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CONTENTS

HOW CHILDREN SEE THEIR PARENTS – A SHORT INTERGENERATION COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS ...................................................................................................................... 19

IOANA LEPADATU

THE ALTRUISTIC BEHAVIOR: CHARACTERISTIC OF FUTURE TEACHERS OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN RUSSIA................................................................. 20

MARIIA RUBTCOVA, OLEG PAVENKOV, VLADIMIR PAVENKOV

PSYCHOSOCIAL FACTORS IN ACQUIRING SANOGENOUS BEHAVIORS IN PRESCHOOLERS..... 21

GEORGETA ZEGAN, CRISTINA GENA DASCALU, ANGELA MARIANA ENACHE, RADU BOGDAN MAVRU

COMPUTER-BASED MCQ ASSESSMENT FOR STUDENTS IN DENTAL MEDICINE – ADVANTAGES AND DRAWBACKS ................................................................. 22

CRISTINA GENA DASCALU, ANGELA MARIANA ENACHE, RADU BOGDAN MAVRU, GEORGETA ZEGAN

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SEMANTIC DIFFERENTIAL SCALE FOR ASSESSING THE PERCEIVED IMAGE OF CITIZEN ABOUT ROMANIAN POLICE OFFICERS...................... 23

ALINA CIABUCA

THE TEACHER AND THE QUESTIONS OF STUDENTS. CASE STUDY ......................... 24

GABRIEL ALBU

PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND THEIR VALUES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE XXI CENTURY ........................................................................................................... 25

GABRIEL ALBU

ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE, ACADEMIC ATTITUDES, AND PROCRASTINATION IN A SAMPLE OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ATTENDING DIFFERENT FORMS OF EDUCATION ................................................................. 26

DEMETER KARMEN, SZABO KINGA, MAIOR EDIT, SUSANA FARCAS, KALCZA JANOSI KINGA, JANOS REKA

IMPLICATIONS OF MOTIVATIONAL FACTORS REGARDING THE ACADEMIC SUCCESS OF FULL-TIME AND DISTANCE LEARNING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS: A SELF-DETERMINATION THEORY PERSPECTIVE ...................................................... 27

JANOS REKA, DEMETER KARMEN, FARCAS SUSANA, KALCZA JANOSI KINGA, MAIOR EDIT, SZABO KINGA

PSYCHOLOGICAL DIRECTIONS IN UNDERSTANDING AND PROVIDING THERAPEUTIC SUPPORT IN CHILD OBESITY................................................................. 28

RUXANDRA RASCANU, OANA MARIA UDREA
PARTICULARITIES OF PARENTAL COMPETENCE OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH HIGHER EDUCATION .................................................................................................................. 29

SIMONA MARIA GLĂVEANU, RUXANDRA GHERGHINESCU

THE EDUCATIONAL LEVEL AND THE STYLE OF IN-COUPLE COMMUNICATION ............ 30

RUXANDRA GHERGHINESCU, SIMONA MARIA GLĂVEANU

THE EFFECT OF HAND-WRITTEN LETTER TYPE ON VISUAL PERCEPTION ................. 31

REKA ORBAN

THE EFFECT OF EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE ON BURNOUT IN HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS.................................................................................................................. 32

LAURA-ELENA NĂSTASĂ, ANCA-DANIELA FARCAS

FAVORITE MUSICAL STYLES, EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND ADOLESCENTS’ PERSONALITY.................................................................................................................. 33

LAURA-ELENA NĂSTASĂ, EMILIA IONESCU

ACADEMIC CHEATING IN COLLEGE STUDENTS: RELATIONS AMONG PERSONAL VALUES, SELF-ESTEEM AND MASTERY......................................................................................... 34

LAURA TEODORA DAVID

ILLNESS REPRESENTATION IN MOTOR IMPAIRED CHILDREN ........................................ 35

LAURA TEODORA DAVID

THE RELATION BETWEEN EXPERIENCES AND EXPECTATIONS WITH UNIVERSITY DROPOUT ........................................................................................................................................... 36

PEDRO BELO, CATARINA OLIVEIRA

THE INFLUENCES OF PERCEPTUAL GROUPING ON THE TEMPORAL DIMENSION OF AUDITORY EVENTS........................................................................................................ 37

MICHELE SINICO

INTERSEGMENTAL AND EYE-HAND COORDINATION IN ELITE JUNIOR TENNIS PLAYERS . 38

RADU PREDOIU

EXPERIMENTAL METHODS IN ECONOMICS AND PSYCHOLOGY: A COMPARISON .......... 39

DAG MADSEN, TONNY STENHEIM

TAILORING A MULTICOMPONENT – PSYCHOTHERAPY AND DIETARY – INTERVENTION TO CANCER PATIENT NEEDS ............................................................................................... 40

CLAUDIU-CRISTIAN PAPASTERI, ANAMARIA-GABRIELA IULIAN
STUDY REGARDING THE IMPACT OF TRAIT ANXIETY ON INTERSEGMENTAL COORDINATION AND TOPOGRAPHICAL MEMORY IN JUNIOR FOOTBALL PLAYERS ...... 41

Viorel Cojocaru, Ștefan Tüdös, Radu Predoiu, Eugen Coltă, Daniela Coltă

ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN HEXACO MODEL OF PERSONALITY STRUCTURE, MOTIVATIONAL FACTORS AND SELF-REPORTED CREATIVITY AMONG ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS ..................................................................................................................... 42

Kinga Szabó, Paul Mutică, Ștefan Szamosközi

THE IMPACT OF SELF-SAFETY UPON SOCIAL CONVERSATION AT ROMANIAN MENTAL DEFICIENCIES PREADOLESCENTS ......................................................................................................................... 43

Roxana Urea

THE RISK OF EATING DISORDERS IN ADOLESCENCE AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH THE VALUE OF THE BODY MASS INDEX, LEVEL OF ANXIETY AND LEVEL OF DEPRESSION ...... 44

Andreea-Elena Mustata

CHALLENGING OR CONSERVING YOUR BELIEFS: A PERSON-CENTERED APPROACH OF PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS’ EDUCATIONAL IDENTITY ......................................................................................................... 45

Eleonora Ioana Pop, Oana Negru

THE RISK OF EATING DISORDERS IN ADOLESCENCE AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH THE IMPACT OF THE SOCIOCULTURAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS APPEARANCE ...................... 46

Andreea-Elena Mustata

PROFESSIONAL STRESS IN RELATION TO ANXIETY, DEPRESSION AND IRRATIONAL BELIEFS AMONG DENTAL AND PSYCHOTHERAPY STUDENTS ........................................................................... 47

Diana Paula Duda, Ruxandra Sfeatcu, Cristian Funieru, Adina Dumitrache

THEMATIC CORRELATIONS OF THE PATIENTS WITH SEVERE DEPRESSIVE EPISODE. A CASE STUDY ........................................................................................................................... 48

Cristian Mihai Sumedrea, Corneliu Mosoiu

SPATIAL COGNITION: THEORETICAL CONSIDERATIONS ........................................ 49

Victorita Trif

EPISTEMIC AND DEONTIC RHETORIC ON GENDER: META- ANALYSIS .................... 50

Victorita Trif

PREDICTORS OF PROFESSIONAL ENTREPRENEURIAL INTENTION AND BEHAVIOR IN THE EDUCATIONAL FIELD ......................................................................................................................... 51

Doina Usaci
PARENTAL COMPETENCE OF THE VULNERABLE GROUPS – AN EXPLORATORY STUDY ... 52
SIMONA MARIA GLĂVEANU

INDIVIDUAL LEARNING PLAN IN TEACHING MATHEMATICS FOR CHILDREN WITH SEN – A
CONSTRUCTIVIST APPROACH ................................................................. 53
MIHAELA VOINEA, MONICA PURCARU

ROMANIAN EMPLOYEES’ FOLK THEORY ON WORK: A QUALITATIVE STUDY ............. 54
CARMEN BUZEA

THE PARENTAL COMPETENCE OF SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES FROM VULNERABLE GROUPS. 55
SIMONA MARIA GLĂVEANU

USING NEW COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES IN PRESCHOOL
EDUCATION ............................................................................................. 56
DACIANA LUPU, ANDREEA RAMONA LAURENŢIU

WEBLOGGING: A TECHNOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK MEDIATED BY THE SELF .......... 57
CRISTINA-GEORGIANA VOICU

QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE THIRD AGE: A RESEARCH ON RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS...... 58
EVA GERINO, ELISA MARINO, PIERA BRUSTIA, DIMITRIOS G. LYRAKOS, LUCA ROLLE

THE PERSONALITY AND BEHAVIOR INVENTORY: DESCRIPTION, CHARACTERISTICS,
PSYCHOMETRIC PROPERTIES AND COMPARISON WITH MMPI-II AND PAI .............. 59
DIMITRIOS G. LYRAKOS, EVA GERINO, ELISA MARINO, PIERA BRUSTIA, LUCA ROLLE

THE PERCEIVED SIGNIFICANCES OF INTERDISCIPLINARITY AT STUDENTS IN EDUCATIONAL
SCIENCES .................................................................................................. 60
ROXANA UREA

BURNOUT, DEPRESSION AND QUALITY OF LIFE AMONG THE EMPLOYEES WORKING IN
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ............................................. 61
PETRU CRAIOVAN

EXPLORING WORK-LIFE CONFLICT AND RECONCILIATION IN A ROMANIAN SAMPLE ..... 62
DOINA STEFANA SAUCAN, ANA MARIA MARHAN, MIHAI IOAN MICLE

THE CONSCIOUSNESS QUOTIENT: CONSTRUCT DEVELOPMENT AND CONTENT VALIDITY
RESEARCH .................................................................................................. 63
OVIDIU BRAZDAU
BRAIN TO BRAIN CONNECTIVITY DURING DISTAL PSYCHO-INFORMATIONAL INFLUENCE SESSIONS, BETWEEN SPATIALLY AND SENSORY ISOLATED SUBJECTS........................................... 64

ALIODOR MANOLEA

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL COGNITION AND FUNCTIONAL OUTCOMES IN SCHIZOPHRENIA ........................................................................................................... 65

RAMONA STREA

IMPROVING PERSONNEL SELECTION THROUGH FRAME OF REFERENCE EFFECT ON PERSONALITY INVENTORY: PREDICTIVE AND INCREMENTAL VALIDITY OVER COGNITIVE ABILITY AND JOB KNOWLEDGE ................................................................. 66

OVIDIU STRESCU

THE EFFECT OF CONTEXTUALIZATION OF “BIG FIVE©PLUS” PERSONALITY INVENTORY ON UTILITY ANALYSIS (FINANCIAL ESTIMATES) ................................................................. 67

OVIDIU STRESCU

DRAWING UP A PEDAGOGICAL MODEL OF CREATIVITY STIMULATION IN CHILDREN WHO DO STAGE PERFORMANCES .................................................................................. 68

MADALINA DANA RUCSANDA, STELA DRAGULIN

THE ROLE OF ART AND MUSIC THERAPY TECHNIQUES IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL PROBLEMS ................................................................. 69

PETRUTA-MARIA COROIU

EVALUATION OF THE SELF-MANAGEMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESS IN PATIENTS WITH ONCOLOGIC DIAGNOSTIC ........................................................................... 70

CATALINA IILUTA, IOANA TEMPEA

SOME PSYCHOMETRIC PROPERTIES OF THE FAMILY DOMAIN IN THE “ADOLESCENT RESILIENCE QUESTIONNAIRE” ................................................................. 71

MARIUS MARICI

PSYCHO-BEHAVIORAL CONSEQUENCES OF PARENTING VARIABLES IN ADOLESCENTS... 72

MARIUS MARICI

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE TENDENCY TO USE DYSFUNCTIONAL COGNITIVE SCHEMAS.......................................................................................................................... 73

IULIA-ODETTE DIMITRIU

ETIOPATHOGENETIC EXPLANATIONS AND TREATMENT OPTIONS IN PHANTOM LIMB SYNDROME. A LITERATURE REVIEW.................................................................................... 74

ANDREEA RODICA ARDELEAN, ION DAFINOIU
EMBODIED CREATIVITY: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF AN UNDERDEVELOPED SUBJECT...... 75
MARIUS STANCIU

MANAGEMENT SKILLS ASSESSMENT USING 360° FEEDBACK - MSF 360 ..................... 76
ALEXANDRU MIHALCEA, DIANA MIHALCEA

INCREASING ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN ROMA PRESCHOOL CHILDREN .............. 77
RALUCA COMANESCU, IULIA CIOBREA

RESEARCHING THE PROCESSES INVOLVED IN DISSOCIATIVE PATHOLOGY ............ 78
ȘTEFAN SERGIU VARGA

SPECIFIC NOTES IN HEARING DEFICIENT TEENAGER PERSONALITY ................... 79
MARIANA POPA, MIHAELA EPURE

ELEMENTS OF EXPERIENTIAL PSYCHOTHERAPY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HEARING
IMPAIRED STUDENTS’ SOCIO-EMOTIONAL SKILLS .................................................. 80
MARIANA POPA, MIHAELA-LOREDANA VANGHELIE

MANAGEMENT OF THE EDUCATIONAL RISK FACTORS IN ROMA SCHOOLS (UNITS WITH
ROMA PUPILS) .................................................................................................................. 81
LAURA GRETA MARIN, DIANA RUSU

PRESCHOOL EDUCATION - A PREMISE FOR THE FORMATION OF LITERARY CULTURE .... 82
CORNELIA STEFĂNESCU, OANA STOICAN

THEORETICAL-APPLIED PERSPECTIVES REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STUDENTS’
INTEREST IN BUILDING A CAREER IN THE ROMANIAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM ........ 83
CARMEN ALEXANDRACHE

ORGANIZING THE PERSONAL REFLECTIONS OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS – AN
ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN ACHIEVING A QUALITY EDUCATION ................................ 84
CARMEN ALEXANDRACHE

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF MALE INFERTILITY, AN OVERVIEW ...................... 85
OLTEA JOJA, DANA DINU, DIANA PAUN

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT, PERSONALITY AND INTERESTS AT GYMNASIUM AND COLLEGE
LEVELS .................................................................................................................................. 86
AUREL ION CLINCIU
A NEW BLOCK DESIGN TEST. AN EXPLORATORY STUDY ......................................................... 87
AUREL ION CLINCIU

PERCEIVED STRESS AND STRATEGIC APPROACH TO COPING AMONG HEALTH
PROFESSIONALS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE ................................................................. 88
BARBARA CRACIUN

COGNITIVE - BEHAVIORAL THERAPY INTERVENTIONS AND MINDFULNESS IN
DIMINISHING THE STRESS LEVEL AND CORTISOL BLOOD LEVEL ......................... 89
IRINA HOLDEVICI, BARBARA CRACIUN

IMPACT OF CHANGE IN SOCIAL REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING GENDER ROLES
REFLECTED IN MOTION PICTURES ........................................................................ 90
BIANCA BOGDANA PELTEA

COUPLE CONSTRUCTION AND COUPLE RELATIONSHIP IN VARIOUS WESTERN FEMININITY
PARADIGMS ............................................................................................................. 91
BIANCA BOGDANA PELTEA

CHARACTERISTICS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT OF THE DEVELOPMENT TOBACCO
ADDICTION OF STUDENTS ..................................................................................... 92
DANIELA POPA, ALIN FARCASIU, BOGDAN CRISTIAN VOICU, LILIANA ROGOZEA

WEIGHT CONCERNS AND EATING ATTITUDES AMONG ROMANIAN STUDENTS IN
COMPARISON TO GERMAN STUDENTS AND ANOREXIA NERVOSA PATIENTS ............. 93
OLTEA JOJA, CRISTINA NANU, JOERN VON WIETERSHEIM

PSYCHOMETRIC EVALUATION OF THE SHORT VERSION OF THE DEFENSE STYLE
QUESTIONNAIRE ON A ROMANIAN NON-CLINICAL SAMPLE ................................... 94
ANA-MARIA CAZAN, AUREL ION CLINCIU

LEARNING MOTIVATION, ENGAGEMENT AND BURNOUT AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ... 95
ANA-MARIA CAZAN

CORRELATIONS BETWEEN USE OF PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION AND THE VARIATION OF
DEFENSE MECHANISMS ON PATIENTS UNDER A DOUBLE APPROACH ..................... 96
SIMONA TRIFU, EDUARD GEORGE CARP, DANIELA BRAILEANU, SIMONA MARICA, ANCA GUTT

SECURITY BRANDING AND NATIONAL SECURITY. CONCEPTS AT WORK ..................... 97
VIOREL MIHAILA

INTERPRETATIVE PROCESS-FROM UTILIZATION OF PREDOMINANT TO PSYCHOTIC
DECOMPENSATION ................................................................................................. 98
SIMONA TRIFU, ANCA GUTT
THE PATHOLOGY OF COGNITIVE AND LANGUAGE DEZORGANIZATION - BETWEEN HYSTERIC DISSOCIATION AND SCHYZOFRENIC SPLIT .............................................................. 99

Ana Maria Dragut, Izabela Danalache, Marina Goanta, Simona Trifu

CLINICAL EXPRESSION FEATURES OF PARANOID SCHIZOPHRENIA WITH LATE DEBUT . 100

Miruna Vintila, Eduard George Carp, Carmen Popa, Simona Trifu

SLEEP, A PREDICTOR OF SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING .............................................................. 101

Carmen Stoica

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE TRAINING OF PERFORMANCE ATHLETE IN ROMANIAN CLIMBING ......................................................................................... 102

Antonia Ioana Trifu, Arina Cipriana Trifu, Oliver Batar, Anca Gutt, Simona Trifu

MOTOR BEHAVIOR AND ANTICIPATION – A PILOT STUDY OF JUNIOR TENNIS PLAYERS103

Mossi Adrian, Balint Lorand

PERCEPTION OF EDUCATIONAL FACTORS ON THE INTRODUCTION OF ELECTRONIC LEARNING TOOLS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEW CURRICULUM FOR PRIMARY EDUCATION.......... 104

Sofia Loredana Tudor

INITIAL TRAINING OF TEACHERS FOR PRESCHOOL AND PRIMARY EDUCATION FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF MODERN EDUCATIONAL PARADIGMS ........................................ 105

Sofia Loredana Tudor

DEVELOPMENT OF HEARING AND VOICE, RECOVERY METHODS OF HEARING AND INTONATION IMPAIRMENTS ....................................................................................... 106

Ioan Oarcea

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE EMOTIONS AMONG YOUNG ROMANIAN COUPLES - WHAT, HOW AND WHY EXPRESS THEM..................................................................................... 107

Simona Herb, Maria Nicoleta Turluc, Roxana Dumitru

APPRECIATING THE POSITIVES PROTECTS US FROM NEGATIVE EMOTIONS: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GRATITUDE, DEPRESSION AND RELIGIOSITY............................ 108

Bogdan Tudor Tulbure

THE WORLD AS A CONSTRUCT OF CONSCIOUSNESS ............................................................ 109

Sorin Dumitru

A PRELIMINARY RESEARCH CONCERNING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MENTALITY TOWARDS WORK AND PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY ........................................... 110

Valerica Anghelache
WIRELESS CHILDREN ........................................................................................................ 112

EMIL STAN

PROPRIOCEPTIVE INDICATORS (PRECISION, SPEED AND PERSONALITY) OF AGE-
DEPENDED DIFFERENCES FOR TRAFFIC SECURITY ...................................................... 113

LIUDMILA LIUTSKO, JOSEP MARIA TOUS, ALEKSANDER VERAKSA, SERGEY LEONOV

PERPECTIVES IN THE ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' MENTALITY TOWARDS LEARNING ..... 114

VALERICA ANGHELACHE

REFLECTING ON COMMUNICATION – A STRATEGY TO ENHANCE LEARNING ............... 115

CRISTIAN VOICA, MIHAELA FLORENCE SINGER, ILDIKO PELCZER

THE PATH OF THE HEART ............................................................................................... 116

DOROTHEEA MIHAELA KAFKOULA

A STUDY REGARDING THE IMPACT OF MOTOR ACTIVITIES ON THE STUDENTS' WORKING
MEMORY ........................................................................................................................... 117

ELENA LUPU

ACHIEVEMENT, PERSONALITY AND INTERESTS AT SECONDARY SCHOOL AND COLLEGE
LEVEL .................................................................................................................................. 118

AUREL ION CLINCIU, CLAUDIA ELENA HERMKENS

CONSUMER RESPONSE TO PRODUCT AND SERVICE QUALITY .................................... 119

FLORICICA MARIANA CĂLIN

COMPARATIVE STUDY ON THE PHENOMENON OF SUICIDE BASED ON GENDER AND
SEASON ................................................................................................................................ 120

NICU IONEL SAVA, ADRIAN CRISTIAN PAPARI

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PSYCHOTHERAPY FOR PATIENTS WITH SOMATISATION
DISORDERS INDUCED BY ANXIETY ................................................................................ 121

AURELIA MORARU, ADINA MORARU, CAMELIA VASILESCU

ALCOHOL AND ALCOHOL ADDICTION – A PSYCHOSOCIAL PERSPECTIVE .............. 122

ANAMARIA CIUBARA, STEFAN LUCIAN BURLEA, IRINA SACUIU, DANIA ANDREEA RADU, ILINCA UNTU,
ROXANA CHIRITA

NOMOPHOBIA – PROBABLY THE BIGGEST PHOBIA IN THE WORLD ............................ 123

IRINA SACUIU, ANAMARIA CIUBARA, ILINCA UNTU, DANIA RADU, VASILE CHIRITA, ROXANA CHIRITA
THE TENDENCY OF CREATING SOCIAL CONTACTS IS INFLUENCED BY THE ABILITY TO ADAPT TO STRESS ............................................................................................................... 124

IOANA STOICA

THE MORALIZATION OF EATING BEHAVIOR. GENDERED COGNITIVE AND BEHAVIORAL STRATEGIES ........................................................................................................ 125

LIGIA BLIDARU, ADRIAN OPRE

EFFECTS OF HYPOGLYCAEMIA ON COGNITIVE PERFORMANCE ........................................... 126

MIHAI VALENTIN CIOLACU

THE EFFECTS OF HYPOGLYCEMIA ON MOTOR COORDINATION ........................................... 127

MIHAI CIOLACU

"IS YOUR CAREER MEANINGFUL?" EXPLORING CAREER CALLING ON A ROMANIAN STUDENTS SAMPLE ......................................................................................................... 128

DANIELA DUMULESCU, ADRIAN OPRE, RAMONA BUZGAR

THE EFFECTS OF HYPOGLYCEMIA ON EMOTIONAL REGULATION CAPACITY ....................... 129

MIHAI VALENTIN CIOLACU

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CAREER INTERESTS AND ACADEMIC MAJOR: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS .......................................................................................... 130

CAMELIA VASILESCU, AURELIA MORARU, NICU IONEL SAVA

THE ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS ......................... 131

MIHAELA RUS, DAN OCTAVIAN RUSU

ADULT ATTACHMENT, SELF-ESTEEM AND EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE ............................... 132

ELENA DOINITA NANU

THE EFFECTS OF CREATIVE IMPROVISATION THROUGH LITERATURE TECHNIQUE ON SELF-ESTEEM, IN A UNIFYING PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP ........................................... 133

VASILE CONSTANTIN, IOLANDA MITROFAN

SOCIAL REPRESENTATION, CAUSES AND PREVENTION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ......................................................................................... 134

CLAUDIA CASTIGLIONE, Orazio Licciardello, Alberto Rampullo, Chiara Campione

SATISFACTION OF TRAINING EFFECTS ON FUTURE PROFESSIONAL CHOICES WITHIN THE TERRITORY OF BELONGING ........................................................................... 135

CLAUDIA CASTIGLIONE, Orazio Licciardello, Alberto Rampullo, Valentina Scolla
WHY CHILDREN SHOULD LEARN TO TELL STORIES IN PRIMARY SCHOOL? ....................... 136

Ioana Panc, Adriana Georgescu, Madalina Zaharia

HOW DO NOVICE SPECIALISTS IN HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOP THEIR PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY? A DIAGNOSIS MODEL................................................................. 137

Andreea Elena Ibănescu

FAMILIAL BARRIERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CREATIVITY IN PRESCHOOLERS......... 138

Monica-Iuliana Popescu, Aurelia Moraru, Nicu Ionel Sava

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND INTRINSIC LEARNING MOTIVATION WITH PRIMARY-SCHOOL STUDENTS................................................................................................. 139

Mariela Pavalache-Ilie

PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLING TREATMENT – REVIEW ..................................................... 140

Steliană Rizeanu

STUDY ON THE STRUCTURING OF SELF-IMAGE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD..................... 141

Maria Magdalena Stan

FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE: THE BARRIERS TO EFFICIENT COMMUNICATION IN TEACHER-STUDENT RELATIONSHIP ........................................................................ 142

Nicoleta Duetă

BELIEF IN FREE WILL IN EVERYDAY LIFE. IS THERE ANY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FREE WILL AND FAITH? ................................................................................................. 143

Alexandra Vacaru, Eugen Iordanescu

INTERPARENTAL RELATIONSHIPS AND THE PREPARATORY CLASS CHILDREN’S SELF-ESTEEM AND SELF-EFFICACY .............................................................................. 144

Valeria Negovan, Mihaela Sterian, Gabriela-Mihaela Colesniuc

CONCEPTIONS OF LEARNING AND INTRINSIC MOTIVATION IN DIFFERENT LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS ...................................................................................................... 145

Valeria Negovan, Mihaela Sterian, Gabriela-Mihaela Colesniuc

LEARNING EXPERIENCE, PROACTIVE COPING, HIGH STANDARDS AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS’ INITIAL ORIENTATION TOWARD THE GRADUATE STUDIES PROGRAMS IN PSYCHOLOGY ........................................................................................................ 146

Corina Bogdan
PSYCHOSOCIAL CORRELATES OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS’ SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING RELATED TO THE FACULTY ................................................................. 147
CORINA BOGDAN, VALERIA NEGovan

PERSONALITY VARIABLES IN DECISION-MAKING ........................................... 148
MIHAELA PAISI LAZARESCU

STUDY ON THE TEMPERAMENT AS A PREDICTOR OF PEER RELATIONS AT PRESCHOOL AGES 149
MARIA MAGDALENA STAN

“TEACHER EDUCATORS - A HIDDEN PROFESSION” – A PRACTICAL REFLECTION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND LAW STUDIES ......................................................... 150
OANA IUCU

TEACHERS’ AND STUDENTS’ OPINIONS CONCERNING MESSAGE TRANSMISSION AND RECEPTION IN CLASS COMMUNICATION .................................................. 151
RAMONA HENTER, SIMONA - ELENA INdREICĂ, TOADER PALASAN

METACOGNITION AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE ANXIETY .................................... 152
RAMONA HENTER

PERCEIVED SAFETY CLIMATE AND ORGANIZATIONAL TRUST: THE MEDIATOR ROLE OF JOB SATISFACTION ........................................................................... 153
EUGEN AVRAM, DANIELA IONESCU, CORNEL LAURENŢIU MINCU

THE IMPACT OF PERSONAL RESOURCES ON ORGANIZATIONAL ATTITUDES: JOB SATISFACTION AND ORGANIZATIONAL TRUST ................................................. 154
EUGEN AVRAM, CORNEL LAURENŢIU MINCU, ALEXANDRA MARIA DEMIAN

THE SUICIDAL STATE BETWEEN "THE WISH TO DIE" AND "AN URGE TO DIE" ............ 155
LAVINIA DUICĂ

THE PUBLIC IMAGE OF ROMANIAN POLICE FORCES REFLECTED BY THE MEDIA .......... 156
ALINA CIABUCA

TIME PERCEPTION, AGE, COGNITIVE CORRELATES AND EMOTIONS ..................... 157
CRISTIAN VASILE

IDENTITY STRUCTURES THERAPY IN EMOTIONAL DISTURBED SUBJECTS .............. 158
CRISTIAN VASILE

THE INFLUENCE OF ALTERNATIVE THERAPY ON GSR REACTIVITY AT YOUNGSTERS - A PILOT STUDY ......................................................................................... 159
MARIA MION POP
OPTIMIZING/REDUCING THE SELF-PERCEIVED STRESS LEVEL, HEART RATE AND BLOOD PRESSURE BY COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION PLAN IN A MULTINATIONAL ORGANIZATION FROM ROMANIA ................................................................. 160

CATALINA DUMITRESCU

OPTIMIZING THE LEVEL OF WELL-BEING IN PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT GROUPS IN INTEGRATIVE THERAPY .................................................................................................................. 161

GINA ANTIGONA RĂDULESCU CHIRIAC

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE ORIENTATION FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AT PSYCHOLOGY ............................................................................................................................. 162

ANGELA BOGLUŢ, STELIANA RIZEANU

A CORRELATIVE STUDY BETWEEN PAIN PERCEPTION AT DOCTOR AND THE LEVEL OF SELF-PERCEIVED STRESS AT UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AT PSYCHOLOGY- A PILOT STUDY .................................................................................................................. 163

STELIANA RIZEANU, TEODOR MIHAILA

GENDER, POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE EMOTIONS PREDICTORS FOR THE SELF-PERCEIVED PAIN AT UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AT PSYCHOLOGY- A PILOT STUDY ................. 164

MIHAELA CHRAIF, ANGELA BOGLUŢ

CORRELATIVE STUDY BETWEEN SATISFACTION, SELF-PERCEIVED STRESSORS AND COPING IN AN EDUCATIONAL VERSUS TECHNIQUE ORGANIZATIONS FROM BUCHAREST ............... 165

MIHAELA CHRAIF, ANDREEA MATEESCU

GENDER DIFFERENCES IN WORKLOAD AND SELF-PERCEIVED BURNOUT IN A MULTINATIONAL COMPANY FROM BUCHAREST ............................................................................................. 167

MIHAI ANIŢEI, MIHAELA CHRAIF, ELENA IONIŢĂ

CORRELATIVE STUDY BETWEEN QUALITY OF LIFE AND WELL-BEING DIMENSION IN AN IT COMPANY FROM BUCHAREST .......................................................................................... 168

MIHAELA CHRAIF, MADALINA ROŞU

GENDER DIFFERENCES IN SELF-PERCEPTION OF MENTAL HEALTH, PHYSICAL HEALTH AND THE LEVEL OF BURNOUT IN A MULTINATIONAL COMPANY FROM BUCHAREST ............. 169

MIHAI ANIŢEI, MIHAELA CHRAIF, ANDREEA SITARU

LEARNING TO ACHIEVE OR LEARNING TO PERFORM – A NEED ANALYSIS ON STUDENTS’ CAREER SKILLS .......................................................................................................................... 170

CAMELIA TRUTA
SITUATIONAL JUDGMENTS TESTS – A FACT IN CALL CENTER PERSONNEL SELECTION. PILOT STUDY

MADALINA PETRESCU, VLAD BURTATERDE, TEODOR MIHĂIȘĂ, ANCU MIHĂELA

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE ORIENTATION FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AT PSYCHOLOGY

ANGELA BOGLOȚ, STELIANA RIZEANU, VLAD BURTATERDE

AUDIO-VISUAL REACTION AND FINE HANDLING ERRORS – A PILOT STUDY

MIHAELA CHRAIF

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MOTIVATION FROM COMPETITION AND MOTIVATION FROM INDIVIDUAL GOALS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INDUCTIVE REASONING

MIHAELA CHRAIF, DANIELA DUMITRU

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE AS A MEAN FOR DECENTRALIZATION

DANIELA DUMITRU, VLADIMIR ENACHESCU
How children see their parents – a short intergeneration comparative analysis

IOANA LEPADATU

Problem Statement: Relational and emotional needs, children’s acute need for open and ongoing relationships within the family are as important nowadays as they were 50 years ago. The research is based on Rose Vincent’s 50-year-old project, which highlights the effects of parental behaviour on children’s personality.

