

Agnew, Francis & Gaffney, Paul

HSE

The Effect of a School Based Suicide Prevention Programme on Resilience Levels of Young People.

Singh (2000) highlights resilience as an integral part of any successful suicide prevention strategy. The current study examined the effect of the Mind Yourself programme on resilience levels of the young people that undergo the programme. The programme incorporates a broader holistic life skills approach that focuses on characteristics of resilience such as hopefulness, problem solving ability, interpersonal skills and adaptability. The Bar-On Emotional Quotient Inventory: Youth Version (Bar-On EQ-i: YV) was administered to both control (N=277) and experimental (N=336) schools as a standardised measure of emotional intelligence. The changes in the experimental group's scores within the interpersonal, adaptability and stress management scales of this measure are discussed in relation to the implications for this and future school-based suicide prevention programmes.

Armstrong, Máire & Keane, Deborah

HSE

Work Positive: Managing Workplace Stress – A Case Study: Children and Family Social Work Service, HSE West

This article reports the results of the Work Positive process implemented in the Social Work Service, HSE West. Work Positive provides a framework for managers to work collaboratively with staff in alleviating stress at work. Seventy staff participated in the process, which included a questionnaire and facilitated discussion groups and culminated in the development and implementation of an action plan. Themes emerging as potential psycho-social risks included: continuous change, low morale, inadequate communication/consultation by management, accommodation, role clarity, health & safety/security issues, and supervision. The process facilitated enhanced teamwork and understanding amongst staff, problem solving and elimination of stressors using a management-staff partnership approach. A management group created out of the process has acted as an important vehicle in continuing the collaborative-working ethos of Work Positive.

Azevedo, Juliana & Morales, Liliana

Psychology Service for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Self Developmental Group Work with Separated Adolescents

Within the refugee population, Separated Children (SC) have been identified as a particularly vulnerable group (UNHCR). However resilience is also a characteristic of adolescent development. Given that adolescents are also social beings and social interaction is a key aspect of their developmental process, a group programme was deemed the most appropriate. It was delivered to 16/17-year-old SC living in Dublin hostels. The underlying approach included Prevention, Psycho-educational, and Therapeutic. Some of the strategies used were (a) Promoting an active coping style, (b) Providing an opportunity to participate and contribute, (c) Stress reduction (relaxation) and (d) Adjustment difficulties (loss, cultural issues, racism)

Barnes-Holmes, Dermot; Barnes-Holmes, Yvonne & Scanlon, Ger

NUI Maynooth

The Implicit Relational Assessment Procedure (IRAP) VIII: Assessing Mainstream Teachers' Implicit Attitudes to Children with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties

The current study used the IRAP to examine the implicit attitudes of three groups of mainstream teachers with varying degrees of teaching experience towards children with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (EBD). The results of the study showed that all teachers were significantly faster at relating positive terms to teachers and negative terms to EBD students than relating negative terms to teachers and positive terms to EBD students. These outcomes highlight implicit teacher bias against EBD students that may potentially impact upon the current educational emphasis on inclusion.

Barnes-Holmes, Dermot¹; Barnes-Holmes, Yvonne¹ & Stewart, Ian²

¹NUI Maynooth, ²NUI Galway

The Implicit Relational Assessment Procedure (IRAP) I: Background and Rationale

Relational Frame Theory (RFT) is a modern behavioural approach to human language and cognition, the central postulate of which is that higher-cognitive functioning is composed of relational acts. A recent development in this research area is an RFT-based procedure for measuring implicit relations, termed the Implicit Relational Assessment Procedure (IRAP). Initial studies have shown that the IRAP may be used to measure relational networks or attitudes that individuals are either unaware of or may wish to conceal. The IRAP appears to offer advantages over other methods that use reaction time measures to assess attitudes (e.g. the Implicit Association Test), both in its theoretical rationale and its ability to measure many types of relationships. The current paper presents the conceptual and empirical background to the development of the IRAP.

Barnes-Holmes, Dermot¹; Cochrane, Andy¹; Barnes-Holmes, Yvonne¹; Stewart, Ian² & Luciano, Carmen³

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The Implicit Relational Assessment Procedure (IRAP) VI: Does the IRAP Predict Fear of Spiders and How Malleable is this IRAP Performance?

This paper presents a study that sought to explore the validity of the Implicit Relational Assessment Procedure (IRAP) as a tool for measuring fear of spiders. Participants completed the Fear of Spiders Questionnaire and a Graduated Behavioural Approach Test (GBAT). The GBAT involves increasing risk of contact with a spider, and we have found that the number of steps completed is negatively correlated with scores on the Fear of Spider Questionnaire (FSQ). Scores on the FSQ and performance on the GBAT were then used to test the validity of an IRAP. The IRAP required participants to respond either negatively or positively to spider-related terms -- faster response latencies on spider-negative relative to spider-positive trials was taken to indicate a negative attitude to spiders. The study also explored two approaches to modifying the IRAP performance. The first approach involved challenging existing negative beliefs about spiders by informing participants that their beliefs were "incorrect" and then providing a list of positive "correct" beliefs. The second approach involved confirming the participants' existing negative beliefs, but then elaborating this negative belief network with a list of positive beliefs about spiders. The implications for the data arising from the study for the use of the IRAP as an assessment tool in clinical settings will be discussed.

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¹NUI Maynooth, ²NUI Galway

The Implicit Relational Assessment Procedure (IRAP) V: How Malleable is an IRAP Performance?

This paper presents a study that sought to determine if the IRAP effect can be modulated through exposure to relevant positive and negative exemplars. Half of the participants were exposed to examples of positively valenced old people and negatively valenced young people; the remaining participants were exposed to examples of positively valenced young people and negatively valenced old people. The participants were then exposed to an IRAP, in which the sample stimuli were “Young People” and “Old People,” with positive and negative target words as target stimuli, and the response options “Similar” and “Opposite.” Twenty four hours later participants were re-exposed to the same IRAP. Explicit attitudes to old and young people were also collected using “feeling thermometers” and likert scales. The results showed that the pro-old exemplars weakened the pro-young IRAP bias but completely reversed the anti-old IRAP effect, for both IRAP exposures, with positive and significant test-retest reliability. In contrast, the exemplars had no significant impact on the explicit measures. The results are broadly consistent with a previous research, but serve to highlight that the IRAP may provide a more efficient means of assessing implicit cognition than more established implicit measures.

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The Implicit Relational Assessment Procedure (IRAP) II: Can You Fake the IRAP?

This paper presents a study that sought to determine if it is possible to fake the IRAP. Three groups of adult participants were exposed to a baseline IRAP. The IRAP presented the sample stimuli “Pleasant” and “Unpleasant” with examples of pleasant and unpleasant things as target stimuli, and the response options “Similar” and “Opposite.” Having completed the first IRAP, one group of participants received information about the IRAP and how it works; the second group received similar information but were asked to try to fake the next IRAP by thinking of pleasant things as unpleasant and unpleasant things as pleasant; the third group also received similar information, but were explicitly told how to fake the IRAP by deliberately slowing down on the easier trials. The results from the study showed that all three groups failed to fake the IRAP performance. The data contrast with two recent studies in which participants successfully faked the Implicit Association Test. Although preliminary, the IRAP data do indicate that it may be less susceptible to faking than the IAT.

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The Implicit Relational Assessment Procedure (IRAP) III: Do We Really Hate Americans?

This paper presents a series of studies that sought to determine if the IRAP can be used to assess implicit national stereotypes. In one study, Irish participants were required to respond TRUE or FALSE given a relational cue comparing different nationalities along the dimension of likeability. One task, for example, presented “Irish more likable than Scottish?” and another “Scottish more likeable than

American?" If participants responded more rapidly to these tasks when asked to respond TRUE than when asked to respond FALSE, this would indicate that they implicitly believed that the Irish are more likeable than the Scottish, but the Scottish are more likeable than Americans. Results showed a divergence between performance on the IRAP and explicit likert-based measures, indicating that the IRAP can measure implicit beliefs directly and can also measure networks of interconnected beliefs.

Barnes-Holmes, Dermot¹; Vahey, Nigel¹; Barnes-Holmes, Yvonne¹ & Stewart, Ian²
¹NUI Maynooth, ²NUI Galway

The Implicit Relational Assessment Procedure (IRAP) VII: Self-Esteem in Prisoners

This paper presents a study that sought to determine if the IRAP can be used to assess attitudes to self and others in prisoner and non-prisoner populations. Irish prisoners and non-prisoners were presented with the sample stimuli "Similar" and "Opposite" with examples of good and bad characteristics as target stimuli, and the response options Participant's own name and Not participant's own name. The prisoners were divided into two groups. The first group resided in the main block of a prison, whereas the second group had earned residency in a special open area within the same prison through a protracted application process. The prisoners from the open area were publicly accorded freedoms and privileges not granted to the other prisoners. Thus it was predicted that the open area prisoners, who had been identified as worthy of special treatment, would possess higher self-esteem relative to their "less worthy" counterparts. Results from the study showed that the non-prisoners and the open area prisoners produced self-esteem IRAP scores that were significantly higher than those produced by the main block prisoners. Consistent with previous self-esteem IAT research, the implicit measures correlated with the IRAP scores. The findings provide evidence to support the validity of the IRAP as a possible tool for measuring implicit self-esteem.

Bates, Ursula
Blackrock Hospice

Dying and Bereavement: Psychology and Clinical Practice

Between 10-50% of palliative care patients experience anxiety and depression, 20-70% have inadequate pain relief and 35% unmet emotional needs. Needs include co-morbid mental health disorders (perhaps undetected), complex bereavement and end-of-life issues. Psychotherapeutic interventions include individual and group approaches depending on client needs and theoretical orientation of the psychologist, with a range of therapeutic orientations including cognitive, meta-cognitive, psychodynamic and psychoanalytic. This presentation explores assessment, brief interventions and preliminary data from a Mindfulness-Based Stress Management Group in a day hospice. Palliative care provides a different kind of hope to anticancer therapy "... a hope for closure and a hope for growth at the end of life". Psychology is well equipped to enable people to engage and develop at the end stages of life.

Bayley, Austin¹; Kenny, Meave¹ & Stevenson, Chris²
¹St. Vincent's Hospital, ²School of Nursing, DCU

The Perspectives of Clients who have completed a Comprehensive Programme of Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT)

This is a retrospective qualitative study to investigate clients' experiences of the impact of DBT. Data was collected by semi-structured interviews with a sample of

13 clients who had completed a comprehensive programme of DBT. Areas of participants' experiences that were explored included their descriptions of the problems that initially led to contact with mental health services, their experiences of interactions with a variety of mental health professionals, their positive and negative perspectives of DBT and aspects of the treatment they would change. Using content analysis, issues and themes emerged which will be discussed and reflected on in terms of future DBT service provision.

*Beatty, Sheelagh; Mangoang, Maeve & O'Mara, Shane
School of Psychology, TCD*

Episodic and Recent Autobiographical Memory in Healthy Adults: A Pilot Study

Although both episodic and autobiographical memory have been widely researched, few studies have used tasks that are concise, distinguish between semantic and episodic information, are exempt from practice effects and control for emotional valence. In this pilot study, mature students in TCD (n = 73; females = 49) completed comprehensive neuropsychological tasks. Interview 1 (adapted from Eldridge et al., 1994) measured free recall of personally-relevant episodic details from a Typical day, Yesterday and Last Week; while Interview 2 (adapted from Levine et al., 2002) assessed memory for Positive, Neutral and Negative recent autobiographical events. High levels of individual variability in the number of episodic details recalled across all tasks were observed. Positive and negative events elicited higher self-ratings of vividness compared to neutral events

Blanco-Campal¹, Alberto; Burke, Teresa¹; Coen, Robert²; Lawlor, Brian² & Walsh, J. Bernard²

¹Psychology Department, UCD, ²MIRA

Prospective Memory is a Sensitive Indicator of Mild Cognitive Impairment

Prospective Memory (PM) is remembering to perform an intended action in the future. PM is argued to be sensitive to early dementia. Little is known about PM in Mild-Cognitive-Impairment (MCI). Aims: 1. Establish the discriminatory capacity of a PM test for detecting MCI's; 2. Investigate the profile of two MCI-subgroups [MCI-suspected-Alzheimer's (MCI-AD=20), and Vascular-Cognitive-Impairment-No Dementia (VCIND=19), compared to controls (C=21). A PM test (Silly-Sentences-SS), and other measures were used. Statistical analysis showed excellent discriminatory capacity of the PM test for detecting MCI. With cut-off-score <8, the SS-Non-Specific-condition achieved: Sensitivity=81%, Specificity=95%, and Overall-Accuracy=86%, with Positive-Predictive-Value =97%, and Negative-Predictive-Value=74%. Only the SS-Specific-Non-Salient test discriminated between MCI-subgroups (Sensitivity=68%, Specificity=84%, OA=76%, PPV=81%, NPV=71%). Correct classification rates: MCI-AD'=56.3%; VCIND=80%; C=100%. Given its discriminatory capacity, PM is useful in detecting MCI.

*Bogue, John
NUI Galway*

The Portrayal of Personality Disorders in Popular Cinema.

Precise assessment of personality disorders can be a challenge. The literature abounds with research showing the difficulties experienced by clinicians and non-clinicians alike in diagnosing and differentiating between various personality disorders. Undergraduate medical or psychology students having little or no clinical experience often show poor recognition of the behaviours and personality traits associated with

different disorders. Frequently, textbooks fail to clarify confusing terms and offer little towards helping the student appreciate the important but subtle differences between various diagnostic features. Suitably guided, it is proposed that popular cinema can assist the clinically inexperienced student in identifying the various behaviours and traits associated with personality disorder subtypes in an accessible and stimulating way. This paper proposes a number of popular movie characters with features suggestive of various personality disorders that might be considered suitable for use in teaching sessions involving clinically inexperienced students.

Borska, Zofia; Murphy, Sile; Greene, Sheila; Kelly, Ruth; Nixon, Elizabeth; Daly, Aoife & Kelly, Greg

TCD

Inter-country Adoption in Ireland – A Study of Experiences, Outcomes and Service Needs

Inter-country adoption is a relatively new phenomenon in Ireland, but has grown significantly in the last 20 years. It is now the most common way in which adoptive families are formed in Ireland. The aim of this paper is to present a broad outline of the first national study on outcomes of inter-country adoption. The study is being conducted by the Children's Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin and was commissioned by the Irish Adoption Authority in response to the requirements of the Hague Convention to establish the appropriate measures needed to promote the development of adoption counselling and post-adoption services. The specific purpose was to identify the factors relating to pre-placement, placement and post-placement procedures, which contribute to successful inter-country adoption. This paper discusses the national context in which the study is situated and the approach taken to designing and conducting the study. The development phase involved consultations with stakeholder groups of parents, children and social workers as well as a review of the international literature. This resulted in a mixed method approach, incorporating qualitative interviews, developmental assessment, standardised questionnaires and observation.

Brady, Eric

Division of Work and Organisation Psychology

Leadership Development in a Public Service Organisation: A Case Study in An Garda Siochana

Leadership Development has always been a very topical area in organisations right across the private sector. In recent times it has also begun to find greater traction within the Irish public service. An Garda Siochana recently embarked on a journey to develop a 'best in class' internationally recognised leadership programme that focused primarily on developing leadership capability in policing. This culminated in the setting up of an Executive Leadership Programme in Policing. The programme which is only available to senior members of the force and selected international nominations is designed to help enhance and broaden the leadership skills and capabilities of senior managers within the organisation. This paper will outline the rationale for setting up the programme and in particular illustrate some of the considerations required when working within a rank based organisation.

Breen, Noreen; Mac An Bhreithiun, Tomas; McLaughlin, Teresa & Smith, Eadaoin
CDVEC Psychological Services

Responding to the Needs of Adolescents with Social, Emotional, Behavioural Difficulties in 2nd Level School Setting

Two research projects conducted in 2002 and 2006 by CDVEC Psychological Service have provided qualitative and quantitative data on adolescents with SEBD in second level schools. The ASEBA was used to describe and compare the difficulties experienced by first year “at risk” and a group of “well settled” students. Responses and interventions made by CDVEC staff to these students are also described. The 2006 research used a mild/moderate/serious SEBD classification system to quantify numbers of second year students in each category. The research also established the level of concurrence between teachers’ perceptions of moderate and serious SEBD and levels of difficulty in the clinical range on the ASEBA. Finally teachers’ views on what constitutes good practice in addressing the needs of students were also identified.

*Breen, Noreen & Dockery, Margaret
CDVEC*

Implementing IEPs in CDVEC Second Level Schools: A Pilot Project

One of the key provisions of The Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs (EPSEN) Act 2004 is to provide a legislative basis for the introduction of individual education plans (IEPs) for students with assessed special educational needs. The introduction of IEPs in second level schools presents with particular challenges not least because of the numbers of subject teachers involved in working with individual students. The authors of this paper have devised a format and method of drawing up, implementing and reviewing IEPs in a second level school context. The authors have worked with key members of staff, across twelve CDVEC second level schools, in piloting the IEP format. This format and method along with the lessons learned from the project will be presented.

*Brennan, Conor & Honan, Rita
TCD AS Project*

Learning Social Skills through Modeling: Pivotal Response Training with Young Adult Peer Supporters of TCD Students with Asperger Syndrome

Three university students with Asperger Syndrome (AS) and four typically developing peer support volunteers participated in a study designed to investigate the effectiveness of peer-mediated pivotal response training for increasing social behaviours of adults with AS. Peer supporters were trained in four strategies using didactic instruction, modeling, role-playing and feedback. Post intervention assessments showed considerable increases in maintaining conversations. Qualitative interviews with participants explore the efficacy of the intervention. The findings are discussed in light of a number of methodological limitations; however they provide sufficient support for the intervention to warrant further investigation.

*Brennan, Laura & Walsh, Jane
NUI Galway*

The Efficacy of two Theory-based Interventions in Promoting Breast Awareness in Young Irish Females

Objective: Cancer charities recommend that women are breast aware from age 18. This study examined the impact of ‘action-planning’ and ‘skills-building’ on increasing the frequency of breast awareness practices in female students.

Method: Participants were females undergraduates (n = 170), aged 17-41. Online questionnaires measuring attitude, subjective norm, behavioural control, intention, self-efficacy, perceived barriers, knowledge, and breast awareness behaviour were completed at baseline and one month later.

Results: 'Skills-building' significantly increased knowledge, self-efficacy and breast awareness intentions and behaviour. 'Action planning' did not influence on breast awareness intentions, behaviour or any other social-cognition variables.

Conclusion: Skills training may be a more promising avenue to pursue in promoting breast awareness in young females.

*Breslin, Michael J. & Lewis, Christopher Alan
University of Ulster at Magee College*

The Differential Relationship between Prayer Types and the Five-factor Model of Personality

Prayer types relate differentially to Eysenck's dimensional model of personality (Breslin & Lewis, 2006). To extend this work, the present research investigated the relationship between prayer types and the five-factor model of personality. A sample of 1,306 respondents aged 18 – 80 completed a multidimensional measure of prayer, and a measure of the Big-Five personality dimensions. The results showed that Extraversion was associated with Colloquial, Petitionary, Ritual, and Prayer for Others. Neuroticism was associated with Colloquial, Petitionary, Ritual, Attunement, and Prayer for Others. Agreeableness was associated with all prayer types. Openness was associated with Meditative, and Prayer Experience. Conscientiousness was associated with Attunement, and Prayer for Others. Results support the utility of a multidimensional measure over a single item measure of prayer.

*Buckmaster, Ann¹; Gallagher, Pamela¹; O'Carroll, Susan² & Kiernan, Gemma¹
¹DCU, ²Action Breast Cancer*

Experiences of Irish women regarding breast prosthesis use, the provision of services and their impact on quality of life.

Women's experience of the provision, fitting, supply and use of breast prostheses in Ireland was explored. A questionnaire was posted to 1242 women with a breast prosthesis, 527 (46% of those eligible) returned completed questionnaires. Women expressed some dissatisfaction, in particular with prosthesis weight, comfort and movement with the body. While women expressed overall satisfaction with the fitting environment, there was some dissatisfaction with regard to the display, choice and time to view products. Higher levels of satisfaction with the external breast prosthesis were associated with higher quality of life and fewer breast and arm symptoms. Since there has been no such research in Ireland previously, it is recommended that these findings are used by policy-makers to advocate for a quality service in prosthesis provision.

*Byrne, Molly; McMahon, Rosalind & Clerkin, Pauline
NUI Galway*

Eliciting Salient Beliefs about Donating Blood: Developing a Questionnaire Based on the Theory of Planned Behaviour.

This qualitative study explored salient beliefs about blood donation among staff and students in NUI, Galway, to inform the development of a questionnaire based on the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB). Four focus group interviews were held with staff (n=14) and students (n=11), addressing previous donor behaviour, facilitators

and barriers, and salient beliefs about blood donation. The most frequently elicited beliefs were included in the questionnaire, which was piloted with 9 participants before widespread distribution to 600 participants. In this paper, the salient beliefs and the process of questionnaire development will be described. In addition, issues and problems which arose during questionnaire development will be discussed: these included issues around the wording of questions and low internal reliability of a number of the TPB constructs.

*Byrne, Susan; Kelly, Thomas A.F. & Lyddy, Fiona
NUI Maynooth*

Philosophical Presuppositions within Conceptual Structure and Analysis

This synthesis project is concerned with conceptual structure and analysis within cognitive psychology and how philosophical presuppositions, from the domain of the philosophy of language, have featured in this development. How a subject forms a concept, from the concrete to the abstract, and the cognitive processes involved, are of interest from both a psychological and philosophical perspective. This paper explores concepts from a philosophical tradition, specifically Ludwig Wittgenstein's language-game and family resemblance and examines how Wittgenstein's emphasis on S-R relations overlooks the cognitive processes required for concept development. The psychological perspective of this project focuses on the scientific and methodological approaches involved in determining whether concepts are formed empirically or are best supported by a more traditional nativist approach.

