

Abrahams Armien, SHB.

Reflections on an Infant Observation project.

The purpose of infant observation is to facilitate training in psychoanalytic therapy by allowing students to monitor their experiences in primary relationship formations from both neonatal development as well as interactive family perspectives. Pioneered by Esther Bick in 1948 as a training exercise for student child psychotherapists, it has since become a compulsory component of many psychodynamic training programmes. A major emphasis of the training is to encourage the student to elaborate on the insight gained about his/her position and role in the family in relation to observational activities. This presentation will share with you some of the results of an infant observation experience, with particular reference to a clinician's outsider status and formation of relationships with the infant and his family.

Aherne Declan and Coughlan Barry, UL.

Decision making issues amongst GP's in their treatment of patients with mental health difficulties.

The present paper reports on the first two stages of a research project being undertaken which examines the practice of decision making for General Practitioners when considering treating patients who present with mental health problems. The aim of the study is to firstly assist in identifying the range of potential difficulties faced by G.P.'s, while secondly to explore the collaboration with psychologists in the treatment of these patients. The initial phase of the study involved a survey of 85 G.P.'s in the Mid-Western Health Board, which explored their decision making practices and preferences in relation to patients with mental health problems. From this survey a cohort of G.P.'s were identified who agreed to participate in a focus group study that aimed to examine in greater detail the material gathered from the initial phase of the study. An action research based approach was then adopted whereby participants were seeking to improve their practice as an outcome of their participation. The final phase of the study, which examines appropriate interventions in General Practice, will also be highlighted and discussed.

Aherne Declan et al., UL.

Identifying psychologists specializing in psychotherapy; the case for establishing a register.

The aim of this workshop is to help participants explore for themselves what it means to be a psychologist who specializes in psychotherapy. For the past four years P.S.I. members have been actively examining the role and identity of psychologists who specialize in psychotherapy. This began as an activity of the clinical division and quickly developed into a collaborative venture by counselling and clinical divisions culminating in a proposal to council that a report be prepared to examine the matter. This workshop is one element contributing to preparing this report. The workshop will be delivered in two parts. Part one will involve five practitioners who identify themselves as psychologists specializing in psychotherapy, from different psychotherapeutic modalities, presenting case material reflecting their own personal approach to this issue. Part two will involve a presentation from the B.P.S. Registrar and Senior Assessor on how things have progressed in Britain with the establishment of their register last April. This workshop will end with a plenary discussion and open forum where ideas and points of view can be put forward and discussed.

Ahern Sinead and Moran Aidan, UCD.

Expert-Novice differences in recall of patterns of play in rugby.

Expertise, or the growth of specialist knowledge and skills through experience, is currently a hot topic in cognitive sport psychology (Moran, 2004). One of the most popular methods for investigating expert-novice differences among athletes is the pattern recall paradigm (Chase and Simon, 1973) whereby participants are tested for their ability to remember precise details of rapidly presented, game-relevant information such as the exact position of players in a given pattern of play. Based on this paradigm, typical results indicate that expert athletes are superior to novices in recalling structured or meaningful (but not random) patterns of play derived from actual game situations. A major limitation of this method, however, is that it is usually restricted to static displays of stimuli, thereby hampering its applicability to everyday sport situations which are largely dynamic in nature. In order to overcome this limitation, the present study explored expert-novice differences in declarative rugby knowledge using both static and dynamic stimuli. Three 9-person groups of participants (an expert, intermediate and a novice group) were shown slides depicting meaningful and meaningless rugby formations in both static

and dynamic conditions (the latter achieved using a Powerpoint presentation). Results showed that, as expected, the groups differed significantly from each other in their recall of both static and dynamic meaningful stimuli but not with regard to meaningless stimuli. The nature and implications of these findings are discussed and some potentially fruitful new directions are identified for further research in this field.

Ali Syed Akhtar, Bros. of Charity Waterford.

Orientation Workshop on Eidetic Image Psychotherapy.

A model of Psychotherapy developed by Dr. Akhter Ahsen based on triple code model of ISM (*I= Image, S= Somatic Response, M= Meaning*). The model offers a quick management of wide range of psychiatric & psychosomatic disorders. Operationally, the eidetic image is characterized as a subjective phenomenon which possesses an external or perceptual as well as a strongly sensory character, is non-illusionary and clear. It was being considered as a phenomenon restricted to children only. Dr. Ahsen's research began in 1950s, revealed this misunderstanding and found eidetic image as a universal phenomenon.

Ahsen's research opened an arena in the field of psychotherapy of using *Imagery* as one of the most substantial component of it. His research, enriched with clinical and experimental evidence gave birth to a model of psychotherapy which was seeking less time consuming procedures and providing lucid concepts, a way to enrich the clients experience by reducing alienation and allowing the person to evolve feelings selfhood. *The Journal on Mental Imagery* produced substantial literature on Imagery's connection with psychology, literature, education, politics and mythology. Ahsen, not only founded his notion on solid philosophical grounds but also developed a highly scientific technique to conduct psychotherapy.

The presenter of this workshop, being a trainee of *Image Analysis Institute, New York*, used this technique to help people with psychiatric, psychosomatic and Intellectual disability related problems. The technique proved to be as very economical in terms of time, energy and cost, very effective and relapse free up to greater extent. Presenter's own experience of employing this technique with psychosis in residual phase, therapy resistant psychiatric illnesses, migraine and symptoms related to menopause and premenstrual syndrome is very fulfilling. Recently, use of this technique to address behavioral issues

in people with Intellectual Disability brought very good results. A non-verbal man who was mechanically restrained (due to his very aggressive and self injurious behavior) since last twenty six years has been helped out to be a completely free of all restraints. Similarly a good number of people having severe Challenging Behavior are being helped out, with quick and positive outcome.

This orientation workshop aims at giving brief philosophical background and the methods of the therapy. The presentation will give an introduction of *ISM* model, *Eidetic Parents Test (EPT)* and *Age Projection Test (APT)*. The presentation may include case reports and live demonstration of technique.

Armstrong Maire and Carroll Nollaig, NWHB.
Prioritising Organisational Stress in the North Western Health Board.

Work Positive is a process designed to assist managers and staff to work together to identify and reduce the causes of workplace stress and create workable solutions. This is being done in partnership with Unions. The framework has five steps: raising awareness & gaining commitment, benchmarking, identifying & assessing risks, avoiding & reducing risks and reviewing the situation. To date, *Work Positive* has been implemented in nine General Hospital units and two Community Hospitals involving over 1,100 staff. Risks are assessed under nine stress dimensions: organisational change & job security, organisational structure & management style, human resource process, fairness & interpersonal relationships, work environment, incidents and indicators. Results are presented and discussed and learning points for the wider change process in health service reform are highlighted.

Barnes-Holmes Dermot et al., NUI Maynooth.
Derived Relations, Implicit Associations and Event-related potentials: What does the IAT measure?

The IAT is based on the premise that when two stimuli are relationally coordinated (either semantically or associatively), it is easier to pair them together in a single relational response than when two stimuli are relationally distinct (i.e., the former response occurs more rapidly than the latter). Typically, research in this area has employed stimuli with pre-experimentally established psychological functions, and thus the behavioural processes that give rise to the so called implicit associations remains unclear (but

see Mitchell, Anderson, & Lovibond, 2003). Furthermore, the use of differences in reaction times on the IAT, as the main measure of interest, has been questioned. The current paper reports a study that attempts to address these two key concerns using derived stimulus relations and event related potentials

Barnes-Holmes Dermot et al., NUI Maynooth.
Priming and Derived relational responding: Testing a Behavioural Theory of Semantic Networks.

One assumption of Relational Frame Theory is that the behavioural units of human language and thought may be defined in terms of derived stimulus relations. If so, measures of language and thought processes typically employed within cognitive psychology should be sensitive to derived stimulus relations. The current study tested this suggestion using episodic and mediated priming. Adult participants were first trained on two four-member equivalence relations (i.e., A1-B1-C1-D1, A2-B2-C2-D2), and were then exposed to a standard priming task involving these eight stimuli. The presentation of across-class primes and targets increased reaction times, and produced a larger N400 electroencephalogram waveform, relative to within-class primes and targets. These data lend support to the argument that relational frames constitute behavioural units of human language and thought.

Barnes-Holmes Yvonne et al., NUI Maynooth.
Analogical reasoning in 4,5 and 9 year old children: Goswami and Brown (1990) revisited.

Although the literature suggests some controversy with regard to the age at which analogy first emerges in childhood, one of the most notable studies in this area by Goswami and Brown (1990) argued that analogy is evident by age four. These authors also argued that the analogical performances of children from that age group are not merely examples of thematic matching. In recent years, Relational Frame Theorists have offered a behavioural interpretation of analogy in terms of equivalence-equivalence relations. The current study attempted to replicate the work of Goswami and Brown and combine features of the procedures employed by RFT researchers. The results of the study have important implications for both cognitive and behavioural interpretations of the development of analogical reasoning.

Barnes-Holmes Yvonne et al., NUI Maynooth.
Self-as-context as a decision making technique: An experimental analysis.

A key component of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) is the use of particular verbal styles to facilitate cognitive defusion. The current paper reports a study that attempted to systematically examine the effects of defusion strategies on the psychological impact of self-statements. Several groups of participants were exposed to standard clinical measures prior to receiving specific instructions regarding the use of defusion strategies. After the presentation of the self-statements using an automated procedure, participants rated the emotional and psychological impact of each statement. These ratings were then compared across groups of participants who had received different instructions regarding defusion and across the various types of self-statements. The results of the study have implications for the use of defusion strategies in clinical contexts.

Barnes-Holmes Yvonne et al., NUI Maynooth.
Training three term series relations in adults.
The five studies reported in the current paper were concerned with a systematic experimental analysis of the relational frame of comparison that overlaps considerably with what cognitive researchers have referred to as the three-term series problem. The experimental work attempted to establish accurate performances on comparative relations, particularly unspecified relations, which consistently generate weak performances. Providing feedback and appropriate training on formal relations proved to be very effective in this regard. The findings are discussed in terms of Relational Frame Theory and the implications for related cognitive research are also explored.

Barnes-Holmes Yvonne et al., NUI Maynooth.
What happened when and who saw it: Perspective talking and event related potentials.

Neural activity elicited by perspective-taking tasks as compared with non-perspective taking tasks has been characterised by a focally enhanced positivity over left frontal areas, which is diminished over left parietal areas. Recent Relational Frame Theory research (RFT) has suggested the possible utility of approaching perspective-taking as generalized operant behaviour. The aim of the current study was to index the activity of neural systems that are engaged during RFT based perspective-taking

tasks in order to assess the possible functional similarity of the RFT and Theory of Mind approaches. Results suggest a neurobiological link between traditional ToM tasks and RFT perspective-taking tasks.

Bergin John, University of Wolverhampton.
Mad or just different?. Colonisation and the political economy of madness.

Recently upon the publication of his fictional novel on Henry James, the Irish novelist Colm Toibin¹ made the observation that what may have contributed to James's uniqueness as a novelist was that his four grand parents were Irish, suggesting that the language acquired by Henry, and I would add his brother James – a seminal figure in the development of North American psychology, led him to develop insights and understandings which may not have been possible had the spoken English he acquired been other than (northern) Irish English. What is being suggested here is that the languages of Ireland, produce thinking/thought in their speakers which is characteristically different from those whose only language is allied more closely to Anglo English. The implications of this are considered vis-à-vis colonialism and mental health.

Brady Eric, BOI
An investigation into the Impact of Organisational commitment, Management communications and Senior Management leadership on Business Unit performance: An Empirical Analysis.

Organisational leaders are continually looking at new ways to improve business performance. In recent years the focus has shifted from approaches such as corporate strategy and process re-engineering more towards ways of developing an improved employee proposition. Constructs such as organisational commitment, leadership and communication have been explored and proffered by HR professionals and business consultants as useful areas to be explored in the search for greater output from employees. Prior research however has shown a weak relationship between business performance and these constructs. The present study sought to re-examine this relationship using a sample of 216 business units from an Irish financial services organisation. It is hoped that a greater rigour in the research design and

conceptualisation of the key constructs will afford a better opportunity to investigate any underlying correlations between the dependant and independent variables. The influence of organisational commitment, management communication and leadership direction on customer satisfaction and profitability is examined at the business unit level of analysis using regression analysis. Results and implications of the findings will be discussed.

Bramley Jessica et al.,UCD.

Stress and Stockbrokers.

This exploratory study examined the role of stress on job dissatisfaction, health and coping with a sample of financial stockbrokers (N=34). In addition, the impact of job dissatisfaction on health and coping was also explored. Drawing on the model of Stress developed by Kahn and Cooper (1993) on stress on dealers, this research developed measures of stress, dissatisfaction, Type A behaviour, locus of control, poor mental health and coping. The main findings suggest that high stress dealers differ significantly from low stress dealers in both levels of job dissatisfaction and extrinsic dissatisfaction. Career development was further found to be a significant predictor of team outcomes. The role of Type A, Coping strategies, time in company and unwinding behaviour will be analysed within the stress-coping model developed for this study. Brassill Aine, BOI.

Competency based assessment for Development and Succession Management- A case study in financial services organization.

The aim of this research was to establish a competency-based assessment for development and succession management within a Financial Services organisation. The sample population comprised Executives (194) across 6 Divisions including Ireland, UK, Poland and USA. The first stage involved designing a competency framework reflecting best practice high performing Executive behaviours. This formed the basis of assessment for selection and subsequently the development of Executives. Assessment methodology incorporated a series of observed practical activities as well as business cases and a range of psychometric instruments. The benefit of competency-based assessment has led to a more scientific approach in succession management and equally for personal development. The added value for the organisation include the establishment of leadership development plans, a quantitative understanding of leadership bench strength and

¹ Colm Toibin (2004) The Master London: Picador

benchmarking leadership competencies against best practice organisations.

Breslin Micheal J et al., UU.

Religion and Health: The application of a cognitive behavioural framework among Irish Adolescents.

Although previous research examining the relationship between prayer and health has often indicated a positive relationship, findings are sometimes mixed and interpretations lack a theoretical context. The aim of the present research was to examine the relationship between a scale measuring a multi-dimensional model of prayer and a health measure within a cognitive-behavioural framework. A sample of 190 17-18 year-old Irish female adolescents completed measures of prayer activity and religiosity alongside the SF-36 Health Survey. The results provide little support for the cognitive-behavioural framework of religion, with only negative religious coping being associated with poorer mental health. These findings question the generalisability of the cognitive-behavioural framework to understanding the relationship between religion and health among Irish adolescents.

Brinkman John, et al., Norfolk Public Schools.
Anger Management for Adolescents.

Alternatives to Aggression is a program designed to help adolescents cope with the stresses in their lives by teaching concepts and skills that enable them to manage their anger without resorting to aggression. The program uses an instructional method known as Tutored Video Instruction (TVI), in which a facilitator guides small groups of students through a structured curriculum that combines video presentations and experiential activities. Students are administered both pre- and post-tests of the Adolescent Anger Rating Scale (AARS), a self-report anger management skills inventory. The AARS contains four scales that differentiate types of anger and level of control: Instrumental Anger (planned retaliation), Reactive Anger (impulse response to provocation), Anger Control (proactive resolution of anger responses) and Total Anger (general index of anger expression based on the other three scales). The target goal was that 70% of the participants would show improved scores. This review paper will discuss the results of a one-year program and identify obstacles in its implementation.