Purpose of Study: to make a comparative analysis between the ideal parental behaviour chosen by today’s Romanian children (N = 101) and the one chosen by the French children 50 years ago to illustrate the way in which children live their relationships with their parents.

Research Methods: Our test is based on Vincent’s test, which had photos of mothers and fathers in a very specific situation, involving their children, the characters’ appearance being according to their role. To eliminate our own judgement, we balanced an attractive detail with a nasty one, so that the children could freely interpret the role (character) of the parents from the photos. The photos were updated carefully, but the rules and the questions were the original ones. The respondents were pupils in the third, fourth and fifth forms, 47 boys and 54 girls from School no. 2 and Unirea National College, Brasov.

Findings: In general, the friend – mother is the ideal one for the respondents and the mother resembling mostly the real one is the busy mother. For boys, the ideal father coincides with the real father, the sports one in 8 instances and the handy one in 9 instances, the real mother being the one who spoils her children. The candy mother, found very often among the choices of Vincent’s respondents, is rejected by our respondents showing thus this new generation’s need of independence and of responsible involvement in their own lives.

Conclusions: The ideal of the friend – mother can also be found at Vincent, a proof that, after half a century, the relational and affective needs are relatively identical; but the busy mother, specific to our contemporary society, requires a ‘school for parents’ having as its main objective more active time spend with the family.

Keywords: relational needs, parenting styles, developing relationships, family
The altruistic behavior: characteristic of future teachers of inclusive education in Russia

MARIIA RUBTCOVA, OLEG PAVENKOV, VLADIMIR PAVENKOV

Authors consider the problem of lack of altruistic behavior of the future teachers of inclusive education in Russia. According to the conception of altruism of P. Sorokin altruistic behavior can assist in healing of «special children» and their social rehabilitation. This study presents the results of applied research on the matter «The impact future young teachers’ altruism on relation to education of the disabled in Russia». The better participation of future teachers in education of the disabled requires the transformation of altruistic behavior. The importance of this conclusion is proved by data of investigations of P.A. Sorokin.

Keywords: inclusive education, altruism, altruistic behavior, altruistic love, value orientation of teachers, disabled
Psychosocial factors in acquiring sanogenous behaviors in preschoolers

GEORGETA ZEGAN, CRISTINA GENA DASCALU, ANGELA MARIANA ENACHE, RADU BOGDAN MAVRU

Problem Statement: Maintaining one’s health represents the international consensus of experts and the World Health Organization. This research is based on the idea that school and family play an important role in the development of the preschool child’s sanogenous behaviors. If the family’s psychosocial factors induce certain attitudes towards illness and health, the school has the merit to implement effective education programs, non-discriminatory, complementing the family’s shortcomings.

Purpose of Study: On a sample of 90 preschoolers from three kindergartens with different socio-economic status, divided into group A=30 children from a kindergarten with healthcare and group B=60 children from two kindergartens without healthcare, we aimed to identify the psychosocial factors that may influence the development of children’s attitudes and behaviors toward proper oral health.

Research Methods: We used intensive survey questionnaire with open questions, consisting of 18 items, divided into the following categories: socio-demographic status, knowledge about oral and nutrition hygiene, prevention of dental decays, malocclusions, periodontal disease and disease outbreak. The questionnaire was applied to mothers at baseline and separately to children in three stages: pre-test to assess the initial level of knowledge; inter-test after five sessions of oral health education; post-test at the end of education.

Findings: Using SPSS, Pearson’s Chi-square test was procedure for comparing the answers of mothers and children. Mothers’ responses were significantly different by age, level of education and income regarding their knowledge about oral and nutrition hygiene and the prevention of dental decays and malocclusions. On the pre-test questionnaire, the children’s correct answers were limited and we found statistical differences by the socio-demographic status of their mothers (age and income), concerning the knowledge about oral and nutrition hygiene and the prevention of malocclusions. Comparative statistics of the children’s responses to the questionnaire pre-test, inter-test and post-test proving the quality of education, registering a higher percentage of correct answers of girls to boys.

Conclusions: Although the family is important concerning early education, it cannot solely induce sanogenous behaviors to children. Kindergarten education programs by trained personnel with medical and pedagogical knowledge are needed to ensure proper and adequate sanogenous attitude ever since the preschool age.

Keywords: oral health, preschooler, kindergarten education, sanogenous behavior, psychosocial status
Computer-based MCQ assessment for students in dental medicine – advantages and drawbacks

CRISTINA GENA DASCA LU, ANGELA MARIANA ENACHE, RADU BOGDAN MAVRU, GEORGETA ZEGAN

Problem Statement: The students’ assessment is an instrument for measuring their ability to acquire knowledge in a particular field, as well as a mean to verify the students during the learning process. The MCQ (Multiple Choice Questions) tests are very popular among students, being perceived as easy to solve, but their advantages and disadvantages are still a subject of analysis.

Purpose of the study: The purpose of this study was to compare the marks obtained by 285 students at the final written examination conducted with MCQ tests with those obtained from the oral examination, in order to assess the advantages and disadvantages of these methods.

Research Methods: The students were divided into two groups: group A=153 Ist year students, examined at the end of a preclinical discipline; group B=132 Vth year students, examined at the end of a clinical discipline at the Faculty of Dentistry, 2013. We compared the marks of students between the two types of exams and also between sexes and years of study.

Findings: The statistical analysis was performed in SPSS 16.0; the marks’ repartition was tested against the normal law using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, and we found that the results at MCQ tests comply with it, while the others do not; the comparisons between groups were made using the Wilcoxon signed ranks test (for paired samples) and Mann-Whitney test (for independent samples), as well as the t-test for independent samples when the normal law was verified. We found that the average mark at MCQ test was significantly lower than the average mark at oral examination, regardless the year of study or sex (even if girls obtained slightly better results than boys in all cases).

Conclusions: All the students were disadvantaged by the MCQ test compared to the oral examination. The MCQ tests especially the pure theoretical knowledge, but this is not sufficient in medical faculties, because in order to become a good doctor, the medical knowledge is necessary but certainly not sufficient, but the ability to synthesize and evaluate information or to apply knowledge to complex problems are the most important attributes for successful careers in this field.

Keywords: MCQ tests, assessment methods, undergraduate students’ performance, medical university education
The development of a Semantic Differential Scale for assessing the perceived image of citizen about Romanian police officers

ALINA CIABUCA

The purpose of this paper is the development and validation of a Semantic Differential Scale in order to assess the public perception of Romanian police officers’ image. First of all, the construction strategy involved the identification of the initial descriptors on the basis of free association technique (from a pool of 355 participants), the selection of an initial list of items (on frequency basis) and getting the most appropriate antonyms for the selected terms. The result was a 44 items SDS, which has been included in the second stage, of factorial validation procedures and validity and reliability testing. The participants were 260 volunteers (M=36.4; SD=17.8), with different social, educational and professional background. The exploratory analysis revealed the need to eliminate 22 items from the initial 44 items scale, resulting a three factorial structure based on 22 items, confirming Osgood, Suci & Tannenbaum’s EPA dimensionality (1957). The three factors account for 61.8% of the variance, with Cronbach’s alpha reliability coefficients greater than .87. The scale can be considered a valid and reliable instrument for assessing the citizens’ perception and attitude toward the Romanian police officers. The instrument is likely to be useful to both academic and practitioners interested in the assessing the image of a professional category, especially the police forces.

Keywords: semantic differential scale (SDS), evaluation, activity, potency, perceived image, police
The teacher and the questions of students. Case Study

GABRIEL ALBU

**Problem statement:** As we know, one of the fundamental objectives of school was, is and - perhaps - will (still) be transmitting and fostering knowledge in students. Typically, this is done by most of the teachers via descriptive-expository-explanatory teaching and learning.

**Purpose of Study:** The study aims to show that we can adopt another way of teaching and learning in the cognitive-conceptual area: namely, the interrogative-explanatory-investigative method. It is based on increasing the share of the role of questions in the teaching process and in the development of student’s knowledge horizon. The question is the main dynamic factor and motivator of human knowledge in general and of students’ knowledge in particular. It not only has the role to check and control their knowledge, but also that of arousing curiosity and interest in the cognitive approach, in an area or another of human knowledge. The study also aims to capture the attitude of a group of secondary school teachers on the meaning of questions in teaching and learning, especially when it is addressed by the student to a teacher.

**Research Methods:** We used the questionnaire based survey method. The sample group included 100 subjects - teachers from three high schools in Ploiesti.

**Findings:** After processing the data, it appeared that 46% of respondents believe that the question represents a mere curiosity; 42% say that the essential role of the question is to guide the cognitive process; 29% believe that during teaching, the question is designed to test the students’ interest in the topic taught, and 24% believe that the question is very important for teachers to clarify what students know. Also, regarding the relationship between the teacher’s question and the student’s thinking process, 42% felt that it is thought-provoking for the student.

**Conclusions:** In the current cognitive context, it is time for the teacher to give priority to the investigative-interrogative-explanatory strategy. It helps the students to ask questions, whenever they feel the need, and also helps them formulate good and relevant questions. The study is a plea to protect and maintain lucidity in new generations. An educated man is a lucid man, cognitively watchful, prepared to avoid the pitfalls of various ideologies, stereotypes and mental clichés.

**Keywords:** Student, Question, Teacher, Education
Primary school teachers and their values at the beginning of the XXI century

GABRIEL ALBU

Problem statement: The teacher, including the primary school teacher, is not just a transmitter of knowledge (didactically processed), but also one of the main axiological factors influencing the younger generation. Aware of this or not, teachers implicitly or explicitly convey students their own system of values as it appears in a certain period of their life. This cannot be neglected when we consider the options, priorities and beliefs of younger generations (especially as the students are at the beginning of their axiological training).

Purpose of Study: The study aims to reveal the core values of a group of primary school teachers, values that shape their beliefs and that – whether they know it or not - instill into small pupils.

Research Methods: To investigate this axiological universe, we used the questionnaire-based survey method. We investigated 25 teachers with tenure in Prahova County schools (both urban and rural).

Findings: After processing the data, it appeared that the values that primary teachers most believe in are: honesty, fairness and respect; and those in which they think the least are the materials values / money. Also, the values that they are most concerned about when they relate to their own work are: professional development and reliability. We have not met values such as: creativity, courage, differential work, teamwork or initiative. We found, as well, that the most important values in the work of a teacher are: empathy, love for students and communication with them. According to the investigated subjects, the core values that the school should inculcate the younger generation would be: the desire of learning, respect and honor.

Conclusions: We are dealing with a fascinating field of research, which remained in the shadows lately. Concerned with many diverse and pressing problems of education (in these swift and changeable times) we must not sidestep the concerns related to knowing the values of primary teachers, especially since they have a significant impact on training students that are at the beginning of their educational journey.

Keywords: teacher, values, primary school, student
Associations between academic performance, academic attitudes, and procrastination in a sample of undergraduate students attending different forms of education

DEMETER KARMEN, SZABO KINGA, MAIOR EDIT, SUSANA FARCAS, KALCZA JANOSI KINGA, JANOS REKA

Problem statement: Procrastination in academic situations is a very common phenomena, several studies examined the relationship between attitudes toward school, procrastination and academic performance.

Purpose of Study: Our research paper focuses on the differences between attitudes toward school, procrastination and academic performance among traditional and distance learning university students.

Research Methods: The study sample consists of 162 (N= 162) participants, students of the Babes-Bolyai University, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences. The participants were asked to provide demographical data and completed the (Attitude Towards School Scale, Scale of Active and Passive Procrastination) in groups at the beginning of the academic courses. Statistical Software (SPSS 20.0) was used for data analysis.

Findings: Regarding the role of the form of education, full-time learners show a more negative academic attitude towards both teacher (t(159)= -5.34, p< .01) and towards school (faculty) (t(160) =-3.56, p< .01).There is a medium negative correlation between academic performance and passive procrastination in the group of full-time students (r= -.30, p< .05). The motivation and self-regulation of distance learning students correlates with academic performance (r=.42, p< .01). Based on student’s performance, there are significant differences in the type of procrastination used. Full-time low achiever students show a lower level of the ability to meet deadlines than students with high performance (t (39)= -2.22, p< .05). Compared to this result, low achievers are more prone to passively procrastinate than high achievers (t (39)= 2.26, p< .05). The difference between low and high achiever students also appeared in the group of distance learners (t (23)= 3.11, p< .01). The goal valuation variable presents higher levels in the high achieving group than in the group of low achievers (t (23)=-2.09, p< .05). Differences also appear related to motivation and self-regulation: high achievers show a higher level than low achievers (t (23)= -3.20, p< .05).

Conclusions: Therefore we can conclude that passive procrastination is generally associated with more negative academic attitudes. Depending on the level of performance showed by students, there are different types of procrastination they use.

Keywords: traditional education, distance learning, academic performance, attitudes toward school, procrastination
Implications of motivational factors regarding the academic success of full-time and distance learning undergraduate students: A Self-Determination Theory perspective

JANOS REKA, DEMETER KARMEN, FARCAS SUSANA, KALCZA JANOSI KINGA, MAIOR EDIT, SZABO KINGA

Problem statement: The academic performance and motivation of traditional education and distance learning students has been examined in many studies. Regarding performance the studies reported a better academic performance for non-traditional learners but other studies have reported no significant difference in the academic performance. The Self-Determination Theory has been useful for investigating the optimal performance of students.

Purpose of Study: Our goal was to identify differences in the level and type of motivation between full-time and distance learning students with high and low academic performance.

Research Methods: The study sample consists of 162 (N= 162) participants, students of the Babes-Bolyai University, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences. The participants were asked to provide demographical data and completed the questionnaires (Academic Motivation Scale, Basic Psychological Needs Satisfaction Scale) in groups at the beginning of the academic courses. Statistical Software (SPSS 20.0) was used for data analysis.

Findings: While distance learners exhibit a higher level of intrinsic motivation to know (t= -2.33, p<0.05), and to experience stimulation (t= -2.47, p<0.05), full-time learners are more extrinsically motivated, through introjected (t= 2.06, p<0.05), and external regulation motivation (t= 2.89, p<0.01). The level of amotivation is significantly higher in students who learn in a full-time form (t= 4.10, p<0.01). In the group of full-time learners, there was a significant association between extrinsic motivation (introjected) and academic performance (r= -.37, p<0.01). In the case of the former, extrinsic motivation (introjected) of low achievers shows a higher level (M= 19.08, SD=4.47) than the level of motivation in high achievers (M=13.82; SD=5.47). Compared to them, distance learners with low and high results present differences on two forms of intrinsic motivation (motivation to know M=21.85; SD=3.71; M=25.18, SD=3.62; motivation toward accomplishment M=16.85;SD=5.39; M=22.18,SD=5.68). Interestingly, full-time high achievers have lower levels of autonomy (M=4.87, SD=.65), competence (M=4.85, SD=.94) and relatedness (M=5.35, SD=.74) than low achievers who attend courses as distance learners.

Conclusions: Our results suggest that the full-time learners show a greater tendency to lack motivation. High achieving distance learners have higher levels of autonomy, competence and relatedness than full-time learners.

Keywords: academic performance, traditional education, distance learning, motivation, autonomous regulation, controlled regulation, amotivation
Psychological directions in understanding and providing therapeutic support in child obesity

RUXANDRA RASCANU, OANA MARIA UDREA

Problem statement: Problem Statement More and more professionals in the field of health and education have as clients children with overweight. In the WHO European Region 1 in 3 children at 11 year old is overweight or obese (WHO, 2014). The psychological configuration of the weight status represent a significant variable in conducting proper health messages (O’Dea, 2004) and its scientifically understanding offers a way for taking steps into the right directions of health and well-being.

Purpose of Study: The paper analyzes implications of overweight and obesity over the psychological picture of children at the age of preadolescence focusing on Body image representation, psychopathological sympthomathology, emotional eating behavior.

Research Methods: The study included in a cross-sectional design a highly homogenous group regarding the weight status criteria (Body Mass Index ≥ 95 percentiles, corresponding to obesity) consisting of 52 children (29 boys), aged 9-14, average 11.92, SD=1.49. The measures used were: Body Image Scale Collins, Emotional Eating Questionnaire for children, parent reported, 9 items, and the Structured Clinical Interview for DSMIV Childhood Diagnoses, KID-SCID Romanian version.

Results: Body Image Satisfaction Index values reflected the presence of dissatisfaction values at 65.4% of the participants, with significant differences on two criteria: gender, girls recorded higher dissatisfactions values in a larger proportion ($\chi^2=11,876 \ p<.03$) and age subgrouping, preadolescents (12-14 years) recorded higher dissatisfaction values ($\chi^2=13,076 \ p<.02$). Emotional Eating behaviours were a characteristic of 28.8% of the sample. These variable had a strong positive correlation with Body Image Dissatisfaction ($r=.654 \ p<.000$). Stepwise multiple regression analysis identifies two predictor variables for the dependent variable, Emotional Eating: Body Image dissatisfaction and Psychopathology ($R^2=.471, \ p<.05$). Relational-adaptative difficulties and depressive vulnerability were revealed, but not structured in a psychopathological entity specific for the group in study. The findings are consistent to the scientific literature in the field (Zametkin, 2004).

Conclusions: The high association between the variables: emotional eating behaviours and body image dissatisfaction can lead to the focus on a healthy body image as a therapeutic goal .The findings have potential implications for developing appropriate interventions of efficient health programs, not only weight management

Keywords: body-image, obesity, emotional-eating
Particularities of parental competence of the individuals with higher education

SIMONA MARIA GLĂVEANU, RUXANDRA GHERGHINESCU

Problem statement: In the scientific literature there are found numerous situations that have shown that parents, depending on their socio-cultural environment and training level, transmit different values to their children (Dusmann, 2014; Cline & Fay, 2006; Romano) and if the parents’ educational level is secondary or higher, they are tempted to value the children’s autonomy, self-control, imagination and creativity (predisposing to success)(Kohn, 1989).

Purpose of Study: The objective of this research is to investigate the particularities of parental competence of individuals with higher education (N=158).

Research Methods: The subjects were evaluated using the Parental Competence Questionnaire (PCQ), developed by Glăveanu, 2009, starting from the theories of several authors (Law Nolte & Harris, 2001; Boutin & Durning, 1999; Spock, 1998).

Findings: The results showed that there were statistically significant differences (p=0.001) were revealed on the following dimensions: Knowing the specificities of the child (t=29.13) between parents with higher education (M=54; SD=16) and those with secondary education (M=62; SD=19); Affective support and stress management (t=27.14) between parents with higher education (M=51; SD=16) and those with secondary education (M=58; SD=19); Time management (t=23.87) between parents with higher education (M=52; SD=15) and those with secondary education (M=46; SD=13); Crisis management (t=22.96) between parents with higher education (M=53; SD=17) and those with secondary education (M=41; SD=10). The data showed that there were statistically significant differences (t=114.29; df=79; p=0.001) in the levels of the parental competence between parents graduating in social sciences (M=283; SD=96) and those graduating in other areas (M=274; SD=89).

Conclusions: The research data revealed that the parents with higher education have higher scores in certain dimensions of parenting (Time management and Crisis management) than those with secondary education, while in other dimensions they have lower scores (Knowing the specificities of the child and Affective support and stress management). This research also revealed that the parents with higher education in social sciences have a higher parental competence than those with higher studies in other areas. The study represents only a starting point for other more comprehensive researches, which include other psychosocial variables that can influence the dynamics of parental competence of the investigated groups.

Keywords: parental competence, high education, knowing the child, affective support, disciplining, time management, crisis management
The educational level and the style of in-couple communication

RUXANDRA GHERGHINESCU, SIMONA MARIA GLĂVEANU

Problem statement: There are numerous studies in the specialized literature showing that many couples fail to effectively solve difficult situations in their marital life determined by communication problems (Robinson, 2012) and that socio-cultural environment takes its toll on people’s communicative peculiarities (Guerrero, Andersen & Afifi, 2007).

Purpose of Study: The objective of this study is to investigate the marital verbal communication in the first 2 years of marriage, relative to the partners’ educational level (N=98).

Research Methods: The communicational style of the subjects was identified using the Conjugal Communication Style Questionnaire (CCSQ), developed by Glăveanu (2010). The CCSQ was validated with the Romantic Partner Conflict Scale (Zacchilli, Hendrick & Hendrick, 2012) (r between 0.5 and 0.8; level 0.05, bilateral).

Findings: The investigation of the relation between the educational level of the partners and the conjugal communicational style was accomplished by applying the Chi-Square test (association variant). The data revealed the following: 57.6% of the partners that had a low level of education used a conjugal communicational style oriented towards conflict and disapproval, 27.3% used a style oriented towards rational negotiation and only 15.7% used a style oriented towards conciliation; the partners with a medium educational level predominantly applied a conjugal communicational style oriented towards conciliation (52.5%), only 29.2% using a style oriented towards rational negotiation and 18.3% using a style oriented towards conflict and disapproval; most of the parents with a high level of education used a conjugal communication style oriented towards rational negotiation (67.4%), 21% used a style oriented towards conflict and disapproval and 11.6% – one oriented towards conciliation. The data were significant at Chi-square(4)=85.94; p<0.005, which meant that there was a statistically significant association for the two variables (the educational level of the partners and the conjugal communicational style).

Conclusions: The results of the study show that there is a statistically significant relation between the educational level of the partners and the communicational style they use during the first two years of marriage, but the identified characteristics are limited to the research group (being made 90% of women)

Keywords: educational level, conjugal communication, conflict, conciliation, rational negotiation
The effect of hand-written letter type on visual perception

REKA ORBAN

Problem statement: There is international consensus that visual perception is playing a major role in identifying and classifying information. The research is based on the Brigitte Sindelar’s theory, that the visual perception is one of the keys in prevention and treating learning disabilities, and on the researches about letter features.

Purpose of Study: – to examine the children (N=24) visual perception - visual discrimination, visual differentiation and working memory - performances on wire-written and on cursive-written non-words. The practical question of the study was to find out if the problems are due to the student’s perceptual problems or to the handwriting presentation type. To find out if the processing time of visual stimuli is a strong negative predictor for visual errors. The visual errors on inferior levels (discrimination, differentiation and recognition) will predict the recalling errors.

Research Methods: Individual assessment by analogous tasks of the visual discrimination, visual differentiation, visual recognition and visual recall.

Findings: Using SPSS 20.0 paired sample t test we proved that the children’s performance in visual discrimination, differentiation and recall will be better when using cursive-written non-words and less effective with wire-written non-words. In recognition we find a reversed difference.

To prove that the processing time of visual stimuli is a strong negative predictor for visual errors we made a linear regression analysis with the error as the independent and the time as the dependent variable. In the case of wire –written task we could not find significant predictions. In the case of cursive handwriting the processing times in all tasks explained 70% of variance in recalling errors score.

The visual errors on inferior levels will predict the recalling errors. We found out that only the recognition errors has predictive value. In case of wire-letters the recognition errors have a predictive role for recall errors, and predict them in 28% $R^2=.289$, $F (3, 23) =8.941$, $p=.007$. In case of cursive letters the recognition errors explains 50% proportion of variance $R^2=.50$, $F (3, 23) =22.23$, $p<.0001$.

Conclusions: We can conclude that the unfamiliar letter type may induce problems on visual perception, visual discrimination, visual differentiation and working memory.

Keywords: visual perception, visual discrimination, visual differentiation, visual recognition, visual recall
The effect of emotional intelligence on burnout in healthcare professionals

LAURA-ELENA NĂSTASĂ, ANCA-DANIELA FARCAS

Problem statement: The Romanian healthcare system is perceived by the healthcare professionals as suffering and suffocated, dominated by a generalized culture of helplessness that nurtures feelings of discontent, bitterness and mistrust among healthcare professionals and patients alike (Spânu, Băban, Bria & Dumitrașcu, 2012). In-depth understanding of the mechanisms that favor the development of the burnout syndrome and its consequences are equally important for researchers and practitioners.

Purpose of Study: Within this framework, our research aims to identify the relationship between emotional intelligence and professional burnout in healthcare professionals and also to highlight a correlation between the level of emotional intelligence and the magnitude of the burnout syndrome (emotional exhaustion, depersonalization and the sense of reduced personal professional accomplishment).

Research Methods: There were 120 healthcare professionals (physicians, residents and nurses), both female and male, enrolled in our research and they completed the Emotional Intelligence Scale – EIS (Schutte et al, 1998) and the Maslach Burnout Inventory – MBI (Maslach & Jackson, 1981).

Findings: Our results show that professional burnout in healthcare practitioners is influenced by the level of emotional intelligence. Subjects’ ability to manage their own emotions and impulses, to be more flexible, detached from problems and to express emotions in an assertive manner can be a real resource for medical professionals facing the burnout syndrome.

Conclusions: Even if a person has sufficient knowledge and clever ideas, if one does not know his own emotions and feelings and fails to manage them, one may find difficulty trying to build relationships with others or a successful career. Subjects with high emotional intelligence realize how their feelings affect both themselves and others. The results support the appropriateness of implementing a program focused on the development of emotional intelligence of healthcare professionals who find themselves under increasing pressure from permanent and inconsistent changes.

Keywords: emotional intelligence, burnout syndrome, emotional exhaustion, depersonalization, reduced professional accomplishment/professional dissatisfaction
Favorite musical styles, emotional intelligence and adolescents’ personality

LAURA-ELENA NĂSTASĂ, EMILIA IONESCU

**Problem statement:** When personality is brought into the discussion, we speak more specifically about people. When emotions felt by a person are addressed, we actually talk about one’s inner life. Music becomes in this sense a reflection of the two psychological dimensions. It activates the adolescents’ emotional intelligence and it also communicates aspects of their goings-on. This reflection, proven in a scientific way, contributes to a clearer understanding of ateenagers and of the musical genres preferred by this age category nowadays.

**Purpose of Study:** The present study aims to highlight the relationship between adolescents’ favourite musical styles, their level of emotional intelligence and personality traits.

**Research Methods:** There were involved 97 adolescents (73 girls and 24 boys), who offered individually information about their favourite music genres (two or three examples), five favourite artists (confirming the music genres listed) and the frequency they listen to their favourite music. Subjects were administered two tests, as follows: High School Personality Questionnaire - HSPQ (Cattel) and Emotional Intelligence Scale - EIS (Schutte et al, 1998).

**Findings:** The results indicate that adolescents’ preference for certain musical genres is influenced by their personality traits, as well as by their level of emotional intelligence.

**Conclusions:** Music has a special meaning and is of great interest among teenagers, being their favourite leisure activity. The rates of listening to music, the music genres diversity are increasing due to the possibility of downloading a variety of songs, from all over the world. This level of distribution, diversity, accessibility leads to the specialists’ need to be informed about the impact of listening to different musical genres. This need appears when guiding an adolescent on selecting songs together with the need for knowing the adolescent in terms of preferred musical genre in order to offer him specialist psychological assistance in the process of emotional maturation.

**Keywords:** musical styles, emotional intelligence, personality
Academic cheating in college students: relations among personal values, self-esteem and mastery

LAURA TEODORA DAVID

Academic cheating is one of the most blamed and still frequent and somehow accepted practice presents in the life of college students. In the current study we are interested to look at the relation among this trend and personal values, self-esteem and mastery. Also, the frequency and type of cheating is studied.

Sixty second year college students were questioned using five instruments (Rosenberg self-esteem scale, Scott personal value scale, Wrightsman Philosophies of Human Nature Questionnaire, Pearlin et al., Mastery Scale, and Cheating scale created by the author). Mean age of the participants is 21.1 years of age, students being enrolled in technical and economics study programs (45% technical, 55% economics).

The results showed no significant differences in cheating by gender, but there is a positive correlation between self-reported cheating and the frequencies of this behavior in mates. Self-esteem and mastery feeling is negative associated with cheating. Small, negative correlations were obtained between cheating and values placed on honesty and academic achievement. Students with a more optimistic view on human nature cheat less, but there was no relation between the cynic ones and cheating. Plagiarism, taking answers from a colleague, helping somebody else to cheat and getting help more than acceptable from somebody else are the most frequent ways to cheat.

The findings of the current study support the idea that cheating relates to some internal characteristics but also that there are external factors that if are controlled can reduce this practice. No information regarding other moral issues except honesty and values on achievement was collected, even though moral judgment is directly involved in rules breaking. Also other studies showed an important effect of the how a person is explaining the need for cheating and what kind of cheating are considered justified, but we didn’t collect data of these nature. A last limit of the study is represented by the topic itself, desirability in answers being suspected.

Keywords: academic cheating, self-esteem, values, mastery
Illness representation in motor impaired children

LAURA TEODORA DAVID

Motor impairment produces not only deficiency in motor function but also has negative impact in self-image as a whole, affecting social relations and self-worth. Illness representation was studied for decades and continues to be in the interest of clinical psychologist. One of the most useful models supports the existence of a cognitive schema that includes information about what causes the illness, symptoms and label, evolution, short and long term consequences and possible treatment (Leventhal, & Cameron, 1985).

The current study is interested to compare illness representation held by motor impaired children who comes from an institutionalized special school and those who live with their families and are enrolled in public schools. Fifty six children were investigated, all diagnosed with different motor impairment using semi structured interview, draw a person test and an adapted version of it, illness barometer (created by the author) and Raven progressive matrices. The objectives were to determine the content of cognitive schema about illness in both group of children (age 10-14 years old), body image, attitudes on disability, and the perceived quality of health.

The results showed differences between the two groups, with children leaving with their parents and being enrolled in public schools, holding a more negative self-image, but also more knowledge about the illness including ways of treatment and information about the causes. Interview disclosed more negative self-representation than the drawings. In institutionalized children resignation was the predominant attitude on disability while the second group hold a more combative and active attitude.

The findings suggest the urge to inform children about their condition and to motivate them to play a more active part in the rehabilitation. Also, is important to anticipate the negative self-imagine that emerges in association with motor impairment and to offer counseling.

The study holds some limits: first, there was a significant difference in IQ scores between the two groups that could moderate the results. Second there are limits drawn by the qualitative measures used and the reduced number of participants. All will be discussed in the paper.

Keywords: motor impairment, illness'representation, disability
The relation between experiences and expectations with University dropout

PEDRO BELO, CATARINA OLIVEIRA

The aim of this research is to contribute for the understanding of certain psychological aspects, which involve a transition to higher education.

Were used the questionnaire of academic expectations (QEA - Expectations version) and the questionnaire of academic experiences (QVA-r) as instruments for data collection, within a sample of 1121 students of the University of Coimbra.

Academic experiences of Career and Study, Institutional Involvement, Vocational Involvement and Curriculum Involvement are significantly lower comparing students who had failed with the others, so they can become potential school leavers.