*Callanan, Anne
National Office for Suicide Prevention*

Asking About Suicide: ASIST Training in Ireland

Suicide continues to be a major public health problem in Ireland. Central to suicide prevention is the ability to communicate appropriately with those who are experiencing a suicidal crisis. The ASIST training programme, which was introduced to Ireland in 2003, aims to equip caregivers to become more willing, ready and able to help persons at risk of suicide. Participants are provided with intervention skills which can be applied when engaging with someone experiencing an acute suicidal crisis. To date, 70 trainers have delivered approximately 200 workshops from 12 co-ordinating sites across the country. This paper will provide an overview of the training programme and outline the framework established to support its roll-out in Ireland. Results from an outcome evaluation will also be discussed.

*Campbell, Claire; Comerford, Suzanne; Barnes-Holmes, Yvonne & Barnes-Holmes, Dermot
NUI Maynooth*

The Implicit Relational Assessment Procedure (IRAP): An Investigation of Race.

This paper presents two experiments that sought to determine if the IRAP can be used to assess attitudes to self and race. In Experiment 1, participants were exposed to an IRAP that presented the words "Safe" and "Dangerous" as samples, pictures of black and white men holding either guns or mundane objects, and the response options "Similar" and "Opposite." In Experiment 2 the previous experiment was repeated with more extensive instructions to examine the role of instructional control. Results from the study have implications for the IRAP as a possible measure of implicit attitudes towards self and race in the context of the Irish population.

Campbell, Marc & Moran, Aidan

UCD

Exploring Golfers' Visual Ability to "read" Slope on Greens. An Eye-tracking Study of Slope Perception and Expertise.

The ability to "read" the slope and speed of greens prior to putting is a vital skill for all golfers. As yet, however, this important cognitive skill has not been investigated empirically by psychologists. Therefore, the purpose of the present study is to rectify this oversight using a quantitative methodology. A virtual three-dimensional green was constructed using the software programme "3D Studio Max". A unique feature of this programme is that it allows the viewer to manipulate the testing environment, the virtual green. After that, eye-tracking methodology was used to investigate golfers' visual search behaviour as they faced simulated putting tasks on this green. Finally, following analysis of relevant results, the main theoretical and practical implications for research on green-reading skills in golfers are addressed.

Carton, Susan; Connolly, Damien & Walshe, Stephanie

St. Angela's College, Sligo

Partnership Proving Successful in Training & Education in Autistic Spectrum Disorder in the North-West of Ireland

In 2003 representatives from HSE-West, Education & Parents formed a strategy group to respond to training & education needs around Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASDs). The groups' aim is to provide professionals, care staff and parents with opportunities to contribute & develop knowledge in supporting all people with ASDs. This is achieved by development and delivery of a suite of training & education options in ASDs. It began with a pilot 3-day introductory course for staff. Responding to evaluation, minor amendments were made, with the course then offered to all regional staff. A 1-day introductory course for Parents was also devised. It is hoped to continue and expand the options suite in reference to needs and demand. Thus far all options have been very positively evaluated.

Carragher, Shauna & Gaffney, Paul

HSE

The Effects of a Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy on Problem Solving Ability

Previous research has found that poor interpersonal problem-solving ability has been associated with suicidal ideation and suicidal behaviour in adolescents (Mc Auliffe et al, 2003). Hepner and Goug-Gwi (2002) have shown that training in problem-solving strategies is associated with better psychological well-being, lower levels of depression and hopelessness, and lower levels of suicidality. The current study aims to investigate the effects of the Mind Yourself Project on problem-solving ability in youths. This CBT based programme encompasses exercises in problem-solving skills training. The study used a pre-post design in which the Bar-On EQ-i:YV (Youth Version) inventory was administered to both the experimental (N=336) and control (N=277) groups as a measure of emotional intelligence. The findings discussed will consider individual and group problem solving and adaptability differences.

Caska, Barbara A. & Prentice, Garry R.

Dublin Business School

Expectancies and Difficulty Predict Statistics Grades: Further Evidence

This study extended prior research on predictors of achieved course grade. Valence, measured as perceived usefulness of a course, was added to a model designed to

explain final mark. Contributions from age, enrollment status, course difficulty, expected mark, and valence were examined through analysis of variance procedures. Seventy-three students enrolled in an advanced statistics course provided data. 36 % of the variance in course grade was explained, compared to 15% in a previous study. Improved prediction cannot, however, be attributed to the addition of valence: significant contributions came only from expected grade and difficulty. An attempt to explain differences between expected and achieved grades revealed no significant effects from course difficulty, enrollment status or gender.

Chapple, Christine

HSE, Beechpark Services

An Investigation of Hyperlexia with Children with ASD.

This paper reports on word reading and reading comprehension skills of an experimental group of children with high functioning autism/Asperger Syndrome and those of a matched control group of typically developing children. The aim of the study was to investigate the notion of hyperlexia and its concomitants in children with a diagnosis of ASD.

The study revealed that the Experimental Group exhibited greater ability in areas of Bottom-Up Processing, demonstrating strengths in areas independent of semantic processing. On Top-Down measures the Experimental Group attained lower mean scores, demonstrating significantly lower levels of Listening Comprehension and speed of semantic processing. Qualitative analysis revealed differences in the types of reading errors made. A statistically significant difference between discrepancy scores on Reading Accuracy/Reading Comprehension, confirmed that the Experimental Group are exhibiting higher mean levels of Reading Accuracy, in contrast to higher mean levels of Reading Comprehension for the Control Group. The results of this enquiry may be considered to demonstrate a disassociation of Bottom-Up and Top-Down reading skills and differences in reading accuracy and comprehension associated with the notion of hyperlexia in children with high functioning autism/Asperger Syndrome.

Clancy, Paul & Creamer, Mary

TCD

An Evaluation of a Cancer Counselling Service: Effectiveness, Therapeutic Impacts and General Satisfaction

The service evaluation took place over a 5-month period. There were 78 client- and 8 counsellor-participants. Clinical Outcomes in Routine Evaluation (CORE) provided pre and post measures of outcome, the Client Satisfaction Questionnaire (CSQ-8) assessed general satisfaction, and the Counselling Impacts Scale (CIS) measured the therapeutic impacts of counselling. Results indicate that the service is meeting a substantial mental health need and that outcome levels are in line with benchmarks established for the UK. Client satisfaction with the service is high and the helpful impacts of counselling are more relational than task based. A group interview was conducted with the counsellor-participants to provide feedback on their experience of the research. Limitations and implications of the research are discussed.

Coffey, Laura & Byrne, Molly

NUI Galway

Promoting a Low-fat Diet in Primary Care: A Randomised Controlled Trial of a Theory-Based Intervention

Excessive fat consumption is associated with an increased risk for several chronic illnesses, including cardiovascular disease, cancer and obesity. The present study sought to evaluate the effectiveness of a health promotion leaflet based on the theory of planned behaviour (TPB) in reducing dietary fat intake and examine whether fat reduction was greater when implementation intentions were formed. 121 general practice patients aged 40-65 were randomly assigned to control, leaflet only, and leaflet + implementation intention groups. 97 participants completed questionnaires at both baseline and two week follow-up. A significant reduction in fat intake was observed in all groups, but there was no significant difference between groups on this measure. Findings suggest that the effectiveness of TPB-based interventions and implementation intentions is limited in this population.

Connor, Samantha; Giles, Melanie; McClenahan, Carol; Mallett, John; Stewart-Knox, Barbara & Wright, Marion
University of Ulster

Young Peoples Attitudes to Breast-feeding: A Pilot Study using the Theory of Planned Behaviour.

The focus of this study was to design and pilot a questionnaire to measure young people's attitudes to breastfeeding using the Theory of Planned Behaviour. The first three phases of a research programme employing the theory are described. Firstly, an elicitation study to identify the modal salient beliefs underlying young people's motivations to breastfeed, using focus group methodology. Secondly, the development of the questionnaire, incorporating the key constructs contained within the theory. The questionnaire was then piloted on a sample of 121 schoolchildren to identify and assess the relative importance of the determinants of breastfeeding intention. Some of the key issues involved in the operationalisation of the theory are highlighted, which may be of interest to researchers involved in the design of TPB questionnaires.

Coogan, Fodhla; Barnes-Holmes, Dermot & Barnes-Holmes, Yvonne
NUI Maynooth

Using the Implicit Relational Assessment Procedure to Measure the Attitudes of Children to Nationality

Recently researchers across different areas of psychology have become interested in the experimental analysis of implicit cognition, exploring race, nationality, and gender amongst various other cognitions. The primary methodology reported in the literature to date has been the IAT, which many researchers have indicated is a highly robust experimental measure of implicit attitude. However some researchers have argued that there are problems with IAT in terms of its methodology and the conceptual basis on which it stands. Behavioural researchers have recently attempted to circumvent some of these issues with the development of a new methodology called the IRAP. The current study uses the IRAP to assess the racial preferences of a group of adolescent children who were attending an inner-city after-school community programme. Results suggest that the IRAP can be used effectively with children and that it is potentially a very useful tool in the study of racial and prejudicial attitudes.

Cosgrove, Kiera & Gaffney, Paul
HSE

Optimism and Happiness in young people: Examining the Effect of a School-based Intervention

Optimists tend to develop less health problems, do better at school/work and tend to cope with distress more constructively. Happy people tend to be extraverted, optimistic, and have high levels of self-esteem. The current study aims to look at levels of optimism and happiness that exist among 996 Irish adolescents. It will go on to examine the effect of “Mind Yourself”: a strength-focused, CBT-based, psychoeducational programme, on levels of optimism and happiness among group some of this group. This research used a pre and post intervention evaluation within a randomised control design using the General Mood measure of the BarOn EQ-i YV. Results of this investigation will be discussed along with implications for future research in the area of optimism and happiness in young people.

Coughlan, Edel & Bogue, John
NUI Galway

Inmates’ Attitudes towards Education

A number of methodologically sound studies have shown that participation in prison education-based programs can reduce rates of recidivism (Farrington et al. 2001) and has been shown to benefit prisoners and institutions in terms of reducing boredom and conflict within custodial settings (Batchelder & Pippert, 2002). One of the focus areas identified within the Strategy Statement of the Prison Education Service 2003 - 2007 is to increase participation in prison education in Irish custodial establishments from the present 50% to 55% by 2006. By assessing inmates’ attitudes and their motivations to participate in education, the proposed study aims to provide relevant information about prisoners’ motivation to learn; the value they place on education; and why proportions of the inmate population do not attend the education unit.

Coyle, Sabrina
TCD

An Investigation into Attitudes towards Suicide in Secondary School Teachers and their Training needs in Relation to Suicide.

Teachers are increasingly being called upon to play a role in suicide prevention. This study examined teachers’ attitudes towards suicide using the Attitudes Towards Suicide questionnaire. Teachers’ training needs in relation to suicide were also assessed. Findings indicate that teachers have some awareness of the risk and protective factors in relation to suicide. Teachers’ view suicide as preventable and see a role for themselves in this. A positive association was found between training and teachers’ feelings of competence in intervening with a young person in suicidal crisis. However, only twenty-eight percent of teachers had received any training. Training is needed to guide teachers’ responses and build their feelings of competence in relation to suicide prevention.

Crawley, Lorraine
TCD

Examining the Effectiveness of a Mindfulness Cognitive Therapy Programme for Clinical Psychologists.

Mindfulness has been successfully used with a number of client groups and, more recently, has been studied in regards to its benefits for professionals. This study examined the effectiveness of an eight week mindfulness cognitive therapy programme for clinical psychologists. Questionnaires were completed at three stages during the programme. Effectiveness was defined through the specific skills to be gained by participants in relation to mindfulness and self-compassion, and the effect

on general health. One month follow up measured the ongoing benefit of the course. Results led to recommendations for the availability of mindfulness based programmes to mental health professionals as part of their personal development and self-care.

Crowley, Tara; Browne, Deirdre; Whelton, Helen; Flannery, Edel; Di Blasi, Zelda, Porteous, Murray & O'Mollane, Denis

UCC

Investigation of the Relationship between Oral Health and Health-Related Quality of Life

Oral Health-Related Quality of Life (OHRQoL) measures are used in dentistry to assess the impact of oral health (OH) and treatment on life quality. It was hypothesised that psychosocial dimensions of Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQoL) could mediate or moderate the relationship between OH and OHRQoL. This study aims to examine the relationships between OH, and five dimensions of HRQoL – physical, social, and psychological functioning, overall life satisfaction, and perceptions of health status, i.e. OHRQoL. Currently 117 of a sample of 240 employed Irish adults, aged 35-44 years, have been dentally examined and completed a HRQoL questionnaire. Preliminary results indicate that several of the HRQoL dimensions are associated with OH and OHRQoL. This has implications for the future conduct of dental and health psychology research.

Crowley, Tara; Browne, Deirdre; Whelton, Helen; Flannery, Edel; Di Blasi, Zelda, Porteous, Murray & O'Mollane, Denis

UCC

The Impact of Tooth Enamel Defects (Fluorosis) on Irish Children's Quality of Life: A New Measure

Water fluoridation and fluoride toothpaste use reduce dental decay. Excessive ingestion of fluoride may result in Enamel Fluorosis (EF; tooth enamel defects). The prevalence of EF is increasing; in 2002, 29% of Irish 12-year-olds had EF. This study aims to develop a measure of the impact of EF on the Quality of Life (QoL) of Irish children. Using content analysis data from focus groups, an existing child QoL measure was modified. The questionnaire is undergoing validation using a convenience sample of 240 12-year-olds from Cork; to date, 195 children (mean age: 12.42 years; 52% female; 32.8% with EF) have participated. Reliability and validity statistics, as well as the new measure's ability to discriminate between different fluorosis levels, will be calculated when data collection is complete.

Cruise, Sharon Mary¹; Lewis, Christopher Alan¹ & McGuckin, Conor²

¹University of Ulster at Magee College, ²Dublin Business School

The Rosy Glow of Positive Illusions: Psychological Well-being Predictors of Intellectual Self-concept

Previous research has highlighted the respective roles of extraversion and neuroticism in predicting self-estimated intelligence (e.g., Furnham, Kidwai, & Thomas, 2001), with stable extraversion shown to be a significant predictor of higher self-ratings. The present research sought to examine the predictive power of extraversion and neuroticism in self-estimated intelligence when considered alongside additional indices of psychological well-being. A sample of 475 university students completed measures of personality, happiness, optimism, and self-confidence, as well as providing self-estimates of overall IQ and ten domains of intelligence. Multiple hierarchical regressions indicated that whilst all predictor variables contributed small

but significant amounts of variance in self-estimated intelligence, academic self-confidence, when entered into the model, subsumed variance contributed by other variables, and proved the most robust and consistent predictor of self-estimated intelligence.

Curtin, Sharon & Hammond, Seán

UCC

A Psychometric Evaluation of the Psychopathic Personality Inventory on an Irish General Population Sample

The Psychopathic Personality Inventory (PPI; Lilienfeld & Andrews, 1996) is a self-report measure developed to specifically assess the core personality traits of psychopathy. It is used routinely in the USA and Canada as a screening instrument and is widely used as a research tool for exploring personality disorder and psychopathy. This paper describes a study to assess the psychometric viability of the PPI in an Irish setting. A general population sample was taken and a psychometric evaluation of the device was carried out. Restricted factor analyses revealed a reasonable degree of factor equivalence but with some caveats. It is concluded that the PPI has potential as a screening device in an Irish setting but some modifications may be required before it may be used for forensic assessment.

Daly, Margaret

UCD

Dying and Bereavement: Education Issues for Psychologist

The extent to which topics related to dying and bereavement are represented at undergraduate and postgraduate psychology curricula will be examined in this presentation. Discussion will centre around appropriate education models for dying, death and bereavement. This presentation will draw on the education statement issued by the International Working Group on Death, Dying and Bereavement which proposes that '*education about death, dying and bereavement, both formal and informal, is an essential component of the education process at all levels*' (IWG, 1992). Further exploration of 'formal' and 'informal' will be undertaken with the significance of encounters with personal morality and bereavement experience taken into account.

Daly, Pamela & Keane, Anne Marie

NUI Galway

Health Outcomes & the Stress and Coping Model in Staff working in the area of Intellectual Disability.

Previous research using the stress and coping model in staff working with people with an intellectual disability has not used all aspects of the model or objective measures. The current study proposes to use all model variables (measures included the Staff Stressor Questionnaire, Generalized Self-efficacy scale, Staff Positive Contributions Questionnaire, Shortened ways of coping - Revised and appraisal) to predict job satisfaction (Warr et al, 1979), psychological (HADS) and physical health (Physical Health Questionnaire). 115 staff filled out a questionnaire and had a measure of blood pressure taken. The findings supported the utility of the stress and coping model in predicting psychological health and job satisfaction. However, there remains a dearth of occupational research in the area of intellectual disability that can predict physical health.

Darcy, A.¹; Dooley, B.¹; Radmill-Quirke, Z.² & Larkin, T.²

¹School of Psychology, UCD, ²St. John of God's

An Evaluation of a Cognitive-Behavioural Group Intervention for Anorexia Nervosa

Previous evaluation has demonstrated that while people receiving inpatient treatment for anorexia nervosa show significant physical and psychological improvement, some psychological factors can remain in the clinical range after discharge. The current study has developed a group cognitive-behavioural intervention that aims to target those factors which tend to persist in patients; anxiety and depression; low core self-esteem; and clinical perfectionism. A within subjects design, patients are assessed pre and post treatment, 3-month follow-up and 1 year follow-up using a battery of standardised self-report assessments as well as structured clinical interviews. This paper presents preliminary data from the treatment-as-usual group, providing a contextual framework for the intervention being offered in the St John of God's Hospital Eating Disorder Recovery Programme (EDRP).

Davis, Mary & Flanagan, Roisin

Brothers of Charity Galway Services

Self-determination Levels of Adult Members of Self-advocacy Groups versus Non-members.

The opportunity to make choices and exert personal control are some of the features associated with self-determination. These can impact the quality of life experienced by service users. This paper presents findings from a study that compared the self-determination levels of 21 adult members of self-advocacy groups with 19 matched non members. Quantitative and qualitative methods were employed to compare the groups across community and campus based settings. Results showed that community based members of self-advocacy groups reported significantly higher levels of self-determination compared to matched service users in a campus based setting.

Davies, Tara¹; O'Reilly, Gary¹ & McCarthy, Odhran²

¹UCD, ²Mater Hospital

Examining the Visual Scanpaths of Individuals with Social Phobia – An Eye Tracking Study

The aim of the present study was to analyse the visual scanpaths of people with social phobia. The general hypothesis was that people with social phobia direct attention away from eyes of other people due to fear of negative evaluation. A group of participants with social phobia (meeting DSM-IV-TR criteria) and control group were presented with Matsumoto and Ekman's (1988) facial expression of emotion photographs, which include positive, negative, male and female faces. Their visual scanpaths were recorded using an eye-tracking device. Results from six specific research questions comparing responses of participants to facial expressions of positive and negative emotion provide no evidence of differences in the visual processing of facial stimuli between socially phobic and non-phobic people. These findings will be discussed in terms of implications for cognitive behavioural models of intervention for social phobia.

Dawson, Frances & Burke, Teresa

UCD

Attitudes to Chronic Pain in Ireland

This study investigated attitudes to chronic pain in the general population. It was the first of its kind in Ireland to investigate misperceptions about chronic pain that may exist in the public domain. This was achieved by assessing knowledge and attitudes to pain and chronic pain in a sample of 360 volunteers from the general public. A 51 item questionnaire was constructed based on recognised measures of knowledge and attitudes used in educational and medical settings. The items administered were concerned with three main issues – the physiological basis of pain and chronic pain, psychological aspects of pain and chronic pain, and treatment issues in chronic pain. Findings will be discussed in relation to the most common misconceptions about pain, and differences between sufferers and non-sufferers.

*Deasy, Kathleen & Lyddy, Fiona
NUI Maynooth*

The Development of Cognitive Tools for Assisting Language Skills for the Congenitally Deafblind

Congenital deafblindness (hearing and vision impairment from birth) presents significant challenges for acquisition of language and communication skills and concept development. With these two distant senses compromised, much perception is achieved through direct bodily contact. Cognitive processes necessary for language development become closely connected to the body's interaction with the environment. The concept of embodied cognition, which highlights the adaptation and development of cognitive tools when interacting with the environment in a specific way, may offer some insights into the way affected individuals develop language. Examples from several case studies of individuals who are deafblind will be presented in order to illustrate how unique strategies or linguistic tools may be utilized in their attempts at attaining language.

*DeBusk, Kendra & Austin, Elizabeth
University of Edinburgh*

Relationship among Emotional Intelligence, Personality, Social Networks, Life Stress, and Depression

Emotional intelligence (EI) describes an individual's capacity to recognize, generate, and manage emotions, and exhibit appropriate social behaviour. An initial study with 268 participants investigated the relationships amongst trait EI, Big Five personality traits, and social network quality and size. The personality factors were all significantly and positively correlated with Trait EI ($p < .01$), but none were significantly correlated with Ability EI. Agreeableness, Emotional Stability, and Extraversion were all significantly positively correlated with social network size, though a total network quality score showed no significant correlation. A follow-up study utilizing participants from the initial study ($N=78$) examined the relationship of the original variables with ability EI (MSCEIT), life stress, and depression. A significant relationship between ability EI and trait EI is not indicated. Ability EI also does not show a significant correlation with social network quality, life stress, or depression. However, personality exhibits a relationship with social networks, life stress, and depression.