Brinkman John et al., Norfolk Public Schools
Assessing Suicide risk in Children and Adolescents.

There has been a significant increase in youth suicide in the last five decades. Since 1950 the increase has been over 300% and it is now the third leading cause of death in the United States for youth aged 10-19. Although there are no official statistics, it is estimated that there were more than 700,000 attempted suicides in the United States during the year 2000. Research studies show that 1 in 13 high school students has made some form of suicide attempt. Over the last ten years the suicide rate for adolescents (age 15-18) has remained relatively constant. However, the suicide rate for younger children (age 10-14) has increased over 100% during the same period.

This workshop will examine how to assess risk criteria for suicidal children and adolescents. Specific risk criteria based on demographics and diagnosis will be explored. Distinctions will be drawn between assessing younger children and adolescents. Risk factors, warning signs, ethnic, cultural and sexual orientation factors will be reviewed.

Buckley Hannah, UCC.

The first step in construction of a new self-report measure for Narcissistic personality disorder.

The aim of the present study was to carry out the first step in the process of developing a self-report psychometric scale that could be used as a screening tool in the assessment of Narcissistic Personality Disorder (NPD). MMPI items deemed to be representative of the DSM-IV criteria for NPD were selected as variables in a preliminary scale, and responses to these items were correlated with each other. The construct validity of the scale was explored using exploratory factor analysis. A principal components analysis, followed by Direct Oblimin rotation demonstrated that the scale consists of three weakly related factors, which were labelled 1) "Hypersensitivity to criticism", 2) "Arrogant self-importance" and 3) "Callous self-aggrandizement". While Factors 2 and 3 appear to capture the DSM-IV description of NPD quite well, Factor 1 is more representative of a covert form of NPD, not described in DSM-IV. Possible explanations for this are outlined, and recommendations for future research are discussed.

Burke Eimear and Campbell Howard.

Psychology-Knowing itself dialogue within and without the Profession.

Psychology has many evolving futures as well as diverse roots both from the modern and the premodern world. Unacknowledged roots contribute to our practice. However, if the roots are acknowledged there will be a richer and more creative practice which is better able to adapt to the varied needs of our clients. The facilitators will draw on various psychotherapeutic traditions including Systemic, Psychoanalytic, Existential, Jungian and Premodern. Indigenous and scientific roots will be sought. Symbols from the ancient and modern worlds will be used to increase the possibilities of collaboration between diverse concepts which on first sight seem incompatible. The goal is to become more aware so increasing the quality of the dialogue both within the profession and with those outside the profession.

Burke Teresa and Gibney Ronan, UCD.

Detecting impairment: selection of appropriate methods in neurological and psychiatric conditions.

Cognitive deficit in individual clients is typically determined by reference to published normative data, or control data collected for the purposes of a research study. In this paper, we argue that this is often not an appropriate method for making decisions about individual clients. Comparisons with normative data are inherently liable to underestimate deficit in high-functioning clients and to overestimate deficit in those with below average pre-morbid ability. An alternative method, based on individual comparison with estimated pre-morbid IQ, is critiqued and arguments against this method are presented. Based on data from clinical populations, we argue that decisions on how to determine impairment must be client specific. Based on our data, we present an algorithm designed to guide clinicians through the decision-making process.

Byrne Sinead, NUI Galway.

POSTER PRESENTATION

Memory performance and bias in chronic pain: the role of anxiety, depression and illness perception.

32 chronic pain (CP) patients and 32 healthy volunteers, age range from 24-70 years, participated in the study. Participants completed the Verbal Rating Scale and Box Scale assessing

pain intensity, the Illness Perceptions Questionnaire, the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale and the General Health Questionnaire. Participants were given a logical memory task, where neutral and pain paragraphs were read aloud and participants were asked to repeat back what they could remember. On the word-stem completion task, participants completed the endings of 12 words. 8 words had pain completions, 4 had illness completions and all could be completed as non-pain words. Results revealed that the CP group had poorer explicit memory (EM) compared to the controls ($F(1,60) = 49.63, p < 0.01$). The CP group recalled more of the pain paragraph indicating an EM bias, however this was non-significant ($F(1,60) = 3.18, p > 0.05$). Both groups had similar implicit memory (IM) overall with no significant difference found between groups ($F(2,60) = 0.93, p > 0.05$). Significant relationships were found between illness perceptions, self-reported anxiety, depression and EM and IM performance. In conclusion, memory functioning, affect and illness beliefs might be implicated as vulnerability and maintaining factors in CP and may be valuable targets in treatment.

Byrne Tina and Mayoock Paula, TCD.

Sex and the street: The peer group as a source of knowledge of sex and sexual behaviour.

Research into the sexual lives and behaviours of young people has been neglected in an Irish context and we currently know relatively little about the ideas and expectations that young people hold about sex, or about the knowledge that informs their beliefs about sexual behaviour and sexual health. This paper presents the findings from a study conducted by two researchers from the Children's Research on the Sexual Health Issues, Attitudes and Behaviours: The Views of Early School Leavers. The research methodology was qualitative and the data collection methods comprised a mix of individual interviews and focus group discussions. Forty-one young people participated in the study and the age range across the sample was 13 – 18 years. Among the issues discussed and facilitated by these methods was the role of peer groups in influencing knowledge and attitudes about sex and sexual behaviour.

Cahill Paul and Bunting Brendan, UU.

Hidden Profiles in Hidden Population: Latent Variable Mixture Modelling of Treated Drug Misuse in Ireland.

The constant battle to provide the psychological, social and health-care needs for effective drug treatment has been apparent for the last three decades. This study provides analyses and profiles of the 6,994 individuals who received treatment for problem drug use in the Republic of Ireland in 2000. Two questions are addressed: a) can individuals be grouped into distinct / homogeneous classes based on their drug consumption, and b) how do these classes differ in terms of key background variables? All analyses were carried out in collaboration with the Drug Misuse Research Division, The Health Research Board, using the National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS). The analysis was conducted in four steps. First, a single factor model was examined in order to establish the probability associated with each drug type. Second, a series of unconditional latent classes was modelled. This was done to establish the optimal number of latent classes (profiles) required to describe the data and to ascertain the unique characteristics of each profile. Thirdly, conditional models were examined in terms of key predictors / covariates (age and early school leavers) and the multinomial logistic regression parameters were graphically modelled. The analysis was conducted using Mplus 3.01. The results will be described in terms of a) the profiling of typical serious drug misuse in Ireland, b) the clustering of drug types and, c) the importance of key background factors. The various profiles are discussed in terms of intervention and health-care strategies.

Callanan Anne, National Suicide Review Group.

Suicide and Pregnancy in Ireland.

It is well known that suicide is a rare event, particularly among women. However, a small number of Irish women die by suicide each year. The issue of female suicide came to the fore of Irish debate in 2002 when the government proposed a change to the Constitution which would remove the threat of suicide as a reason for obtaining an abortion in this State. This proposal served to further stigmatise suicide and contradicted the considerable international evidence that suicide can occur during pregnancy. Although the proposal was ultimately rejected, alternative solutions to abortion must be sought to deal with pregnancy-related suicide risk. This paper explores recent Government initiatives to deal

with unwanted pregnancies and considers other services pertinent to pregnant women experiencing suicidal intent.

Campbell Mark and Moran Aidan, UCD.

What do golfers look at when putting? Exploring virtual green-reading skills using eye tracking.

The ability to “read” the slope and speed of greens prior to putting is a vital skill for golfers of all levels of ability. As yet, however, this important cognitive skill has not been investigated empirically by psychologists. Therefore, the purpose of the present study, which is a work in progress, is to rectify this oversight using a combination of qualitative and quantitative methodology. In the qualitative part of the study, 52 elite golfers were interviewed in depth in order to analyse the strategies reported to be used by top players in green-reading and putting. Next, 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 – in this case, the virtual green. After that, eye-tracking methodology was used to investigate golfers’ visual search behaviour as they faced simulated putting tasks on this virtual green. Finally, following analysis of relevant results, the main theoretical and practical implications for research on green-reading skills in golfers are addressed.

Casey Domhnall, St. Columcilles Hospital.

Obesity and Early Life Trauma.

Maternal deprivation and other traumatic events, such as sexual or other abuse, seem to be related to later addictions. Excessive eating can be considered as an addiction and like other addictions the problem has its origins in the early stages of life before psychological birth takes place. Food, in this context plays the role of a transitional object, taking the place of maternal love and placed, though not exclusively, within the oral phase of a child's development. The problem of obesity is taken out of the medical model, which is governed by two concepts: the physio-chemical and the biological. The alternative third, which sees man as a body-mind organism, looks for unresolved unconscious conflicts, which are often pre-verbal and pre-personal, and adheres to the methods of psychotherapy or Psycho-Analysis.

Caska Barbara (DBS) and Hughes Brian (NUI Galway).

Marital status, gender and perceived stress in the Dublin commuter belt.

Demographic and health indicators were measured during a survey assessment of a small Dublin commuter town. To establish the impact of marital status and gender on perceived stress, the sample was divided into single ($n = 153$) and non-single ($n = 451$) respondents. A 2×2 (gender \times single/not single) analysis of covariance revealed a significant interaction effect. Single females reported higher stress than non-single females or males in general, irrespective of age, social support, or life satisfaction ($p = .027$). Across the sample, younger respondents reported higher perceived stress ($p < .001$). As predicted, both social support ($p < .001$) and life satisfaction ($p < .001$) were inversely correlated with life stress. There was no interaction effect involving social support; it is concluded that social support did not act as an independent buffer against stress.

Cochrane Andy et al., NUI Maynooth.

Acceptance and avoidance of aversive images: Predispositions, reaction times and event related potentials.

Increasing acceptance of negative or aversive psychological states, in the service of valued goals, is one of the core components of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy. The current paper reports experimental work that was designed to develop the procedures and measures for analysing acceptance and avoidance in an experimental context. A number of measures were used to compare the performances of the High- and Low-Avoiding groups who were required to learn a simple matching task involving aversive and neutral visual images. The high avoiding group engaged in a delaying tactic when they expected to see an aversive image, but the low-avoiding group did not. These and other results have important implications for Acceptance and Commitment Therapy and these will be discussed.

Coffey Martin, University of Leicester.

Teams in an Ivory Tower.

In this first, of a two-part study into the nature, development and evolution of teams in academic settings an investigation is conducted on the perspective of team members. The findings from a series of focus groups with a variety of teams are unpacked. Areas explored include the nature development and evolution of

such teams. In addition their interdependencies with larger teams within the University setting are explored. The study includes teams of academics, administrators, librarians and IT and other support staff. It also includes project-based teams incorporating a cross-section of these roles. Findings include the role of teams in academic settings, how they operate and the interactions amongst team members with an emphasis on developing a typology of such teams. While the emphasis is placed on team function, team dynamics are also touched upon.

Concannon Alex and Nangle Niamh, Headway Ireland.

Reduced awareness/insight and implications for the assessment of need following acquired brain injury.

It has been long established that damage to certain parts of the brain interferes with a persons self awareness and cognitions (Weinstein and Kahn, 1955). This has implications for the accuracy of self report of clients with an acquired brain injury (ABI). The study investigates the range of problems reported by clients with ABI and family members presenting to a community rehabilitation service. The sample was 100 consecutive referrals to the service and both clients with ABI and a family member attended for an initial assessment. They were interviewed by 2 members of the rehabilitation team. Client and family members were interviewed separately using the Head Injury Problem Schedule (Tyerman 2000). Client and relatives reports are compared and variations in reported problems are discussed, as are implications for the use of client reports alone to determine service provision.

Conliffe Chris, UU/Institute for Counselling and Personal Development.

Always survivors: Adults with learning disability in areas of conflict.

Little research has been undertaken into the effects of trauma and consequent long term stress on people with learning disabilities who are living in areas of continuing conflict.

The aim of this study was:-

(a) to identify the levels and manifestation of trauma and stress in 126 people with learning disabilities who attended a Centre situated on a sectarian conflict line in Northern Ireland. For 16 months the routine of the Everton Centre had been disrupted by mob violence, shooting, intense media attention.

(b) to evaluate effective support structures that could enable them and their carers to deal with the consequences.

Connaire Shannon, NUI Galway.

The relationship between illness representations self-care and well being in individuals with type 2 diabetes.

This study investigated the association between the illness representations of individuals with Type 2 diabetes and self-reported self-care behaviours (diet, exercise, blood glucose testing, foot-care and smoking), metabolic control and psychological well-being. It was hypothesised that high perceptions of personal control and low perceptions that diabetes has serious consequences would be associated with psychological well-being, and that beliefs in the controllability of diabetes and in treatment effectiveness would be associated with self-care behaviours. The study also investigated the association between illness representations and metabolic control. The results showed that illness perceptions (personal control beliefs) accounted for a significant proportion of the variance in psychological well-being. Illness perceptions (treatment control and illness coherence beliefs) were also associated with some aspects of self-care behaviours.

Connolly James and Kirby Trish, PSS Co Dub VEC.

Groupwork interventions with Young Parents returning to Education.

This presentation reports on the development and evaluation of a number of group interventions with young parents and other participants in non-mainstream education, with a focus on prevention of crisis pregnancy, coping with crisis pregnancy, developing parenting skills and preparation of young children for school. Two of four interventions will be discussed. The first focuses on reducing unhealthy risk taking and increasing self-esteem and assertiveness in the target groups. The second intervention is currently being implemented with young parents with the aim of increasing school readiness of their children. Preliminary findings and current progress of both will be discussed.

Connolly James et al., PSS Co Dub VEC.

Improving Professional Practice: Workshops. Obtaining Informed Consent

This workshop investigates the process of Informed Consent and the ethical issues surrounding it. The approach will be practical

and those attending will be expected to participate in triads involving role-play. Each triad will comprise a Psychologist, a Client and an Observer and these roles will be alternated to provide optimal learning opportunities for all participants. Useful resource materials will be given to all those who attend.

Giving Feedback from The Wechsler tests to Clients, teachers and Other agencies.

This workshop offers guidance on giving feedback on assessments carried out using the Wechsler Intelligence Scales. It will be directed towards clients, parents, teachers and other relevant parties. The workshop will be practical and will take a hands-on approach to providing clear feedback and recommendations to people of different social, cultural and educational backgrounds. A feedback booklet and CD will be provided to all who attend.

Generating recommendations from the WISC-IV with particular reference to Individual Education Plans (IEP'S).

This workshop will examine the structure and content of the WISC-IV, with a view to generating recommendations for individual education plans. The approach will be practical and participants will be involved in designing IEPs based on sample case studies. Those attending will be provided with a CD of recommendations for the Wechsler Intelligence Scales, including the WISC-IV.

Coyle Ciaran et al. NEHB.

Bereavement Support for people with intellectual disabilities: a group therapy approach.

It is well established that people with an intellectual disability experience typical emotional reactions to the death of a loved one. While the evidence base on the impact of death and bereavement on people with intellectual disability is growing, studies evaluating the impact of pre and post bereavement interventions for this population are sparse. This paper describes a group therapy approach to intervention to the problem of grief and loss in intellectually disabled adults. A bereavement therapy group comprising 4 males, 3 females, was evaluated on a number of measures including changes in concept of death, levels of anxiety and depression and frequency of maladaptive behaviours. The implications for bereavement intervention with this population are discussed.

Cunningham, Loretto et al, NUI Maynooth.

Avoiding the past: A possible account of deficits in autobiographical memory.