The results support more institutional attention to such students.

Keywords: school dropout, academic failure, higher education, expectations, experiences, academic involvement
The Influences of perceptual grouping on the temporal dimension of auditory events

MICHELE SINICO

There is ample literature on the influence of nontemporal variables on temporal properties of events (Allan, 1979). In the present research, it was hypothesized the influence of the vertical segregation of an auditory event on the global duration of the sequences. Two experiments were carried out in which the method of adjustment was used. In the first experiment the stimuli were sequences of three elements. Results demonstrated that the stimulus onset asynchrony-within (SOA-within) decreases when an empty interval is placed between two sounds. In the second experiment, a white noise was placed between or after two sounds. Data analysis showed a significant reduction of perceptual duration in sequences with vertical segregation of the white noise. These results suggest that temporal dimension of the sequences is related to the perceptual grouping of the auditory events.

Keywords: time perception, auditory events, perceptual organization, nontemporal variables, experimental phenomenology
Intersegmental and eye-hand coordination in elite junior tennis players

RADU PREDOIU

Problem statement: Intersegmental coordination and eye-hand coordination are complex psychomotor skills with an essential role in adaptation, which involves synergistic action of sensory functions (exteroceptive and interoceptive) and motor function, resulting in providing informational and energy parameters of the movement.

Purpose of Study: The main purpose of our research was to investigate the eye-hand coordination (under slow speed and fast speed conditions), the intersegmental coordination expressed through some psychomotor-related parameters (personal optimum rhythm, resistance to time pressure, perceptual-motor learning, mean of the latency time needed for a bi-segmental or multi-segmental response, resistance to disruptive factors) and the sports performance of elite junior tennis players.

Research Methods: Observation, conversation, test – TUD Test and RCMV Test, within PSISELTEVA tests, elaborated by RQ Plus, statistical processing methods - SPSS and data interpreting.

Findings: The result analysis for male athletes shows that:
- There is a negatively significant correlation (-0.614) between the resistance to disruptive factors (in case of unpredictable appearance of signal-stimuli, distraction, the subject gives correct answers, performs correct intersegmental movements) and the results obtained by the tennis players, expressed through the ranking position (p < 0.05);
- There is a negatively significant correlation (-0.623) between the time in which the target was maintained in the collimator, for speed 2 (under fast speed conditions) and the performance obtained by the athletes, expressed through the official ranking system (p < 0.05);

Conclusions: If the junior tennis players give correct answers when performing intersegmental movements in situations of unpredictable appearance of signal-stimuli or distraction, this aspect is related to a better performance of the athletes - expressed through the official ranking system. Also, if the tennis players manifest a good eye-hand coordination when increasing the dynamic of the situations (under fast speed conditions) this aspect is associated with a better performance of the players on the tennis court. This study results provide information useful to coaches in their training strategy, for scientifically conducting the sports training. The research data will also be used by the sport psychologist, who will conceive stimulation programs for the characteristics associated with sports performance.

Keywords: intersegmental coordination, eye-hand coordination, resistance to disruptive factors, instrumental movements, tennis
Experimental methods in economics and psychology: A comparison

DAG MADSEN, TONNY STENHEIM

Problem statement: This article compares the use of experiments as a research method in economics and psychology. We outline the most important differences between the two fields in terms of their use of experimental methods.

Purpose of study: The purpose of the article is two-fold. First, to provide an overview of areas where economic experiments differ from traditional psychological experiments. Second, to debate experimental economics in relation to experiments in other social sciences.

Research methods: Literature review and conceptual discussion.

Findings: We identify and discuss six aspects of economic experiments: Incentives, market mechanisms, repetition, recruitment of participants, context, and finally, deception. These aspects are discussed with reference to criticism from psychologists and behavioral economists.

Conclusions: Towards the end of the article we discuss possible dialogue and convergence between experimental economics and experimental psychology. Discussing areas of convergence and divergence can be useful in order to foster dialogue between the social sciences.

Keywords: experimental methods, economics psychology
Tailoring a multicomponent – psychotherapy and dietary – intervention to cancer patient needs

CLAUDIU-CRISTIAN PAPASTERI, ANAMARIA-GABRIELA IULIAN

In Europe, there are 3.2 million people diagnosed with cancer every year and this figure is expected to further increase due to the ageing population. Due to the complexity of the disease and the pluridimensional impact it has on the life of the patient, cancer and cancer interventions are now thought to fit within a biopsychosocial model of health and illness. The biopsychosocial models of health and illness address biological, psychological, behavioral (health behaviors, compliance) and social factors that interact with one another, and affect overall health. The result we see is that the different supportive cancer care programs emerging from the vast line of research on the biopsychosocial models prove the effectiveness of different multicomponent biobehavioral interventions.

Evidence suggests that health behavior interventions such as dietary intervention and simple physical activity can represent very efficient and cost-effective adjuvant therapies. Both poor nutrition status and psychological status are independent risk factors for severe side effects of cancer treatment, and have impact on the recovery of physical performance status in patients after treatment. More so, nutritional intervention is probably about to be considered as a supportive measure within the global oncology strategy.

It has been observed that psychotherapy may lead to health behavior change such as healthier diet, in fact this was the indirect mechanism proposed in order to explain the survival advantages of patients attending psychotherapy in a couple of studies. Some of the pathways through which diet influences major components of the biobehavioral model (Andersen et al., 1994) such as immune functioning and general compliance leading to better disease outcomes have also been described. However, the complex interplay between psychotherapy and dietary interventions, achieving a beneficial synergetic effect on quality of life and general health, is far from being understood. For example, the current psycho-oncology literature has mostly overlooked the direct effects of nutrition on mental status, mood states and many psychological symptoms. Therefore, the main objective of this article will be to describe how and why a multicomponent, psychotherapy and dietary, intervention should be implemented and explain some of the mechanisms that confer its effectiveness.

Keywords: cancer, oncology, neoplastic disease, nutrition, dietary intervention, psychotherapy, counseling, psycho-oncology, cancer supportive care, oncopatient lifestyle improvement
Study regarding the impact of trait anxiety on intersegmental coordination and topographical memory in junior football players

VIOREL COJOCARU, ȘTEFAN TŰDÖS, RADU PREDOIU, EUGEN COLIȚĂ, DANIELA COLIȚĂ

Problem statement: Anxiety is a disorder of the affectivity, expressed by fear, unrest sensations, felt in absence of true causes able to cause them. Intersegmental coordination is a complex psychomotor skill with an essential role in adaptation. Topographical memory requires retaining for a period of time a certain route and to use this information in a predetermined purpose.

Purpose of Study: The main purpose of our research was to investigate the impact of trait anxiety on intersegmental coordination and upon topographical memory of the junior men football players.

Research Methods: Observation, conversation, questionnaire – EMAS-T (part of the Endler Multidimensional Anxiety Scales) belonging to the computerized platform CAS++, test – RCMV and MT, within PSISELTEVA tests.

Findings: The result analysis for male athletes shows that:
- There is a negatively significant correlation (-0.437) between trait anxiety in socially-evaluative situations and the complex reaction time - the mean of the latency time needed for a bi-segmental or multi-segmental response;
- There is a positively significant correlation (0.438, respectively 0.499) between trait anxiety in physically dangerous situations and the results obtained by the football players for the resistance to time pressure (in situations that require intersegmental coordination) and for the topographical memory coefficient.

Conclusions: A medium level of trait anxiety in socially-evaluative situations is correlated to a fast reaction of the athletes at different perceptual conditions, reaction that involve a bi-segmental or multi-segmental response. A highly below the average level of trait anxiety in physically dangerous situations, is correlated to a weak performance of the athletes in the case of the resistance to time pressure. Instead, if trait anxiety in physically dangerous situations it’s at a medium level or slightly below the average level, it can be related to a better performance. Also, the football players who had a trait anxiety in potentially harmful situations at a medium level or slightly below the average level registered better results for the topographical memory. They registered a smaller number of errors and a greater number of correctly issued answers than the athletes whose level of anxiety in physically dangerous situations was highly below the average level.

Keywords: trait anxiety, intersegmental coordination, topographical memory, complex reaction time, resistance to time pressure

41
Associations between Hexaco model of personality structure, motivational factors and self-reported creativity among architecture students

KINGA SZABÓ, PAUL MUTICĂ, ŢEFAN SZAMOSKÖZI

Self-reported creativity is a good predictor of creative performance. Also, creativity is influenced by many other factors, such as personality structure and motivational orientations. There are studies which analyze the relation between creativity, personality and motivational factors, but these show different results.

Therefore, our goal was to identify the relation between three types of self-reported creativity (creative self-efficacy, role-identity and behavior), Hexaco Personality factors and motivational orientations.

The study sample consists of 182 students from the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca. They were asked to complete three questionnaires: Self-reported Creativity Scale, Hexaco Personality Inventory and Work Preference Inventory.

The participants were asked to sign a participation agreement and to complete questionnaires mentioned before. IBM SPSS Statistics and IBM SPSS Amos (20.0) were used for data analysis.

Our first analysis aimed the reliability and factor structure of the two creativity measures. The model fit was good, the chi-square test was significant ($\chi^2 (149)= 295.9, p<.001$) and the remaining fit indices suggested also a good fit (CFI=.88, RMSEA=.074 (90% CI=.061 to .086)). The alpha value was set on $\alpha = .91$, which is an excellent internal consistency. Correlational results suggest that intrinsic motivation is significantly related with CSE, CRI and CB ($r= .291$, $r= .337$, $r= .365$, $p<.01$). We tested the differences between students with different levels of self-reported creativity using independent sample t-test. We found significant differences, for example on the Agreeableness personality factor between the group of low self-reported creative behavior ($M=44.45$, $SD=8.21$) and medium ($M=48.95$, $SD=8.15$; $t(114) = 2.89$, $p=.005$; $d= .55$).

In conclusion results show that there are differences between participants with low and high levels of creativity. Participants who have beliefs that they are able to try out new ideas are more patient, flexible and tend to avoid being overly judgmental. Furthermore, students with better creative self-efficacy are more compensation oriented than people who have weaker creative self-efficiency. Moreover, persons who value more being creative are more oriented toward recognition than participants with lower level of creative personal identity.

Keywords: self-reported creativity, Hexaco personality factors, intrinsic motivation, extrinsic motivation, creative self-efficacy, creative role –identity, creative behavior
The impact of self-safety upon social conversation at Romanian mental deficiencies preadolescents

ROXANA UREA

Human personality is one of the major areas of interest in the psychology field. During the last years, there were a lot of researches that revealed some of the features of the personality are manifest in the process of social interaction.

Social conversation is the highest expression of the level of social interaction. Social conversation can be defined as a communicational activity which involves different persons in order to achieve specific goals; it has a time-table development, specific rules and strategies. In this activity, each person comes with his/her status, personal features, has his/her own role and level of self-safety.

This paper tries to reveal the reflected types of self-safety in the social conversation process at Romanian mental deficiencies.

Research Methods: The Social Conversation Questionnaire developed in 2008 by R. Urea for Romanian preadolescents with mental disability (fidelity index test-retest: .775, The Self-Safety Questionnaire developed in 2006 by R. Urea for Romanian preadolescents with mental disability (fidelity index test-retest: 0.784)

Findings: Our results showed some basic features of mental disabilities preadolescent’s self-safety and different type of social conversation at these preadolescents. The hypothesis was confirmed.

Conclusions: The conclusions that came through allows us to establish a specific typology between mental disabilities preadolescent’ self-safety and their social conversation ‘type. These conclusions are significant for the complex therapeutic process of preadolescents with mental deficiencies in order to facilitate their social insertion.

Keywords: social conversation, self-safety, mental deficiencies, preadolescent
The risk of eating disorders in adolescence and its association with the value of the body mass index, level of anxiety and level of depression

ANDREEA-ELENA MUSTATA

Problem statement: During adolescence, various subclinical forms of eating disorders can appear; the specialized literature indicates the fact that they can be associated with an increased BMI. Also, eating disorders which reach the clinical level are frequently associated with anxious and depressive disturbances, the present study trying to see if these associations are maintained when the intensity of the symptoms is not a clinical one.

Purpose of Study: The research aimed to study whether there is an association between the risk to develop an eating disorder in adolescence and: the BMI level, the intensity of the anxiety symptoms, the intensity of the depressive symptoms. The associations were studied both at global level and differentiated on boys and girls.

Research Methods: In order to evaluate the risk to develop an eating disorder the EAT 26 tool was used (The Eating Attitude Test-26), the BMI was calculated according to the subjects’ height and weight, the anxious symptoms were STA1 evaluated (State-Trait Anxiety Inventory) and the depressive symptoms with the BDI (Beck Depression Inventory). The sample was made of 119 adolescents, 32 boys and 87 girls aged 15 - 19.

Findings: The results of the research (N=119) indicate the existence of some statistically significant positive correlations, between the risk to develop an eating disorder and: IMC (r=0.19, p<0.05), anxiety level as state (r=0.31, p<0.01), anxiety level as trait (r=0.30, p<0.01) and depression level (r= 0.30, p<0.01). The statistical significances and intensities of these correlations are different in girls and boys. In boys the values are: r=0.22 (p>0.05), r=0.18 (p>0.05), r=0.29 (p>0.05), r=0.24 (p>0.05), while in girls they are: r=0.33 (p<0.01), r=0.28 (p<0.01), r=0.19 (p<0.05), r=0.22 (p<0.05).

Conclusions: The study indicates the existence of positive correlations, significant from the statistical point of view between the risk to develop an eating disorder in adolescence and BMI, anxiety level and depression level. Also, these correlations have various significances and intensities when studied differentiated, in boys and girls, which sustains the continuation of this research with further ones, which shall study the intensity and the nature of these hypothetical differences.

Keywords: risk of eating disorders, BMI, anxiety, depression, adolescence
Challenging or conserving your beliefs: A person-centered approach of pre-service teachers’ educational identity

ELEONORA IOANA POP, OANA NEGRU

Problem statement: Emerging adulthood is considered one of the most challenging periods in terms of identity development in different areas of life, especially education and career. Educational choices are components of career development (Germejs, Luyckx, Notelaers, Goossens, & Verschueren, 2012; Super, 1980). Thus, a student’s decision to enroll in a teaching training program indicates that a future teaching career is considered a viable career path, and hence an important component of their educational identity. The manner in which students approach this educational choice could be partially shaped by students’ explicit or implicit theories about teaching (i.e., personal beliefs about the innate or learned nature of the teaching ability). This research area is still lacking empirical evidence.

Purpose of Study: The present study set out to analyze educational identity statuses in pre-service teachers (N = 294, Mean age = 19.94 years, SD age = 1.28) from a person-centered approach and explored the effect of derived identity statuses (i.e., achievement, moratorium, searching moratorium, foreclosure, diffusion) on teaching ability beliefs (i.e., teaching as innate ability versus teaching as learned ability).

Research Methods: We used the Utrecht-Management of Identity Commitments Scale (Crocetti, Rubini, & Meeus, 2008) and the Teaching Ability Beliefs Scale (Fives & Buehl, 2008) in order to assess pre-service teachers’ identity processes and beliefs about the nature of their teaching ability, respectively.

In order to derive pre-service teachers’ educational identity statuses from the identity processes (i.e., commitment, in-depth exploration, reconsideration of commitment) we conducted a cluster analysis. The connections between pre-service teachers’ beliefs about teaching ability (innate versus learned) and educational identity status, were investigated through a multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA).

Findings: Results indicated that most pre-service teachers in our sample were characterized by identity achievement, followed by searching moratorium, diffusion, and foreclosure. Searching moratorium pre-service teachers scored higher than the foreclosed ones on both teaching ability beliefs, pointing out that beliefs about teaching influence pre-service teachers’ engagement in professional development tasks.

Conclusions: The present study findings could serve as guidelines for the designing of effective teaching training programs addressed to pre-service teachers.

Keywords: educational identity, career, pre-service teachers, beliefs about teaching
The risk of eating disorders in adolescence and its association with the impact of the sociocultural attitudes towards appearance

ANDREEA-ELENA MUSTATA

Problem statement: Eating disorders appear mainly during adolescence, but specialized literature identified a series of subclinical forms which do not meet the diagnostic criteria, but which can have negative effects on the psychological and physical health. Such forms appear under the form of the risk to develop an eating disorder.

Purpose of Study: The research aimed at investigating if there is any significant correlation from the statistic point of view between the risk of developing an eating disorder in adolescence and the impact of the sociocultural attitude towards appearance, at global level, but also gender differentiated.

Research Methods: In order to evaluate the risk of developing an eating disorder the EAT 26 tool was used (The Eating Attitude Test-26) and in order to assess the impact of the sociocultural attitude towards appearance we used The Sociocultural Attitudes Towards Appearance Scale (S.A.T.A.Q.), made of six sub-scales: Importance, pressure, internalization / TV-magazines, internalization-athlete, internalization / comparison, awareness. The sample was made of 119 adolescents, 32 boys and 87 girls aged 15 - 19.

Findings: The results of the research (N=119) indicate the fact that there are significant correlations from the statistical point of view, but with various intensities, between the risk to develop an eating disorder in adolescence and the impact of the Sociocultural Attitudes Towards Appearance, measured through the six scales: importance (r=0.24, p<0.01), pressure (r=0.40, p<0.01), internalization / TV, magazines (r=0.45, p<0.01), internalization / athlete (r=0.22, p<0.05), internalization / comparison (r=0.25, p<0.01 ), awareness (r=0.22, p<0.05 ). The intensities and significances of these correlations are different, though, in girls and boys. In boys the values are: r=0.4 (p<0.05), r=0.63 (p<0.01), r=0.5 (p<0.05), r=0.46 (p<0.01), r=0.23 (p<0.05), r= 0.34(p<0.05), while in girls they are: : r=0.16 (p>0.05), r=0.33 (p<0.01), r=0.42 (p<0.01), r=0.19 (p>0.05), r=0.24 (p<0.05), r=0.18 (p>0.05).

Conclusions: The study indicates statistically significant associations between the risk to develop an eating disorder and the sociocultural attitudes towards appearance, their intensities being different when a gender-differentiated analysis is performed. The results indicate the necessity of a deeper analysis of the nature of these possible differences between girls and boys.

Keywords: eating disorder risk, sociocultural attitudes towards appearance, adolescence
Professional stress in relation to anxiety, depression and irrational beliefs among dental and psychotherapy students

DIANA PAULA DUDAU, RUXANDRA SFEATCU, CRISTIAN FUNIERU, ADINA DUMITRACHE

Problem statement: Training in health professions such as dentistry or psychotherapy might predispose students to experience higher levels of stress, compared to other domains of activity, due to the fact that it implies additional challenges (besides the usual academic ones), such as: often getting in touch with human suffering, acquiring some difficult clinical competencies, taking special care not to let work interfere with personal life or vice versa, treating difficult patients etc.

Purpose of the Study: Based on Ellis' rational-emotive behavior theory, we aimed to analyze the way irrational beliefs might be associated with students’ perceived stress of attending a professional training in psychotherapy and dentistry. Secondly, we intended to explore the differences between psychotherapy and dental students with regard to their perceived level of professional and academic stress, anxiety, depression and irrational beliefs. Thirdly, we had the purpose of investigating the relation between the multiple sources of stress specific to professional training and students’ symptoms of anxiety, depression and general stress.

Research Methods: 60 dental undergraduates in their 6th year of studies (Mage = 25.92, SD = 1.38) and 30 psychotherapy master’s degree trainees (Mage = 32.70, SD = 9.68) at two universities from Bucharest, were asked to voluntarily participate to this study by completing self-report measures of professional stress, general stress, anxiety, depression and irrational beliefs. In order to operationalize our variables we used the following instruments: two versions of Dental Environment Stress Questionnaire (DES; Garbee et al. 1980) – one for dental students and one adapted for psychotherapy students; Depression Anxiety Stress Scale (DASS; Lovibond & Lovibond, 1995) and The Shortened General Attitude and Belief Scale (SGABS; Lindner et al., 1999).

Findings: The level of professional stress perceived by dental students was strongly associated with symptoms of depression (rs = .40, p < .01) and weakly with symptoms of general stress (r = .27, p < .05) and anxiety (rs = .27, p < .05). Moreover, it was noticed that the stress regarding professional identity (r = -.30, p < .05) and patient treatment (r = -.28, p < .05) tended to be lower, as the other-downing irrational beliefs tended to be more accentuated. The professional stress reported by psychotherapy trainees was also positively correlated with symptoms of general stress (r = .56, p <.01), anxiety ( rs = .39, p < .05) and irrational beliefs (r = .69, p <.01).

Conclusions: Our findings were generally consistent with the theory behind rational-emotive behavior therapy and bring to attention the necessity of conducting more research regarding the role of academic and professional stress, in students’ quality of life.

Keywords: professional stress, depression, anxiety, irrational beliefs, dental students, psychotherapy trainees
Thematic correlations of the patients with severe depressive episode. A case study

CRISTIAN MIHAI SUMEDREA, CORNELIU MOSOIU

Problem statement: The manner in which each person uses its psychological resources on themes of life is decisive in the dynamic behavior. The dramatic status change of a dominant theme (of hope into failure) causes simultaneous activation of some psychic resources affecting the mental balance. In the case of depressed patients, the conservation of the altered mental statuses can be explained through the activation of certain specific sub-themes (as indicated below) governed by failure.

Purpose of Study: The case study identifies the specific sub-themes of the patients in severe depressive episode and the manner in which these sub-themes are correlated.

Research Methods: Life events are experienced by depressed patients in a specific corpus of psychological states including: sadness, regret, anger, fatigue, anxiety, apathy and low self-esteem. In order to prove this aspect, the assessed patients were asked to report three life-events (as themes): the happiest, the worst and an everyday life event. Each of these three events was divided into sub-themes (personal achievement, loss, care, chance etc.). The words contained in such sub-themes (except related words) were translated by patients in terms of states (see the psychological states which are presented above). Each sub-theme is represented by a vector of the mentioned psychological states. The coefficients of the psychological states were identified using the latent semantic analysis (LSA). The correlations of the identified sub-themes are calculated as internal product of vectors.

Findings: The most significant correlations between the identified sub-themes were: 0.933 (depreciation-loss), 0.949 (achievement-significance of places), 0.935 (achievement-theme of the new) and 0.98 (loss-fear); Specific vectors of the identified psychological states for each sub-theme of life were determined.

Conclusions: The patients which are diagnosed with severe depressive episode experience life events in terms of sadness, regret, anger, fatigue, anxiety, apathy and low self-esteem; The significant correlations of the identified sub-themes have the role to exhaust the psychic resources in order to increase the patient’s suffering; The identified correlations constitutes a significant informational support for the psychotherapeutic interventions focused on the subject.

Keywords: severe depressive episode, psychological states, thematic correlations, latent semantic analysis
Spatial Cognition: Theoretical Considerations

VICTORITA TRIF

Problem statement: Cognitive neuroscience is becoming one of the most prestigious fields of research. Unfortunately the results are not homogeneous: prospects of topics, purposes reconsidered from the laboratories of the world, examining practices, preliminaries to testing, case studies and so on demonstrates the multiplications of research framework that are often in conflict. We must note that our paper examines the spatial cognition taking into account the junction between the theoretical considerations of the workshop integrated at degree developed in the University of Bucharest and the empirical results of the narratives.

Purpose Of Study: This paper is a theoretical study and aims to describe the theoretical bases of the workshop developed and to explore the empirical findings from the vantage point of spatial constraints. We consider that the workshop might be considered an exercise that trains the brain, especially the visual cortex - registering visual stimuli, combining directions, distinguishing forms, recognizing angles (exploring boats, yachts, flats, castle, various types of houses and so on).

Research Methods: From the vantage point of methodology the research is multiparadigmatic in focus because might be considered multimodal: an experiment (a cultural one that implies the linguistic codes and spatial representation codes); a study case; a narrative research; an exercise to exploring the imagery space; a way to investigating memory; an unconventional way to examine attention; a problem solving; navigation testing etc. The investigation is made in the academic year 2014 with 74 students involved in teachers training and 20 students at master degree from the University of Bucharest.

Findings: We consider that our results are closely linked to researches applied on monkeys, cats, rats, visual topography of primates and so on. The common visual experience, the distortions of visuoptic map, the metrics of behavioral plasticity, the visual task correlate with neural responses, the spatially specific response, changes of neuronal activity are topics that illustrate the need to promote alternative hypotheses and various approaches to research.

Conclusions: Not surprisingly, this qualitative research provides -as quantitative studies- that there are invariant and non-invariant regularizations of the findings. A consequence of the results is that the qualitative workshop might be adapted in terms of laboratories (quantitative) investigations.

Keywords: spatial cognition, military psychology, qualitative research, narrative cognitive neuroscience
Epistemic and Deontic Rhetoric on Gender: Meta- Analysis

VICTORITA TRIF

Problem statement: This article investigates the epistemic and deontic rhetoric on gender in Romania in a time of shifting the interest from theoretical to empirical background and from folk studies to scientific research. In fact the international framework of gender issues is complex because of the various theoretical orientations: essentialism, social constructionalism, ecological feminist theory, political feminist theory, postmodernism, poststructuralism and so on.

Purpose Of Study: The purpose is to delineate the features of Romanian view on gender from both parts: recent history (communism) and contemporary issues.

Research Methods: The approach is qualitative presenting a field survey as result of the meta-analysis.

Findings: In the Romanian studies it is necessary to combine the both levels of knowledge, one empiricaly (Greek “Doxa”) using empirical methods (observation and experiment) and the rational level (Greek “Noesis”) who intricated the „Doxa”. The findings are not facts; there are many discourses that intend to avoiding the moral panic. In order to re-interpreting the data collected we assume that it is difficult to delineate between intellectual products on gender and practical considerations.

Conclusions: To conclude, the meta-analysis reveals that: a) in Romania, the studies on gender differencies are crossing the first phase of research who follow Romanian communism, phase with long history but no solidity; b) it is necessary to learn reading gender studies in sense to know and comprehend science in spirit of the canonical completitude and intelligibility taking into account the cultural diversity and the new trends from psychology, sociology, linguistics, semiotics, theology and so on. In contemporary times is ongoing the effort to develop the field in sense to highlight flexible attitudes to gender problems.

Keywords: gender, educational psychology, qualitative studies, meta-analysis, discourse analysis, semiotics
Predictors of professional entrepreneurial intention and behavior in the educational field

DOINA USACI

We live in a changing world where the school, at any level, is confronting with a significant challenge. More than ever, the school must develop to the students a set of competences, not for an existing world, but for a world that will follow, a dynamic and fluid world, whose coordinates we do not know yet. The sustainability of any society depends on behavioral and attitudinal dispositions that are in turn dependent on educational values employed to prepare children to adapt in a sustainable mode to today’s environment while developing aptitudes for tomorrow’s challenges. (Mbebeb, 2009).

Future world requires entrepreneurial personalities, flexible, innovative, with open mind and thinking outside the box. The construction of this personality must begin in the early years of school. Entrepreneurial education is required to be made by entrepreneurial teachers. This is why teacher training is an extremely significant approach.

The purpose of this paper is to evaluate the entrepreneurial dispositions of the students enrolled in two master's program Educational psychology of preschool and primary school and Human Resources in Education and the relations between self-reported entrepreneurial behavior, professional entrepreneurial intentions and a set of psychological factors, considered as predictors. As a Theoretical framework we used Ajzen’s Social Psychological Theory of Planned Behavior” (TPB). As predictors of entrepreneurial intentions we considered the three components of TPB: (1) the attitude toward the entrepreneurial behavior, (2) subjective norms and (3) the degree of perceived behavioral control (self-efficacy), and other two psychological factors: proactive personality and attitude toward learning. We also evaluated professional entrepreneurial intentions (understood as subjects’ explicit intentions to innovate in the professional field, the self-reported entrepreneurial professional behavior and the intention to develop a private activity, as criteria variables.

In order to realize this research we used three scales: a scale to assess the factors of TPB model, a shorted version of Bateman and Crant’s Proactive Personality Scale, and a five points Likert scale for attitude toward learning. We also use items to assess entrepreneurial intentions and behavior, applied on a sample of 48 graduates of the two master programs.

Research findings show that the five factors are broadly predictive for entrepreneurial intention and behavior, but in different degrees. More specifically, attitudes toward learning and proactive personality are the most predictive factors, followed by attitude toward behavior and the subjective norms.

Keywords: professional entrepreneurial intentions entrepreneurial behavior, attitude, toward learning, proactive personality, subjective norms
Parental Competence of the Vulnerable Groups – an Exploratory Study

SIMONA MARIA GLĂVEANU

**Problem statement:** Studies on vulnerable groups are generally focused on the social and professional integration of their members (Herausgeber, 2014; Weissbrodt, 2011; Groom, 2009) rather than on the influence of their parental behaviour on the development of children’s harmonious personality and, implicitly, of a fully psychosocially integrated next generation.

**Purpose of Study:** – to investigate at a general level the parental competence of the vulnerable groups (N=64), and thus, to adapt the Parental Competence Questionnaire (PCQ) in the new context.

**Research Methods:** PCQ (Glăveanu, 2012) was used for completing the objective of the study. The questionnaire was validated on 535 parents, with children aged between 7 and 11, using the Parental Authority Questionnaire (Buri, 1991); it originally had 81 items separated into 5 dimensions: knowing the specificities of the child, affective support, disciplining, time management and crisis management.

**Findings:** In order to use the PCQ in the new context, it has been adapted to the particularities of vulnerable groups – some items have been eliminated, others have been rephrased and new ones have been introduced. The item analysis has revealed statistically acceptable values of the difficulty (between 0.3 and 0.6) and discrimination indexes (between 0.4 and 0.5). The exploratory analysis has indicated a communality between 0.47 and 0.65, a 0.4 saturation and the sample group adequacy (KMO 0.62). The psychometric qualities have been underlined as follows: for the internal consistency, the calculation of the Cronbach’s Alpha coefficient has revealed statistically acceptable values (between 0.7 and 0.86); validity has been ensured by extracting conduct samples from the qualitative research results (interviews), collecting information from the literature and resorting to the experts’ analysis. The adapted form of the PCQ contains 41 items, and the final score ranges between 41 and 205.

**Conclusions:** The statistical data has revealed that this form of adapted PCQ possesses adequate values of the psychometric qualities and, therefore, it can be used as an instrument for assessing parental competence of vulnerable groups. This study is part of a more extended research entitled “The Development of the Vulnerable Groups’ Parental Competence – a Mediating Factor for the Next Generation’s Socioeconomic Integration”.

**Keywords:** parental competence, vulnerable groups, knowing the child, affective support, disciplining, time management, crisis management
Individual Learning Plan in teaching mathematics for children with SEN – a constructivist approach

MIHAELA VOINEA, MONICA PURCARU

Problem statement: The role of Mathematics in the national curriculum in every country is a very important one, justified through the skills it aims to form: “Mathematics equips pupils with a uniquely powerful set of tools to understand and change the world” (QCA, 2005). Students with learning difficulties are predispose to math disabilities. In this case the role of teacher is very important. The teacher must blend adequate strategies for each students and cooperation learning strategies. Current reforms in education are based on socio-constructivist theories of learning, who promote skills to solve real-life problems. Even students with learning difficulties can solve real-life problems if the teacher use an individual plan learning. The individual learning plan which is used in an constructivist approach is a solution for children with learning difficulties. A lot of study (Brown, 2000; Westwood, 2006) demonstrated that students develop math skills most effectively in classrooms where teachers have an academic focus, use challenging activities, have high expectations of students (including lower achievers) and use an individual learning plan.

