species. The case of the female spayed hyena indicates that selection can favour pronounced aggressiveness in emotional eaters (largest F(1,38)=2.75, p=0.11).

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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 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, what has been lacking is an understanding of what exactly NSE is or how it works. The current study aims to identify some of its operational 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 household. This design allows us to control for the influence of genes and shared environment.

Method: 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 one 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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Researchers students’ expectations of joining the research staff
C ATHERTON, University of Wales & M W WAN, University of Manchester

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 experiences of the researchers and on discussions with other research students about postdoctoral research and subsequent prospects.

Conclusions: There appear to be some difficulties 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
L ATKINSON, L GOLDSTEIN & N LEIGH, Institute of Psychiatry, London

Objectives: Much research into chronic illness has been devoted to the psychological implications of long-term care on informal caregivers. Research on informal caregivers of people with motor neurone disease (MND) – a fatal, progressive neurodegenerative disorder requiring care (familial or non-family members) – 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 laughing 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 study 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 state.

Results: Significant associations were found between carers’ subjective reports of increased perceived burden and the employment of negative coping styles and 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 feeling 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 carer’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 by 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 involved 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 the 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, and 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 participation grades 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, motivational orientations, and academic performance during student’s second year of study. In relation to overall academic performance, social problem-solving approach 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 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 psychology in Scotland, 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 curriculum 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 self-admiration) and 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 other people. 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, but not when no such opportunity existed. This suggests that the appearance of no-difference masking two contrary trends. Narcissists respond to situation-dependent cues in the environment, 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 meet, hold 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, 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: 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. 

Psychological processes and perceived quality of life in the healthy elderly

G BEAUMONT, Royal Hospital for Neuropsychology, P KENEALY, R MURRELL, G CALLANDER, B KINGSLEY & A GOLDEN, University of Salford, The Hope Foundation

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

Methods: 200 residents, aged 65 or over, of a London borough were recruited in five equal groups (50 per group) (see table above). An initial selection interview excluded those who were not healthy, had significant physical or mental disability, or were not within the normal range of cognitive ability. Selected participants were then assessed on cognitive variables (KASC, AMI, Digit Span, social comparison interview), psychological variables (GDS, GSES, LOT) and individual quality of life measures (SEIQoL-DW, QoL VAS, WHOQoL-BREF).

Results: Scores were analysed by appropriate univariate and multivariate analysis. 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 differences in well-being 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 and work performance. The study involved work teams and other colleagues and well-being. It was proposed that those employees who work in teams will experience less stress with more 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 the research to a different organisational context. Seven-hundred-and-fifty Post Office employees were selected at random and sent a questionnaire which measured 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 correlation 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 being active 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 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 in coping 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, family members were interviewed about the impact of widowhood on their own lives.

Results: Data were analysed using grounded theory and structural equation modelling. Preliminary results indicate that both men and women agree that women are better equipped to deal with widowhood. However, there are gender differences for this includes women’s domestic abilities and their social skills. Their preliminary analysis of the interview data indicates that gender 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 coping with their loss.

Conclusions: Preliminary conclusions are that men’s solace was found in the support of bereavement and women. They may cope differently because they have different resources available. There are major gender differences in the process of coping with widowhood and the support of widowed men and women.

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 with pragmatic language skills, language comprehension skills, reading ability, and measures of adjustment.

Design: A standardised and normed clinical measure of attention (the TEA-Ch) was used to collect measures of eight along with digit span as part of a wider battery of measures. Measures of adjustment and development were then assessed on cognitive variables (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 gender differences 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 stronger for selective attention and attention switching.

Conclusions: Eight-year-old children’s abilities with selective attention, sustained attention and attention switching are differentially associated with early 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 of non-vulnerable mothers. Measures of rates of disorder in offspring. Both internalising disorder (depression or anxiety) and externalising (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 (males and females) and by investigator-based, semi-structured interviews (SESS and CECA).

Results: Offspring of vulnerable mothers had four-fold higher rates of a year disorder than the representative series (43 per cent vs 11 per cent, p<0.001). Although gender differentiation in disorder was in the predicted direction, both daughters and sons of vulnerable mothers had increased risk of internalising disorder with the boys showing increasing vulnerability with age and conditions. Transmission of risk was mediated through neglect or abuse of offspring, particularly physical abuse perpetuated 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 intervention and access to specialist health services is likely to reduce disorder in both generations.

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 two to children’s social and communication skills. Language comprehension problems in these children are more frequent than in comparable children with normal development and 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 assessed related aspects of language and behaviour. These included, reading ability, pragmatic language skills, verbal and non-verbal communication, attention 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-impulsivity’ and ‘combined’ group who had and 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.

Condition 3 may be the best part-task training method for novices. It also takes significantly less time than the other methods.

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Sexuality and sexual health – Optimism and risk

G BDURAN, Royal Free and University College Medical School, J ELFORD, City University, London & L SHERR, Royal Free and University College Medical School

Objective: To examine the association between HIV optimism and sexual risk behaviour among gay men is this study. If this is the case, this has implications for professionals using psychological techniques with children who may have shown symptoms 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 shown. Using the general historical background for this analysis comes from a discursive reinterpretation of Freud’s theory of repression. This perspective suggests that Freud’s humour is a symptom of some broader background that Freud himself is not able to see how his texts produce their own repressions. The sorts of jokes that Freud includes and excludes in John’s Use of 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 own story 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 steep. Current training programmes are brief and alternatives are being investigated. Psychology can inform trainers about why human limitations and human interaction with their environment and equipment. Knot tying is an important component of laparoscopic 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 knot tying skill.

Design: Prospective observational design with four independent training conditions: 1. Forward chaining; 2. Backward chaining; 3. Fractionation; 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. Complex 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 significantly less time than the other methods.

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 masculinity. This generation of fathers that viewed ageing as a crisis. This generation of adolescents have now entered ‘middlehood’ at a time in which scientific and medical discourse has given rise to a belief that 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 middle-aged men.

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 employment.

Results: The findings indicate that there is little support for middle age as the prime of life, crisis or male menopause. This is especially true for 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. l.sher@PCPS.ucl.ac.uk

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 contracts 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 providing the training or resources (e.g. 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 may lead to a reluctance 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 a concern 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 reasonably 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 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 a concern 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 reasonably 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 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. 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Trust in online advice: How simple personalisation can generate trust

S Briggs, University of Northumbria, A DE ANGELI, P LYNCH, NCR Financial Services, A J TAVI, & 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. There is an emerging 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 (an important cause of the original offer – 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 and high versus low degrees of personalisation.

Methods: In this experiment, 107 users were logged on to one of four versions of a travel insurance broker 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 purchase insurance. 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 followed the advice offered by the site and the extent of their commitment to the product. Subjective measures of trust and other attitude factors were measured by a follow-up questionnaire.

Results: A manipulation check in the follow-up questionnaire provided evidence that the personalisation manipulation, but not the reputation 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 answer a follow-up questionnaire.

Conclusions: In the light of the evidence provided by the present study, and the need for research into the factors which influence user trust in online advice, it is important that future research should focus on the evaluation of different types of advice, the impact of advice on trust and the development of effective advice strategies.

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

E CAIRNS, University of Ulster, M HEWSTONE, University of Oxford, U NIENS, C A LEWIS & R WILSON, University of Ulster

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 intergroup ingroup favouritism and outgroup antagonism would be in highly segmented societies ‘that are differentiated along a single primary criterion, 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 items, 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 positive feelings to one’s ingroup serve as 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, 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 an interest in the varying ranging impact that the political violence was having on succeeding generations of children. Impaired identity in the form of violence, but also various attempts to involve children in the process of peace making.

Methods/Key Points: The review has been conducted in three main stages: (1) An exhaustive literature search supplemented by findings from an on-going research programme regarding children and political violence in Northern Ireland. (2) A qualitative analysis of all participant responses, as well as to a series of questions asked to members of the general population to gain an understanding of how certain factors lead to behaviours such as smoking. (3) The data collected were supplemented by findings from an on-going research programme regarding children and political violence in Northern Ireland.

Conclusions: Children in Northern Ireland have been impacted by the political violence in many ways. The research conducted in this study examined the health-related knowledge, attitudes and perceptions towards smoking PA in a group of 11 to 15-year-old girls. This experiment was designed to investigate the extent to which processes occur at both stages. Health promotion imagery-based priming onto a perceptual object recognition task

R CARSON & E WHITEFIELD, University of Abertay, Dundee & W R LINDSAY, Tayside Primary Care NHS Trust & University of Abertay, Dundee

Objectives: This experiment 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. An original questionnaire on attitudes consistent with sex offending (QACSO) was administered on two occasions separated by approximately a month. Results: 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 also offers an explanation as to why similar experiments using faces as stimuli have failed to evidence of imagery based priming onto a purely perceptual task at test. d.carson@tay.ac.uk

The uses and abuses of assessments of cognitions and attitudes

A semantic differential scale was used to develop new psychometric measures of these constructs’ viability and relationships with other concepts such as computer comfort – anxiety 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 suggest 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 positive – as opposed to a negative addiction.

The development of the General Academic Self-Efficacy Scale (GASE)

S CASSIDY & P EACHUS, University of Salford

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 measured 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.

Conclusions: The GASE Scale has been shown to have acceptable psychometric properties and as such provides a valid and reliable measure of academic self-efficacy in student health professionals. The success of that instrument suggested that a more generalised measure of academic self-efficacy may haveutility with higher education students.

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, Discriminative validity analysis suggest that GASE is a unidimensional construct and offers a satisfactory degree of internal consistency. Significant correlations with academic self-efficacy, academic 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

J CHARLTON, Bolton Institute

Objectives: In the absence of domain-specific instruments measuring computing locus of control and computing need for control, the study aimed to develop two 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.

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Methods: The main EFA was performed on data from 233 higher education students and employees who completed questionnaires voluntarily. A PCA was used for the final steps of the process.

Results: Preliminary analysis of items showed that several participants 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). We also identified both indigenous and non-indigenous 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. 12 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 superordinate level (i.e. police) and subordinate levels (i.e. outreach programmes). However, refugee participants were more 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 beliefs about both and beyond more traditional attitude-based predictors.

Conclusions: This research illustrates the relevance and importance of studying not just economic factors, attitudes and beliefs about homelessness, social identity and authority at all levels of society. The research was presented as a basis for developing more sensitive and effective clinical interventions.

L CLARE, University College, London

Objectives: This study explored how people experiencing dementia of Alzheimer type (DAT) attempt to cope with what is happening to them.

Design: This was a qualitative interview study. The primary questions explored 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 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 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. This was also 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. They can serve as a basis for developing more sensitive and effective clinical interventions.

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Grandparenting in Britain
L CLARKE & M KLEMMANN, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

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. 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 within the British Household Panel Survey. In the second stage of the research, 60 in-depth interviews with grandparents provided a more detailed picture of the role and significance 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. It was found however that some close grandparents live to their grandchildren, though not on the importance of the relationship. Social class does seem to affect the role on the part of grandparents in Britain. Family breakdown affects grandparent/grandchild contact and the relationship with the grandparents' children 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, however, in how this role operates.

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Talk about homophobic bullying: A discursive psychological approach
V CLARKE, Loughborough University

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 families.

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 discourse analysis.

Results: Detailed analysis of the interview and documentary talk show that lesbian and gay parents deal with the issue of homophobic bullying by normalising their experience, that they construct homophobic bullying as being ‘no different’ from more mundane and everyday bullying about issues such as family 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 shift 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
BR CLIFFORD, University of East London

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 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 moment it would suggest that police are actually hindering their investigations rather than enhancing them. However, this VOE seems to be quite 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 are conducted to see if any evidence for the presence of the effect. Theoretical explanations for the appearance and non-appearance of the VOE are presented and possible implications are discussed.

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Dual task performance and executive functions: Evidence from healthy adults and Alzheimer’s disease patients
G COCCINI, University of East London, S DELLA SALA, University of Aberdeen, R LOGIE, University of Aberdeen & A BADDELEY, University of Bristol

Objectives: The ability of human beings to perform more than one task 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, referred to 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 single aspect 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 measured using 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 tasks concurrently. Results: Increasing the level of cognitive load under single task conditions produced a very similar pattern of performance in AD patients, healthy young and older volunteers. However, AD patients reportedly 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 cognition.

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Symposium: Relationships, quality of life and health into later years
P COLEMAN & A O’HANLON, University of Southampton
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 older ages. 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 perspectives 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 x-ray 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 paper, Coleman et al. adopt a critical realist perspective, to explore both the meaning adults with Alzheimer’s disease attribute to this condition and also the implications of this for professional relationships. 4. Drawing on data from a large questionnaire study, O’Hanlon and Coleman discuss the significance of close attachment relationships on attitudes to own future old age. This effect remains even when rival variables are controlled for. 5. In the final presentation, Donald 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
PG COLEMAN, University of Southampton
Objectives: To explore spiritual beliefs and their relationship to personal meaning and well-being in a sample of 28 bereaved spouses from a Christian background, with a view to designing a larger more representative study on spirituality 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 the effect of bereavement on their personal meaning, well-being and spirituality. Participants were testing individuals with a range of diagnoses for professional relationships. 5. In the final presentation, Drew and

Aims: This study provides 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
J COOKE, M MOSS, & P HICKETT, University of Northumbria
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 the 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 which is congruent with these effects. This study aims to address this question.

Design: 144 healthy young adults took part in a three independent experiment. Methods: Participants were tested individually in cubicles that were infused with lavender, rosemary or no odor. In an attempt to bypass the problem of odor being available, the current study deceived participants into thinking that they were simply assisting in the validation of the equipment. 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 showed a significant increase on a number of tests of attention, working memory and long-term memory. There were indications that rosemary may have a sedative effect on 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 and rosemary did not produce any stimulant or memory enhancing effects.

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Improving the quality control of human expert cytological slide inspection
L COOMBES, University of Plymouth
Objectives: Improving the quality control of human expert cytological slide inspection through the application of eyetracking 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 model of feature detection can be used to identify salient features at a cellular level, the results so far are promising. This provides a basis and a tool to continue the 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 use with an emphasis on policy makers and health promotion are considered.

Methodology: The qualitative methodology used was 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 conducted to collect the remainder of the data for the study.

Results: Qualitative methods were used to analyse the interviews. Five social representations emerged from the formal text, the ‘criminal’ user, the ‘vulnerable’ user, ‘soft’ and ‘hard’ drugs, the ‘addicted’ user and the ‘addicted’ user. These 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
M COULSON, Middlesex University
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 ‘add’ 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 two cultures were marked across two cultures. 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
specifically aimed at tackling violence in schools. Standards of behaviour in schools but nothing initiatives and national/regional policies have in independent research. Several Government rates of pupil/pupil bullying, highlighted by parent/teacher violence statistics, and prevalence available in the form of social exclusion statistics, best indicators for violence in schools are.

While violence in schools is reported anecdotally, little in the way of a shared definition of violence. Regarding violence in schools, and interventions including types, frequency, causes, and different social behaviour in schools.

Research questions that tested the implications for strategies of fundamental cognitive and motivation processes. This symposium will consider new developments in relation to lesbian and gay affirmative way and clients who had received affirmative psychotherapy.

Conclusions: An interview-based, grounded theory study. Participating (4 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 therapeutic processes available to them. These were linked with the therapist’s sexual identity among other factors. Heterosexual reactions were as potentially occurring among homosexual 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 countertransference reactions can be 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 harmful experiences. The challenges in achieving this in some psychotherapeutic traditions are acknowledged.

Quality of life in older renal patients N CREAMER, University of Sheffield, KJ MCKEE, M GOTT, SG PARKER, T WARNE, Sheffield Institute for Studies On Ageing (SISA), Sheffield

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 were consecutively recruited. For a comparison of younger vs. older patients QoL, to detect a large effect size (f = 0.40) with α = 0.05 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 retain their decision process when electing to have hospital haemodialysis treatment or home treatment. This symposium will speak to psychologists’ developing theoretical and practical approaches to attenuating conflict and aggression, and increasing social inclusion. The implications of these collected findings for social categorisation, and attempts to attenuate, the divisive nature of social categorisation, 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 traditions, and others, is a pervasive psychological mechanism that has an important defining and explanatory role for prejudice, discrimination and 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 membership, 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 group membership are simultaneously salient. Three aspects of recent work into crossed categorisation are of particular interest to psychologists involved in education, and are considered in this symposium. 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 if a pattern of evaluation might emerge in particular contexts. Finally, the potential of crossing categories for reducing prejudice is considered. Recent findings suggest that when negative categories and positive categorisation are made salient, a reduction in bias can be achieved. Mediation evidence is consistent with a proposed shift of evaluation-based to an individual-based mode of perception in multiple category contexts (‘decategorisation’). The implications of these collected findings for social categorisation, and attempts to attenuate, the divisive nature of social categorisation, are discussed.

The British Psychological Society 2002 Proceedings
Implications for implicit bias-reduction of asymmetric evaluative processing

R J CRISP & J NICEL, University of Birmingham

Objectives: In human information processing negative information carries considerable weight due to its relatively high salience. This negativity advantage is of important implications for efforts to attenuate prejudice and discrimination between social groups, since many models of categorisation and intergroup contact assume that 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-consistently encountering in-group and out-group cues.

Method: Participants carried out an associative learning task in which they were required to learn evaluatively congruent or conflicting information about an in-group and an out-group. Implicit activation of evaluatively congruent and incongruent attributes was measure pre- and post- exposure to 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, however, a significant modification of implicit in-group evaluation, but not of out-group evaluation, was obtained.

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.

The Health Resistance (HR) Scale: Developing a measure of resistance to health promotion

M CROSSLEY, Manchester University

Objective: Recent empirical and theoretical research suggests increasing study of health promotion, and its relationship to health and social outcomes. The primary purpose of this 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 revised in the form of a questionnaire to 1000 people selected at random from the electoral register of Central Manchester. The scale was also included in a questionnaire sent to people who were previously validated measures of health behaviours, health value and psychological well-being. The scale was found to be internally consistent, and to have good convergent validity.

Results: 204 questionnaires from the random sample were returned. The preliminary HR scale was found to be highly correlated with existing measures of health behaviours, health value and psychological well-being. The scale also had good test retest reliability ranging from 0.71 to 0.83 over three weeks, while internal consistency reliability ranged from 0.70 to 0.90.

Conclusion: The results of this study support the use of the HR scale as a meaningful measure of health resistance. Further validity and reliability studies conducted with different samples, testing the HR scale’s utility in different settings and countries, is needed.

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intervention strategy which practitioners, researchers and clinicians might want to promote more actively with individuals who are experiencing mental health problems. a.daley@shu.ac.uk

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 and 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 compare. A secondary aim of the paper is to compare.

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 sport and exercise psychology literature is identified to demonstrate the emotional consequences of social comparison processes within the social exercise context. Contemporary emotion 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 which occurs for the purpose of disservice to belongingness status and/or social rank within the healthiness facility. In addition, pride and shame that arise from social comparison may serve as 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)
ADM DAVIES, University of Liverpool, R COUSINS, Edgehill College of Higher Education, CJ TURNBULL, Wirral Hospital Trust & JR PLANTER, University of Liverpool

Objectives: Caregiver (CG) distress may be a significant factor in the quality of life for those with Parkinson’s disease (PD). CGs are often emotionally distressed and report feelings of frustration, anger and anxiety. Caregiver emotional distress can have a negative effect on CG health and well-being. The aim of this study is to explore CG emotional distress in a group of CGs of PD patients.

Methods: 62 CGs 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 completed a NEO-N (The five factor version of the NEO) instrument which was administered to the CGs and patient. CG emotionality (NEO-N) was the role of patient-N was also examined.

Design: A3 patient-CG dyads were interviewed and administered the 60-item version of the NEO five-factor inventory.

Measures: CGs 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 completed a NEO-N (The five factor version of the NEO) instrument which was administered to the CGs and patient. CG emotionality (NEO-N) was the role of patient-N was also examined.

Results: CG emotionality (N) was correlated with CG distress (on 5/6 measures, p<.001). On controlling for NE on subsequent analyses, patient emotionality (N) was found to relate to CG distress in a relationship similar to the relationship 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 rape victimises 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 to rape. 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 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 blind by post. 149 responses were returned (response rate = 94.7%).

Results: Results revealed that gay men blamed the victim less, and were more pro-victim than heterosexual men or women – 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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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 and muscles distances. Female participants were expected to show a greater accuracy of tracking a visual moving object when required to use fine motor movements. Female participants’ accuracy was expected to decrease as the distance between the moving and distal muscles 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 experiment required participants to track a visual moving object when required to use fine motor movements. Female participants’ accuracy was expected to decrease as the distance between the moving and distal muscles movements. The opposite was expected to occur in male participants’ performance.

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 (Preferred hand) and a significant difference of p<0.01 (Non-Preferred hand). When using proximal muscles there was a significant difference of p<0.01 (Non-Preferred hand) and a significant difference of p<0.01 (Preferred hand).

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...
Saying nothing, ‘doing thinking’: Some features of activity filled silences in question answer interaction sequences

P DICKERSON, University of Surrey

Roeampton 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 elements of speech, non-verbal activity is understood as participants resources drawn upon to successfully accomplish specific interactional recombinant ad-hoc ad hoc. This raises 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 activity can be understood as the result of the particular activity that occurs during silences within question answer sequences.

Method: Using 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 collected from conversations involving therapeutic training videos and ‘reality’ television in order to scrutinise the activity that occurs during silences within question answer sequences.