*Dineen, Catherine; Pender, Niall; Edgeworth, Jennifer; Hardiman, Orla & Thornton, John
Beaumont Hospital*

The neuropsychological profile of white matter brain changes- a systematic review.

Non-specific white matter brain changes, illustrated as areas of high signal on Magnetic Resonance Image (MRI) data, are commonly found in a range of populations, including those with multiple sclerosis, migraine, depression and as part of the normal aging process. An issue still under investigation is whether such non-disease specific changes and their specific location, affect cognitive performance. This paper reviews the current neuropsychological literature on clinical and non-clinical populations with circumscribed white matter change on MRI.

*Dodd, Philip¹; Guerin, Suzanne²; McEvoy, John³; Buckley, Sarah⁴ & Hillery, John⁵
¹St. Michael's House, Dublin; ²School of Psychology, UCD; ³School of Nursing, DKIT; ⁴Lucena Clinic, Rathgar; ⁵Stewarts Hospital, Dublin*

A Study of Complicated Grief in people with Intellectual Disability

The aim of this study was to examine the prevalence of complicated grief symptoms and to explore the relationships between complicated grief and bereavement experience. The Bereavement History Questionnaire (Hollins et al. 1997) and a modified version of the Inventory of Complicated Grief (ICG, Prigerson et al., 1999) were administered to carers of people with mild/moderate intellectual disabilities, who had had a parent bereavement within the last two years (n=39) and to a matched control group who had not been bereaved (n=39). A moderate positive correlation was found between the Separation Distress subscale of the ICG and level of involvement in bereavement rituals, suggesting that high involvement may increase the distress experienced. The implications of this and other findings for developing appropriate supports is discussed

*Doherty, Sally; Bunting, Brendan & McCann, Siobhan
University of Ulster at Magee Campus*

An Epidemiological Study of Multiple Childhood Stressors and Adult Alcohol Dependence. A latent class approach

Background: Childhood traumas and parental psychopathologies experienced before the age of 15 may contribute to a strong link with early onset of adult alcohol dependence as defined by the DSM-111 R.

Aims: The aim of this study is to examine the exposure of multiple stressors experienced in childhood and assess the risk of onset of alcohol dependence

Method: The study utilized a nationally representative sample of over 8000 individuals from the National Comorbidity Study (NCS) undertaken in the USA between 1990-1992 of 15 to 54 year olds. Secondary analysis was conducted using latent class analysis

Results: Latent class analysis of childhood adversities and trauma will be presented and the associated pathways to alcohol dependence explored specifically in relation to gender

Conclusions: This analysis allows for the reduction of multiple stressors, traumas and the effects of parental psychopathologies to be placed into a class structure which can then be applied to an exposure-risk model

The benefits include exploring the aetiology of alcohol dependence, which may aid in the provision of intervention strategies in reducing alcohol dependence. The findings will be discussed in relation to the results.

Dowd, Michael¹; Zautra, Alex² & Hogan, Michael J.¹

¹NUI Galway, ²Arizona State University

Stress, Expectations, Emotions and Cardiovascular Response: Models of Positive & Negative Affect

The effects of stress on the experience of positive affect (PA), negative affect (NA), optimism and pessimism and the effects of affect and expectancy on cardiovascular (CV) reactivity and recovery were examined in a sample of 56 students. Consistent with the dynamic model of affect (DMA), we found that PA and NA behave differently under stress and contributed independently to the prediction of both CV reactivity and recovery. Pre-task optimism, but not pessimism, predicted the effects of stress on PA. Neither optimism nor pessimism accounted for any significant variance in blood pressure changes in response to stress. Results are discussed in light of the debate concerning the (in)dependence of positive and negative emotions and the importance of understanding the dynamics of emotions, stress and health.

Dowling, Mairead¹; Kiernan, Gemma¹ & Guerin, Suzanne²

¹DCU, ²UCD

Responding to the Needs of Children who have been Bereaved

When children have to cope with loss and death, the impact can be wide ranging. Therefore, the support that they receive is important and in some cases therapeutic intervention is deemed necessary. This paper looks at the types of services available to children in Ireland who have been bereaved, including counselling and psychotherapy. In addition, given some uncertainty about the value of childhood bereavement interventions, this presentation will reflect on evaluations of the effects of services on children who have been bereaved. Objective and rigorous evaluation is necessary if effects in terms of children's outcomes can be identified. This paper will also consider the benefits and challenges of evaluating bereavement services for children.

Doyle, Eileen; Hennessy, Eilis & O'Connell, Michael

UCD

Children's Understanding, Perceptions & Evaluation of the Irish Legal System

The aim of this research was to explore children's understanding of the legal system. Research suggests that children's testimony is influenced by their legal understanding but has failed to explore the impact of children's perceptions of the wider consequences of legal participation on their testimony. Two separate studies were conducted. The first study contained a convenient sample of 77 school children (9-17 years) who participated in focus group interviews. None of the participants had attended court. The second study contained a sample of 15 boys (12-19 years). These boys had been involved with the law. Both studies interviewed children about the consequences of legal involvement. Content analysis examined the themes in children's responses. The results suggest children with legal involvement perceived less serious consequences arising from breaking the law. The results of these studies are discussed in relation to the role of child practitioners in working with "at risk" children.

D'Alton, Paul & Keville, Rita

HSE – Northern Area

Mindfulness-Based Approaches: A Review of the Theoretical and Philosophical underpinnings and the Clinical Application of Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT) and Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR)

Mindfulness is “paying attention in a particular way: on purpose in the present moment and non-judgementally”. This review summarises the philosophical and theoretical underpinnings of Mindfulness-Based approaches and the application and efficacy of two mindfulness-based interventions with clinical populations: Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT) and Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR). Methodological issues are addressed together with practical issues in the administration of these approaches and issues that arise for participants. Recommendations are made for future research.

*Edgeworth, Jennifer; Oshodi, Abiola & Cosgrave, Mary
Beaumont Hospital*

Understanding the Phenomenology of Othello Syndrome Associated with Progressive Cognitive Impairment.

There have been a number of single case reports on delusional jealousy (also known as Othello Syndrome) in individuals with brain infarcts (Silva & Leong, 1993; Westlake & Weeks, 1999) and other mood disorders (Parker & Barrett, 1996; Arya, 1993). Nevertheless, the phenomenology of delusional jealousy is not well understood. In our Old Age Psychiatry Service we have recently had a significant number of referrals of individuals with delusional jealousy. It is our clinical impression that the delusions emerge due to increasing cognitive impairment in these individuals, or are unmasked due to increasing cognitive impairment. Three cases of delusional jealousy associated with progressive cognitive impairment will be described, with particular focus on the neuropsychological profiles of these individuals. Finally, the phenomenology of Othello Syndrome will be discussed from psychiatric, cognitive and psychodynamic perspectives.

*Egan, Arlene & Moran, Aidan
University College Dublin*

Development and Evaluation of a Programme to Enhance Critical Thinking Skills of Undergraduate Psychology Students

In higher education, enhancing students’ critical thinking has frequently been identified as a desired outcome of third level experience. It is therefore necessary to examine the attempts being made to promote critical thinking development in higher education.

This paper explains how a programme designed to promote students’ critical thinking skills was embedded in an undergraduate psychology curriculum. Using a longitudinal approach, the development of these students’ critical thinking skills was examined over a two year period using the “California Critical Thinking Skills Test”. The results suggested that the critical thinking skills of these students improved significantly over the intervention period.

The practical difficulties associated with this applied research along with the implications of this work for students, teachers and educational reformists are discussed.

*Egan, Róisín; O’Shea, Amanda; O’Shea, Fionnuala; Mason, Eleanor & Dromey, Sadhbh
Health Service Executive*

Innovation and Prevention in HSE-South Community Psychology Service- South Tipperary Local Health Office

We in the Community Psychology Department strive to be proactive in meeting the needs of service users in our community. We endeavour to provide accessible, flexible, and innovative services. In addition to the comprehensive assessment and intervention services we provide for children and their families, we also promote a philosophy of prevention and early intervention. This poster will demonstrate our most recent initiatives. Information together with fliers and booklets developed by us will be provided.

- Early years parenting program.
- Pre-school leader workshops.
- Drop-in service.
- Community parenting programs.
- New Interventions for children within the Autism Spectrum.
- Child Care Leader Service.
- Group intervention for children whose parents have separated: a three week programme.
- Partnership initiatives with other community services.

Egan, Suzanne¹ & Byrne, Ruth M.J.²

¹*Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick;* ²*TCD*

Counterfactual Promises and Threats

We examine counterfactual conditionals about promises, such as ‘if you had tidied your room then I would have given you ice-cream’ and threats such as ‘if you had hit your sister then I would have grounded you’. Reasoners tend to understand counterfactual conditionals of the form, ‘if A had been then B would have been’ by thinking about the conjectured possibility, ‘A and B’, and also the presupposed facts ‘not-A and not-B’. We report the results of an experiment that indicates that reasoners may understand counterfactual inducements differently: they seem to think about just the presupposed facts: not-A and not-B. We discuss the implications of the results for accounts of the mental representations of promises and threats.

Egan, Suzanne; McGann, Marek; Sarma; Kiran & Doyle, Eileen

Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick

Blame Assignment and Media Portrayals of Rape

We report the results of an experiment that investigated the media’s portrayal of rape. We presented participants with a newspaper article taken from the national press that gave information about an actual rape trial. Participants were then asked about how much blame they would assign to the alleged perpetrator and victim and why, and about how avoidable the incident was and how it could have been avoided. The results showed that people typically assigned more blame to the man for the incident but also assigned a smaller but substantial amount of blame to the woman. The results may have implications for how rape is reported in the media and for public awareness of common rape myths.

Eganga, Jean Pierre¹ & MBugua, Salome²

¹*Integrating Ireland,* ²*AkiDwA (African Women’s Network)*

Immigration and Psychology Services: Reflections and Pathways for Improvement.

All service provisions in Ireland have been challenged by the current trend of recent immigration. 10.4% of 4.1 million populations in Ireland are foreign born. Many immigrants especially from the developing world arrive in Ireland with trauma. Our

presentation will highlight what can be seen as “an organised series of challenges facing immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers”, which starts in their home countries with human rights abuses and travel requirement hassle, continue during the trip and culminates in Ireland with the reception, asylum, settlement and social incorporation process. Reflections on pathways for improvement are suggested with regard to government overseas strategies, immigration and integration policies, and management of newcomers by psychological clinicians.

Eustace, Susan¹; Hevey, David¹; Armstrong, John²; Honan, Rita¹ & Donoghay, Lourda²
¹TCD, ²St. Luke's Hospital

A randomised assessment of a brief structured psycho-educational intervention programme for patients with prostate cancer and their spouses/partners.

This research comprises the design, implementation and assessment of a randomised, brief, structured psycho-educational programme for patients with prostate cancer receiving radiotherapy and hormone treatment, and their spouses/partners. The intervention comprises four components three of which, health education; stress management; and enhancement of coping skills, are delivered to patients and supportive counselling for spouses/partners. A manual has been designed by the researcher to accompany the intervention and to promote active cognitive /behavioural coping. The programme consists of six 1.5 hour sessions for patients and six 1.5 hour sessions for spouses/partners. The objectives of this research are to assess the impact of the intervention on state anxiety and depression, coping styles, fatigue, perceived social support and sense of coherence. Preliminary findings will be presented and discussed.

Farrelly, Margaret¹ & Burns, Jan²
¹St. Joseph's Foundation; ²Centre for Applied Social & Psychological Development, Salomons, Canterbury Christchurch University

Loneliness in Male Adults with Aspergers syndrome

The study investigated the experience of loneliness in 34 male adults with Asperger syndrome, employing a non-randomised cross sectional within group design. Participants completed three questionnaires; the Social and Emotional Loneliness Scale for Adults-shortened version, the Relationship Questionnaire and the Social Comparison Scale. Participants reported loneliness with higher emotional than social loneliness and higher levels of romantic loneliness. Relatively low levels of family loneliness were reported. Higher overall loneliness was associated with lower social comparison scores, lower levels of secure attachment and higher levels of fearful attachment. The findings are discussed in the context of the two main theoretical paradigms i.e. the socio-cognitive and the affective paradigms and the need to address loneliness, attachment patterns and social comparison strategies in clinical interventions with this group.

Finucane, Anne; Whiteman; Martha & Power, Mick
University of Edinburgh

Does Mild Amusement Facilitate Attentional Processing?

According to the broaden-and-build theory of positive emotion, positive emotions broaden scope of attention and cognition. This is known as the “broadening effect” of positive emotions. However, to date, research examining the effects of positive emotions, compared with a neutral state, has shown mixed results. This study

examines the effect of a specific positive emotion – amusement, compared with a neutral state, on three attentional networks – alerting, orienting and executive control. Film clips and cartoons are used to induce amusement and a neutral state. The results show the effects of amusement on these particular attentional processes and represent an important stepping stone towards building a clearer picture of the effects that specific positive emotions might have on distinct cognitive processes.

Fitzsimons, Suarla¹; Harris, Sian² & Egan, Richard³
¹HSE West, ²CAMHS, Co. Clare, ³NEPS, Co. Clare

The Incredible Years: Multi-agency Approach to Reducing Behaviour Problems & Improving Children's Social/Emotional Competence

For the first time in Ireland, all three elements of the Incredible Years Programme were implemented simultaneously in a national school with 242 children and 22 teachers. All the teachers were trained in the classroom management programme, 10 parents took part in the parenting programme and 15 children took part in the Dina Dinosaur children's group. This longitudinal study involved pre and post rating of the children in the Dinosaur group, of participants in the parenting programme, and a sample of children in each class (96). Measures used included the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire and a Self-control rating scale; the teachers also completed the Teaching Efficacy Scale and Teacher Strategies Scale. The outcomes will be discussed.

Fleming, Mitchel¹ & Whelan, Aisling²
¹St. Paul's, Mater Hospital, ²HSE Beechpark Services

Assessment and Diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorders – Best Practice.

In response to the stated needs of our SIG members and other interested professionals, this presentation provides information on the assessment of children and adults suspected of, or having a diagnosis of one of the Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASDs). It is based on a research of the literature in this area, changing practices over the past few years, and discussions at ASD SIG meetings throughout 2005/06.

Fleming, Pauline; O'Neil, Stephen; Harper, Stephen; Barrett, Vanessa; Billings, Melanie; Breen, Noreen; Irwin, Des; McCarthy, Stephen; Martin, Caroline; Reilly, Bernie & Wilde, Michelle
CDVEC Psychological Service

The introduction of a care team approach to working in an early school leavers setting.

This paper describes the development, implementation and evaluation of a Care Team approach in addressing the social, emotional and behavioural needs of young early school leavers. City of Dublin VEC Psychological Service provides a comprehensive psychological service to Youthreach, Community Training Centres and Senior Traveller Training Centres in the Dublin area. The development of collaborative, whole centre approaches in dealing with the complex, difficult issues presented by this population is recommended. Recent legislation in dealing with special education needs indicate the importance of this type of work.

We will outline the experience of establishing a Care Team approach in this setting, the qualitative feedback from staff and the implications for future service delivery.

Flynn, Fiona & Gaffney, Paul
HSE

Evaluation of the feedback of participants in a Youth Suicide prevention programme.

The Mind Yourself programme is a school based suicide prevention programme that aims to promote positive mental health, coping skills and problem solving. The present study aims to evaluate the 'Mind Yourself' programme in terms of the feedback of the young people who participated. The research was carried out using completed evaluation forms for 336 participants. The material collected in the evaluation forms was analysed using a content analysis under the following headings: Enjoyment: Usefulness: Improved Problem solving skills: Approachability of facilitators: Relevance of material discussed: Value of resource kit: Recommendations for improvement. Limitations of the current study and directions for future research are discussed and may have implications for the design and delivery of adolescent focused suicide prevention programmes in the future.

*Fogarty, Annika & Honan, Rita
TCD AS Project*

Does Social Skills Intervention Improve the Mental Health of Young Adults with Asperger Syndrome?

This study examined the mental health and self-esteem of young adults with Asperger Syndrome pre and post participation in a pivotal response training programme either in a group and/or with an individual peer supporter. 15 other young adults completed a range of questionnaires and results will be presented with regard to depression, anxiety and self-esteem.

*Freeney, Yseult & Tiernan, Joan
UCD*

Development of a Model of Psychological Engagement

Recent research questions the efficacy of worker satisfaction surveys as valid indicators of performance and commitment in organizations. The concept of engagement has emerged as a more precise metric for estimating and predicting future performance than worker satisfaction (Harter et al., 2003). "Personal engagement is the harnessing of organisational members' selves to their work roles- people employ and express themselves physically, cognitively and emotionally during role performances" (Kahn, 1990). This paper presents data examining the construct of engagement in an Irish sample, seeking to link these findings to performance data. It analyses the engagement construct using the UWES (Utrecht Worker Engagement Scale, Schaufeli, & Bakker, 2003) to generate a factor structure and reliability data. These are discussed in light of recent developments in the literature.

*Gaffney, Paul; Cosgrove, Kiera; Russell, Vincent; Arensman, Ella; Bedford, Declan; Halligan, Paddy; Williamson, Eileen; Agnew, Francis; Carragher, Shauna; Flynn, Fiona; Collins, Katrin; Mallon, Peadar & McGlone, Anthony
HSE*

Mind Yourself - Can a Strengths-Based Intervention Model Contribute to Adolescent Suicide Prevention.

The objective of the current study was to examine if a strengths-based community intervention group model could positively enhance emotional intelligence and depressive thinking in an adolescent sample. Participants were recruited through secondary schools and assigned to either a control (n=336) or experimental (n=277) group. Questionnaires (Birelson Depression Inventory and BarOn EQi-YV) and a

qualitative self-report measure were distributed pre and post the two-session intervention. The intervention involves a strengths based group process using cognitive behavioural and solution-focused strategies and exercises incorporating problem solving. The findings suggest that this intervention may have potential merit as a community strategy due to the number of participants able to receive the intervention and the focus on developing existing personal strengths rather than focusing exclusively on pathological items.

Gaynor, K.¹; Dooley, B.¹ & Lawlor, E.²

¹*School of Psychology, UCD, ²St. John of God's*

When's the Best Time for CBT? Group CBT for Different Phases of Psychosis

This presentation will comprise an outline of a trial looking at group CBT for First Episode Psychosis (FEP) participants in comparison with group CBT for Recent Onset Psychosis participants. 12 sessions of phase specific group CBT were offered to 40 participants. Anxiety and depression levels and quality of life were assessed pre, post and 6 months follow-up. There were significant improvements in both groups on measures of positive symptoms, cognitive anxiety and social anxiety. There were specific improvements for the FEP group in symptoms of depression and on quality of life measurements. Group CBT is an effective intervention with both FEP and Recent Onset Psychosis participants. In FEP, there appears to be additional benefits in terms of reduced depression and improved quality of life.

Gillan, Diane¹; Wale, Simon² & Ryan, Patrick¹

¹*University of Limerick, ²HSE Mid-Western Area*

Evaluation and Comparison of Relationships between Cognitive and Olfactory Function: A Pilot Study

Previous studies have found odour identification deficits among people living with dementia, particularly among those with Alzheimer's disease (AD). Two of these studies found evidence to suggest that olfactory ability is significantly poorer among patients with dementia with lewy bodies (DLB) than those with AD. In the present study, sixteen patients (eight per group) underwent assessment with the Brief Smell Identification Test (BSIT), a 12-item measure of odour identification, and the Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE), a screening test for dementia in the elderly. Participants were matched as closely as possible on demographic variables and on MMSE scores. However, the results showed that patients did not differ in median score on the BSIT. Furthermore, the BSIT did not accurately discriminate DLB participants from AD participants.

Gormally, Olivia

TCD

Attitudes of Male College Students toward Counselling: The Role of Stigma

This study investigated the attitudes of male college students toward counselling; with the aim of exploring the particular role that stigma might play in help-seeking attitudes. Participants were ten male college students who took part in one of two focus groups. Results indicated that attitudes toward counselling and those who seek it were typically positive. The primary negative factors found to be associated with counselling were cost and stigma. The idea of personally seeking counselling was typically perceived as frightening or intimidating. The most positively endorsed suggestion for making counselling easier for young men to obtain was the possibility

of an information resource. Recommendations for future practice and research are discussed

Gray, Aine

Division of Work and Organisation Psychology

Introducing Video Based Assessment

Over recent years, there has been a move away from the more traditional psychometric assessments to more dynamic and interactive assessment techniques which more closely simulate the job. This has been supported by the research literature which has established that the more closely related the assessment technique is to the job role, the more positively it is perceived by candidates. Job simulations have also generally been found to be fairer than more traditional techniques.

This paper presents the findings from an evaluation of the use of video in assessment. Traditionally a paper and pencil exercise had been used to assess the same skills and the paper compares the different approaches. The findings are based on over 1,200 candidates and compare the psychometric properties, fairness and candidate perception of the two approaches.

Greaney, John; Porter, Nicola & Caprani, Niamh

Institute of Art, Design & Technology, Dun Laoghaire

Psychology and the Design of New Technology

This paper explores the potential for psychology to contribute to the design of new technologies that can enhance the quality of people's lives. A Participatory Design (PD) approach will be outlined – this approach to the assessment, design and development of technological systems aims to actively involve the potential users of the system in the design processes. Successful projects require careful consideration of methodological issues together with the effective collaboration between psychologists, technologists, designers and end-users. These issues will be discussed in relation to two funded research projects: (1) research looking at the potential for mobile technology to enhance social cohesion in groups of students who are often physically separated; (2) research examining the potential for technology to help older adults who experience memory loss.