Purpose of Study: The main purpose of this study is the description of the role of individual learning plan for children with math difficulties, which are used in an constructivist approach.

Research Methods: To achieve the research purpose, the following methods were used: the study of curricular documents (individual learning plan) and 10 study cases of children with math difficulties from primary school.

Findings: The case study has revealed practical strategies and tools than can be used successfully with students with math difficulties. The individual learning plan is a tool for students with math difficulties and for the teachers, only it be used in an constructivist approach.

Conclusions: As showed in the case study, students that benefit from individual learning plans in a constructivist aproach can impove their math skills. Teachers who taught mathematics in a constructivist approach wich embraces elements of discovery, situated learning, cooperation and use an individual learning plan obtainted good results with their students and developed social skills.

Keywords: individual learning plan, math difficulties, constructivist approach
Romanian employees’ folk theory on work: a qualitative study

CARMEN BUZEA

The study explores folk theory on work culture as seen by Romanian employees (N=146). Semi-structured interviews have been conducted to find answers to the following questions: 1) Which are the main qualities and flaws of Romanian workers? 2) What distinguishes the Romanians by others in terms of working style? The results show that the main categories describing qualities of Romanian working style are hardworking, cleverness, multitasking and creativity, while the main flaws are: “sloppy work”, lack of discipline, laziness and multi-qualification. The findings are discussed in the light of within-culture approach, along with limitations and directions for future research.

Keywords: folk theory, work culture, Romanian employees, working style
The parental competence of single-parent families from vulnerable groups

SIMONA MARIA GLĂVEANU

Problem statement: In the specialized literature, there are numerous studies which include the monoparental family in the category of vulnerable groups (Popescu, 2011) and researches which reveal the detrimental impact of the parents’ divorce (VanDenBerghe, 2000), of the economic difficulties of single parents (Dowd, 1997) and of certain particularities of their conduct (Ghani et al., 2014) over the development of the child (Tihan, 2004).

Purpose of Study: is that of identifying the particularities of the parental competence of the monoparental family in relation with the living environment and the financial situation (criteria of inclusion in the social category of the vulnerable groups being the rural environment and the precarious financial situation).

Research Methods: Parental Competence Questionnaire – PCQ (Glăveanu, 2012) was used for completing the objective of the study. The questionnaire had 81 items and was validated using the Parental Authority Questionnaire (Buri, 1991).

Findings: The obtained results proved statistically significant differences (t=-2.14; df=63; p=0.03) in terms of the parental competence of the adults in single-parent families in the rural environment (M=231.62; SD=43.67) and, respectively, in the urban environment (M=253.15; SD=37.28). The resulting data indicated statistically significant differences between the following three categories of single-parent families: F(2,62)=50.09, p<0.001, the parents with a precarious financial situation had the lowest score in terms of parental competence (M=198.09; SD=24.82), followed by the ones with minimum national wages (M=251.43; SD=28.31) and those with medium and good financial situation (M=277.28; SD=25.01).

Conclusions: The results of the study indicated that the parents in the single-parent families in the rural environmental generally have a lower level of parental competence, as compared to the ones in the urban environment. Also, the parents with a precarious financial situation have the lowest score, the ones with minimum national wages – an average score and those with medium and good financial situation – the highest score. This study is part of a more extended research entitled “The Development of the Vulnerable Groups’ Parental Competence – a Mediating Factor for the Next Generation’s Socioeconomic Integration”.

Keywords: parental competence, single-parent family, knowing the child, affective support, disciplining, time management, crisis management
Using new communication and information technologies in preschool education

DACIANA LUPU, ANDREEA RAMONA LAURENȚIU

The research aimed to investigate educational activities in terms of educational resources used in preschools. Educational resources were seen as classic teaching aids and modern - new information technologies teaching (NTIC) tools and resources. From this perspective, the objective of the research has focused on investigating the use of classic and modern educational resources in preschools. The main method used was based on a questionnaire survey. The questionnaire was built on three dimensions: types of teaching resources used in teaching, the level of usage of teaching resources in the learning process and the utility of new information technologies educational resources. The questionnaire was developed and validated specifically for this research (Cronbach Alpha = 0.7671). Results obtained show that the vast majority: 212 subjects - 96.12% (N=218) uses very often modern educational resources (86 subjects - 39.4%) and very often (126 subjects - 57.8%). The subjects teachers older than 50 years that records 13 choices for educational sites (placed on second place), 15 choices for video-projector (placed on second place), 11 choices for educational software (placed on second place) and 13 choices for computer/laptop (placed on 3rd place). In comparison we can look, at teacher aged 20-29 years, who recorded nine choices for educational sites (placed on 3rd place), 9 choices for projector (placed on 3rd place), 5 choices for educational software (placed on 4th place) and 15 choices for computer/ laptop (placed on second place). The implication of these results show that teacher use both classic and NTIC educational resources and are aware of their benefits and limits.

Keywords: teachers, educational resources, new information technologies
Weblogging: A technological framework mediated by the self

CRISTINA-GEORGIANA VOICU

This paper examines the way in which self-consciousness and audience each concur to self-disclosure in individuals who use new media. Through separately controlling some of the means that probably influence individuals interaction by computer-mediated communication, this article explores the measure to which several variables contribute to self-disclosure put up in virtual/online contexts. Therefore, the study tackles these variables allowing a more comprehensive understanding of the simultaneous role each variable plays in psychological outcomes such as the self-disclosure of individuals using new technologies.

Keywords: self-disclosure, new media, cognitive sciences, consciousness, cyberspace
Quality Of Life in the third age: a research on risk and protective factors

EVA GERINO, ELISA MARINO, PIERA BRUSTIA, DIMITRIOS G. LYRAKOS, LUCA ROLLE

Literature indicates that good levels of self-esteem, self-efficacy and social support would be elements of strength in the elderly, while, loneliness, depression and anxiety would be among the main elements of vulnerability mentioned in studies on wellbeing in the Third Age.

The objective of this study is to examine the role of these factors in the perception of Quality of Life (QoL) in its different dimensions (WHOLQOL Group, 1998). The protective factors included in the research were: self-esteem, perceived social support and self-efficacy; depression, anxiety and loneliness were considered as risk factors.

The participants, aged between 65 and 91 years (M= 73.8, SD= 6.7), were 464 (67% women and 33% men). The main findings were: 1) in any case, self-efficacy appears as a protective factor and depression as a risk factor with respect to the components of QoL, 2) self-esteem would impact positively on the dimensions: physical health, psychological well-being, only living environment; 3) anxiety would result in a decrease in the perception of QoL factors: psychological status, living environment and social relationships; 4) loneliness would be a negative predictor of psychological health and quality of social relationships, 5) perceived friends support would increase the well-being only at social level.

In line with the literature, these results contribute to underline the importance to plan specific interventions for the elderly, aimed at influencing the feeling of dissatisfaction with living conditions and prevent excessive states of discomfort. In particular, important areas of intervention, also highlighted by our research, could be: self-efficacy and self-esteem of the subjects (Blazer, 2002), conditions underlying anxiety and depression, pro-social behaviors (to reduce the feelings of loneliness and relational isolation) (Tijhuis, De Jong-Gierveld, Feskens, & Kromhout, 1999)

Keywords: Aging, Quality of life, Self-esteem, Well-being
The Personality and Behavior Inventory: Description, characteristics, psychometric properties and comparison with MMPI-II and PAI

DIMITRIOS G. LYRAKOS, EVA GERINO, ELISA MARINO, PIERA BRUSTIA, LUCA ROLLE

The Personality Behavior Inventory is a multidimensional tool for evaluating psychopathology, physical problems, behavioral characteristics and typical features of a personality. It is made up of 55 non-adjointed factors, which means that the items correspond with a single factor, and 12 adjoined factors, which mean that the factors consist by items that are included on other factors as well. The PBI consists of 197 questions that the examinee answers on a four point scale. The language level is designed for people who have finished the third grade of elementary school, people with average and limited intelligence, but also foreigners who have completed the questionnaire not on their mother tongue. That is for the Greek as well as the English version. The PBI provides clinical diagnoses, screening, and treatment planning for psychopathology, it also covers all the constructs most relevant to a broad-based assessment of mental disorders. The validity of the PBI is established on the basis of results from data from three samples; a normative census-matched sample from 1,478 community based adults who were matched on the basis of race, gender, and age; a sample consisting of 1,472 psychiatric and psychological patients (inpatients and outpatients), a sample from 982 forensic participants, who have been accused and convicted for a variety of crimes and finally a sample of 121 correctional and public safety employees. According to the reliability scores, the PBI scales reflect a greater level of internal consistency. Additionally the studies on validity show the convergent and discriminate validity of the PBI scales to be better than over 50 other tests and measures related to psychopathology. At the present article, we will present the characteristics of the PBI, its usages on the clinical, occupational and forensic setting as a description of its psychometric properties and its advantages over the other MMPI-II and PAI.

Keywords: psychological assessment, psychopathology, personality, clinical psychology, forensic psychology
The perceived significances of interdisciplinarity at students in educational sciences

ROXANA UREA

Interdisciplinarity is an interesting approach of modern curriculum, especially at university levels. University, professors use in their teaching act an entire system of methods, strategies, tools, support materials, data, etc. in order to achieve interdisciplinarity. The direct beneficiaries of all of these are the students.

This paper tried to reveal the perceived significance of interdisciplinarity at students from educational sciences, in particular, at students from special education department, a field that is, by excellence, an interdisciplinary one.

Research Methods: Questionnaire: What defines interdisciplinary in special education? (validity index=. 789) and non-directive interviews.

Findings: Our results showed the main perceived characteristics of interdisciplinarity at students in educational. The hypothesis was confirmed.

Conclusions: The conclusions that came through allows us to see that, constantly, university professors need for improvements the teaching style in interdisciplinary approach, in creating new strategies for developing to educational sciences students suitable competencies required by labour market.

Keywords: interdisciplinarity, educational sciences, university degree, special education department, integrated curriculum
Burnout, depression and quality of life among the employees working in non-governmental organizations

PETRU CRAIOVAN

Problem statement: Studies show the existence of a direct correlation between the existence of high stress levels and the conditions of performance and competition (Boersma & Lindblom, 2009). Research has shown that there is a high risk of exhaustion among the employees who work with people and situations which are problematic from a medical, psychological and social perspective. These situations will mostly affect the employees of institutions such as the nongovernmental organization which have a profile of activity specific to social services.

Purpose of Study: The present study focuses on identifying and analyzing the relation between burnout, anxiety and quality of life among employees who work in non-governmental organizations that provide social services from Bucharest.

Research Methods: In order to evaluate the research variables several instruments have been used: The Copenhagen Burnout Inventory (CBI), The Hamilton Anxiety Rating Scale (HAM-A) and World Health Organization Quality of Life Scale.

Findings: The results have shown a significant positive correlation between the burnout scales and the anxious symptomatology ($r = 0.58$). On the other hand, a negative correlation between burnout and physical as well as psychological quality of life has been identified ($r = -0.36$ and $r = -0.43$, $p < .05$). Therefore we suggest that burnout might have a contribution in the physical and psychological perceived quality of life. Also the registered level of anxiety level could be included in a mild to moderate spectrum of severity. The mean scores of the Quality of Life Scale indicate a low level for the general dimension, as well as for the physical and psychological sub-dimensions.

Conclusions: Our results were concordant with the ones revealed in previous research (e.g., Dyrbye, Thomas, Huschka, Lawson, Novotny, Sloan & Shanafelt, 2006; Jan & Masood, 2007; Borritz, Rugulies, Bjorner, Villadsen, Mikkelsen, and Kristensen, 2006) suggesting the fact that burnout, psychopathological anxiety and the perception of low quality of life regarding certain dimensions (physical and psychological) might describe a correlational pattern of problems characteristic for employees of the social services in NGO's.

Keywords: burnout, depression, quality of life, performances, anxiety
Exploring work-life conflict and reconciliation in a Romanian sample

DOINA STEFANA SAUCAN, ANA MARIA MARHAN, MIHAI IOAN MICLE

The current study aims to explore various facets of Work-Family Conflict (W.F.C.) in a Romanian sample and examine the reconciliation strategies challenging it. 100 participants completed a Romanian version of the I.M.F. J.R.-Indicator for Measurement of the Family-Job Reconciliation. The following set of hypotheses were formulated: there is a reciprocal influence work-family, with both positive and negative aspects; dedicated reconciliation strategies are developed in order to solve the conflict between the familial and professional roles; both work and family responsibilities may negatively impacted on individuals personal development potential; they also may impacted upon individuals ability to fulfill their parental role. An exploratory factorial analysis reveals reciprocal influences between work and family, and how related constraints may impact upon individual’s personal growth and development. By reorganizing the demographic indicators and W.L.C. predictive variables, following the main factors rotation, the 6 resulting factors reveals how specific features of the work climate is likely to negatively impact on respondents’ family life (Factor 1); job-related responsibilities and constraints prevent the respondents in fulfilling their family roles, and lead them to experiencing negative feelings, tension and irritability (Factor 2); at turn, negative emotions experienced by respondents in their family context certainly have a negative impact on their ability to find solutions and effectively solve the problems at their work place (Factor 3). Also, it is obvious that both work problems and family constraints may impact upon an individual personal growth and development potential (Factor 4). Further more, parenting seems to be negatively impacted by time-consuming work duties and excessive work-load, among others (Factor 5). Nevertheless, the well being experienced both at work and at home is able to potenitate and activate resources, hence facilitating the development of new skills supporting effective problem solving at work (Factor 6).

Keywords: work-family conflict, reconciliation, emotional well-being
The Consciousness Quotient: Construct development and content validity research

OVIDIU BRAZDAU

The aim of this study was to establish the content validity of a list of traits, skills and abilities that describe conscious experience, aggregated under the construct ‘consciousness quotient’ (CQ). The goal was to evaluate the comprehensiveness and representativeness of the content - whether the lists of the traits comprising the CQ adequately cover conscious experience, with no irrelevant content included. After developing the construct, the content validity was evaluated by a panel of 25 experts. As a result, 40 items were excluded and 27 items were re-worded. New terminological clarifications were developed in order to better operationalize the CQ construct.

Keywords: Consciousness Quotient Inventory, consciousness, assessment, content validity, operationalization
Brain to brain connectivity during Distal Psycho-informational Influence sessions, between spatially and sensory isolated subjects

ALIODOR MANOLEA

**Problem statement:** Several experimental studies conducted since 1965 have tried to show that there is an unconsciously subliminal level of communication between different subjects, spatially and sensory separated, exposed to visual or auditory stimuli. EEG signals structures strongly correlated in time and frequency were detected, as an argument for the existence of the phenomenon.

**Purpose of Study:** to highlight common patterns of brain activity of the inducer subjects and the receiver subjects, as evidence of brain connectivity and Distal Psycho-Informational Influence (DPsyl) respectively; to find a connectivity estimator whose numerical values allow statistical analysis of the phenomenon, in order to assess performance in DPsyl.

**Research Methods:** eight inducer subjects who were exposed to emotional visual stimuli and eight receiver subjects were participants, and at a time changed roles. Their electrical brain activity was simultaneously recorded via 16 wireless EEG headsets, with a single EEG channel; the sensor was placed at the point Fp1 in 10-20 scheme. Eight subjects had a specific training for attention and concentration.

**Findings:** This resulted in 26 EEG recordings, which were analyzed in terms of the coherence, which is a statistical estimator of the time series correlation in the frequency domain and an estimator of the functional connectivity of the neural networks. A t test for independent groups was used to determine if, there is a significant different outcome concerning the number and size of the brain connections for the two groups of subjects. Trained group showed a mean of difference of the EEG coherence in the brainwave theta band during exposure to visual stimuli from resting state, significantly higher than the average of the group without specific training (t (636) = 2.7, p = 0.007 <0.5, 0.003 <0.011 <0.02). The effect size was 0.21, after Cohen.

**Conclusions:** Brain connectivity between inducer and receiver occurs in the theta brainwave band that is specific to this type of activity, the phenomenon taking place without awareness of the receiver and sometimes of the inductor. The effect size is small, in agreement also with other trials in the field, but given about what phenomenon it comes, is significant. The specific training, it matter.

**Keywords:** subliminal level of communication, Distal Psycho-Informational Influence, brain to brain connectivity, EEG coherence, brainwave theta band
The relationship between social cognition and functional outcomes in schizophrenia

RAMONA STREA

**Problem statement:** Social cognition is an area of great interest in schizophrenia research. An important direction of investigation is the relationship between social cognition and functional outcomes. Impairments of this ability seem to be key determinants in some major areas of functioning. In addition to these clinical objectives, researchers are interested in identifying the neural correlates of social cognition. In this regard, there are disputes in the literature concerning the relationship between social cognition and neurocognition. The question is to what extent social cognition, which is based on neurocognitive processes, has a specific influence.

**Purpose of Study:** We intended to determine if social cognition is impaired in individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia (N=15), by comparing their scores with those of control subjects. (N=15). We also investigated the correlation between social cognition and functional outcomes on the clinical sample and the association of neurocognition and functioning, on the same sample. We assumed that there will be a stronger correlation between social cognition and functioning.

**Research Methods:** The following instruments were used: The Narrative of Emotions Task, which investigates social cognition, the Montreal Cognitive Assessment, for general cognitive skills, the Role Functioning Scale and The Independent Living Skills Survey, which investigate levels of functioning in different areas.

**Findings:** We found a significant difference between the two samples (Mann-Whitney U= -5.28, p< 0.001, two-tailed), concerning the level of social cognition. We also discovered a positive correlation between the level of social cognition and functional outcomes (Kendall tau coefficient = 0.5, p = 0.001) on the clinical sample. We didn't find any significant correlation between neurocognition and functional outcomes. These data suggest, however, that social cognition seems, in fact, to have a specific influence on functioning, irrespective of the common processes it shares with neurocognition.

**Conclusions:** These findings show a clearer picture of the role that social cognition plays in schizophrenia. They suggest that psychological interventions in schizophrenia should take into consideration the processes involved in social cognition, since they are closely related to higher levels of functioning and thus, to greater levels of satisfaction with life and to proper integration in the community.

**Keywords:** schizophrenia, social cognition, functional outcomes, neurocognition
Improving personnel selection through frame of reference effect on personality inventory: predictive and incremental validity over cognitive ability and job knowledge

ODOIU STROESCU

Problem statement: There is a strong debate whether personality could be a useful predictor for personnel selection, separating researchers in opposing groups. This research is based on Schmit, Ryan, Stierwalt, & Powell (1995) findings that adding “at work” at the end of the personality test item (providing a work specific frame of reference), would result in greater predictive validity.

Purpose of Study: – to examine the effect of frame of reference on a personality inventory predictive validity and incremental validity over cognitive ability and job knowledge, in context of personnel selection.

Research Methods: Personality was assessed via a forced-choice personality inventory: Big Five©plus (240-Item Version; Constantin et all., 2008). Cognitive ability was measured by Raven Advanced Progressive Matrices (Raven, Raven & Court, 2003), where the number of correct answers being the used indicator. Test knowledge was an in-house test aimed to assess accounting and financial knowledge. Job performance was obtained through supervisory ratings.

Findings: Though the sample size was quite reduced (N=36), FOR added value to selection procedure showing that Agreeableness (r = - .37, p = .026) could be a useful predictor for job performance although it showed no incremental validity. Analysis of narrow dimensions revealed 6 sub-dimensions that correlated to job performance in FOR format, whereas only 2 in general format. Incremental validity was larger in FOR format (ΔR2 = .268, F(3,30) = 7.010, p = .001) than in general one (ΔR2 = .093, F(1,32) = 5.335, p = .028). Anger showed incremental validity in both formats, while Trust and Emotionality only in FOR format.

Conclusions: Although the results showed no main effect of FOR on broad dimensions of Big Five, analysis on narrow dimensions revealed it, bringing forward the bandwidth-fidelity’ dilemma (Hough & Oswald 2000) and suggesting that the narrow dimensions may have a greater validity than dimensions (see Ones et al., 2005). From the practical point of view, the present study reinforce the confidence of using general formats of personality inventories (even commercial), but providing them with a specific frame of reference that is conceptually related to criterion (Lievens, De Corte & Schollaert, 2008).

Keywords: frame of reference, contextualization, personality inventory, job performance
The effect of contextualization of “Big Five©plus” Personality Inventory on utility analysis (financial estimates)

OVIDIU STROESCU

Problem statement: personality as a useful predictor in personnel selection is often judged only through its predictive validity. This research is based on Brogden-Cronbach-Gleser model (BCG, 1965) to assess the financial parameters associated to contextualization of personality inventory (Schmit, Ryan, Stierwalt, & Powell, 1995).

Purpose of Study: – to examine the effect of contextualization of personality inventory on selection procedure overall predictive validity and reveal the financial estimates associated.

Research Methods: two selection procedures were obtained by contextualization of the used personality inventory: Big Five©plus (Constantin et all., 2008). Besides personality, both procedures assess cognitive ability (measured by Raven Advanced Progressive Matrices, Raven, Raven & Court, 2003), and job knowledge (in-house test). Data were inserted in BCG equation to calculate financial parameters.

Findings: First, results indicated a higher validity for the selection procedure that involved a contextualized personality inventory (R2 = .617, F(3,30) = 7.010, p = .001) comparing to procedure that did not (R2 = .442, F(1,32) = 5.335, p = .028). This was obtained due to narrow dimensions of personality as broad dimensions of Big Five did not account. Calculating financial estimates for both procedures, it has been suggested that adding a contextualized personality inventory in selection model resulted in 1575 euro financial gain / employee / year. Multiplied by number of individual recruited resulted in 56700 euro incomes / year.

Conclusions: Surveys reveal that personality is often used as predictors in personnel selection (Ryan, et al., 1999). Considering that personality was doomed by researchers due to its low validity coefficients (e.g. Guion & Gottier, 1965), contextualization moves the focus from usefulness to measurement. It represents an answer to the need of improving measurement in personality (Sackett & Lievens, 2008) and it is at hand for practitioners. Also, financial estimates associated may conduct to management changing perspective upon selection procedure, incomes being considered instead of costs.

Keywords: contextualization, frame of reference, personality inventory, utility analysis, financial estimates
The interest in the issue of creativity and its stimulation was crystallized from the direct interaction with school-age children, as a music teacher during the classes conducted and during the national and international competitions of the kind. From experience, we noticed that few teachers are concerned with stimulating the children’s creative potential, either due to the lack of courage towards accepting the child’s spontaneity or due to insufficient knowledge and training in this direction. On different occasions, we have noticed that many times, a child interprets the same song in different competitions and, in addition, sings in the same manner, without coming with something new or transmitting any artistic emotion. Another problem is the musical repertoire, which is beyond the children’s possibilities of realization and understanding.

*Keywords: creativity, music education, pedagogical model, performance in music*
The role of art and music therapy techniques in the educational system of children with special problems

PETRUTA-MARIA COROIU

Problem statement: There is international consensus that educational environment has an important influence on children's mental and spiritual health. Children with special needs require special attention, which has been directly observed in our own experience, using the resources of an appropriate national and international bibliography.

Purpose of Study: The aim of this study is to systematize some effective art and music therapy methods and the conditions they prove their maxim benefits. Children with varying degrees of disabilities have special educational needs and their condition can be improved by art and music therapy interventions.

Research Methods: Apart from vocal sounds (concretized in songs and games) we can successfully use musical instruments as well. Percussion instruments have the advantage to give value to one of the fundamental elements of the art, rhythm. Piano can also be successfully used in such a stage. It can be also used for children with special health problems because it can be easily handled by a subject who does not have a special musical education. In the process of music therapy we can use elements of musical composition and elements of musical performance or brief improvisations (associating melody and rhythm or using only rhythm).

Findings: A music therapist must use art / music and all of its resonances (spiritual, physical, emotional, mental, social, aesthetic) to help children with disabilities improve their educational results. Art and music therapy methods were classified according to their effects on children with special needs: ludo therapy (play therapy), drama therapy, art therapy. These methods are used concomitantly, as needed, in the complex therapeutic art workshops.

Conclusions: The process of educational experience’s diversification is essential in addressing the children with special needs. The art / music therapy offers them the advantages of a universal, non-verbal language, with immediate and strong affective-emotional effects. The / music therapy methods allow the development and harmonization of all personal abilities of children with special needs, contributing to their integration into society.

Keywords: music psychology, art, music therapy, art therapy, educational psychology, child psychology, mental health
Evaluation of the self-management of psychological stress in patients with oncologic diagnostic

CATALINA ILIUTA, IOANA TEMPEA

Problem statement: The clinical literature posits a significant relation between the personality and cancer onset and progression. The two most frequently noted characteristics of the cancer-prone personality are: suppression of emotional expression and denial of strong emotional reactions, on the one hand, failure to cope successfully with stress, and a reaction of giving up, linked with feelings of hopelessness and helplessness, on the other hand. This paper presents the cases of two cancer patients, following their evolution before and after the onset of the disease, in relation to the two above-mentioned personality characteristics.

Purpose of Study: The aim of this paper is to point out the pattern of the interpersonal dynamics of two cancer patients, and to assess their capability to cope with stress before and after cancer onset.

Research methods: in assessing interpersonal stress and capacity to express emotions before cancer onset, it has been used: anamnesis and Scale of Life Events of Holmes and Rahe – LES. In assessing the current psychic state: clinical interview, psychological observation, Depression and anxiety evaluation diagram of Rufin and Ferreri and F.P.I. – the G form.

Findings: The two patients have difficulties to cope successfully with stress before and after cancer onset. The anamnesis data show that subjects’ pattern of interpersonal dynamics has the locus of control exclusively within their respective selves. At the same time they have a false self, due to the introjection of unrealistic expectations from the environment. These facts lead to the suppression of emotional expressions before and after cancer onset. In the absence of emotional processing, after cancer onset, both subjects’ capability to express emotions has not increased and they show no better stress management capabilities.

Conclusions: Cancer may be associated with a relational pathology. By not expressing his negative feelings as anxiety or anger one does not allow himself to be into the relation, but only preserving it, by actually manipulating the others from fear not to lose them. That brings a big amount of stress and lead to failure in successfully coping with it.

Keywords: stress, cancer, personality, emotional expression, locus of control
Some Psychometric Properties of the Family Domain in the ’Adolescent Resilience Questionnaire’

MARIUS MARICI

Problem statement: There are several instruments that measure resilience in adolescents as a multidimensional construct, at the international level. As most instruments are developed in English speaking countries, there is a great need to validate them in other local contexts, such as Romania. The Adolescence Resilience Questionnaire is a measure developed to test adolescent resilience in five domains: individual, family, peer group, school and community.

Purpose of Study: The purpose of the present paper is to test the factorial structure, and provide reliability properties of the family domain in the Adolescent Resilience Questionnaire (ARQ), in the Romanian context.

Research Methods: The paper is a quasi-experimental research based on self-reported questionnaires, administered in groups of adolescents. We performed the pilot testing on 270 adolescents, between 15 and 18 years old (M age = 16,3, SD = 0,8 ), of which 60% were girls. After the translation and adaptation procedure, respecting all scientific rigors, we performed the Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) in AMOS, in order to acquire quantitative properties of the scales, and perform reliability analyses.

Findings: The results supported the original factor structure of the ARQ, which indicated a solution with two factors – connectedness (8 items) and availability (3 items) – the model indices indicating an acceptable model. The subscales showed acceptable reliability properties.

Conclusions: The ARQ requires further testing, for the other domains left, in Romanian culture, in order to have the full measure available for research and other investigations. These quantitative properties indicate that the instrument can be used to assess Romanian adolescents’ capacity to achieve positive outcomes and experience successful recovery in the face of adversity.

Keywords: adolescent resilience questionnaire, psychometric properties, adolescents resilience, reliability analysis
Psycho-behavioral consequences of parenting variables in adolescents

MARIUS MARICI

Problem statement: Parenting practices and behaviors are crucial in determining the psychological health and conduct in teens, as parental influence does not diminish in adolescence as compared to the other periods of child development.

Purpose of Study: The aim of the present paper was to investigate the effect of some parenting variables in adolescents, in Romanian context. We investigated the role of psychological control, parental rule setting, conflict frequency and intensity and parental support regarding psycho-behavioral consequences in adolescents.

Research Methods: The study is a quasi-experimental research, based on self-reported questionnaires, administered in groups. The participants were 380 Romanian adolescents, 46% girls, 78% Orthodox, from Suceava, Romania, the mean age being 16.3 years. The psychological outcomes were measured with ASEBA, YSR, and we performed the statistical analysis using multiple linear hierarchical regressions in SPSS.

Findings: The results indicated that psychological control has the most detrimental effects on child psycho-behavioral consequences, while conflict intensity in parent-adolescent (P-A) relationship explains better the negative outcomes in children, than conflict frequency. Rule setting is positively associated with anxiety/depression and negatively with rule-breaking behavior and withdrawal/depression, while parental support recorded no negative associations with any internalizing or externalizing problems.

Conclusions: The research findings emphasize the crucial role parental practices play in the economy of child development, in the familial context, and the explanatory role of emotions in predicting the negative child outcomes. The effect of parenting practices does not rely only on the type of practice, but also on factors, such as the pragmatic modality parents implement these practices or the nature of parent-adolescent relationship.

Keywords: Parenting variables, adolescents, psycho-behavioral consequences, ASEBA
Emotional intelligence and the tendency to use dysfunctional cognitive schemas

IULIA-ODETTE DIMITRIU

The present paper investigates the connection between emotional intelligence and the tendency to use certain dysfunctional cognitive schemas. We started from the hypothesis that emotional intelligence, or some of its components are negatively correlated with the tendency to use certain types or categories of dysfunctional cognitive schemas. The hypothesis was validated, therefore the stage of development of the emotional intelligence (and we mean the global, total score) has an influence on the tendency for dysfunctional thinking. On the other hand, however, when we analyzed the inter-scale corellations, the results are more nuanced, some of them validates the hypotheses, other contradicting them, as detailed below.

Keywords: emotional intelligence, dysfunctional cognitive schemas, Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy
Etiopathogenetic explanations and treatment options in phantom limb syndrome. A literature review

ANDREEA RODICA ARDELEAN, ION DAFINOIU

Problem statement: Phantom limb syndrome is a controversial subject when talking about its etopathogenetic mechanisms and efficient treatment modalities, as there is no consensus among specialists in different fields as neurology and psychology.

Purpose of Study: The study provides a literature review of more than 100 articles that discuss etiology and treatment options for people that suffer from phantom limb syndrome post-amputation.

Research Methods: Articles dating from 1995 and 2013 were analyzed focusing on their theoretical presentation or research about etiology and treatment of Phantom Limb Syndrome. We used different engines like Proquest, Science Direct, Scopus or EBSCO, having as key words “phantom limb syndrome”, “psychological aspects”, “Intervention in phantom limb syndrome”, “etiology of phantom limb syndrome”, “hypnosis and phantom limb”.