Results: Initial analysis of the data has indicated that by using resources such as audible or visible in-breaths, gazing, body orientation and facial expression, participants can signal a preparedness to speak and preindicate something of the content of that talk. Thus it is suggested that these activity rich non-verbal passages attend to issues of speakerhood by holding turns prior to the production of talk. Furthermore it is suggested that these resources can position subsequent talk as in some ways ‘considered’ rather than ‘off the cuff’. Additionally, there are points to a detectable synchrony between the tone of certain pre-lexical activities and the subsequent lexical material – such that the former ‘tills the soil’ for the latter. Thus it can be noted that these non-verbal precursors are deployed in a manner that displays sensitivity to the particulars of the interaction that occurs – 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 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

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Objectives: This paper evaluates social psychological accounts of 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 suffered from inconsistent findings and from 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 salient, contextually rich interaction between groups; (2) the reliance on research designs that either conceal participants’ understandings of contact, or describe interaction between groups 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 among white South Africans as they attempt to make sense of the forms of intimacy enabled by the fall of apartheid. Conclusion: 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

I DONALD, University of Liverpool

Purpose: To examine the institutional, organisational and academic practices in 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 remains difficult even at an individual level. Because both funds to carry out particular research tasks and research psychologists’ resources are available only intermittently, the current conditions militate against effective development of individual careers and of research groups in Psychology. Moreover, the publicity that 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 projects of 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 develop mutually inclusive 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 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 and psychological well-being only sparsely 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.

Emotional responsibility in human–robot interaction

P EACHUS, University of Salford

Objectives: Emotional robots may belong to the world of science fiction, but robots that are able to monitor the emotional responsiveness of their human controllers and to alter their behaviour as a result, may offer many opportunities to those seeking to blur the interface between humans and machines. p.eachus@salford.ac.uk

The British Psychological Society

2002 Proceedings
Imagining things you have never seen: Imagery effects in individuals born totally blind
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Objectives: Without sight, direct perceptual experience of 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, interpreted into a perceptual ‘image’ (e.g. spatial), or do people rely on semantic information alone?

Design: Following Kosslyn’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 a visual or small contextual 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 the 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 ‘rare’ or ‘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
V EATOUGH, Nottingham Trent University & J SMITH, Birkbeck College, London
Objectives: Women’s aggression continues to be viewed with discomfort and ‘vetoed’ (Nottingham Trent University), largely neglected within social psychological theory and organisation. Design: Reflecting on the self in the past and present will also contribute to care practice and health and social care policy.

Methods: Two different but complementary analyses were carried out with 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 interpreted using phenomenological inquiry (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 followed in the development of early familial relationships. Aggressive behaviour was interpreted as a desire to achieve positive interpersonal relationships and to affirm (self-)significance despite its often destructive effect. 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 the Original Immediate Test (6-CIT) (Brooke, 2000). Past research has shown the 6-CIT to correlate well with the MMSE and also to the MMSE 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 similarly (.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 expensive and less painful, it should be suggested that it is superior to the MMSE.

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Sexuality and sexual activity – The internet and sex
J ELFORD, City University, London, L SHERRG & G BOLDING, Royal Free and University College Medical School, London
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: 121 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, unprotected anal intercourse (AI) (three months).

Results: Of the 743 gay men surveyed, 121 (16.3 per cent) had been born totally blind (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 between HIV status (23.1 per cent v 11.8, p = 0.01).

Conclusion: The findings suggest that the 6-CIT is superior to the MMSE. Findings should inform conflicting theoretical accounts of ageing e.g. Eriksonian theory of later life vs Torstam’s theory of Gerotranscendence. However, differences between age groups were also found.

The British Psychological Society
2002 Proceedings

Age related variations in sleep sensitive parameters: implications for research design and theoretical debate
J ELLIS, SE HAMPSON & M CROPLEY, University of Surrey
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 were using the internet for seeking a sexual partner 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. Furthermore, use of medication for pain 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 need to 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 age activity sessions.

Design: This qualitative longitudinal study involved a baseline interview, four weekly activity session interventions, and a 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 females 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 their thought control strategies of reflecting about the self, four structured group activity sessions, and a follow up interview exploring their thoughts about the group activities.

Conclusion: Is there a relationship between qualitative and quantitative data on group activities? Does this relate to qualitative data on group activities? Will the qualitative data inform the quantitative data? How do we know this correlates with qualitative data on group activities? Will the qualitative data be used in the quantitative data?
The temporal stability of psychological factors in late-life insomnia. 

Cyclical variations in temperature in the human male: Exogenous or endogenous? J EPPSON, University of Hull 

In a study of the 90-minute sleep/dream cycle, using an innovative technique to detect 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 a sub-group of males. A larger study of daily oral temperature in 21 male subjects was conducted, with subjects providing temperature recordings every 15 minutes 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 correlograms for about a 20-day period. This result was significantly similar, 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 significant periodicity, with peaks at 21 and 23 days in auto-correlograms, 15 subjects out of 21 having positive values at the 22 day interval. This cycle endogenous, like the circadian cycle, is an exogenous cycle, or 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 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 P ERWIN, Edge Hill College & D PURVES, London Guildhall University 

Objectives: To examine the impact of patterns of involvement within social problem solving intervention groups as potential predictors of improvements in functioning. 

Design: Students were tested for Interpersonal Cognitive Problem Solving (ICPS) ability before and after a social problem solving intervention. Two sets of comparisons are made: First, a comparison of the abilities of the intervention (training) group and a no-training control group. Second, within the training group, based on levels of involvement 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 of the experimental group participated in eight sessions (over four weeks) of ICPS training. 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 of ICPS training in improving children’s social problem solving skills supports the findings of previous research that a brief period of training in ICPS performance are related to patterns of involvement in the training groups extends the existing literature in the area and suggests that an interpersonal group intervention, involving group climate for individual ICPS outcomes. 

Engagement in and response to CBT for persistent insomnia in later life CA ESPIE, SJ INGLIS & L HARVEY, University of Glasgow. 

Around 25 per cent of those over the age of 65 have significant sleep disruption and early morning awakening. The hypnosis and slow-wave 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 correlograms for about a 20-day period. This result was significantly similar, 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 significant periodicity, with peaks at 21 and 23 days in auto-correlograms, 15 subjects out of 21 having positive values at the 22 day interval. This cycle endogenous, like the circadian cycle, is an exogenous cycle, or 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 is sinusoidal in character; unlike the temperature variations described above (which would support the hypothesis that it is an endogenous cycle).

Adolescents in Angola: War, distress and coping C EYBER, QMUC, Edinburgh and Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford 

Purpose: This paper examines the concerns, worries and difficulties adolescents in Angola face in relation to their experiences of war and displacement. This study examines the personal, social, cultural and spiritual coping strategies and resources the youths draw on. The study uses a participatory research approach 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 into war-related distress. 

Methods: This research forms the first stage of a systematic assessment of the relationships between intergroup bias and its underlying determinants: implicit and explicit inter-group bias.

Results: Findings suggest a complex pattern of relationships between implicit and explicit unconscious and explicit inter-group bias.

Design: This research involved the conceptual model testing of relationships between implicit and explicit unconscious and explicit inter-group bias. 

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Results: Findings suggest a complex pattern of relationships between implicit and explicit unconscious and explicit inter-group bias.

Design: This research involved the conceptual model testing of relationships between implicit and explicit unconscious and explicit inter-group bias. 

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 38 acts. Following this, other 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, dose-related hospitalised people (n = 102) were asked to judge how often they had encountered each act in relationships with staff/patients for a 1-month 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, ‘imposing 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 Helplessness theory whereas the provision of disempowering care is predicted to lead to greater patient dependence in line with Learned Helplessness theory.

Models of empowerment and disempowerment relevant to hospital staff/patient interaction M FAULKNER, School of Nursing & Midwifery, University of Sheffield 

Objectives: This study aimed to explore interrelationships and relate these to hospital 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 study involved the conceptual model testing of relationships between implicit and explicit unconscious and explicit inter-group bias. 

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 38 acts. Following this, other 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, dose-related hospitalised people (n = 102) were asked to judge how often they had encountered each act in relationships with staff/patients for a 1-month period of time. Act frequencies for each concept were then submitted to a principle components factor analysis. 

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The effect of occupational risk communication design on intentions to wear ear defenders

E FERGUSON, P BIBBY & J LEAVISS, University of Nottingham

Objectives: Traditional models of health behaviours have focused on the importance of cognitive 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 occupational 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 fear of 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 biographical, cognitive and emotional responses and leaflet ratings revealed usability was 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 determining 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.

Student-mentoring programme

M FERRARIO, University of Salford

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 evaluations of the mentoring experience from both mentor and mentee for each direction.

Method: A total of 49 mentors and mentees were involved in the project. Mentors were matched by gender only and certain mentor and mentee pairs were studying for the same course and similar geographical locations. Progress and feedback from both mentors and mentees were recorded throughout the course of study and after course completion. Telephone interviews were also carried out regarding the benefits of the mentoring experience. Both the experimental group and the 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?

A FIELD, University of Sussex

Objectives: This study investigated the effect of fear-related information on the fear beliefs of children towards previously unencountered animals. Unlike past research in which phobic children were presented with information, 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 given about the third animal. The type of information associated with each animal was fully counterbalanced. Fear-beliefs about each animal were assessed 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 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 fears 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 mechanism 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

J FINDLAY & P NAYLOR, University of Surrey

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. This present study has investigated the effects of peer tutoring compared with individualised teaching methods on the social and personal development of the child tutor.

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) ‘individuallytically’ 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 Likeki-type questionnaires each day to measure locus of control, classroom social interaction and self-esteem. The questionnaires were administered 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 ‘individuallytically’ 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 increase in self-esteem was found between self-esteem and social interaction.

Conclusions: Although possible criticisms of the present study are considered, the main conclusion 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 ‘individually’ 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 among children with low self-esteem.

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The nature of age related impairment in memory updating

J FISK, Liverpool John Moores University

Objectives: Memory updating involves presenting lists of consonants with participants required to serial recall the last item presented 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 significant 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 support a more broadly based age deficit rather than a specific central executive impairment.

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Caregiving relationships: Two sides to the story

E FERRAT, Open University

Objectives: In this paper I report my investigation of how people in informal care relationships construct accounts of relational differences between themselves and their care-recipient.

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 the account in speech.

**Results:** I report a discursive analysis, focusing on how care and relational difficulties were articulated. The analysis of care and ‘careers’, accounts indicated a mismatch in how the relationship was constructed, and the range of identifications people partook in. The analysis focused on the competing interpretative repertoires and subject positions in the talk of carers and ‘carees’, and on the accountable role of rhetoric in speech.

**Conclusions:** I reflect on the need to pay close attention to the discursive construction of care, difficulties and relations by suggesting the lessons it offers practitioners in health and social care. In addition, talk of past family relationships, elicited 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?
S FORREST, Anglia Polytechnic University, Cambridge

**Objectives:** Research has shown that as people develop social intelligence skills they largely abandon direct aggression in favour of indirect aggression (rage, indirect form of aggression), and that girls favour indirect aggression more than boys. Despite indirect aggression being described as ‘cruel’, an analysis of 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 also looking at the role of age. Using indirect aggression is significantly associated with patient satisfaction with different aspects of their home environment as long as possible, it is important to understand what factors influence older people’s perception 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 need to take decisions regarding older people’s competency for independent living.

**Methods:** A sample of 68 motor cyclists, were assessed in terms of their experiences of motor cyclist accident victimisation. Risk compared to car drivers was predicted by levels of psychological distress, hindsight bias and not having taken advanced driving training.

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### Satisfaction with immediate breast reconstruction following mastectomy
D FRIZELLE & DM SHARP, Institute of Rehabilitation, Hull

**Objectives:** 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.

**Method:** A consecutive series of 77 women, who had undergone immediate breast reconstruction, were invited to participate in the study.

**Results:** 56 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 make the decision. Ten per cent felt they had insufficient time to consider their decision. Ten per cent regretted their decision. More than half of the women who were satisfied with reconstruction, indicated that they were satisfied with the outcome of reconstruction. However, 14 per cent of the women who were dissatisfied with the outcome of reconstruction, indicated that they were dissatisfied with the information they had received before the decision to have reconstruction was made. In general, patients felt that the nurse had been helpful in their decision-making process, although 14 per cent of the patients felt that the nurse had been helpful in their decision-making process.

**Disposable and satisfaction with accommodation in older people**
E FORSTER & KJ McKEE, University of Sheffield

**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:** A sample of 68 motor cyclists, were assessed in terms of their experiences of motor cyclist accident victimisation. Risk compared to car drivers was predicted by levels of psychological distress, hindsight bias and not having taken advanced driving training.

**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, compared to other motor cyclists. While having a friend who had an accident increased perceived risk, the latter might be described in terms of the overconfident or unrealistically optimistic expert.

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**Bias in meta-cognition: The effects of confidence and hindsight bias on perceptions of risk**
R FREEMAN, Coventry University & T CASSIDY, Thames Valley University

**Objective:** To determine how disability level in older people impacts upon their perceived satisfaction with different aspects of their home accommodation.

**Design:** A quasi-experimental survey design was used.

**Methods:** A sample of 68 motor cyclists, were assessed in terms of their experiences of motor cyclist accident victimisation. Risk compared to car drivers was predicted by levels of psychological distress, hindsight bias and not having taken advanced driving training.

**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, compared to other motor cyclists. While having a friend who had an accident increased perceived risk, the latter might be described in terms of the overconfident or unrealistically optimistic expert.

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significantly lower on the Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy General Scale (p = 0.04) and the Flatulent Bowel Scale (p = 0.02) in relation to physical 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 least 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

T GANNON, University of Sussex

Objectives: Cognitive distortions are statements made by researchers in an attempt to justify and rationalise their crimes. The Sex Offender Treatment Programme involves challenging these pro-offending beliefs so that they can be reduced to their core beliefs. However, the evidence suggesting that these distortions are beliefs relies heavily on transcriber 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. This technique typically involves presenting impressive apparatus to a participant and convincing them that the device is monitoring them secretly.

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 at the same standard condition as the previous week.

Results: The degree of shift over the one week period was measured by 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 transcriber questionnaires and the role of attentional bias. 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

J GAVIN, University of Bath

Objectives: Recently, researchers have argued that a lack of self-control and deviant beliefs, rather than just emotional disorders, have an important role to play in attentional processing. The present study examined 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 by age, gender, body mass index, 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; and, social and emotional problem solving.

Results: Several risk factors measured in mid-life were significantly associated with current cognitive functioning, e.g., body mass index, and 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.

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The role of emotional perception in attentional bias for threat

T GILBERT & M COULSON, Middlesex University

Objectives: Any body of 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 involved the dot probe methodology, two separate 2 x 2 independent groups ANOVAs were carried out using trait anxiety scores (high vs. low) and EP scores (high vs. low) as the independent variables. 

Results: Results 1 found a threat bias for participants who were high in anxiety and low in EP. In experiment 2, detection of threat was manipulated by participants completing a ‘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

G GELADE & S YOUNG, International Survey Research, London

Objectives: The aim of the present study was to develop a structural model of the relationships between organisational climate, customer satisfaction, operational performance and profitability within a major UK retailer. A number of hypotheses were tested 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 model was 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: National climate were derived from an attitude survey of employees in 20 branches in the bank’s retail branch network. Customer satisfaction data were derived from customer survey. Measures of net customer growth, compliance, turnover, absenteeism and sales activity were used as indicators of performance in the 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 findings point to the need for a reconceptualisation of the experimenter is interested in dishonesty. The results provide strong psychological antecedents of profitability and performance. The model indicated that rather than leading to a hostile and shallow distortion. It may be that questionnaires do reveal a more unbiased picture of cognitive distortions than previously thought.

The British Psychological Society
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 vulnerabilities in the specific areas of mental toughness and hardness.

**Methods:** A sample of 115 rugby league players, functioning at the three top levels of the contemporary game, were asked to play the levels of International, Super League and Premiership League, were included in the study. Mental toughness was measured 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. The differences included the variables of: negative energy, attention control, commitment, control, challenge and hardness.

**Conclusions:** Results are discussed in terms of the test of the 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

L GOLDING, Communicare NHS Trust

**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.

**Backdrop:** Growing awareness within learning disability services of the vulnerability of adults with learning disabilities to abuse from paid and unpaid caring 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 becoming involved with personal issues which can lead to confusion. This is further complicated by the value base underpinning the framework of social role valuing, which can conflict with the 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 factors and service users. The model highlights how boundaries may become blurred and gives examples of this.

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**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 described reporting evidence from our studies on hospitalised children who display severe and persistent oppositional and conduct disorder (opposition disorder: ODD) and aggressive or antisocial behaviour (conduct disorder: CD). The prognosis for these children is rather unfavourable.

**Methods:** Previously published evidence from our studies on hospitalised children who display severe and persistent oppositional and conduct disorder (opposition disorder: ODD) and aggressive or antisocial behaviour (conduct disorder: CD) is reviewed. The measures used were the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS, Straus 1979), Controlling Behaviours Scale (CBS, Graham-Kevan et al. 1997) 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 a significant proportion of variance in the use of physical aggression and inflicting injuries for both men and women.

**Conclusions:** The implications of these findings are that the assessment of aggression and 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.

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**11th September 2001: The deterrent effect on travel**

J GRAY & MA WILSON, University of Kent at Canterbury

**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 travel. It aimed to explore for further research. It was anticipated that the terrorist events had a greater effect on attitudes to flying than other forms of transport.

**Objective:** The study aimed to explore for further research. It was anticipated that the terrorist events had a greater effect on attitudes to flying than other forms of transport.

**Conclusions:** The findings 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.

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**Deficits in emotional processing following right hemisphere damage**

C GREEN & L WORKMAN, University of Glamorgan & C BARRY, University of Kent at Canterbury

**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 role of the right hemisphere in emotional processing, 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), Hemispheric Language Battery (RHLB), Benton Face Recognition Test (BFRT), Visuo-
Spatial/Constructional sub-tests from the Repeatable Battery for the Assessment of Neuropsychological Functioning (RBANS), Edinburgh Sentence Completion (ESCM), 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 situations, and comprehension of verbal metaphor, the understanding of inferred meaning, and general discourse competence. Ongoing evaluation of data collected from a Left Hemisphere Damage (LHD) group is also helping to clarify the lateralised nature of emotional processing.

Attitudes and satisfaction at work amongst community mental health team staff
G GRIFFITH, University of Wales, Bangor

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 (LG) to team staff health authority reorganisation (HAR).

Design: The study employed a repeated measures design. A sample of 100% of the full number of staff working in each CMHT, a cross-sectional approach was adopted for the analysis, providing a representative sample of all staff and allowing examination of change at the macro level.

Methods: Data was gathered from staff at the first (October 1996), second (September 1997), third (February 1998) and fourth (March 2000) assessments. The sample comprised of 87 members of staff in the first assessment, 95 in the second and 90 in the final assessment.

Results: LGAR had more of an impact than HAR, 53 per cent to 87 per cent reported the work of the team was more stressful due to the creation of areas was documented (e.g. gender equality, relationships) but allowing for participants to explore topics of their own choosing. A series of discourses analysis were employed to identify significant discursive strategies and repertoires used to construct go and gay men. This is the first known in psychology to be the emotional (defensive) investment of gay men in particular subject positions.

Conclusions: The study was not able to clarify the lateralised nature of emotional cues.

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Conclusions: The study was not able to clarify the lateralised nature of emotional cues.

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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

N HARLAAR, Institute of Psychiatry, London

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, which was MDR defined in terms of the low fifth percentile cut-off at each age.

Results: We found consistently higher concordance rates and 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 MZ and DZ twin pairs in 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 role in the aetiology of MMR. One way forward 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

S HARRINGTON & C MORRISON, Cardiff University

The Speed-Accuracy Trade-off (SAT) paradigm offers the possibility of mapping the time-course of information processing by examining accuracy rates and reaction times. Although there is evidence that MDR was defined in terms of the low fifth percentile cut-off at each age.

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 older group. 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

AC HARRINGTON, University of Sussex

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-typed, 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 preferences.

Design: Children aged five 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 beliefs 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 (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 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

G J HART, University of Glasgow, J ELFORD & L WILLIAMSON, City University, London & G BOLDING & L SHER, Royal Free and University College London School of Medicine

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 education 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 safe sex (condom use 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 risk-taking behaviour. The number of 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, 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 91 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: 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

J HARTLEY, University of Keele, E SOTTO, Haifa & J PENNEBAKER, University of Texas

Objectives: Previous studies of the effects of using new technology 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 experience for 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 drive in ‘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 other two groups. The latter two groups scored significantly higher on the 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 professional 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
T HEFFERNAN, University of Northumbria & J LING, University of Teesside

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 everyday prospective memory (PM) 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
T HEFFERNAN, University of Northumbria, J LING, University of Teesside, G BETNEY, Intermedee, M MOSS, University of Northumbria & V PALMER, Harrogate Drugs and Alcohol Agency

Objective: Persistent, heavy alcohol use in adults has a detrimental effect on retrospective memory (Bachara et al., 2001), as well as the capacity to encode and retrieve information (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/alcohol-free group were 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 adolescence, 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
S HEMPEL, University of Derby, JNV MILES, University of York, P BORKER, University of Halle, Germany & FM SPINATH & A ANGLEITNER, University of Bielefeld, Germany

Objective: This paper presents behaviour genetics 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-Nice/Nephew, Child-MZ of parent, Cousins, genetic Half-Siblings (Cousins) which offers additional estimates of the shared environment (comparing parents and children v children and MZ twin of parent). It allows differentiation between effects of the shared environment by estimating effects of the sibling environment independently from effects of the family environment on their parents.