Greer, Felicity A. & Grey, Ian M.

TCD

Coping and Positive Perceptions in Irish Mothers of Children with Intellectual Disabilities

Thirty-six mothers of children aged between five and eight years with intellectual disabilities completed self-report questionnaires measuring variables related to behavioural and emotional difficulties, levels of care demand, family supports, coping and positive perceptions. After controlling for the effects of socio-economic status, the results suggested that child behavioural and emotional problems in the non-clinical range predicted low levels of care demand; formal social support was an effective form of support for mothers; helpfulness of formal social support predicted mobilising the family to acquire and accept help in the community; and mobilising the family predicted levels of strength and family closeness. The theoretical and clinical implications of these results are discussed.

Griffin, Claire¹; Guerin, Suzanne¹; Sharry, John² & Drumm, Michael²

¹UCD, ²Mater Child and Family Clinic

A Clinic-Based Evaluation of the Parents Plus Early Years Programme

This paper will describe an evaluation of the Parents Plus Early Years Programme (PPEY; Sharry, Hampson & Fanning, 2003). Using mixed methods in a comparative treatment outcome design, data was collected from parents of 97 children with behavioural, emotional and/or developmental difficulties (parent training n=52; treatment as usual n=45). Significant treatment effects were found for parents in the PPEY including an improvement in parent reports of child behaviour problems and levels of parent stress and a positive change in observations of parent-child interactions. Qualitative findings from parent interviews indicated positive changes from the PPEY parent's perspectives at the follow-up stage. The discussion focuses on the benefits of applying a mixed methods design and the implications of the findings for the programme.

Griffith, Meadhbh

TCD

Work Setting and Burnout among Counselling Psychologists – an Irish Study.

In this two-part study, Irish counselling psychologists working in different types of practice settings were investigated. Study I investigated levels of burnout experienced while Study II explored the experiences, causes and consequences of burnout and coping strategies used to combat burnout. The Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI) and a semi-structured interview were used to collect the data which was then analyzed using t-tests and consensual qualitative research (CQR). Sixty-four counselling psychologists responded to the Study I while 9 counselling psychologists participated in Study II. Psychologists hailed from both agency and solo settings. The analyses suggest that counselling psychologists in solo practice experience lower levels of emotional exhaustion than do their counterparts in agency settings. The implications of these analyses are explored.

Guerin, Suzanne

UCD

The role of mixed methods in programme evaluation

The aim of this paper is to introduce the area of mixed methods and to define it as a formal approach to research design. Using this as a backdrop this paper will consider the benefits of using this approach in evaluating psychological interventions in applied settings. These include providing clients and service users with a voice through qualitative components, and increasing confidence in the findings of the evaluation through triangulation across data types. However the challenges of this approach, such as demands on resources and expertise and the challenge of true integration of findings will also be discussed.

Hagger-Johnson, Gareth

University of Edinburgh

Applications of Personality-Health Associations

What can psychologists do with personality-health associations? This position/discussion paper proposes 'Five T's' which are potential 'next steps' for personality-health research. (1) Treatment, whereby personality traits are altered with therapies or medications. Is it valid to conceptualize personality traits as epidemiological 'risk factors' that can be treated? Are there ethical issues surrounding the 'treatment' of personality traits? (2) Targeting, whereby groups of high-risk individuals are earmarked for specific interventions. (3) Tailoring, whereby health

communications are adapted to tailor their content to individual differences. (4) Training, whereby psychological therapies induce personality change or enhance interpersonal skills. (5) Transformation, whereby illness changes personality traits, as observed in studies of stroke, multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. The Five T's may be evaluated in future research.

*Hammond, Seán & Whelan, Clare
UCC*

Use of a Rasch Based Unfolding Model in the Assessment of Deviant Interest in Sexual Offenders

One of the pressing concerns in sex offender assessment is the evaluation of deviant sexual interest. This factor is consistently shown to be highly predictive of reoffending and is thus a vital component of effective risk assessment and management. Nevertheless, methods for assessing deviant interest present a number of difficulties. This paper describes some of these challenges and presents a psychometric model for use in this area. The model is particularly useful for the viewing-time paradigm of sex offender assessment and it has the advantage of integrating normative and idiographic components into the assessment process.

*Hanna, Donncha,
Queen's University Belfast*

Reversal Theory States and Personality Traits

Reversal theory is differentiated from the more established personality theories by rejecting the idea of stable traits and focusing on the individual's changeability. This study examined the factor structure of reversal theory as measured by the Apter Motivational Styles Profile (AMSP) and its relationship with Eysenck's EPQ and the NEO big-five personality traits. First year psychology students (n=200) completed all three measures. Results indicated that the traditional stable trait measures (especially those of psychoticism & conscientiousness) seem to be related to Reversal theory's 'metamotivational' states as measured by the AMPS. Furthermore, although the EPQ & NEO questionnaires can predict some of the variance in the AMPS subscales these trait measures leave a substantial amount of variance unexplained.

*Hart, Mary Jo¹ & Simms, Jane²
¹P.R.R.T, ²Belfast City Hospital*

Counselling Psychology in Northern Ireland: An Experiential Discussion.

While Counselling Psychology has been around for many decades, it is relatively new to Northern Ireland where it has received varying receptions. This paper discusses these differing receptions in regards to training placements and employment in Northern Ireland on completion of training. The implications of chartership are also reviewed in regards to the obstacles experienced by PSI Registered Counselling Psychologists who trained in Northern Ireland, and the impact this has on gaining employment within the NHS. This paper also considers the implications of developments at a local and European level and how these might affect opportunities for Counselling Psychologists in Northern Ireland. Will the upcoming changes have the result of aiding the development of the profession of Counselling Psychology??

*Hayes, Elke; Hermon, D. & Conaver, S.
New York State Psychiatric Institute*

Critical Time Intervention: An Empirically supported Model for Preventing Homelessness in Mentally Ill populations

Despite the emergence, in recent years, of a range of interventions to address the problem of homelessness amongst people with mental illness, prevention models that are carefully documented and systematically evaluated remain scarce. The department of Epidemiology at the New York State Psychiatric Institute has been conducting a 5-year longitudinal study of one such model. Critical Time Intervention (CTI) is an individual level intervention that focuses specifically on the period after discharge from an institute to community. Emphasis is on maintaining continuity of care while primary responsibility is transferred gradually to existing supports in the community. This paper seeks to describe the CTI model, its rationale and background, and discuss some of the preliminary results of the study and possible further applications.

*Healy, Hillary-Anne; Barnes-Holmes, Yvonne & Barnes-Holmes, Dermot
NUI Maynooth*

Investigating the Effect of a Cognitive Distancing Task on Negative Self-referential Thoughts

Although a number of therapeutic regimes employ defusion strategies in the treatment of psychological problems, there is little experimental research on their effects. The current study investigates the impact of defusion strategies in the context negative self-statements with a non-clinical sample (n = 60), using an automated computer-based procedure. Participants were assigned to one of three conditions (Pro-Defusion, Anti-Defusion, and Neutral) in which specific instructions regarding the impact of defusion was manipulated. Defusion was also manipulated through the visual presentation format of the self-statements (Normal, Defused, and Abnormal). Results indicated that although the specific instructions regarding defusion had almost no effect, the presentation of the statements in defused format decreased levels of discomfort and increased levels of willingness associated with the negative self-statements.

*Healy, Olive & Leader, Geraldine
NUI Galway*

Applied Behaviour Analysis and the Treatment of Autism in Ireland: Perceptions and Misconceptions

Over the past eight years the application of behaviour analysis in the treatment of autism has grown at a fast rate in Ireland. This paper aims to review the different perceptions of how behaviour analysis is applied -- ABA schooling, home programming, and as part of a general 'eclectic' methodology. It will also review some of the still many misconceptions of ABA in the treatment of autism.

*Heary, Caroline & Kola, Susie
NUI Galway*

Children's Attitudes towards Peers with ADHD: The Effect of a Biological Explanation

Attribution theory suggests that the degree to which we perceive others' to be responsible for their behaviour, influences our affective responses towards these individuals, as well as our behavioural intentions. Research suggests that children with psychological problems tend to be actively rejected or excluded from the peer group. The current study aims to examine the effect of causal information on children's attitudes towards peers with ADHD. A cross-sectional design with two age

groups of children (8/9 & 11/12 years) was utilised. Two hundred and ten children took part in total. All children read two vignettes: one depicting a child with ADHD, and a comparative condition describing a child with academic ability & no psychological difficulties. Children were randomly allocated to one of three versions of the ADHD vignette (no causal information; biological aetiology; clarification of factors not implicated in aetiology). Following each vignette, children completed two attitude measurement scales designed to assess their beliefs / feelings and behavioural intentions towards the target character in the vignette: the adjective checklist and the shared activity questionnaire. Using analysis of variance, results will focus on the effect of causal information on each of the dependent variables.

Hennessy, Eilis

UCD

A Developmental Analysis of Children's Knowledge of the Meaning of Common Psychological Diagnoses

Many terms commonly used to describe psychological problems experienced by young people are in common usage e.g. anorexia, ADHD. Little is known, however, about the development of children's understanding of the meaning of these words. Yet this information could make an important contribution to ensuring good communication with young people about mental health issues. This paper presents the results of a study involving 153 children between the ages of 5 and 18 years. Children in each age group were presented with a series of vignettes describing young people with psychological problems and were asked to select, from a list, a word that could be used to describe the experience of the young person. They were also asked whether the young people described needed help. Analyses focus on the ages at which the words were commonly understood and beliefs about need for help.

Hevey, David¹; French, David¹ & Colley, R.²

¹TCD, ²University of Birmingham

Evidence for Optimism for Severity in Addition to Likelihood for Negative Health Outcomes

OBJECTIVES: To investigate whether people are optimistic about the anticipated severity (i.e., events less severe for self than for typical other) of negative health outcomes, in addition to being optimistic about likelihood of those outcomes.

METHODS: 200 participants completed rating scales (including comparative likelihood and comparative severity) for 9 negative health outcomes.

RESULTS: Participants demonstrated significant ($p < .001$) levels of comparative optimism for both perceived likelihood and severity of health outcomes. Comparative optimism concerning severity was very strongly associated with perceived likelihood ($r = .89$).

CONCLUSIONS: People are optimistic about severity as well as likelihood of negative events: this has implications for motivated versus non-motivated explanations of optimism

Hickey, Clare & Timulak, Ladislav

TCD

How Therapists Develop: Therapists in Ireland Add their Voice.

This research was undertaken to explore to what extent and in what respects do psychotherapists develop. This is a part replica study of an international study

conducted by Orlinsky and Ronnestad (2005), titled “How Psychotherapists Develop.” This thesis focused on an exploration of current therapeutic work to elicit the patterns of therapeutic work experience defined as Effective, Challenging, Distressing and Disinterested Practice. The sample group consisted of 102 Irish professionals with an age range of 25 to 71 years, a mean age of 46.2 and consisting of 37 males and 64 females. The instrument known as the “Development of Psychotherapist Common Core Questionnaire” comprises of 370 items, using structured response scales and includes eight open ended questions.

Data was analysed using descriptive analysis. Results indicate that 32.9% of the respondents are engaged in Effective Practice that is with Much Healing Involvement and Little Stressful Involvement. 28.6% are experiencing Challenging Practice that is Much Healing Involvement with more than a Little Stressful Involvement. Those experiencing Distressing Practice are 17.1% as in not Much Healing Involvement with more than a Little Stressful Involvement, and those involved in a Disengaged Practice are 21.4% that is are not experiencing Much Healing Involvement with Little Stressful Involvement.

Hoerold, Doreen¹; Pender, Niall² & Robertson, Ian¹

¹TCD, ² Beaumont Hospital

Self-awareness Processes and Neuropsychological Functioning in Focal Lesion Patients

This project investigates distinct self-awareness processes in 4 different patient groups: right & left hemisphere frontal lesion, and right & left hemisphere non-frontal lesion patients. Patients undergo detailed neuropsychological assessment, with particular emphasis on attentional & memory performance, error-monitoring, and self-awareness of performance throughout. Electrodermal activity is recorded during go/no-go error monitoring tasks, as an index of alert responding. Finally, patients’ awareness of their every day functioning is compared with that of their relatives/caregivers, to indicate discrepancies in perception of neuropsychological functioning. The results of this systematic investigation will shed light on the nature and potential neuroanatomy of self-awareness, its relationship to local error-monitoring abilities and other neuropsychological performance. This may provide useful insights for neuro-rehabilitational efforts following acquired brain injury.

Honeyman, Andrew

HSE & Dublin Business School

Positive Psychology and Rehabilitation – An Engagement of Submission

This paper seeks to examine what contribution Positive Psychology can make to the field of Rehabilitation. To this end a complete practice of Psychology might best include an understanding of suffering and happiness, as well as their interaction and validated interventions that both relieve suffering and increase happiness. From precepts to application Positive Psychology’s approach builds upon existing strengths to create resilience and optimism about the future. Within a Positive Psychology framework happiness can be cultivated by identifying and using many of these strengths and traits that people already possess. This empowering orientation is consistent with and enhances existing practice within Rehabilitation. Positive Psychology combined with the author’s own experience within Rehabilitation forms the basis of the presentation.

Howard, Siobhan & Hughes, Brian M.

NUI Galway

An investigation of the Type D Personality in Terms of Extraversion and Neuroticism

The Type D personality construct is identified by the presence of high negative affectivity and high social inhibition within an individual. While this personality subtype has received a lot of research interest within the health psychology literature, the traits of both negative affectivity and social inhibition seem to show some resemblance to other personality traits such as neuroticism and introversion. In an attempt to look at the Type D personality construct in terms of high neuroticism/low extraversion, 134 college students completed a standardized measure of Type D together with the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire. Results revealed that neuroticism and extraversion represent higher-order constructs that could usefully be substituted for the components of Type D personality and suggest a need for the evaluation of the Type D personality within the broader individual difference literature when examining its effects on health outcomes and psychosomatic health indices.

Hughes, Brian M.

NUI Galway

The Peculiar (and alarming) Cardiovascular Stress-response Profiles of Smokers

Previous research has been equivocal as to the impact of tobacco smoking on cardiovascular reactivity to psychological stress. Further, virtually nothing is known about the effects of smoking on cardiovascular adaptation to recurrent, as opposed to single, stressors. 28 smokers and 28 anthropometrically matched non-smokers were drawn from a large study of 166 college students. Groups were matched for gender, age, body mass index, physical exercise, disease, medications, smoking histories, and psychological characteristics. All participants underwent repeated cardiovascular reactivity assessments. Results suggest that male and female non-smokers demonstrated typical shifts in reactivity when exposed to recurrent psychological stressors, but that smokers remained stable, neither habituating nor sensitizing. Findings highlight direct associations between smoking and cardiovascular reactivity of potential significance to the etiology of heart disease.

Hurley, Olivia; Power, Andrew & Montayne, John

Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Dun Laoghaire

Team Building in an Online Environment

The aim of this research study is to develop team-building activities for use in a commercially viable, multi user, online environment. Specifically, the research objective is to create a piece of software that develops both the task-related and interpersonal dynamics of a team in order to enhance its collective performance as a team unit. This software will be designed using knowledge of existing technologies in e-learning solutions, online gaming environments and web applications. The project will involve the investigation of server-based technologies such as Flash Communication Server, Flash Professional 8 and Macromedia Flash Media Server 2. The presentation will provide an overview of the area of study and a timeline of deliverables for the project in the coming months.

Hyland, John M. & Costello, Fintan J.

UCD

Effects of Meaning Retrieval Difficulty Levels and Position of Noun-Noun Compounds in Context.

Previous research on conceptual combination has identified several variables that affect people's interpretation of compound words, and the effects of these compounds on reading speeds in contextual settings. However, little research has investigated the effects of meaning retrieval difficulty levels and discursive position of noun-noun compounds in context. The aim of this research was to address this through participants reading a selection of stories and answering questions based on these. Preliminary results indicate statistically significant differences between the position of a compound word in a story and the level of difficulty retrieving a meaning for the compound. This suggests that when one experiences compounds at the beginning of a story, it takes significantly longer to understand and read through the sentence with the target compound.

Irish, Muireann¹; Coen, Robert²; Lawlor, Brian² & O'Mara, Shane¹

¹Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience, ²MIRA

Assessment of Episodic Autobiographical Memory in Healthy Ageing and Mild Alzheimer's Disease.

Autonoetic consciousness facilitates subjective mental time travel and is the hallmark of episodic retrieval (Tulving, 2002). The Episodic Autobiographical Memory Interview (EAMI) is a new assessment that probes potential behavioural markers accompanying episodic recall. The EAMI was validated in 30 healthy elderly controls (Aged: >60; MMSE>27), 30 matched younger controls (Aged: 30-60, MMSE>28) and 15 mild Alzheimer individuals (Age>60; MMSE>20). Comparison tasks for validation included the Autobiographical Memory Interview, the Autobiographical Memory Fluency Test, the CERAD word-learning task and letter/category fluency tasks.

The EAMI discriminated well between groups, with younger controls mentally "re-living" memories more than older controls and AD individuals, whose recall was divested of autonoetic consciousness. Age and emotionality of memories are discussed as factors that potentially modulate episodic retrieval via autonoetic re-experiencing.

Ivers, Mary¹; Dooley, Barbara¹; Bates, Ursula² & Malone, K. ²

¹UCD, ²St. Vincent's University Hospital

Quality of Life, Health Beliefs, and Health Behaviours After Cancer.

Findings from The CANSURVIVOR Survey.

A biopsychosocial needs assessment of post-treatment breast, colorectal, prostate and lung cancer survivors was conducted in the HSE-East Coast Area (n=255) (37-75yrs; 68 males, 182 females). Medical, socio-economic, behavioural and psychological variables were assessed including quality of life (EORTC), anxiety and health-related beliefs and behaviours. Findings reveal the presence of long-term /late effects of the disease and treatment and worrying levels of current risky health-behaviours including smoking (12%), weight gain (46%) and reduced levels of physical activity since pre-diagnosis (34%). In addition, 25% of respondents were in the clinical range for possible anxiety disorder. Results provide evidence to support the need for a multidisciplinary rehabilitation programme to maximize quality of life and support long-term health-enhancing lifestyle behaviour change. This programme is currently in development

Jackman, Vicki¹ & Healy, Olive²

¹Jonah Project, ²NUI Galway

Two Case Studies: Assessing the Effects of a Treatment Package on the Reduction of Behaviours Interfering with Learning

The first study examined the effects of a DRO, visual feedback, fixed-interval, and self-management on instances of non-compliance and tantrums for a 4 year old boy with autism. An ABA reversal design was used to determine the establishment of rule-following as preparation for transition to a mainstream setting.

The second study implemented a DRO, visual feedback, variable interval, self-management and replacement behaviour to decrease the frequency of delayed echolalia for a nine year old boy with autism. The participant was trained not to engage in delayed echolalia only in the presence of a discriminative stimulus. An A-B-A reversal design was used to determine the effects of the treatment package on the daily frequency of instances of delayed echolalia.

Results for both studies will be discussed.

Jacobs, Louise & Creaner, Mary,

TCD

The Supervision Needs and Experiences of Accredited Counsellors and Psychotherapists Working in Ireland

The goal of this study was to explore the supervision needs and experiences of accredited counsellors/psychotherapists in Ireland. A mixed-method design was employed, incorporating a questionnaire and interviews. The quantitative data was analysed using descriptive statistics. The qualitative data was sorted into domains, and the typical, general and variant subcategories and themes were tracked, through a discovery-oriented process based on similarities within the data. The findings of the study were extensive and varied, reflecting the complexity of the topic. Among the most striking findings were that 92.9% of questionnaire respondents felt their current supervision arrangements met their professional needs and that very few barriers to having supervision needs met were identified. Overall the experiences of the respondents emerged as being in accordance with the established guidelines for counselling/psychotherapy supervision.

James, Jack

NUI Galway

Does Income Inequality Harm Health? An Ecological Study of Diabetes Mortality in 123 Countries

Although economic wealth is positively correlated with health, evidence suggests that income inequality within society is harmful. Recent marked increases in diabetes in wealthy countries may be evidence of such an effect. It is thought that relative poverty may contribute to the development of poor dietary behaviour (e.g., excessive calorie consumption), leading to obesity and increased risk of diabetes. This study examined for such effects using UN and WHO statistics for 123 countries. Controlling for income level, education, and health expenditure, regression analyses showed income inequality to be a strong predictor of diabetes mortality, with effects being more pronounced in wealthier countries. However, results for obesity prevalence and calorie consumption do not support a straightforward interpretation of the involvement of income inequality in diabetes mortality.

Jenkins, Mary & Kerins, Pauline

University of Ulster

What is the Point of Supervision?

Applied professions of clinical and counselling psychology have a culture of supervision. According to Codes of Ethics it has to do with good practice, yet are we explicit in our expectations of supervision; do we know what we do in the process; what about professional training – how much time is spent on the usefulness and actual practice of supervision? We want to instigate debate on these matters as McLeod (1998) says “The development of theory and research into the practice of counselling and psychotherapy has not been matched by equivalent critical attention to the problems of training and supervision” (p.347). We ask should clinical supervision be at this adolescent stage or should we be nurturing it to maturity?

*Joyce-Whyte, Kathryn & Allen, Suzanne
Stepping Out, National Learning Network*

Offending Behaviour and Addiction Characteristics of Referrals to a Vocational Rehabilitation Programme for Offenders

‘Stepping Out’ is a twelve-month vocational rehabilitation programme for offenders. The aims of this programme are to reduce offending behaviour and to improve participants’ quality of life. This paper is the first phase of an evaluation of the Stepping Out programme. It provides descriptive statistics on the profile of the clients being referred to the programme including offending behaviour characteristics, mental health issues and substance misuse. Results from the following assessment measures are also presented: The Quality of Life Profile (Brown et al. 1999) and the Level of Service Inventory Revised / L.S.I.-R. (Andrews & Bonta et al. 2001).