Findings: The neurologic theories affirm the contribution of both peripheral and central factors, but more recently, the theory of cortical reorganization, stands for some new and efficient treatment modalities. The first theory which tried to explain phantom limb syndrome is the peripheral theory and it holds that neuromas which form in the stump generate impulses that travel up the spinal cord to the brain and are perceived as pain. In contrast with peripheral theories, central theories propose that phantom pain is a result of central sensitization. The neuromatrix theory states that phantom limb pain is caused when the active matrix is deprived of input from the limbs and the neuromatrix produces abnormal firing as a substitute. Research show that phantom limb pain was reduced significantly when using hypnosis (as an adjuvant or as a unique modality of treatment), or other types of intervention such as biofeedback, EMDR, cognitive-behavioral therapy, mirror therapy, thus using analgesics excessively - along with their side-effects - can be avoided. Treatment and theoretical implications are explored and recommendations are made for future research.

Conclusions: There are different types of explanations about the etiology of phantom limb syndrome and by consequence, treatment options among specialists differ too. The efficiency of non-medical intervention or the combination of medical and non-medical treatments has been proved to be higher that medication only.

Keywords: phantom limb, etiology explanation, neuromatrix theory, treatment, mirror box, hypnosis
Embodied creativity: a critical analysis of an underdeveloped subject

MARIUS STANCIU

Problem Statement: Embodied cognition represents one of the most intriguing and potentially far-reaching ideas in cognitive science from the last four decades. Unfortunately, its basic tenets have exerted an asymmetrical influence over the various scientific fields. In this theoretical analysis that follows Shapiro’s (2011) taxonomy of the paradigm, we wish to examine how the ideas of embodied cognition have influenced the study of creativity while also providing suggestions on how this underdeveloped field can expand.

Purpose of Study: - to assess the status as well as the background theoretical considerations and methods employed by current embodied creativity research in order to identify potential shortcomings and envision possible directions that future studies can take.

Research methods: In order to capture as many relevant studies as possible, a wide range of scientific databases were searched to identify primary studies on the subject of embodied creativity carried within the discipline of psychology back to 1980. The electronic searches performed within the Web of Science (WoS) citation index were supplemented by hand searching the Academia.edu website. This effort resulted in only seven relevant papers from which the most cited were selected for the present review.

Findings: Psychological research concerned with embodied creativity has largely followed Lakoff and Johnson’s (1980) initial preoccupation with embodied conceptual metaphors. As such, studies in this field have ignored the more recent and radical developments made by other embodied cognition theorists. Furthermore, all research until now has focused on how body movements and context can potentially affect creative potential, as measured through standard divergent or convergent thinking tasks, leaving unexplored the question of how these factors may impact more complex, culturally important creative products.

Conclusions: While the idea that cognition is embodied appeared in the literature more than four decades ago, studies concerned with how and to what degree might the body and the environment influence creative thinking represent a relatively recent scientific endeavor. We conclude that given the extremely small number of papers that are produced on this subject, as well as its obscurity within the scientific community, future research will have to expand its theoretical considerations greatly if the field is to survive and flourish.

Keywords: embodied, creativity, cognition, research, review
Management skills assessment using 360° feedback - MSF 360

ALEXANDRU MIHALCEA, DIANA MIHALCEA

Problem statement: The type of feedback known as 360° or multiple sources evaluation is a type of assessment which is more and more used within the organizational practice when we refer to performance management. Our study is based on the characteristics of 360° feedback, mentioned in the organizational literature: multiple sources offer a high validity of information collected by an employee because deformed perceptions or assessment biases a person can make can be balanced by opinions of other people.

Problem of Study: Considering the advantages of this type of feedback, the study proposes a managerial abilities questionnaire (MSF 360) using multiple sources for the personnel of top and middle hierarchic level in the retail domain.

Research Methods: We organized focus groups with 173 retail employees’ experts in order to extract a list of key managing abilities. We elaborated a 4 scale questionnaire (MSF 360): Correct, Organized, Responsible and Amiable. Content-related validation was based on results from Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire (MLQ) and California Psychological Inventory (CPI 260). Also, two performance indicators have been collected: profit range and department errors.

Findings: The reliability analysis has indicated an acceptable internal consistency and also a confirmatory factorial analysis (CFA) was conducted.

The convergent and discriminative validity has been checked by correlating the scores obtained for the MSF 360 with CPI 260 (N = 93) and MLQ (N = 75).

Examining the incremental validity, we demonstrated that the MSF 360 considerable increased the predictive ability of profit range and Errors (performance indicators), beyond that provided by scales of CPI 260 and MLQ.

Conclusions: The present study was based on the elaboration of a short 360 feedback questionnaire which can be rapidly utilized in order to assess the soft component of retail companies’ management. We have studied the psychometric characteristics of the instruments: structural, convergent, divergent and incremental validity. Following studies are necessary in order to increase the reliability degree of MSF 360, due to low number of respondents and therefore the low representativeness of the sample of subjects.

Keywords: management skills, 360 degree Feedback, managerial performance, performance prediction, soft skills
Increasing academic performance in Roma preschool children

RALUCA COMANESCU, IULIA CIORBEA

Problem statement: The educational opportunities of minorities are a main research theme. The Roma minority has developed low expectations in terms of educational and social achievement which explains the poor adaptation to academic life and the consecutive poor academic results. Recent research showed that there are also non-cognitive factors, besides the general intelligence, responsible for high academic performance. Numerous studies sustain the significant impact of the emotional intelligence on academic, social and professional adaptation (e.g. Marquez, Martin & Brackett, 2006; Mestre, Guil, Salovey & Gil-Olarte, 2006). The emotional intelligence is considered crucial for the academic and later social success in pre-school childhood (Denham, 2006).

Purpose of Study: Our pilot study aimed to identify the relationship between the emotional intelligence and academic performance and to develop and investigate the effectiveness of a Emotional Intelligence Development Program on pre-school Roma children.

Research Methods: We used the Emotional intelligence scale for children (Roco, 2004). Four teachers used a four scale criteria (low, average, high and superior) in order to evaluate the children’s academic performance. N=40 Roma children from preparatory class aged between 6-8 years. We formed two equivalent groups – 20 children participated to our four-month Emotional Intelligence Development Program and 20 children formed the control group. Participants were evaluated on both variables at the beginning and at the end of the Program.

Findings: Firstly we found that academic performance positively correlates with emotional intelligence (ρ = 0.462, p < 0.01). Secondly we confirmed that the emotional intelligence (t = -14.802, p < 0.01) and consecutively, the academic performance (Z = -3.87, p<0.01), significantly increase in children undergoing the Program in comparison with the control group. Thirdly, we demonstrated that the Emotional Intelligence Development Program significantly improves the emotional intelligence (t= 14.125, p < 0.01) and the academic performance (U=95.00, p<0.01) in comparison with the control group.

Conclusions: Even though our study is a pilot one, we succeeded to demonstrate the significant positive association between emotional intelligence and academic performance. The implications of this study on increasing the emotional intelligence and, consecutively the academic performance in Roma children will be discussed.

Keywords: emotional intelligence, academic performance, Roma minority, educational development
Researching the processes involved in dissociative pathology

ȘTEFAN SERGIU VARGA

Problem statement: Although in the last decade dissociation received considerable attention, one may nonetheless observe a lack of consensus in what concerns its definition and appropriate research methodology. In consequence, we may note the existence of a general heterogeneity in the matter of its conceptualization, measurement and experimental approach. The aforementioned heterogeneity raises difficulties in reviewing and choosing the best design, even for experienced researchers in the field of dissociation.

Purpose of the study: First, one of the objectives of this paper is to list and discuss a variety of methods in the study of dissociation, in correlation to its different conceptualizations and measurements. Second, we aim to debate the specific strengths and limitations of each method and to discuss potential leads for further development.

Research methods: The present paper examines assessment tools explicitly related to different conceptualizations of dissociation and makes a brief attempt to categorize them. It reviews different non experimental approaches for its study, including a set of high risk groups eligible for inquiry. Finally, the present paper makes a listing of already utilized, as well as potential methods to experimentally induce dissociation.

Conclusion: We may observe a wide array of both experimental and non-experimental approaches carrying potential for further development. However, the conceptual heterogeneity and the lack of a solid literature specifically designed to study the validity of dissociation induction methods, raises serious methodological concerns. Therefore, a clear definition of the studied concept and an effort to choose the assessment instrument and design accordingly is advisable.

Keywords: dissociation, state dissociation, experimental dissociation, dissociation induction, assessment
Specific notes in hearing deficient teenager personality

MARIANA POPA, MIHAELA EPURE

Problem statement: the present study intended to capture some specific notes in the personality of the deaf adolescent, in the context of the existence of a insufficient number of studies regarding this subject.

Purpose of Study: to determine the level of self-efficiency, depression, pessimism, and of some aspects of the frustration- the aggression direction, the reaction type, and the group conformity rating and the relations between these variables.

Research Methods: To measure the level of self-efficacy it was used The Schwarzer and Jerusalem Self-efficacy Scale, and for the level of pessimism and depression were used A.T. Beck Pessimism Scale and CES-D Randloff Scale. The Rosenweig frustration test provided significant information about the direction of aggression (outwards aggression, repressed aggression, inwards aggression) and the type of reaction (ego defense, need persistence, obstacle dominance). It was established also the group conformity rating. Next, it was analyzed the connections between these variables so that in the end it was revealed the influence of the negative elements of personality on self-efficacy. All instruments were applied to both groups: hearing deficiencies and normal hearing teenagers.

Findings: The hearing deficiencies have obtained lower scores on self-efficiency and greater at the depression, frustration and pessimism variables. It were identified correlations, some found in both groups – correlations between self-efficacy / depression/ pessimism and the group conformity rating., between outwards aggression and obstacle dominance, between the ego defense reaction and the need persistence, while others were present in only one of the two groups as the positive correlation between age and obstacle dominance topic in the hearing adolescents group and a positive correlation between repressed aggression and obstacle dominance.

Conclusions: It has been shown that hearing deficient adolescents have a lower self-efficacy than the hearing adolescents, being influenced by negative aspects of the personality of this group of subjects – depression, pessimism, frustration that proved also more pronounced than in hearing adolescents case. Another conclusion of the research revealed that if the group compliance among hearing adolescents have some negative aspects by group pressure and group norms, for adolescents with hearing deficiency, the higher is the group conformity rating, the secure they feel in their community and confident in their forces.

Keywords: hearing deficient, teenager, personality
Elements of experiential psychotherapy in the development of the hearing impaired students’ socio-emotional skills

MARIANA POPA, MIHAELA-LOREDANA VANGHELIE

Problem statement: Psychological research shows that the education based on the emotional intelligence may prepare the children for the future by helping them to develop a positive self-image, to be more assertive and independent, more conscientious and responsible, to create and maintain harmonious interpersonal relationships with their peers, to communicate empathically, to learn to manage their conflicts and to develop their teamwork skills.

Purpose of Study: This psycho-pedagogical research proposes the design and implementation of a program of education of the emotional intelligence based on the methods and techniques of the experiential psychotherapy tailored to the hearing impaired student’s psychological profile and to identify the effects of the development of this type of intelligence on the personality and on the intrapersonal and interpersonal effectiveness by using Nonverbal Personality Questionnaire(NPQ).

Research Methods: The program of education of the emotional intelligence for hearing impaired children in the secondary school includes: psychological group games based on the methods and techniques of the experiential psychotherapy – gestalt expressive-creative type; individual designs and group drawings; creating essays, stories and poems by group drawings; development of collages on specific topics. Two personal development groups (5 subjects for each group) were involved in our experiment. In our research we used as the primary tool for the assessing of the students’ personality Nonverbal Personality Questionnaire(NPQ).

Findings: Experimental data obtained by applying NPQ and processed using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences), show that our program of education of the emotional intelligence has a strong effect on the hearing impaired students’ interpersonal domain of emotional intelligence, helping them to optimize their interpersonal relationships and improve the level of social responsibility and their empathic capacities. This program also increases the hearing impaired students’ adaptability to the social environment and encourages them to try new life experiences.

Conclusions: Experimental results show that a consistent implementation of our program of education of the emotional intelligence based on the methods and techniques of the experiential psychotherapy determine the change of the personality traits and hence some of the components of the emotional intelligence to the hearing impaired students.

Keywords: emotional intelligence, experiential psychotherapy, hearing-impaired children
Management of the educational risk factors in Roma schools (units with Roma pupils)

LAURA GRETA MARIN, DIANA RUSU

The paper presents a recent research study on the management of risk factors in educational units with Roma pupils (Roma schools) of Romania. The aim of the research is to investigate from the quality management perspective the strategies used by the school units in order to manage a series of the risks elements with a focus on - Roma pupil’s population - one of the 15 educational risk factors identified in Romania by RAQAPE (The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance on Pre-University Education) in 2012.

As research methods and instruments it have been used both qualitative and quantitative methods, applying the triangulation principle: questionnaire, data mining, case study, interview, document analysis. Sample constituency: 16 schools with Roma population, from 8 development regions of Romania, 64 teachers and 16 school managers.

The measures taken for the decreasing the educational risk in Roma schools, in order to be effective, need first of all the accountability of the various educational environment stakeholders that should be involved: community, decision makers at local and central level, NGOs, family, school management and each teacher while working individually with its pupils and their parents. The interventions of these actors have to be simultaneously taken, integrative and consistent with the specific needs identified at individual level, class, school unit level and community.

In the Romanian schools investigated we have found again managers and teachers with a profound detachment of responsibility, the “scapegoats” for the Roma pupils’ situation in education being in their vision the pupil’s family; the idea of integrated interventions is still in a pioneer phase and the construct of family – community – school partnership it remained trapped in a conceptual stage after more than a decade since it was introduced massively by the PHARE multiannual programs granted by the European Commission.

The findings of the research have generated a wellhead of ideas for continuing with studies on a topic, which is been considered by EU’s decision-makers a crucial one at European level - the educational advancement of Roma. Thus, there will be created a solid groundwork for action research and evidence-based advocacy research that is mandatory in order to have effective public policies for de facto educational inclusion of the Roma students, using the means of the quality management system that already exist in our country.

Keywords: quality management system, educational risk factors, de facto inclusion in education of roma pupils, integrative interventions of the educational environment stakeholders, educational advancement of roma pupils
Preschool education - a premise for the formation of literary culture

CORNELIA STEFĂNESCU, OANA STOICAN

Problem statement: The children’s contact with literary texts in kindergarten is realized by reference to preschool curriculum, the texts selection being rapport to achieving some objectives, taking into account a progressive difficulty corresponding to the age level.

Purpose of Study: The present study is based on the idea that the selection of literary texts used in kindergarten activities depends on a sum of criteria which vary both in form and content. Consequently, we decided to investigate the modalities in which the literary text is selected and made accessible in teaching activities with preschoolers.

Research Methods: The investigation was set up in the analysis and interpretation of data collected following the application of a questionnaire which covered issues such as the types of texts used, the criteria for selecting children's literary texts, the types of formal organizing of texts, the possibilities of accessing them.

Findings: After processing the data we found that only 6% of subjects used exclusively the texts created by teachers, for the vast majority of 94% literary texts represent a valuable resource in teaching. In terms of formal organization it is noted that 74% of respondents use texts in prose, versus 60% text and 45% text dramatized. Regarding the selection of literary texts, subjects identified various criteria in the order of their ponder, the most important being the accessibility, the educational aspect, the adaptation to the level of age and understanding of children, the high degree of attractiveness of the subject, adjusting to curriculum. Other criteria have been identified with a lower frequency such as: the available material basis, compliance with the season and the important events of the year, the positive ending, the presence of dialogue, the emotional charge.

Conclusions: Through literature children are introduced in a different cultural universe, that of narrative and fiction, literary texts enriching their imagination, their ability of creating their own mental images. Through its form and content, the literary text activates children’s imagination creating an inner life. Consequently, the teacher must analyses children’s needs regarding the selection of literary texts, having in mind the teaching objectives and the cultural ideals targeted by using the imaginative texts.

Keywords: preschool education, literature, preschool curriculum
Theoretical-Applied Perspectives regarding the development of the students’ interest in building a career in the Romanian educational system

CARMEN ALEXANDRACHE

**Problem statement:** There are many studies and papers written on this topic and which offer different approaching perspectives, but they do not seem to be enough

**Purpose of Study:** This paper focuses upon the concerns regarding the improvement of the students’ training for the didactic profession and especially on the content of the psycho-pedagogical disciplines.

**Research Methods and Findings:** Our study is based on the data collected from processing the information obtained during the seminar activities that we have held with the 3rd year students that are getting ready to become teachers for the gymnasium. During the seminars, the students were involved in activities of reflection and of self-reflection and in debates on different topics that were targeting the abilities which a teacher must have in class. The data was corroborated with the prospective researches regarding the Romanian and European social, cultural and political aspects.

**Conclusions:** In this way, we were able to trace some directions for resizing the initial training programme for the didactic career. These will be further developed during the discussions related to didactic improvement and personal development. The study emphasizes the need to rethink the major aspects of the training for the didactic career, where the main role is held by the interest and the motivation of those involved in this process.

**Keywords:** Romanian Educational System, didactic profession, motivation
Organizing the personal reflections of students and teachers – an essential element in achieving a quality education

CARMEN ALEXANDRACHE

Problem statement: The existent literature gives a great importance to the problem of reflectivity in education, but in reality, this is not happening.

Purpose of Study: The present study is an approach meant to encourage the teacher to organize and to participate with the students in reflective activities and also to organize his own reflections regarding what he is planning to do and what he has accomplished through that activity. In this sense, we emphasize the problems which are being raised by doing the above, and also the practical measures which can be taken so as to reach a certain result.

Research Methods and Findings: The paper uses some of the results of our research regarding the role played by the (self)reflecting abilities in the training for the didactic career.

Hopefully, the good examples offered will be easily adapted and used during any didactic activity. Also, these will determine the teacher to give greater importance to reflection as a learning means, a way to consolidate it and to stimulate the interest for learning. At the same time, the teacher will improve his classroom activities by gathering information and by Conclusions

Thus, our paper’s contribution will be to help both the teacher (so as to turn him into a professional), and the students as well (so as to stimulate them to learn efficiently and actively).

Interpreting them in due time so as to promptly intervene in guiding his activity. The study comes up even with means in which the reflections can be organized and assigned.

Keywords: didactic career, reflectivity, learning
Psychological aspects of male infertility, an overview

OLTEA JOJA, DANA DINU, DIANA PAUN

Problem statement: Current literature indicates that in high-income countries approximately 15% of heterosexual couples experience difficulties conceiving. In up to half of these couples infertility is attributable to the male partner. Psychological aspects of male infertility have been a matter of significantly less research than that of women. Most of the existing studies are investigating women’s reactions to male infertility, while few studies examine couples facing male’s infertility and the psychological experiences of men.

Purpose of the study: To review the literature concerning psychological aspects of male infertility and to determine core aspects of research findings and the relevance for future research.

Research Methods: A comprehensive electronic English literature research was conducted, using various psychological and medical websites for the psychological factors in male infertility.

Findings suggest that women appear to develop more distress when facing infertility; this is a construct influenced by the gender stereotyping, and not supported by research data. Men are psychologically affected by infertility, displaying impaired self-esteem and inadequacy in relation to their societal role, eventually feeling responsible for denying their wives a child. Even in this era of differentiated assisted reproductive technologies (ART) couples undergoing treatment are reporting significant psychological burden. Illustrating in cases of intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) treatment is the act that men reported a greater subjective responsibility for the infertility, an increased impact of childlessness on daily life, as well as treatment-related stress and time demands.

Conclusions: Research will have to consider that as genetic factors become more relevant in reproductive medicine there will be a growing need for a multidisciplinary approach - for a better understanding of the association between distress and the fertility outcome. Further developments will focus upon effective psychosocial interventions, including refined counseling approaches for couples undergoing ART treatments, particularly approaching coping mechanisms in the context of those treatments.

Keywords: male infertility, male distress, counseling for infertility
School achievement, personality and interests at gymnasium and college levels

AUREL ION CLINCIU

The present study approaches the issue of school achievement at gymnasium and high school levels. The participants are 366 gymnasium and high school students (medium age 16.1 years, SD 1.80) who were tested with a complex battery made of eight intelligence tests, together with Big Five personality questionnaire and Holland’s Self-Directed Search (SDS). The working hypothesis was that school achievement is strongly connected with several facets of personality, frequently appearing at extrovert, active and sensation seeking boys to whom school is unattractive. According to the model of Holland’s structure of interests, it is expected that the realistic type should provide the biggest ratio of underachieved people while the social type the biggest ratio of overachieved people. The research confirms these hypotheses and opens several new directions of investigating school achievement.

Keywords: achievement, intelligence, interests, gender, age differences
A new Block Design test. An exploratory study

AUREL ION CLINCIU

The present paper draws on the specific results of a vocational guidance battery of tests which are relevant to a newly created test of Block Design. By observing the possibilities and limitations of other similar tests such as Kohs, the new version of the test aims to maximize its psychometric potential and to reduce some of the drawbacks that have been reported in the past. In order to achieve this, the test uses a selection of models graded by their level of difficulty in three series and a scoring system which capitalizes on partial success and names the speed of execution as the main contributor to the variability of the overall score. The present study involved 366 pupils at secondary school and high school levels (average mean of age was 16.1 years old, SD 1.80) and reveals information on the intrinsic psychometric qualities of the Block Design Test. In addition, it offers insight into the specific aspects of the test that come as a result of its inter-relationship with other tests of the battery of intelligence used.

Keywords: Block Design test, intelligence, vocational guidance
Perceived stress and strategic approach to coping among health professionals in private practice

BARBORA CRACIUN

Studies conducted during the past 30 years strongly support the idea of a significant connection between the stress experienced by health care employees and a multitude of symptoms and syndromes which lead to psychological and physical dysfunctions.

This research was focused on a sample of Romanian health professionals (N = 60; Mage = 38.9 SD = 7.11) and had the purpose of investigating the way their perceived level of stress and coping strategies were associated with symptoms of depression anxiety and general stress. The data were collected using three self-report questionnaires: Strategic Approach to Coping Scale (SACS; Hobfoll et al., 1998), Perceived Stress Scale (PSS; Cohen et al., 1983) and Depression Anxiety Stress Scale (DASS; Lovibond & Lovibond, 1995).

The perceived level of stress accounted for a significant amount of variation in depression (26%), anxiety (31%) and symptoms of stress (42%). The relationship between avoidance coping strategy and each of the three types of symptoms measured with DASS was also significantly positive, while assertive action and seeking social support correlated negatively with depression, anxiety and stress (all p < .01).

The persons who provide healthcare services are exposed to highly stressful situations, as the nature of their profession implies dealing with illness and human suffering, managing difficult job tasks, having demanding working programs, while trying not to neglect their physical and mental health, personal life and well-being. Therefore, a thorough analysis of the health professionals’ level of stress, ways of coping with stressful situations and both psychological and physical associated symptoms, should represent a central topic for as many studies as possible, in order to gain a more precise understanding of the aspects regarding the prevention and treatment of the problems that could arise in this context.

Keywords: stress, coping, depression, anxiety, healthcare professionals
Cognitive - behavioral therapy interventions and mindfulness in diminishing the stress level and cortisol blood level

IRINA HOLDEVICI, BARBARA CRACIUN

The responses given by the human body to the appearance and installation of stress are various and include blood pressure increase, metabolic acceleration and the most important for this study, an increase of cortisol level.

The first objective of the present research has been centered on examining the associations between the stress level and cortisol sampled by blood testing. The second objective has consisted in investigating the effects of a cognitive - behavioral therapy intervention with mindfulness elements on diminishing the stress and cortisol levels within a sample of young adults. The 30 people sample includes subjects aged between 24 and 39 years old, with a mean age of 27.9 (SD= 5.37) have completed the Perceived Stress Scale in two separate moments: at the beginning of the proposed cognitive - behavioral therapy intervention and after finalizing it. The Perceived Stress Scale (PSS, authors Cohen, Kamarck, & Mermelstein, 1983) is an instrument of self-stress level evaluation for the life situations experienced by individuals composed by 10 items.

The blood cortisol level follows the steps of a regular blood sampling test, with no need of special preparations. The medical recommendation is that the sampling takes place in the morning, between 7 and 9 a.m. The regular values for adults recorded at this time of day are 5-23 mcg/dL or 138-635 nmol/L. The blood samples have been collected twice: before applying the intervention program and after a three month's time at it’s ending.

Statistic analysis has been made in order to study the existence correlation between the recorded stress level among these participants and the data regarding the recorded levels of cortisol within the two moments.

The test U Mann-Whitney have shown that the scores for the stress variable for the respondents of the group who have benefited from the cognitive – behavioral intervention program are significantly lower than the ones in the pre-intervention phase (U= 19,5, N=30, p =0.000).

Overall we may say that the values obtained post the cognitive – behavioral and mindfulness intervention program reflect diminished levels of stress and cortisol concentration among these subjects. We may advance the idea that this fact is due to the implementation of such program. On the other hand the results obtained here must be carefully studied both from an empirical and critical perspective.

Keywords: stress, blood cortisol level, cognitive-behavioral interventions, mindfulness, ACT
Impact of change in social representations regarding gender roles reflected in motion pictures

BIANCA BOGDANA PELTEA

**Problem statement:** There is international consensus that social representations change in time, reflecting individual, as well as cultural developmental needs. This change can be reflected and even operated by widespread media such as popular motion pictures.

**Purpose of Study:** The objective of this paper is to analyze filmic methods of generating social change by modeling stereotypes into different, unexpected representations and by questioning accepted social scenarios regarding gender roles.

**Research Methods:** Case study was applied on two motion pictures, Kindergarten Cop (1990) and Daddy Day Care (2003), both declaredly aimed at changing gender stereotypes, in a most fitting genre for this intention: comedy. Their opposed resolutions reflect social change in role stereotypes during the mere 13 years elapsed between their respective launches, on the background of a similar gender theme: men working with preschoolers, entering a typically feminine line of work and reinventing themselves, as well as (their) masculinity, in the process.

**Findings:** Both motion pictures validate manifestations of men’s emotional, caring side exclusively when women are knocked down by disease and completely defenseless, otherwise the exposure might disarm. The first film suggests that it is acceptable for a man to be a kindergarten teacher, provided it is undercover for a real, mannish job such as police officer; by contrast, the second film implies that it is tolerable for men to be stay-at-home-fathers, if they make a business out of it by becoming kindergarten teachers, thereby meeting the feminine standard of caring for children while combining it with the masculine standard of professional success. The first film advocates the educational value of discipline, as well as its general value in every field of individual and social life, which makes an adequate educator out of any positively masculine human being; whereas the second motion picture advocates the educational value of divertissement.

**Conclusions:** Gender role stereotypes are exquisitely reflected by filmic methods, which also prove to be capable of changing social representations in the matter, thereby affecting education through modified societal and policy contexts. Further research may prove viewers’ change of attitude after watching motion pictures that are prone to modify stereotypes.

**Keywords:** Gender roles, stereotype change, motion pictures, social representations, educational values
Couple construction and couple relationship in various Western femininity paradigms

BIANCA BOGDANA PELTEA

Problem statement: There is international consensus that social representations change in time, for a community as well as for the individual. The paper is based on a theory that I have previously developed and applied to different fields of men and women’s individual and social life, stating that two different paradigm shifts (therefore three paradigms) can be identified in Occidental cultural history regarding masculinity and femininity stereotypes.

Purpose of Study: The objective of this paper is to outline gender paradigm impact upon expectations in romance and couple construction.

Research Methods: Analysis of social changes and tendencies, as well as of cultural products is employed in order to explore three different Weltanschauungs and their impact upon individual perspectives in a couple.

Findings: In the first paradigm, a couple’s construction was taken for granted, therefore needed to be explored – obedience to rules (with the man ruling in externallyruled or arranged marriages; the bridal bed reunites six people – including the two sets of parents) marked <love’s childhood>. In the second paradigm, finding and living love is the greatest challenge; relationship permanence seemed self-evident, therefore needed to be explored – <love’s adolescence> meant that the two had not yet found one another’s identity (four people interact in the bridal bed - including each lovers’ image of the other). In the present-day third paradigm, securing the relationship’s permanence and fostering it on solid bases is the great challenge; relationship freedom seems granted, therefore needs to be explored – <love’s maturity> means assuming the other as a real and complex person, with strengths and weaknesses. A fourth paradigm is anticipated in the paper, one where love becomes a means of assuming one’s own strengths and weaknesses, in order to surpass the latter and develop oneself by means of caring for the other: <love’s wisdom>.

Conclusions: By their impact upon culture as a whole as well as everyday life of men and women, gender role paradigms can be alternatively defined as meaning systems, development guides, modes of expression or lifestyles. In psychotherapy, the client’s paradigm can be diagnosed, before directing self-development along the lines of emotional evolution.

Keywords: emotional development, gender roles, gender interaction, masculinity, femininity
Characteristics of socio-economic context of the development
tobacco addiction of students

DANIELA POPA, ALIN FARCASIU, BOGDAN CRISTIAN VOICU, LILIANA ROGOZEA

In this paper we discuss tobacco addiction, one of the major risk factors for human health integrity. This addiction is increasing worldwide, despite the efforts of organizations to stop what is considered to be the main cause of premature death and disability. The purpose of the research was to identify relationships between tobacco dependence and demographic factors that influence individual and contextual dependent behavior. We chose to examine students who are occasional smokers. The research sample includes a total of 664 subjects which are divided into two groups, depending on city of residence. The research method is based on a questionnaire survey. The instrument was built by the authors. Statistical procedures used were frequency analysis, comparisons between the two groups and application of association tests. In this paper we present the scale that is investigating the social factors that influence the behavior of an addict. Differences between the two groups are influenced by the socio-economic and cultural environment of origin. We noticed that the main reason respondents started smoking, although the vast majority do not have family smoking relatives, is peer pressure. Another interesting aspect that emerged from this study is that, although they are smokers, participants agree to tighter laws against smoking. Subjects investigated had previous attempts to quit smoking because of the awareness that smoking can lead to associated diseases and due to financial issues.

Keywords: tobacco addiction, risk factor, health, socio-economic environment
Weight concerns and eating attitudes among Romanian students in comparison to German students and anorexia nervosa patients

OLTEA JOJA, CRISTINA NANU, JOERN VON WIETERSHEIM

Problem statement: Epidemiological data in Romania indicate an increase of eating disorders during the last two decades. Sociocultural factors describe herein the identification with Western norms and the internalization of the thin ideal among young women. Also, weight concerns and disordered eating have been identified along with cognitive characteristics as risk factors for developing Anorexia Nervosa (AN).

Purpose of the study: was to undergo a cross-cultural comparison, exploring weight and eating disorders’ specific features in a Romanian and a German students samples. As 20% of the investigated Romanian sample displayed a low body weight, we further investigated this subgroup for AN specific risk features.

Research Methods: 196 Romanian and 110 German female students with comparable mean age completed the Eating Disorder Inventory (EDI–1); measurements of height and weight were taken. A subgroup of 42 Romanian students with low Body Mass Index (BMI<18.5) was further compared with the normal weight Romanian students and to a group of AN patients.