Recent research in the cognitive therapy tradition on autobiographical memory suggests that clinically depressed and suicidal clients demonstrate impairments in recalling autobiographical details. One interpretation of such impairment is that these individuals engage in a type of experiential avoidance in which they avoid deriving stimulus relations that are likely to actualize aversive psychological functions. The current paper reports a study that set out to test this interpretation. The results have implications for the literature on autobiographical memory and experiential avoidance more generally. These implications are discussed.

Cunningham Sharon, TCD.

Needs Assessment of the members of the Division of Counselling psychology: Informing strategic planning.

The aim of this study was to conduct a descriptive needs assessment of the members of the Counselling Psychology Division (DCoP) of the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) to inform the development of a strategic plan of service for the Division. A review of the literature revealed few empirical studies on the professional needs of counselling psychologists. Preliminary research included a review of the existing documented information regarding the DCoP and the conducting of a focus group with members of the DCoP committee. Information yielding from this process was combined with aspects of a previous needs assessment questionnaire (Constantine, Quintana, Leung, & Phelps, 1995) to develop a population specific postal questionnaire. This questionnaire consisted of three sections: (a) General Information, (b) Current levels of awareness and involvement with the DCoP and (c) Prioritisation of needs. It was sent to the 160 members of the Division of Counselling Psychology and a response rate of 42% was obtained. Results include an indication that the provision of on-going training and active representation and lobbying regarding employment are the most important professional needs. There is also evidence of a lack of effective communication of information to members from the committee in key areas. In light of the findings, specific recommendations to address gaps in need are made for the consideration of the Division of Counselling in future strategic planning.

Crowley Peadar, NEPS.

The National Education Psychological Services: Retrospect and Prospect.

Cruise Sharon Mary and Lewis Christopher A, UU.

Self Estimated intelligence in Irish Adolescents: The role of Self Confidence, optimism and happiness.

Research in self-estimated intelligence indicates that males tend to rate themselves higher than females in overall IQ, and in the 'male-normative' domains of intelligence, for example, spatial and logical-mathematical intelligence. However much of the previous research has been based on adult samples. The current research investigated the relationship between self-perceptions of intelligence and psychological well-being in male and female leaving certificate students. 215 participants gave self-estimates of overall IQ and ten domains of intelligence, and completed measures of self-confidence, optimism, and happiness. Results indicated a significant sex difference in self-ratings of interpersonal intelligence only, with females scoring higher than males. Significant, though weak, associations were observed between intelligence self-estimates and confidence, optimism, and happiness in Irish adolescents. Results are discussed in light of previous findings.

Catherine Curran and Littleton Caroline, Queens University Belfast.

Tackling Inappropriate Behaviour between staff in an educational setting.

A number of staff in a large department in an educational organisation reported that they 'had experienced bullying and/or harassment in the last twelve months'. A comprehensive questionnaire was used to ascertain the presence of bullying and harassment. It examined staff perceptions from four different perspectives: those who had experienced bullying, witnesses of it, those accused of bullying and those who had never experienced it. A response rate of 50% was achieved and the results provide insight to the causes and consequences of bullying and harassment. The analysis resulted in a number of specific recommendations including skills development for managers. This paper will focus on the results of the questionnaire and an overview of feedback from participants on the impact of the skills development intervention. In particular it focuses on participants' levels of confidence in their people management

capabilities and their willingness to challenge inappropriate behaviour, before and after the intervention.

Curtin Sharon, UCC.

Advances in the Assessment of Psychopathy.

This paper will present a review of the current assessment strategies that have been used to assess psychopathy and highlight some of the limitations of current practice. It is demonstrated that these methods of assessment show little agreement as each may measure differing components of the same superordinate construct. This is of critical importance in forensic assessment given the increasing social and legal concern over people with dangerous and severe personality disorder. The paper proposes a multi-axial model of psychopathy with particular emphasis upon the higher order trait of emotional detachment.

Dale Richard and O'Hara Denis, Cornell University.

A Behavioural Approach to Syntactic and Semantic Bootstrapping.

Sequential responding is crucial in understanding the productivity of early language development. Novel words may be rapidly learned if they occur in previously established productive structures. Similarly, some authors have suggested that the knowing the meanings of words can aid a learner in inferring syntax. In cognitive psychology, these processes are dubbed syntactic and semantic bootstrapping, and are explained in terms of hypothetical mental entities and innate mapping rules. The current paper outlines an account of such responding based on Relational Frame Theory (Hayes, Barnes-Holmes & Roche, 2001) and presents a study demonstrating a behavior-analytic model of such learning.

Darker Catherine et al., St Columcilles Hospital.

An examination of binge eating disorder, marital status and gender on an obese population.

A cohort of 117 patients (67 male; 110 female) attending an Outpatient Weight Management Clinic was examined. A single person loses on average 5.07 kg over a three-month period, compared to a separated person who loses 9.16 kg, with married people expected to lose 3.27kg. There was a significant interaction between gender and marital status on weight loss [F(2,40)=5.937, p=.006]. Men lost twice as much weight as females over a three-month period

[F(1,59)=5.214, p=.026]. There was a positive relationship between binge eating and neuroticism as measured on the NEO [r=.390, n=161, p<.000]. There was a negative relationship between Extraversion and binge eating [r=-.204, n=164, p<.009] and between Conscientiousness and binge eating [r=-.298, n=163, p<.000]. Factors within the Eating Disorders Inventory and the Eating Inventory were also examined.

Davy Damian, Phoenix Centre.

Investigation of work based EAP/Counselling services in Europe and the efficacy of in-house and external EAP's in Ireland.

This study combines a wide scale quantitative investigation using a reliable/valid measure to establish existing services and outcome, with a qualitative investigation of employee/employer experience.

Quantitative results will be analyzed using a suitable statistics package (SPSS) and qualitative analysis using MAX QDA and grounded theory.

Dempster Martin et al., Queens University Belfast.

Systematically reviewing literature on decision-making in social care: Identifying literature.

This paper aims to demonstrate the issues involved in identifying previous literature in the area of decision making about institutional and home care services for older people. Four commonly-used electronic databases were searched systematically to identify relevant research studies. The search retrieved 525 articles, of which 276 were relevant. The four databases retrieved 55%, 41%, 19%, and 1% of the relevant articles respectively, achieving these sensitivities with precision levels of 54%, 48%, 84% and 94%. The databases retrieved 116, 73, 24 and 15 unique relevant articles respectively. These findings suggest that the development of electronic databases is a priority to enable progress in evidence-based policy and practice in this area.

Dineen Catherine, Beaumont Hospital.

The psychological vulnerabilities of chronic medical illness; epilepsy and mood.

Background: It is recognised that individuals with chronic medical conditions have twice the prevalence of psychological symptoms compared to those without a chronic condition. It has also been suggested that those who have epilepsy may be at a higher risk for psychological

problems than those with other chronic conditions.

Aim: To highlight the incidence of psychiatric disorder in epilepsy patients in an Irish setting.

Method: Literature on mood disorder in epilepsy populations will be reviewed. Results from a new comparison study will be described.

Results: Significantly more situational stress, depression and childhood trauma is reported by epilepsy patients compared with matched controls.

Conclusion: Results suggest that assessment of individuals with an intractable seizure disorder should involve routine screening for mood disorder and PTSD.

Dixon Jeremy and Buckley Finian, The Arklow Parish Job Club.

Picture me at work: Impression management on the CV, resume through the use of high imagery text.

Previous research suggests employers cognitive representations of their 'ideal candidate' largely exist in the visual modality. It was proposed that this prototype could be potentially accessed at the pre-interview stage of selection by using Dual Coding principles on the CV. The hypothesis predicted that the application of high imagery text on the CV would positively influence employers decision to interview. In all, 137 recruiters rated 526 CV's, randomly divided by three CV conditions reflecting elevating levels of imagery. All CV's were equally matched in terms of employable features with the exception of the level of textual imagery applied to the content. Statistical analysis of the responses supported the hypothesis ($p < .0005$). Results were discussed in relation to a subliminal impression management strategy open to job seekers.

Doyle Eileen et al. UCD.

Children's understanding perceptions and evaluation of the Irish Legal System.

The aim of this research is to investigate children's perceptions of the various consequences of participating in the legal system. Seventy eight children from three ages groups (8-10yrs; 11-13yrs; 14-16yrs) participated in semi structured focus group interviews exploring their general legal understanding, their understanding of the legal repercussions of going to court and their outlook on the future prospects of those who have committed a crime. Trends in Children's responses are observed and analysed using

qualitative methods. In addition a small sample of children who have participated in the Irish Legal system will discuss their evaluations of the legal system, their experiences and their concerns and prospects for the future. The opinions of these children are the main focus of the research.

Doyle Mairead, Cluain Mhuire.

Evaluation of a Cognitive Behavioural Therapy group for Obsessive Compulsive Disorder.

This presentation will describe the development and evaluation of a cognitive-behavioural outpatient group treatment program for Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and specifically at whether service users attending the group cognitive-behavioural therapy (CBT) show reduction on measures of OCD symptom frequency and severity, anxiety and depression.

Doyle Mairead, Cluain Mhuire and Carr Alan, UCD.

Positive Psychology Workshop.

Dukes E and McGuire Brian, NUI Galway.

POSTER PRESENTATION.

Capacity to consent to sexual relationships in people with an intellectual disability following sex education intervention.

Egan Arlene, UCD.

The Design, Implementation and Evaluation of a Critical Thinking Programme for Psychology students.

In psychology there is a debate as to whether or not college improves students critical thinking skills. The purpose of this paper is three fold. Firstly, it aims to describe the design and the implementation of a learning skills programme (which used a combination of study skills, literacy skills and critical thinking skills) for first year psychology students. Secondly, it plans examine the results yielded from pre and posttest comparisons conducted on each of these skills using the following psychometric tests: the ASSIST (Tait, Entwistle and McCune, 1998) the CCTST (Facione, 2000) the IST (LSU, 2003). Finally, an explanation will be provided of the type of future work planned to further explore the most effective way to enhance students' critical thinking skills.

Farrelly Catriona, Mater Hospital.

Parenting Assessment- A review of current perspectives.

Increased referrals for Parenting Assessments to a CAMHS team provided a need to undertake a review of the underlying principles that should guide these assessments. These assessments can be requested under the 1991 Child Care Act to consider whether a child has suffered significant harm as a result of the parenting they have received and whether an Order should be made to safeguard their future care. They may also be requested from as a result of Child Protection Case Conferences.

In approaching these assessments, a range of perspectives have been used: for research purposes; in everyday clinical practice; and by those offering opinions to Courts about parenting breakdown. This paper will review the assessment approaches and explore the how the assessment will balance the positive and negative aspects and address whether change is possible in the future. Two case studies from clinical practice will provide examples of how the challenge of this task can be faced.

Farrelly Margaret, Bros. of Charity, Limerick.

Involving people with Intellectual disabilities in research-a review of literature.

This paper provides an overview of the evolution of the research methods adopted by researchers in the field of intellectual disabilities. Starting with the values and beliefs emanating from the medical model, the paper discusses how various disability models and in particular the social model of disability influences the research agenda. The paper traces the changes in research philosophy and how these changes have raised different issues and methodological challenges for the researcher in the field. The issues raised are discussed within the context of conducting service-based research with special needs groups.

Fitzpatrick Barbara, Cluain Mhuire.

POSTER PRESENTATION.

Group CBT for depression: an 18 month follow up study.

Individuals who had attended group CBT sessions for depression provided by an adult mental health service were contacted 18 months later and asked for their evaluation. Information was sought on the extent to which skills were being used/not being used, and the value placed on them by respondents. Open ended qualitative

responses on aspects of the group were analysed as was information elicited on life events since participation and suggestions for future groups. Pre- group and post group BAI and BDI-II scores were also compared with scores obtained at eighteen months. Results showed a high reported rate of the use of skills Respondents demonstrated their need for a language and specific descriptions in helping them to understand their experiences. Most emphasised the value of a practical approach and appreciated the acquisition of actual techniques to apply. At eighteen months, half of the respondents reported a decrease in anxiety as measured by the BAI, rating themselves at a mild or minimal level, and half reported a decrease in depression as measured by the BDI-II, reporting themselves to be at a minimal level.

Fitzsimons Elaine, St. John of God's.

Conducting service based research.

This paper highlights the organisational and financial pressures experienced by the service-based researcher in the field of intellectual disabilities. It is argued that a balance is necessary between facilitating the research involvement of vulnerable groups while at the same time maintaining scientific rigor and objectivity. The role of carers and family members in the overall research process is discussed. The implication of research for the organisation and the mechanisms by which service-based research can bring about service change and changes in quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities are explored.

Flynn Niamh and James Jack, NUI Galway.

Stress and Blood Pressure: Can the demand control model predict cardiovascular reactivity.

The present experimental studies examined the proposed salutary effect of control on health as outlined in Karasek's (1979) Job Strain Model. In Study 1, 60 undergraduate students completed cognitive stressor tasks under varying levels of task demand and control. In Study 2 (N = 68), controls were introduced for the potentially confounding effects of task novelty. In both studies, demand was found to impact upon systolic and diastolic blood pressure, and heart rate ($p < .05$). However, contrary to the model's predictions, no differences were found in cardiovascular reactivity between high and low control groups. It was concluded that the decision to hold workload constant across control conditions accounted for the absence of

main effects for control. It may be argued that control is beneficial only when it can be used to reduce one's workload; a proposition which has implications for work stress interventions based on the Job Strain Model.

Gaynor Keith, UCD/Cluain Mhuire.

A psychological profile of one year First Episode Psychosis cohort.

Neurocognitive deficits are seen as cardinal features of psychosis but huge debate surrounds their role and importance. This study profiled the symptoms, cognitive and social functioning of a year's cohort presenting with first episode psychosis and measured their suitability for cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT). As part of a CBT randomised control trial, 20 participants were recruited from all consecutive referrals to a Dublin catchment area. A comprehensive neuropsychological battery was completed (including measures never used before with a First Episode sample), as well as measures of anxiety, insight, self-esteem and quality of life. Participants were assessed once. Even in a neuroleptic naïve population significant and specific cognitive deficits were found, as well as high level of suitability for CBT.

Geaney Flan and McCauley Donna, PSS Co Dub VEC.

Interventions designed to accelerate cognitive development for persons having special education needs.

Interpretation of Wechsler test profiles can inform the development of specific interventions with a view to accelerating cognitive development in persons identified as having special educational needs. This paper summarises outcomes resulting from a programme of interventions designed to improve skills and abilities associated with Verbal Reasoning, Perceptual Reasoning, Processing Speed, and Working Memory, for a group of young adults in non-mainstream educational settings.

Gogan David, UCC.

Comparing police, psychology students and a control group on offender profiling accuracy.

While offender profiling is used as an investigative tool by law enforcement agencies in many countries and has been for a number of years, there has been very little empirical research examining the technique. The current study sought to address this issue by testing the assumption that investigative experience is the

most important attribute that those who construct offender profiles should possess. The study compared a group of police, a group of psychology students and a control group on their accuracy at predicting the characteristics of an offender following examination of the scene of his offence. The results showed no significant difference between the groups in the total number of offender characteristics accurately predicted, indicating that investigative experience is not necessarily the most important aspect for predicting offender characteristics. Also, the police and the psychology students did not differ from the control group in terms of accuracy, indicating that the participants did not rely on the crime scene details but on stereotyped notions of that particular type of offender when predicting characteristics. The implications of the results were discussed in relation to current offender profiling practices, and the effects of offender profiling information being presented as evidence in court were explored. The strengths and limitations of the study were also discussed, and possible future directions of research in this area were proposed.