*Kavanagh, Teresa; Billings, Melanie; Harper, Stephen; Breen, Noreen; McCarthy, Stephen; Martin, Caroline & Reilly, Bernie
CDVEC Psychological Service*

Implementation and Evaluation of a Staff Supervision Programme in an Early School Leaver Setting

The use of supervision in a range of settings has been well documented. Its value lies in developing professional competence among practitioners, ensuring a high standard of care for clients and in supporting staff who often work in difficult and demanding situations. This paper outline the experience of CDVEC Psychological Service in establishing a supervision programme for staff working in Youthreach, a Department of Education programme for early school leavers. The results of qualitative feedback from staff regarding the benefits and effectiveness of this service are discussed along with implications for future service delivery

*Keane, Michael & James, Jack,
NUI Galway*

The Effects of Caffeine on EEG, Performance and Mood: The Role of Caffeine Withdrawal.

Investigations of caffeine’s effects on EEG have often been undermined by a failure to control for the confounding effects of caffeine withdrawal. To control for this, a double-blind, placebo-controlled design was used to create four experimental conditions: abstinence, acute administration, withdrawal and habitual use. Capsules of placebo or caffeine (1.75mg/kg) were ingested three times daily for four consecutive weeks, with each week corresponding to each experimental condition. It was predicted that in the withdrawal condition slow-wave intrusions be apparent in the

EEG, consistent with increased sleepiness induced by withdrawal. Decrements in performance and mood were expected. No improvements in performance and mood were predicted in the habitual use condition. Findings will be discussed, emphasising the potentially confounding role of withdrawal on research to date.

Kelleher, Caroline & McGilloway, Sinead,

NUI Maynooth

Sexual violence in Ireland: A Service Provider Perspective

Research suggests that 42 per cent of Irish women experience sexual abuse or assault in their lifetime. This paper presents qualitative findings from the preliminary stage of a study examining the psychosocial impact of rape and sexual assault in young Irish women. Several key stakeholders - who work at the frontline of services for women who have experienced sexual violence - participated in one-to-one interviews (n=10). Interviews were recorded, transcribed and subjected to a thematic analysis. Several common themes were identified including individual (e.g. shame/guilt) and societal barriers (e.g. rape myths) to services, both in the aftermath of a sexually violent incident and beyond. Further work will provide invaluable insights into the broader psychosocial impact of sexual violence.

Kells, Mary¹; Matacz, Rochelle²; Hughes, David² & Maguire, Catherine²

¹NUI Galway, ²North Cork Child, Adolescent and Family Psychology

An Evaluation of the 'FRIENDS' Anxiety Management Programme

Approximately 16% of children suffer from anxiety severe enough to interfere with their family life, schoolwork or social functioning (Barrett, 1999). Without intervention, the prognosis may be poor (Cobham, Spence & Dadds, 1998). FRIENDS (Barrett, 1996) is a cognitive-behavioural intervention programme aimed at ameliorating anxiety symptoms in children and adolescents. This study evaluated the effectiveness of this programme in a community psychology setting. Twenty-five children completed 10 group intervention sessions which focused on the development of skills to manage the physiological, cognitive and behavioural symptoms of anxiety. Three psychoeducational parental sessions focused on fostering parental understanding of both anxiety, and of the 'FRIENDS' programme. A wait-list control group was used. Results will be discussed.

Keogh, Claire; Barnes-Holmes, Yvonne & Barnes-Holmes, Dermot

NUI Maynooth

An Experimental Analysis of Cognitive Defusion using Word Repetition Technique

Cognitive defusion techniques have been used within therapeutic settings as coping interventions for the treatment of psychological problems, specifically within the realm of acceptance-based therapies (e.g., ACT; Acceptance and Commitment Therapy). Clinical applications of such techniques result in a reduction in the emotional impact of negative self-referential thoughts, although not in the frequency of these events. However, there remains limited empirical investigation into the process of defusion or its effects. The current study investigates the impact of defusion in the context of negative self-referents (e.g., "I am stupid") using a word repetition technique. The results from a non-clinical sample of undergraduate students (n=144) suggest that even brief defusion interventions decreases the levels of discomfort and believability associated with negative self-referents. Clinical implications are discussed.

*Keogh, Anne; Barnes-Holmes, Yvonne & Barnes-Holmes, Dermot
NUI Maynooth*

Comparing Acceptance & Control Based Coping Strategies on Experimentally Induced Heat Pain Tolerance

Research compared the effects of Acceptance, Cognitive control and No Instruction protocols on participant's tolerance of experimentally induced radiant heat-pain. Baseline heat-pain tolerance ratings were taken and balanced across groups. Equal numbers of participants were assigned to each condition while controlling for gender. Radiant heat-pain tolerance was assessed after each protocol and after a further reminder clip. Results show a significant effect for therapeutic protocol and a significant interaction effect for heat time tolerance and therapeutic protocol. In the acceptance condition there was a significant effect when comparing the baseline and intervention for heat time tolerance rating however in the control condition no main effect for protocol on heat time tolerance was found.

*Kirwan, Gráinne H & McAuley, Finbarr
Institute of Criminology, UCD*

Interpersonal Relationship Skills and Attitudes of Computer Hackers

Little empirical research has been carried out examining the psychological characteristics of computer hackers. The aims of the current study were to identify the differences between hackers' and 'normal' computer users' demographic characteristics, interpersonal relationships and attitudes towards others. Multiple research methods were employed, including: case studies of 13 hackers whose characteristics were compared to 95 'normal' computer users; comparative content analysis of 200 'hacker' and 200 'non-hacker' forum postings; a survey of 6 police cybercrime units. The hackers studied demonstrated inferior interpersonal skills, although many had formed romantic relationships. Hackers also displayed more respect for other hackers and less respect for general computer users. While the hackers were predominately male, other elements of the popular 'hacker' stereotype were not upheld.

*Lagendijk, Malie & Farrell, Eimear
HSE Northwest Area*

An Exploration of the Process of Peer Supervision on Clinical Psychology Practice in a Community Care Psychology Department

The purpose of the study was to explore clinical psychologists' perceptions of peer supervision from a number of perspectives, including impact on clinical practice, experience of individual support and group dynamics, and evaluation of the process. Five clinical psychologists working in a community care service were interviewed. Interviews were analysed guided by the principles of Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis. Participants considered peer supervision to have a positive impact on their work, in that it reinforced aspects of 'good practice', whilst also encouraging a re-evaluation of professional skills. The advantage of having a variety of expertise was highlighted, as were the benefits of the sharing experience. Difficulties inherent in prioritizing professional development in the context of a waiting-list led department are discussed, as are directions for research.

*Lagendijk, Malie; Heary, Caroline & O'Neill, Meena
NUI Galway*

Children's Construction of AD/HD: A Qualitative Study

The current study aimed to explore children's constructions of events regarding an AD/HD diagnosis, including their understanding of symptoms and their views on causality. A qualitative interview was used to collect data from 15 boys, aged 8 to 12 years, attending for psychostimulant treatment at CAMHS. Participants described AD/HD both in terms of a broad illness-related concept and specific difficulties with cognition, behaviour and affect. A majority endorsed biological causality for their symptoms, which seemed linked to beliefs regarding locus of control. The relative merits versus disadvantages of a primarily medical explanation of AD/HD are discussed, in the context of facilitating children's coping strategies and their sense of agency. The role of Clinical Psychology in treating clients with AD/HD and advocating on their behalf is highlighted.

Lambert, Sharon & Hammond, Seán

UCC

Irish Perspectives of Female Perpetrated Sexual Abuse

Female sexual abuse of children has received little recognition within Irish society. However, there is an increasing body of clinical and forensic research suggesting that the prevalence of this form of abuse is quite substantial. The assessment and treatment of such offenders is compromised due to the level of ignorance surrounding the topic. The present paper reviews attempts to draw a profile of female sexual offenders that allows for a meaningful strategy of assessment and treatment. Examples of specific data sources are presented in order to build a picture of the challenge that professionals working with such offenders must face.

Leader, Geraldine & Healy, Olive

NUI Galway

Assessing the Effects of a DRO and Self-Management

The present study examined the effects of a DRO, a self-management procedure, and the two procedures combined, on the frequency of inappropriate behaviours for a student with autism. An A-B-A-B-BC-B-BC multiple treatment reversal design was used to determine the effects of each condition on the daily frequency of instances of target behaviours for decrease. Baseline conditions (A) involved no treatment for target behaviours. Condition 'B' examined the effects of a DRO only. In condition 'BC' a DRO with a self-management procedure was used. A discussion of the controlling variables for the frequency of assaults under each condition is provided.

Leahy, David

UCC

Measuring Antisocial Personality by Self-report & Observer Rating: The Leahy Antisocial Personality Scale

The Leahy Antisocial Personality Scale (LAPS) is a measure designed to utilise observer ratings of behavioural predispositions of an antisocial nature. Previous work has demonstrated excellent psychometric properties. This study further examines the utility of the tool by making direct comparisons between its observer and self-rating forms. Thirty-eight pairs of individuals from the general population that "knew each other well" rated both themselves and their acquaintance on the Chart of Interpersonal Reactions in Closed Living Environments (CIRCLE) and on the LAPS. A mapping of LAPS scores into interpersonal space as characterised by the CIRCLE provided insights into the nature of the antisocial domain in question. Results suggest that the

LAPS is a powerful tool in the assessment of antisocial behaviour and implications for its use in forensic settings are discussed.

Lewis, Christopher Alan¹, Cruise, Sharon Mary¹; McGuckin, Conor² & Cummins, Pauline Kathy²

¹University of Ulster at Magee College, ²Dublin Business School

Religion and Happiness: No Association Among Undergraduate Students

Previous research has employed the Francis Scale of Attitude toward Christianity alongside two different measures of happiness. Research with the Oxford Happiness Inventory has found that religiosity is associated with happiness, while research employing the Depression-Happiness Scale has found no association. Recently, a psychometrically improved version of the Oxford Happiness Inventory, the Oxford Happiness Questionnaire along with a short-form, has been developed. The present study examined the association between short-forms of the Francis Scale of Attitude toward Christianity, the Depression-Happiness Scale, the Oxford Happiness Questionnaire, and a measure of church attendance. Among 200 university students no significant associations were found between either measure of happiness and either measure of religiosity. These results are consistent with previous findings using the Depression-Happiness Scale and further confirm that the relationship between religion and happiness is sensitive to the measures employed.

*Lyddy, Fiona & Parsons, Christine
NUI Maynooth*

Acquisition of biliteracy in the Irish-English context

The current study examines children's development of reading skills in Irish and English as a function of linguistic background and schooling experience. Three age groups were assessed on experimental measures of word-reading, nonword reading, phonological awareness, orthographic processing and vocabulary. Children from Gaeltacht schools, Gaelscoileanna and English medium schools participated. An advantage was found on the Irish measures across age groups for children attending Irish-medium and Gaeltacht schools compared to the English-medium schoolchildren. A modest early advantage emerged on a number of the English measures for children receiving reading instruction in English first, but all differences were resolved by Fourth Class. The findings suggest that development of Irish reading skill, and with it the advantages of biliteracy, may be achieved without detriment to English literacy.

*Lyddy, Fiona; Roche, Bryan & Ambrose, Helen
NUI Maynooth*

Children's Irish-English word recognition as a function of language context and language background

This study employed a computerized lexical decision task to examine how language background and context affect children's recognition of Irish-English homographs, words with shared spelling but different pronunciations and meanings in the two languages (for example, 'fear', 'bean' and 'teach'). Children (aged 11-12 years) from Gaeltacht and non-Gaeltacht regions categorised stimuli as 'Irish', 'English', 'Both' or 'Neither', completing the task within either an Irish or English language context. The results showed superior performance of Gaeltacht groups for Irish words, which was augmented within an Irish task context. No differences between groups emerged for English words. The non-Gaeltacht group did significantly better in recognising

that the homographs could be 'both'. Analysis of homograph errors showed effects of task context and the language background of the child.

*MacIntyre, Tadgh & Moran. Aidan
UCD*

Measuring Kinaesthetic Imagery with Elite Athletes

Kinaesthetic imagery, which comprises the feelings of movement and sensations of force or effort during imagery of movements has recently been noted as important to athletic performance (Moran & MacIntyre, 1998). Traditionally, this topic not been the focus of sport related research which has until recently predominantly targeted the study of visual imagery. Consequently, a battery of tests were applied with an elite multi-sport sample to ascertain if existing tests that purport to measure kinaesthetic imagery possessed face validity and convergent validity. And finally, a new test of imagery, based on recent mental rotations experiments (Kosslyn et al., 1998) was used to measure one aspect of kinaesthetic imagery. By devising effective methods to study this topic it may no longer remain so elusive to researchers.

*Mahon, Catherine & Lyddy, Fiona
NUI Maynooth*

Understanding Properties: The Role of Speech and Gesture for Children with Autism and Down syndrome

Focusing on children with Autism (A) and Down Syndrome (DS), the study explored how mode of presentation of information, be it spoken words with or without accompanying pointing or iconic gestures, could influence understanding of novel properties (e.g., cubed) or functions (e.g., cracked), as applied to unfamiliar foods. Three children with A (11-12 years), and 3 children with DS (10-11 years), participated. Children were presented with properties or functions trained through spoken words only (SO), spoken words and pointing (SPG), or spoken words and iconic gestures (SIG). Subsequent testing revealed higher target identification and greater generalisation ability in selecting matching property objects, following SIG training. Thus, the inclusion of iconic gestures alongside speech at training and testing appeared to enhance comprehension of properties and functions.

*Martin, Peter
Roehampton University*

The Effects of Personal Life Events on the Practice of Therapists.

The therapist's life continues beyond training, and even beyond psychotherapy. Events such as bereavements, complaints against the therapists, spiritual and emotional crises continue to change the practitioner, and thus her work with clients. This research is conducted heuristically, but privileges narrative, and a post-modern critique.

Seventeen co-researcher therapists, including the author, told their biographical stories post-qualification, in answer to the research question "What effect has your particular life-experience had on your clinical practice?" The subsequent inter-subjective experience of these interviews and the resulting "creative synthesis" and discussion explore myriad meanings and clinical repercussions of such events. The implications of this study are useful to bodies such as PSI who have responsibility for defining the frames of reference for continuous professional development.

Mangoang, Maeve & Lucey, Joe

St. Patrick's Hospital

The Assessment and Rehabilitation of Persistent Memory and Cognitive Impairments Following ECT.

Recently, Robertson and Pryor (2006) drew attention to a number of issues regarding the assessment of memory and cognitive function among patients treated with electroconvulsive therapy (ECT). In particular, they highlighted the paucity of tests that are sensitive and relevant to the specific kinds of memory problems commonly reported after ECT. Here, we focus on the importance of neuropsychological assessment in ECT-treated patients and describe a number of tasks which may be useful in measuring the everyday memory problems of patients with ongoing memory difficulties. To date, no attempts have been made to rehabilitate patients who experience persistent adverse cognitive effects, but clinicians should be aware of the potential beneficial role of cognitive and memory rehabilitation in the treatment and management of these effects.

Maybury, Laura

UCC

Burnout and Social Support Amongst Psychotherapists in Ireland

It has been reported that levels of burnout differ between countries (Cooper & Hensman, 1985). However, there exists a dearth of published research on human services professionals in Ireland. Social support has been found to be negatively correlated with burnout (Kee, Johnson, & Hunt, 2002). The provision of social support and its impact on burnout may be influenced by workplace structure (Winnubst, 1993). The present study employed a survey design. The sample comprised 126 counsellors/psychotherapists. Results indicate that the respondents experience a low level of burnout. The greater amount of Reassurance of Worth (a social support dimension) received by counsellors/psychotherapists, the higher their sense of job-related Personal Accomplishment (a burnout component). Similar levels of burnout and social support were found across type of practice, number of practices, workplace location, and home location.

McCarthy, Eunice

UCD

Reflections on the Glass Ceiling: Change & Resistance for Women in S & T.

Gender dilemmas and subtle discrimination in higher education institutions will be examined from the perspective of women in science and technology and academia. The paradoxes and choices experienced by women will be traced with special focus on both drivers of success and change, and barriers and resistance to change. Drawing on cross-cultural profiles – EU (2003, 2006; ETAN, 2000), US (MIT, 2004), Asia and Australia, change failures will be described to illustrate the significance of mental models and emotions of change. Qualitative and quantitative data derived from scales specifically tailored for Irish female academics will be analysed. The results which highlight understandings of women's experience in academic culture will be tapped, reflecting paradoxical values embedded in higher education/university culture and the complexity of gender equality change.

*McCausland, Darragh¹; Guerin, Suzanne¹; Dodd, Philip²; O'Donohue, Claire²;
O'Donohue, Isabelle² & Tyrell, Janette²*

¹School of Psychology, UCD, ²St. Michael's House, Dublin

The Service Needs of Older Adults with Intellectual Disabilities

The presentation describes a quantitative assessment identifying the physical health, mental health and social needs of 128 with intellectual disabilities who are over the age of 50, including the perspectives of key workers and family carers. Support needs were measured using the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS), adaptive behaviour skills were measured using the Vineland Adaptive Behaviour Scale (VABS), the Psychiatric Assessment Schedule for Adults with a Developmental Disability (PASADD) measured psychiatric disorder, and the Camberwell Assessment of Need for adults with Intellectual Disability (CANDID) measured need across various domains. Findings will be described and discussed. The results of the assessment will be triangulated with a qualitative assessment to design a pilot service model for aging adults in St Michael's House.

*McDermott, Garret; McDonell, Anne-Marie, & Nangle, Niamh,
Peter Bradley Foundation*

Acquired Brain Injury Services in Ireland: Experiences and Perceptions of Families and Professionals

The current qualitative study presents the preliminary results of two focus group discussions involving (i) families of those with ABI and, separately, (ii) professionals working in the field. The aim was to highlight the differing experiences of rehabilitation services among families and professionals and to highlight perceived service gaps. Family members were selected from the records of BRI and the Peter Bradley Foundation while professionals were invited from ABI services at various stages of the rehabilitation process. Qualitative content analysis indicated a need for increased coordination between services and highlighted the psycho-educative needs of family members. The different people involved in rehabilitation encounter many similar difficulties. This study highlights the need to include family members of people with ABI as important stakeholders in ABI services.

*McDermott, Garret¹; Ronnquist, Louise² & Vargha-Khadan, Faraneh³
¹University College London, ²Umed University, Sweden, ³Institute of Child Health, UCC*

Motor and Cognitive Functions in a 13 year old Female with Aspergers and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Syndromes

The case of LC, a thirteen year-old female with Aspergers Syndrome and ADHD, is presented. Both disorders are associated with mild cognitive deficits and motor abnormalities (e.g. "clumsiness"). Very little research has directly assessed this latter point. Kinematic registration provided the tools to directly assess LC's movement compared to a group of four normal children. LC consistently performed worse than controls in terms of movement timing and segmentation. It was concluded that LC relies on an immature strategy to complete goal-directed arm movements while normal children adopt a motor program as they tend towards optimum performance. This study marks a progression from AS and ADHD literatures by providing a detailed account of cognition and movement, and demonstrates the utility of kinematic techniques with such populations.

*McGilligan, Caroline; McClenahan, Carol & Adamson, Gary
University of Ulster*

An application of the Theory of Planned Behaviour to Testicular Self-examination Behaviour.

This presentation focuses on ongoing research using an extended Theory of Planned Behaviour to assess the determinants of testicular self-examination (TSE) intention among 17-35 year olds attending a Further Education Institution in Northern Ireland, which, in turn, will be used to inform an intervention aimed at increasing TSE behaviour in a similar population. Behavioural, normative and control beliefs about TSE were elicited using open-ended questionnaires among 50 university students. An Ajzen & Fishbein-type baseline questionnaire was then developed based on these beliefs. Measures of past behaviour, moral norm, anticipated regret and knowledge of TSE and TC were also included in the questionnaire. Problems and key issues arising at the elicitation stage and during the development of the questionnaire are discussed.

McGilloway, Sinéad¹ & Keegan, Orla²

¹NUI Maynooth, ²Irish Hospice Foundation

Dying, Death and Bereavement Research in Ireland: A Brief Overview

Rigorous empirical research is central to promoting a greater awareness of, and reaching a deeper understanding about, the complexities surrounding death and bereavement. The growing importance of hospice and palliative care services raises questions about how psychologists in Ireland can best contribute to developing and undertaking research that will inform policy and practice in this area. The principle aim of this presentation is: (1) to provide a brief overview of research that is currently being conducted by psychologists and other researchers in Ireland; and (2) to outline a new initiative by the Irish Hospice Foundation to develop a research database in this area. Some commentary will also be included around the unique challenges posed by undertaking (and supervising_) research in this area.

McGlinchey, Rachael¹; Guerin, Suzanne¹; Bates, Ursula² & O'Donnell, Margaret²

¹UCD, ²St. Vincent's University Hospital

A Study of the Psychological Factors associated with Breast Reconstruction Surgery

This qualitative research explored why women who have mastectomy chose to have breast reconstruction and how this impacted on their psychosocial functioning. Semi-structured interviews with ten women who had undergone breast reconstruction focused on why women had chosen breast reconstruction; the impact after surgery and in the months following breast reconstruction; any life changes identified as a result of breast reconstruction. Content analysis was used to identify themes within the interviews. Key themes identified as impacting on psychosocial functioning were: body image, mood change and quality of life. This study has important implications for understanding the experiences of women as they undergo breast reconstruction and what psychosocial factors are important to consider for further research in this area.