Method: The study is based on ratings of over 1000 family members for Extraversion, Neuroticism, Openness to experience/Intellect, Agreeableness, 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 (Extraversion) to 75 per cent (Extraversion) of the variance. However, taking non-additive genetic effects into account describes the variance in Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness and Conscientiousness significantly better. Separate estimates for shared environment effects for siblings and for children and their parents were obtained. While the Parent-child environment explained a substantial part of the variance for neuroticism, extraversion and conscientiousness, father effects by providing information from relatives who share dominance effects (e.g. siblings) with relatives who don’t (e.g. parent-children) distinguished between effects of the shared environment by estimating effects of the sibling environment independently from effects of the family environment on their parents.

Conclusions: The pattern of results that emerge from the combined twin and family study 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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Intergroup contact: Panacea or prejudice? M HEWSTONE, Oxford University

Objective: To evaluate and present new evidence concerning the ‘contact hypothesis’, the idea that we can reduce intergroup bias by improving intergroup relations by bringing together members of different groups under specific conditions.

Background: Extensive research has examined the effects 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: (a) mediation of the effect of contact on outcomes by affective measures, especially reduced intergroup anxiety; and (b) moderation of the effects of contact with their group categorisation during contact (contact is more effective when salience is high vs low). 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) the nature of intergroup bias (in-group love becomes out-group hate). I also consider what is involved when we move from intergroup 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.

Conclusion: Intergroup contact and models of social categorisation, and problems posed for these approaches by real-world outbreaks of conflict, as in former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

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 and should they have a limited amount of money. They were then required to indicate the methods they would use to be sure they would win, 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 were 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 a important role in maintaining lottery gambling.

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‘We’ve had a good innings’: Sexual health and the ageing self
S HINCHLIFF & M GOTT, University of Sheffield

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 questionnaires.

**Method:** 66 participants were identified from patients on the age/sex register of a General Practitioner in whom the following selection criteria were used: age 30–49; age 50–69; age 70 and above (with each group stratified by gender and marital status). Data were collected using individual interviews and WHOQOL-100

**Results:** Interview data were analysed using the Framework method (Tsou, 2007), and the following findings emerged. Sexual relationships were perceived by most participants to contribute to quality of life, but barriers and barriers to engaging in sexual activities were often experienced; these differed with regard to age, where older participants reported physical conditions of a long-term nature that prevented them from engaging in more strenuous activity.

**Conclusion:** This paper examines the decision to sign an organ donor card. Methods: Participants were randomly allocated to one of the six versions employed. 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.

**How iconic gestures and speech interact to represent semantic information in talk**

J HOLLER & G BEATTIE, University of Manchester

**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.

**Method & Design:** 38 participants were asked to narrate cartoon stories while being filmed. To create a situation similar to natural face-to-face conversation, the cartoon stories were projected onto the wall so that the examiner could not see them, and each participant was asked to narrate the stories as if doing so in conversation with someone else. 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 ambiguous, 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 in both communicational channels, whereas others were represented almost exclusively by iconic gestures but not by speech and others predominantly by speech but not gestural.

**Force-modified imagery and temporal functional equivalence in basketball as gestural memory**

P HOLMES, Manchester Metropolitan University & D COLLINS, Edinburgh University

**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 training of motor imagery generation by varying the hypothesised functional equivalence between the behaviour in physical task condition and that of motor imagery.

**Method:** 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 physical and force-modified conditions.

Method 2: In study two, force-modified imagery was used. Twenty-two 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 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 deviations.

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 dependent about the event immediately after. This postulated after it 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?

C HOPKINS & M BLADES, University of Sheffield & A WATERMAN, University of Dundee

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 then the question and the questioning. We predicted that after a delay children would be more likely to say ‘don’t know’ to unanswerable open questions.

Design: 48 five-year-olds and 42 eight-year-olds took part in an event. The 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: Impression management 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. The findings suggest that 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 generally accepted, the nature 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 sleep’, wakening and daylight sleepiness 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 potential 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 homes. We hypothesised that 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. The second stage involves 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. Participants were questioned to this and completed a questionnaire.

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The experiences of veterans: War and remembrance

N HUNT & K CHESWORTH, Nottingham Trent University & S MCHALE, Sheffield Hallam University

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 included the impact of age, wartime experiences and strategies 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 psychological tools provided detailed and personal accounts of events.

Methods: 150 veterans of wars of the 1940s and 1950s were questioned by 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. Also included were questions 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 some significant proportion of ageing veterans have some psychological problems associated with their wartime experiences.

Conclusions: The findings suggest that significant psychological problems in the hope that the perception of self is fluid and contextual. However, there may be specific components of this fluidity that enable the active management of an image, to suit a general understanding of a role that is to be played in a front stage social context. This presenter role is one that encompasses bright, lively, congenial, and positive personal characteristics that are essential to a majority of the audience. In contrast to Goffman (1990) this includes the suppression or accentuation of behaviour. In television, the concept of a front stage is a definite distinction between front stage (on-screen) and backstage (off-screen) events, therefore the question addressed here is hypothesis is that there is a disparity between on-screen 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 a general sub-role 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 presenters would be the most appropriate approach for this study.

Results: The qualitative findings suggest a possible differentiation between experienced and inexperienced presenters. Experienced presenters (those that are socially attractive) and filter out the inappropriate (socially unattractive).

Conclusion: These findings support Goffman’s ideas of impression management and the concept of a front stage and backstage image. A model of presenter naturalisation is proposed to represent the expected development of television presenters and future avenues of research are discussed.

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Differential coping between IVF and non-IVF male patients

KM HURST, Sheffield Hallam University, L DYE, University of Leeds, M DeBONO, Halifax General Hospital & AJ RUTHERFORD, The General Infirmary, Leeds

Objectives: The literature is equivocal regarding male factor sub-fertility and its associated psychological sequelae, due to the heterogeneous sample 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 investigation 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; B = IVF-normal; C = ACU-abnormal; D = ACU-normal). Participants were matched demographically, and completed the Meaning of Parenthood and 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 (T = -3.8, 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...
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 merged realisations of identity. Perceiving the social categories to which people belong is no longer a zero-sum affair – there can be a significant degree of congruence and overlap. The interest lies in 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 & Clare, 1990), are formed. Description: Two studies each investigated between (congruent vs. incongruent) and within (categorisation: constituent vs. composite) behaviour-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 (congruent people in congruent emotional expressions), incongruent (people in congruent emotional expressions), or incongruent (people in incongruent emotional expressions) categories. Results: Analysis of the generated attributes for each of the three types of social categorisations suggested that ‘online’ emergence of novel stereotypical attributes varied as a function of emotional expression. Recategorisations for the reduction of inter-group bias and the creation of new stereotypes are discussed.

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 emotional procedures for fear of crime. The model of fear of crime used in this study is described. The study aimed to identify the key factors that contribute to the fear of crime and to develop a comprehensive model of fear of crime. The findings suggest that fear of crime is a complex construct that is influenced by a range of individual and environmental factors. The model of fear of crime is discussed in detail, and its implications for future research are outlined.
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 correlators were: Management, Job Autonomy, Instructional Prospects, Impact on Personal and Domestic Life, and Job Turbulence. The weakest correlators were: Professional Postings, Social Facilities, and Independent Lifestyle.

Conclusions: In policy terms, the more challenging aspects of organisational development are the ones 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

L JANNOUN, V SLOMINS & G BAIRD, Newcomen Centre, Guy’s Hospital, London Objectives: The aim of the present study was to:
1. Try to identify which genes might be involved in language impairment in children with SLI;
2. Develop the study of cognitive and literacy deficits in a group of children with SLI defined by ICID10 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 Queens Metropolitan Hospitals, WRAML.

Results: Preliminary results suggest that:
- Children with SLI form a heterogeneous group, with some in keeping with previous research findings;
- The discrepancy between VIQ and PIQ does not identify SLI individuals;
- 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.

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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 represers 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-anxieties and represers) were recorded prior to participation in a football match.

Methods: Experiment 1: 72 archers completed the Sport Anxiety Scale (Smith et al., 1990) and the Marlowe Crowne-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 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 Schefee analysis showed significant differences between the representer and defensive high-anxieties groups (p<.05; ES = 0.92). No significant difference was found between the normal 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 proposal showing cognitive biases towards future events. Experiment two further examines the influence of cognitive biases on performance expectations and anxiety symptom interpretation.

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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 aggressive or neutral 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 incidents were categorised into fouls committed both by, and against, the ‘blue team’, where participants agreed that a foul had been committed (certain incidents), or that there was a foul (uncertain incidents), and agreed that there was no foul (innocuous incidents). While both groups were given written instructions prior to the task the experimental group were also informed that the ‘blue team’ present in all of the clips had committed the foul.
The structure of avoidance following trauma in emergency service personnel

S JOSEPH, L ANDREWS & T DALGLEISH, Medical Research Council, University of Sheffield

Objective: The aim of the present study was to investigate the multidimensionality of trauma-related avoidance in the police in order to examine the relationships between specific types of avoidance and post-traumatic stress symptoms.

Design: A cross-sectional study.

Method: 485 self-selecting emergency service personnel completed a 44-item self-report measure of avoidance in relation to an identified occupation-related traumatic incident. Responses were subsumed (i.e. Robust Comparative Fit Index > .90, Non-Normed Fit Index .94, Root Mean Square Error of Approximation .09). The internal consistencies of the factors were acceptable (* > .70). The Coach-Athlete Relationship Questionnaire (CART-Q) was a brief, simple-to-use 11-item measure that reflects affective (Closeness), cognitive (Commitment), and behavioral (Cognition & Complementarity) aspects of the coach–athlete relationship.

Conclusions: The development of the CART-Q provides clinicians and researchers who could investigate the coach–athlete relationship and promote knowledge in a fertile research area of sport psychology.

The Coach-Athlete Relationship Questionnaire (CART-Q): Development and initial validation

S JOWETT, Staffordshire University & N NTOUNAMIS, University of Birmingham

Objectives: The purpose of the present study was to develop a multi-dimensional 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.

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 Index .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 behavioral (Cognition & Complementarity) aspects of the coach – athlete relationship.

Conclusions: The development of the CART-Q provides clinicians and researchers who could investigate the coach–athlete relationship and promote knowledge in a fertile research area of sport psychology.

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: Autism is generally overlooked as a therapeutic method and the limited research on play focuses mainly on its educational potential. 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 do not know how they should play. The standard ways of communicating do not seem to be effective.

Methods: The study involved 120 parents of autistic children and their parents were used to make suggestions on how a relationship between autistic children and their parents can be established around play.

Conclusion: 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 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 and participate in many of its functions, once they become more aware of them through play.

Psycho-social aspects of young pregnant women in urban populations in Sunderland (UK) and Tashkent (Uzbekistan)

G KARIMOVA, PJ HAWKINS & D RICHARDS, University of Sunderland & AJ HILDRETH & K HINSHAW, Sunderland Royal Hospital

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.

Methods: The study was conducted using quantitative and qualitative methodologies and included the following questionnaires: (1) ‘Attitudes towards Pregnancy and the Importance of the Social Support Scale’; (2) ‘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 conducted.
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 pretend-antenatals were more positive. Sunderland women were more concerned about own health and labour, whereas Uzbek women were worried about the safety of their babies. The ‘subject system’ also varied with Uzbek women receiving more support from the father of the baby and family in general. Qualitative methods confirmed the results.

Conclusions: Pregnancy is seen as a social role, primarily constructed through ‘symbolic interaction’ from the environment. Women from different cultures perform the role of ‘being pregnant’ differently. Sunderland women viewed the pregnancy as desirable from the ideal of being a ‘successful women’. Uzbek women believe that the pregnancy role can lead them 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.

References:


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Witnesses with and without learning disabilities in court: The role of judge interventions

Matthew Bewley, University of Birmingham, S Johnson, Liverpool University & C Hatton, Lancaster University

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 involving a witness with learning disabilities and 16 court cases with a witness without learning disabilities were compared. All witnesses were alleged victims of 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 witness 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 lawyer with a witness without learning disabilities, on average 7.4 judge interventions were directed towards the witness, 2.9 towards the questioning lawyer, and 0.9 towards the lawyer with a witness.

Conclusions: In court cases involving a witness with or without learning disabilities, judges intervene rarely and appear to offer little assistance to the witness from co-operative questioning.

Incidental learning in the real world

S. Kelly, University of Keele

Objectives: Despite several demonstrations of incidental 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 distinct settings using a more sensitive test procedure. It was expected that evidence for real world incidental learning would be found that is comparable with findings from 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 those items which were not encountered in that particular culture.

Methods: A total of 48 healthy young participants were recruited via advertisements. Stimulus items with definite orientations which would also be encountered on a regular basis within each culture were selected. The British coin and stamp were shown (which have the Queen’s head facing to the right and left, respectively) and the Kirov ballet logo and the Japanese Football Association logo and the cartoon character, Miss Kitty, which all have definite orientation within the Japanese culture.

Results: Counterbalanced, multiple-dose, placebo-controlled, counterbalanced crossover experiment intervention and 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 capsule (500 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 P300 amplitude and both secondary memory performance and speed of attention task performance following ingestion of Ginkgo biloba. Overall the pattern of results suggested 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-vivo, in-vivo and ex-vivo physiological effects in the laboratory. However, the generality of these effects in human behavioural literature is equivocal.

Design: A series of double-blind, counterbalanced crossover placebo controlled studies were undertaken.

Methods: The studies applied appropriate methodologies to determine the effects on cognitive performance and electrophysiological parameters following single doses of Panax ginseng (G115, Pharmaton SA, Switzerland) administered to healthy volunteers.

Results: The demonstration of notable cognitive benefits across the studies included significant improvements in memory performance. This effect was largely attributed to secondary memory tasks. The doses of Ginseng used were more active were also associated with cognitive costs in terms of reduced speed on attention tasks and self-ratings of alertness. It was suggested that in comparison to placebo Ginseng had a more pronounced effect on bio-electrical activity relative to Ginkgo biloba. Overall the modulation of the P300 wave and reductions in power for all wave lengths.

Conclusions: Overall the pattern of results suggested that at optimal doses Ginseng will 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 external 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 perhaps as an environmental and health problem as it is a major problem in many industrialised countries. Whilst a number of characteristics of the indoor environment have been linked to SBS, it has been suggested that demographic and psychosocial factors might be at least as important as the external working environment in predicting self-reported symptoms. This first investigation of 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 not all environmentally-related symptoms in the objective physical environment should be considered when investigating SBS. It is suggested that the relationship between SBS and job satisfaction may be the result of a synergistic relationship between environmental, social and individual factors. Accordingly, future research should use a multidisciplinary 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

S. Kippax, University of New South Wales

Objectives: 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 qualitative and quantitative. I will draw on three research projects. One is a longitudinal study of the sexual behaviours of young heterosexuals. The second is an analysis of the sexual strategies of young men in the context of HIV. The third is a qualitative study of anal sex and power. In different ways these 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 institutional structures as well as the more
Reproductive normative heterosexuality in calls to the doctor

C KITZINGER, University of York
Objectives: This is a frequent claim 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 impact on their children.

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: The majority 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 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’.

The impact of burnout on primary teachers’ evaluations of pupils’ undesirable behaviours

C KOKKINOS, Cyprus Pedagogical Institute & A DAVAZOFLOU, Democritus University of Thrace

Objectives: Teaching is an important determinant of student academic and behavioural outcomes. Teaching is generally regarded as a stressful occupation. The present study examined whether burnout and job satisfaction differentiated their responses, only teaching and learning (Woolfolk & Hoy, 1990). My analysis shows that they advance this normalising discourse in order to manage their ascribed identity as ‘bad’ parents. By normalising homosexual bullying, they remove their responsibility for their children’s victimisation and so avoid being labelled ‘unfit 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.

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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 young 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 (20–25 years) were asked to recall statements that they had earlier read and then to rate the certainty of their recall. The task was manipulated as contextual variables.

Results: A substantial main effect of age on confidence was found. Older adults rated their memory as less accurate than younger adults, and this difference was not mediated by differences in the tendency to provide false memories.

Conclusion: Evidence from the present study supports the existence of a general knowledge task, two episodic memory tasks (one involving a false recognition component), and a perceptual line-judgement task.

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, which 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 propose that 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 qualitative and qualitative research. Level one risk factors were identified as ‘culture shock’, social isolation, adaptation to late life events and depression. Filer one was identified as the psychological variables of how elderly Asians may make sense of their illnesses, thereby acting as possible barriers to services. Infiltrates at filter one include the use of primary care, health beliefs, language barriers, somatisation, issues with diagnostic tools and alternative medicines.

Conclusion: The study 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 Gujrati-speaking Hindu Indians understanding of old age

S LAKHANI, Queen Elizabeth Psychiatric Hospital, Birmingham, and J OYEBODE, University of Birmingham

Background: With an increasing percentage of minority ethnic people reaching retirement age over the next decade, there is a need to provide appropriate services and facilities.

Research suggests that people from minority ethnic groups have restricted access to services due to stereotypes such as ‘they look after their own’. 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: 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).

Conclusions: Findings from the present study show that psychological skills before competition relate to pre-competition emotions. We suggest that future research should investigate the effects of applied interventions designed to improve psychological skills and the attendant influence on performance.

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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 first 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.

Methods: Following identification of an aggressive licencee stereotype, a 2 (presence or absence of door supervisor) x 2 (tidy or untidy interior) between subjects design was employed to manipulate the presence or absence of a door supervisor (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 individualised 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 to how to address, manage or prevent such aggressive 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 immediately before a basketball free-throw attempt.

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 Tension scores. Goal setting, Imagery, Activation, and Negative Thinking scores collectively accounted for 41 per cent of the variance in Tension scores. Automatically accounted for 22 per cent of the variance in Tension scores.

Conclusions: Findings from the present study show that psychological skills before competition relate to pre-competition emotions. We suggest that future research should investigate the effects of applied interventions designed to improve psychological skills and the attendant influence on performance.

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illuminates the legal vacuum by using a local case study. This paper also updates the latest legal development towards criminalising Stalking behavior. This is the first study on the first such development in the Far East. As there is no prevalence study yet, a short summary that highlights some of the outcomes of stalking victims in the 36 cases (cited in the Law Reform Commission Report submitted to the Executive Council) is provided to indicate the need for law reform in this area. The author agrees with the need to criminalising stalkers. Suggestions are also made as how we can protect victims, provide more resources for psychological treatment available to victims. A case is made for the importance of assessment and treatment in prison 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 – Society and content of group norms which influence (either in the promotion or the inhibition of violent behavior) the bystander behavior 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. Latane & Darley 1970).
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. University Administrators are working on the law reform, despite some local objections with regard to human rights.

 Violence and the bystander: The importance of social category relationships for explaining violence trajectories

M LEVINE, University of Lancaster

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. The importance of bystander behavior 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. Latane & Darley 1970).

Design: This paper draws upon a combination of experimental, field and interview studies.

Results: The paper presents evidence to show that: (i) influence of bystanders will be more influential (either in the promotion or the inhibition of violent behavior) than outcome. In fact, bystanders who see victims as being an ingroup opposed to outgroup members, are more likely to perceive feelings of shared fate and concurrent responsibility for well-being of ingroup victims and more likely to receive help than outgroup victims; and (ii) the interaction relationship between salience of identity and content of group norms which shapes the kinds of (non)intervention behavior of bystanders.

Conclusions: The paper concludes with discussion on 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

CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College, LJ FRANCIS, University of Wales, Bangor, G-Z ZIEGEBERTZ, University of Wurzburg

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 using 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 test-retest reliability 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 research is needed to check these findings among other samples in Germany.

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Sexuality: Expressions and meanings for a sample of older women

H LEY, University of Liverpool & M MORLEY, Manchester Mental Health Partnership (Central)

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 were analyzed using grounded theory. Several myths are associated with the sexuality of older adults in spite of published research that challenges or refutes some of these myths. This is a bias towards researching the sexuality of older adult males. Some studies have been conducted with older women and the variables used pre-selected variables set in a quantitative framework.

Methods: Invitation letters were sent to 190 older women and general practitioner lists, 21.6 per cent responded positively. Nine women aged 68–83 years were selected using grounded theory sampling methods, and a semistructured 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 categories were 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, martial and family histories, psychosocial factors, religious beliefs, and the cultural/societal context. The findings have implications for healthcare professionals working with older women as well as those researching their sexualities.

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Psychological risk factors in offenders with learning disability

W R LINDSAY & J LAW, Tayside Primary Care NHS Trust, A YABEYAY, CJ PARRY & AHW SMITH, Tayside Primary Care NHS Trust

Theme: Studies on risk assessment with offenders with intellectual disability.

Objectives: The focus of this symposium brings together a number of studies which investigate some psychological variables relevant to offenders with intellectual disability.

Design & Methods: In the present study, 73 participants completed a questionnaire in which rated various causes of exam failure. There were 11 causes, including lacking 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 analysis.

Results: Results indicated several perceived causes that led directly to exam failure. These causes were unrelated to the student 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 more useful 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.