Findings: The normal weight Romanian students (N=153;BMI>18.5) showed higher scores in drive for thinness than that of the German students, although their mean BMI was significantly lower. Romanian students also displayed higher scores in perfectionism and ineffectiveness, but no differences were registered in body dissatisfaction in comparison to the German students group. Unexpectedly, the low weight Romanian students (BMI ≤18.5) showed lower scores in drive for thinness, and body dissatisfaction in comparison to the normal weight Romanian students, as well as in comparison to the AN group.

Conclusions: The comparison between the two student groups suggested the increasing idealization of thinness in the context of the exposure of Romanians to the Western culture. The comparison of the Romanian low BMI students to the normal weight students and to the AN patients indicated that weight concerns do not always associate with increased body dissatisfaction and inefficiency. The findings question the way weight concerns are predicting eating disorders. Further replicative and cross-cultural comparisons will highlight why and how for Romanian students being thin appears to be more “normal” than being normal-weight.

Keywords: eating disorders inventory, cross-cultural comparison, female students, anorexia nervosa patients
Psychometric evaluation of the short version of the Defense Style Questionnaire on a Romanian non-clinical sample

ANA-MARIA CAZAN, AUREL ION CLINCIU

Problem statement: The Defense Style Questionnaire (DSQ) is a self-report inventory that measures groups of defenses called defensive styles according to Vaillant’s (1994) continuum ranging from immature or maladaptive defenses to mature or adaptive defenses. The aim of the DSQ is to measure defensive styles rather than defense mechanisms separately, because measuring defenses is not reliable.

Purpose of study: The main objective of this study was to evaluate the factor structure of the DSQ-40 on a non-clinical sample of students.

Research methods: The participants were investigated with the adapted DSQ-40 and additionally with the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire.

Findings: Alfa Cronbach coefficients revealed a high internal consistency for the entire scale, .80. For the mature and the neurotic defenses subscales, the Alfa Cronbach coefficients were smaller, .50 respectively, .53, given the small number of items included in these factors. For the immature defenses subscale, Alfa Cronbach coefficient was higher, .72. An exploratory factor analysis was performed on the 40 items (principal components extraction with Varimax rotation). The three factor solution accounted for 24% of the total variance, as follows: the first factor covers 9.43% of the variance (so it is far from being a general factor), the second factor, 7.82%, and the third, 6.46%. The obtained factor structure and the theoretical structure partially overlapped. Alfa Cronbach coefficients revealed a high internal consistency for the entire scale, but smaller for the mature and neurotic defenses scales.

Conclusions: The present findings support the applicability of the Romanian version of DSQ-40 within the Romanian non-clinical population. However, the factor structure of the Romanian version needs further exploration, regarding the mature and neurotic defenses factors.

Keywords: defence style, factor structure, ego defences, maturity–immaturity continuum, personality
Learning motivation, engagement and burnout among university students

ANA-MARIA CAZAN

**Problem statement:** Although it was considered that burnout occurred only among individuals who performed people work, now the concept of burnout includes also academic life. Student activities such as attending classes, submitting assignments, working to deadlines and working long hours can be seen as work, although the students are not employed.

**Purpose of Study:** The aim of this research was to highlight the associations between learning engagement, burnout and academic performance among undergraduate university students. The main hypothesis is that burnout and engagement are negatively correlated. We also expect that learning motivation is positively associated with engagement and negatively associated with burnout dimensions.

**Research methods:** The Maslach Burnout Inventory-Student Survey, the Utrecht Work Engagement Scale and the Motivated Strategies for Learning Questionnaire were administered to a sample of 202 undergraduate students.

**Findings:** The study revealed that the Maslach Burnout Inventory-Student Survey and the Utrecht Work Engagement Scale have high internal consistency coefficients. The results indicated, as expected, significant and negative correlations between burnout and engagement, confirming the literature in the field. Significant correlations were also obtained between learning motivation, engagement and burnout. K-Means Cluster Analysis was used in order to split the participants into two clusters: cluster 1 defined as distressed students and cluster 2, well-functioning students.

**Conclusions:** The overall results of this study highlight the possibility to identify students who are at risk regarding their high level of burnout. This is one of the main implications of the study, given that burnout and disengagement are the most important predictors of academic dropout.

**Keywords:** academic performance, burnout, engagement, learning motivation, stress
Correlations between use of psychotropic medication and the variation of defense mechanisms on patients under a double approach

SIMONA TRIFU, EDUARD GEORGE CARP, DANIELA BRAILEANU, SIMONA MARICA, ANCA GUTT

Problem statement: To corroborate the pharmacological effect with psychotherapy is already a clinical reality often met in the psychiatric practice; the project refers to the patient that had at least one major depression episode with interpretativity.

The research took place in Psychiatric Hospital Sapunari on a group of 30 patients, that received dual antidepressive treatment associated with antipsychotic. Half of them had only the pharmacologic treatment, the other half had associated psychotherapy to the treatment, 2-3 times a week. The study was made during a 6 months period.

Purpose of Study: The idea is to highlight significant differences in patient life functioning between the sample without associated psychotherapy and the sample with associated psychotherapy

Research Methods: The research was made under a three specialist surveillance:
- Psychiatrist: that established the treatment diagram and periodic monitoring of the patient (daily during hospitalization, weekly during first months after patient outcome and monthly afterwards). Methodology: personal clinical experience, HAM-D and PANSS scales.
- Psychologist with clinical experience that evaluated the personality structure and the functional typology of the patient. Tests applied: Szondi, DSQ, CAQ. The instruments were validated on Romanian population.
- Psychotherapy specialist, specialized in affective psychotic pathology. It follows the quantification of major defense mechanisms used by the patient and time change for them

Findings: A patient that associates psychotherapy to medication will has seldom relapse (on longer period of time) being more predictable and easy to identify in incipient phases, on a short period and with lower clinical amplitude.

New possible episodes will affect in a lower manner the social, professional, familiar functioning of the patient

Conclusions: A new way is opened, regarding the specialist with double formation, psychiatric and psychotherapeutic, to identify minor variation of the defense mechanism on a patient under neuro-biochemical changes given by the medication.

For future project it will be interesting to identify the psychotropic medication that acts mainly on the change of a specific defense mechanism under a psychodynamic descriptive approach.

Keywords: pharmacological treatment and psychotherapy, defense mechanisms, relapse under double treatment
Security branding and national security. Concepts at work

VIOREL MIHAILA

Beyond redefining security concepts and strategies based on the security requirements through cooperation and early operationalization of a "smart defense" concepts launched in recent years by NATO (replicated also by many other international or regional security arrangements), more and more countries turn their attention and, subsequently, significant resources on strategies and mechanisms for identity reconstruction. All those endeavors fall under the logic of the re-constructing, re-telling and re-assuming of the in-status identity. Not only reconstruction is under scrutiny here, but also communication strategy of the reconstruction, either through public diplomacy, strategic communication or place branding/nation branding. Security (a high security level, or, conversely, a lack of security) becomes a "label" desired by many governments, mainly because the positive associations that people will have on this, constructing thus an image of a seductive, efficient, safe and friendly country (safety, rule of law, economic prosperity, freedom and so on). On the other hand, through these mechanisms, as Peter van Ham emphasized, we will shift the framework from the interpretative paradigm in terms of geopolitics and power to the postmodern world image and influence (soft power, using the term coined by Nye). In this stage, to have a clear picture, we have to travel back and forth, from communicating the rebuilding and assuming/re-assuming of the identity to the actual reconstruction of the identity through nation branding campaigns. The link between identity/lack of identity and security, or, better said, the perception of the security status (the level of the security provided by the state in these conditions) has already been studied for years by many scholars. To what extent, however, the involvement of the private sector, the corporate one, in building a strong brand structured dimension of the security within the nation branding project, or within the "competitive identity" (S. Anholt) one is beneficial, productive and subsumed within the management of the state power logic? Does the things changed during the programs designed to communicate defense and security during a crisis?

Keywords: defense and security, strategic communications, public diplomacy, branding, PSYOPS, INFO OPS, influence operations, identity, nation building
Interpretative process—from utilization of predominant to psychotic decompensation

SIMONA TRIFU, ANCA GUTT

**Topic motivation:** The present study expounds trans-generation inheritance pathology, both metaphorically psychological and the translation of certain genetic pulsation and biological charges, which although not directly evident, still mark the personality of the next generation. In this case we will detail an unfortunate incident: a two year old child poisoned himself by mistake under his mother’s supervision, on the background of an interpretative depression pathology of the mother finding herself at the edge of a clinical breakdown.

**Objectives:** The study wishes to bring into focus a case of depressive decompensation with interpretative phenomena, in a climate of psychological and physical overload and based on a frail personality structure, having as a first outburst a behavioral act with negative consequences.

**Hypothesis:** The present couple has a pathological function, being two former abandoned children; each of which remained in an immature stage of psycho-emotional development, partners who react differently to environmental stresses. Regarding the patient (the young mother), the question is whether psychotherapeutic treatment is adequate for this episode, or whether it should be supplemented by psychiatric medication.

**Method:** psychiatric assessment, psychotherapy session, longitudinal tracking of the evolution of the case, family dynamic study (the original family and the newly formed family), review of the consequences produced by patient neglect.

**Results:** This study wishes to emphasize the thin line between: normality, interpretative paranoiac personality structure, introversion, high functionality in cognitive-scientific area, doubled by a low function in the interpersonal relationship domain, affective hypo-functionality, and motherhood failure.

**Conclusion:** Cumulative trauma concept makes its presence felt in the patient dynamic of life, through its inability to function at optimum parameters, in social and maternal registry, being dominated by: psychotic fragility, suspicion, sensitivity, interpretation. The case implies a careful management of the situation in couple dynamics and also involves competent authorities regarding the child issues.

**Keywords:** dissociation affects the situation, structure sensitive –interpretative trans-generational trauma, structural ambivalence, relation naïveté / lack of reality testing
The pathology of cognitive and language dezorganization - between hysteric dissociation and schyzofrenic split

ANA MARIA DRAGUT, IZABELA DANALACHE, MARINA GOANTA, SIMONA TRIFU

Choosing the theme: The diagnostic of Undifferentiated Schizophrenia which is provided at some stage in longitudinal evolution of a case, when there are presented symptoms from all types of schizophrenia: productive, negative, of disorganization as well as of alteration of social and occupational functionality. It can also be a psychiatric diagnosis per primam, but it can also be a late diagnosis, at the beginning, the patient could have been seen in any other specter, including the hysterial dissociative.

Objectives: This presentation outlines a 45 year old patient, with debut of psychopathological disorders in 1998 (the first diagnosis was conversely exhibiting depressive episode dissociative), without hospitalizations in psychiatric services and without treatment on a period of more than ten years, fact which made possible expressing a wealthy symptoms, especially from the disorganization sphere.

Hypothesis: The case is difficult to be managed pharmacologically and therapeutically because of the fact that both classical neuroleptics and modern antipsychotics, are more efficient on the productive pathology and harder to reduce disruption in the thinking and behavior.

Methods: psychiatric examination, treatment with antipsychotic, psychological examination, clinical scales for schizophrenia, study of psychiatric documents, and longitudinal development and tracking of the patient, the therapeutic alliance.

Results: This paper represents a largely description of symptom palette, from the level of principal functions and mental processes: perception, thinking and language, quantitative disorders of linguistic sphere removing signifier to signified, involving the use of proximate genus and moving from the abstract meaning of words in concrete, which lowers cognitive function, exclusively at particular level and simplistic operational and conceptual impoverishment (along with emotional impoverishment).

Conclusion: Schizophrenia is a disorder which severely affecting the area of language and cognition and the individual falls into a situational, which can go all the way to caricature. This aspect, in itself, aims bizarre behavioral attitudes, which reminds of gansseroid spectrum, even when we are talking about a dissociation schizoid-, non hysterical.

Keywords: cognition and language disorganization, alogia, words neo-formation, signifier to signified removal, operating exclusively in concrete
Clinical expression features of Paranoid Schizophrenia with late debut

MIRUNA VINTILA, EDUARD GEORGE CARP, CARMEN POPA, SIMONA TRIFU

**Problem statement:** A first psychotic episode that happened at the age of 47, in the absence of an organic background, raises more problems: the differential diagnosis between paranoid schizophrenia, affective schizophrenia and delusional disorder, setting a border between apparent debut and real debut, following the way of life, modifying the professional path of the patient.

**Purpose of Study:** This paper consists in a case study, with the following fact: the insidious debut of the psychotic symptoms over a period of three years, in which the patient has quit her job, moved to a different city, diverted her attention to bioenergy (being seriously involved with time and money), the productive pathology with its sudden debut (within three days), the downfall of symptoms due to the absence of antipsychotic drugs.

**Hypothesis:** The factors that influence diagnosis (Paranoid Schizophrenia with late debut) depend on: functioning based on delirious interpretations, the presence of automated mental syndrome (xenopi phenomena, pseudohallucinations and influential delirium).

**Research Methods:** psychiatric interview, psychodinamic interview, life mapping, psychiatric follow-up of the antipsychotic treatment, psychological evaluation, neuroimaging examination (CT, EEG), investigating hormonal activity.

**Findings:** The apparent debut at the age of 47, the lack of cognitive disorganization, the predominance of two or three delirious themes, compliance to treatment, the ability to form a therapeutical alliance are all positive signs. Amongst bad signs there are heredo-collateral marks of schizophrenia (common with early debut and the lack of insight capacity), interest for bioenergy which underlines the productive symptoms.

**Conclusions:** The presence of mental automation syndrome, hallucinations and pseudohallucinations, the tendency to philosophize, under the element of divining, will sketch the Paranoid Schizophrenia diagnostic, from its first admission.

Case features: a first short term psychotic episode (under 24 hours), type hy elements of personality, that postponed the psychotic manifestation with almost three to four years (convulsive symptoms, inclined towards to religious healing), a debut after a break-up.

**Keywords:** Paranoid Schizophrenia, automated mental syndrome, xenopatic influence, tendency to philosophize, changing the line of work without a solid reason
Sleep, a predictor of subjective well-being

CARMEN STOICA

Problem Statement: Subjective well-being is not just a product of situational and dispositional factors, but is also based in part on underlying circadian rhythms. The accumulating evidence in Psychology suggests that mood is affected to a greater extent by sleep deprivation than are either cognitive skills or physical performance.

Purpose of Study: The present study sought to examine participant’s (N=33) subjective well-being components which interrelate with and are affected by sleep through a self-monitoring process over a period of 14 consecutive days.

Research Methods: Two questionnaires were developed in order to collect information about nocturnal sleep and the subjective well-being experienced in the next day.

The independent variable has two dimensions: average level of self-assessed resting upon waking (ALR) and average number of hours slept by night (ANHS).

The dependent variable has also two dimensions: affect balance (expressed in terms of mood) and life satisfaction (expressed in terms of cognitive and alertness satisfaction).

The respondents were instructed to fill in the questionnaires on a daily basis, in the morning and respectively, in the evening. Quality of sleep, affect balance and life satisfaction were assessed through a Likert scale (very low, low, medium, high, very high).

Findings: Using SPSS Multiple Regression Analyses, a multiple regression was run to predict the mood. The variable ALR statistically significantly predicted the mood, F (2, 30)=15.550, p<.0005, R2 = .476, unlike ANHS.

A Pearson’s product-moment correlation was run to assess the relationship between ALR and mood, on one hand, and between ALR and cognitive and alertness satisfaction on the other hand. There was a strong positive correlation between ALR and mood, r(31) = .677, p<.0005, with ALR explaining 46% of the variation in mood.

Likewise, an increase in ALR was strongly correlated with an increase in cognitive and alertness satisfaction, r(31)=.651, p<.0005, with ALR explaining 42% of the variation in cognitive and alertness satisfaction.

Conclusions: The results indicate that sleep measured in a subjective manner (ALR) is a predictor of the mood, unlike the variable measured in an objective manner (ANHS).

Furthermore, the mood is affected to a greater extent by ALR than are cognitive skills, indicating the importance of sleep for our daily well-being.

Keywords: subjective well-being, life satisfaction, sleep, mood, cognition, alertness
Psychological aspects regarding the training of performance athlete in Romanian climbing

ANTONIA IOANA TRIFU, ARINA CIPRIANA TRIFU, OLIVER BATAR, ANCA GUTT, SIMONA TRIFU

Problem statement: Climbing is a sport recently developed in Romania comparing with other countries as Austria, France, Germany. The full preparation of the climbing team of Romania highlights various technical and psychological aspects as specific knowledge improvement and the dedication for this area study and intense motivational support for the trainers and athletes

Purpose of Study: The idea of this study has been borne with the participation of national climbing team to several world champion tour / world cup on two disciplines: escalade and boulder and it contains:

- an analyses of the level of top climbers;
- comparison of last year's level of competitions and the evolution of this sport on international level;
- SWAT analyses of national team problematic (showing strong and weak points, highlight the opportunities of the team and the threaten factors)
- proposals for developing this sport in Romania

Hypothesis: The factors that influence a climber's evolution depend on: the physical condition, the training setting, the psychological component and the motivational dynamic from the competition moment

Research Methods: motivational interview (applied to more climbers from other countries), the analysis of long and short term trainings, the study of the opportunity of mental training and relaxing techniques (Schultz) versus other motivational psychotherapy techniques, the analyzes of the competition results.

Findings: regarding the actual status of Romanian climbing team we have the following aspects:

- the necessity of changing internal mood of the athlete through a better connection to the moment and to the competitiveness; the adjustment of trainers to the peak of performance of the athlete
- psychological aspects to work to: increase of observational spirit (Miller number increase to 5-7 elements), increase of the link between cognition and motility; development of imagination and fast finding of alternative solutions to treat a climbing route

Conclusions: For the next year the increase of athlete performance is bound to: perseverance and increase setting of physical component of trainings, implementation of psychological concepts as: motivational optimum, specific focus, the attention as a filter for observation spirit (arousal), development of imagination in movement study, cognitive training implementation

Keywords: motivation for sport, focus on sport, cognitive training, climbing abilities, psychology, cognition-mobility relation
Motor behavior and anticipation – A pilot study of junior tennis players

MOSOI ADRIAN, BALINT LORAND

Anticipation represents the tennis player’s ability to forecast the future actions of its competitor. Tennis is, in general, an anticipation and space-time coordination sport. The tennis player has to anticipate the opponent’s movements, so as to initiate an action that will lead to winning the point. Anticipation is more than an act of mental stimulation, it is an omnipresent attitude. In our opinion, anticipation explains the differences between the performances of the players, at the level of space-time coordination. This study wishes to emphasize the importance of anticipation, in the efficiency of the tennis player’s neuromuscular control, at a junior level. The study was conducted on 20 junior tennis players from the national lot. The measurement of the players was carried out in three steps: measuring the space-time anticipation with the Vienna Test Sport System testing battery, measuring the neuromuscular control, with the help of the condition simulator and measuring the balance with the aid of the Balance Platform.

Keywords: anticipation, motor control behavior, balance, tennis
Perception of educational factors on the introduction of electronic learning tools in the context of the new curriculum for primary education

SOFIA LOREDANA TUDOR

**Problem statement:** The paradigm of education informatization is currently developing the new direction of the educational process by exploiting the possibilities offered by new technologies. The advent of the Internet has created new forms of education, teachers recognizing its role and its implications for the training process.

**Purpose of study:** The purpose of this study is to identify the perception of educational factors – educators, managers of schools, parents, children - upon the introduction of digital textbooks/ electronic tablets as educational tools in context of new educational curriculum for primary classes. Also, the study analyses the possible effects of this learning instruments for the children performance and personality development.

**Research methods:** As research method we employ the questionnaire-based inquiry, having as research tools questionnaires for each group of subjects, built on and validated according to specific methodological requirements.

**Findings:** The opinion of the introduction of digital textbooks/ electronic tablets as educational tools differs for each of the educational factors. Educators and parents are very skeptical, citing the negative effects that will be using these tools on personality development of students; school managers bring to your attention that this measure financial costs involved and the difficulty will be supported by the school; on the other hands, parents and children has opened this direction. Identify and conflicting views regarding the effects of this learning possible instruments for the children performance - negative effects in terms of socialization and self-esteem development, the child's general motility caused by lack of physical activism, the development of mental processes (in particular, thinking, language); are identified positive effects in terms of developing school motivation.

**Conclusions:** The use of digital textbooks (electronic tablets) in primary school, although it will be implemented, is a measure that is part of an ongoing reform program, the debates on this phenomenon remain an open problem, under discussion for some time among different categories of specialists who have analyzed the phenomenon - psychologists, developers of e-learning.

**Keywords:** electronic learning tools, digital textbooks, educational curriculum for primary classes
Initial training of teachers for preschool and primary education from the perspective of modern educational paradigms

SOFIA LOREDANA TUDOR

Problem statement: The educational interdisciplinary approach promote a new conception on the selection and organization of contents, on the planning and organization of teaching and learning, which consists in the fact that the methodology of curriculum elaboration requires the educator to select, to use and to dose or to articulate all the components and stages of didactic activities according to objectives. For this reason, there is a need reformulation occupational standards for the position of teacher for preschool and primary education and the curricula of relevant specialization.

Purpose of study: The purpose of this study is to identify the perception of the factors involved - teachers who teach Pre-school and Primary Education Specialization, students in bachelor/ master, methodists - regarding the adequacy of initial training in with the new requirements of achieving teaching at primary and pre-school (tuition, activity centered on modern skills, teaching strategies). The study aims also to identify opportunities and difficulties in implementing new educational practices.

Research methods: As research method we employ the questionnaire-based inquiry, built on and validated according to specific methodological requirements, which was applied to each of group of subjects.

Findings: In the context of the previously described theoretical evolutions, the necessity to form and develop competences in the educational process is accepted nowadays as indispensable in most educational systems. On the other hand, integrated design provides progressive organizational contexts of activities based on children's development, their interests and awareness of the proposed theme, integrated projects presumes approaching reality in a globalized way, holistic in which the boundaries between the categories and types of activities disappear, melt into a single approach, in which the issue can be investigated by means of various sciences. Building lessons on a research-based foundation of integrated activities, adding appropriate models of integrated activities should help ensure high-quality instruction that has the potential of maximizing student achievement.

Conclusions: Restatement standards Pre- and Primary Education Specialization and hence of the curriculum in relation to the new educational paradigm is a must. Initial training should ensure solid training of future teachers through professional development and strengthening of specific skills.

Keywords: Initial training, occupational standards for the position of teacher for preschool and primary education, curricula for Pre-school and Primary Education Specialization
Development of hearing and voice, recovery methods of hearing and intonation impairments

IOAN OARCEA

Defining the Topic: The human voice is the most complete, complex and expressive communication instrument of the musical language. The artistic qualities of the human voice can be affected by hearing and intonation dysfunctions that have a negative effect on musical intelligibility and expressivity.

Purpose: Training the hearing and voice is a component part of the musical educational process, as the didactic mission of the music teacher does not only address the gifted students, but all, to the extent of their ability for musical communication. In such situations, the challenges of the profession, as well as the teacher’s working methods require special and long-term didactic skills, but the final end of this activity is a gain for the person it is addressed to.

Research Methods: Conclusions are based on analysing the phenomenon and successfully experimenting vocal recovery methods within the following types of groups where I worked as a music teacher: pupils from elementary and middle school in the general culture education system and middle and high school pupils in the vocational education system. In all situations, a comparative analysis was done between the moment the educational activity started and the end of the school year or education cycle.

Findings: Correct musical intonation is conditioned by three determining factors: hearing (good functioning of the nerve system), sound emission (intonation) and musical memory.

Physiological, neurologic and psychological dysfunctions of hearing and intonation can be determined by genetic, medical or educational factors.

The inability to sing correctly may be caused by ineffective breathing and faulty impostation (intonation), but may also be influenced by the lack of musical practice within the family or by deficient school education.

Conclusions: The methods used for correcting false singing pursue an improvement in sound production, in perception and memory. Knowing the child’s individual features implies applying the most suitable method in a concrete situation.

A positive attitude in the family, a communicative atmosphere in the educational environment and especially the educator’s mastery are decisive in activating the individual's inner musical readiness and recovering from hearing and intonation dysfunctions.

Keywords: art, communication dysfunctions, vocal recovery, education, training
Positive and negative emotions among young Romanian couples - what, how and why express them

SIMONA HERB, MARIA NICOLETA TURLIUC, ROXANA DUMITRU

Problem statement: Although emotions are widely recognized as an important aspect of our day to day life, complex issues still remain understudied as people face great difficulties when recognizing and expressing their emotional experiences. Six primary emotions are cross culturally listed: love, joy, surprise, fear, fury and sadness.

Purpose of Study: to explore the positive and negative emotions Romanian men and women (N=98) associate with couple life, the ways they consider when expressing these emotions, as well as the perceived importance of expressing them.

Research Methods: A questionnaire-based survey was developed to explore the positive and negative emotional experiences with open questions, but as well with a ranking extra question in order to validate the importance of main identified emotions.

Findings: A 2 step analysis was performed upon the elicited words/expressions; data were first summarized and categorized, and then aggregated by reference to Parrot (2001) classification of primary, secondary and tertiary emotions. Love is the main positive emotion recognized by men, while joy and happiness is more frequently listed by women, less negative emotions are expressed by men, and overall sadness is the negative emotion most commonly recognized. Another analysis implied computing the relative frequency and importance of each tertiary emotion related to the six primary emotions, and thus creating a specific representation of each primary emotion. The 2 step analysis was then employed to generate categories of adequate methods to express these emotions and reasons to express them. Verbal expression seems to be the most employed method, both for positive and negative emotions, while when it comes to reasons to express emotions, letting the other know he is loved is the most frequent reason to express positive emotions and making the other conscious about a certain state is the most invoked reason to express negative emotions.

Conclusions: The Romanian specific cultural inheritance prevails – young Romanian couples face difficulties in recognizing and expressing their emotions, even though they are aware of the related benefits. Gender differences still need to be furthered explored, but confirm the enforced alexithymia mainly upon men.

Keywords: emotions, primary emotions, secondary emotions, couple, expressing emotions, alexithymia
Appreciating the positives protects us from negative emotions: The relationship between gratitude, depression and religiosity

BOGDAN TUDOR TULBURE

Noticing and appreciating the positive in life naturally contrasts with a depressive worldview which involves a negative view of self, the world and the future. Few studies investigated whether participants’ religious motivation may play a role in this relationship. We designed a cross-sectional study to investigate this hypothesis. Romanian participants (N = 113, mean age = 33.12, 70% women) completed online a series of self-report measures (i.e., Beck Depression Inventory-II, Gratitude Questionnaire-6, Intrinsic Religiosity etc.) as part of a larger study. As expected, an inverse relationship was found between gratitude and depression (r = -.36, p < .00). More importantly, we found that participants’ religious motivation moderates the relationship between gratitude and depression, with highly religious individuals displaying less severe depressive symptoms. Although no direct relationship was found between religiosity and depression, it might be that religious beliefs and behaviors serve as a protective factor against negative emotions as well as a stimulating factor for a positive life outlook.

Keywords: gratitude, depression, intrinsic religiosity, moderation
The world as a construct of consciousness

SORIN DUMITRU

Problem statement: in all the literature I have encountered, consciousness is considered as the space or ability to access reality. But, according to quantum physics, reality is not the way we perceive it.

Purpose of study: in conclusion, I have tried to put this data together, adding ideas from religion, psychology and neuroscience, and to create a coherent picture.

Research methods: thought experiment, reviewing literature.

Findings: matter is condensed energy, energy is continuum, there is no separation; matter is wave/particle, is not solid; there is no self, self refers to emotion, body, thought, in a global way, but to nothing in particular, it doesn't have a reality of its own; the brain operates like a machine, with input and output, and the output is given by the input, which is given by its ability to differentiate input; self in psychology does not refer to something concrete, but rather to programs, value systems and other indirect elements.

Conclusions: there is no self, no soul, the individual experience of reality is not owned; reality doesn't exist in a certain way, there is just empty space, we see it because consciousness builds it; there is no sense in life, individual awareness builds that as well, based on past experience; the reality, even though is created by the mind, it follows certain rules, this is what science infers; the rules are different for different degrees of consciousness, but the higher the degree, the more the smaller rules are integrated into bigger ones; emotion creates perceived separation and time for the individual; consciousness goes all the way down to quantum physics, but the perception of separation, pain and fear stop where the brain stops; morality should include animals; there is no free will; clients in psychotherapy can benefit from distancing themselves of their everyday problems and see them as constructs of a continuum consciousness that has no plan for them that they are not fulfilling, and for which they shouldn't have any expectation.

Keywords: consciousness, soul, awareness, animal consciousness, enlightenment
A preliminary research concerning the relationship between mentality towards work and professional responsibility

VALERICA ANGHELACHE

Problem statement: Mentality towards work is a highly complex construct, and for its understanding is required an analysis from multiple perspectives. It can be analyzed in terms of variables such as age (Smith, T., 2000; Blythe & Baumann, 2008), cultural differences (Wines & Lau, 2004), money (Lynn, 1991; Smith, 2000; Tang, 1997; Skarżyn’ska, 2002) and professional identity (Vondracek, 1995; Ireri1, 2013).

Purpose of Study: This study aims to highlight the attitude towards work to the subjects with and without professional responsibility (N=71). Furthermore, we are interested by the relationship between mentality towards work and age, self-determination and avoidance variables.

Research Methods: In order to measure the subjects’ mentality towards work we applied the standardized MM Questionnaire, structured on three factors: mentality towards work, commitment and determination, obligation and avoidance. The main statistical operations performed were: frequency analysis for the illustration of the composition of the subjects lot; analysis of normality distribution of the mentality towards work variable (Shapiro-Wilk test); the t-test for independent samples for comparing the means of the mentality towards work variable depending on the age and status variables; ANOVA One-way; Pearson correlation coefficient to determine the relationship between VI and VD.

Findings: Statistical analysis of the data showed that: there are significant differences depending on age in what mentality towards work is concerned \( t(69) = 3.963, p = .00 \); there are significant differences depending on professional responsibility in what mentality towards work is concerned \( t(69) = 6.577, p = .00 \); there is a positive correlation, statistically significant, between: mentality towards work and commitment / determination variables \( r(69)=0.651, p<0,001 \), age variable \( r(69)= 0.431, p<0,001 \) and professional responsibility variable \( r(69) = 0.621, p<0,001 \).

Conclusions: According to the results, subjects aged over 30 years have obtained significantly higher scores (M2= 4.06) compared to the subjects aged under 30 years (M1=3.66). These results are in full agreement with researchs conducted by Smith, T. (2000) and Blythe & Baumann (2008). These subjects are employed and already have a professional identity formed. On average, subjects without professional responsibility obtained lower scores to the mentality towards work variable (M1=3.57), compared to the subjects that, simultaneously, have teaching status (M2 = 4.15). The subjects employed performs an activity for they have opted, obtain financial rewards and they know what it means the job satisfaction. Also, there is a positive correlation, statistically significant, between mentality, commitment / determination, age and professional responsibility. Generally, the subjects older than 30 years are more determined professional, have a positive attitude towards work.
They have the consciousness of a job well done, and they consider the work an opportunity for professional achievement. In contrast, the subjects under 30 years have a tendency to avoid the work. In this case we are talking about students who do not have professional experience, who are in training.