McGree, Sheila & Ferguson, Mary

Athlone Institute of Technology

Burnout Among Residential Care Workers

The study employed regression analysis to examine levels of burnout and predictor variables among 312 residential child care workers in Ireland. The three dimensions of the Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI) constituted the dependent variables: emotional exhaustion, depersonalisation, and personal accomplishment. Possible predictors examined included organisational factors, nature of the work factors, personality factors and social support. Moderate levels of burnout were obtained. It

was found that the organisational factors of workload, organisational satisfaction, staffing levels, and lack of organisational support were the biggest predictors of emotional exhaustion and depersonalisation. In line with previous research, the MBI dimension of personal accomplishment did not correlate with either emotional exhaustion or depersonalisation. Variables which predicted personal accomplishment included personal resources and factors related to effectiveness in getting the job done.

McGuckin, Conor¹; Lewis, Christopher Alan²; Cruise, Sharon Mary²; Gallagher, Elizabeth² & Kelly, Maire³

¹Dublin Business School, ²University of Ulster at Magee College, ³Foyle Health and Social Services Trust

‘Down Memory Lane and Behind the Bike Sheds’: Retrospective Accounts of School Bullying among Irish and Northern Irish Students

Few studies have examined the long term effects of school bullying into adulthood. The present study was based on retrospective accounts of university students on recall of their worst school experiences. One hundred and sixty Northern Irish and Irish university students completed the Student Alienation and Trauma Survey-Revised that contains 58 experiences of bullying by school staff, peers, or both. After choosing their worst experience, Part II measures the emotional impact using normative data from the My Worst Experience Scale. Overall, both male and female respondents reported verbal or relational bullying (e.g., “I was teased”, “Someone got others to not like me”) as their worst school experience. Of the total sample, around 1% reported clinically significant symptoms of PTSD resulting from their worst school experience, while 10% reported their symptoms to be in the ‘at risk’ range for PTSD. The long term effects of school bullying are discussed.

McGuckin, Conor¹; Lewis, Christopher Alan² & Cummins, Pauline¹

¹Dublin Business School, ²University of Ulster at Magee College

Experiences of School Bullying in Northern Ireland: Data from the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey

Little is known about bully/victim problems in Northern Ireland’s schools however there is evidence to suggest that levels maybe somewhat higher than in Ireland and England. Within the ‘Youth Life and Times Surveys’ 2,040 adolescents were interviewed during 1998 (n = 397), 2004 (n = 824), and 2005 (n = 819). In 1998, respondents were asked six bullying related question. In 2004, respondents completed a bullying related question, two ‘stress’ related items and the GHQ-12. In 2005, respondents completed eight bullying related questions, two ‘stress’ related items and the GHQ-12. The data indicate that bully/victim problems are pervasive in Northern Ireland’s schools. Also, involvement in bully/victim problems was associated with impaired psychological health. The findings suggest that the incidence of victimisation among Northern Ireland school pupils may be higher than that found in the rest of Ireland and the United Kingdom.

McGuinness, Carol

Queen’s University Belfast

Critical Thinking: Meanings and Methods

The importance of critical thinking for education has a long history, dating back to Socrates. But in the 20th century there has been renewed interest in teaching critical thinking, particularly in the US and more recently in the UK and Ireland. Three

questions in particular have been hotly debated: What exactly is meant by the term 'critical thinking'? How can critical thinking be successfully taught? How can critical thinking be assessed? Answers to these questions are interrelated.

This paper explores different theoretical meanings of critical thinking skills and related constructs such as critical thinking dispositions and epistemological beliefs. In particular, the framework proposed by Diane Halpern (1984-2004), who draws specifically on cognitive psychology, is presented.

Contrasts are drawn between considering critical thinking as a general competence vs. an aspect of disciplinary knowledge. The implications of these positions for teaching and assessment are discussed.

McHugh, Deirdre & Greene, Gabrielle

NEPS

Making it Happen – Helping Schools to Help Children

NEPS has produced guidelines for teachers on intervening with pupils on the continuum of Special Educational Needs (SEN) in mainstream schools. These guidelines provide an example of how psychologists can make a difference for individual children by working at a systems level in schools. This presentation will outline three levels of problem solving and supports that build on each other i.e. Classroom Support, School Support and School Support Plus. The continuum will be placed in the context of the EPSEN Act and DES circulars and guidelines. The underlying principles and rationale for a continuum of support, which are underpinned by psychological theory and practice, will be shared.

McIlroy, David¹; Gooding, Melissa¹ & Bunting, Brendan²

¹Liverpool John Moores University, ²University of Ulster at Magee College

Personality, Teacher Assessment and Previous Performance: Predictors of Secondary Level Achievement

Researchers have recognised that personality is a valid predictor of academic achievement. In the present study the Five Factor Model of personality was correlated with performance in combined English, Mathematics, and Science in a group of secondary school students (N = 166; age = 14-15 year old), and explained 10% variance on performance within a hierarchical regression model. However these effects were subsumed when controlling for Teacher Assessment and Previous Performance in a model that explained 82% variance. It is concluded that grades are strong predictors of subsequent grades, and Teacher Assessments provide an invaluable source of information. However, the loss of statistical effects for personality within the controlled model may disguise its impact on the process and product of achievement.

McIlwrath, B. & Trew, K.

Queen's University, Belfast

Neighbourhood Influences on Children's Social Identity

The use of flags, murals and painted kerbstones continues to be a pervasive characteristic of intergroup relations in Northern Ireland. Although recent research has shown that children as young as 3 can demonstrate sectarian attitudes (Connolly, 2004), a wide range of individual differences in attitudes and behaviours are present even in children from areas of high sectarian tension. This paper presents findings from a qualitative study that examined the development of understanding of symbols prevalent in a Protestant working-class area of Belfast, chosen because of the high

level of sectarian division and expression within the local community. The use of focus group methodology allowed the children to talk about what symbols they felt represented their group and how they identified other groups. A community centre in a single-identity Protestant area was. Children were allowed to answer freely in response to questions such as “Are you a Protestant?”, and “How do you know?” Physical symbols were mentioned by most children and the dialogue was analysed accordingly.

McKiernan, Aidan¹; Steggle, Shawn² & Carr, Alan¹

¹UCD, ²St. Luke’s Hospital

Utilising a Mixed-Methods Design to Evaluate the Time to Adjust Psychological Intervention for Irish Breast Cancer Patients

The aim of the presentation is to discuss the methodology for an on-going evaluation of a psychoeducational programme for Irish cancer patients. Previous research indicates that standardised measures alone lack the sensitivity required for a comprehensive assessment of psychosocial gains in cancer patients post-intervention. In addition to responding to a battery of quantitative measures, qualitative thematic content analysis will be carried out on patients’ responses to post-session and post-programme questionnaires in order to highlight the strengths and limitations of the programme. Qualitative analysis will also be conducted on participants’ responses to the Participants’ Problems and Goals Questionnaire (PPGQ) to identify patients’ primary difficulties and expectations surrounding their participation in the programme. Results from the current study will be discussed.

McKiernan, Aidan.¹; Steggle, Shawn²; Brophy, S.² & Carr, Alan.¹

¹School of Psychology, UCD, ²St. Luke’s Hospital, Dublin

An Evaluation of a Cognitive Behavioural Group Intervention for Irish Breast Cancer Patients.

This presentation will comprise an outline of the design of an on-going cognitive behavioural intervention for stages I and II breast cancer patients attending Saint Luke’s hospital, Dublin. The 6-week programme, known as the Time to Adjust Programme, takes a structured group format. Examples of session agendas include coping, relaxation, communication, and thought-monitoring. The aim of the study proper is to examine the impact of intervention, versus an education-only waiting-list control, on patients’ coping styles, quality of life and psychological adjustment. A mixed-methods design has been utilised to this end. Results from the current study will be discussed.

McLaughlin, Marian; Giles, Melanie & Parahoo, Kader

University of Ulster

Factors Influencing Condom Use of Teenage Mothers: An Application of the Theory of Planned Behaviour.

The aim of this study was to investigate the theoretical, psychosocial, behavioural and demographical factors influencing condom use intentions among teenage mothers living in Northern Ireland. The Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) provided the theoretical framework for the study and the findings provide further support for the predictive utility of the model. The aim of this paper is to discuss some of the methodological issues concerning the TPB, particularly in relation to condom use since despite the popularity of the theory, the literature surrounding its measurement and coding procedures is inconsistent. It is hoped that by drawing attention to these

conceptual issues that it could provide guidance for future research and in turn lead to successful application of the theory.

*McLoughlin, Kathleen & McGilloway, Sinéad
NUI Maynooth*

Fear and Stigma of palliative Care: Personal Construct Psychology meets Health Promotion

Research indicates that there are strong negative attitudes, such as fear and stigma, toward terminal illness and, in particular, to the term “Palliative care”. This negativity is displayed by patients, carers and health professionals and has important implications for service delivery as well as referral to, and uptake of, palliative care services. The implementation of a health promotion approach within palliative care may promote a greater and more informed awareness of the service and help to overcome these negative attitudes. This paper examines fear and stigma from the perspective of George Kelly’s (1955) Personal Construct Theory and explores how tools developed within a Constructivist framework may be of use in health promoting palliative care.

*McMahon, Eimear¹; Guerin, Suzanne¹ & Drumm, Michael²
¹UCD, ²Mater Child and Family Clinic*

A Mixed Method Evaluation of a Teen Parent Support Programme

This paper reports preliminary findings of an evaluation of a Teen Parent Support Programme. 19 participants were sourced from a specialized support programme and the study uses a concurrent triangulation strategy. This methodology enables the researchers to measure psychological gains made, while simultaneously gaining insight into the participants’ experiences. Data were collected at three time points over a twelve-month period. Initial findings suggest that significant increases in global self-worth were evident in both the quantitative and qualitative data. Significant increases on other standardised scales were also identified, and the qualitative findings highlighted the practical challenges of being a teenage mother. The findings highlight the importance of complimenting the traditional educational and socio-economic approach to intervention, with programmes that recognise this group’s need for psychosocial support.

*McMahon, Roz & Byrne, Molly
NUI Galway*

Understanding the Decision to Donate Blood among an Irish Sample: A Study of Donors and Non-donors

There is currently a shortage of blood donations in the Irish health services. Research has indicated the ability of the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) to predict blood donation. This study tested the ability of an extended version of the TPB (including past behaviour, moral norm, self-identity and anticipated regret) to predict intention to donate blood. 172 TPB questionnaires were returned from NUI, Galway staff and students (29% response rate). The extended TPB accounted for 51% of the variance in intention to donate blood in the future; attitude, subjective norm, perceived behavioural control, self-identity and anticipated regret all significantly predicted intention. Donors and non-donors differed in attitudes to blood donation, perceived self-identity with blood donation and sense of moral obligation to donate.

McNulty, Irín

Psychology Service for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

A Successful Model of Intervention

Enforced unemployment and inactivity for asylum seekers in direct provision accommodation has resulted in increased levels of mental ill health.

This project enabled a pro-active preventative as well as a therapeutic opportunity for residents, focusing on mental health and social inclusion.

The project was designed to ‘facilitate a structured and safe quiet time and relaxation period and space for male asylum seekers living in direct provision accommodation’.

The objectives were to focus on positive mental health skills, building a holistic understanding of health and wellbeing. A multidisciplinary partnership identified and explored methodologies for a capacity building model including, psycho-educational, peer support and psycho-social approaches.

A ten week closed group project has been completed with evaluation suggesting a valuable outcome.

Menton, Aoife & Dooley, Barbara

UCD

Psychological Factors Associated with Levels of Overweight & Obesity Among a Sample of Irish Adolescents.

This paper reports the findings of a study examining the prevalence of obesity among a sample of Irish adolescents. The sample (n=775), had a mean age of 14.6 (SD=1.5) with 432 male participants. The study aimed to explore the effect of being overweight on psychological factors. The factors included exercise levels, dietary habits, self-esteem, depression and eating attitudes. 665 participants reported height and weight, enabling the calculation of a BMI. 48.4% of participants (n=322) were classified as having a normal age adjusted BMI and 4.8% (n=32) were classified as clinically obese. Using the Eating Disorders Examination Questionnaire (EDE Q) it was found that 31% (n=229) of the sample reported episodes of binge eating. Among the findings, it was observed that overweight adolescents, classified as possible eating disordered, reported the highest abnormal eating behaviour using the Dutch Eating Behaviour Questionnaire.

Merriman, Brian & Guerin, Suzanne,

School of Psychology, UCD

The CMCAS: A Brief New Tool for Anger Assessment

The Cluain Mhuire Acute Day Hospital Clinical Anger Scale (CMCAS) is a brief anger assessment tool developed with input from clients and clinicians on an anger management programme. This paper reports the psychometric properties of the CMCAS and preliminary analyses show good internal reliability (Cronbach's alpha=0.822) and good test-retest reliability (Pearson correlation r=0.92). Scores on the CMCAS show significant correlations with all subscales of the STAXI (REF). Comparisons of a group referred for anger management (n=30), a matched general clinical group (n=30), and a matched non-clinical sample (n=30) are underway to determine if the CMCAS can discriminate between them. If the CMCAS proves to be a valid and reliable assessment tool it could offer clinicians a short and effective tool for use with this population.

Meyler, Emma¹; Guerin, Suzanne¹; Kiernan, Gemma² & Breathnach, Fin³

¹UCD, ²St. Michael's House, Dublin, ³Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children Crumlin

Using Mixed Methods to Evaluate a Programme Designed to Reduce the Impact of Childhood Cancer on the Family

Given the individual nature of families' experiences of childhood cancer, it is important that research provides different ways for participants to relate their experiences. This paper will describe the way in which mixed methods have contributed to an ongoing study evaluating the role of Barretstown's family camp programme in mitigating the impact of childhood cancer on families. The study utilises a concurrent triangulation strategy where both quantitative and qualitative methods are used to collect and interpret the data. To date, 14 families have completed pre and post programme standardised assessments of illness impact along with qualitative interviews relating to their experiences. Central to the analysis of the findings is the integration of quantitative change with participants' lived experiences.

Minihan, Aileen & Honan, Rita

TCD AS Project

Social Skills Training for Adults with Asperger Syndrome: Program Design, Implementation and Evaluation.

This study examined the effectiveness of a social skills training program for adults with Asperger Syndrome and High Functioning Autism. Fifteen males and two females took part in the 16-week pivotal response training program; in addition, 5 males constituted a no-treatment control group. The program included non-verbal skills, listening skills, conversational skills, and were taught using instruction, modelling, role play and feedback. Eight female psychology undergraduates took part as role play assistants throughout the programme. Participants went through a social skills assessment pre and post intervention. This multi-method assessment included a videotaped role play, a standardised non-verbal communication computer task, a self-report measure, and two parent-report questionnaires. In addition to the pre-post design, a multiple probe design was also implemented to evaluate individual skills taught. Results are considered in light of certain methodological limitations, and recommendations for future social skills training programs are discussed.

Moloney, Pauline

NUI Galway

The Experiences of a Service User & Staff who Moved to a Step-down House via a Challenging Behaviour Unit

Incidents of challenging behaviour can significantly affect the quality of life of service users and can contribute to stress, dissatisfaction and burnout in careworkers. Care staff play a vital role in the management of incidents of challenging behaviours within services for people with intellectual disabilities. This study explored the experiences of a service user with a history of psychiatric illness and challenging behaviour, who moved from a residential intellectual disability service to a step-down house via a specialist challenging behaviour unit. Furthermore, the study assessed the perceptions of significant members of staff involved in her care in relation to the transition. The service user and nine members of staff were interviewed using a semi-structured interview schedule. Qualitative methods were used to identify themes within their accounts.

Monaghan, Marian & Forde, Maria,

Child and Adolescent Community Psychology Service, Galway

Issues and Challenges for Psychologists working Cross Culturally in a Community Psychology Service.

In recent years there has been a significant increase in the number of children and adolescents from foreign national families referred to the Community Child and Adolescent Psychology Service in Galway. This presentation identifies issues and challenges posed by this development in general therapy, parent support and pre-school assessment. Work with foreign national families requires psychologists to develop new skills and knowledge in order to administer tests and communicate effectively with families where English is not the first language, work with interpreters and accommodate and work with different cultural beliefs and practices. It may also involve dealing with issues such as cultural transitions, racist experiences and family reunification.

Moore, Kathleen A & Mellor, David

Deakin University, Australia

Social Anxiety in Childhood: The Impact of Erickson's Psychosocial Stages of Development

The onset of social anxiety usually occurs during early childhood. The implications for this on subsequent psychosocial development can be profound and, if left untreated, it often results in co-morbidities. The aim of this study was to investigate the correlates of social anxiety among children aged 8-10 years of age on their stages of development using Hawley's measure of Erickson's stages. Follow-up data some 12 months later suggest that childhood development is affected negatively by social anxiety. The impact of parental levels of social anxiety was also found to be related to children's levels of social anxiety. The treatment implications from these findings are discussed.

Moore-Corry, Mary¹; McMahon, Elaine^{2,3}; Kelleher, Margaret²; Bradley, Colin^{3,4} & Arensman, Ella^{2,3}

¹University of Limerick, ²National Suicide Research Foundation of Ireland, ³Cork and Kerry Alliance for Depression and Suicidal Behaviour, ⁴UCC

The Experience of Patient Suicide among General Practitioners

Background: The General Practitioner (GP) is the first, and sometimes the only, health professional that individuals who die by suicide contact within the health and social services.

Objective: To elicit and explore GP views of the impact of patient suicide among General Practitioners.

Design: Qualitative study using in-depth interviews with a GP sample. Thematic analysis was conducted.

Methods: Eight GPs who showed an interest in the area were interviewed.

Results: Professionally, suicides for the GP can mean a great deal of self analysis of their work. Personally, there was a huge sense of loss reported, with a number of GPs reported feeling shocked when there was a lack of prior suicidal ideation from the patient.

Moran, Aidan

UCD

Golf: Research Findings and Issues

Expertise in golf has attracted a significant amount of research in recent years. The purpose of this paper is to review this research and to identify the main unresolved issues in this field.

Moran, Aidan & Egan, Arlene
UCD

Teaching Critical Thinking Skills at University: Lessons Learned and New Directions

The ability to think clearly and rationally about what to believe or do is vital for success in life. Indeed, proficiency in such thinking has long been venerated as a central goal of university education. Not surprisingly, a number of critical thinking programmes have been developed in recent years. Unfortunately, few authors have documented the practical difficulties encountered in attempting to implement and/or evaluate these thinking skills programmes. Therefore, the main purpose of this paper is to review these practical difficulties and to offer suggestions on how they can be overcome. In addition, we shall sketch some potentially fruitful new directions for research on teaching critical thinking skills at university.

Mulveen, Ruaidhrí; Giangrasso, Salvatore; Koppelainen, Suvi; Pybus, Emma & Walsh Sanya
Headway Ireland

An Investigation of People with ABI Experiences and Perception of their Mental Health Needs and Difficulties

Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) results in a wide range of neuropsychiatric conditions in addition to the typical neurological sequelae following ABI. Axis I & II co-morbidity is a major cause of disability following ABI and rates of Clinical Depression and Anxiety are comparable to psychiatric clinical groups. Little is known about the frequency and psychosocial impact of psychiatric syndromes in people with ABI and even less is known about people with acquired brain injury's perceptions and experiences of their own mental health needs and difficulties. This study will use semi-structured interviews to examine people with ABI's perception of their mental health needs and difficulties and their experience with mental health services and professionals. Data will be analysed using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis

Murphy, Aisling¹; Hannigan, Barbara¹ & Carmel McAuliffe²
¹TCD, ²National Suicide Research Foundation

Attitudes towards Suicide and its Prevention

Attitudes towards suicide and its prevention were investigated among counselling psychologists, care workers, and community workers. These attitudes are thought to inform the assessment and treatment of suicidal individuals. Forty nine participants completed the Attitudes Towards Suicide (ATTS, Salender-Renberg & Jacobsson, 2003) questionnaire. Additional questions explored knowledge of, experience of, and strategies to manage, suicidal behaviour. The data was analysed quantitatively and qualitatively. Results indicated complex and varying attitudes, towards suicide and its prevention, according to subgroup and type of suicidal behaviour. Comprehensive knowledge of suicide and its prevention was demonstrated by a large proportion of the participants. Confusion regarding the preventability of suicide and the lack of suicide prevention protocols in organisations highlights training requirements to assist in combating this significant mental health issue

*Murphy, Carol & Barnes-Holmes, Dermot
NUI Maynooth*

Establishing Five Derived Mand with Children with and without a Diagnosis of Autism: Synthesizing Skinner's Verbal Behavior with Relational Frame theory III

The aim of the current study is to extend the research on untrained or "derived" manding (requesting) with children with autism. The study is important because experimental procedures to establish derived mands may have direct implications for language-training in applied or clinical settings. Participants were three 14-year-old boys diagnosed with autism and three children aged 4- 9 years without diagnoses of autism. Five specific mand functions were trained such that participants learned to mand for delivery or removal of tokens to the value of -2, -1, 0, +1, and +2, by presenting an arbitrary stimulus (A1, A2, A3, A4, and A5, respectively). The A stimuli were incorporated into a series of interrelated conditional discriminations (A1-B1-C1, A2-B2-C2, A3-B3-C3, A4-B4-C4, A5-B5-C5). Subsequent tests determined if participants derived 5 specific mands; presenting C1, C2, C3, C4, and C5 as mands for -2, -1, 0, +1 and +2 tokens. When participants demonstrated the five derived mands, the original conditional discriminations were altered (A1-B1-C2, A2-B2-C1, A3-B3-C5, A4-B4-C3, A5-B5-C4) and tests were conducted for derived manding in accordance with these new conditional discriminations. Finally, the original conditional discriminations were retrained and another test probed for a return to the baseline derived mands.