Social representations of crime: A comparison of US and UK law enforcement officers

J LING, K ROBERTS, University of Teesside & E LING, Mount Olive College, North Carolina, US

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 likely relationships 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 cause was related to crime. Officers were then asked to rate the likelihood of 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 interrelationships between the rated factors. The data are explored by inductive eliminative analysis in order to make comparisons between the two sets of data.

Conclusions: The patterns of the ratings of the
what is it important to learn in a heart failure education class?

L LOFTUS, University of Liverpool

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. The outcomes 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 a acute hospital setting was implemented. An interview based design was employed to find a group of nine health professionals thought important for inclusion in the class and what 40 of their HF patients thought they would learn.

Conclusions: There were major differences between the guidelines set out in the literature 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. Questions on the HF class and the role of HF education should be explored.

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The psychosocial adjustment of formerly abduct child soldiers in Sierra Leone and Northern Uganda

M LOUGHRY, Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford

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 all four studies, the Child Behaviour Inventory as a point of departure, research instruments were constructed which had high psychometric properties. Participants were selected to attend a one-time intervention with former child soldiers in Sierra Leone and in Northern Uganda. Subsequently, in Northern Uganda, four groups of children were investigated. Group 1 comprised a group of children who had never been abducted and had lived in the region. Group 2 comprised a group of children who had been abducted and had lived in the region. Group 3 comprised a group of children who had been abducted and had lived in the region. Group 4 comprised a group of children who had never been abducted and had lived in the region.

Results: The results showed that NP effects were found between the groups. In particular, participants in Group 1 had significantly lower NP scores than participants in Group 2. In addition, participants in Group 1 had significantly lower NP scores than participants in Group 3. The results of the study also showed that participants in Group 1 had significantly lower NP scores than participants in Group 4.

Conclusion: The results of the study suggest that the NP effect is present in former child soldiers. This is an important finding as it implies that the NP effect is present in former child soldiers. The results of the study also suggest that the NP effect is present in former child soldiers. This is an important finding as it implies that the NP effect is present in former child soldiers. The results of the study also suggest that the NP effect is present in former child soldiers. This is an important finding as it implies that the NP effect is present in former child soldiers.

LITTLE & T HEFFERNAN, University of Liverpool

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, personal characteristics and strategies, and physical health. Physical health measures were calculated from the data: long term health problems, poor short term health problems, and sick leave taken during the past year.

Results: Perceived levels of work related stress were greater than previous findings. There was a positively correlated relationship found 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 recent research on care health 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?

L LITTLE & T HEFFERNAN, University of Northumbria

Objective: Previous research has found that odour-cues given to elderly people evoked a ‘reminiscence bump’ found to be a ten-year age-period, with word-cues evoking the bump in late-adolescence to early-adulthood (Chu & Downes, 2008). 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 81+ 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 of their life. The number of memories recalled per time-bin was compared across groups.

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 (2008). 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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The role of structural processes in object recognition

K LOVELL & D BERRY, University of Reading

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 finding 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 replicate the results 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?

M LOWIS, University College Northampton

Objectives: To investigate Joan Erikson’s (in EH Erikson, 1989) suggestion of a psycho-social development opportunity beyond Stage 8: ego integrity versus despair. Tarn (1986) and Schroots (1996) discussed a stage of ‘gero-tranascendence’ – 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 79 women, aged 53 to 92 (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 was 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 challenges may be an active engagement but on a different plane. There are implications for research, and those 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 befriender: A functional analysis

T LUNDY, Praxis, Belfast

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 believe they are a scarce commodity – recruiting and retaining volunteer bystanders is often paramount to the very existence of befriending organisations. The functionalist approach to the whole volunteer phenomenon. They are potentially met by volunteerism. It proposes that by appealing to their motivations, volunteerism can be a valuable resource for organisations recruiting, training and supporting volunteer bystanders.

**Methods:** The Volunteer Functions Inventory, an instrument measuring the benefits of volunteering, was postally administered to 249 volunteer bystanders 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. Volunteer 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 application of a 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 bystanders.

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**Well-being in women caring for an elder: Motivations for caring and relationship with the elderly**

C. Lyonette & L. Lardley, University of Salford

**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 for inter-group attitudes. A set of 14 carers influencing the caring experience, and two questionnaires developed to assess prominent needs. The ERSCS was used to assess 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 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 elderly and an extrinsic motivation to care, and also by low work satisfaction.

**Conclusions:** Motivations for caring and the quality of the relationship with the elderly 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 the elderly and the 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**

R. MacLean, University of Aberdeen

**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 and old age groups on various divergent thinking tests.

**Methods:** 90 participants (60 female, 30 male) took part. The participants were divided into three age bands: young (18–39 years), middle-aged (40–60 years), and old (60–82 years). All participants completed 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 a highly significant age decline, whereas 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 information processing speed, and not necessarily in creativity. These findings have implications for adult education and methods for enhancing creativity.

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**The potential of principle**

GR MAIO, Cardiff University

**Objectives:** The present research tested theoretical and practical implications of the hypothesis that 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 resistance to resistance of values to change. Two or three experiments addressed each of these issues. For example, if values are perceived as strong, one should not resist the values as a matter of principle. Additional experiments indicated that providing cognitive support for values makes them more resistant to subsequent persuasive attack and more powerful in motivating the beliefs of those where there are incentives to behave in 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**

G. MAIO & E. WATT, Cardiff University & M. Hewstone, University of Oxford

**Objectives:** The present research investigated whether the effect of anti-racism messages on attitudes toward ethnic groups depend on the message recipients' degree of 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 aspects of connectedness of 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 an anti-racism editorial that manipulated targets of 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 explicit 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.

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**Do people pay attention to base-rate information in The Cab Problem?**

A. MAJID, Max Planck Institute for Psychological Linguistics, The Netherlands

**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 has argued that when people pay attention to base-rate information when it is presented in frequency format, as opposed to probability format. This study 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 the story that there was 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 the 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 their theory and practice.

**Key Points:** The key theoretical premises of systemic therapy are considered; that it sees human beings as relational beings (connected to 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 ‘norns’ of their society. There is also an acknowledgement that the therapist is not an objective ‘observer’ or protagonist within therapy but is also affected by, and is a part of, the therapeutic encounter. Given these elements, systemic psychotherapy seems well-placed to be considered 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 ‘screes’ often associated with systemic practice.

Conclusions: It will only be if issues of sexual identity and systemic thinking, 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

P MARAS, University of Greenwich

Purpose: The paper describes the background to the BPS Qualifying Examination (QE), outlines the relationship 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 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 of this 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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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.

The evolving role of a memory clinic

A MARriott & R BULLOCK, Victoria Hospital, Swindon

Purpose: The present study sought to investigate the influence of the widespread use 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 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 pharmacological treatments retard, but do not reverse, cognitive decline therefore early administration is crucial.

Method: 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 on admission 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.
autobiographical and music MIP was used to induce anxious, disgust and neutral moods (n = 60). Moods were measured before and after induction using visual analogue scales. 

**Results:** A 3 (mood induced) x 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 disgust and neutral 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 may be involved in people with anxiety disorders due to elevated levels of anxiety. Further studies have also suggested this. 

**A path analysis from lower socioeconomic status to psychosocial problems in childhood: The mediating and moderating effects of parental involvement and stress**

RM McCarthy, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, University of Cambridge, University of Oxford, BE BERQUIST & GJ. AUGUST, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

**Objectives:** We explored the hypothesis that parental involvement moderated an indirect mediated relation between family socio-economic status and children’s cognitive competence, academic achievement, and behavioural problems.

**Design:** To examine effects, we used a cross-sectional design to include all kindergarten and first-grade students at baseline in one of the study sites. This was conducted to study the effects of intervention in development of antisocial behaviour.

**Methods:** 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 = 784) to ensure socioeconomic heterogeneity.

**Materials:** Instruments administered to children included 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), Parenting Stress Index (PSI). Teacher measures included the Behaviour Assessment System for Children-Teacher (BASC-T), Teacher Rating Scale of Child’s Actual Competence and Social Acceptance.

**Procedures:** Following Institutional Review Board guidelines and/or 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 Social 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 all subscales of KBIT. Bivariate relations were found between SES and PSI subscales, including parental involvement, which 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 moderate the relation 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**

M McCARTHY & G BEAUMONT, University of Surrey, Roehampton/Royal Hospital for Neurodisability, London & R THOMPSON & H PRING, Royal Hospital for Neurodisability, London

**Objectives:** This study was designed to investigate the effects of imagined limb activation in patients with unilateral visual neglect and severe cognitive impairments. 

**Design:** Two single case studies are presented. 

**Method:** In the first case, a standard ABBABABA design was used, where the participant was asked to imagine making movements with his left arm during the intervention conditions. In the second case, an ACCABACCABA design was used in which imagined movements of the left arm during the intervention conditions, and the right arm during control conditions. 

**Results:** There was no significant effect of mood induced, but not induction type. Raising disgusted mood also raises anxious, disgust and neutral moods. Further results have indicated this. 

**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 with severely disabled brain injured adults with neglect is discussed. The cognitive mechanisms underlying the ability to imagine are also considered.

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**Attentional bias for near and far space using a line bisection task**

M McCARTHY, University of Surrey, Roehampton, A VARNAVA, University College Cardiff & G BEAUMONT, Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability, London

**Objectives:** The current study addressed the direction and magnitude of attentional bias in normal adults and children. 

**Design:** The experimental conditions were times (300mm, 600mm, 900mm), peripersonal (300mm), peri-personal (600mm), and extrapersonal (900mm). The direction and magnitude of attentional bias in near and far space yielded a progressive shift from a leftward bias in near space to a rightward bias in far space.

**Results:** Analysis showed a statistically significant increase at time 2 on false belief answers. The results indicated that this new technique for the clinical practitioner working with severely disabled brain injured adults with neglect is discussed. The cognitive mechanisms underlying the ability to imagine are also considered.

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**The Nottingham Mental Health Service for Children/Young People Looked After**

V MCCROSSEN, Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, J POTTER, Nottingham City Hospital & J DABELL, Notts Healthcare NHS Trust

**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 that therefore sets out to measure initial service user satisfaction; the effectiveness of a prototype consultation form as a tool to guide the consultation; to provide qualitative and quantitative feedback from a high quality access route to a mental health professional to all of the Children’s Homes, and the Foster and Looked After Social Work Teams in Nottingham.

**Method:** Data was collected using four different methods: structured interviews with young people who are ‘Looked After’ in Nottingham (10); assessment of consultation forms were analysed for quality and quantity (337); focus groups were conducted (12); and a questionnaire was delivered to consultation and 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; to provide qualitative and quantitative feedback from a high quality access route to a mental health professional to all of the Children’s Homes, and the Foster and Looked After Social Work Teams in Nottingham.
The relationship between novelty seeking and taste preference for sweetened drinks in humans  

C Mchale, D Kielek, M McHugh, M Gilhooly, Sheffield University, UK  

Objective: To examine the relationship between novelty seeking and taste preference for sweetened drinks in adults.  

Method: Participants were 100 undergraduate students who were asked to rate their taste preference for sweet and bitter drinks on a scale from 1 to 5. They were also asked to rate their novelty seeking on Cloninger’s Temperament & Personality Questionnaire (TPQ).  

Results: There was a significant correlation between taste preference and novelty seeking (r = .38, p<.001). Participants who preferred sweeter drinks also scored higher on the novelty seeking scale of the TPQ.  

Conclusion: There is a relationship between novelty seeking and preference for sweet foods and drinks in humans. This was significant at p<0.05.
Prediction of risk in sex offenders with learning disability
A McLEAN & S ELLIOTT, University of Abertay, Dundee, A ASTELL, University of St Andrews & WR LINDSAY, Tayside Primary Care NHS Trust & University of Abertay, Dundee, A ASTELL, University of St Andrews & WR LINDSAY, Tayside Primary Care NHS Trust & University of Abertay, Dundee

Background: Prediction of risk in offenders generally considers both static and dynamic factors. The former is an actuarial prediction based on a summary of criminal history, whilst the latter is a clinical assessment based on a clinical judgment of the likelihood of re-offending. The former is an actuarial prediction based on a summary of criminal history, whilst the latter is a clinical assessment based on a clinical judgment of the likelihood of re-offending. The former is an actuarial prediction based on a summary of criminal history, whilst the latter is a clinical assessment based on a clinical judgment of the likelihood of re-offending. The former is an actuarial prediction based on a summary of criminal history, whilst the latter is a clinical assessment based on a clinical judgment of the likelihood of re-offending. The former is an actuarial prediction based on a summary of criminal history, whilst the latter is a clinical assessment based on a clinical judgment of the likelihood of re-offending. The former is an actuarial prediction based on a summary of criminal history, whilst the latter is a clinical assessment based on a clinical judgment of the likelihood of re-offending.

Methods: 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 variables including denial of crime, antisocial attitudes, poor response to treatment, and frequent sexual fantasising strongly support the efficacy of dynamic variables in clinical risk assessment. This would contradict some claims in the literature that static variables have little validity as predictors and also supports the conclusions by Quinsey that dynamic staff ratings are more valid than static variables.

Conclusions: The study strongly support the efficacy of dynamic variables in clinical risk assessment. This would contradict some claims in the literature that static variables have little validity as predictors and also supports the conclusions by Quinsey that dynamic staff ratings are more valid than static variables.

Denial and attitudes in sex offenders: Treatment for offenders against adults and offenders against children
AM MICHE & V MARTIN, Lothian Primary Care NHS Trust

Objectives: Quinsey et al. (1998) developed methods for the treatment of men with an intellectual disability who had been convicted of exhibitionism and sex offences against children. This paper examines the clinical 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 22 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 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) = 3.141, p = 0.005). There was a significant decrease in inappropriate attitudes consistent with sexual offences against children (f(8,63) = 0.003). There was a significant decrease in inappropriate attitudes consistent with sexual offences against adults. Group 2—sexual offences against children. There was a significant increase in denial over time (f(8,63) = 2.182, p = 0.041). There were also significant differences in related 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).

Conclusions: There was a significant reduction in denial, for participants in groups 1 and 2. Group 1 comprised men who had committed sexual offences against women. This group displayed changes in attitudes towards denial and attitudes towards women which participants found it easier to alter inappropriate attitudes that are not directly related to their own offending behaviour. Results suggest that the relative success of treatment to reduce 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 linked?
M Moore, North Eastern Health Board, Dundurn, Ireland & H McKee, Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin

Objectives: Measurement of QoL is important as an outcome measure in the area of mental health. One recognised definition of QoL in mental health care is based on the ‘wants’ approach. This definition QoL as the discrepancy or ‘gap’ between the individuals’ ‘actual’ QoL and their ‘aspirational’ QoL, the latter being the QoL which they want or desire. 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 laboratory study is that the magnitude of the gap affects the size of this gap and thus the depressed individuals QoL.

Design: A cross-sectional, 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 in a study to examine the relationship between mood and symptomatology and an individualised QoL measure. Data points were collected at time of admission and follow-up visits approximately 12 weeks later.

Results: Bi-variate analyses were used to detect associations between measures and offence scores for the gap between individuals actual and aspirations 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’ perceptions of QoL, in that there was a relatively large gap between actual and aspirational QoL when participants were more depressed. This gap increased with their depression 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.

The role of autonomic feedback in the appraisal of media violence
S MOORE & GROVENSTIEN, University of North London & M BRISTOW, Anglia Polytechnic University

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 paid to the role that viewers physiological arousal might play in responses to and interpretations of such violence. Zillmann and Bailor (1978) and Zillmann (1980) postulated that the impact that arousal perception plays in emotional and cognitive appraisals.

Design & Methodology: A group of young adults participating in a study were randomly assigned to one of three conditions in a between-subjects design: viewing a film, watching a film with audio feedback, and watching a film with audio feedback and heart rate feedback. Participants were asked to indicate their appreciation of the film and the type of film they viewed. Data was obtained from a series of questionnaires before, during and after the viewing of the film. Participants were given the impression they had viewed a film that was either violent or non-violent, and were asked to rate their appreciation of the film.

Results & Conclusion: Surprisingly, results showed that participants who viewed the film with autonomic feedback had higher ratings of film appreciation than participants who viewed the film without autonomic feedback. This suggests that autonomic feedback may play a role in the appraisal of media violence.
for many, results in too many sleepless nights when ‘...all the causes of conflicting passion, of anxiety, and of corroding fear, rise up with redoubled force, and haunt the broken spirit’ (Sigmund, 1836).

Psychological treatment in the management of hypnotic dependent chronic insomnia: a primary care trial

K MORGAN, Loughborough University; S DIXON, N MATHERS, J THOMPSON, University of Sheffield & M TOMENY, Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust

Background: While it is accepted that hypnotic therapy for weeks 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 programs. 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 randomised into 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 of 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 experience, or an unrelated distraction task which acted as a control condition. Participants were then asked to recall several specific events or experiences from memory. Memory was assessed along three dimensions of positivity, anxiety and shame. Changes in executive psychological processes 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 anxiety 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 from memory. However, post-event ruminative thoughts may not be maintained by pre-existing anxiety 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 rumination occurs because pre-existing memories and beliefs about past social failures support the negative self-perceptions inherent to rumination thinking.

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A cognitive approach to understanding psychosis: Current evidence and future possibilities

AP MORRISON, University of Manchester & Mental Health Services of Salford

A cognitive approach to the understanding of psychosis is outlined. This approach highlights several common cognitive processes and structures that are involved in the development and maintenance of both psychosis and anxiety disorders; these processes include misinterpretation, self-focused attention, safety behaviours, and control unwarnted thoughts, imagery and metacognitive beliefs. The results of several experimental studies examining the cognitive processes involved are summarised. The implications of this approach for research and practice are discussed. In particular, the possibility of regarding prevention of psychosis as a target area. There is emerging evidence that risk indicators can predict psychotic episodes; some combinations of indicators (both state and trait) can be identified that at high-risk sample of whom 40% cent became psychotic after just six months. A study is described the overall effectiveness of control unwarnted thoughts, imagery and metacognitive beliefs. The results of several experimental studies examining the cognitive processes involved are summarised. The implications of this approach for research and practice are discussed. In particular, the possibility of regarding prevention of psychosis as a target area. There is emerging evidence that risk indicators can predict psychotic episodes; some combinations of indicators (both state and trait) can be identified that at high-risk sample of whom 40% cent became psychotic after just six months. A study is described that examined the effectiveness of a psychological intervention (based on the above model) in preventing, postponing and/or ameliorating transition to psychosis over the subsequent 18 months in a randomised controlled 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 control memory process. Because proficient metamemory can compensate for memory inadequacies, the study of metamemory in AD should be of rehabilitative value 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 which interventions were most effective.

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 these factors in their memory – e.g. a deeper level of processing.

Conclusions: We discuss the implications of this work on the executive memory monitoring. Importantly, we suggest ways in which the work may influence rehabilitation of memory in AD. We conclude that metamemory is largely based on “rules of thumb” and memory impairment of AD affects the ability to monitor memory, not vice versa.

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The name game: Applying retrieval practice to name learning

PE MORRIS & C FRITZ, Lancaster University

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 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 except without retrieval 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 similar.

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 Helmer contrasts showed a significant rise in External Constraints scores between the two follow-ups. As a predictive 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.

Conclusion: 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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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 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 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: Cross-sectional interview-based Design: A pre-test/post-test design examined changes in participants' attitudes about sexuality and their own sexual behaviour.

Methods: The effects of media representations of personal relationships

A NAYLOR, P REYNOLDS & P ERWIN, Edge Hill College

Objectives: This exploratory study examined the impact of media representations of intimate relationships on the participants' attitudes about sexuality and their own sexual behaviour.

Design: A pre-test/post-test design examined changes in participants' attitudes about sexuality and their own sexual behaviour.

Methods: Participants were 12 couples that had been together for at least 1 month. Each participant completed a questionnaire gathering basic biographical data and information on sexual attitudes and behaviour. Questionnaires were completed through interview and carers accessed through local carer groups. Methods: Cross-sectional interview-based Design: A cross-sectional study used in-depth semi-structured interviews to collect qualitative data from women, the carers in which each was a biographical reconstruction of their sexual knowledge and sexual experiences. The interviews were tape-recorded and then transcribed verbatim.

Results: 33 women participated, recruited through local advertisements. They were mainly middle-aged (average age = 53 years), with most having 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 experiences.

Conclusions: 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 had ‘understood’ early on in their lives that there was a ‘double standard’ and that boys ‘needed’ sexual intercourse and girls were ‘responsible’ for couples’ behaviour. They also ‘accepted’ that coitus 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.

P NICOLSON, Sheffield University

Objectives: To disseminate the contents of the benchmarking for undergraduate degrees

S NEWSTEAD, University of Plymouth

Purpose: To disseminate the contents of the Psychology Benchmarking statement.


Methods & 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 the statement fed into course planning and approval and into the QAA’s inspection regime.

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.

Regulating sexual relationships: An analysis of discourse

K NICHOLLS, Staffordshire University/ City University

Objectives: Informed by social constructionism and feminist post-structural writing, the study aimed to explicate discursive constructions of ‘infidelity’ and ‘monogamy’ and how these were naturalised by accounts of personal relationships.

Design: An integrated form of discourse analysis and content 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 opportunistically gathered.

Results: ‘Man: A sexual being’, ‘passive/aggressive infidelity’ and ‘relationship parameters’ discourse 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 discussions and repertoires reflected the fluid and occasionally contradictory 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’.