*Keywords: mentality towards work, professional responsibility, attitude, self-determination in work, work avoidance*
Wireless children

EMIL STAN

Problem statement: There is an agreement in the education sciences literature according to which children’s life is strongly influenced by the virtual space, especially when their parents are too busy with their jobs and do not have time to actively get involved in their children’s daily activities; under such circumstances, children get information and skills which are not really used in school, or are in contradiction with the educational offer. This is the reason for which the school crisis has become a common topic in the field of education sciences.

Purpose of Study: Starting from the assumption that there is a rewards and punishments system functioning in school, our purpose was to find out if such a system works within computer games; in the next stage our purpose was to find out if there are common elements between the two systems of rewards and punishments, that is those from school and those from computer games.

Research Methods: The study is based on a survey administered online, which was filled in by 40 computer gamers (20 women and 20 men) with an average age of 23 years old; the data on rewards and punishments used in schools are taken from previous research.

Findings: We noticed that gender differences are relatively insignificant with regard to our study; at the same time, we observed that computer games contain a highly refined system of punishments and rewards which has some kind of implications on the gamers’ motivation; we also noticed that a significant discrepancy between the system of punishments and rewards used in schools and that used by computer games; this discrepancy negatively influences children’s involvement in the educational process.

Conclusions: First of all, a rethinking of the punishment-reward system used by the school should be imposed; secondly, some specific elements of informal elements should be expensively used by the formal education system such as: internet, the way in which students are divided into grades (taking into account their interests), grouping students depending on the their knowledge interests within classes etc.

Keywords: educational environment, computer games, punishments, rewards
Proprioceptive indicators (precision, speed and personality) of age-depended differences for traffic security

LIUDMILA LIUTSKO, JOSEP MARIA TOUS, ALEKSANDER VERAKSA, SERGEY LEONOV

**Problem statement:** Personality and individual differences were found to be an important factor related to traffic accidents. Verbal tests on personality differences between traffic offenders and non-offenders showed extraversion as a characteristic of traffic offenders (Lev, Hershkovitz, & Yechiam, 2008); also extraversion positively correlated to have more traffic fatalities; whereas neuroticism was negatively correlated (Lajunen, 2001). No studies were performed in order to see the proprioceptive changes in personality so far.

**Purpose of Study:** This study aims to analyse the age-depended differences in proprioceptive fine motor precision and related to them personality and individual differences features in order to define the more critical periods for having higher risk in traffic accidents.

**Research Methods:** The Proprioceptive Diagnostics of Temperament and Character (DP-TC, Tous, 2008; Tous et al., 2012), a grafomotor test, was used in this study, on of ca. 200 participants, aged from 12 to 95 years old, divided into four groups: 1) 12-17; 2) 18-29; 3) 30-64, and 4) 65-95. The observable variables, as deviations in spatial orientation and size reproduction in different movement types (frontal, transversal and sagittal) were registered for both hands and analysed for the precision mechanics and their corresponded meaning in personality test.

**Findings:** Using SPSS MANOVA with Bonferroni correction analysis, the older age group of 65-95 y.o. was found to be more sensitive to age-differences in the proprioceptive motor precision in majority of observable variables, followed by the younger group of 12-17 y.o. with best results for middle age groups. The corresponded personality differences are discussed.

**Conclusions:** The results describe the most critical periods of the older age group (65-95) and younger (12-17) for having higher age-depended risks for traffic accidents based on the general population pattern in the proprioceptive change. The information can be used as recommendation for the traffic security preventive programmes and security insurance agents.

**Keywords:** age-depended risks for accidents, Proprioceptive Diagnostics of Temperament and Character, traffic safety, proprioception, personality, individual differences
Perspectives in the analysis of students' mentality towards learning

VALERICA ANGHELACHE

Problem statement: Mentality towards learning is reflected in the positive or negative attitudes that students have towards learning. For their part, attitudes are determined by the perception of the success, and the students' expectations. Oxford and Shearin (1994) identified several factors that influence attitudes towards learning: emotions, self confidence, goals, involvement, educational support, personal qualities.

Purpose of Study: This study aims to highlight the students' mentality towards learning (N=180). Also, we are interested by the relationship between mentality towards learning and age, residence and studies' profile variables.

Research Methods: In order to measure the subjects' mentality towards learning we applied the MS Questionnaire. The questionnaire is unidimensional. The main statistical operations performed were: frequency analysis for the illustration of the composition of the subjects lot; the t-test for independent samples for comparing the means of the mentality towards learning variable depending on the age variables; Levene test to check the homogeneity of variances; Games-Howell post hoc test for comparing the means of the mentality towards learning variable depending on the studies' profile variables; Pearson correlation coefficient to determine the relationship between independent variables and dependent variables.

Findings: Statistical analysis of the data showed that: there are significant differences depending on age in what mentality towards learning is concerned [t (176) = 3.86, p = .00]; there are significant differences depending on studies' profile in what mentality towards learning is concerned [G-H t = 5.70, p = .00 (p<0.05), r = 0.37]; there are significant differences depending on residence in what mentality towards learning is concerned [t(176) = 3.71, p= .00]; there is not a significant correlation between mentality towards learning and studies' profile.

Conclusions: According to the results, subjects aged over 28 years have a more positive attitude towards learning, compared to the subjects aged up to 28 years. These subjects are more motivated and more conscious that the study can provide a degree of independence and social success. Also, the faculty / studies' profile generates differences in what to concern the subjects' attitude towards learning. The results can be analyzed in terms of perception that subjects have regarding the social usefulness of the profession for which they prepare. Moreover, the subjects from urban areas have a favorable attitude towards learning, compared to the subjects from rural areas. Mentality towards learning correlates with age, performance and residence factors, but there is a clear correlation between studies' profile and mentality towards learning. Thus, we conclude that subjects who have over 28 years, they are in urban residence and have academic performance, they have a positive attitude towards learning, but are not necessarily students in certain faculties.

Keywords: mentality towards study, attitude, learning involvement, age, faculty
Reflecting on communication – a strategy to enhance learning

CRISTIAN VOICA, MIHAELA FLORENCE SINGER, ILDIKO PELCZER

Problem Statement: There is a consensus in the literature that mathematical activities build on the use of different semiotic representational systems and require the fluent switch between them. Given that, we studied students’ written productions of a set of instructions in a situation set out as an opportunity to develop reflective attitude towards communication.

Purpose of Study: We focused on the following research questions: How does communication influence the reflection on mathematical objects? And more specific: How do students decompose a given pattern into “constructible” elements? How the deconstruction process is translated into a set of instructions? What is the nature of the students’ verbal instructions?

Research Methods: The data analyzed in this paper come from a sample of 15 prospective teachers, students at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics from Bucharest. The research was facilitated by the students’ participation in the Didactics of Mathematics classes, held during a semester. Students participating in this course had to solve different types of tasks as homework. This paper is based on analyzing the students’ results in such a task, concerning the communication in a mathematical context.

Findings: We found that the students focus differently on the original figure. Communication is shaped not only by student’s subject-matter knowledge and mathematical language, but also by both the mental frame induced within an assumed paradigm, and the focus on a target audience.

Conclusions: The transposition in verbal register depends on two elements (at the level of vocabulary, reasoning, rigorous formulation, and reader’s feedback): the geometrical paradigm, and the personal internal constraints (such as mathematical knowledge and skills), or the target audience (existing or imagined). This suggests that the relationships between the registers are mediated also by other factors.

Keywords: geometrical paradigms, semiotic representational systems, verbal register, teacher training
The path of the heart

DOROTHEEA MIHAELA KAFKOULA

During the last decades, the experts in psychology field have tried to develop new strategies to improve the state of health of people. Recently the new approaches are transdisciplinary. One of this is new approaches is “The Path of the Heart”.

This new approach it is a highly effective, short-term educational process, which inspired from ancient and patristic tradition based the electrocardiograph” vionadrasi” and on in electrodermal techniques developed by the "Institute of Mathematics of the Heart" [Institute of HeartMath] and by the "Foundation Monroe" [The Monroe Institute].

This new approach used concepts from Emotional Intelligence and from interdisciplinary researches that reveal the role the positive emotions have on heart and on mental development that are working as an integrated structured in resolving stressing day life situations.

This paper has the main goal to reveal the main features of this new psychotherapeutically approach - “The Path of the Heart”-, not only on theoretical background but also to show the significant “gains” that a patient/ client obtained on long term: through case studies of Greek subjects.

Keywords: short psychotherapy, heart rhythms, anger management, positive emotions
A study regarding the impact of motor activities on the students’ working memory

ELENA LUPU

Problem statement: It is widely acknowledged that memory is an indispensable process for survival, that it is the sum of all psychic processes, reason for which the study undertaken regarding the impact of motor activities on the adolescents’ working memory has raised our interest, and, as a consequence, we have attempted to describe the continuity of psychic aspects, which are due to memory, respectively to the capacity of remanence within the neuro-functional and psychic structures of all experiences gathered by an individual in the presence of weekly motor activities, but also in their decrease.

Purpose of Study: The present research started from the hypothesis according to which the presence of weekly motor activities in the students’ schedule would maintain the adolescents’ working memory (WM) at a high level, and that the reduction of Physical Education lessons to one class every two weeks would have a negative impact over their working memory (WM), and not only.

Research Methods: The bibliographic study method; the observation method; the enquiry method, the pedagogical experiment method, the statistical-mathematical method, the graphical method.

Findings: Memory possesses an important role for the practice of motor activities, due to the fact that without memory the learning process would not exist in general, and the process of motor learning would be inexistent, in particular. Thus, this represents the reason for which we believe that the decrease in number of Physical Education lessons to one every two weeks would have a negative impact over the working memory (WM).

Conclusions: Students who have Physical Education lessons weekly in their schedule have a better working memory, as compared to their colleagues, who only have one lesson every two weeks.

Keywords: working memory (WM), students, Physical Education, schedule
Achievement, personality and interests at secondary school and college level

AUREL ION CLINCIU, CLAUDIA ELENA HERMKENS

The present study took place at a prestigious national college. The participants were 116 students (41 boys, 75 girls), attending either gymnasium or high school—two classes from each school cycle. The main objective was to test a set of cognitive ability scales, specifically created for career counselling, in conjunction with the personality inventory NEO PI-R and the career interest questionnaire SDS. The main hypothesis was that a series of career predictors will significantly improve vocational choice. The results partly confirm our expectations. The effect of the intervention is significant: For all the participants the degree of career congruence improved on average with 4 points.

Keywords: vocational guidance, personality, interests, calling, feedback, gender
Consumer response to product and service quality

FLORICICA MARIANA CĂLIN

Problem statement: One of the first steps that must be understood in the study of consumer behavior relates to analyze the reasons that cause a person to buy and consume a product in a certain amount in a certain time and a certain place. A consumer purchases distribute between different items depending on the additional satisfaction obtained from the consumption of one unit of product, considering its price.

Purpose of study:
1. Identification of the purchasing behavior of participants in research.
2. Identification of consumer response to product and service quality.
3. Check to differences in buying in relation to income, and gender.

Research methods: The research was based on three surveys that have aimed to identify how consumers respond to different situations in the quality of products and services. Respondents were instructed to complete the questionnaires appropriately to situations most frequently encountered in everyday life.

Findings. To validate the three hypothesis we used independent samples t test for independent samples and ANOVA unifactorial on a sample of 100 people aged between 19 and 40 years divided into two categories. The first category between 19 and 29 years and the second group between 30 and 40 years.

Conclusions. The products and services reviewed observe that the easiest changes consumer brand coffee at a rate of 89.02% followed by cigarettes at a rate of 35.71 and the last place consumers of mobile services at a rate of 16%. Among the reasons cited by research participants respond convenience 52%, 37% because they have a contract and do not want additional costs.

In analyzing the response to product quality, 36.58% of respondents choose their coffee based on its quality, 26.35% depending on the flavor, 11% are influenced by promotions that you find in supermarkets where they shop, 6.07% are influenced by branding coffee, 15% of advertising various products and 5% choose coffee without having a reason. Regarding the consumption of cigarettes they said that attaches importance to the extent of 53.57% quality cigarettes they smoke. 21% take into account the flavor of cigarettes, 8% and 17.43% of price promotions cigarettes.

Keywords: consumer behavior, consumer perception, motivation
Comparative study on the phenomenon of suicide based on gender and season

NICU IONEL SAVA, ADRIAN CRISTIAN PAPARI

Problem statement: Suicide is a complex phenomenon which represents a serious public health issue. The research joins the efforts of the World Health Organization for reducing suicide rates by acknowledging its aggressive presence in our lives, the total number of suicide cases in Romania being alarmingly large during the last five years (N=12800).

Purpose of Study: The general objective of the research is that of making a comparative analysis of the numbers of suicide based on season and gender during the last five years. Specialized literature claims that the relationship between season and suicide is given by the specificity of the season which might intensify or inhibit the suicide act. Therefore, the research will verify this first hypothesis, while continuing the analysis by highlighting the differences regarding the number of suicides based on a gender criterion.

Research Methods: This is an exploratory research, which uses information taken from the National Statistics Institute regarding the number of suicide cases. For statistical processing we had made a database in SPSS 19 which will allow the verification of the research hypotheses.

Findings: The hypotheses were tested by using Chi-Square. The statistical decision that we took based on the statistical processing confirms our working hypotheses. Ip 1 - There is a significant difference between suicide cases based on season: summer (N1=3779); spring (N2=3441); autumn (N3=3007) and winter (N4=2573) - (χ² (1) = 257.41, p < .001). Ip2 – There is a significant difference between suicide cases based on gender: 10837 cases for the male population and 1963 for the female population - (χ² (2) = 6152.17, p < .001).

Conclusions: For a long time people believed that autumn might be the season with the highest suicide rate, while the reality is quite different, people go through with this act precisely when their life is more favorable as far as seasons are concerned, which leads us to believe that we need to look somewhere else for the roots of the phenomenon. The number of suicide cases which is overwhelmingly higher in the male population compared to the male population should also be analyzed while taking into consideration failed suicide attempts in the female population.

Keywords: suicide, gender, season
The effectiveness of psychotherapy for patients with somatisation disorders induced by anxiety

AURELIA MORARU, ADINA MORARU, CAMELIA VASILESCU

Everyday we continually face difficult life situations that put us at risk and can produce us a mild shock interrupting our usual way of thinking and behaving. Ideally, this problem situations will initiate a creative moment in reflection, they may be viewed as an opportunity of the apparition of something new beneficial for current life situation. Essentially, the anxiety is a normal and a positive dimension of human life. It becomes pathological when it exceeds a certain threshold mainly defined on the basis of significant changes in the quality of life. Psychological problems develop when people do not allow the natural circumstances of life to break old patterns of thought, not understanding that they have become useless, even if it had a positive role in previous contexts. Therefore, it is time to create new attitudes and solutions sending us to another level of consciousness and helping us to flexible adapt to challenges.

The objective of the study is validation of an integrative model of psychotherapy for patients with somatization disorder induced by anxiety and rebalancing the personality of the people with somatization disorder by creating new attitudes and solutions.

The case studies present a model of integrative psychotherapy that help subjects with anxiety and somatization disorders induced by anxiety to overcome this period of spiritual crisis of their life. Thus, psychotherapy initiates and defeats the power of anxiety by gaining control over them self. Individualization of the methods for each client and the creativity, have a central place in psychotherapeutic activity.

Gradually, as the understanding, implementation and the action of psychotherapeutic methods, the subjects of the research understood that the anxiety doesn't come from objects, people or experiences, but from the attitude towards them. The subjects were aware about their wrong thinking, they experienced the psychotherapy, learning a new model of positive thinking and self evaluation and at the end of psychotherapeutic activity they successfully cope with life challenges.

After the therapeutic process has started, this will lead to attitudinal, cognitive, emotional and behavioral reorganization, and this will enhance the health, the adaptability and the evolution of human condition.

Keywords: anxiety, psychosomatic, somatization disorder, stress, psychotherapy, healing process
Alcohol and alcohol addiction – a psychosocial perspective

ANAMARIA CIUBARA, STEFAN LUCIAN BURLEA, IRINA SACUIU, DANIA ANDREEA RADU, ILINCA UNTU, ROXANA CHIRITA

Problem statement: Addiction to alcohol, as a dysfunctional pattern, has an undeniable impact on the overall functionality of the addict and his entourage. Alcohol addiction and alcohol itself is something else for each individual depending on their socio-economic status and gender-based affiliation while maintaining a cultural cliché.

Purpose of study: Perception of alcohol and alcohol addiction according to the status of the consumer or nonconsumer / moderate alcohol consumer, or by sex, age, level of educational training and background.

Research Methods: We used a valid questionnaire consisting of 35 items, targeting various social aspects, with impact on family life, work, interpersonal relations and the global functionality, responses being graded from 1-4 (1-strongly disagree while to 4-strongly agree). It was applied in similar conditions to all subjects included in the study.

Findings: We used a lot of 200 people. The data was processed in SPSS. We used factor analysis, grouping the items in 8 factors (family implication, causes of alcoholism, professional impact, social functioning, general impact, behavioral changes, general issues related to alcohol, perception of alcohol abusers), then we calculated the effect of independent variables with more than 2 levels on them with One Way ANOVA and the effect of independent variables with two levels of factors with Independent Samples T Test. Thus there was a difference in perception of alcoholism of men towards women, of people with higher education than those with secondary education and to those with minimal education, of young to older people and of those living in cities to those living on the countryside.

Conclusions: Alcohol addiction is based on a complex causality that leads to serious consequences for family microclimate and the social environment. Individuals perceive differently the impact of abusive alcohol consumption according to gender, age, level of educational training and background.

Keywords: alcohol addiction, psychosocial impact, perception of alcohol abusers
Nomophobia – probably the biggest phobia in the world

IRINA SACUIU, ANAMARIA CIUBARA, ILINCA UNTU, DANIA RADU, VASILE CHIRITA, ROXANA CHIRITA

Problem statement: Nomophobia is the fear of being out of mobile phone contact. It is known that nomophobia is a form of addiction of mobile phones with symptoms of psychological and even physical dependence. According to studies conducted recently, a growing number of people manifest fear of being disconnected from the phone.

Purpose of Study: Considering the ill effects of chronic use mobile phones, studies usually focused on those somatic effects and thus the psychological dependency rarely been in the study of interest, the purpose of our study was to highlight the dependence on mobile phone among students at University of Medicine in the Iasi.

Research Methods: The use of mobile phone and determine the addiction of it was done using Nomophobia Severity Index-Self rated version (NSI – SR) among medical students (N=250). Data collected were pooled and analysed using SPSS v.12. The questionnaire was modified according to the local conditions. The mobile phone dependent students were then designated as nomophobes.

Results: 28.5% students were found to be nomophobes. In gender-based observation, 29% males and 28% females were found to be nomophobes. Approximately 82% students responded that they keep their mobile phones with them even when they go to sleep, 57.5% students used mobile phone during college hours and 7.5% students used it only when is absolutely necessary; 12.5% students responded that they feel stressed and lose their concentration when their mobile has run out of battery or they do not have their mobile around. Respondents were cited as the main reason of anxiety need to be in contact with family and friends and 11% of people said they should be in contact by phone because the service. 67.5% of respondents check their phone for messages or calls every hour, while 9.5% said it controls phone every five minutes.

Conclusions: The results of the study are suggestive of mobile phone dependence among medical students of Iasi. The data is indicative of nomophobia to be an important problem of the modern era.

Keywords: nomophobia, mobile phone, addiction
The tendency of creating social contacts is influenced by the ability to adapt to stress

IOANA STOICA

**Problem statement:** Over time, researchers in the field of psychology have highlighted the negative effects that stress has on the way people react. This study is based on the idea that the ability to adapt to stress has negative influences on the tendency to create social contacts.

**Purpose of Study:** to study people aged between 18 and 35 years and to identify whether there is an influence between adaptation to stress and the tendency to create social contacts. Also, the difference between women and men in terms of their capacity to adapt to stress was studied.

**Research Methods:** To measure the ability to adapt to stress I used „The assessment test of adaptation to stress“, and for the need for affiliation I used a questionnaire drawn up by me, which contains several items whose results are measured on a Likert scale with five response options. Subjects were tested on the same day with both of the two questionnaires.

**Findings:** I used Kruskal Wallis statistical test and the research hypothesis was invalidated, so there is no significant difference between people’s ability to adapt to stress in terms of social contacts that they tend to create. (the Kruskal Wallis test is 0.17, the significance threshold is 0.91, and the average of the three groups are about equal 28.11, 26.34 şi 26.42). For the second assumption I used the Mann-Whitney statistical test and the results show that there is a significant difference between women and men in terms of ability to adapt to stress (the value of the test is 226, at the significance threshold 0.03 and the averages of the two samples are 23.56 for women and 32.24 for men.

**Conclusions:** The individuals' level of adaptation to stress has no direct influence on the initiation and support of social contacts. The defence mechanisms formed since childhood are extremely well developed at adulthood and compensate for a better adaptation. However, women are more sensitive than men which means that they perceive several external stimuli as stressors.

**Keywords:** adaptation to stress, social contacts, tendency of affiliation
The moralization of eating behavior. Gendered cognitive and behavioral strategies

LIGIA BLIDARU, ADRIAN OPRE

Problem statement: Recently, the psychological research of eating behavior has garnered momentum. Studies emphasize the presence of a ‘meat paradox’ and a subsequent moralization process, especially prominent in those who adopt a vegetarian diet. However, a structured review regarding this phenomenon and its correlates is missing.

Purpose of Study: The present study explores research trends regarding the relationship between contemporary secular moralization of eating behavior and gendered strategies involved in reducing cognitive dissonance. It aims to create an overview of psychological studies involved in explaining the complex relationship between human eating behavior and cognition.

Research Methods: A systematic survey of prominent psychological literature studying food, morality and gender was conducted. Current research findings, both qualitative and quantitative, are approached thematically and critically evaluated, in terms of their contribution to psychological research.

Findings: Eating meat is a biologically risky cultural adaptation strategy, which results in cognitive dissonance, due to the conflicting nature of humans’ relationship with food animals. It is strongly linked to traditional views of masculinity and viewed as a powerful societal norm. There are two types of strategies that can reduce the dissonance between animal welfare cognitions and meat-eating behavior. One is behavioral change, namely conversion to a vegetarian diet; the other entails cognitive defense mechanisms, which can be direct - categorization as ‘food animal’, denial of senses, thoughts or emotions – or indirect – moral disengagement, repression and dissociation of meat from the animal. Women are more likely to use behavioral or indirect cognitive strategies to resolve the ‘meat paradox’, whereas men employ mostly direct cognitive defenses. Other significant correlates regarding each strategy, such as political orientation and sociocultural dynamics, are discussed.

Conclusions: Other social sciences, such as anthropology and philosophy, have been investigating the topic of vegetarian food choice from an ethical standpoint, although much research is based on speculation. The psychological study of eating behavior is, by comparison, a recent field. Many questions are still unanswered or unclear, due to the qualitative nature of much research. A solid theoretical basis has yet to emerge, as well as thorough experimental approaches.

Keywords: gender, meat, morality, cognitive dissonance, vegetarianism
Effects of hypoglycaemia on cognitive performance

MIHAI VALENTIN CIOACU

This study addresses the relationship between blood glucose levels and cognitive performance. The study involved 70 students of the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences. They were divided into two groups consisting of 35 people. An artificial hypoglycemia was induced to the experimental group by subcutaneously injection of 0.5 units of insulin per person. The second group was the control group and did not receive the insulin injections. All the participants in the experimental group have expressed in writing their consent to participate in the experiment. The blood glucose levels were measured with the help of a glucose meter (Accu-Check Active), 10 minutes before and 10 minutes after the insulin administration. The participants in both groups were then asked to complete two tests of the Vienna Test System testing battery. The chosen tests are: the Stroop test and COG test. To highlight the effects of hypoglycemia on cognitive performance I compared to the results of the experimental group with the results of the control group. There were statistically significant differences. People with hypoglycemia have low cognitive performances.

Keywords: glucose, hypoglycemia, cognitive performance, insulin
The effects of hypoglycemia on motor coordination

MIHAI CIOLACU

This study addresses the relationship between blood glucose levels and motor coordination. The study involved 70 students of the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences. They were divided into two groups consisting of 35 people. An artificial hypoglycemia was induced to the experimental group by subcutaneously injection of 0.5 units of insulin per person. The second group was the control group and did not receive the insulin injections. All the participants in the experimental group have expressed in writing their consent to participate in the experiment. The blood glucose levels were measured with the help of a glucose meter (Accu-Check Active), 10 minutes before and 10 minutes after the insulin administration. The participants in both groups were then asked to complete a test of the Vienna Test System testing battery. The chosen test is the 2HAND Coordination test. To highlight the effects of hypoglycemia on motor coordination I compared the results of the experimental group with the results of the control group. There were statistically significant differences. People with hypoglycemia have low cognitive performances.

Keywords: glucose, hypoglycemia, motor coordination, performance, insulin
"Is your career meaningful?" Exploring career calling on a Romanian students sample

DANIELA DUMULESCU, ADRIAN OPRE, RAMONA BUZGAR

Problem statement: In the competitive employment markets of the XXIst century, finding meaning in work and career is essential for becoming successful. One of the most important and influential tasks in emerging adults is to develop a fulfilling career, which implies identifying a calling in their career. Despite this fact, there is little research on this topic.

Purpose of Study: to explore calling in career on a sample of Romanian undergraduate students. More specific, we investigated the frequency of perceiving a calling in career, the intergroups variations on calling regarding age, gender and faculty and the relation between the perception of calling in career and living calling.

Research Methods: Participants were 497 undergraduate students in the Ist academic year of study from 4 faculties (Babes-Bolyai University, Romania). The questionnaires measuring demographic variables (age, gender, faculty, residence) and calling (Calling and Vocation Questionnaire ; Dik et all., 2012 ; Living Calling scale ,Duffy et all., 2012) were administered.

Findings: Using SPSS statistical program, the results showed that about 46% of students reported scores above means on having a calling and about 53% were searching for calling. Also, girls reported higher presence of calling (t=-2.16, p <0.05) and were more oriented for searching a particular type of calling (purposeful work), than boys (t=-1.84, p<0.05). There were no difference regarding residence (rural vs. urban) and age. Moreover, the ANOVA results showed significant differences in living calling between the students from different faculties (F=4.86, P=0.002). Post hoc test (Scheffe) revealed that students from Theology are living calling more often than the others. Regarding the relationship between perceiving a calling and living a calling, the regression analysis revealed that 2 dimensions of perceiving a calling, Transcendent Summons Presence and Purposeful Work Presence, predicted 11.4% of variance of living calling. (r² = 0.114, p<0.01).

Conclusions: Based on our results, we can conclude the construct of calling is relevant for Romanian students. From a practical perspective, our results are interesting for improving counseling intervention in order to help students’ career development. Future research that builds upon the present study to examine possible antecedents and outcomes of calling, are needed.

Keywords: calling in careers, students, living calling
The effects of hypoglycemia on emotional regulation capacity

MIHAI VALENTIN CIOLACU

This study addresses the relationship between blood glucose levels and emotional regulation capacity. The study involved 70 students of the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences. They were divided into two groups consisting of 35 people. All participants had to watch a 15 minutes film with a high emotional impact. An artificial hypoglycemia was induced to the experimental group by subcutaneously injection of 0.5 units of insulin per person. The second group was the control group and did not receive the insulin injections. All the participants in the experimental group have expressed in writing their consent to participate in the experiment. During the film the physiological changes and the changes in the facial expressions of the participants were recorded using biofeedback xpert and a video camera. During the tests I discovered that people passing through an artificially induced hypoglycemia state have felt a much stronger emotional impact caused by video and audio stimuli.

Keywords: glucose, hypoglycemia, emotional regulation, biofeedback, stimuli, insulin
The relationship between career interests and academic major: a comparative analysis

CAMELIA VASELSCU, AURELIA MORARU, NICU IONE SAVA

In the last few years, the evolution of the society has imposed an increased level of intellectualization of work activities and therefore we consider that the construction of one’s career starts with a school training, which allows a person at the end of the studies, to achieve a relative professional type constant throughout the active life. This article aims at presenting some results of a research whose overall objective was to highlight the importance of an early revelation of its interests and their crucial role in shaping the route school/university for achieving successful careers. The specific objectives consider identifying significant differences on vocational interests of participants in the study, analyze the compatibility between specific vocational interests and the chosen type-school/university-and the degree of maturation of interests which have a decisive step in choosing educational and career way. To identify interests a Questionnaire for Assessing interests was applied by COGNITROM Cluj. After statistical processing of the collected data, there appeared significant differences on vocational interests of the participants on study. The compatibility between identified vocational interests and the type chosen-school/university- was especially brought into surface only in academic subjects. It was impossible to prove the existence of a significant correlation between pre-graduate school and university. Finally, we concluded that, although the university level reveals the importance of career counseling and guidance through its introduction into curricula, as distinct curricular area, however it is found that there are still deficiencies in choosing an appropriate educational type which corresponds to the personal vocational interests, which can lead to academic dissatisfaction or professional school failure.

Keywords: vocational interests, career, educational type, school guidance
The organizational culture in public and private institutions

MIHAELA RUS, DAN OCTAVIAN RUSU

Every organization, regardless of region, country or sector, has a culture of its own. If in terms of the private sector, we can say that there are significant differences in their organizational culture, we cannot make the same statement about the organizational culture of the public sector. The organizational culture of a public institution, as opposed to the organizational culture of a private organization, is developing within a broader spiritual matrix. The changes in the environment in which these institutions operate significantly and culturally marked the public institutions in Romania. Reality shows that if an organization is constantly changing its public managers and a part of its public servants, such a public institution is at the risk of weakening its organizational culture. The objective of the case study was to identify the type of the organizational culture within two Romanian institutions, i.e. a public (Calarasi City Hall) and a private (ACTIVE TRADING SRL) one, for a comparative perspective on their organizational culture. In terms of the research method, a questionnaire of 10 questions was applied and the answers to this questionnaire were subject to a statistical analysis.

Keywords: organizational culture, public institution, private institution, manager, employee
Adult attachment, self-esteem and emotional intelligence

ELENA DOINITA NANU

Problem statement: Based on Bartholomew and Horowitz studies on the link between attachment, self-esteem and sociability, the purpose of this study is to present the link between type of adult attachment’s, self-esteem and emotional intelligence.

Purpose of Study: to examine Romanian adults (N=65) to determinate if there is a statistically significant positive correlation between the type of attachment, self-esteem and emotional intelligence.

Research Methods: Questionnaires based on different statements - Adult Attachment Scale (Collins & Read, 1990), Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (Rosenberg, 1965), Adult Emotional Intelligence Test (adapted Mihaela Roco by Bar-On and D. Goleman). The respondents were instructed to choose the best variant that examines in a four point Likert scale, from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

Findings: Using SPSS Bivariate – Corelate – Analysis procedure the studies show that adult attachment security is linked with self-esteem, and emotional intelligence for a normal distribution (K-S 0.399; 0.176; 0.465; 0.150; >0.05).