Murphy, Marianne

Department of Psychology, Brothers of Charity, Roscommon

Strategies for Enhancing Communication with People with Intellectual Disability within Primary Care: A Review of the Literature

Primary health care is crucial in meeting the health needs of individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID) (Prasher & Janicki, 2002). However, people with ID face barriers in accessing primary health care, central to these being difficulties with communication. Rogers et al. (1994) noted that the primary health care system relies largely on a person's ability to recognise and report symptoms of ill health. People with ID may have difficulty in communicating their symptoms and in accessing health care information while health care professionals may not have the skills needed to overcome these communication difficulties. A review of the literature aims to examine strategies to improve communication arising from recent research in this area and to look at possible applications of these findings within an Irish context.

*Nic Gabhainn, Saoirse; Batt, Vivienne & Gavin, Bea
NUI Galway*

Supporting Third Level Students: Diversity Requires Flexibility

Student services within third-level institutions are under pressure to respond appropriately to growing expressed needs for student support. This poster presents the analysis and interpretation of a cross-sectional survey of 1, 412 students in relation to sources of help and support for sixteen presenting issues. Perceived support from family and friends predominated, but significant differences emerged by problem, gender, faculty, stage of university career, nationality and mature student status. Male and final year undergraduates were consistently less likely to report having any source of support, while Irish female undergraduates reported the highest level and greatest spread of supportive options. These data illustrate the range of facilitative

relationships experienced by students and the necessity to both directly provide and support service and skills development within Universities

Nic Gabhainn, Saoirse¹; Walsh, Kieran¹; Molcho, Michael¹ & Kelleher, Cecily²
¹NUI Galway, ²UCD

Face-to-face and Electronic Communication in Adolescence; Associations with Risk Behaviours and Well-being

Inter-personal contact with adolescent peers is associated with risk behaviours as well as prosocial behaviour and positive self-perceptions, but the role of contact through electronic media is less clear. This poster presents an analysis of self-report data collected from 8, 411 children aged 10-18 in schools as part of the Irish HBSC study. Engagement with electronic media varied significantly by gender, age and social class. Time spent with friends after school and in the evenings, email use and texting were significantly associated with increased levels substance use, injuries and bullying while only face to face contact was associated with positive outcomes, self-reported health and happiness, life satisfaction and lower symptom load. The salience of electronic media in adolescent communication will be discussed.

Ní Uiginn, Treasa & Byrne, Molly
Department of Psychology, NUI Galway

Communicating Bad News: a Comparison of Medical Personnel and Diabetic Patients' Views

The doctor-patient interaction when delivering bad news in medical consultations has become a significant area of research. This study aimed to compare attitudes of medical students and patients about effective communication of bad news during a medical consultation. Medical students (65 undergraduate and 60 postgraduate) and 71 diabetic patients completed the Measure of Patients' Preferences (MPP) to identify perceptions about the most important aspects of breaking bad news. Medical students differed significantly ($p < 0.05$) from patients on their scores for all three MPP subscales: content, support and facilitation. Patients rated the information content as most important; medical students focused more on facilitation and supportive aspects. Understanding where patients and medical personnel differ in their attitudes can inform guideline development in the area of bad news communication.

Nugent, Mary
NEPS

But I like it Here... Listening to the Voices of Children and Parents in the Inclusion Debate

This study looked at 100 dyslexic children who were completing 2 years of special education, in Irish primary schools. There were three groups of children: those who attended special schools, those who attended reading units (classes) and those in mainstream schools with resource teaching support. Structured interviews, with both quantitative and qualitative dimensions, were completed with each child, in order to explore the children's experience of school. Their parents also completed a postal questionnaire, which explored the parental experience of special educational services. Parents were also asked to report on their children's experience of schooling. The findings of this study challenge some assumptions about the negative impact of so-called 'segregated' provision. This paper concludes with some reflections on the implications for educational psychologists.

Owens, Sheena¹; Keane, AnneMarie¹ & Yoder, Ruth²

¹NUI Galway, ²St. Columcille's Hospital

State and Trait Dissociation in Binge Eating Disorder: An Experimental Study

The impact of ego threat cues and emotional triggers on binge eating might depend on understanding how such triggers influence immediate dissociative states. The purpose of this experimental investigation was to test the hypothesis that dissociation is a reactive state in persons with binge eating disorder (BED). 24 (BED) persons and 24 weight-matched controls completed the Questionnaire on Eating and Weight Patterns-Revised, the Dissociative Experiences Scale, the Brief Symptom Inventory, and the Toronto Alexithymia Scale-20. Each participant was exposed to subliminal neutral and threat cues, before completing the Clinician-Administered Dissociation Scale. BED persons had higher state dissociation than controls. The subliminal threat cue increased state dissociation (particularly derealisation) in both groups. State dissociation appears to play an integral role in the binge eating process.

Ó'Briain, Éamon

Resistance to Alternative Teaching Methodologies among First Year (3rd Level) Students

Third level students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning. Alternative teaching methodologies at third level differ from those of 2nd level, and can cause a degree of apprehension. This may be somewhat assuaged when the students are given the opportunity to rate the methodologies as they apply to their own learning. In this study some first year students were exposed to a variety of teaching methodologies including 'chalk and talk'. At regular intervals the students were asked to rate these methodologies and outline their attitude to them. They were also asked to do a self evaluation of their own (perceived) progress. These findings were then compared to the end of year examination results.

O'Brien, Anne G. & Matthews, William J.

University of Massachusetts

Parent-delivered Instruction in Early Literacy Skills: Effects on Phonemic Awareness

The purpose of this study was to investigate whether parents could successfully teach phoneme identification and letter knowledge to preschool children. Participants were thirty-eight parents and their pre-school children. Parents taught their children to identify initial and ending phonemes and letter-sounds for 7 weeks. A combination of Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) (Good & Kaminski, 2002) and experimental measures were used to assess early literacy skills. Results indicated significant group differences on initial sound fluency (ISF) ($p < .001$); ending sound fluency (ESF) ($p < .025$); initial phoneme transfer ($p < .025$); and ending phoneme transfer ($p < .005$). Parents reported a high degree of satisfaction with training. The discussion focuses on future research on early literacy instruction and parent-delivered instruction.

O'Connor, Jennifer¹; Healy, Olive² & Kenny, Neil¹

¹ABACAS, ²NUI Galway

Tracking Progress over 3 Years of a Young Child with Autism Receiving an Early Intensive Behavioural Intervention.

A 21/2 year old child receiving an intensive teaching program using applied behaviour analysis (ABA) was taught using teaching procedures and curricula from

existing research in ABA. Repertoires taught and developed included listener and speaker skills, academic and problem-solving skills, self-management and enlarging leisure interests. Progress was tracked using assessment tools and mastery of detailed learning targets. Independent measures in the form of psychological assessments were also taken annually over a three year period. This paper will provide an overview of the learning profile provided and the results achieved.

O'Connor, Niamh¹; Heary, Caroline¹ & Savage, Tim²

¹NUI Galway, ²University College Hospital, Galway

The Role of Cognitive Appraisal in Children's Experiences with Venupuncture for routine Blood Sampling

This study investigated the role of cognitive appraisal in children's experiences with venupuncture for routine blood sampling. Children aged 6-17 who underwent venupuncture and their parent or primary caregiver participated in this study. Children's knowledge about the procedure, appraisals of the procedure's aversiveness, coping ability and state and trait anxiety prior to the procedure were assessed by self-report. Procedural distress was assessed by observation along with nurse and parent ratings and postprocedural evaluations were assessed by self-report immediately after the procedure. Results failed to support an appraisal-based approach to understanding children's experiences with venupuncture but offered some interesting findings in relation to the antecedents and outcomes of appraisal. These findings may facilitate the design of interventions for children in the future.

O'Doherty, Sarah

National Rehabilitation Hospital

Childhood Conversion Disorder in a Rehabilitation Setting

Conversion Disorder is a psychological condition whereby an inner emotional conflict is unconsciously expressed in physical terms. Approximately 5% of all children who present to the National Rehabilitation Hospital following a traumatic event are found to have symptoms consistent with a Conversion Disorder. Despite the fact that these children may have no or minimal underlying organic damage, it is argued that a rehabilitation hospital setting is uniquely placed to promote their successful recovery provided strict treatment guidelines are followed across all settings. Using three recent case studies, this paper hypothesises on why symptoms emerged, and, while highlighting the many similarities between cases, it outlines the very individual treatment programmes and outcomes.

O'Doherty, Sarah & Byrne, Patricia

National Rehabilitation Hospital

The Emergence of Executive Skill Deficit in Children with ABI

Executive skill deficits are a well documented outcome following acquired brain injury (ABI) and are commonly associated with damage to the frontal lobes of the brain. While such deficits tend to be immediately apparent post-injury in relation to adults, this is often not the case with children. Deficits may emerge over time as a child's brain matures and environmental demands change. While there has been considerable research in the area, none has examined the gradual unfolding of executive skill deficits in children who have suffered ABI. Using individual case examples of children of varying ages, this paper tracks the emergence of executive skill deficits against the background of the growing brain and changing environmental expectations in relation to emotional, social and cognitive functioning.

O'Grady Reilly, Kathy & Conliffe, Chris
Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary Service

Facilitating Future Planning for Ageing Adults with Intellectual Disabilities.

When ageing families of an adult with a lifelong disability embark on a process of planning for the future, they generally think in terms of making hard and fast decisions about: where the person with the disability is going to live when "the time comes"; and who will take on their direct care. Generally, many families ignore, neglect, or simply do not engage in making any formal plans at all which can mean that other significant aspects of a person's life are negated or neglected. Reviewing population demographics for both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, it was ascertained that a sizable number of parents will be aging in the near future and that some formalised assistance for future planning was needed.

O'Hare, Liam; Forbes, Trisha; Trew, Karen & McGuinness, Carol
Queen's University, Belfast

Predicting Undergraduate Performance using Student Perceptions of Skill Development

Psychometric research suggests that skills and attributes developed in Higher Education are perceived in three factorial groups; 'thinking skills', 'employment skills', and 'people skills'. This study of 208 undergraduate students assessed perceptions of skill development, in each of the three factors outlined. Students were tested in the first week of first term. Ninety-eight of these students were longitudinally re-sampled in the last week of first term. Results suggested that those who perceived their 'thinking skills' to be better developed performed significantly higher in first year university exams. However, the perceived development of 'thinking skills' did not increase over the students' first term, yet perceived development in 'people skills' and 'employment skills' did increase over this period. The research suggested that increasing explicit instruction and development of 'thinking skills' could lead to improved student performance.

O'Hare, Liam & McGuinness, Carol
Queen's University Belfast

The Developmental Progression of Critical Thinking in Undergraduate Psychology Students

It is widely assumed that higher education develops transferable skills and attitudes in students, as well as providing them with disciplinary knowledge. Of these transferable attributes, the ability and disposition to think critically are seen by many educationalists as being crucial for a student's life, work and citizenship.

This paper presented empirical results showing the developmental progression of critical thinking in undergraduate psychology students. Longitudinal and cross-sectional data was collected from 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students, using the 'California Critical Thinking' skills test and disposition inventory.

The results suggest that critical thinking skills significantly improved during the degree and critical thinking dispositions varied in their developmental progression. Implications for students, educators, and society as a whole were discussed.

O'Hora, Denis
University of Ulster

Not so Distant Relations! Relational Responding from Different Psychological Perspectives

Much of the meaning we derive from our world stems from the relations we observe and describe between events. It is therefore not surprising that many researchers from many different psychological perspectives have examined relational responding in a variety of ways. The current paper summarises a wealth of research that stems from transposition research in the early twentieth century to current cutting-edge neuropsychological research. Research findings across these various domains exhibit a remarkable coherence. This coherence underlies the critical role that relational responding must play in the understanding of complex human behaviour and suggests that fruitful collaborations may be possible between researchers from different psychological perspectives.

O’Hora, Denis¹; Tyndall, Ian² & Loesche, Molly¹

¹University of Ulster, ²American College Dublin

Empirical Analyses of Interference Patterns during Stimulus Equivalence Testing.

College students were provided with the training required to demonstrate four three-member equivalence classes consisting of real words and nonsense syllables.

Experiment 1 employed incorrect comparisons that were orthographically or phonologically similar to sample stimuli but did not obtain statistically significant differences in response latencies and errors across the four interference conditions.

Experiment 2 employed the same four interference conditions during the equivalence test as Experiment 1 except that, instead of providing incorrect comparisons that were similar to the samples, the incorrect comparisons provided were similar to the correct comparisons. Experiment 3 again employed incorrect comparisons that were similar to sample stimuli but varying levels of interference were presented for each sample-comparison relation (e.g., orthographic interference for C1-A1, phonological for C2-A2 etc.). Findings suggest that interference in equivalence tests may occur due to competing relations (Experiment 3) or simply by impeding simple discriminations (Experiment 2).

O’Keeffe, Fiadhnaid¹; Coen, Robert¹; Murray, Brian²; Dockree, Paul¹; Bellgrove, Mark¹; Garavan, Hugh¹; Lynch, Tim² & Robertson, Ian¹

¹Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience, ²Neurology Department, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital

Loss of Insight in Frontotemporal Dementia, Corticobasal Degeneration and Progressive Supranuclear Palsy

Loss of insight is one of the core features of frontal-variant fronto-temporal dementia (FTD). FTD shares many clinical and pathological features with corticobasal degeneration (CBD) and progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP). The aim of this study was to investigate awareness of cognitive deficits in FTD, CBD and PSP examining metacognitive knowledge of the disorders, online monitoring of errors (emergent awareness) and ability to accurately predict performance on future tasks (anticipatory awareness). 35 patients (14 FTD, 11 CBD, 10 PSP) and 20 controls were recruited. Results indicated that loss of insight was a feature of each of the three patient groups. FTD patients were most impaired on online monitoring of errors compared to the other two patient groups. Executive functions and memory abilities were associated with awareness.

O’Keeffe, Lynsey Rose & Hennessy, Eilis
UCD

Gender Stereotypes in Children’s Mental Health

Gender-stereotypes exert a powerful influence on young people’s interpretation of events. Children better recognise gender-consistent rather than gender-inconsistent information and stereotypes can cause errors in recognition memory. This study explores gender-stereotypes in young people’s reports of emotional expression and help-seeking behaviour in order to improve understanding of the differing mental health needs of boys and girls. The first phase comprised 6 focus groups with young people (n = 30) aged 6, 12 and 16. Participants were presented with stories of children experiencing various difficulties and asked how these children are likely to be affected. Content analysis was used to compare beliefs about the effects of difficulties on boys and girls. Results indicated that boys are more likely to disguise their emotions whereas girls are more likely to display them. The findings of the study will be used to develop questionnaires in order to extend the research to a representative sample.

O’Neill, Carmel
Division of Work and Organisation Psychology

Recent Conceptual Models in Psychological Coaching

Recent issues in psychological coaching within the emergent organisational change paradigm will be examined in light of the contribution of work and organisational psychology. Links between executive coaching and business coaching and the domain of psychology will be analysed from the perspective of psychological knowledge, skills in coaching engagement and process consultation. Organisational change dynamics require skill development is self-diagnosis and problem-solving skills for those being coached. Recent research in this area highlights how these processes have modified our understandings of work, management, and organization. Challenges facing coaches and the changing workplace will be explored within the context of how these changes culminate in generating best practice.

O’Neill, Sarah & Grey, Ian M.
TCD

Sibling Relationships and Psychological Adjustment in Adults who Have Siblings with or without Intellectual Disabilities

This paper explores the dimensions of sibling relationships and psychological well-being of adults with adult siblings with and without intellectual disabilities (ID). There were 186 participants in total (N=123 control, N=63 ID group). Sibling contact, warmth, conflict, rivalry and psychological well-being were measured using questionnaires. Expressed emotion (EE) was measured using the Five Minute Speech Sample. Participants in ID group also completed a questionnaire measuring sibling positive contributions. There were no group differences in rivalry, conflict, EE or psychological well-being. Control participants were warmer, lived further away and saw their siblings less frequently than participants in the ID group. Neither the quality of adult sibling relationships nor siblings’ psychological well-being appeared to be adversely affected by ID status. The theoretical and clinical implications of these results are discussed.

O’Toole, Catriona & Barnes-Holmes, Dermot
NUI Maynooth

Relational Responding and Learning: Implications for Educational Interventions

According to Relational Frame theory, relational skills are one of the core processes involved in sophisticated human learning. If this is the case, it may be expected that performances on a relational task would correlate with performances on a standard intelligence test. To test this hypothesis, a group of undergraduate students were presented with a new methodological procedure, the Implicit Relational Assessment Procedure (IRAP), which was used to assess the fluency of their relational responding. Participants were then exposed to an intelligence test. Results suggest that speed and accuracy in relational responding are indeed associated with higher IQ. Additional results emerged which suggest that flexibility in relational responding is also correlated with intelligence. These results may have important implications for designing effective interventions for children with learning difficulties and for educational practice in general.

*Pender, Niall; Dineen, Catherine; McIntyre, Deborah & Delanty, Norman,
Beaumont Hospital.*

The Intra-carotid Sodium Amytal Test for the Cognitive Assessment of Pre-surgical Epilepsy Patients

The Intra-Carotid Sodium Amytal (Wada) Test is the international standard for the cognitive evaluation of pre-surgical epilepsy candidates. Beaumont Hospital is the only centre in the Ireland currently undertaking this procedure. Patients are evaluated for memory and language functions following the introduction of a short-acting barbiturate anaesthetic drug into the middle cerebral artery of the affected hemisphere. We audited and evaluated Wada Test results for 70 cases with focal right and left hemisphere lesions to review the effectiveness of this procedure and to examine the cognitive effects of this examination. The data are interpreted in relation to our understanding of hemispheric differences and the predictive validity of the Wada test for temporal lobe neurosurgery.

*Pender, Niall; Edgeworth, Jennifer & Dineen, Catherine
Beaumont Hospital*

Neuropsychology and the assessment of mental capacity: Protecting vulnerable in acute services

The assessment of mental capacity is an emerging and complex role for neuropsychologists. New developments in legislation as well as recent concerns about the abuse of vulnerable adults have highlighted the need to protect such people. In order that appropriate decisions can be made for incapacitated adults it is vital that psychologists provide their expertise in this arena. In Beaumont Hospital, request are received for assessments of decision making in relation to healthcare, finance, and residence. A case series was reviewed to identify the common areas of referrals to psychologists and the eventual outcome of the psychologists' opinion. In the context of developments in this area, psychologists should become familiar with the issues and approaches to evaluating mental capacity in a variety of contexts. Practical solutions for the management of such referrals and questions are presented in the context of current international and national developments in the assessment of mental capacity.

*Porter, Nicola & Palmer, Marion
Institute of Art, Design & Technology, Dun Laoghaire*

Psychology Applied to Information Technology

There is a vital role for psychology in understanding how information and communication technology (ICT) affects every aspect of the way we live. Areas such as human-computer interaction (HCI), usability and instructional design and e-learning provide opportunities for looking at the interaction between people and technology. This interaction is the focus of our four-year honours degree. Having recently undergone the process of programmatic review, the degree has three streams: psychology, research and practice, and design and ICT. These streams are integrated both within and across modules, particularly in 3rd year group ICT projects and 4th year individual psychology projects. In the poster, we will outline the curriculum and explain some of our approaches to teaching, learning, and assessment and show some examples of student work.

*Prentice, Garry R & Caska, Barbara A.
Dublin Business School*

Aptitude Versus attitude: An Analysis of Psychology Student Performance in Statistics

Many student difficulties in statistics courses may not be purely due to aptitude, but rather a complicated mix of factors including attitudes, motivation, confidence, and subjective norm. For example, there is the perception that many students decide to study psychology because they are not attracted to the quantitative subjects like mathematics so are understandably anxious about learning statistics. Alongside other factors like attendance and mood, this study aimed to apply the Theory of Planned Behaviour (Ajzen, 1991) to intentions to learn statistics in an effort to establish the main factors affecting statistics exam performance. Using questionnaire responses from 107 psychology students, a series of regressions suggested the Theory of Planned Behaviour and other relevant factors explained a significant proportion of variance in intentions to learn statistics and examination marks.

*Quinn, Bernadette & Lewis, Christopher Alan
University of Ulster at Magee College*

The Psychological Consequences of Body Surveillance Among Northern Irish Adolescents

Previous research that has examined the relationship between body surveillance and negative affect, found that body surveillance may lead to body shame, anxiety, and depression, more so for females than males (e.g. McKinley & Hyde, 1996). The present research examined whether scores on body shame, anxiety and depression, could predict scores on body surveillance among 11 to 18 year old, male and female Northern Irish adolescents. Respondents completed the Revised Objectified Body Consciousness Scale, the Children's Depression Inventory, and a brief version of the Fear of Negative Evaluation Scale. Body shame and anxiety scores significantly predicted body surveillance for males. Body shame, depression and anxiety scores significantly predicted body surveillance for females. Implications of this study are discussed and suggestions for future research are proposed.

*Quinn, L.
Stranmillis*

School Influences on Children's Social Identity

Connolly, Smith and Kelly (2002) claimed that children develop an awareness of the major ethnic groups in NI from a young age. The impact of education on children's awareness of the ethnic / religious symbols in NI was assessed. 146 children from

Years 1 (4-5 yrs) and 3 (6-7 yrs), completed 3 tasks related to colours, flags and football shirts associated with NI. Findings suggested that participants did not have a high level of awareness relating to the symbols found in Northern Ireland within P1, but this developed with age. No children chose colours based on those associated with their perceived cultural/ethnic background. 20-29% of Year 1 children were unable to recognise any football shirts. The majority of children were aware of 'other' flags.