Griffin Claire, UCD/Mater Hospital.

Evaluation of the parents plus early years programme.

The aim of the current study was to evaluate the effectiveness of the Parents Plus Early Years Programme (PPEY) in addressing the needs of parents and their pre-school children referred to a general mental health clinic. The sample of this initial study of the PPEY consisted of twenty four children, with a range of conduct, attention and developmental problems whose parents (31 in total) completed the programme. The children, 17 males and 7 females (females included a set of twin girls), ranged in age from 2 – 5 years. They had a mean age of 3.9 years, and a standard deviation of 1.02. Results showed a significant drop in conduct problems and hyperactivity as measured by the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire, decreased parental stress as measured by Parent Stress Scale, and significant gains towards parent-defined goals. In addition, before and after video observation of parent-child interaction showed an increase in positive parent-child attention and a decrease in parent-child instructions as measured by independent observers. Gains were maintained at five-month follow-up. The paper also includes some initial results of a follow up qualitative evaluation of parent's experience after attending the programme.

Guerin Suzanne, UCD.

The Holy Rosary Primary School Project: Developing a whole school anti-bullying policy.

This paper describes the development of a whole-school anti-bullying policy in one Dublin primary school. The aim was to develop a policy which reflected the views of all those involved in the school. The process began with a survey of bullying, which was completed by pupils, parents, and staff (n = 300). This was followed by workshops with staff and parents, facilitated by the researcher, and a series of workshops with pupils, facilitated by the class teachers. Following this a draft policy was drawn up by a committee, which included the researcher, members of staff and parents. The draft policy was then reviewed by pupils, parents and staff within the school before the final policy was completed.

Guerin Suzanne, UCD.

Understanding definitions of Cheating Behaviour in Sport: A study of Irish Athletes.

The aim of this study was to examine Irish athletes' definitions of cheating behaviour in sport. The sample (n = 42) consisted of representatives from both team and individual, contact and non-contact sports (e.g. soccer, rowing, track and field, and boxing), and also included both male and female athletes. Eight groups were carried out and the sessions explored the factors that were involved in defining behaviours as cheating. One of the main findings was that cheating was conceptualised along a continuum, which ranged from less serious behaviours that were described as 'smart play' (e.g. stealing yards during a free kick in soccer) to more serious behaviours such as the use of banned substances. It also appeared that behaviours that led to opponents being hurt were more likely to be defined as cheating. These findings are considered in terms of their role in helping researchers to understand both attitudes towards, and involvement in cheating behaviour in sport.

Hammond Sean, UCC.

Psychometric Assessment in Forensic Settings.

Assessment in forensic psychology typically applies a psychometric inheritance that is unequal to the task. This paper looks at the challenges forensic psychology faces in trying to meet the exacting needs of the court with a

suboptimal measurement technology. In fact, stringent and relevant psychometric models and procedures are available but are rarely used. A case is made that, for forensic psychology to survive in the 21st century, it needs to radically review its assessment practice. This paper highlights limitations of current practice and describes a number of avenues to help us meet the challenge. We will draw upon examples from sexual offending and personality disorder assessment.

Hayes Clare,

A Cognitive Behavioural Approach to preventing murder in the Classroom.

Teaching and learning can be exciting, rewarding and affirming. We all know that and many people who spend hot hours in July and August commuting to work resent teachers their "easy" life. Teaching or learning in an environment that is negative and hostile is more difficult and more serious than many people realise. In the UK and the USA it has tragically, literally, led to murder. Ireland has not got to that point – yet. We may wonder though how many teachers kill their students' love of learning? How many students kill their teachers' love of teaching? Statistics are not available for this, but if the passion, enthusiasm, confidence and excitement are killed, we are left with apathy, boredom, disinterest and a deep sense of failure. We are left with something that is very difficult or hazardous – something that causes extreme discomfort – According to the dictionary – we are left with murder.

A considerable body of international research evidence testifies to the effectiveness of Cognitive Behavioural therapy (CBT) in treating a wide range of difficulties such as depression, anxiety, eating disorders, marital problems and substance abuse. Attention has recently turned to study how the core principles of CBT might be used in education to prevent difficulties such as depression and anxiety. This presentation looks at how they can also be used to prevent murder. Heneghan Shay and Martin Aoife, PSS Co Dub VEC.

Retained reflexes and their impact on Education.

In recent years, a number of new methodologies have emerged for working with people experiencing a variety of educational needs which have been recognised as having a high degree of co-morbidity (such as ADD and a range of dyspraxias). Amongst these are systems dealing with the progressive development of

reflexes. This paper will consist of a brief overview of the primary (primitive) reflexes and their role in child development. The focus shall then turn to the exploration of how the retention of a specific primary reflex, rather than its replacement by the appropriate secondary reflex, may impact on a child's education. Finally, two case studies will be reviewed.

Hogan Mark and Nangle Niamh, Headway Ireland.

Service, provision and outcome following Acquired Brain Injury.

The heterogeneity of Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) patients poses major problems for service provision. International research emphasises the need for a co-ordinated continuum of specialist rehabilitation following acquired brain injury and the need for ongoing long term support for both the individual and family members. This study will focus on the current service provision in Ireland and looks at levels of intervention and outcome. This study was completed using a sample of 100 people with an Acquired Brain Injury and their relatives (n= 100) who presented for initial assessment to a brain injury community rehabilitation team. The 2 ½ hour standardised assessment identifies type of rehabilitation previously received, and the ongoing impact of problems with physical, sensory, cognitive, emotional, behavioural, and social functioning, on level of occupation and independence. This study will also investigate reports regarding international best practice brain injury models as a means of highlighting shortcomings of services for people with ABI in this country.

Holland Niamh and Caffrey Shay.

A study of service users' knowledge of and attitude to aspects of their sexuality.

Much of the research to date has focused on staff and parents attitudes to the sexuality of service users. A second major focus has been on keeping people safe and the prevention of abuse. But there has been little attention paid in the research to the individuals right to a healthy knowledge of their own sexuality or expressing their sexuality in a healthy way. There was a particular need to explore this topic with service users themselves.

Honeyman Andrew and McDonald Emma, NTDI.

Coolamber: An evaluation.

Coolamber is a one-year drug free residential vocational and rehabilitative training programme for individuals with a history of drug abuse. This paper presents the main operational changes made to the programme and their rationale along with new evaluation findings one and a half years into its active operation.

Honeyman Andrew et al., NTDI.

Early Intervention in Mental Health-is there a need?.

A feasibility study was carried out in relation to examining the need for an early intervention programme to assist individuals with mental health problems in their recovery process. An existing programme " CAMUS " run by the National Training and Development Institute is outlined. The main focus of this paper is the presentation of the need based research findings and the relevant recommendations for Health Care Rehabilitation professionals.

Honeyman Andrew and Dooley Barbara, NTDI.

Measuring Health and Social Gain in Vocational Rehabilitation.

A research project was carried out among service users attending vocational rehabilitation training within the national training and development institute. The purpose of the study was to develop a self-evaluation tool for measuring changes in health and social gain among service users. In addition an instrument, which could be meaningfully utilised by both, service users and staff. This paper outlines the research rationale, the analysis of data, and the modified health and social gain instrument it yielded.

Horgan John, UCC.

Terrorism and Forensic Psychology.

The events of 11 September 2001, like many terrorist incidents before it, exposed a number of gaps in our analyses of terrorism. Regrettably, we continue to lack the empirical research needed to help establish a solid conceptual basis to terrorism research. This paper, in presenting an overview of the contribution psychologists have made to date in understanding terrorism, seeks to identify the nature and extent of the obstacles to true theoretical and conceptual progression in the area. In particular, suggestions are made for the development of a systematic, empirically-grounded research agenda, while a number of assertions are made for a much more systematic consideration of the potential contribution of forensic psychology in both understanding, and responding to, terrorism.

Hughes Brian and Schallmayer Sabine, NUI Galway.

Oral contraception, personality and blood pressure across the menstrual cycle: A prospective study.

Due to a reliance on between-subjects designs, previous research has been unclear on the precise impact of menstrual phase on cardiovascular reactivity to stress. Secondly, some women who use oral contraceptives (OCs) experience an elevated risk of coronary heart disease compared to other women. In the present study, using a fully counterbalanced mixed-factorial design, 24 women (12 OC users and 12 non-users) drawn from a screening sample of 110 were tested across a four-month timeframe. Repeated measures analyses showed menstrual phase to have influenced blood pressure reactivity by moderating the impact of both OC-use ($p = .019$) and neuroticism ($p = .007$) on reactivity. Implications for health and for accurate blood pressure screening in women who use OCs are discussed.

Hurley Olivia et al., UCD.

Psychology responses to Sports Injuries- A longitudinal study.

A review of the psychological research on sporting injuries revealed a number of unresolved issues. The present study set out to address a number of these issues. Specifically, the aims of the study were (i) to investigate the degree to which athletes' opinions of, and responses to, injury change over the time-course of an injury, and (ii) to compare the mental models of athletes who recover from their injuries with those of athletes who do not recover. The results of the study suggested that athletes in this investigation did not exhibit significant psychological disturbances in relation to their athletic identity or aspects of their mood states when they became injured, compared to athletes who remained injury free. These results will be discussed in the presentation.

Innes Joanne et al. UU.

Parental adaptation to childhood diabetes- an analysis of the structure and characteristics of social networks.

Poor management of Type 1 diabetes is believed to result from poor psychosocial adjustment to the recommended care routine, and leads to

potentially devastating consequences. No single factor has been shown to predict adherence to the medical regime. For children, initially their parents manage their illness, and it is possible that their own long-term adjustment to their condition will depend on perceived parental attitudes.

This paper presents a model for analysing the social network characteristics and support mechanisms of parents of children diagnosed with diabetes aged under 8 years.

Ivers Mary et al., UCD.

POSTER PRESENTATION.

Investigating the Bio-Psycho-Social needs of Post-treatment Cancer survivors in the ECAHB.

This research investigates the bio-psycho-social factors impacting on the quality of life of post-treatment cancer survivors in the ECAHB. With increases in survival rates (50%-60%) there is an increasing need to focus on understanding the impact of cancer on the quality of life of cancer survivors. Survival does not necessarily mean a return to 'normal' life. Although survivors may be disease free they often experience negative sequelae as a result of the cancer itself or of the treatment they receive. The main research aims are to develop a profile of cancer survivors in the ECAHB, assess their quality of life and determine what areas require intervention on the part of the health services with a special emphasis on socio-economic factors.

James Jack E, NUI Galway.

Hemodynamic Reactivity and Mood in Women: Effects of sleep restriction and cognitive performance.

Behavioural challenges in the form of sleep restriction and cognitive performance were examined in 96 healthy women and men. Testing was conducted on 4 occasions at weekly intervals. Measurements were taken of blood pressure, heart rate, cardiac output, and total peripheral resistance, and mood was assessed using a computerised version of the Profile of Mood States. Significant hemodynamic and mood effects were observed for both sleep restriction and performance. Women showed lower response levels than men on a number of key measurements, consistent with the fact that women generally enjoy better cardiovascular health. However, women in the present

study also showed some specific hemodynamic and mood responses suggestive of increased cardiovascular risk. These apparent inconsistencies are in need of explanation.

Jenkins Mary and Deehan Mary, UU.

The experiences of Lesbians coming out in Northern Ireland.

This study explores the experiences of lesbians living in Northern Ireland. Nine lesbians were interviewed by way of a semi-structured questionnaire. The interviews were transcribed and analysed using grounded theory. Data showed that lesbians interviewed saw their experiences of coming out in terms of three distinct time/experience frames – pre coming out, coming out and post coming out. The dominant themes emerging were the impact of homophobia, both internal and external on lesbians and their family through the coming out process and the effect coming out had on the lesbian's sense of self. A tentative link was also found between lesbians living in Northern Ireland and the incidence of mental health. The presentation will look at these findings in the light of literature and conclude with implications for research, practice and policy.

Johnson Barbara et al., NUI Galway.

Doing what you do not want to do to achieve valued outcomes: Acceptance and valuing in the face of aversive stimulation.

This study examined the effects of acceptance and valuing on persistence and self-reports of pain in the face of aversive stimulation in the form of discrete electric shock. Fifty two participants were randomly assigned to either an acceptance (ACT) based or a control (CONT) based coping strategy. Furthermore, for half of the participants in both groups, the importance of participation was emphasised (high values), whereas for the remaining participants it was de-emphasised (low values). Results showed that participants receiving an acceptance strategy showed greater task persistence and lower believability of thought than control strategy participants, and that high value participants reported significantly higher pain levels during the post- than during the pre-intervention task. The theoretical and clinical significance of these findings is discussed.

Kearns Brian.

What is the Structure of Abstract Concepts?

Objectives: The primary objectives were to test 10 abstract concepts, in order to analyse their structure. The second objective tested how manipulation of a characteristic would change an individual's perception of an abstract concept. This quantitative experimental design consisted of three studies. In study 1, participants generated characteristics for 10 abstract concepts, which were tested. Study 2 rated the response of the 10 most frequent responses from study 1 for each concept. Study 3 contained vignettes manipulating the most frequent characteristic from study 1.

Results: Evidence was found for characteristic structure in studies 1 and 2, while there was also a significant difference in responses for study 3 between vignettes, (Love $p=0.00$)

Results suggest that there are different types of structures in abstract concepts and manipulation of a characteristic does affect conceptual structure.

Kenny Neill et al., NUI Maynooth.

Competition between formal and symbolic relations in Children with a diagnosis of Autism as a measure of Executive function.

Executive dysfunction is pervasive in children with autism (Pennington & Ozonoff, 1996), and affected subjects have also been found to demonstrate poor abstract reasoning, inflexible rule use, preservative behaviours, cognitive inflexibility and poor attention. The aim of the present study was to examine the effects of conflicting non-arbitrary relations on the formation of arbitrary applicable relations using subjects with a diagnosis of autism. The study also sought to determine if exemplar training could be used to establish arbitrary relational responding in the context of competing non-arbitrary stimulus control. Broadly similar procedures were employed as those reported by Stewart, Barnes-Holmes, Roche, and Smeets (2002) with various modifications appropriate to the population employed in the current study.

Keogh Anna Fiona and Whyte Jean, TCD.

Being Smart in School.

In Bronfenbrenner's ecological model, school is one of the microsystems which influence children's development. This paper will present the findings of a qualitative study using ethnographic methods which aimed to get a better understanding of what motivates 11 year old children in to learn. In particular, the study aimed to explore whether children's concepts of social and academic intelligence relate to their

academic achievement motivation. This paper will concentrate on how children's experience of school influenced their concepts of intelligence.

Keane Aida, St. Pats Drumcondra.

The Body as Text; An interpretative framework for understanding the phenomenon of Self-injury in Adolescent girls.

Alderman (1997) defines self-injury as 'the intentional harm of one's own body without conscious suicidal intent'. Self-injurious behaviour typically begins in early or late adolescence (Alderman 1997; Strong 1998). Research suggests a trend towards a higher incidence of self-injury among adolescent girls than their male counterparts (Carmen et al. 1984; Miller 1994; Walsh & Rosen 1988). What factors have fostered the development of this increasing phenomenon among adolescent girls? What is the meaning of this behaviour for those who engage in it? What function does it serve? This paper will provide an overview of an interpretative framework for understanding the phenomenon of self-injury in this young female population.

Keogh Trevor, UCD.

Lateral eye-movement and cognitive mode.