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Learning to construct ‘normal’ heterosexual desire: Young women’s early sexual experiences

P NICOLSON, Sheffield University

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 carers in which each 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-aged (average age = 53 years), with most having 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 experiences.

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 had ‘understood’ early on in their lives that there was a ‘double standard’ and that boys ‘needed’ sexual intercourse and girls were ‘responsible’ for couples’ behaviour. They also ‘accepted’ that coitus 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

D NIBUR & M CINNIRELLA, Royal Holloway, University of London

Objectives: An interview study explored whether expressions of patriotism depended on inter-nation comparison. Another consideration was to test whether the 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.

Method: 19 student volunteers from 11 nations participated. Seven interviews were transcribed fully. These were qualitatively analysed following the methodological recommendations of Smith

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(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 the least common. The significance of inter-nation comparisons was explicitly acknowledged by some participants. It was not the case of comparison at the level of the nation, that seemed to be mediated by a stance of national assertion, traditionalism, or universalism (Gallenmüller & Wakerhut, 1992) in the respondent. Patriots differ from liberals in the sense that they attribute primarily to the other group in their attachment to national symbols. The common differentiation between 'patriots' and 'nationalists' was not found.

Conclusions: Inter-group comparisons appear essential to accounts of national identity, regardless of level of patriotism in the individual. Distance is a significant 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 cores.

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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 this is a field, the age at which children are said to understand advertising is contested, with claims ranging from four years up to teenage ages.

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 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 advertising, 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 intent behind television advertising. The range of understanding exhibited by the children, even in the same age group, indicates that age at 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 advertising. This research was conceptualised along the lines of the World Health Organisation (WHO) model of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease patients.

D O’CONNOR & A INCE, University of Leeds & JF O’REILLY, Blackpool Victoria Hospital

Objectives: The primary objective of the study was to examine the relationship between illness perceptions, psychological adjustment and aspects of physical functioning in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patients. A specific aim is to investigate to what extent illness perceptions predict outcome measures such as physical functioning and severity.

Design: Cross-sectional design

Methods: 70 COPD patients were recruited and completed the Illness Perception Questionnaire (IPQ), the COPD Symptom Control Questionnaire (CSCQ), the Psychosocial Adjustment to Illness Scale (PAIS), The Cope Inventory, Impact of Stressful Life Events Questionnaire and the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS). In addition to these 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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Hormones and behaviour: Does testosterone really matter?
D O’CONNOR, University of Leeds

The effects of testosterone in particular aggression, has received considerable attention over the last decade. Much of this research has been over-exposed to correlational methods resulting in patients having difficult to draw clear conclusions. This symposium examines important, recent experimental investigations into the actions of androgens (e.g. the testosterone) and a range of behaviours. The first paper explores the testosterone-human aggression relationship, evidence from several investigations, including studies involving adminstering 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 involved in aggression are explored as mechanisms accounting for persistent childhood aggression. The final paper investigates the hormonal basis of territorial aggression, using the form of ‘home advantage’ documented in a variety of sports. This study considers whether this form of territorial aggression is determined 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
D O’CONNOR & A INCE, University of Leeds & JF O’REILLY, Blackpool Victoria Hospital

Objectives: The primary objective of the study was to examine the relationship between illness perceptions, psychological adjustment and aspects of physical functioning in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patients. A specific aim is to investigate to what extent illness perceptions predict outcome measures such as physical functioning and severity.

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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 ‘Haling and Brixton Tests’: Two tests of Dysexecutive Syndrome
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Objectives: This study aimed to ascertain the ecological validity of the ‘Haling 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 Haling 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 scores and everyday behavioural measures, and community integration measures. This is a common design for establishing veridicality of a test (the accuracy of predicting everyday functioning from an environment).

Method: 64 brain-injured participants and their ‘significant other’ were selected from a brain injury register which formed the brain-injured participant was administered the executive tests, together with behavioural and community integration measures, 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 while Brixton scores correlated best with the handicap measure. Regressional analyses confirmed these findings. Correlations with the handicap measure were generally less than the correlations for both 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 with reliability.

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Coping and psychosocial functioning in CVID
(Common Variable Immunodeficiency)
O’DONOVAN, I LEDWARD, J PETRAK, Immunology, Immunity, Barts and the London NHS Trust

Objectives: Previous research on chronic medical conditions highlights the importance of advancing 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 related to psychosocial functioning in this patient group.

Methods: 15 participants with CVID from centres in the UK and volunteers from the 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.

Prognosis: Long Search for diagnosis and health consequences; Symptom attribution; 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 diagnosis. Interviewees reported considerable ongoing stress around diagnosis and coping with a chronic illness. They felt that clinical care should also address psychological issues. A larger quantitative study is underway to make clear recommendations for establishing appropriate support services and interventions to target psychosocial models of care.

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Getting over getting older: Adapting to challenges associated with own future old age
A O’HANLON, University of Southampton

Objectives: Many people have worries and concerns about their future old age and about what this time of life means 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 current health 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 adjustment on behavoural, adjustment on compensation (Baltes & Baltes, 1990), primary and secondary control (Wrosch et al.), assimilation and accommodation (Brandstätter et al., 1997) and the COPE (Carver, 1997).

Results: Results indicated that (1) that around a
The influence of close attachment relationships on attitudes to own future old age
A O'HANLON & P COLEMAN, University of Southampton
Objectives: Participants' 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 at religious services 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: The 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-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 may have the potential to impact significantly on health and quality of life into the latter part of the life cycle. On this important topic, should include consideration for contextual factors like close attachment relationships.
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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 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 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 the questionnaire and three psychologically distinct types of false confession (voluntary, coerced-compliant and coerced-internalised, Kassin & Wrightsan, 1985) and the eight tactics that have been shown to increase the likelihood of a false confession (Osfhe, 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 abuse claims. In addition our analyses suggest that the three distinct types of false confession could all be applied to descriptions of the retractors' 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
J OST, A COSTALL, R BULL & S FOSTER, University of Portsmouth
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 was to increase the perceived social pressure. The current study was designed to date has examined in any detail the role of perceived social pressure in the genesis and development of such reports. The present study investigated whether the creation of 'false memories' in the laboratory was associated with particular characteristics of the respondents.
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 generally rated the perceived social pressure in relation to the creator-examined event than the parentally-reported event (t(30) = –2.88, p = .007). Analysis of the individual differences measures suggested 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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Objectives: Rusbult's model of commitment in marital and other close relationships posits that commitment is a function of satisfaction, investments and alternative. However, the more substantial the investment, 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 will be used to inform 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
J PARKIN & T BAGULEY, Loughborough University
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 requires exact mental encoding, which supports an 'all or none' recall pattern, and inexact encoding, whereby an object's location is represented with varying precision, which supports positive and negative errors in recall (Landsale, 1998). This research explores whether memory for spatial mental models constructed from written descriptions has an exact component.
Design: The design comprised two-between-

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Impulsiveness as a factor in sexual offending by people with learning disabilities

CJ PARRY & WR LINDSAY, Tayside Primary Care NHS Trust

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.

Methods: Levels of impulsiveness in sexual offenders with learning disabilities were compared to that in non-sexual offenders and non-offenders with learning disabilities.

Design: An independent samples design was employed.

Results: Data were analysed by means of a Multiple Scoring 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 participants conducted multiple sorts of 32 images, which were clinically derived.

Conclusions: Indications are that diagnostic categorisation of medical images are primarily valid in nature. Initial training of radiologists should focus more on training the recognition of appropriate visual feature.

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 programmes. To date, there have been no studies which show 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
Objectives: London Neurodisability, London & LH GOLDSTEIN, NP PENDER, Royal Hospital for managing challenging behaviours. Such approaches to the management of severe and disabilities. It 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 & Results: The benefit of such positive approaches are addressed through the single case approach illustrating the use of these interventions in the context of a multidisciplinary 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 literature on managing challenging behaviours. pender@uk.packardbell.org.uk

Framing recognition memory in Huntington’s disease
NP PENDER, Royal Hospital for Neurodisability, London & LH GOLDSTEIN, Institute of Psychiatry, King’s College London

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 processes are investigated. It is hypothesised that HD patients will perform better on standardised familiarity-based recognition tasks than those which require retrieval.

Design: A sample of HD patients were compared to healthy 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 a battery of tests assessing 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. pender@uk.packardbell.org.uk

Factors associated with clinical psychology trainee job performance at one year
A PHILLIPS, Clearing House for Courses in Clinical Psychology & Stafford University, C HATTON & I GRAY, Lancaster Doctorate in Clinical Psychology

Objectives: This research is part of the Clearing House for Selection of Trainees of 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 candidates 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 selection procedures are efficiently selecting and training a workforce who will be competent clinical psychologists. Anna@annaphillips.fsnet.co.uk

The effects of age and induced positive and negative mood on planning
L PHILLIPS, Aberdeen University, L SMITH, Aberdeen University & K GILHOOLY, Brunel University

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. This study investigates the effects of age and induced mood on planning performance.

Design & Methods: The current study investigated whether 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 neutral mood group.

Conclusions: These results indicate that commonly occurring emotionally salient events such as watching television or hearing music may substantially affect effective functions such as planning in older adults. louise.phillips@abdn.ac.uk

Understanding everyday negotiations of sexuality: Homophobia and masculinity in 11- to 14-year-old boys
A PHOENIX, Open University

Recent ethnographic and qualitative research in schools has noted that issues of homosexuality among boys and young men. This raises the issue of why boys are so homophobic and how this affects their sex 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 subject to acts of homophobic teasing, but also has an impact on the identities and experiences of boys in general. The boys in the study used homophobia as a tool to publicly and repetitively constructing their masculinity as ‘normal’, meaning ‘not gay’. Because of its status as a ‘natural’ human characteristic, homosexuality was associated with femininity and the construction of masculinity was partially undermined 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
MT PONTO, Kingston University

Objectives: 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 followed a case study design, employing quantitative and qualitative research during three different phases.

Methods: The three methods were: a cross-sectional survey and a longitudinal qualitative study involving semi-structured interviews. Phase 1 – Purposeful 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 have higher levels of job 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 begin their nursing at the 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 oriented even though the interview data suggest otherwise.

Conclusions: The implications of the findings for nurse education are that nursing appears to attract externally oriented individuals. If the future of nursing is dependent on the autonomous professional roles, the students’ currently undertaking nursing will not be the agents of change. mponto@hcs.sgsms.ac.uk

The influence of long-term racial desegregation on subjective well-being in African Americans
T POSTMES, University of Exeter & NR BRANCOSME, University of Kansas

Objectives: The impact of desegregation on 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
are discussed.

White environment heightens perceptions of in-group is compared with alternative mediational models. The hypothesised context, psychological well-being, perceived composition of the long-term environmental Questionnaires included measures of racial modelling on survey data gathered in two separate samples (undergraduates and general public, n = 126, and aged care residents, n = 114).

KJ McKEE, Sheffield Institute for Studies L PRICE, University of Sheffield &

A POTTER & M ESLEA, University of Sheffield

This poster describes the first phase of a longitudinal investigation of attachment, school adjustment, and bullying among reception class children.

Objective: This poster describes the first phase of a longitudinal investigation of attachment, school adjustment, and bullying among reception class children.

Design: The study follows a mixed, multi-method design, involving in-school observations and a 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, a peer review of the child's attachment to the primary caregiver, and a questionnaire assessing their own attachment and personality types. The primary caregiver completed a 50-item rating scale to measure their child's attachment security 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 Models revealed significant relationships between attachment style and school factors and between attachment and bullying among reception class children.

Conclusion: The findings suggest that schools can reduce the distress experienced by new pupils on their first day at school by limiting the number and duration of interactions among classmates. This should be especially important for children who are shy or withdrawn.

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Self-perceived health and loneliness in older people and satisfaction with accommodation

L PRICE, University of Sheffield &

KJ MCKEE, Sheffield Institute for Studies on Ageing, University of Sheffield

Objective: To determine how self-perceived health and loneliness in older people impacts on accommodation satisfaction and quality of life.

Design: Cross-sectional structured interview with standardised instruments.

Methods: Approximately 100 older people are to be recruited via a day rehabilitation unit. Participants receive a structured interview incorporating standardised instruments: the Elderly Assessment System (EASY-Care), and the Housing Options for Older People (HOOP) questionnaire. The interview contains single-item measures of self-perceived health and loneliness, and a four-item version of the Geriatric Depression Scale. The second instrument retains ratings of satisfaction with eight different aspects of accommodation and a single item measure of quality of life. Analyses examine the relationship between self-rated health and loneliness, and the relationships between satisfaction and the quality of life, and whether level of depression mediates this relationship.

Results & Conclusions: Data provide support for the hypothesis that living in a predominantly White environment heightens perceptions of in-group membership and reduces perceptions of out-group members. The hypothesis is provided with alternative mediational models. The model is compared with alternative mediational models.

Life narratives of elderly people at transition to supported accommodation

J PRINCE, University of Glamorgan, V REES & D HEARLE, University of Wales College of Medicine

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 isolation from society. Increasingly frail 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 constructivist perspective, qualitative findings from interviews with fifteen elderly people in supported or residential care are reported. Disengagement was a marked feature of life in old-age, leading to a change of residence. Changes in the self-concept with a reduction in present and future schemas was 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 speed on choice and decision confidence

B PULFORD, University of Wolverhampton

Objectives: The influence generated by the confidence of a person's speech was investigated. It was hypothesised that speeches which were well presented and confident would have a higher impact on the audience.

Methods: A mixed factorial design was employed: (degree of confidence of the 'speaker' within groups) 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 a male and a female. Participants were also asked to give their impressions of the three speakers, using seven-point scales.

Results: Significant interactions showed that high and low speech confidence had the most aversive impact on the majority 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 majority who have shown progressive decline in scores on memory tests over 17 years, with significant implications for 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 decline.

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 driving and managing them, and factors contributing to their safety two thousand older drivers aged from 50 to 86 years completed a questionnaire and rating of their confidence on the Bradbrook 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 and fifty of these individuals were then, twice, assessed for driving competence on inter-city routes. Health status rather than cognitive test predicted mileage and reported difficulties with driving. Cognitive and physiological tests significantly predicted previous accidents. However, this work encourages hopes that easily administered tests can identify older drivers who are at risk of accidents, and allow appropriate, timely, advice or intervention.

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Subjective group dynamics: Is subjective validity of norms a key motivator?

G RANDSLEY DE MOURA & D ABRAMS, University of Kent at Canterbury

Objectives: One key assumption of Subjective Group Dynamics (SGD) theory is that validation of group norms motivates derogation of deviant. This study determines if the reason the in-group rejects the anti-normative deviant is due to their response to the deviant's group norms.

Design: The experiment was a 2 (task group rated: in-group vs. out-group) x 3 (leader position: anti-norm deviant/neutral vs. anti-norm deviant/no threat of being corrected), between-participants factorial design.

Method: 142 students were randomly allocated to condition. Participants were provided with information regarding the issue of asset seeking. A summary of the attitudinal positions and leadership information from a small group (putatively representing true or false) 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

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questions pertaining to their perception and evaluation of the target group members.

Results: Analyses of post-hoc analyses demonstrate that ratings of evaluations of in-group deviant and modal members are affected by the perceived threat of the anti-normative behavior found in the group or not and the target group rated.

Conclusions: These results provide support for SGD theory. In reaction to deviant and normative group members will vary under different intra-group contexts. Specifically, results clarify the pass that the motivation behind denigration of deviant is threat to subjective validity of group norms.

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A process tracing study of consumer credit decision making R RANYARD, Bolton Institute

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 instaurent 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 in semi-structured interviews and a credit card purchase. In realistic scenarios involving purchases of consumer durables, participants were presented with descriptions of three alternative credit offers. They sought further information before making decisions and spoke about their thoughts.

Results: Most respondents sought information on interest rates and frequently asked about monthly repayment amounts and loan duration. Social norms were a salient factor for total interest charges. There was a general preference for shorter loans and, not surprisingly, lower interest rates. People who had experienced repayments with difficulties preferred lower monthly repayments rather than shorter loans. Verbal protocols suggested that respondents often framed instalement 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 A REA, North Western Health Board, Sligo

Objectives: This study examined symptoms of psychological distress, levels of social support and estimates of distress among 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 measured with a selection of 32 items (32) from Achenbach’s (1991) Youth Self Report (YSR) version of the Child Behaviour Checklist. The YSR was administered to a selection of the 28 participants at the time of their first interview. The British Psychological Society 2002 Proceedings 95

More than ‘coping’: How do women with multiple sclerosis achieve a quality life? P REYNOLDS, Brunel University, Middlesex

Objectives: Progressive disabling illness such as MS presents many barriers to achieving a quality life. Without seeking to minimise these difficulties, this qualitative research builds upon the strategies that women identify as contributing to their quality of life with MS.

Methods: The long form of the Multiple Sclerosis Questionnaire (MGQ) was adopted in this qualitative study. A semi-structured interview schedule was developed from the MGQ. Participants were also asked to describe the strategies they use, and were given a list of possible strategies. The interviews were tape recorded and transcribed.

Results: The results indicate that 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 identified their quality of life through, for example, engaging in meaningful occupation, caring for others, adapting pre-illness skills to their new levels of physical functioning, developing new interests and goals, using previous 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 insights extracted from this study 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 care.

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The effect of manipulated state anxiety and the accuracy and suggestibility of eye witnesses A RIDLEY & B CLIFFORD, University of East London

Objectives: To assess the effects of manipulated state anxiety at the encoding and retrieval processes, to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions based on recognised psychological distress.

Methods: 38 RCTs were included in the review. Search terms included stages of change, transtheoretical model, motivational interviewing and tailored interventions. Study designs eligible for inclusion were RCTs. Extracts 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

Effectiveness of stage-based interventions promoting individual behaviour change R RIEMSMA, J PATTENDEN, C BRIDLE, A SOWDEN, L MATHIER & I WATT, University of York & A WALKER, University of Aberdeen

Purpose: A systematic review was undertaken to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions based on stages of change. The purpose of this review was to promote individual behaviour change.

Background: Much health promotion aims to prevent morbidity and mortality through promoting individual health behaviour change. Promoting stage based interventions used to modify risky behaviours are frequently based on stage theories, such as the transtheoretical model. The aim of this comprehensive, 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. Extracts 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.

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Purpose: A systematic review was undertaken to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions based on stages of change. The purpose of this review was to promote individual behaviour change.

Background: Much health promotion aims to prevent morbidity and mortality through promoting individual health behaviour change. Promoting stage based interventions used to modify risky behaviours are frequently based on stage theories, such as the transtheoretical model. The aim of this comprehensive, 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. Extracts 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
Gay 'hoodies' and masculine trainers: Negotiating heterosexuality and appearance

S. RILEY, University of Bath

Objectives: To explore the relationship between heterosexual male-identity and embodiment in the context of changing patterns of consumption, with a focus on 'Gay'hoodies' and masculine trainers. We argue that the male-heterosexual identity has traditionally been precipitated 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 focus groups. The participants were asked to perform a 10-card Q-sort as a group. For three of the groups the cards concerned inequality; 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 heterosexual masculinity associated with the reduction of sexual/gender ambiguity through the use of multiple accounts. First, the reduction of sexual/gender ambiguity through the use of multiple accounts, concerning the use of clothing to signify and negotiate heterosexual masculinity and appearance that has traditionally been associated with women.

Conclusion: While shifts in consumption patterns and the use of clothing to signify and negotiate heterosexual masculinity and appearance that has traditionally been associated with women, men, who in turn viewed this approval through the male ‘sex drive’ discourse.

Changes in femininity and masculinity across the menstrual cycle

D RITTER, Regensburg, Germany

Objectives: Whether the reciprocal performance fluctuations in the area of cognition and motor functioning across the menstrual cycle with women at menses displayed a more male-typical performance pattern than at the midluteal phase? Are there any performance differences between menses and the midluteal phase?

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 Tension 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 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.

Conclusion: While shifts in consumption patterns and the use of clothing to signify and negotiate heterosexual masculinity and appearance that has traditionally been associated with women, men, who in turn viewed this approval through the male ‘sex drive’ discourse.

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 historical context.

Background: Taking as a starting point a debate between two contemporary moral philosophers, the lecture sets the statistical data 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 equality contribute to such debates, and what has it to lose by its contribution? Finally, clinical definitions of homosexuality, homosexuality and heterosexuality are discussed in the context of changing patterns of consumption, with a focus on 'Gay'hoodies' and masculine trainers. We argue that the male-heterosexual identity has traditionally been precipitated 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?

Conclusion: While it is clear that various debates will continue to ask whether or not the Society has the chance to reconsider the debates surrounding the social inclusion of lesbians and gay men, it is clear that the process of recognising some-else-ship 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 ESLSEA, University of Central Lancashire

Objectives: Quality of Life (QoL) in people with severe Learning Disabilities (LDs) is typically associated with a lack of challenging behaviour (CB). Few researchers have tried to determine QoL from subjective reports in this population. This paper advances the existing knowledge by a longitudinal study to assess QoL and CBs among children with severe LDs.

Design: This study uses a mixed-method, multi-approach approach to CBs in children with severe LDs. Longitudinal repeated measures allow the effects of a number of situational and individual variables (e.g. family visit, school attendance, type of activity) to be examined in relation to CBs.

Method: The data consists of 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 graphs were used to 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.