Quinn, Mark¹ & Carr, Alan²

¹*Brothers of Charity, Southern Services,* ²*UCD*

Beyond Chat and Coffee: Does Parent Training Produce Any Real Change for Parents of Children with Developmental Disabilities?

We know that parent management training is one of the few empirically supported therapies for children with conduct problems in regular child and adolescent mental health services. However, there is a limited literature on the effectiveness of this approach for children with developmental disabilities who often present with conduct problems. This paper will present outcomes from a controlled effectiveness study assessing changes in families of children with developmental disabilities following attendance at a generic parenting programme. This paper will also consider differential outcomes for this group of parents compared to a comparable child and adolescent mental health parent group. The experiences of the parents who participated in this study will be addressed and the implications of these findings for clinical practice will be discussed.

Rickard, James

Rehab Group

Towards an Ethical Dialogue on Diversity and Equality

When we come to consider issues of diversity and equality we must go back to fundamentals. What is diversity and what do we really mean by equality? In a globalised world, and especially in Europe where we experience ever-increasing diversity with a questionable reduction of equality, where are we really going?

In this paper I wish to debate the values and beliefs that underpin the legislative process at European level. This debate introduces the case for a more ethical dialogue and draws upon the work of Jürgen Habermas (theory of communicative action) among others.

The framework around which such a dialogue might be conceived and developed is set out by contrasting some agreed conception of the common good as opposed to market based values only. From a psychological prospective, these are key issues, which must inform our practice especially in the areas of participatory research and action.

Roberts, Amanda & McGilloway, Sinead

NIU Maynooth

Helping Bereaved Families: the Role of Hospice-based Volunteer Support Service

Background: Few studies have evaluated the effectiveness of bereavement support services. Method: All clients who used one or more bereavement service(s) at a Dublin-based hospice during the previous 12 months (n=530) were asked to participate in a postal survey. A small sub-sample of service attenders and non-attenders (n=22) were also interviewed. Results: a total of 246 people (46% response rate) returned completed questionnaires, 31% (76/2246) of whom has attended the

Volunteer Bereavement Support Service (VBSS). The majority were satisfied with the service, although a number of improvements were highlighted. Conclusions: The findings underpin the important role of volunteer support in the bereavement process and provide useful lessons for the development and effective functioning of hospice-based volunteer services.

Roche-Dwyer, Catherine & Lyddy, Fiona
NUI Maynooth

An Object-Word Interference Effect: Within and Between Language Interference in an English-Irish Task.

A dual-language object-word interference task was administered to 30 English/Irish speakers to investigate interference and reading automaticity effects on object-naming. Colour drawings of 20 common objects were presented with congruent and incongruent distractor words embedded in the drawings. Participants named aloud the objects as quickly and accurately as possible while ignoring the written words. Interference was measured relative to a Rapid Continuous Naming Task in which objects appeared without distractors. Results demonstrated that responses were faster when word and object agreed and fastest when task language and response language concurred. Pure object naming was equivalent for both languages despite faster reading speeds in English. Intralingual and interlingual interference emerged with distractor words in both languages producing similar patterns of interference.

Rodgers, Carmel,
Swindon LEA

An Intervention Project based on Inclusion in an Educational Cluster in Swindon LEA.

This project was funded by a subsidised government initiative to improve standards in low socio-economic areas in Swindon. The cluster included one Comprehensive school and four Primary schools. The majority of referrals for poor educational progress over the past three years in the cluster included pupils with Behavioural Difficulties. Therefore this strand of pupils were assessed within a multiprofessional framework to improve Emotional Literacy. Overall 20 pupils were targeted for assessment. Referrals for pupils were categorised into the following type of needs; Behaviour, Clinical, Educational Progress, Language and Communication, Physical/Medical and Sensory. This group of pupils in the past would have been referred to Special Schools however the focus here was on the theme of Inclusion. This EPS service delivery included Individual Assessment of Pupils, Consultation and Planning, Provision of Advice and Support to SENCOS and school staff, Liaison with other professionals and Annual reviews. Other activities included Statutory Assessments, in-service training, working with parents, planning programmes with staff in schools for children and working alongside key school staff.(TA's Learning Mentors, SENCOS, Behaviour Support Staff, Year Heads etc)The project Educational Psychologist maintained a high profile presence for Year 6 transition pupils who were identified as vulnerable and further categorised into the referral bands for different types of needs. The evaluation of the project led to an analysis of further EP allocated time needed in the future along with a major contribution to the LEA activities on the management of behaviour in schools. The project intervention lasted for 6 months.

Rooney, Brendan; Brady, Nuala & Benson, Ciarán
UCD

Is my Face Special? Shared or Separate Neural Mechanisms for Self-face and Other-face Recognition.

Recent studies from brain imaging, clinical neuropsychology and experimental psychology conclude that separate neural processes underlie the recognition of our own face and other faces. However, other studies suggest shared or common mechanisms. In 3 experiments using an adaptation paradigm, the extent to which common or separate neural processes underlie the perception of self-face and other-faces was investigated. 66 participants rated their own face and a highly familiar face before and after adapting to systematically distorted faces. Contingent after-effects were observed for all conditions. These results demonstrate that adaptation after-effects occur for highly familiar faces including our own and that of a close friend. To date, the findings from the adaptation-tasks suggest a shared or common neural representation of self and other faces.

Ruth, Sean

Division of Work and Organisation Psychology

Destructive Reactions to People in Positions of Leadership

A research project into the ways in which people react to other people in leadership roles is described. This is a process that, to date, has attracted very little theorising or research. In particular, a range of destructive reactions are highlighted along with antecedent factors, effects on leaders, mediating factors and coping strategies adopted by leaders. Leaders are shown to be very strongly affected by these processes. The qualitative research consisted of in-depth interviews with leaders across a wide range of organisations about their experiences.

Ryan, Tracie

TCD

Asylum Seeking Single Mother's Support Group

Research on psychological adjustment illustrates that refugee groups experience high levels of distress as a result of pre-migration, migration and post-migration experiences. Forced migration results in significant separations from natural social supports and creates a particular vulnerability among single mothers.

The group was developed through needs assessment of clinically referred asylum seeking single mothers, living in reception centres. The programme offered a supportive and safe environment for them to express their current challenges and to share common coping skills. The support group was designed to function as proactive, preventative mental health programme and in addition facilitate a social support network for single mothers. Six group sessions were completed based on psycho-educational and psychosocial models, incorporating relaxation training in a culturally respectful manner.

Rylands, Jennifer,

Psychology Service for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Sociocultural Meanings of Health and Healing – Implications for Psychology Practice.

The concept 'explanatory model' was first used by Kleinman [1980] in the area of transcultural mental health, to describe health beliefs held by individuals about the causation, meaning and treatment of illness.

As a result of current demographic changes in Ireland, psychologists working in primary care or specialist services are increasingly likely to work with clients from

cultures other than their own, who may hold different 'explanatory models' to that of the psychologist. This paper will explore some of the implications of these differences for cultural competence in psychological practice, drawing from case examples, current literature and with reference to preliminary findings of research conducted in Ghana, West Africa.

Saigh, Philip A.

Teachers College, Columbia University

The WISC-III Performance of Traumatized Children and Adolescents

The WISC-III scores of traumatized youth with (n = 25) or without PTSD (n = 50) were compared to the scores of a non-clinical control group (n = 36). Sixty-four males and 47 females with an age range of 7.25 to 16.99 years participated. In the absence of major comorbid disorders, the WISC-III scores of youth with PTSD were significantly lower than the scores of traumatized PTSD negatives and nontraumatized controls. The scores of the traumatized PTSD negatives and controls did not significantly vary. Significant group differences were limited to indices of verbal performance. In effect, lower verbal scores were associated with PTSD and not with trauma exposure in the absence of PTSD.

Sheehan, Ann Marie

NEPS

NEPS Response to Critical Incidents in Schools

NEPS has a policy of responding to critical incidents in schools by providing support to staff and students. Guidelines were developed and circulated and a review of NEPS interventions has now recently taken place. This paper will examine the findings of the review and will discuss the implications for psychologists' practice.

Smyth, P.J.

University of Limerick

The Role of Kinaesthetic Processes in Skilled Sport Performance

Kinaesthesia or proprioception is increasingly recognised as having a role in elite sports performance. Evidence for this is derived from studies both elite level athletes and those with motor deficits. For example, elite gymnasts have been shown to possess better kinaesthetic awareness than other sport participants (Vuillerme et al., 2001). Furthermore, studies on children with DCD have indicated that they suffer difficulties processing kinaesthetic information (Schoemaker et al., 2001). Consequently, research on kinaesthesia has implications for both fundamental motor skill development and the execution and training of sport specific skills (O'Keefe & Smyth, 2003). Practice variables and coaching styles can be employed that facilitate the development of kinaesthesia among sport participants.

Staunton, Ciara & Hammond, Seán

UCC

The Roles of Deception and Motivation in the Psychophysiological Detection of Guilty Knowledge

This study was designed to investigate the roles of deception and motivation in the psychophysiological detection of guilty knowledge using electrodermal, cardiovascular and respiration measures. Participants were required to commit a 'mock crime' and then take part in a polygraph examination using the Guilty Knowledge Test (GKT). The GKT assesses whether suspects conceal information

about a crime (“guilty knowledge”) by measuring their physiological responses while responding to a series of multiple choice questions about the crime. Two factors were varied in a randomised between-subjects design: Deception and Motivation. The role of deception was examined by varying the type of verbal answer to the GKT questions (“yes”, “no” and remaining silent). Results of ANOVAs will be presented and discussed in relation to the literature.

Stewart, Ian¹; O’Dowd, Niamh²; Barnes-Holmes, Dermot² & Barnes-Holmes, Yvonne²

¹NUI Galway, ²NUI Maynooth

The Implicit Relational Assessment Procedure (IRAP) IV: How Reliable is the IRAP with Socially Sensitive Stimuli?

This paper presents a series of studies that sought to determine if the IRAP effect is maintained across repeated exposures in the context of socially sensitive stimuli and whether or not the IRAP produces a release-from-suppression rebound effect with regard to these stimuli. The IRAP presented the sample stimuli “More Likeable” and “Less Likeable” with pairs of names of nationalities as target stimuli, and the response options “True” and “False.” In Experiment 1, participants were exposed to the same IRAP across multiple exposures, with two exposures per day across three separate days. On day four, novel stimuli were employed with the IRAP to determine if any reduction in the original effect would generalize to novel stimuli. Results from this experiment shed light on the reliability of the IRAP in the context of socially sensitive stimuli.

Stewart, Ian & Roddy, Sarah

NUI Galway

Transfer of Body Shape Preferential Functions via Derived Equivalence Relations

The salience of two body shape functions for children was assessed by examining preferences for two samples of a soft drink, after each had been related to a person of average and overweight. In Experiment 1, 40 children were trained on two sets of match-to-sample tasks: A1-B1, A2-B2, B1-C1 and B2-C2. The A1 stimuli were digital photographs of a male or female adolescent, and the A2 stimuli were versions of these photographs digitally enhanced, making the person presented appear overweight. Participants were exposed to either the male or female stimuli. B and C stimuli were arbitrarily selected geometrical shapes. On learning these tasks, children were tested for equivalence (e.g., C1-A1, C2-A2). Finally, participants were presented with two samples of the same soft drink, one labeled C1 the other C2, and were asked which drink they would like to taste first, which drink they preferred, and which version of the photograph they preferred. Results for Experiment 1 revealed relatively weak transfer of function. Therefore, in Experiment 2, ten novel participants were exposed to more extensive training / testing procedures before completing the preference test. These results are consistent with previous research. 89% first wanted to taste the drink with the label (C1 or C2) indirectly related to their preferred stimulus (A1 or A2) and 78% expressed a preference for this drink.

Sweeney, Lorna¹ & Fell, Mary²

¹UCD, ²HSE/TCD

Service Users’ Perspectives on Homecare Services

This study explores users' perspectives of the Ballyermot/Lucan homecare service, using critical incident technique. Nineteen participants attending the continuing care programme of this multidisciplinary service spoke of their experiences. Analysis of interviews was based on interpretative phenomenological analysis. Results suggest clients' views of service aims were broadly in line with the team's mission statement. Psychological and social aspects of care, along with medical support, featured strongly in comments on the positive impact of the service. A wish for increased autonomy, more links between services, and more information on mental health, were evident in incidents which impacted negatively. Participants identified staff interpersonal characteristics and clinical skills, which they saw as important in service delivery. Results are discussed in light of previous research and current mental health policy.

Swords, Lorraine¹; Hennessy, Eilis¹ & Heary, Caroline²

¹UCD, ²NUI Galway

Children's Beliefs about the Causes of Psychological Disorders: A Developmental Analysis

This paper explores children's beliefs about the role of volition and life stress in the aetiology of two childhood psychological disorders: ADHD and childhood depression. A cross-sectional design with 595 participants (324 male) from five age groups ranging in age from 5yrs 6mth to 20yrs 1mth (mean age = 12yrs 5mth; SD=3.62) were recruited from primary and post-primary schools in Leinster. All participants read three vignettes describing behaviours indicative of ADHD, academic ability (comparative condition) and depression. Participants subsequently completed the Causes of Psychological Problems Scale – in Childhood (CoPPS-C). Key findings include that 5th year participants agreed less strongly that recent life stress was a cause of ADHD than participants in 3rd or 6th class. For depression, participants in 5th year agreed less strongly than all others that volition played a causal role, while endorsing the role of recent life stress more strongly than the youngest participants in senior infants and 3rd class. Implications for educational interventions aimed at improving attitudes towards peers with psychological disorders are discussed.

Tiernan, Joan & Kiely, Ann

UCD

Issues in Retaining Business Graduates

Employers face an ongoing dilemma of how to retain business graduates in whom they have invested heavily. Recent research suggests that tailoring business graduates' expectations and reducing their aspirations to be more realistic through realistic job previews (RJPs) is more effective in predicting intention to stay (Frese, 2006). The current study examines data from 748 business graduates examining their motives, the job characteristics desired, and their appraisals of their business (hard) and social/interpersonal (soft) skills they bring with them to their first job. The outcomes generated from this profile of graduate expectations are compared with the job requirements as gleaned from a sample of managers (n=20). Contrasts are explored and the implication for induction training examined.

Tierney, Theresa

NEPS

Secondary Schools and Special Educational Needs – Perspectives and Practices

This study explored the organisation and structures used to deliver special educational needs services in a sample of secondary schools in the South-East of the country. Data were collected from school principals, support teachers and from students accessing special educational services. Implications for educational psychology are elucidated and recommendations made for the development of best practice.

Toner, John
UCD

How Does One's Own Putting Performance on Video Influence a Golfer's Subsequent Learning and Performance of the Action Displayed?

This study will present golfers of expert, intermediate and novice skill levels with footage of their own putting action on video in an attempt to determine how viewing one's own action influences a golfer's subsequent learning and performance of the action displayed. Experiment 1 involves the administration of internal or external focus of attention instructions, whilst experiment 2 will manipulate knowledge of results (KR). An eye-tracking study will examine participants' visual search behaviour and verbal protocols will also be administered as a further measure of information extraction. Participants' putting performance will subsequently be measured. Due to the ongoing nature of this study, analysis of results will involve tests of significance. This study will make a significant contribution to golf instructors' understanding of the most efficacious methods by which they may employ video as an instructional tool.

Trimble, T.¹; McConnell, B.²; Quinn, L.² & Donnelly, P.³
¹TCD, ²Stranmillis, ³ St. Patrick's College

National / Border Influences on Young Children's Social Identity

The participants resided in several areas along both sides of the Irish border. The settings ranged between pre-school (4 years) and 7 years. The key criterion for selection of the participants was that they crossed the border to avail of, mainly, educational/child-care provision. The children were presented with a range of stimuli depicting governmental and social institutions in both political jurisdictions that may have had an impact on their daily lives, including representations of the concept of ethnicity and political division in Ireland. The results will be discussed in light of competing viewpoints and explanations surrounding the developing child's awareness and understanding of such political and social division.

Veale, Angela,
UCC

Child - Centred Research with Ethnic Minorities: Methodological, Ethical, and Practical Challenges.

Child-centred research with ethnic minority children needs to be sensitive to how the political and legal context frames opportunities for children's social, political and economic integration. Irish immigration policy is briefly examined including the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Bill (2004). The paper draws on experiences in child-centred research with children and adolescents in Africa and Ireland to explore the researcher-child & family relationship, culture and socio-historic experiences in child-centred research and relations of power. It examines practical issues in research such as working through interpreters. Following Ball(2005), it argues child-centred research with ethnic minority communities in Ireland needs to explore how to strengthen the capacity of communities to achieve self-identified research goals and outcomes for their children.

Vickers, Louise¹; Heary, Caroline¹; O'Dwyer, Denise² & Worrell, Imelda²
¹NUI Galway, ²Quest Brain Injury Services, Galway

Alexithymia following Acquired Brain Injury: A Study Comparing the TAS-20 with a Non Self-report Measure of Alexithymia

The study examined whether increased levels of alexithymia were present in an acquired brain injury (ABI) sample, compared with healthy controls. The study is the first to use an objective, non self-report measure of alexithymia in an ABI sample.

Alexithymia was assessed in 18 adults, with ABI matched for age, sex and education to 18 healthy controls. Alexithymia was measured using the Toronto Alexithymia Scale (TAS-20), and the Levels of Emotional Awareness Scale (LEAS). Additional measures of anxiety and depression (HADS), interpersonal distress (IIP), social support (SSQ6), psychosocial functioning (SPRS) and executive functioning (Hayling and Brixton tests) were administered.

Results showed greater levels of alexithymia in the ABI group than in healthy controls.

The study has implications for the importance of assessing alexithymia in rehabilitation.

Waldmann, Thomas; O'Sullivan, Leonard & Timlin, Tara,
University of Limerick

Psychosocial and Physical Risk Factors in Shift Work at an Electronics Manufacturing Plant.

Physical risks such as posture, force, repetition, vibration and duration are widely accepted as being associated with work related musculoskeletal disorders (WMDs). No investigation of psychosocial influence on WDMs met the inclusion criteria of the 2001 review by the National Research Council and the Institute of Medicine. The present study investigated some psychosocial variables that may contribute to the risk of WMDs. Forty-six shift-workers at an electronics manufacturer reported neck, low back, shoulder, or wrist disorders according to the Nordic Musculoskeletal Questionnaire (NMQ, Kuorinka et al., 1987). The most interesting findings concerned the effect of shift-work. A One-Way Analysis of Variance of the NMQ scores and, where relevant, Tukey's HSD Post Hoc Comparisons were applied. Day shift workers reported the highest number of WMDs and night shift workers the lowest number of WMDs, especially for neck (Tukey: $p = 0.003$) and shoulder (Tukey: $p = 0.003$). There was no significant difference for low back and wrist WMDs. Those workers in highly demanding jobs were thirteen times more likely to report shoulder WMSDs, compared to those employees whose job demand was low. There was no difference in job demand or job strain between shifts. The median ages for all shifts were equal, and there was no relationship between NMQ scores and gender. Night shift workers were found to have the highest decision latitude and the least frequent direct supervision, and as they experienced less neck and shoulder pain than their colleagues on day shifts who had more supervision, we seem to have identified one cause for a pain in the neck!

Walsh, Jane & Hoare, Sandra
Department of Psychology, NUI Galway

The Effect of an Information Booklet on Attendance for the Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) Vaccine

The aim of this study was to examine the effect of an information booklet on perceived and actual knowledge and on attendance for the MMR. Participants for this study were consecutive cases of parents invited to bring their child for MMR Vaccination in the WHB region. Participants randomly assigned to 2 groups: Information group – Sent the Dept of Health Booklet (2002)“Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR): your questions answered” following which, knowledge was assessed. The results showed that participants in the booklet condition scored significantly higher on the knowledge test than the control group. Participants in the booklet condition were more likely to say that they had sufficient information about the MMR and had shorter delays between invitation and attendance than those in the control group.

*Webb, Margaret & O'Brien, Tom
EVE Limited*

Recovery-Oriented Mental Health Services – What’s in it for Psychologists?

With the recent publication of the Vision for Change and the Mental Health Commission’s Discussion Paper on recovery there is an urgent need to examine the usefulness of this approach in the development and delivery of community-based rehabilitation services from the perspective of Psychologists. This paper will review the origins of the recovery paradigm and its components, its current application to psychiatric rehabilitation and a case will be made that the recovery-oriented approach has the potential to radically change the face of mental health services. We will present examples of the opportunities that have already been created when one re-focuses one’s practice adopting recovery principles and demonstrate how some traditional barriers were overcome. The challenges for Psychologists working in this field will be discussed.

*Wieczorek-Deering, Dorit¹; Greene, Sheila²; Lonergan, Esther³ & Nugent, Kevin⁴
¹DIT, ²TCD, ³HSE East, ⁴Harvard Medical School*

Risk Factors During Infancy and Child Adjustment: Findings from the DCDS

The present study aimed to examine child problem behaviours at 10 years of age in a sample of 96 children (47 girls and 49 boys) as a function of infant-mother attachment, infant temperament, maternal resources, social support, household composition and life events during infancy. The sample constituted a subset of the Dublin Child Development Study - a longitudinal study of infants from diverse family backgrounds. To assess infant-mother attachment at 18 months the videotaped data from the Strange Situation test were classified in terms of A,B,C and D. A multimethod, multisource methodology was adopted to operationalise risk factors during infancy. The assessment of child problem behaviours at 10 years of age was based on the Child Behaviour Checklist. Implications of the pattern of significant and nonsignificant findings will be discussed.