



Fifth European Congress of Psychology

July 6th – 11th 1997 Dublin, Ireland

ABSTRACTS

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extracts from parental diaries, in order to take account of any initiations made by the children on the subject of safety. Finally, the effectiveness of the computer programme will be demonstrated in conveying complex issues such as those involved in personal safety.

P

RECOVERY AND RELAPSE: THE WEST DUBLIN CHILD & FAMILY SERVICE OUTCOME STUDY

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In a comparative group outcome study of 47 multiproblem families which received treatment from a multidisciplinary child and family mental health services team and 47 waiting list controls, it was found that treated cases showed statistically significant improvement over the course of three months during which they attended the service.

Improvement occurred in children's behavioural adjustment and maternal psychological health. Waiting list controls did not improve significantly on either of these variables during the three month treatment period. However, mean scores of the treatment group at nine months follow-up on almost all variables did not differ significantly from their pretreatment scores, indicating that gains made during treatment were lost at follow-up. An analysis of the clinical significance of changes in children's and mothers' adjustment showed that while up to 40% of cases moved from the clinical to the normal range during the course of treatment, almost all had relapsed at six-month follow up. These results point to the importance of developing a chronic care rather than acute care approach to service provision for multiproblem families.

P

THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF ANTIEPILEPTIC DRUGS ON COGNITION?

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In epilepsy studies, cognitive changes have been attributed to seizures, to antiepileptic drugs (AEDs), or to an interaction of these two. We had occasion to study 50 epileptic

women (EXP), whose seizures were well controlled and who had been taking AEDs for more than a decade. We have detailed records on etiology, AED management, blood levels, and seizure occurrence. We compared the neuropsychological profiles of these individuals to a group of 50 normal control women (NC) matched for age, educational level, and socioeconomic background. We also tested 30 husbands in each group. The results indicated no differences on any cognitive test between the husbands; however, the epileptic women differed on many cognitive measures. Verbal memory, visuospatial memory, attention, perceptual organization, motor speed and coordination were significantly better in the NC group than in the epilepsy group. The Full-Scale IQ ratings were 95 (sd12) for the epileptic group, and 105 (sd13) for the NC group. Given that the epileptic subjects were well controlled (in terms of seizures) by the AEDs, one possible conclusion is that these drugs may have a negative effect, over time, on cognition. It is likely that frequent seizures (probably related to type) could result in even lower ability.

P

INDIVIDUAL STYLES OF BEHAVIOUR IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS

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Any kind of conflict situation obliges an individual to choose definite goals, actions and operations which relate strongly to their individual characteristics. These become the conditions that form the individual's style of behaviour in a conflict. Thus, every individual's style of behaviour is determined, on the one hand, by a specific syndrome of integral individual properties, and on the other hand, by sex-typical conflict-coping strategies. For the purpose of studying the styles adopted by people, the author employed a technique known as the "Observation of the Features of Behaviour Style in Conflict Situations" which provides a multilevel analysis of human behaviour. The results obtained make certain conclusions possible. (1) The individual's style of behaviour is a stable group of goals, actions, operations and reactions determined with multilevel properties of integral individuality. (2) The styles revealed also depend upon sex differences and the type of coping. (3) The constructive styles are determined with neurodynamic properties (inhibition in males and balance in females), so they are biologically determined. Destructive

styles are more correlated with personality characteristics. Thus individuality harmonisation is possible through the creation of individual styles of behaviour corresponding to individual properties.

P

PIAGET-VYGOTSKY AND THE PHILOSOPHY FOR CHILDREN PROGRAMME

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Of the several thinking programmes available in the United States, one thinking programme, Philosophy for Children (P4C), appeared to have spread to many countries of Europe, North and South America, Asia and Australia. The programme, developed by Matthew Lipman of Montclair State University, is promoted world wide by the International Council for Philosophical Inquiry with Children (ICPIC). Believing that students from grades K to 12 can reason and do philosophy, Lipman wrote novels for children, where he had the young characters discuss the concepts and ideas of the major philosophers. Thus the P4C programme introduced students to philosophical issues through the discussion of passages in these specially written novels. It used characters in these novels to model the discovery of both formal and informal rules of thought. The instructional approach utilised in the P4C programme is the community of inquiry. Dialogue plays a significant role in developing the community to foster critical thinking skills in the students. This paper focuses on the theoretical and empirical framework of the P4C programme: the role Piaget plays in the introduction of formal logical skills in the programme as well as Vygotsky's contribution towards the concept of the instructional approach.

P

A COMPARISON OF THE WORK PREFERENCES AND ATTITUDES OF PART-TIME AND FULL-TIME RETAIL SALES STAFF.

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In Victoria, Australia, recent legislation has resulted in an increase in retail trading hours, and stores have responded by increasing the number of part-time casual employees. The working conditions of these part-time employees are different to those of full-time employees in terms of job security, promotion, development and training opportunities,

remuneration and task assignments. It was hypothesized that if these work elements are important to employees, and are contrary to their work preferences, there is potential for negative work attitudes. Thus, the different working conditions of part-time workers may lead to lower job satisfaction. However, if part-time workers have different work preferences to full-time employees, then job satisfaction will not be affected. This study compares the work preferences and attitudes of 150 part-time retail employees to those of 150 full-time retail employees, and uses work preferences and demographic factors to predict satisfaction.

P

THE ASSESSMENT OF FUNCTIONING IN A RESIDENTIAL GROUP THERAPY PROGRAMME

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To investigate the functioning of participants in a residential group therapy programme in terms of their own perspectives and those of others, a computer-aided procedure, based on the theory of the discursive cycle, was developed. The discursive cycle is considered to consist of an interpersonal cognition, an affective appraisal, and a tendency towards action. In the method, the elicitation of focal events of importance to the group members constitutes the interpersonal cognition. In relation to each focal event of relevance to a participant, the names of group members associated with the focal event, and a set of two statements constituting the affective appraisal and the tendency towards action, are elicited with respect to each name, and rated. Subsequently, each discursive cycle is rated with respect to the extent to which it is experienced to enhance or not to enhance, the participant's self-esteem. The experienced self-esteem is graphically presented in terms of both an individual and a group perspective. A content analysis is performed of the action tendencies of each participant, while correlations of the rating of the affective appraisal with various other measures are calculated. Results can be discussed individually and in the group context.

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AN EVALUATION OF A DYNAMICAL MODEL FOR THE GROWTH OF TWO LINGUISTIC COMMUNITIES IN