The relationship between lateral eye movements (LEMs) and hemispheric asymmetry was investigated using 32 right-handed male volunteers within an age range of 18-42 years (mean = 24.42, standard deviation = 6.34). Two experiments were conducted to a) elicit LEMS by differentially engaging the left and right hemispheres and b) induce asymmetrical function by controlling gaze. Hypothesis 1: That there would be significantly greater left than right LEM's elicited by spatial questions was supported ($z = -2.403$, $p < 0.05$). Hypothesis 2: That there would be significantly greater right than left movements elicited by verbal/mathematical questions was not supported ($z = -1.646$, $p > 0.05$). Hypothesis 3: That response times to questions presented in the congruent condition would be significantly quicker than response times to questions presented in the incongruent condition was supported ($t = 17.34$, $df = 1,31$; $p < 0.05$). Results provided support for Eye-movement integration (EMI) AND Eye-movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR) therapies and questions some assumptions underlying neurolinguistic programming (NLP). Future research is suggested including the use of eye tracking

equipment in LEM research and integrating works on cognitive styles (ie FDI and "visualiser/verbaliser") with LEM theories.

Keyes Helen et al., UCD.

Do experienced drivers have better visual attention?

Green & Bavelier (2003:Nature, 423,534-37) demonstrated that playing action video games modifies visual selective attention: specifically, players were significantly faster and less error prone on a number of visual attention tasks including detecting objects in brief displays and finding objects in cluttered displays. The purpose of this study is to investigate whether expertise in driving, a very different but equally attention-demanding task, leads to a similar transfer of learning. Skilled drivers (over 5 years experience) and an age-matched sample of non-drivers performed a number of visual attention tasks including visual search, and a modified version of the 'attentional blink' task. Our preliminary data show some evidence of transfer of learning, and we are currently testing whether the difference between the groups remains after limited practice on the visual attention tasks. These results have implications for understanding transfer of learning and for applied issues such as whether training on computerized attention tasks could be used to enhance driving skill.

Kinsella Billy.

Special Educational Needs: The Implications of the Education for persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004.

This paper will entail a review and critique of disability legislation in Ireland since the Education Act 1998, with particular reference to the implications for special educational needs provision, organizational planning and policy in schools. Existing and proposed Irish legislation will be considered in the context of international charters and treaties, and by comparison with corresponding legislation in other jurisdictions. The paper will focus particularly on the implications of the forthcoming Education of Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004.

Lambert Sharon, UCC.

Female Sexual Abusers: A review.

The issue of sexual abuse perpetrated by women has received little recognition by researchers and when the subject is addressed it is often dismissed as being a rare event. It is only in the last decade that greater interest has been shown in the area of female-perpetrated sexual abuse of children. This is due to the dramatic increase of research into all types of sexual offending and the decrease in the taboo surrounding victimisation. It is not disputed that most sexual offenders are male but this does not mean that abuse perpetrated by females should be ignored. However, there is considerable disagreement as to the prevalence of female-perpetrated sexual abuse, the typology of women who abuse and the circumstances under which the abuse occurs. The purpose of this paper is to review the small body of literature dealing with this area and to identify the limitations of this literature and its subsequent implications with particular reference to assessment issues.

Levy Hadas, TCD.

Analysis of Preselection data of Candidates to Msc Counselling correlated with Post selection performance.

The relationship between the preselection data and ratings of students of Masters degree in counselling psychology and their postselection performance was examined. The students (N=81) have either completed their training or were in the process of training to obtain their M.Sc. in Counselling Psychology either in Trinity College, Dublin or University City, London. Preselection variables were extracted from these students' C.V., application form, personal statements, reference letters, and any other written tasks. These variables were later correlated with the students' performance, indicated as strong (top third percentile) and weak (bottom third percentile including failed/unsuitable to complete the course) and a personality assessment tool containing twenty-two personal characteristics items. The hypothesis was that significant correlation would be found between preselection variables and postselection performance. Significant relationship was found between postselection performance and students' age, personal statement ratings (self-reflectiveness, self-awareness, animation,

disclosure, mention of family members, sense of humour, confidence), and overall file ratings (overall file impression, awareness/appropriateness/openness, balance, and professionalism/references).

Looney Karen and Kenny Maeve, St Vincents Hospital Fairview.

Initial Data re Implementation of an outcome measurement system in an audit psychotherapy service.

Mental health services are under increasing pressure to measure outcomes, for clinical and cost effectiveness. We report on initial data collected since the implementation of the CORE system of outcome measurements in a community mental health, adult psychotherapy service. Data relating to the profile of presenting clients and the experiences of both therapists and clients using CORE are presented. Issues regarding the use of CORE in this context and possible future direction are discussed.

Lumsden Laurie, Griffith University Brisbane.

The Evolution of Organisational Structure-survival of the fittest.

This research paper looks at the evolution of an organisation's structure at two points in time: at its formation and four years later. Organisational structure was mapped using relationship data collected from staff and analysed using the social network analysis software program UCINET. The framework of the Learning Organisation was used to operationalise the ideology underpinning the formation of the service and some hypothesis about collaborative involvement of the majority of staff in the organisational development process were developed. Developments four years later showed significant consolidation of specialisations for the majority of staff and the emergence of a small group of brokers across specialisations. Positive organisational developments had taken place but they were inconsistent with both the original ideology and the Learning Organisation framework.

Lumsden Laurie, TCD.

Screening and diagnosis of dyslexia in Irish Universities. Towards a uniform psychological practice.

As universities move towards targets of higher proportions of non-traditional students (mature age, economically disadvantaged, ethnic minorities, etc.), for several historical reasons the numbers of students entering university with

previously undiagnosed dyslexia will significantly increase. If programmes to increase access to third level education are to work, it is vital that students obtain learning support appropriate to their needs. Dyslexia need not be a barrier to third level education if it is detected. Administrative procedures can be put in place to enable compensation for the effect of the disability and the student can be provided with the means to take control of the development of personalised learning strategies.

Lyddy Fiona and O'Lionsigh Brion, NUI Maynooth.

The effect of language of instruction and response on reading processes in Irish and English.

In the current study, automaticity of reading processes in Irish and English was explored using the Stroop and Rapid Continuous Naming (RCN) tasks. Language of task instruction and language of response were also varied for Irish and English conditions for a group of competent Irish speakers. Fifty participants, selected on the basis of performance on a written Irish comprehension task, completed Stroop and RCN tasks. The Stroop tasks involved four sub-conditions (Irish-congruent, Irish-incongruent, English-congruent, English-incongruent), the RCN employed both a colour and digit naming task. Reaction times were recorded. The results showed an effect of language of response, but not of instruction, on performance. While English responses were faster overall, automatic reading in Irish was also evident.

Lyddy Fiona, O'Lionsigh Brion, Scanlon Paraic, NUI Maynooth and Cashman Sorcha University of Wales.

POSTER PRESENTATION.

Reading processes in Irish-English bilinguals.

As written languages, Irish and English are superficially similar, with many shared written words and segments, but the correspondences between orthography and phonology differ in the two languages, with potential for confusion in the developing reader. The current presentation provides an overview of some key issues for bilingual readers, focusing on the processes of automaticity and fluency of reading, lexical decision over the two languages, and the particular issue of recognition across mutation in the reading of Irish. Data from some preliminary studies of automaticity and lexical decision will also be presented.

Lyons Claire and O'Connor Fiona, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.

Is a Behaviour policy all you need?

This paper describes the Working Together Project's attempt to introduce a systemic approach to behaviour management in three primary schools in Limerick city. The project facilitates schools in the development of appropriate responses to children's behaviour and was developed in response to a need identified by teachers in designated disadvantaged primary schools. Data were gathered on the nature of and responses to behaviour using qualitative and quantitative methods. Policy and strategies were developed concurrently.

Our results indicate that having a behaviour policy is important in managing behaviour but it is not enough on its own. Teachers, children and parents need to develop their knowledge, skills and attitudes in relation to behaviour.

Furthermore, system change is required if children's needs are to be met.

Maguire Catherine and Matacz Rochelle, SHB.

Providing intervention for infants at risk as part of developing an Infant Mental Health Service.

Infant Mental Health is a developing area within psychology in Ireland and can be defined as a field 'dedicated to understanding and treating children 0-3 years of age within the context of family, caregiving and community relationships' (World Association of Infant Mental Health, 2002). To date limited attention has been given to formalising a screening, assessment and intervention protocol. The aim of this pilot study is to promote positive mental health in infancy by implementing a standardized assessment and intervention protocol. Six families with infants exhibiting symptoms of a mental health disorder will participate in this pilot. This study will highlight the necessity of intervention with the zero to three population and its importance in preventing and reducing mental health problems in childhood and adulthood.

Marsden Paul et al., DIT Aungier St.

Just reading Tea leaves?. In defence of the Rorschach.

The Rorschach has developed, since its inception in 1921, into one of the most popular, albeit controversial, methods for assessing adult personality. This paper traces early developments of the Rorschach and outlines contemporary research and applications using

Exner's (1974) Comprehensive System. Its current standing and use among the international professional community is reviewed and the benefits for including the Rorschach as part of a more complete assessment process are discussed. The paper concludes with a debate on how the Rorschach can once again become widely used among Irish psychologists through training and the establishment of a special interest group.

Matacz Rochelle and Maguire Catherine, SHB.

Using a consultation model as part of developing an Infant Mental Health Service.

There is a need to improve communication between professionals providing specialised services for children under three. This study investigates the implementation of a consultation service with public health nurses and physiotherapists working within a community setting in North Cork. The goals of this initiative are to increase the use of infant mental health best practice and improve communication between primary health care workers and infant mental health providers. Evaluation will comprise of two distinct processes including self within context of one's current work environment and a periodical assessment of the relevance of the consultation group to its members. This study will provide the platform for establishing a formalised consultation model that will enable primary health care professionals and infant mental health clinicians to effectively communicate with one another.

McCarthy Suzanne and Tierney Aileen, NTDI.

A Collaborative Model of service delivery for people with specific learning difficulties.

This paper will discuss a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach to service delivery for young people and adults with specific learning difficulties. Influenced by research findings and a gap in service provision, the BUA service has been set up to provide screening, assessment, training and support to young people and adults with specific learning difficulties. The paper will consider the etiology of specific learning difficulties and current practices with particular reference to service provision and best practice models in the delivery of services. The paper will also discuss the BUA Centre's innovative approach with the Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown and the Discovery Centre, Wales in the areas of screening, assessment and training, and in developing best practice teaching methods.

McCarthy Eunice, UCD.

A Systems perspective of Human side of safe working.

This paper will focus primarily on the human side of safe working. Taking a systems perspective the paper will focus on safe working and personality factors; role demands; supportive work context and organisational commitment. In addition, the relationship between Organisational Culture/Climate and Safety Culture/Climate will be examined drawing on recent research.

McCorry Noleen and Hepper Peter, Queens University Belfast.

Is human fetal habituation performance an indicator of cognitive development?.

Habituation (response decrement to repeated stimulation) is considered to be the simplest form of learning and is thought to reflect CNS functioning. It has now been demonstrated that the human fetus is capable of habituation. However, the influence of advancing gestational age (and therefore advancing cognitive development) on fetal habituation performance is still controversial. The present study examines the habituation performance of a fetal sample at two points in the third trimester. Results indicated both age and sex influences on fetal habituation performance. Fetal habituation performance does therefore appear to reflect advancing cognitive development in the prenatal period, with a greater proportion of older fetuses habituating (and within fewer trials), and females (thought to mature at a faster rate) displaying significantly faster decrement than males.

McDonnell Alan, TCD.

Evaluation of a pilot programme of Post-graduate training in Counselling supervision.

This thesis endeavours to assess a one-year postgraduate programme in counselling supervision. The Psychology department of Trinity College Dublin runs the programme, and it is the first time they have done so. Also it is the inaugural university based training programme in counselling supervision in the Republic of Ireland. The intention of the thesis is to ascertain whether the aims of the course as set out in their information guide were achieved. Exploration of the experience of the participants who partook in this course is the means by which the intention of this study was investigated. Several factors including the course aims were studied, namely reasons for embarking on the

course, expectations of the course, concerns and responsibilities both personal and those perceived as being course responsibilities. The study has a pre-post design, with interviews of the participants taking place at the start of the course and again at its completion. The study has a mixture of qualitative and quantitative data, that was obtained by the use of Grounded theory and the use of questionnaires that gathered empirical data. Nine people signed up for this course and of that nine, six agreed to be participants of this study. Results of the study indicate that the participants of this study endorsed the aims of the course emphatically. Based on subjective feedback, it seems as though the experience of the participants in relation criteria for embarking on the course were positively correlated. Strengths, limitations and implications for counselling psychology as well as future were also explored.

McElveaney Rosaleen and Hogan Diane, TCD.

Disclosures of child sexual abuse: A Literature Review.

The sexually abused child is required to make a clear and credible disclosure of the abuse experience to help stop the abuse; to address the psychological impact; to decrease the likelihood of long term difficulties and to prevent the abuse of other children. This paper will review both the clinical and academic literature pertaining to the issue of disclosures both by children and by adults. Evidence is presented for the significant delays in disclosure and the difficulties reported. Conceptual models that contribute to our understanding of these difficulties will be reviewed. A critique of the extant literature will be offered, in particular, highlighting the predominance of quantitative descriptive studies, the lack of empirical evidence for the models available and the lack of reference to developmental psychology.

McEvoy John, Dundalk Institute of Technology.

Families perceptions of grieving and concept of death in individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Family members are an important source of support following bereavement. Thirty-eight relatives described their perceptions of the grieving process, concept of death and reactions to bereavement for their intellectually disabled family member. Many reported post bereavement reactions typical of the general population. Although the majority perceived their relative as not understanding the concept of

death they were supportive of death education, did not view lack of knowledge as a barrier to grieving and were optimistic about supporting their relative following bereavement.

Respondents with behaviourally challenging relatives were less agreeable to death education and less optimistic about their ability to support. It is suggested that education for family members on death and bereavement is necessary and worthwhile.

McGann Kara et al., UCD.

Women in Management- A success model.

This study adopted a systems framework to explore a success model of Women in Management. It examined the barriers or challenges to success for a sample of European women managers in a Multi-National Information Technology Organisation (N=35). Adopting both qualitative and quantitative research methods, this study developed attitudinal measures of women in management. The findings suggest that success factors for this sample were primarily internal e.g. personal energy, adaptability. Top barriers identified were mainly organisational, attitudinal and contextual in nature. These findings will be discussed within the framework of diversity and work life balance initiatives.

McGowan Marie and Nieuwstraten Inge, SEHB.

Experiences of a recent diagnosis of multiple sclerosis: A grounded theory study.

This grounded theory study examines how individuals experience a diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis (MS), a disease of the central nervous system which occurs most commonly in early adulthood. The design, which used independent participants, is of an exploratory nature. Semi-structured taped interviews were conducted with two males and four females that had been diagnosed with MS in the past three years. Two over-arching themes 'Diagnosis' and 'Living with MS' emerged from the analysis. All categories were grounded in the narratives of the participants and discussed in detail in relation to relevant literature. The findings of this study has implications for healthcare professionals and suggest that a more holistic way of working with people with MS would be to consider physical and psychological symptoms in an integrated system.

McGuckin Conor, DBS and Lewis Christopher A, UU.

It's a character building? Health and Well Being of pupils involved in Bully/Victim problems.