A web-based study into self-reports of memory ability in recreational drug users

J RODGERS, University of Newcastle, T BUCHANAN, University of Westminster, London, A SCHOLEY, T HEFFERNAN, University of Nottingham, Middlesbrough & A PARROTT, University of East London

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 samples 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 analysis to isolate the contribution of that substance to any variance on measures of ‘day-to-day’ cognitive functioning.

Methodology: A website (www.looksresearch.org.uk) was developed and used for data collection. Prospective memory ability was assessed using the UEL Drug Questionnaire. Self-report of day-to-day memory was assessed using the Everyday Memory Questionnaire. Self-report of day-to-day memory was used as an objective measure of performance errors.

Results: Preliminary findings, based on data sets submitted from several hundred respondents, indicated 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.

Phenotypic ‘g’ and the etiology of cognitive abilities in a twin study

A RONALD, F SPINATH, N HARLAAR & R PLOMIN, Institute of Psychiatry, London

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 6,983 pairs of twins was tested on verbal and non-verbal measures at two, three and four years using parent-administered tests and parent reports of children, from which four reliable indicators of cognitive ability were derived.

Results: Principal component factor analyses of the data showed a single factor with factor loadings that accounted for approximately 50 per cent of total variance at all three, four and five years. Factor scores were shown to be reliable 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 = 0.27-0.30) whereas most interindividual variance was accounted for by shared environmental influences (c2 = 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-adjective agreement method: (1) non-hyponychic q is clearly evident early in life. Second, genetic influence is less in early childhood (about 20–30 per cent) than in later childhood (about 45 per cent) and after adolescence (about 50 per cent). Third, shared environmental influence is greater in early 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 the use of twins and perhaps by the measures used.

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Working memory: depression; an fMRI study
E ROSE, K EMBIEIER, N GODDARD, E SIMONOTTO, University of Edinburgh & I MARSHALL, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh

Objectives: 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 differences in the activity in area TOTRH, X CHRYSSOCHOOU & E LYONS, University of Surrey

Objectives: Research examining EU citizens’ levels of European identity has mainly centred on the EU nation-state as the unit of analysis, for example, by comparing the citizenry of a 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. Researchers may have defined as essential for normal WM function in previous studies.

European self-definition: The influence of race and religion
T ROTH, X CHRYSSOCHOOU & E LYONS, University of Surrey

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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 places are 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

Objectives: Aims of this symposium are to present a review of approaches which target the enhancement of cognition. Cognitive enhancement procedures are gaining increasing attention as a possible route to improving cognitive function in a wide range of cognitive and psychomotor tasks. Research focusing on potential enhancement and anxiolytic properties of Ginseng and provides the first human experimental data comparing the effects of a glucose drink. The objective of this symposium is to present data relevant to the wider field of this research. The first speaker provides the first evidence in support of the widely-held belief that chewing gum can improve memory through different but reinforcing ‘euphorogenic’ mood changes, and/or increased willingness to take risks. 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 view that chewing gum can improve aspects of cognitive function. The fourth presentation reports on the effects of exposure to aromatherapy oils, and reports on the effects of ethnocentric and anxiolytic properties of specific oils. The final paper describes cognitive enhancement associated with administration of Ginseng and provides the first human experimental physiological 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
A SCHOLEY, K FOWLES & F FRASER, University of Northumbria

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. The aim of the current study was to assess if this phenomenon involves the liberation of glucose, reinforcing ‘euphorogenic’ mood changes, and/or alcohol systems.

Design: Both studies employed a double-blind, placebo-controlled design. In each case there were 15 volunteers per group.

Methods: In Experiment 1, the 30 participant volunteers were randomly allocated to a condition wherein they consumed a drink containing either alcohol (1.2 g/kg body weight) or placebo immediately following the learning phase of a kinaesthetic memory paradigm. Blood glucose levels were monitored and mood effects were assessed using the Prochaska and Di Clemente’s TFI scales. In Experiment 2 the impact of alcohol was compared to placebo with respect to emotional memory. In this experiment, 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 alcohol-related effects on memory retrieval. 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 alcohol effects be mediated via autonomic mechanisms.

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Effect of alcohol on judgements of persuasiveness
A SCHOLEY & N FRANKLIN, University of Northumbria, Newcastle-upon-Tyne & B TIPLADY, AstraZeneca UK Clinical Research Group, Edinburgh

Objectives: Ethanol impairs performance on a wide range of cognitive tasks (Ginsberg & Marques, Bown & Henson, 2000), they argue that reactions to group deviants sometimes are treated leniently and other times are treated harshly. Van Vuurt points on how leadership style affects the inclusion and exclusion (i.e. exit) decisions of group members. Members exist the group under automatic leadership. Because they perceive their personal welfare, sense of autonomy, and dignity as threatened. Baumeister presents on the impact of social exclusion and reaction. He finds that rejection increases antisocial behaviour and reduces or improves co-operative behaviour, intelligent problem solving, and self-regulation.

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 computer. An adaptive algorithm adjusted the difficulty of subsequent questions so that volunteers’ 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. Ethanol resulted in no significant differences in scores on the GK test between treatment sessions. There was a highly significant (of dose 1) 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 and 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?
J A SEED & MJ ROBINSON, University of Northumbria

Objectives: Previous research has indicated that the lexical decision paradigm (LDP) may be a viable model for testing the Pick (1952) paradigm in investigating the cognitive disturbance in eating disorders (Seed et al., 1997). In the present study, it was decided 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 of 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 cognitive dysfunction 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 further 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
V SERVICE, P POLLAND & E COOPER, University of Central Lancashire

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 effects of which game playing may foster learning transfer and skill generalisation in children is considered.

Methods: Parents were randomly selected and asked to complete a questionnaire about their child’s game usage. From the 83 replies, 37 females and 57 male children completed a similar questionnaire, and played a novel game. Undergraduates (400) completed the questionnaire, which also asked about past game play ratings.

Results: Access was high, varying from 95 per cent among male children to 65 per cent in females. Game usage increased with age in the children’s sample, although it substantially declined among undergraduates, for whom it was less than 5 per cent. Females played more than males, however, only female undergraduates reported less liking for games. In the children, females perceived themselves significantly more competent than boys in social competence. Girls perceived themselves significantly more important among female children to 65 per cent in males. Play behaviour.

Conclusions: Game playing was widespread and was the preferred activity for children. Play frequency of 20 to 24 hours per week increased with age in the children’s sample, although it substantially declined among undergraduates, for whom it was less than 5 per cent. Females played more than males, however, only female undergraduates reported less liking for games. In the children, females perceived themselves significantly more important among female children to 65 per cent in males. Play behaviour.

Cultural issues in pre-natal care:

Shams, University of Luton

Views of health practitioners

Cultural issues in pre-natal care:

S Shahim, Shiraz University, Iran

Self perception in Iranian children

S SHAHIM, Shiraz University, Iran

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to study the perceptions of Iranian children on the Perceived Competence Scale for Children from Iranian elementary schools. The first question was whether the scale has sufficient stability and factorial integrity when used 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 a sample of 310 children in Shiraz, Iran.

Results: The results revealed satisfactory coefficients alpha reliability. Three factors cognitive competence, physical 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

M SHAMS, University of Luton

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 midwives’ professional practice and pre-natal care, with particular reference to British Asian pregnant women.

Design: The study employs a self-completed questionnaire as empirical setting in order to achieve independent professional perceived response sets.

Methods: Midwives 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 findings. Frequency distribution shows that comprehension (52 per cent) is the first preferential component for a multicultural framework. 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 pre-natal care. Similarly, significant positive associations between religious practices 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.

Conclusion: Midwifery practice needs to be informed by the cultural practices in pregnancy for both British Asian and Iranian 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 variety of 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 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 and methodology and dropped-in were recorded for all patients who used the services (both referral and drop-in) since the Centre opened. One-hundred-and-twenty-two patients attended the Centre each week.

Results: 63 per cent of referred patients and 69 per cent of drop-in patients were female. (Patient characteristics: mean age 64 years (mean = 53.58, s.d. = 23.54, mode = 56). Patients accessing the service had the full range of diagnoses. A cross-tabulation test showed that the majority (56 per cent) of patients came from the two most deprived categories as defined by Townsend.

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

S SHERMAN & C BARRY, University of Kent at Canterbury

Objectives: This experiment investigated the effects of modality and word frequency on false memories emerging from studying Deese-Roediger-McDermott lists in both an implicit test (repetition priming in the lexical decision task) and an explicit task (the modified Deese-Roediger-McDermott list that varied the word frequency of the (non-presented) lures and the presented (studied) words). Half studied the lists visually and half audibly. 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 ensure comprehension 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 frequency than 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 list were primed ‘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

Objectives: The Health Psychologists are working together a range of perspectives on sexual health, HIV infection and sexuality through 5 papers. The aim is to build on our own experience, to comment on the increase in sexuality transmitted infections and to explore pathways for interventions.

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

L SHERR, RFUCMS, London, J ELFORD, City University, London & G BOLDING, RFUCMS, London

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

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report high risk UAI while taking Viagra than men who had never taken the drug (p<.03). However, those who continued to use Viagra for longer 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). 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. Overall, HIV-positive men had used the drug, both they and their physicians should be aware of its potential interaction with protease inhibitors.

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 this experiment 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 script group listened to an audiocassette of putting or watched a first person perspective videotape of themselves putting. The video participants followed the video and performed their 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 performance score data. No significant differences in performance were revealed by the pre-test (p>0.05). However, in the post-tests the video and audio groups performed significantly (p<0.01) better than the written script and control groups.

**Conclusions:** This supports the hypothesis that the form in which imagery intervention is delivered can have a significant impact upon its effectiveness.

**A WAIS-III short-form for mild and borderline learning disability**

P SMITH, Co. Durham & Darlington Partnership Services NHS Trust/Newcastle University & B INGHAM, University of Northumbria

**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 WAIS-III subtests. The Earthquake Trauma Exposure Questionnaire, the Aggressive Acts Questionnaire, the Barratt Impulsivity Scale (IP), Toulmin Anxiety Questionnaire and the Barratt Impulsivity Scale, Analyses were conducted by index offence and aggression level.

**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 used more 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 be minimised in extremely aggressive individuals.

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significant interactive effects. In the two districts closest to the epicentre of the earthquake, the youngest group of children reported higher stress responses than the others. 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

C STEADMAN, Wirral & West Chester Community NHS Trust

Objectives: To explore the ways adults recently diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease understand and interpret their 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 commonality of 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 and construct their identity 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 their own 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 and 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, categorisation, intergroup and intergroup dynamics in the production and normative structure of collective conflict. This is followed by a series of studies that provide powerful empirical support for this 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 pubic order policing which contradict the causal role normally attributed to hooliganism and demonstrates how attempts to control ‘disorder’ can ironically play a role in its legitimisation. The paradox and challenge the dominant tendency to explain and police ‘hooliganism’ solely in terms of ‘violent’ factors.

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: The use 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 challenges posed by the analysis to current individual and social psychological 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 psychologists to reexamine current 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 key factors influencing programming 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 provide an analytical framework 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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Retрограде and аntерораде гluсose administration fасilitаtes mеmору performance in hеalthу yоung 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 followed by consumption of an equivalently 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-dependent, a third group received 25g of glucose 15 minutes before learning the word list. Word list recall was tested 30 minutes after word list presentation. Measures of spatial memory performance and working memory were also evaluated.

Results: The results of this study showed that both pre- and post-acquisition oral glucose administration can improve memory performance. However, as the time 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 administration on 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 glucose administration of oral glucose 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.

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 measures of 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 administration 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.

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**Conclusion:** The findings support a ‘competence for resources’ hypothesis inasmuch as the dominant but 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 therapy individuals are negotiating new issues due to the different meanings being HIV+. 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 in the meaning of 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 networking.

**Design:** The group is closed, adopting a brief-focused intervention approach of six sessions over a three-month period. 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-face-to-face 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 reactions.
2. To explore the impact of using various congruence indices on the relationships between decentralisation and subordinates’ affective reactions.

**Hypothesis:**
1. Degree of supplied-desired congruence of decentralisation at the group level underpins subordinates’ affective reactions.
2. Subordinates’ affective reactions will be related more strongly to degree of perceived group decentralisation than to objective or perceptual congruence.

**Design:** A mixed design, including a combination of within-subject and between subject analysis, was used to test the hypotheses of congruence and its consequence. Different methods for classification and computing methods were used to obtain different congruency and its consequence.

**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 sizes 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 clear and meaningful congruence and 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 (one control group (n = 206). In both schools, over a five-month period, children were presented with one portion of fruit or one portion of vegetable during their midday meal. Infants received an additional piece of fruit mid-morning. In the experiment, junior children 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 group, fruit and vegetable consumption at lunchtime were significantly higher at Time 2 and compared to Time 1 whilst in the control group, vegetable consumption showed significant decreases.

**Conclusions:** The results of this study, together with previous research, indicate that the intervention’s design and participating school are effective in 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 degree to which perceivers’ group status (in-group vs. out-group) and an exemplar’s consistency with the group stereotype on its accessibility, 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 is investigated.

**Design:** A 2 (group status: in-group vs. out-group) x 3 (consistency with the stereotype: consistent, consistent but irrelevant, irrelevant) x 2 (participants’ attractiveness: high and low) x 2 (sex: male and female) design was used. To explore the role of subtyping on stereotype change, we split our sample into high and low subtyping groups, 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 categorisation verification task, the perceived typicality of individual group members and responses showed similarity to other group members, as well as perceptions of the group in general (stereotype-consistency) were measured.

**Results:** Our findings suggest that although stereotype-disconfirmers seem to be more accessible in memory than stereotype-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 the high and low subtyping groups 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 contributing to a default response aimed at preserving the stereotype in the face of disconfirming information. Suggestions for future research on an individual 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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**Objectives:** Aggression is the primary reason for people to be referred to special hospitals 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 learning 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-reports 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**

S TAYLOR, Thames Valley University

**Purpose:** To investigate the effects of extralegal defendant and juror characteristics (facial attractiveness and sex respectively) on judgments of guilt, sentence and probability of re-admittance to a simulated mock jury study.

**Argument:** It is hypothesised that female mock jurors will be more punitive in their ratings of the defendant that makes a plea of innocence as compared to the defendant that will be rated harshly and jurors will be more sympathetic towards the coerced defendant that pleads guilty. Our dependent variable was measured on a 100-point scale to rate facial attractiveness. High attractiveness is defined as a mean score of 50 or above. Inter-rater reliability for all observers was assessed.

**Results:** A mixed design, including a combination of within-subject and between subject analysis, was used to test the hypotheses of attractiveness and sex of the defendant.

**Design:** A 2 (group status: in-group vs. out-group) x 3 (consistency with the stereotype: consistent, consistent but irrelevant, irrelevant) x 2 (participants’ attractiveness: high and low) x 2 (sex: male and female) x 2 (defendant will be rated harshly or leniently under innocent conditions (despite the gravity of the crime) on all dependent measures.

**Discussion:** The results suggested that defendant attractiveness was a more 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 learning disabilities. However, no controlled studies of anger treatment involving intellectually disabled offenders living in secure settings have been conducted to date.
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, randomly assigned to one of three rape scenarios, were asked to independently assign 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 were all significantly mediated by perceptions of the victim's behaviour as 'inappropriate for a woman' and the defendant's motive. Seventy-two college students, randomly assigned to one of three rape scenarios, were asked to independently assign ratings of guilt, sentence and probability of intent which were represented using a Likert scale.

**Conclusions:** Results are discussed using equity theory and Lerner's just desert hypothesis. In this case, 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.

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**‘Her behaviour was undignified’: Benevolent sexism and victim blame in acquaintance rape cases**

G TENDAYI VIKI & D ABRAMS, University of Kent at Canterbury

**Objectives:** Our previous studies have shown that individuals who are high in benevolent sexism (BS) are likely to assign blame to acquaintance rape victims in comparison to stranger rape victims. We have argued that high BS individuals are more likely to acquit 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 mediated by perceptions of the victim’s behaviour as inappropriate.

**Conclusions:** Individuals who are high in BS appeared less willing to acquit 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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**Psychological and cultural politics from the worlds of home-education**

W THEXTON, Staffordshire University

**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 more psychologically and culturally 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 informed a framework of themes emerging from the data. These were employed in accounting for a preference to home educate. Families also produced short home videos based on their children’s ‘alternatives to schooling’.

**Results:** Thematic analyses are applied to these visual texts.

**Conclusion:** In constructing the appropriateness of home education, boiled-down and defensive rhetorical strategies were employed around the ‘system’ (as representative of schooolcentric culture and ‘choosing home education’ (as representative of necessity, practicality, and educational thought), Themes emanating from the home video texts include ‘Locating education’ – depicting a narrative of socialisation and ‘Peopling education’ – concerned with social interactions in educational contexts.

**Psychological and cultural politics from the worlds of home-education**

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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) in discriminating 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. Gete-geters 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 agreement 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 will focus 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 will 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 and supervision. The Psychology Centre in Hamilton, New Zealand, is an independently funded, joint venture between 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 the supervision of Centre staff were involved in assessment, programme facilitation, data analysis and dissemination of results. This 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 used to treat maladaptive sleep behaviours. Students working in the sleep research project were supervised using a standard clinical psychology model. Students had access to the Centre's libraries, journals, and 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 the supervision of Centre staff were involved in assessment, programme facilitation, data analysis and dissemination of results. This effective supervision, the Centre aims to facilitate the development of students’ skills and greater integration of research with clinical practice.

**Results:** Sleep study findings indicated that insomnia in older adults can be treated successfully with a combination of cognitive/behavioural 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 behavioral health care) research in the Centre.

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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 of a group treatment intervention of a cognitive behavioural group intervention for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a distressing psychological condition that can occur following association with a traumatic incident. A variety of individually focused psychological treatments exist and have been shown to be effective. Cognitive behaviourally (CBT)
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 distraction burglary 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-month 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 (ANOVA) 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 develop policy advice on 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 paediatrics to enhance memory. Although the laboratory 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 healthy volunteers, 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) test battery, subjective mood ratings were measured using Bond-Lader visual analogue scales. Assessment took place prior to treatment and 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25 hours 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 number of improvements on 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 and 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 or college.

Background: The system of funding the salaries of research staff in universities through short-term contracts to individual researchers provides flexibility to the funders but imposes considerable insecurity on post holders and makes a career emphasis impossible.

Method: The speaker draws on personal experience of building a research career on a succession of short-term contracts. The consequences of this contract 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.

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Mood and quality of life in kidney transplant patients: Is there an influence of organ source?
A TWEED, M METCALFE & R TAYLOR, Leicester General Hospital

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 (NHB); (2) heart-beating donor transplant (HBD); and (3) living-related donor transplant (LDR).

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 transplant groups and the greatest proportion of patients used within the past year. 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 demonstrated 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 in the context both of the modular and connectionist models of language production.

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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 function. A detailed case study of his performance on a variety of both verbal and non-verbal tasks was undertaken to further understand the problem 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 further understand 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 demonstrated 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 in the context both of the modular and connectionist models of language production.

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So you think you’re an adult?

F ULP, Southampton University

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 = 262, 25+ years = 163). Participants indicated on a four-point Likert scale the degree to which they thought certain markers conferred adult status. They then indicated the age at which 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 as the most important by the top ten markers. Traditional markers of adulthood were ranked as slightly more important. Age did have an effect on the way people responded to certain questions with the 20+ 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.

Sex, drugs, violence and alcohol: The influence of short stature

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Background: The Wexner 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 were followed up at 5, 10, 15, and 20 years. 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 interview (ADAPPA) 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 (80 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 parental support (48 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 for this sample 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 & Methods: A 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 questionnaires before, after and before 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.

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 initial 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, 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. Descriptive analysis suggested that athletes’ goal hierarchies were important in the elicitation of a range of emotions, while emotional self-talk 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 to the emotional responses of sporting individuals. 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 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 (open group). 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, Jeppson, & 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 promote the stability of groups with permeable boundaries. The influence of leadership style 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 on each of 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 either 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 contributions 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 head 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 contributions were not valued 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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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: Positive sampling was used to obtain voluntary 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 up to re-entry 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 related 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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The psychological impact of aggression to healthcare staff

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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 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 = 218) were sent the Impact of Event Scale (Revised) and a questionnaire which included items about overall...
A longitudinal analysis of memory consistency and development in primary school children through cognitive advancement and operationalization

MW WAN, University of Manchester

Objectives: Few studies have longitudinally examined memory and cognitive development throughout the five- to seven-year-old 'cognitive shift'. The current research was intended 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' between other Piagetian stages; (2) the developmental course for executive functioning (EF) has an impact on educational performance. 

Methods: Two primary school classes of eight- to nine-year-olds were tested on a series of measures including memory for recent-taught educational material (EdM), event memory (EvM), EF and FB understanding. Phase design (Study 1) or as many letters as possible within a specified time (Study 2). 

Results: For all measures in both studies, none of the main effects of user group were significant. 

Conclusions: These outcomes suggest that significant deficits 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. 

Little evidence for central executive impairment among light/moderate users of MDMA

M WAREING, Edge Hill College, J FISK, Liverpool John Moores University & M PURPHY, Edge Hill College

Objectives: Two studies evaluated whether the executive deficits of moderate users of MDMA (‘Ecstasy’) were also apparent among light/moderate users. Previously research (using random letter generation) demonstrated executive deficits among MDMA users has been criticised since the individuals tested had consumed minimal 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 per letter). 

Results: For all measures in both studies, none of the main effects of user group were significant. 

Conclusions: These outcomes suggest that significant deficits affect SATs performance. SATs scores were associated with non-verbal reasoning and not with EF. 