From the largest research study to date into the nature, prevalence, and correlates of bully/victim problems among pupils within the Northern Ireland school system (N > 7,000), the current paper presents data regarding the physical and psychological well-being of pupils involved in such problems as either bullies, victims, bully/victims, or bystanders. On indices of physical and psychosomatic health, happiness, self-esteem, depression, and psychological well-being, it was found that all actor groups directly involved in bully/victim problems recorded significantly impaired levels of physical and psychological well-being than those pupils not directly involved. Inter-group differences on these indices of physical and psychosomatic health are presented and discussed. Recommendations are also made in light of these data in relation to prevention and intervention program design and delivery.

McGuire Brian and Hogan M, NUI Galway.

POSTER PRESENTATION.

Confirmatory factor analysis of the Pain Patient Profile questionnaire.

McGrann Alison, TCD.

Public Attitudes towards Users of White Mobility Canes versus Guide Dogs.

The director of Insight Counselling centre noticed the re-emerging issue of perceived negative attitudes by members of the public towards mobility aid users, by clients attending the service. Stigmatisation becomes an issue when visual impairment is made apparent, often at the time the person becomes reliant upon a mobility aid (Vance, 2001). A major concern is the potential risk to physical and psychological well being for people deciding not to use a mobility aid. Using a 2x2 mixed factor design the general public and persons with a visual impairment were assessed for attitudes and perceived attitudes respectively towards (a) white cane users and (b) guide dog users, as measured by the Attitudes Toward White Cane and Guide Dog Users Questionnaire, a researcher-designed instrument. Statistical analyses revealed no differences between and within participant groups. A positive correlation between familiarity with users of mobility aids and positive attitude was found. It is anticipated that findings will inform the area of counselling

and visual impairment. Implications and possible future studies are explored.

McIlroy David et al., Liverpool John Moores University.

Correlates of Subjective well being: Applications to Obesity Menopause and Middle Ageing in Women.

Subjective Well Being (SWB) has been associated with positive outcomes in health and ageing. In the present study personality correlates of SWB were applied to three groups of women in relation to obesity (N = 105), middle ageing (N = 105) and menopause (N = 106). A range of measures, previously associated with SWB, was used: Self-esteem, Dispositional Optimism, Self-efficacy, Extraversion and Neuroticism. These were deemed important because they represent the traits that might be useful in adjustment and adaptation through life's traumas and transitions. Results showed that one underlying dimension emerged from a factor analysis and each measure elicited consistent individual differences across the groups. Findings are discussed with reference to the need for a trait approach to complement demographic information.

McLeavey Breda and McAuliffe Carmel, SHB.

Intervention for deliberate Self-Harm and Presentation of an Innovative Treatment Approach.

Studies of individuals who engage in deliberate self-harm (DSH) consistently highlight the existence of interpersonal conflict together with compromised problem-solving repertoires. Repetition of DSH accounts for approximately one-fifth of hospital presentations with DSH in Ireland annually, and is the principal outcome measure for evaluating the effectiveness of treatments for DSH. This presentation will critically review the main studies of psychosocial interventions in the treatment of DSH, and describe an innovative treatment approach using problem-solving skills training, currently being investigated in a randomised controlled trial involving two health boards. As this major study in the treatment of suicidal behaviour nears completion, insights will be shared into fulfilling criteria for such a randomised controlled trial, now necessary for excellence in psychological research into intervention approaches.

McNally Deirdre and Simms Christopher, PSS Co Dub VEC.

The effects of facilitative groupwork on self control and classroom behaviour.

This presentation reports on the effects of a group-work intervention with a group of first-year students located in a school in a disadvantaged area of County Dublin. All of the participants were assessed as having Special Educational Needs and were enrolled on the Junior Certificate Schools programme. The aim of the intervention was to increase self-control and reduce disruptive classroom behaviour. A facilitative approach to group-work was used, which was modelled on a number of programs, including Aggression Replacement Training and Circle Time. Implications of using a facilitative approach and the need to train respondents to fill out questionnaire are discussed.

McNamara Niamh and Kirakowski Jurek, UCC.
Developing Psychometric questionnaires for use in Industry.

This paper details the development of a psychometric tool to evaluate user satisfaction with consumer products with embedded technology. The development of the Consumer Products Questionnaire (CPQ) highlights the influence of client requirements on development of psychometric instruments for use in industry. While the development of the CPQ is guided by theory and empirical research, the advice of domain experts allows for the tailoring of the questionnaire to suit particular evaluation scenarios. This implies that in the case of usability questionnaires, while the psychologist who constructs the instrument possesses expert knowledge on the construct being measured, he or she must also consider the requirements of the client, to not only create a valid and reliable instrument, but one that is ultimately useful to practitioners.

McNulty Muireann et al., Cluain Mhuire.
Evaluation of a Cognitive Behavioural Therapy group for Clients with two or more episodes of Psychosis.

The aim of the study was to evaluate an 8-session CBT group for service users who had had two or more episodes of psychosis. Developed after consultation with some service users, it was piloted in November 2003 over five one-and-a-half-hour sessions. Initial feedback from those who attended was encouraging. They recommended that the number of sessions be increased. The current study was designed to identify if service users who attended the expanded 8-session CBT group showed

improvements on self-report psychosocial measures. Service user feedback on the group was sought to guide development of future groups.

Moore Corry Mary, UCC.

A cluster analytical approach to the classification of offenders.

The present study investigates whether distinct categories exist among criminal offenders. From the analysis of the MMPI clinical scales collected in a Special Hospital, K-means cluster analysis delineated four types of offenders in male and female populations. The relationship of the MMPI scales to the resulting clusters and the criterion validity of the relationship of DSM-III personality disorders to the resulting clusters substantiated cluster membership with empirical evidence. The four clusters were classified as Primary Psychopathic, Secondary Psychopathic, Co-morbid and Mental illness types. The male and female offenders were similar in classification expect that the Secondary Psychopaths could be considered more of a Borderline Personality grouping and that it had been difficult to identify the Primary Psychopaths and Secondary Psychopaths across the female offenders.

Moore Lucy and King Jane, Cluain Mhuire.

Evaluation of a Cognitive Behavioural Therapy group for Depressed Adults.

Our community mental health service offers CBT in a group format to service users with depression. In-service evaluation suggests that our group format is helpful to service users. The current study aims to formally evaluate the comparative effectiveness of eight-session and twelve session CBT groups for depressed adults.

Mullaney Lisa and Walsh Jane C, NUI Galway.
Psychological factors influencing infant breast feeding in first time mothers: An application of modified version of the Theory of Planned Behaviour.

The present study aimed to examine the psychosocial predictors of breast-feeding intention and behaviour within an Irish sample of first-time mothers, by using a modification of the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB: Ajzen, 1991). Data was collected from 91 first-time mothers in their third trimester of pregnancy on the first week of antenatal classes (Time 1), the final week of class (Time 2) and three weeks post-partum (Time 3). At time

three, only 49% reported that they were exclusively breast-feeding. Results suggest that women who planned their pregnancy, intended to breast-feed and experienced feelings of anticipated regret were more likely to be exclusively breast-feeding at three weeks post partum. The findings support the application of social cognition model variables to breast-feeding research.

Murphy Carol et al., NUI Maynooth.

Establishing novel requests: Teaching generalised language abilities to Children diagnosed with Autism.

Experiment 1 commenced with training mind functions for two stimuli. The stimuli were then incorporated into two related conditional discriminations. Subsequently, tests were conducted to probe for a derived transfer of mind functions. In Experiment 2, two stimuli that were used to reinforce the mind responses during the initial training were also incorporated into two conditional discriminations. Tests were then conducted to determine if the participants would demonstrate derived manding for the derived reinforcers. Experiment 3 replicated procedures in Experiments 1 and 2 with level of verbal instruction provided to participants was reduced to a minimal level to determine if this would affect the derived transfer of functions.

Nixon Elizabeth et al., TCD.

What young people say about living in One-parent families?.

It is widely acknowledged that the family, situated within Bronfenbrenner's microsystem, represents a highly influential context for development. Recently, the family has undergone a structural transformation and single parent and stepparent families are a common part of our social landscape. The *lived experiences* of children in different family types have been relatively neglected within the literature. In this paper, findings are presented from a qualitative study of 42 Irish children's and adolescents' views and feelings about growing up in a one-parent family. Their narratives revealed a broadly positive construction of living in a one-parent family. Their concepts of family focused on the quality of family relationships rather than formal structures and their evaluation of the one-parent family structure was largely dependent on the presence of similar family types among their peers.

Nixon Elizabeth and Suzanne Guerin, Child & Adolescent SIG.

POSTER PRESENTATION.

Brining together researchers and practitioners working with Children and Young people.

The Special Interest Group in Child and Adolescent Psychology aims to bring together researchers and practitioners working with children and young people. This poster outlines some of the activities that have been organised by the group since the PSI Conference 2003. These events have included series of lectures on a range of topics, including the relevance of developmental theory to policy and practice, and more recently a lecture on a programme for children dealing with parental mental illness. Also as part of this years A.G.M the group organised a half-day conference entitled "Understanding Irish Adolescents: Typical and Atypical Development". Details of upcoming lectures and information for those interested in joining the group will be provided.

Nolan Maeve and O'Connell Ann, National Rehabilitation Hospital.

A pain management programme for Spinal Cord injury.

Pain is a substantial problem for patients with spinal cord injury (SCI) and has been called the 'insult added to injury'. 65% of patients at the National Rehabilitation Hospital reported significant pain in a recent survey. Pain following SCI severely compromises quality of life in almost 70% of SCI patients and is the most frequently reported reason for decreased QOL. Pain is also associated with reduction in self-rated health, and higher levels of psychological distress in SCI patients. This paper reports on a three-week residential, group-based, pain management programme at NRH. Taking the biopsychosocial model of pain the programme was multidisciplinary and based on cognitive behavioural principles.

The aim of the programme was to facilitate patients in re-conceptualising their pain and their own ability to control pain. Patients were selected for the programme using a variety of standard pain scales and assessment measures. The current paper outlines the selection procedure, structure, content, outcome and follow-up of the programme.

Nunkeosing Karl, University of Portsmouth and McGarrigle John, NTDL.

Narratives of identity and masculinity of some Irish men with a learning difficulty.

This study explores the social construction of identity and masculinity by 9 Irish men with learning difficulties who are also users of specialised services. By positioning itself within the emancipatory discourse of disability research an attempt is made to make audible the cultural and personal voices of these men above the dominant cultural narrative. Open-ended interviews were conducted in a supportive style to enable the articulation of the voices of these men and transcribed verbatim. Preliminary analysis have identified the following themes at this stage: emotional detachment and resignation; internalised oppression, education, future hopes, limited ambitions, alcohol use and social isolation. The discussion focuses on the implication of these narratives for advocacy in terms of supporting the development of shared preferred narratives.

O'Connor Jennifer et al., NUI Maynooth.

Establishing generalized goes with and does not go with responding in young typically-developing children and children with autism.

The aim of the study was to establish generalised contextually controlled symmetrical and asymmetrical responding. Sixteen children aged 6-9 years were divided into two groups; those with autism; and typically developing children. Participants were first trained to respond in accordance with symmetry or asymmetry in the presence of two contextual cues: Blue/ B1-A1 and B2-A2; and Red/ B1-A2, B2-A1 and these performances were then tested. The generalisation of these performances was then examined using a matching-to-sample procedure. All eight normally-developing children showed generalisation performances immediately. The autistic children demonstrated significantly greater difficulty in both establishing and generalising contextually controlled symmetry and asymmetry. However, multiple exemplar training and/or the use of familiar stimuli were successfully employed to establish both target performances in the children with autism.

O'Halloran David.

A Rasch Approach to Sex Offender measurement (An alternative to Classic Theory Test).

The area of sex offender measurement is fraught with difficulty. Self-report measures such as the MMPI and the EPQ-R are very popular in

forensic psychology; however classical test theory does not adequately provide reliable measures. Thus item response theory and specifically the Rasch Model (1960) have been postulated to be a more appropriate method of test theory. The present study uses the Rasch model to design a number of measurement scales constructed from the MMPI item pool on data from a sample of mentally disordered offenders. The present study constructed 6 scales that measured sex offender traits. The Rasch model was found to fit all 6 scales, and thus the scales are presented as examples of fundamental measurement and quantitative measures. These scales are presented in relation to current findings and research on sex offenders. Future research such as scale validation with a current sex offender population, and practical implications such as new risk assessment techniques in secure settings are discussed.

O'Hare Liam, Queens University Belfast.

Investigating decision making in consultant rheumatologists prescribing: A cross border comparison.

There are different levels of clinical governance for consultant rheumatologists in the North and South of Ireland. Northern consultants have quite strict guidelines when prescribing expensive biologic drugs, whereas Southern consultants have no such criteria to follow. The aim of this study was to investigate whether working under these different conditions was reflecting in the decision making of the consultants. Quantitative (clinical judgement analysis) and qualitative (focus groups) techniques were used to investigate the consultant's decisions. The results of this investigation showed that the same clinical factors were being used to make judgements in both the North and South. However the guidelines were helping the Northern consultants to be consistent and the lack of guidelines was allowing Southern consultants to be flexible in their use of alternate biologic drugs.

O'Hara Denis et al., UU.

Responding in accordance with before and after relations and performance on the WAIS III.

Eighty undergraduate students were exposed to training for Before and After relational responding and then to the Wechsler Adult

Intelligence Scale – Third Edition. Significant correlations were observed between the percentage of correct responses in Before and After training and performance on a number of the WAIS-III subtests that contribute to the Verbal IQ score and Verbal Comprehension index. Further tests demonstrated that subjects that required fewer blocks to respond in accordance with Before and After relations scored significantly higher in verbal subtests. Both these measures also predicted performance on some subtests unrelated to the verbal scales. The implications of these results for Relational Frame Theory and for the behavioural understanding of the WAIS-III will be discussed.

O’Keffee Noelle and Nangle Niamh, Headway Ireland.

Profiles of Acquired Brain Injury Clients, presenting to a Community Head Injury Service.

One hundred individuals with Acquired Brain Injury attending the services of Headway Ireland – the Irish Association for Acquired Brain Injury were interviewed using the Head Injury Background Information Interview Schedule. A family member for each client was also interviewed using the schedule. Figures for the Irish population were collated. Figures combine CVA and Traumatic Acquired Brain Injuries. In this a combination of demographics for this client group were reviewed. Personal details, educational and vocational backgrounds, details of injury sustained, hospital attendance, therapy received and subsequent rehabilitation were obtained. Demographic characteristics in relation to Acquired Brain Injury were discussed. Findings from this study were discussed in relation to previous literature. Implications for service provision within an Irish rehabilitation context are discussed

O’Leary Eleanor and Staunton Ciara, UCC.

Quality of Life of Older Adults in Ireland: The contribution of voluntary organisations.

The paper evaluates the contribution of voluntary organisations in Ireland to the quality of life of older adults. Fourteen organisations will be reviewed with particular reference to their history, aims, development, current practice and service provision. Particular attention will be given to how these have related to the empowerment of the older adults for whom they were founded. Pathways to both this empowerment and the enhanced quality of life of older adults who avail of the services of these

organisations will be identified and future challenges discussed.

O’Leary Eleanor and Chen Chuanfent, UCC.

A cross cultural investigation of social support in adults over 60 in Ireland.

The study examines differences in the social support of adults over 60 in both Ireland and China. Community samples of 109 Irish and 140 Chinese people aged sixty years and over in Cork, Ireland and Ningbo, China were compared. Significant differences were found between Irish and Chinese people over 60 in tangible support, affectionate support, positive social interaction, financial assistance, cooking aid, assistance when going out and health status.

O’Leary Eleanor and Chen Chuanfent, UCC.

Measurement and Research on the Social Support of older adults.

Based on a review of previous literature on social support, this paper considers definitions and measurements relating to it. Particular consideration is given to the factors that influence its receipt such as demographic, family, computer mediated communication, social class, living arrangements, cognition and personality. The impact of social support on the health, cognitive level and quality of life of older adults is also examined. Emerging issues, which have received little attention in previous research, are identified.

O’Leary Nicky.

Developing the potential of the Twice Exceptional Child.

The purpose of this investigation is to identify the most effective way to support the development of a twice exceptional child. A stage model for a single case study analysis provides a framework for creating an in-depth psychological profile of a gifted learning disabled child. The analysis illustrates a model for understanding the complexity and benefits of accurately identifying the twice exceptional child and provides a unique approach to creating an individualized developmental plan that will cater for unique needs of the twice exceptional learner. The conclusion indicates the need for a therapeutic and individualized approach to assessment and the need for an individualized developmental plan based on maximizing the young child’s potential.

O’Neill Carmel.

The evolving role of the coach in Organisational change.

The purpose of this paper is to explore the implications for the executive and business coach within an emergent organisational change paradigm. The coach, as process consultant, helps the organisation develop skills of self-diagnosis and problem-solving.

The changing dynamics of an organisation requires diverse and highly adaptive skills among its members. It may be said that concepts of work, management and organisation have been redefined.

The challenge facing coaches in a changing workplace is to reflect these new realities and to be a non-directive resource for their practical application. The paper concludes with examples of the relationship between non-directive coaching practice and organisational change.

O'Reilly Ken and Gormley Michael.

The effects of empathic reflections on Physiological and Cognitive measures.

This study investigates the effect of empathic reflections on physiological arousal, belief in and memory for reflected statements. It also examines the relationship between participants' physiological arousal during the empathic reflections and their subsequent belief in and memory for those reflections. Participants were divided into empathic and neutral groups. While reading aloud mood-inducing statements participants in the empathic group were exposed to empathic reflections whereas participants in the neutral group were exposed to neutral reflections produced by the experimenter. Results indicated that participants exposed to empathic reflections generated higher levels of physiological arousal than participants exposed to neutral reflections. In addition, participants in the empathic group had a superior memory for reflected statements. Practical applications and future research are discussed.

O'Rourke Margaret, UCC.

Personality disorder: No longer a Diagnosis of Exclusion.

The treatment and management of people with personality disorder has been a dominant theme in forensic clinical psychology over the past decade. However there has been little consistent data on the efficacy of existing interventions. This paper reports on the development of a new programme named 'Lifematters' that grows out of the ongoing work of the RAMAS Foundation on risk management in the mental health area.

The programme is an easy to use, step by step, self-help cognitive behavioural lifeskills and personal support workbook. It is based upon a 4-systems model (O'Rourke 1995) which emphasizes the biopsychosocial and environmental aspects of health and wellbeing. Lifematters can be used both as a minimal intervention tool as well as with group and individual treatments. It has already been applied in a number of clinical and educational settings but its role in the management of personality disordered offenders is highlighted in this paper.

Parkinson Suzanne, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.

Repertory Grid: A useful research instrument for exploring behaviour.

Repertory grid technique was developed by George Kelly (1955) to support research within the framework of personal construct psychology. It is a useful tool which attempts to formalise the process of understanding how others view the world, what connections exist within other persons' frameworks and what is unique and personal about the structure and content of others' perspectives on the world.

This paper debates the relevance of repertory grid as a tool to explore perspectives on behaviour. It is argued that it is particularly useful in that it offers a formalised and structured means of eliciting the working worldviews of teachers and pupils in schools. It offers a thorough and defensible interpretation of the behaviour as these subjects see it, and is less susceptible to researcher bias or indeed to 'edubabble' – where subjects respond in a way they think the researcher wants to hear. Application of the technique is described in the exploration of resource teacher perspectives on pupils with behavioural difficulties. Findings are presented. It is concluded that repertory grid technique is a useful tool for exploring 'what teachers really think' about children with behavioural difficulties - with its view of the person as a whole and where understanding is constituted in the constructs with which the person makes meaning out of his or her experience.

Pender Niall and Goldenstein Laura, Beaumont Hospital.

Recognising and recalling previous events: Fractioning recognition memory in Huntingtons disease.

Huntington's disease (HD) is an inherited progressive neurodegenerative disease. It is associated with degenerative changes in motor functioning, emotional state and cognition due, primarily, to progressive basal ganglia damage. Patients present with significant memory impairments which have been ascribed to an underlying deficit in retrieval functions on the basis of their relatively intact recognition memory.

The current studies investigated the neuropsychology of HD in a series of experiments which examined recognition memory in these patients. Current models of recognition memory suggest that two independent processes (known as recollection and familiarity) exist to enable humans to recognise prior events. No previous studies have examined these processes in HD patients. The results confirmed that HD patients presented with impaired free recall relative to recognition memory. The current paradigm satisfactorily dissociated familiarity and recollection in both groups supporting recent theoretical and neuroanatomical models of the dual route recognition memory system. HD patients also presented with marked executive deficits which predicted performance on memory tasks. These data suggest that the cognitive deficits associated with HD are at least mediated by frontal-striatal executive dysfunction. These results are discussed in the context of current theoretical models.

Pender Niall, Beaumont Hospital.

The role of psychologists in the assessment and treatment of patients in Low Awareness States.

Low Awareness States include those conditions where, as a result of neurological damage, patients are thought to be in Vegetative or Minimally Conscious States. These conditions result in marked impairments of cognition and behavioural function and pose a significant challenge for health care providers and family members. The diagnosis of such conditions is complicated and prone to error. However, recent international guidelines highlight the role played by neuropsychologists in facilitating diagnosis. Such diagnoses carry important clinical and legal implications.

Psychologists are well placed to provide diagnostic assessments of cognition and behaviour in these patients. A rigorous yet flexible approach is required to obtain reliable and meaningful diagnostic information.

Furthermore, psychological treatments including cognitive and emotional approaches are important and useful for those patients emerging from the Vegetative State.

These issues are discussed in detail, with illustrative case examples, in relation to patients with these rare yet disabling presentations.

Quinn Bernadette and Lewis Christopher A, UU. Measurement of self-objectification among Northern Irish adolescents.

There is growing interest in examining the psychological correlates of self-objectification among adults. However, at present this research has not been extended to work among adolescents. The present study examined the suitability of two leading measures of self-objectification for use among adolescents. 392 Northern Irish 14-16 year-olds completed both the Self-Objectification Questionnaire and the Objectified Body Conscious Scale (Body Shame subscale) on two occasions. Results indicated that respondents found the instructions of the Self-Objectification Questionnaire too difficult, resulting in the vast majority of returns being incorrectly completed. In contrast, respondents were able to complete the Objectified Body Conscious Scale (Body Shame subscale), and support was found for the reliability and temporal stability of this instrument. Implications of the study are discussed.

Quinn Evelyn, Beaufield Centre.

Is Anybody listening?. Analytical modes of response.

In his recommendations on technique, Freud insisted that the analyst should be opaque to patients and function like a mirror, always avoiding the temptation to educate. He admitted that his recommendations were derived from his own mistakes: he had not listened carefully enough to his early clients and the undercurrents of their speech. This paper is based on the proposition that language reflects subjective meaning. It will focus on the notions of 'listening' and 'how to listen', with reference to Lacan's insistence that speech is central to psychoanalytic therapy, since it is replete with hidden personal meanings. The paper will draw briefly on some case histories from the literature and on vignette(s) from the presenter's clinical experience.

Quinn Joseph and Lewis Christopher A, UU.

What do Irish Adolescents fear? Qualitative and quantitative approaches.

Despite an extensive international literature examining common fears, no comparable work has been undertaken in Ireland. The present study examined the common fears of Irish school children using both qualitative and quantitative approaches. A sample of 1026 Irish 11-16 year-olds provided their five common fears and a list of those fears they thought their peers held using the free response method. In addition, they completed the Fear Survey Schedule for Children revised, the revised version of the Screen for Child Anxiety Related Emotional Disorders, and the Social Phobia and Anxiety Inventory for Children. Consistent with the international literature were the types of fears reported, the decrease in the prevalence and intensity of fears with greater age, and that females expressed more fears than males.

Raghallaigh Ni Muireann and Gilligan Robbie, TCD.

Negotiating Adolescents within 2 worlds: Separated young people seeking asylum in Ireland.

In the past decade asylum seeking children and young people have begun to arrive in Ireland unaccompanied by parents or guardians. This paper describes a study which explores separated young people's experiences of living in interaction with two "worlds" or ecological systems (Bronfenbrenner, 1979): the worlds associated with their countries of origin and the worlds associated with Ireland. The study is ethnographic in nature, involving participant observation and qualitative interviews with separated young people. Initial findings have indicated that these young people are faced with managing complex interactions and transitions between two worlds whilst simultaneously developing a sense of self. This takes place in a climate of distrust and in the absence of parental support.

Regan Donal et al., NUI Maynooth.

Analogical reasoning and Relating relations: Chronometric and Electrophysical measures.

Relational Frame Theory argues that analogical reasoning involves the relating of relational frames. Consider the following question based on the classic proportion scheme ($A : B :: C : ?$); "apple is to orange as dog is to; (i) sheep, or (ii) book?". If "apple" and "orange" participate in an equivalence frame in the context "fruit," and "dog" and "sheep" participate in an equivalence frame in the context "animals" then we would expect a person to pick "sheep" as the correct

answer. In effect, the response would be in accordance with the equivalence frame between two already established separate equivalence frames. The current paper presents some new evidence that has employed reaction time and event related potentials as measures of relating derived relations.

Reilly Thomas et al., NUI Maynooth.

Derived comparative relations and transitive inference. Reaction times and accuracy measures.

The current experiment investigated the effect of differential training histories on both the latency and accuracy of responses to derived relations among stimuli in a 7-term linear ranking string of arbitrary stimuli (described here with sequential, alphabetical characters), $A < B < C < D < E < F < G$. Subjects' responses to non-arbitrary stimulus relations of More-than and Less-than were first brought under contextual control. Subjects were then presented with six conditional discriminations, with the contextual cues as sample stimuli, and two nonsense words as comparison stimuli. There were four experimental conditions, each with different arrangements of conditional discriminations. Subsequently, subjects were tested on all 36 possible derived relations. Analysis of latencies and accurate responses were broadly in accordance with previous cognitive and behavioural literature.

Saigh Philip A, Colombia University.

PTSD in Children and Adolescents.

This presentation will review the history, epidemiology, and aetiology of PTSD in youth. Particular attention will be focused on risk factors that have been associated with the onset of the disorder. Clinical information involving the assessment and treatment of youth with PTSD will also be presented.

Schuler Pat.

Misdiagnosis of Gifted and Talented Children.

This session will examine issues related to misdiagnoses of gifted and talented children and adolescents. Medical and mental health professionals may mistake specific social and emotional characteristics of giftedness as signs of pathology which can result in a misdiagnosis. The session will focus on behaviour patterns that lead to misdiagnoses and the relationship between giftedness and clinical syndromes such

as Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and Asperger's Syndrome.

Seigne Elizabeth et al., ACD.

Personality factors of Bullies in the Workplace.

The present paper examines the personality factors between bullies and non-bullies of workplace bullying, and also explores if bullies of school bullying continue to use bullying tactics as adults. Respondents completed a work-test personality inventory (I.C.E.S. Bartram, 2000), a clinical psychometric measurement (Interpersonal Behavioural Survey (IBS), Mauger, Adkinson, Zoss, Firestone and Hook, 1980) and a Behavioural Workplace Questionnaire (BWQ, Seigne, Randall and Coyne, 2001). Results support previous research such as Randall and Parker, (2001), which suggests that a previous history of aggressive behaviour can develop into adulthood, and supports the notion of a bully profile of being highly aggressive, hostile, independent and extraverted. These results are considered in terms of a personality interpretation of bullying behaviour. Further, some of the issues of responsibility which arise as a result of the identification of the sources of bullying behaviour in organisations are discussed.

Shaw David and Leslie Julian, UU.

Role of Glutamate and Gaba in operant extinction.

Much progress has recently been made in identifying the neural basis of learning. However, less is known about the opposing behavioural process of extinction. It has been suggested that extinction following classical conditioning may have two stages, the first involving glutamatergic receptors, and the second involving the inhibitory transmitter, γ -aminobutyric acid (GABA). Previously, we have examined the effect of chlordiazepoxide (CDP), a benzodiazepine, and other GABAergic drugs when administered to male C57Bl/6 mice during operant extinction following training on a discrete-trial fixed-ratio 5 (FR5) food reinforced lever-press procedure. These drugs have all been found to facilitate extinction, but at a later or second stage. The present experiment examined the effects of the glutamatergic drug, D-cycloserine, alone and in combination with CDP. Implications for the interaction of GABAergic and glutamatergic processes in extinction are discussed.

Shaw Suzanne, Cluain Mhuire.

Evaluation of a Cognitive Behavioural anxiety management group for service users attending a liaison psychiatric service.

The objective of this pilot study is to investigate the effectiveness of a CBT Anxiety Management Group, which was run in a newly established Liaison Psychiatric Service. The study also examines feedback from service users about the running of the group. The group was run over eight weekly one-and-a-half-hour sessions. In addition, a follow-up group was held one month later. All service users were outpatients of a general hospital and had been referred by their treating medical teams.

Sheehey Noel, Queens University Belfast.

Digital Voting Technology: Its application in Clinical judgement analysis.

Digital voting technology (Digivote) affords opportunities to examine the relationship between socially distributed decision processes, such as group based clinical judgement analysis (the application of judgement analysis to medical decisions), and decision outcomes such as decision to adjust a treatment regime for a particular patient. This paper presents a conceptual and an empirical evaluation of Digivote in the context of a recently completed clinical judgment analysis (CJA) on consultant rheumatologists. In an approach reminiscent of behaviourism most methodological techniques used in CJA collect data on judgement as an outcome, rather than as a process. Digivote has the potential to offer a structured mapping of decision processes on to outcomes. The potential advantages of the technology need to be considered against its potential to alter decision making processes in ways that are not yet understood.

Shields Chris et al., UU.

Precision Teaching in Sport.

In an attempt to aid athletes in fulfilling their potential in their given sport, sport psychologists have focused on various different factors. Such factors have included research into the areas of personality, attributional theory, social facilitation, and arousal. An alternative approach, which focuses on directly observable behaviours, is that of precision teaching, an offshoot of radical behaviourism. Precision teaching has been used mainly in the academic setting. However, its focus on fluency in terms of accuracy plus speed makes it a technique that may be equally practical within the field of sport.

To date very little research has examined the applicability of precision teaching to sport. This paper attempts to outline some of the possible benefits and applications of precision teaching to sport.

Shields Chris et al., UU.

The Application of Precision Teaching to a component skill in soccer: the five yard pass.

Precision teaching is a measurably effective instructional tool, which has been utilised mainly within the academic setting. With its emphasis on fluent behaviour, precision teaching may also be of value within the field of sport. The current paper reports two experiments in which precision teaching was applied to the five-yard pass in soccer. Participants consisted of 14 children between the ages of 8 and 12 who attended soccer training at a local leisure centre. Participants practiced passing daily and recorded the number of accurate and inaccurate passes made within one minute. The majority of participants showed some level of improvement of the selected skill and several children showed improvement of over 100%. Further applications within soccer as well as other sports are discussed.