Linking the understanding of modesty with children’s self-reported peer relations

D WATLING & R BANERJEE, University of Sussex

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 measure of self-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 12 short scenarios, which each depicted a social situation where the protagonist received praise from an audience (adult or peer) for an achievement 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 either 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 feedback. Finally, it was found that the understanding of modesty, particularly in the context of peer audiences, was positively linked to both sociability and perceived popularity. 

Conclusion: Results are discussed in the light of emerging insights into the connections between peer relations and social interaction. Indeed, children’s understanding of modesty is tied to specific aspects of their social experience. 

Courtroom interviewing and eyewitness confidence and accuracy

JW HARRIS, Metropolitan University, GF WAGSTAFF, University of Liverpool & MR KEBBELL, University of Birmingham

Objectives: Little research has been conducted on the effects of courtroom examination and 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 (which 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 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:** Main significant results were only found for question items classed as difficult to remember. The lawyerese style appeared to have an adverse effect 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 more susceptible to confidence feedback style; judging the witness overall to be less accurate. An unexpected result was that, regardless of questioning style, 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 appeared to spuriously boost confidence and thereby perceived accuracy, in that witness’s testimony. No significant effects were found for perceived fairness.

**Unusual experiences** in Parkinson’s: Does sleep disruption predict hallucinations?

**D Whitehead & AD Davies,** University of Liverpool & R Cousins, Edge Hill College of Higher Education

**Objectives:** Sleep disturbance in Parkinson’s Disease and parkinsonism (restless sleeping 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 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 (‘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). It is possible that the sleep scale rating techniques could not identify a significant hierarchy amongst the individual items, in terms of their effect on hallucinations.

**Conclusions:** Nocturnal dream-related variables are associated with daytime hallucinations, however, sleep variables with future longitudinal studies must address the question of whether sleep symptoms emerge prior to or simultaneously with hallucinations.

**Effective literacy intervention for all:** A study with Blackpool schools

**HE Whiteley, CD Smith, SE Oakley & M Godwin,** University of Central Lancashire

**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 used effectively?

**Design:** A year-long study 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 split 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:** To assess literacy difficulties and 75 control children were identified in Reception class. In Term 1, Year 1, the children were assessed on basic 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 reassessed. The at-risk 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, all 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 and the development of early screening and intervention measures that will be effective for all children.

**High school graduation requirements:** The link between English and mathematics

**L Wilkinson & A Scholey,** University of Northumbria & K Weneses, Cognitive Drug Research Ltd.

**Objectives:** Many people chew gum in the belief that it improves cognitive-linguistic abilities. Thus 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 two groups (n = 38 per group) (1) chewing sugar-free gum, (2) sham chewing (where the action of chewing was mimicked in the absence of gum). In 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.

**Results:** Compared to both the sham chewing and quiet control conditions, chewing gum significantly improved 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:** Participants who chewed 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 increasing the delivery of neural substrates.

**Emotional Labour Lost? – The psychological contract and stress in the public sector**

**A Weinberg,** University of Salford & F Creed, University of Manchester

**Objective:** To design a measure of characteristics common to work environments, which would overcome some of the methodological limitations of surveys and permit a more objective evaluation of levels of emotional stress at work. The study aimed to identify the effects of research into workplace stress have focused on the reliance on employees’ subjective perceptions of their working environment and management support and under-utilisation of 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. This was matched to one NHS Trust were interviewed using a clinical measure of psychological health, the OMWE and DIT 2002 Lite Events and Differences 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 interviewers may have problems with making difficulty on a Likert scale. The item information was presented to an independent rater who was blind to the interviewees’ subjective 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, occupation and 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 interviewers may have problems with making difficulty on a Likert scale. The item information was presented to an independent rater who was blind to the interviewees’ subjective psychological health and the interviewer’s ratings. Thus the second rater scored the problem on objective criteria only.

**Information processing strategies employed by normal and sex-offenders with mild intellectual disabilities**

**E Whitefield & DR Carson,** University of Aberystwyth, Dundee

**Objectives:** Prior research has suggested that sex-offenders may have problems with making decisions as they are unable to attend to all the
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
H WILLIAMS, University of Exeter, C WILLIAMSON, Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital & L ELLETT, University of Glasgow

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 recent 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 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 this population.

Method: We investigated the prevalence of patterns of symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) with the Impact of Event Scale (IES), alcohol use and sleep problems in a 208 medico-legal claimants. All claimants had suffered road traffic accidents, industrial or other accidents, and had sustained an injury in the last ten years in an older cohort.

Results: Analyses revealed significant presence of PTSD symptoms, alcohol misuse, and problems with 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 group had 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 – 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 appear to be specific patterns of distress across and within the TBI groups 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, Griffith & 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 suggests an approach to correcting the optimistic bias characteristic of the planning fallacy by increasing behaviour rather than reducing behaviour. The plan was to...

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). Further between-intentions (Gollwitzer, 1993) for those goals, the other half did not.

Results: The results showed 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 contradicted a wealth of self-help literature and study skills programs designed to help the procrastinating student. The discussion addresses 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 views of respondents 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, 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 an additional assessment helpful, provided new information and made a difference to the clients care. The GPs reported more confidence and were generally positive about the scheme. Further analysis will be completed to identify in which cases the professional felt the assessment was most helpful. In addition the actual outcome for the client and carer over 12 months will be compared with the perceived usefulness of the tool.

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 two week period. The data collection in 16 care settings (n = 7) and carers (n = 4–6) was analysed using thematic content analysis.

Methods: Five separate focus groups (n = 4–6 per group) were conducted with care staff (n = 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 the perceptions of reminiscence as a therapeutic activity. A phenomenological approach using grounded theory was applied to transcripts. Emerging themes were coded and related to the original transcripts, before producing a final table.
Anxiety and performance: A test of processing efficiency theory in golf

M WILSON & N SMITH, Manchester Metropolitan University

Objectives: This study tested postulates of Eysenck and Calvo’s (1992) processing efficiency theory (Condition x Trait Anxiety). Significant anxious individuals were predicted to experience greater cognitive anxiety and disruption to performance, which in turn would predispose them to low trait anxiety. Higher levels of mental effort were also predicted to be high anxious performers in situations where performance effectiveness was evaluated.

Design: Golfers high and low in dispositional anxiety performed under each of three randomly allocated conditions (no hazard-task-invoking instructions), a low anxiety condition (bunker between ball and flag/task-invoking instructions) and a high anxiety condition (bunker between ball and flag/ego-invoking instructions).

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 anxiety groups regardless of self-rated anxiety. A continued increase in mental effort in high anxiety golfers was evident, despite decreasing 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 demonstrated an advantage for an animal defending its territory, even when the defender is smaller than the invader.

Methods: Players, 110 of whom were recruited from the cohort of The Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC) (bunker between ball and flag/task-invoking instructions), 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: 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 Germany and 17.9 per cent in Avon and 16 per cent in Germany. The major differences between the boys in the rates of victimisation for overt bullying in eight-year-olds, with 39.9 per cent in Germany and 17.9 per cent in Avon and 16 per cent in Germany.

Conclusions: Overall rates of victimisation for overt bullying in eight-year-olds were 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 when implementing 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 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 Practice Assessment (DCPA).

Results: The reliability and validity of the DCPA were 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 obvious and sustained. Organisational changes were introduced following action-planning.

Conclusions: Staff training in isolation may not be enough to make a difference to the lives of people with dementia. Without steps being taken to support and encourage staff in putting training into practice, improvements may be lost or generalised. DCM with timely feedback and action plans that are pursued and supported by management, provides one method of ensuring 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 Autism

H YEOMANS & L WORKMAN, University of Glamorgan

It is well established that Autism individuals suffer from cognitive problems 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, may be the cause of this TOM deficit. A number of studies have demonstrated that damage to the right hemisphere leads to results that are able 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, Down Syndrome, and Unimpaired individuals matched for mental age with the previous three groups. Strong indications of asymmetries of processing are achieved by asking participants to judge whether the right 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 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 not know the answer or were ignorant. Forty-nine four-year-olds, and 44 six-year-olds were asked to name animals from pictures, some of which were clear (knowledge condition) and some were obscure (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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Audit of axis I and II disorder in a day care service: Impact on the service

N ALWIN, Fairfield General Hospital, Bury

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.

Method & Design: We administered the Symptomatology 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 I 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. 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 provides 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 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 acknowledges 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, Ultrasol 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, treatment delivered in its usual 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 with the usual treatment as usual (TAU) for anxiety and depression.

Method: Randomised controlled trial.

Results: Patients 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 well 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 following treatment.

Conclusions: 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, unminimised at six-months follow-up. Symptom reduction was paralleled by significant and enduring improvements in work and social adjustment.

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 experience of sexual assault.

Method: Quantitative and qualitative methods.

Results: Men’s experiences of their partner’s experience of sexual assault were explored using semi-structured interviews with 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 experiences.

Conclusions: 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 the assault also caused men to question their beliefs about sexuality and sense of their own masculinity.

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 SWAP-200.

Method: Within subjects design.

Results: Mental health clinicians were approached and asked to describe patients with a diagnosis of personality disorder or significant personality pathology using a modified version of the SWAP-200. The nominated patients also completed the SWAP-200. A total of 23 pairs of clinicians and patients were studied. Bland Altman analyses was conducted to investigate clinician and patient agreement on 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 psychiatrists of practising as psychotherapists are discussed.

Background: High-secure services for people with learning disabilities have 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 disabilities in England and Wales. Previous attempts had made little impact 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:

• Adopting 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 awards meet the 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

The British Psychological Society

2002 Proceedings
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 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 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 on service delivery. The second paper (S Jones) presents results from a study of the rates of personality disorder in a primary care mental health setting and relates these findings to service delivery issues. Paper 3 (K Davidson) reports on the prevalence of personality disorder in a psychiatric outpatient population, with a focus on social cognition. Paper 4 (K Davidson) assesses the prevalence of personality disorder in a psychiatric outpatient population, with a focus on social cognition. Paper 5 (S Bray & F Lobban) reports on a study of the rates of personality disorder in people diagnosed with personality disorder across service settings and the potential implications of this for treatment. It is intended to provide some guidelines for the development of future studies of personality disorder in other settings.

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 service would be observed in the group assessed. 2. Evidence of personality disorder would be associated with greater problems in the process of assessment. Design: Incidence of personality disorder was assessed in a descriptive epidemiological design, using a semi-structured interview schedule. Results: Prevalence rates for personality disorder varied between the three groups assessed. In terms of DSM-IV clusters, 34.5 per cent of people with a diagnosis of Borderline Personality Disorder were identified, as were potential patterns of abnormalities in social cognition. Conclusions: Clinically useful indications of social problem solving and decision making skills are also reviewed. A range of studies employing social problem solving and decision making skills are also reviewed. A range of studies employing social problem solving and decision making skills are also reviewed. A range of studies employing social problem solving and decision making skills are also reviewed.

Social problem solving skills in people with Borderline Personality Disorder

F LEBEBAN, 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 (BPD). 2. To compare social problem solving skills of people with a diagnosis of Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) with 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: 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 calculated using the WAIST. Scores between the three groups were compared to identify differences. Results: Fending completion of data collection. Considerations: Further quantitative research is required to fully explore the potential of social problem solving skills in people with personality disorders.

The range of application for cognitive issues in people with learning disabilities

W LINDSAY, Tayside Primary Care NHS Trust & U. DUNDEE, University of 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 argue 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.

Observations: 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 ways. Methods: Several therapeutic models for cognitive therapy are summarised. They include self-instructional training, more complex cognitive models based on the notion of self-blame 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. The presentation includes case studies investigating self-protective strategies in potentially abusive situations, decision making in relation to parenting, facilitating the planing of leisure pursuits, and the case of a client with learning 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 revealed 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 coping strategies in people with vitiligo. Phenomenological Analysis was used to identify common factors in choices around coping.

Methods: Participants were selected through The Vittilgo 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 avoidance of behaviour, 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 differences.

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.
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 of evidence to date and to provide an 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 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 psychotherapeutic work and how 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 that they will bring forward 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 common platform for those 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 the implementation of the practice based evidence system (PBES) capable of profiling the individual mental health needs of service users and examining service effectiveness to underline such activity. 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 productive that their secondary care counterparts. The presentation examines the development of alternative routes of access for psychological therapies – including evidence-based approaches – in terms of this broader perspective. It is argued that service protocols must be developed to enable 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 pathways. 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. Therefore, the integration of these systems into psychological therapies provision is the only way to enrich the majority of potential service users and reduce the high levels of service inequity, anathema to modern mental health policy.

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 interventions, for example, reproductive health, sexual dysfunction, sexual abuse and rape, sexuality and relationship, and prevention and therapy delivery. The talk identifies strengths and areas for further development, thus identifying potential goals and tasks for CPD over the following period of time.

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 majority of primary care services deliver effective and accessible care as demanded by the National Service Framework (NSF) for mental health is compromised by several factors. This talk will consider: 1. The traditional nature of psychological therapies delivery which is based on assumptions about the importance of psychological intervention for long sessions between therapist and patient; 2. The marginalisation of self-help into an adjunctive role or waiting list management tool despite a considerable body of evidence for the effectiveness of brief and self-help approaches; 3. The dangers of gatekeeping where primary mental health services offer treatment and long 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 productive that their secondary care counterparts. The presentation examines the development of alternative routes of access for psychological therapies – including evidence-based approaches – in terms of this broader perspective. It is argued that service protocols must be developed to enable 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 pathways. 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. Therefore, the integration of these systems into psychological therapies provision is the only way to enrich the majority of potential service users and reduce the high levels of service inequity, anathema to modern mental health policy.

Sexual function of diabetic women: A psychological perspective C ROSENTHAL, H CURRAN, University of Warwick, 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.

Methods: 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.

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, hypoglycaemia, 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 drug shares similarities with posttraumatic dissociation, a known predictor of PTSD. The use of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) within drug-rape contexts has been suggested to be a marker of PTSD severity. This study investigated how such drugs affected emotional processing during the assault (including dissociative experiences), emotional memory and post-traumatic appraisals about the rape. The relationship of these variables to PTD 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 7.6 years. All 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 is over the general population prevalence to other trauma populations. Impaired fear response during rape was associated with greater negative appraisal, fear and PTSD symptomatology. All participants reported extensive, persistent antecedrate amnesia for rape, and traumatic reappraisals 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 symptomatology 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 shares similarities with dissociation, were shown to have negative repercussions for subsequent emotional and cognitive processes, and were associated with more severe and persistent PTSD. Furthermore, the results demonstrate that significant PTSD symptomatology is mediated 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-behavioural therapy (CBT) for depression and anxiety in primary care.

Design & Methods: 314 primary care patients suffering from depression and/or anxiety were recruited, predominantly by randomisation to either computerised CBT (Beating the Blues®), or treatment as usual (TAU). Outcomes were measured at post-treatment and one-year follow-up by BDI-II 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 personal history of psychological treatment. Demographic data such as age, sex, ethnic status, years of education, as well as duration of current condition and clinical symptoms will be included. Participants were randomised to one of the two treatments. Sample size calculation was performed with G*Power Program. Descriptive statistics will be used to describe the sample. Correlation analyses will be used to assess the relationship between predictor variables and outcome measures. Multiple regression analyses will be used to identify predictors of outcome and retention across the two treatment groups. A mixed model analysis of variance will be performed to compare changes in outcome measures across the two treatment groups. 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, Ultrasound 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 of medication is limited and patients prefer psychological treatments. Psychological treatments, particularly computerised cognitive-behavioural therapy, have a strong and growing evidence base. However, their accessibility is extremely poor and inequitably distributed. NHS policy calls for their increased availability, but implies that they are achievable to achieve in the foreseeable future, given the severe shortage of appropriately trained therapists. Computerised cognitive-behavioural therapy (CBT) is a promising solution to this accessibility problem. Evidence from previous 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 from a large RCT comparing Beating the Blues, a computerised CBT programme, to primary care treatment as usual. Second, McCrone presents health economic evaluation of CBT at two sites: the Beating the Blues trial which support its cost-effectiveness. Third, Shapiros reports on an open-trial which investigates the generalisability of computerised CBT. Fourth, 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 and make 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, Ultrasound plc & 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 benchmark the gains reported against outcomes of face-to-face therapy.


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 treatment services. The convergent validity of these two methods of assessing change was evaluated. Growth curve analysis and life satisfaction analysis was applied along with an index of the clinical significance of change on each variable for each patient.

Results: Outcomes were generally favourable, with changes in depression treatment with the range associated with face-to-face treatments. Week-by-week changes in anxiety and depression were not statistically significant for trend of progressive improvement across the eight sessions. The convergent validity of week-by-week ratings and pre-post CORE outcome measures was assessed. The efficacy of Beating the Blues established by randomised, controlled trial appears to show highly effective treatment 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 & 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 potential mechanism through which people cope with life difficulties and, therefore, may be relevant to coping with HIV infection. This study examined the hypothesis that 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 a non-random and non-probability sampling, 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 significant effects.

Conclusions: General self-efficacy appears to have limited value in explaining individual 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.
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.

Methods: An opportunistic sample of between 100–150 participants is used. The study utilizes four psychological scales testing personality, mating behaviour, psychopathy and social desirability. Participants are assured of confidentiality and are instructed to place their completed questionnaire 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 relationship of 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 ability, pragmatic language skills, verbal and non-verbal vocabulary, attention span, hyperactivity and impulsiveness, 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 group comprised of: ‘inattentive’, ‘hyperactivity-impulsive’, and a ‘combined group’ who showed elevated test scores on both poor attention and hyperactivity-impulsivity, 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 way 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 and hyperactivity-impulsivity.

Taking 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 an important educational 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 on 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 perform with greater than chance accuracy when they are being stared at. This study examines whether or not this effect is still demonstrable when the starsers 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 with eyes open. Additionally, the number of correct responses is correlated with starers 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 the 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 starsers eyes are open. The dependent variable is the starers score for each condition; number of correct responses out of 12.

Methods: A large sample of 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 a staring effect. Feedback from 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 centreing 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 used to examine relationship issues, also, ‘media texts’ relating to issues of ‘infidelity’ and ‘monogamy’ were opportunistically gathered. A search for variability, contradictions and consensus in the texts (both interview and media texts) took place.

Conclusions: Differential and contradicting accounts were found to be exploratory devices, particularising instances of infidelity in relationship contexts. 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.

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 extraversion, neuroticism and psychotism, affect the recall of emotional data.

Design: This was a quasi-experiment with a mixed design. The two independent variables 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 dependent variables: Emotional Detail Recall, and Picture Recall. The data collected took the form of an interval scale.

Method: Each participant completed the EPOQ-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.

Conclusions: The results showed that the personality traits had no affect 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 reactions 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.
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 intercorrelations 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. Correlation was found that there was significant relationships and consistency between words with similar meaning. There was a memory task question and a bet type question, and an interaction between word-type and questionnaire. There was a significant difference between questionnaires on the betting task.

Conclusions: Co-efficient alpha 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 McLROY, 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) emotional. The cognitive domain was assessed in terms of worry and test irrelevant thoughts, while emotional anxiety 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 were anticipated. This work presents 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 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, level 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 cultural contexts may operate in a limited way in the Northern Irish.

Personal goals for older adults: Implications for exercise promotion

P CAMPBELL, M MELVILLE, E MCCORM & 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 programming.

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 better’. 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 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. This study has 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 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-12 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 in inhibiting factors in discriminating between subgroups of patients categorised according to their self-reported health status or angiographic lesions.

Conclusions: When there is a need to collect routine information about cardiac patients’ physical health and general well-being 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 process of negative priming. Single digit numbers were used to assess negative priming and in a repeated measures design the first 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 disengagement and decreased 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 theories of whether or not strategies adopted which were aimed at increasing the marks gained for written work. Both similarities and differences were found in the views of the students and academics. In the psychology of religion has been hampered by the lack of common instrumentation. During the second half of the 1990s a series of attempts has also been made to translate the Francis Scale of Attitude toward Christianity among an older population towards 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 prevention 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 with age. Eighty-six percent of the children after children had completed the programme. The studies also reported gender differences in attitudes towards violence prevented 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 psychometric scale may function more satisfactorily in some countries than 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 psychometric scale, however, was found to be less satisfactory.

**Conclusions:**: On the basis of these data the psychometric properties 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 psychotism.
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**

L J SMCIRCUS, 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 test 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 of teaching are affected by factors other than teaching ability such as student characteristics and the physical environment. **Aims:** In this study, it was predicted that students’ satisfaction with 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 was specified that the teaching effectiveness factors were an acceptable description of the data. Subsequent analyses included an exogenous latent variable, labelled ‘positive attitudes towards the lecturer’, 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 behaviour of sheltered 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 a situational appropriateness of impression management or personality? What explains the extant contradictory findings? **Aims:** This exploratory study examines the relationships between self-monitoring 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 trait hypothesised. Self-monitoring is significantly and positively associated with psychotism and extraversion, as well as neuroticism. A gender by personality interaction was found with the 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 faster than manual hand control and more accurate. Fitts’ law provided a robust predictor of movement time and learning effects followed the power law of practice for the headway pointing 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. Psychometric scales were used to gather supplementary quantitative information. **Results:** Overall the quality of life of the person was seen to be influenced by their 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 a 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 syndromes (eating disorders, depression, deliberate self-harm, substance abuse, and borderline personality disorder), and of an explanatory model of the pathways between trauma and psychological correlates. **Main contribution:** Epidemiological evidence, from populations with complex post-traumatic stress disorder, which illustrates 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 specific psychiatric syndromes. 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 neurotransmitters 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 therapists’ patients**

MM JENKINS, University of Ulster at Magee College **Background:** Therapists’ patients are 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 Tabacknick’s (1991) Therapists as Patients study. He investigated APA members. Here the client population are professional therapists. **Method:** A questionnaire comprising four sections – background, therapist experiences, therapist and therapist patient experiences, therapist and therapist patient behaviours, and beliefs around training was forwarded to 110 individuals in statutory services, voluntary agencies and in private practice.

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Results: Results replicate original findings and additionally highlight the relationship between therapist behaviours and the helpfulness or harmfulness of therapeutic interventions.

Conclusions: The study concludes by discussing these findings and their implications for the field of therapy, particularly in the context of 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 changed over time, from modesty to 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 communities 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 needed 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 psychosocial 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 improvement of the 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
C McGUICKIN & CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: Ireland is traditionally viewed as the 'Catholic country', yet recent trends 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 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 adults. Mullan and Lewis also use the Francis Scale of Attitude toward Christianity, alongside questions on religious observance to examine various social and personal factors 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 religious belief and affiliation among adolescents and young adults growing up in Ireland. The final paper by Doherty and Lewis uses 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 of participants from each Country's largest ethnic group alongside the predominant minority ethnic group.

Results: The data demonstrate significant interactions between gender and ethnicity, and between different 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 rare 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, and several new measures.

Method: 80 participants completed the Multidimensional Ability Battery and a variety of IT tasks (three auditory, three visual). IT threshold was measured using a computerised 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 McGUICKIN & CA LEWIS, University of Ulster at Magee College

Background: Given increased attention to school bullying, it is increasingly important for researchers to critically evaluate methods for determining the prevalence of school bullying. The importance of such work in Northern Ireland may become more 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 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 these 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 consultancy, 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, interviews, religiosity, personality and morality, alongside some demographic variables.

Results: Data pertaining to values were analysed and correlations 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 for five groups of women in midlife.

Aims: The study was designed to explore the links between educational level 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 Puilt Self-Perception Inventory 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.

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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 PROKÉŠ, Masaryk University, Brno & J RACSEK, 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 electronically facilitated specific discussions. The objective of the nascent e-center utilized for this counselling is to offer an electronically facilitated specific discussions. The objective of the nascent e-center utilized for this counselling is to offer an electronically facilitated specific discussions.

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 review of the important themes arising out of previous empirical research. To present our findings and conclusions from an empirical study of breastfeeding attitudes and promotion in Ireland.

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, barriers and beliefs of therapists based among professionals in psychological therapies in Northern Ireland. The final paper, by Byrne-Doran provides a theoretical account of the psychological processes involved in embracing breastfeeding 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 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 types of experiences employed by 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 word and that attitudes toward infant feeding are formed at an early age, it is important that research has been done to determine attitudes to breastfeeding and its promotion in adolescents.

Method: A questionnaire was constructed on the basis of themes arising out of previous quiescent 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 promotion (p = 0.002) and breastfeeding education (p = 0.002). 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 breastfeeding promotion (p = 0.002).

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 Dispositions Inventory is a US instrument used to assess disposition toward 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 new subscales. The alpha co-efficient for the revised inventory was 0.80 (n = 191). Initial attempts at estimating concurrent validity on the new set of items showed a significant correlation with a well-established measure of scholastic achievement (A-Levles) (r = 0.179, 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 in 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 and 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 illustrated that shared beliefs play a key role in defining the investigative decision frame and in defining 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 PRENTEICE, University of Ulster at Jordanstown, B BUNTING, University of Ulster at Magee College & J WEIR, NICAS

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 status, 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 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 the 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-Imigration Assessment 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 trainee career preferences: An application of the Theory of Planned Behaviour

A REA, North Western Health Board, Sligo

Background: Given the inequitable distribution of mental health services within different specialties, this study employed the Theory of Planned Behaviour to investigate what factors were important for determining the area trainees identified and within which clinical areas the trainees saw themselves working.

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 centres 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 specialization and that Attitude and Confidence were important for the factors determining trainees’ career choices.

Conclusion: The Theory of Planned Behaviour was valuable in predicting trainees’ intentions and actual behaviour and for predicting future clinical training needs.

Competing approaches to understanding behaviour on the road: Risk and learning

AH REINHARDT-RUTLAND, University of Ulster at Jordanstown

Background: Driving is not simply a perceptual-motor skill, a point exemplified by models concerning driving skill, Wilde’s visual looming, and more recently (b) human and non-human learning (Fuller).

Aims: The aim of the models is to determine which is more useful.

Main contribution: Risk-homeostasis suggests that interventions – e.g. reducing road curvature that influences the journey. Unfortunately, the proposed mechanism is physiologically dubious, especially regarding 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 – 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 psychosocial challenges within their 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 25 participants who were maternally bereaved at or before the age of 11. Analysis will be the Grounded Theory method.

Results: Participants’ experiences of living with a lone parent 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 of 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 research. Data relating to 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.

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: Participants’ experiences of living with a lone parent 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 of Northern Ireland.

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Results and conclusions: Results will be discussed in relation to the models both independently, and interdependently.

Round table discussion: Issues in evaluation

L Sproule, C McG Hussein, C 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 is a pilot project that aimed to ‘design, deliver, monitor and evaluate an innovative P1 curriculum’.

Karen Trew is entitled ‘Discovering Queen’s: A co-operative cumulative evaluation project’.

Summary: The Discovery Programme has been evaluated by a team from Queen’s School of Psychology since the 1999 pilot project. The Discovery programme is 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 an academic project that I 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 practical delivery, or to balance the different needs and priorities of researchers, practitioners, and the people and communities taking part. Issues encountered during the course of the ‘young men and violence project’. These included: tensions between the priorities and methods of the academics and practitioners, 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 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


Training to be a Counselling Psychologist
S BARTLETT, R WOLFE, Manchester Mental Health Partnership

The 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 main routes to qualification and will suggest how best to prepare for these. It will also offer some guidance on how to manage the training process.

There will be presentations from the Registrar of Dipoma 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 in-depth, 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 as an 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 conjuncture 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 really know?

2. How much does an individual assimilate of the body of knowledge, and how do they really know?
3. Can we really know?
4. Power/Authority
1. Images of self: who individuals are, how they see themselves.
2. Influencing others: professionals, clients, relationship between knowledge and power/authority. Relationships.

Conclusions:
Next stages of research:
Six more interviews; extensive data analysis. Application to other different professions – focus group to address concerns and effective multidisciplinary working.
Application to Counselling Psychology – an emerging profession.

Do 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:
1. The characteristics and skills of telephone counselling.
2. Counselling Psychologists’ experiences within an EAP.
3. Clients’ experiences of an EAP.

‘Giving psychology away’: Empowerment through ends
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 juxtapositions from psychotherapy 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 counselling psychology. What can we offer, and what should we really know?

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-LORENZI, 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 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-Th relationships (or ‘objective’ research methods) have been largely favoured within the academic tradition, whereas I-Thou (or ‘subjective’) relationships have been favoured within the therapeutic tradition.

One of counselling psychology is to move beyond such unfruitful oppositions resulting from this difference of method. This paper presents the audience with data and experiential work supporting the idea that the groundwork for these 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 exist at all ages and are based on 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-I or and 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 manualsised treatments, depression has, been typically viewed as a monolithic phenomenon. Since depression symptomatically looked the same, it was treated as the same. This was, therefore, possible to design treatments which are essentially similar and can be straightforwardly adapted by well-trained 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 looked the same at the level of the behaviour, 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. Research reviews a series of distinct dynamic patterns/problems which lead to depressive symptomatology. These include... 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 psychotherapy 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 R Thomson, Texas A&M University

Objective: The purpose of this research was to explore various influences in the development of a psychotherapy style or 'therapeutic orientation'. Research on factors underlying the effectiveness of psychotherapy is suggestive that an individuals temperament of personality style may determine a particular 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... studies of the web-based method to interview participants.

Method: We selected 15 experienced psychotherapists who are Diplomates 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... and the six Diplomates 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 to 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 therapeutic style. 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 their psychotherapy style direction.

Conclusion: This research suggests a tentative map for future research on trainee psychotherapists. It seems likely that finding a psychotherapy style is not serendipitous, but rather is predictable within the idiodynamic patterns of the individual. 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. When working with this group of clients, psychological counselling falls within the rules for medical treatments in the Mental Health Act (1983). This result in the need to establish, not only the prospective client's consent to undertake counselling, but their capacity to consent. The counsellor-therapist 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 broader system. The psychologist's dual roles of therapist and risk assessor are considered, with particular reference to the... 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 counselling. The counsellor will be faced with a number of issues concerning the client's behaviour that is very disagreeable. Progress can only be made if the counsellor gives careful consideration 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 Georgopoulos, 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... Counselling Psychologists: The workshop is open to anyone who is interested in the topic (practitioners, trainees, organisational consultants, researchers) who would like to bring... will be examples of practice to illustrate ways systemic ideas can be used in different aspects of our work. During the workshop, the workshop leader will... is an area where the mind is not allowed to form. 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 participants can choose those that are helpful to their working context.

'Things I'm worried about but I'm not 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 in which the author talked 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 'body weight' and its relationship to eating.

Method: Eight men from a diverse range of ages, occupations and social contexts were interviewed four times over the period of their therapy. The interviews focused on a broad range of themes relating to food. Detailed discursive analysis, employing a modified version of the Discursive Accounting (DAM), was undertaken on the transcribed data.

Results: The paper will identify a discursive strategy employed by men that functions 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: first, firstly, greater 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, offers rich ground for exploration for therapeutic practice. The paper will examine these implications and propose that concerns regarding weight and body are likely to be relevant to men (a practice 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 study

S Grbicic, London

Objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate the effects of a relatively new therapy - Traumatic Incident Reduction (TIR) - on a participant suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). TIR is a discursive therapy (or 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... 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 12 weeks, receiving a total of 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

An Editorial 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 sub-jeuctive abuse, borderline personality disorder etc) and particularly the corporal expression of psychological disorders as 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 perhaps the most cogent measure of trauma is demonstrated as insufficient to capture the holistic nature of the effects of, and expression of trauma. An overarching two-factor model which captures the current understanding of what means trauma is psychological factors, provides the framework within which the effects of trauma on the body and the expression of trauma corporally, emotionally and cognitively are treated. Interesting evidence on the effects of psychological factors on neurotransmitters and possibly neural networks is presented, in addition to effect of psychotherapeutic intervention on the phenotypic expression of genotypes. The review is then presented as a theoretically oriented in an attempt to create a meaningful overview of the various aspects of PTSD whilst simultaneously adding a greater degree of order and organisation to the complexity of the area. Issues for counselling psychologists working in the area of trauma are outlined in a neuro-cognitive framework, in relation to treatment formulations, assessment and other salient issues such as vicarious trauma.

Findings: Evidence is presented for a strong relationship between eating disorders and other types of physical self-harm following traumatic experience, and perhaps the most cogent measure of trauma is demonstrated as insufficient to capture the holistic nature of the effects of, and expression of trauma. An overarching two-factor model which captures the current understanding of what means trauma is psychological factors, provides the framework within which the effects of trauma on the body and the expression of trauma corporally, emotionally and cognitively are treated. Interesting evidence on the effects of psychological factors on neurotransmitters and possibly neural networks is presented, in addition to effect of psychotherapeutic intervention on the phenotypic expression of genotypes. The review is then presented as a theoretically oriented in an attempt to create a meaningful overview of the various aspects of PTSD whilst simultaneously adding a greater degree of order and organisation to the complexity of the area. Issues for counselling psychologists working in the area of trauma are outlined in a neuro-cognitive framework, in relation to treatment formulations, assessment and other salient issues such as vicarious traumatisation.

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. Historically, survivors of extreme torture are notoriously difficult to engage in traditional psychotherapy. This is further compounded when the torture is experienced 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.

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further research based practice by counselling the group programme. The aim is to encourage clients as very important elements provided by alone) and interpersonal learning are reported by 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 for its implications for other fields of psychology. Indeed, a recent issue of The Psychologist was dedicated to this very topic.

Methods: 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 rise to prominence suggests 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 processes of seeing what constitutes evidence in the first place.

Methods/Key Points: This paper reflects on the nature of the evidence based practice debate, exploring the various rationales for and against factors involved in our relationship to this debate. Suggestions are made as to the meaning and function of the evidence 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. 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 ways in which we might understand the implications it has for social, biological and psychological aspects of existence.

Background: Phenomenological observations are represented in the counselling psychology literature – sometimes organised around presenting problems (depression, etc) or organisational issues (e.g. cross cultural therapy, etc). The readership is often invited to think of the difficulties manifest in western urban populations and in ways 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 the strange. The focus is not on unusual, ways in which a phenomenon can manifest.

Methods/Key Points: This paper reviews the natural history of a particular literature for counselling psychology. In doing so, the focus is not, the usual descriptions of the wildlife, but the experience of living in understanding our environment and our neighbours of other species – an unfamiliar population for many counselling psychologists.

Conclusions: While we are not likely to see many naturalists descending on our urban consulting rooms, this paper outlines the fundamental issues that affect all us, 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 one relationship with the world. As such, bulimia cannot be examined outside of the experience of 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 psychologists is needed. In other words, this is not be consistent with what the therapists actually do. The audience is emphasised meaning that ‘espoused’ theory i.e. what therapists say they do and what is done is usually different and allow them to do things that have been brought up during their training. This may not be consistent with what the therapists actually do i.e. their theory in practice.

The challenge of integrative training and what students say about it

S MUNT, University of Surrey

Background/Key Points: This paper provides a particular design with assessment in mind. They are further asked to process their answers so that integration in the mental health settings focusing on the potential effect of context on insight.

Results: 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 it.

Conclusions: The question of responsibility appears to have an influence on the way in which professionals work with clients and patients and this leads to a variety of implications that will be discussed.

A reflective practitioner from practice to theory

M O'BRIEN, Oxford

Purpose: This paper discusses and explores what therapists with a different theoretical orientation do in the interaction with a client and how they understand what they do. The paper focuses on the way therapists bring into a therapeutic encounter something of their own experience of the various symptoms associated for counselling psychologists as integrative practitioners. But integration in the psychological therapies is by no means a fully developed discipline. There are many possible integration models. The aim of this paper is to report some of the experiences of students in getting to grips with the integrative task.

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 approaches 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 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 learning the origins of their feelings of anxiety.

Design: This research used an NHS patient cohort of consecutive clinical patients. Two groups, one with a pre-existing diagnosis of CHD and one without were matched on a number of variables. Each patient in both samples, CHD sample (n = 82) and the control sample (n = 74) were administered the following instruments: Toronto Alexithymia Scale, Courtland Emotion Control Scale, Marlowe Crowne Social Desirability Scale and Manifest Anxiety Scale.

Results: MANOVA revealed that CHD patients were significantly different in their identifying and describing feelings than were the control patients. They also exhibited significantly higher levels of anxiety and anger on the CHD 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. This is a minimal dataset which, although small, is significant. Such research has implications for the future treatment of CHD patients in General practice settings.

From Here to There: The Crisis Intervention Service at HM Prison 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 a Cell A. The Chartered Psychologist’s role is to assist the trainee counselling psychologists assess each woman on the ‘at risk’ list the day after they are placed on it and offer her either individual 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 women receive counselling as quickly as possible. Most women receive their first counselling session within 10 days of being referred. It was felt that 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 problem-focused, solution-focused, or cognitive behavioural.

Conclusion: Counselling psychologists have skills that are highly relevant to working with challenging and suicidal clients in a secure settings. Counselling Psychology’s emphasis on the importance of the therapeutic relationship, generating solutions and emphasising the client’s strengths is very helpful when working with this client group. Moreover, the value given therapists’ 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 about which is widely seen to be wasteful even if historically understandable. To see the field in this new way is to envision how one can move on from this rigid structure. 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 humanity. After 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 always be so; in the humanistic therapies, the interaction is mostly at the authentic level, though there is no reason why this has to be exclusive; and in the psychodynamic tradition, the interaction may be instrumental, authentic or transpersonal; and in the transpersonal tradition, the interaction may be any or all of these, partly 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 in-depth interviews of at least four Chartered and four professional counsellors. The rationale was to allow each of the participants to speak for themselves in order to investigate their perceptions of, and beliefs about, interpersonal space in relation to a counselling relationship.

Method: This qualitative study involved 17 adults who were volunteer 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 interviewers’ perceptions and awareness regarding interpersonal space within a counselling relationship. The procedure used was to transcribe the tapes. Copying 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 exposed to interpersonal space in 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 space has an impact on one’s counselling relationship, yet some people who practice counselling may not be aware of the impact of this. It is 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.

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 the extent of practitioners’ experiences regarding 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 85.3 per cent). Respondents worked in a range of settings across primary care, CMHTs, private practice and specialist settings. Over 93 percent of respondents reported working with people prescribed psychotropic medication. The majority (73.3 per cent) considered they collaborated with the prescribing physician 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 are collaborating with the prescribing physician regarding clients’ medication dose, type or toxicity, and for a minority is a frequent task. Further investigation is needed to ascertain how psychologists work with the prescribing medical practitioner and the impact of psychotropics on the therapeutic process.

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 providing services for people with learning disabilities. The aim of this paper is to consider the evidence on how people with learning disabilities who 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 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 consequences of this 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 have been examined.

Conclusions: Findings suggest that people with learning disabilities share a similar range of behavioural or psychological reactions to abuse as those in the general population. However, additional difficulties such as hypersomnia and aggressive and withdrawn behvioural difficulties may be prevalent. When therapeutic work is effective, practice must be grounded in research that takes into account the cognitive, emotional and social development factors that are integral to the development and functioning of 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.

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Conflict resolution - Sartre's lessons for counselling psychology: A discussion workshop

E SPINELLI, Regent's College, London

The workshop focuses upon the critical cornerstone assumptions influencing current thought and practice in counselling psychology. It 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 traditional practices 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 following a study of research papers that have utilised a phenomenological methodology. Phenomenological research provides a structured approach to the investigation of everyday lived human experience. Descriptive in focus, its aim is to arrive at increasingly adequate statements whose intended job is to elucidate the principal, oftenคมกิจ and complementary, experiential features and characteristics of a particular defined lived or 'felt' experience. This is known as the more traditional, natural science assumptions of experimental research that incorporate factors such as null hypothesis, control group, isolated variables and the like, phenomenological research, nonetheless, provides researchers with a powerful 'tool' with which to clarify and deliberate the factors that 'make up or are inherent within a given life event.' The breadth of research opportunities open to phenomenological enquiry is suggested by the diversity evident in the papers presented in this symposium. The specific topics under discussion in the symposium deal with 'the experience of seeking out Sartre's thought', 'the experience of distress and confusion', 'the experience of bulbina', '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 its typical, quantifiable, focused approaches to psychological research and sets out the aims and objectives of phenomenological enquiry. Further, this presentation will identify the creative and structural components of phenomenological research as developed by Paul Colazetti. The presentation also explores the particular themes and arenas of enquiry central to counselling psychology readily lend themselves to phenomenological analyses and that, through such a framework, subject meanings become better understood. 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, Barlet & Harengny NHT

Objectives: This pilot study evaluates the outcome of a new group cognitive-behavioural group targeting responsibility beliefs for obsessive compulsive disorder. The group ran for 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 was asked to keep a diary 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: The findings illustrate that cognitive behaviour therapy is a useful and cost effective approach for some people with OCD. This is important given the number of clients who refuse or drop out of the 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 the current pressures on therapeutic practice.

Background: Second to extra-therapeutic ‘client factors’, the quality of the therapeutic relationship, being-in-relation, is generally considered as the most significant factor in successful therapy. There is, nevertheless, an increasing tendency to emphasise other factors such as time, pressure to package and manage treatment.

Theoretical Position: This paper argues that this tendency is best understood in the context of a wider social process described, and termed ‘rationalisation’, by Max Weber. It draws on the recent work of George Ritzer who argues that the process of rationalisation has become intensified. 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 objective outcomes and the increased focus 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 manage treatment suggests 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, aged between 28 and 41, were interviewed, having experienced childhood bereavement. The transcripts were analysed using the constant comparison method, and emerging themes were hierarchically assembled.

Results: The model signals the importance of five dynamic central categories within the bereavement process of children, and the core category of ‘Penetrability’ is something to do with the Dual Task required of children in this respect. The notion of ‘Inclusion’ and ‘Exclusion’, when applied to this model, explicates a direction for children to engage with the grieving process. When ‘Exclusion’ is encountered, there is then the potential for a life-long resolution ahead.

Addictions – Are we treating the symptom and disregarding the cause?

W WAHL, Devon

Based in the work of Maslow, Bowlby, 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 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 result of unmet human needs. The model is complete for recognising such needs is presented. This inclusive, integrative and clinically-based model aims to help the client listen for, connect with 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.

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 generally. This paper examines the concept of ‘McDonaldisation’ in understanding 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 clients suggests that we are 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 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 when detained, ignoring the reality that often drugs are the only thing keeping their psychological and emotional life manageable. The paper views addiction as a negative developmental model. It suggests that the emphasis should be moved from reacting to the consequences of the problem to investigating its root causes. It suggests that services need to move from a more traditional medical model to 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
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**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.