Sieber Christina and de Roiste Aine, Cork Institute of Technology.

An examination of Children in Residential Care.

In Ireland the Health Boards and the Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA) have a statutory responsibility to promote the welfare and protection of children in their area. To achieve this, they provide substitute care for those children who are not receiving adequate care and protection at home.

This paper presents secondary, quantitative research, which examined the placements in care, children had, prior to living in Residential Care in the East Coast Area Health Board. The purpose of the research was to examine the number, type and duration of each placement. The findings showed that all children had multiple and varying types of placements and will be discussed in the context of attachment theory and social policy.

Sinnamon Sarah and Moran Aidan, UCD.

In the mood: exploring flow states in musicians.

“Flow” is a highly coveted yet elusive states of mind in which the person in question (e.g., an athlete) appears totally focused on the task at hand while producing optimal performance of a

given skill. Not surprisingly, given their practical and theoretical importance, such experiences have attracted considerable research attention from psychologists (e.g., see Kimiecik & Jackson, 2002) since the pioneering work of Csikszentmihalyi (1975). A significant limitation of this research, however, is that it has been restricted almost exclusively to athletes rather than applied to people engaged in other domains of performance. In order to overcome these limitations, the present study reports a work in progress which is devoted to the study of flow experiences in musicians – in this case, expert and student performers of different ages and from the Classical, jazz and traditional musical genres. Using a combination of interviews and survey research, preliminary results of this study indicate that despite some parallels, there are certain important differences between the flow state experiences of musicians and those of athletes. For example, whereas musicians seek to convey certain emotions in their performance, athletes do not. Similarly, whereas musicians try to establish a rapport with their audience, most athletes do not. Also, whereas musicians may experience flow states during practice, athletes do not tend to do so. These and other findings (e.g., the fact that even young children may experience flow states in music) are discussed in relation to current theories and research in this field.

Smith Elaine et al., TCD.

Identification and Treatment of Dyslexia in Pre and Early School Children: A longitudinal efficacy study.

Smyth Caroline and Hogan Mark, RehabCare.
A Alternative approach to Mental Health Service Provision.

International research & best practice indicates that community-based mental health outreach is a more effective and inclusive framework than a traditional, biomedically-oriented model. Central, is the belief that emotional health & wellbeing can no longer be relegated to the domain of the “expert”- that the meaningful inclusion of service-users, both in the development and implementation of mental health services is essential. In recognition of this, models of service provision, professional development & skills-based training have to be revised & updated. This is especially true in Ireland where a biomedical model predominates. Through the development of emotional health

promotion programmes, such as that of the Samaritans & the proposed Active Outreach Prevention Plan of RehabCare an alternative approach to the issue of mental health is developing.

Smyth Sinead and Barnes Holmes Dermot, NUI Maynooth.

Developing a relational frame model of “expectancy” functions and their role in irrational fears.

Numerous studies have reported the transformation of functions in accordance with derived stimulus relations. Some of these studies have attempted to develop models of human psychopathology by investigating the derived transfer of elicited fear responses. One interpretation of the results of such studies is that equivalence class members come to control a derived “expectancy” response. Although this expectancy-based interpretation of the derived transfer of elicited fear functions seems reasonable, it has not been systematically tested under laboratory conditions. The current paper presents a series of experiments that set out to develop experimental procedures for the investigation of the derived transfer of expectancy functions. The research highlights the need for caution in constructing simplistic Pavlovian and/or derived relations models of phobic and other anxiety-based responses.

Spelman Margaret, Tallaght Hospital.

The Analytical Couple.

Despite the fact that Freud gave the primacy of importance in the human psyche to the three-person psychology of the oedipal situation, many of today’s psychoanalytic thinkers and writers concentrate on the two-person psychology of the ‘nursing couple’. This paper looks at the ‘Analytic Couple’ and at how the space between the therapist and client comes to reflect the nature of the limits, difficulties and suffering experienced in the first space between the baby and his mother. With the aid of clinical vignettes it looks at how the clients’ pain is formulated and then worked through.

Staunton Ciara et al., UCC.

Quality of Life of Older Adults mobility conditions.

Focus groups with 31 older adults were conducted with respect to quality of life and mobility conditions. Twenty-seven females and four males participated. Five questions were

asked relating to educational level, living conditions, transport, employment status and level of mobility. Results indicated that the majority of participants had attained second level education, lived in their own homes, were not in any form of employment and used the bus as their most frequent form of transport. Forty two per cent suffered from some form of mobility impairment. Qualitative data from the focus groups was analysed using a phenomenological thematic approach.

Stewart Ian et al., NUI Galway.

A transformation of functions via equivalence-equivalence relations: An Experimental Analysis.

Previous research has modelled analogy as responding in accordance with an equivalence relation between equivalence relations. The aim of this study was to extend this work by demonstrating a transfer of function in accordance with equivalence-equivalence. Adult subjects were first trained and tested for the formation of equivalence and equivalence-equivalence relations and were exposed to transformation of function training. In subsequent transformation of function tests, results indicated that successful transformation of function was made more likely given greater numbers of training exemplars.

Stewart Ian et al., NUI Galway.

Motivation and derived relational responding: An experimental analysis.

The aim of the current study was to examine the effect of motivation on stimulus equivalence formation. Subjects were divided into four groups. Group 1 was exposed to standard equivalence instructions. Group 2 was exposed to instructions informing them that the study was important and that their performance would be recorded and compared to that of others. Group 3 was exposed to motivational type instructions, but in such a way that they assumed the experimenter was also unaware of these instructions, while Group 4 received similar instructions while being made aware that the experimenter was also aware of these instructions. All groups were then exposed to equivalence training and testing. The data provide evidence for the effects of motivation on equivalence performance.

Stewart Ian et al., NUI Galway.

Competition between formal and symbolic relations. The effects of prior derived relations testing.

The provision of competing formal (colour) relational response options during equivalence testing has previously been shown to interfere with equivalence responding. The present study examined the extent to which prior testing for the emergence of symmetry and / or equivalence might mitigate this interference effect. Inferential statistics revealed significant differences in levels of equivalence responding during the final colour interference test based on (i) levels of prior derived relational testing and (ii) number of blocks of training / testing received.

Tierney Edel, Cope Foundation.

The responsible researcher.

This paper explores a number of related practical and ethical issues facing the researcher who wishes to adopt a participatory research paradigm with people with intellectual disabilities. For instance the issues around gaining of informed consent in a research context are outlined and the nature of participatory research within the field of intellectual disability outlined. The unique responsibilities associated with conducting research with intellectual disabled colleagues are highlighted. In addition the particular challenges which arise during the provision of feedback and the dissemination of research findings both to local and wider audiences are discussed.

Trew Karen, Queens University Belfast.

Food Choices and Healthy eating in Adolescents.

Research on factors associated with young people's food choices has been fuelled by concerns with both the growing problem of obesity in adolescence and the pervasive problems of eating disorders. This paper employs data from a survey of the eating behaviours and beliefs about food of over 3,000 13 and 15 year- old boys and girls from representative samples of schools in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to look at some personal factors associated with the choice of a healthy diet.

Tyndall Ian et al., ACD.

Effects of Emotionality and Functional Similarity of Stimuli on Equivalence Class Formation.

Previous research has found that participants who show phobic reactions to stimuli have difficulty partitioning classes of those stimuli into arbitrary equivalence relations. The current

study systematically investigated this effect. In a between-subjects design participants (N = 40) were exposed to a respondent conditioning procedure, associating pictures (UCS) selected from the International Affective Picture System (IAPS) catalogue and nonsense syllables (CS+'s), designed to establish four separate stimulus function classes: a) six similar arousing functions; b) six different neutral functions; c) six different arousing functions; d) six similar neutral functions. Participants were subsequently exposed to an equivalence training and testing procedure employing an array of the CS+'s as samples and comparisons. Results suggest the emergence of stimulus equivalence relations is constrained by the functional classes that stimuli participate in.

Van den Heuvel Anita et al., UCC.

Screening positive for Autistic Spectrum Disorders in the SHB region-a prevalence study.

This study is a first attempt to estimate the prevalence of ASDs for both a special needs and mainstream population in the Southern Health Board (SHB) region. Quantitative data was collected from two sample groups. Sample group I consisted of all the children who attended special needs schools in May, 2002 (n = 1,295). Sample group II consisted of half the infants eligible for an 18-month developmental check from 1st March 2003 through 31st August 2003 (n = 2,684). A 4,436/10,000 prevalence rate was found for sample group I. A 33/10,000 prevalence rate was found for sample group II. These prevalence rates are higher than reported in previous research. Future research using diagnostic criteria and an older mainstream population is needed.

Wale Simon et al., MWHB.

Patient Information systems: do they illuminate or mislead?

Walsh Jane C, NUI Galway.

Factors influencing the uptake of an invitation to attend a cervical smear test.

This study examined the factors that predict attendance for cervical screening, using the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB), anticipated regret, and also examined barriers to attendance in a sample of over 1,000 women aged between 25 and 60 years. The study also evaluated the effectiveness of an intervention that encouraged women to

form implementation intentions as a mechanism to increase uptake rates. The results showed that TPB variables and anticipated regret were significant predictors of intention to attend and several significant barriers to attendance were highlighted. The intervention was effective in increasing attendance rates ($p=0.02$). The findings may have implications for future cancer screening programmes.

Walsh Rosemary, St Vincents University Hospital.

A Clinical Psychology service for chronic pain sufferers: A psychological service audit and patient profile.

Over the past two decades, the evidence-base for psychological approaches to pain management for chronic pain sufferers has been well established. Behavioural and cognitive-behavioural therapy principles form the intervention framework of modern multidisciplinary pain services. The comprehensive pain service at St. Vincent's University Hospital has a dedicated pain team of which Clinical Psychology plays an integral role. Audit findings from over 300 Psychology Service attendees will be outlined. An assessment & intervention profile in relation to patient characteristics, pain history, biopsychosocial impact and psychological health will be described. Interesting findings from individual and group-based CBT pain management interventions and pre-surgical screening and counseling will be highlighted.

Walsh Rosemary and Nolan Maeve, St Vincents University Hospital.

Family issues in chronic pain: a neglected topic.

Family issues in chronic pain are a grossly neglected topic in healthcare and society. The recent 'Pain in Europe' study (EFIC, 2003) estimated that 27% of Europeans were inflicted with intractable chronic pain conditions and Irish figures estimate that 1 in 7 Irish households have a chronic pain sufferer. This worldwide health epidemic has crippling biopsychosocial effects such as unemployment, relationship breakdown, social role dysfunction, disability and severe persistent emotional disorders. Family influences on pain, spousal coping difficulties, and the impacts on children of parental pain are poorly addressed issues. The importance for community psychological health of families under stress and

children at risk is emphasized considering pain-related issues of maternal depression, extreme fear-avoidance, attachment difficulties, failure of the holding relationship, illness role modeling, vicarious/ secondary traumatization of children and adolescents, parental addiction, suicidality and substantial quality of life deficits. The experience of working with families on a multidisciplinary CBT chronic pain management programme at St. Vincent's University Hospital and family needs of spinal cord injury pain patients at the National Rehabilitation Hospital will be discussed. A lively discussion of issues raised will be warmly welcomed.

Ward Fiona and Aughey Tara, NEHB.

GP Views of Counselling Needs in the NEHB Region.

Rian Counselling Service for adults who have experienced childhood abuse surveyed GPs in the NEHB with the aim of identifying GP views on levels of need for counselling, current referral practice and opinions on models of service. A questionnaire was posted to 148 GPs.

Findings

Majority of patients referred to counselling are women

Main reasons for referral included: Depression; anxiety; loss/bereavement; addiction; childhood abuse

76% of GPs identified that they had patients who would benefit from Counselling but whom have not been referred.

Reasons cited related to: lack of service availability; waiting time; access.

80% of respondents agreed that if counselling was more widely available they would refer more patients.

54% favoured on site counselling provision

This study offers support for the need to further develop counselling services. These findings will be discussed in light of current Health Reforms and developments in Primary Care.

Whelan Clare, UCC.

Automated Assessment of Sexual Offenders.

It is evident that the psychometric assessment of sexual offenders is problematic due to the defensive nature of this client group. An over-reliance on self-report, despite widely acknowledged limitations of this methodology, appears to be due to the fact that alternatives are not widely available. In fact, alternatives do exist but they have not as yet been systematically researched in the context of sex offender assessment. This paper examines the application

and viability of a number of fully automated techniques, which are built around the general framework of response latency measurement. Data gleaned from a nationwide sample will be presented and a triangulation approach to sex offender risk assessment is proposed.

Woods Rosina, Arduna Counselling & Psychotherapy Centre.

A Question of Meaning.

This paper will explore the importance of creating meaning in our lives and what happens when meaning collapses. It will focus on the collapse in subjectivity of an elderly lady which is precipitated by the announcement of the engagement of her eldest son. However, what is apparent is that the catastrophic mental collapse begins prior to the engagement when stable meanings begin to shift and slide, due to factors extrinsic to the subject and also intrinsic in the form of a fundamental questioning of the purpose and meaning of her life as she now looks back on it and sees no future. What is particularly interesting to us as therapists is that this character, the elderly Mrs Moore and the ensuing events, taken from E.M. Forster's novel 'A Passage to India', presents as someone with high indicators of mental health.

The aim of this paper is to promote discussion on the shape, form and quality of meanings that are created. These take the form of metaphorical structures which allow us to make sense of the past in order to anticipate a future. Contemporary psychoanalysis is in general agreement that metaphorizing is important, but equally the quality of metaphor will influence the stability of the subject. As such, the paper will introduce notions such as Vision versus phantasy and creative as opposed to degraded metaphors with the aim, not of finding any solution, but to promote discussion, on our positions as therapists.

Yoder Ruth et al., St Columcilles Hospital.

Results of Psychometric testing of patients attending a weight service- 2 years on.

Following a previous paper describing the first sixty weight management patients, psychological characteristics of 177 obese patients were examined, covering the first thirty months of the service. Psychometric tests used were: NEO Personality Inventory-R, Eating Disorders Inventory, and Eating Inventory. Implications of test results for treatment planning are discussed, with particular emphasis on binge eating. The psychometric test results of the patients who lost

the most weight (top 10%) are compared with those of the patients who did not lose or gained more weight (bottom 10%). Within the cohort, a subgroup of ten patients who underwent bariatric surgery (stomach reduction with gastric bypass) are discussed with differences in psychometric test **results examined.**

Yore Ronan and Evans Jennifer, ACD.

Music Sight Reading ability as a Predictor of Musical and Near –Transfer skills.

As music production involves many different types of cognitive skills (which concurrently interact with complex motor movements) it has been argued that near-transfer effects occur, especially in the case of literacy-based music instruction. Sight-reading music scores is considered a fundamental skill in "classical" musical training. Experts in other forms of music do not take this view. Such training preferences may be justifiable or may be a product of traditional pedagogical beliefs. Of interest to general psychology is whether such near-transfer effects as increased spatial reasoning, achievement in mathematics and reading comprehension can be inferred as apparent side-effects of music performance tuition. Musicians who regularly engaged in music sight-reading were compared with musicians who did not sight-read in an attempt to extract a measure of this skill relative to other musical abilities and to other cognitive abilities. Results were analysed in terms of both near-transfer effects and in terms of pertinence to music education.