The relationship between different types of attachment and Self-esteem. Pearson Correlation revealed the existence of a positive significant correlation between secure attachment and Self-esteem (r = 0.484, p = 0.000 <0.01), also revealed the existence of a negative significant correlation between avoidance attachment and Self-esteem (r = -0.416, p = 0.001<0.01) and also a negative significant correlation between anxiety attachment and self-esteem, authoritative parenting style was found to be positively correlated to self-esteem (r = -0.255, p= 0.041 <0.05).

The relationship between different types of attachment and Emotional intelligence. Pearson Correlation revealed the existence of a positive significant correlation between secure attachment and emotional intelligence (r = 0.283, p=0.022 <0.05), also revealed the existence of a negative significant correlation between avoidance attachment and emotional intelligence (r = -0.290, p = 0.019<0.01) and no significant correlation between anxiety attachment and emotional intelligence (r = 0. 050, p= 0. 690 >0.05).

Conclusions: These results highlights the link between type of adult attachment’s and self-esteem, in concur with other studies, Wayne H. Bylsma, Catherine Cozzarelli & Nebi Sumer (2010) in concur with other studies.

Keywords: secure attachment avoidance attachment anxiety attachment self-esteem emotional intelligence
The effects of creative improvisation through literature technique on self-esteem, in a unifying personal development group

VASILE CONSTANTIN, IOLANDA MITROFAN

Problem statement: It's a well known fact that, at this moment, we are looking to diversify the therapeutic and personal development techniques, which could help obtaining long-term positive effects on people. This study is based on the exploitation of creative improvisation through literature technique in Unifying Experiential Psychotherapy and observing its effects in a personal development group.

Purpose of study: to develop the creative improvisation through literature as an innovative technique in Unifying Experiential Psychotherapy and Personal Development and to measure its effects on self-esteem’s participants at the personal development group (N = 12).

Research Methods: To measure self-esteem we used the Rosenberg questionnaire and all along the personal development group we used the technique of creative improvisation technique through literature as a way to challenge the participants, to facilitate the analysis and restructuring, according to the experiential-unifying paradigm. The participants received at every meeting the invitation to write, spontaneously, a short story related to the main themes of their life, which later turned into tools of analysis and self-awareness.

Findings: Using SPSS, we wanted to see if there are significant differences on the self-esteem level, at the participants of the personal development group through literary improvisation, compared to a control group that did not participate in a program like this. Using t-test to compare the means of two independent samples, at the end of the research program, we observed that the mean of the experimental group was 34 and the control group’s mean was 28.2, df = 22, P = 0.008. In that case, p <0.05, which means that there are statistically significant differences between the means of the two samples and the research hypothesis, that there are significant differences between the scores obtained for self-esteem, on the experimental group and the control group in a personal development program based on creative improvisation through literature, is confirmed.

Conclusion: Noticing the differences in the measured variable between the control group and the group that participated in a personal development through literary improvisation program, we conclude that the technique is effective and it may have applicability and long-term positive effects, not only on the measured variable, but also on others. In this context, we will continue the implementation and measurement of its effects among other variables, and at the same time, we will do further studies to validate and to develop these techniques more widely.

Keywords: creative improvisation, psychotherapy, personal development, unifying experiential psychotherapy, self-esteem
Social representation, causes and prevention of sexual violence in high school students

CLAUDIA CASTIGLIONE, ORAZIO LICCIARDELLO, ALBERTO RAMPULLO, CHIARA CAMPIONE

The issue of rape is a complex phenomenon, difficult to define, in fact have been proposed several explanations. Some authors have considered this a consequence of human diseases (Groth and Birmann, 1990; Freud, 1905), others a result of social learning models or anthropological-cultural aspects (Eysenck, 1978; Bushman and Bonacci, 2002; Mulino and Linz, 1995). The study of a feature develop in the social sphere can be useful (Moscovici, 1989), so this paper use social representations to explain the “rape” according to a vision mediated by social meanings.

The purpose of this research is to explore the social representations of sexual violence, the prevailing attitudes, and if the context of belonging to affect these ones in secondary schools students from two Sicilian cities.

The sample consisted of 120 high school students with an average age of years 16.12, equally divided by sex, city of belonging, and school year. The instruments used are as follows: a questionnaire for socio-demographic variables; three rating scales to explore: the representations of sexual violence; the representation of the causes of rape; the prevention of sexual violence.

Results suggested that in general, sexual violence has been considered as an “imposed sexual act with physical force” caused by lack of consideration other’s right. Compared to the possibility of preventing rapes, students suggested different methods: the use of punishment or to adopt educational methods that promote respect for their own and others.

Keywords: attitude, rape, territory, gender
Satisfaction of training effects on future professional choices within the territory of belonging

CLAUDIA CASTIGLIONE, ORAZIO LICCIARDELLO, ALBERTO RAMPULLO, VALENTINA SCOLLA

In the current cultural, social and economic context it is important to understand how young adolescents perceive their own abilities and their own identity in relation to the territory within which they are embedded. Identity is influenced by many variables: training, socio-cultural context, territory and relationship with people. All these aspects greatly affect individual's perspective and his ability to transform in action their own planning.

Our research investigated the level of satisfaction of training, the characteristics that a training course should have, as this may affect future career choices and the professional achievement within the territory they belong.

Sample was of 231 students of high schools, equally distributed by sex, and school year. Measure used were: 8 Likert scales with regard to representation of training characteristics, future career choices and professional achievement; 4 semantic differentials (Actual Self; Future Self; Job; and Territory); and socio-demographic questions.

Students consider sufficiently satisfactory the training received and indicated, moreover, the ability to offer rapid job placement and develop of skills spread, spendable in any working environment, as peculiarities of a possible future training course. They not have awareness of job reality in its concreteness, although there is a consciousness of the changes made in the work environment. All this, intertwined to the negative representation of Sicilian territory of the students, lead them to feel disillusioned their hopes and plans to build their own future in their region. The possible development of the Sicilian territory for students should be based primarily on tourism, although they gave importance to permanent job placement as a possible development of the territory, we observed an importance given to training, cooperation and personal commitment.

Keywords: Possible selves, planning job, environment, education
Why children should learn to tell stories in primary school?

IOANA PANC, ADRIANA GEORGESCU, MADALINA ZAHARIA

Problem statement: The importance of communication and literacy to achievement in all professional domains is well established, as well as the importance of laying a strong foundation for them in school. Less is known about learning to tell a story in front of an audience as a tool for improving communication and literacy for primary school students.

Purpose of Study: To examine the impact of an 8-week storytelling course on the communication and literacy skills of second-grade school children.

Research Methods: The authors utilized a sample of primary school students (N=49) from a Bucharest public school. The variables tested were verbal fluency, verbal expressiveness, nonverbal expressiveness, self-confidence in front of an audience, reading for pleasure, reading comprehension, listening, emotion recognition and teamwork. The skills were assessed with BAR scales by three independent observers while the children were involved in entertaining related activities, both in pretest and in posttest, after the 8-week storytelling program in which only the experimental group took part.

Findings: The results of the Independent samples t-test revealed statistically significant posttest differences between the experimental and the control group for verbal fluency, verbal expressiveness, nonverbal expressiveness, self-confidence in front of an audience, reading comprehension, emotion recognition and teamwork. The effect was below average for emotion recognition (d=0.17) and for reading comprehension (d=0.40). For verbal fluency, verbal expressiveness, nonverbal expressiveness, self-confidence in front of an audience and teamwork the effect was of medium size (Cohen d ranged between 0.48 and 0.53). Both the control and the experimental group registered increased values for the variable listening and reading for pleasure at posttest measurements. For listening, the increase could've been caused by an enhanced motivation in both groups to perform well. The testing activities were well-liked by participants, who were highly motivated to pay attention. In case of the variable reading for pleasure, it was difficult to discriminate between declarative increases in reading for pleasure and books actually read.

Conclusions: Collectively, these findings suggest that the development of communication skills may be facilitated in primary school by teaching students to tell a story in front of an audience.

Keywords: storytelling, communication, literacy, primary grades, verbal fluency, verbal expressiveness, nonverbal expressiveness, self-confidence in front of an audience, reading for pleasure, reading comprehension, listening, emotion recognition, teamwork
How do novice specialists in human resources develop their professional identity? A diagnosis model

ANDREEA ELENA IBĂNESCU

Problem statement: We argue that professions also involve social responsibility, apart from a specialized body of knowledge, autonomy to regulate standards of practice, and commitment to provide public service (Sullivan, 2005). These equal and integral components are developed through professional identity, a process through which novice professionals – students – integrate them autonomously and harmoniously. Depending on the degree of professional identity development, qualitative differences in the way early professionals express themselves emerge.

Purpose of Study: The present study aims to investigate how novices conceptualise professional identity. Specifically, it aims to determine the contents of and the processes through which future human resources specialists form their professional identity, in order to formulate a diagnosis model.

Research Methods: A qualitative research design was employed, using an inductive approach. Data collection followed a purposeful sampling technique: 29 first year students from three Master programmes in human resources were selected to write an unstructured essay answering the question “What is your story as a student in this Master programme?”. Students’ narratives were analysed and themes referring to the contents and the processes of professional identity development were defined.

Findings: Themes were integrated into a model that qualitatively differentiates students with a highly developed professional identity from the others. Specifically, such students believe professional learning is at the core of professional identity development; accordingly, they have formed expectations promoting in-depth study. However, it is organizational culture that shapes professional learning, having a direct impact on students’ degree of professionalism. Certain values and assumptions that shape students’ theory in use include accepting ambiguity as a natural part of learning, knowledge sharing, encouraging authenticity, feedback and reflection, and, to some extent, experiential learning. Other hallmarks of in-depth study are group processes (identification or responsibility). A feedback loop appears between professional learning and motivation for learning. Lastly, students with a highly developed professional identity have a firm professional commitment, engaging in (pro)active in-depth exploration.

Conclusions: This study emphasizes the importance of professional learning in early professional identity development, highlighting how cultural mechanisms, students’ expectations and group dynamics help future specialists work autonomously and responsibly.

Keywords: professional identity, novice specialists in human resources, professional learning, organizational culture
Familial barriers in the development of creativity in preschoolers

MONICA-IULIANA POPEȘCU, AURELIA MORARU, NICU IONEL SAVA

Creativity, a matter of contemporary importance, represents one of the issues approached by the social and human sciences due to its ability to permeate various fields, transcending the borders of psychology. The article aims to report the results of this study, whose main objective is the study of the development of creativity in preschoolers, in the context of the family. The specific objectives are: validating an instrument to measure parenting style, identifying a correlation between the creativity index and the parents' attitude towards children, and highlighting the influence of the parenting style on children's creativity levels. To acquire data, the Torrance Tests of Creative Thinking (form A of the figural test) was applied to children and a validated parenting questionnaire, along with a test measuring parents' attitude towards children (a Romanian-language-adapted form of "Barnett Liking of Children Scale"), was applied to their parents. After statistically processing the data collected, a strong positive correlation between the children's creativity index and the parents' scores at the test measuring the parents' attitude towards children was found. Regarding the influence of parental style on the level of creativity in preschoolers, the study found that authoritarian parenting is related to low levels of creativity and an authoritative parenting style positively influences creativity levels. We conclude that a safe and stimulating environment can help children maximize their creative potential with which they were genetically gifted.

Keywords: creativity, parenting style, creativity level, creativity index
Parental involvement and intrinsic learning motivation with primary-school students

MARIELA PAVALACHE-ILIE

Problem statement: Parents value education and participate in the educational life of their child by communicating with him, offering him support in solving the homework, discussing the school activities and his educational progress, inducing a positive attitude towards the learning process and encouraging him, as well as initiating contacts with the school and the teachers.

Purpose of Study: to identify the relation between the involvement of the parents and the intrinsic learning motivation of primary school students (N=231); to identify the impact of the involvement of parents on the academic achievement of their children.

Research Methods: Students’ teachers (= the teachers of the students?) filled the Parent Involvement in Early Years–Teacher Report (Wong and Hughes, 2006). The students filled in the intrinsic motivation subscale from the Elementary School Motivation Scale (Guay et al., 2010) for reading, writing and maths.

Findings: Parental involvement is significantly associated with the level of intrinsic motivation in the learning process of the students (r = .53, p< .001), being more intense in the case of third graders than in the case of fourth graders, for each of the three activities (reading, writing and maths). The high level of parental involvement is strongly associated with good results in subjects like mathematics and Romanian language and with high results for the whole school year on average. (r = .94, p< .001). The third grade students obtain better results anew. Using the Independent-Sample T-Test, we determined that girls demonstrate higher levels of intrinsic motivation as compared to boys as far as reading and writing are concerned only. The fourth grade girls obtain higher motivation levels as compared to the third grade girls.

Differences in the degree of parental involvement were noted based on the ethnic variable. Thus, the romanian parents get more involved in the education of their children as compared to the romna parents (t(114, 86)= 11,97, p < .001).

Conclusions: The results of the study represent an argument in favour of the fact that the primary school teachers should stimulate parental involvement in order for the students to obtain better results. It is mandatory not only to project some partnership programmes and activities and to occasionally implement them, but also to transpose this collaboration ideal in all school actions and policies. The school counsellors could initiate actions in order to raise awareness among parents on the need to keep a strong connection with the school so as to be come an important factor in the academic success of their children.

Keywords: parental involvement in relation with the school, intrinsic learning motivation, academic performance
Pathological gambling treatment – review

STELIANA RIZEANU

Problem statement: Gambling involves risking something of value (usually money) on an activity or event in which the outcome is not certain. Problem gambling is associated with a range of negative consequences for the individual, the family and for society in general; it often occurs with other behavioral problems, including substance abuse, mood disorders and personality disorders. Pathological gambling is labeled as an impulse disorder (DSM-IV 2000), but most treatment interventions are based on substance abuse models.

Purpose of study: This study aims to review approaches to treatments commonly used for pathological gambling as well as nonprofessionally guided interventions such as Gamblers Anonymous. Within the last 5 years, there has been an increase in treatment data as more researchers are finding evidence for efficacious gambling treatment models.

Research Methods: A literature search was used to identify relevant articles. It started with the use of the keywords: “gambling”, “problem gambling”, “compulsive gambling”, “pathological gambling”, “treatment for pathological gambling” in the most important electronic databases, restricting the search to articles published in English.

Findings: The majority of treatment modalities use counseling as a mechanism for treatment. The behavioral therapeutic strategy has been found to be effective in short term cessation of gambling behaviors, but not with long term behavior changes. Cognitive-behavioral treatments draw on the theory that gamblers have incorrect beliefs about control of gambling outcomes; it has received strong support from leading gambling treatment researchers and its efficacy is evidenced by its frequency in the literature.

Conclusions: Recent research suggests that the earlier one starts to gamble, the more likely one is to become a pathological gambler. Behavioral and cognitive treatment approaches appear to offer promise as effective treatments for pathological gambling. The study of pathological gambling is in its beginning phase, and more data are needed to assess the long term outcomes of these treatment modalities. The pathological gambling treatment field should direct research attention to studying the patients’ overall readiness to change and the specific stage of change as predictors of treatment outcome.

Keywords: pathological gambling, treatment, review
Study on the structuring of self-image in early childhood

MARIA MAGDALENA STAN

Problem statement: Self-knowledge – the capacity of a person to realize his/her physical and psychic readiness and to act in the direction of discovering new inherent particulars ..., (Șuteu, T., 1978) represents a rather late acquisition in human development, nevertheless having multiple implications on the level of personality structure. Self-image, a product of self-knowledge represents the essential reference point of behavioural and emotional self-regulation.

Purpose of Study: The approach of the self concept during the period of the early childhood represents a challenge with multiple implications on the theoretical, practical and methodological level. The present study proposes to demonstrate the dynamics of the structuring of self-image (the actual self) in early childhood, as well as the identification of the sources which facilitate the process of self-knowledge.

Research Methods: The study has been carried out on a sample of 59 pupils of ages between 9 and 11 years, boys and girls, from an urban environment. For the completion of the study, we used the test “Who Am I?” - a composition type test, as well as a questionnaire applied to children which targeted to attitudes towards themselves, towards the fellow creatures, to different types of activities but also to sources which facilitate self-knowledge.

Findings: The analysis of the data obtained reveals the fact that during early childhood, the structuring if the actual Self is done with an accentuation of the physical Self and of the cognitive and social one. We have determined that the main sources in the formation of self-image are offered by the family and school environment but also by the cultural one represented by mass media.

Conclusions: Self-image is formed gradually and changes from one age period to another. The sources of the formation of self-image during early childhood correspond to the social environment in which the child develops his activity: parents, educators, personal successes and failures, the comparison with his peers. The consequences of a positive self-image at children reflect in the rise of school performances and balanced relations within the family and in the age group as a result of the development in the socio-emotional competences.

Keywords: self image, self-knowledge, self esteem, childhood, predictors
From theory to practice: the barriers to efficient communication in teacher-student relationship

NICOLETA DUȚĂ

Problem statement: This paper addresses an important and timely topic in theoretical and practical area of higher education and modern teaching. Certainly theme of communication in higher education has been and will constitute the in future a topic of interest and the significant contributions and significant steps have been made in this respect, concretized in many studies and publications.

Purpose of Study: Analyses of barriers to efficient communication in teacher-student relationship and identify of suggestions, recommendations, proposals, solutions, possible evolutions regarding practice valorisation of experiences of communication.

Research Methods: It is a descriptive case research based on our teaching experience in higher education that focuses in knowing which are the opinions of students on the of barriers to efficient communication in teaching and possible evolutions, suggestions, recommendations, proposals regarding practice valorisation of experiences of communication. Participants: was analyzed the population of students, aged between 18 and 28 years in university in Romania. Participants were selected by purposive sampling, a method known in qualitative research (Patton, 1990). Instrument: the data were collected through a semi-structured essay. For the analysis of the assays data were transcribed.

Findings: The results of analysis of available data, students consider as fundamental barriers: physical discomfort, disinterest arises among the students due to the lack of available teaching materials, teaching system and efficient teacher in the classroom, excessive verbalism, anxiety, If a student is anxious and unsure, they’re less likely to speak up in class. This is true even in situations where a student doesn’t understand what the teacher is saying and needs clarification.

Conclusions: These types of barriers should also be considered in a classroom for proper communication between students and teachers. An open communication, without the certain restrictions, increases the confidence of members in group and therefore the productivity and motivation of the group. It is an art you to communicate effectively. The Communication, both the didactical as well as the at the society level, remain an open problem for research.

Keywords: efficient communication, university teachers, barriers, teacher-student relationship, higher education
Belief in free will in everyday life. Is there any relationship between free will and faith?

ALEXANDRA VACARU, EUGEN IORDANESCU


This study was designed to examine the construct of free will and its relationship with faith and religiosity in everyday life: the impact on one’s psychological and spiritual life, at work, in society. For the purpose’s study, it has been used a questionnaire.

The data were collected from a sample of 235 participants assigned in three conditions. First condition consisted in a (1) neutral circumstance (e.g. at fast-food, workplace, school, at the gym) with 115 respondents, second took place at a (2) protestant church, where 70 respondents participated and the third condition was represented by 50 participants, from an (3) orthodox church.

After analyzing data from condition no. 2 and no. 3 compared with condition’s data no. 1, statistics revealed a significant difference (0.037, where p>0.05) between the two sets of data, regarding belief in free will. Afterwards, it was conducted a more detailed analysis through General Linear Model-Univariate, of participants’ responses from the neutral questioning context, because some of the respondents from this group declared themselves as believers, some non-believers. Through observations after this analyses it was noticed that within this neutral condition, there is no significant difference between the participants that were believers and non-believers, although, the believers, gained a higher mean regarding the dependent variable, namely 72,02.

Although the results of the present paper does not confirm the experimental hypothesis, namely, faith or religiosity exert a certain influence on belief in free will, I would like to propose further study of this phenomena, since, every concept separately considered, affects one way or another the social environment, organizations, individuals, and implicitly, the world (Engelland, 2014).

Keywords: free will, faith, religiosity, performance, morality, locus of control, decision
Problem statement: This study focuses on children’s self-esteem and self-efficacy according to the inter-parental relationships and is based on literature on: children’s socialization in the family (Parke, & Buriel, 2008; Yu, & Gamble, 2008; Eichelsheim, Dekovic, Buist, & Cook, 2009), children’s self-esteem (Maxwell, & Chmielewski, 2008) and children’s perceived self-efficacy (Bowlby, 1969; Alessandri, Caprara, Eisenberg, & Steca, 2009).

Purpose of Study: The study aims to explore the differences in preparatory class children’s self-esteem and self-efficacy according to the relationships between their parents.

Research Methods: Participants in the study were 115 children, 64 boys and 51 girls, aged 6 - 7 years (M = 6.48, SD = 0.52) enrolled in the preparatory class from 6 kindergartens in Bucharest and Târgu Jiu, Romania and 115 adult female (children’s mothers), aged 24 to 46 years (M = 34.34, SD = 4.55), 87 living in urban and 28 in rural area. In order to collect the data, 4 self rating questionnaires were used, 2 completed by children, under teachers’ control and 2 completed by children’s mothers.

Findings: The One Way ANOVA indicated that children with mothers’ reporting positive interparental relationships have a higher level of self-esteem and self-efficacy compared with those with mother reporting interparental conflict (F2 = 3.65 and 18.63, p = .03 and p< .001). Univariate analysis of variance (ANOVA) revealed that inter-parental relationships in interaction with children’ and mother’s age affected the scores of the children’s self-esteem and in interaction with children’ age and gender and mother’s age affected the scores of the children’s self-efficacy [(F (2, 114) = from 3.77 to 12.63, p= from .04 to p < .001, Partial η2 = from .08 to .53)

Conclusions: The research’s results ads to the literature by indicating the direct association between interparental relationships and young children’s self-esteem and self-efficacy. In order to gain a fuller understanding of the investigated association, more researches is needed on this association with parenting styles.

Keywords: children’s self-esteem, children’s self-efficacy, interparental relationships, preparatory class
Conceptions of learning and intrinsic motivation in different learning environments

VALERIA NEGOVAN, MIHAELA STERIAN, GABRIELA-MIHAELA COLESIUC

Problem statement: This study focuses on undergraduate students’ conceptions of learning related to their level of intrinsic motivation for learning and to their learning context. The study is based on literature on mentioned constructs (Purdie, & Hattie, 2002; Richardson, 2011) in different learning environments (Loyens, Rikers, & Schmidt, 2009; Jonassen, & Land, 2012).

Purpose of Study: The study aims to investigate the differences in the university students’ conceptions of learning according to their learning context (regular and distance education) and to their level of intrinsic motivation for learning.

Research Methods: Participants in this study were 160 final-year undergraduate psychology students, 34 male and 126 female, aged 24 to 49 years (M= 30.61, SD = 8.55), 80 from regular full-time and 80 from distance education programs. In order to collect the data, 3 self rating questionnaires were used.

Findings: Independent-Samples T Test indicate that the students from regular program, compared to the students from distance learning program, reported higher scores on conceptions that learning is understanding, gaining information and a duty (t = from 2.26, to 3.53, df. 158, p = from .02 to p < .001). The students from distance learning program, compared to the students from regular program, reported higher scores on conceptions that learning is personal change and a continuous process (t = 2.36 and 2.55, df. 298, p = .02 and p=.01).

The One Way ANOVA revealed that student’s conceptions that learning is personal change, development of social competence, a continuous process and a duty too, are stronger at a higher level of intrinsic motivation (F2 = from 3.86, to 10.68, p = from .02 to p< .001).

Univariate analysis of variance (ANOVA) revealed that study program, students’ gender, age and level of intrinsic motivation significantly affected the scores of their conception that learning is personal change and a duty too, as separate factors and in interaction.

Conclusions: The research’s results indicating interesting differences between distance and regular students provide an empirical basis for programs aiming to promote effective conceptions of learning through new forms of teaching in higher education.

Keywords: conceptions of learning, intrinsic motivation, distance learning
Learning experience, proactive coping, high standards and undergraduate students’ initial orientation toward the graduate studies programs in psychology

CORINA BOGDAN

Problem statement: This study focuses on factors associated with undergraduate psychology students’ initial orientation toward the graduate studies programs in psychology being based on the literature on predictors of specialty choice in psychology (Crosling, Heagney, & Thomas, 2009; Zachar, & Leong, 1997), proactive coping (Greenglas, 2002) and the tendency to have high standards in life (Carver & Ganellen, 1983).

Purpose of Study: The study aims to explore the differences in undergraduate students’ initial orientation toward the master’s programs in psychology according to their age, learning experience (years of study) and level of proactive coping and of having high standards.

Research Methods: Participants in the study were 150 undergraduate psychology students (1st, 2nd and 3rd year of study), aged 20 to 45 years (M = 23.43, SD = 5.82), 25 male and 125 female, at a private faculty of psychology in Bucharest, Romania. Data were collected with three self-report scale measuring assumed variables.

Findings: Results show that masteral programs are preferred in increasing order (from low to high) in the field of: 1. Educational Psychology (10.0 %); 2. Forensic Psychology (13.3%); 3. Clinical Psychology (14.7%); 4. Industrial Organizational Psychology (20.7%); 5. Therapy (41.3%). One Way Anova indicates that students oriented toward masters’ programs in Clinical and Industrial-Organizational Psychology reported higher scores on having high standards than the other categories (F 4 = 4.25, p = .003). Students oriented toward masters’ programs in Industrial - Organizational and Forensic psychology reported higher level of proactive coping than the other categories (F4 = 3.28 , p = .01). Univariate analysis of variance (ANOVA) revealed that students’ orientation is statistically significant differentiated by the interaction between their learning experience and their age and by the interaction between their learning experience, age and level of proactive coping ([F (1, 149) = 3.16 and 3.14, p = .02 and .04, Partial eta squared =.02 and .06]

Conclusions: The research’s results contribute to the better understanding of approached relationships and advocate for a proactive approach of university students during their undergraduate studies in order to prepare them for a reasonable set of criteria in choosing their specialty in psychology.

Keywords: specialty choice in psychology, learning experience, proactive coping, high standards
Psychosocial correlates of undergraduate students’ subjective well-being related to the faculty

CORINA BOGDAN, VALERIA NEGOVAN

Problem statement: This study focuses on psychosocial correlates of undergraduate students’ subjective well-being related to their faculty and is based on Diener (1984, 2005) and Seligman’s (2005) definitions of the subjective well-being (satisfaction with life, pleasure/happiness and interest-general and domain specific), on Greenglas (2002) definition of proactive coping and on Ganellen (1998) definition of a person’s tendency to have high standards in life.

Purpose of Study: This study aims to investigate the university students’ subjective well-being related to their faculty life in relation with their learning experience (1st, 2nd and 3rd year of study), learning context (public/private University) and personal attribute like proactive coping and having high standards.

Research Methods: Participants in this study were 300 undergraduate students, 150 from a private university, and 150 from a public university, from Bucharest, Romania, with a different learning experiences, 103 male and 197 female, aged 20 to 45 years (M= 21.78, SD = 4.54). In order to collect the data, 3self rating questionnaires were used.

Findings: Independent-Samples T Test indicate that undergraduate students’ subjective well being related to faculty events are statistically significant higher for the students from private faculty compared to the students from the public faculty (t = 8.98, df. 298, p < .001) and that tendency to stating high standards are statistically significant higher for the students from the public faculty compared to the students from the private faculty (t = 2.58, df. 298, p < .001).

The One Way ANOVA revealed that subjective well-being related to the faculty is decreasing from 1st to 3rd year of studies (F 2 = 4.95, p = .008) and that high standards are higher in the 2nd year of study compared with 1st and 3rd year (F 2 = 4.98, p = .007). Univariate analysis of variance (ANOVA) revealed that students’ subjective well-being related to faculty is statistically significant differentiated by the interaction between students’ context of learning (private or public faculty) with their level of proactive coping [(F (2, 299) = 8.24, p < .001, Partial η2 = .53]

Conclusions: The research’s results provide useful information for configuring intervention programs to promote the students’ well-being in academic environment. Future researches have to attempt to explicate the causal links between well-being and socio - educational factors.

Keywords: learning context, subjective well-being related to faculty, proactive coping, high standards
Personality variables in decision-making

MIHAELA PAISI LAZARESCU

Decision-making is one of the elementary competences of any person who holds a managerial position. Success or failure of the managerial activity, as well as the manager’s performances depend on the quality of the decisions to a large extent, and therefore they can be analyzed in relation to the manager’s capacity to make efficient decisions. It is considered that a decisional process is reasonable if, using a logical analysis of the relevant information, the manager comes to take the best decision.

The paper aims at identifying the frequency of decision-making styles of school managers and the implications of the non-cognitive factors in making their decisions. Without using up the list of possible catalysts of the decision-making, the research took into account dependent variables like the locus of control and decision-making style.

School managers (34), males and females belong to school organizations in the urban and rural environment, who have different specializations and manage educational units at different educational levels.

In order to collect the necessary information for the research, we have used the following methodology General Decision-Making Style Questionnaire, Rotter’s Locus of Control Scale and Decision-Making Styles Questionnaire.

The analysis of the data obtained showed that the decision-making style of school managers is logical and intuitive predominantly and spontaneous and uncertain to a minimum, while in case of high-school managers, decision-making style is oriented on the task and in case of preschool educational units managers the orientation is on people.

The locus of control correlates significantly with the decision-making style and with the managerial style.

The results obtained through the analysis of the research data confirmed the hypothesis and emphasized the importance of the managerial style and of locus of control in decision-making.

Keywords: decision-making, locus of control, managerial style, leadership, personality
Study on the temperament as a predictor of peer relations at preschool ages

MARIA MAGDALENA STAN

Problem statement: The specialty literature reveals that, even since early childhood, the children interactions have important effects not only on the social, cognitive, communication and academic development level but also on the emotional self-regulation. At preschool-ages, children interactions refer to the behavioral process established verbally or physically with their friends or peers (peer) (Ladd, 2005). Preschool-aged children’s peer interactions are influenced by several factors including social competence, prosocial actions of peers and their own, environmental settings, and temperamental characteristics.

At early ages, social competence manifest during the play with peers significantly. The numerous studies on preschool children defend the idea that the ability to establish relations with one’s peers represents an essential competence and a self-regulation indicator for the future developmental stages. A desire to understand individual differences associated with peer play behaviors and overall social competence has led many researchers to explore child characteristics, such as temperament, that predict these behaviors.

Purpose of Study: The present study proposes to demonstrate the association between children’s temperament and peer interactive play behaviors.

Research Methods: The study had been carried out at a kindergarten, on a sample of 15 preschool children, girls and boys aged 5-6 years. The instruments we used were Behavioral Style Questionnaire- BSQ (McDevitt &Carey, 1978) and behavioral observation grid during the children’s directed plays.

Findings: The correlation analysis points out that certain aspects of children’s temperament associates with behaviors similarly during play.

Conclusions: The limits of the study and the research directions will be analyzed.

Keywords: temperament, child, peer interactive play behaviors, social competence
“Teacher educators - a hidden profession” – a practical reflection for administrative and law studies

OANA IUCU

The present study aims to apply scientific findings of the research made very systematically at international level in the area of Teacher educators from the social sciences field, in general and for the university specialization: Law and administrative studies, in particular. The guidelines of the new orientation applied to Teacher educators paradigms - as a hidden profession, was strongly supported in 2012 and 2013 on the “European Teacher Education” Agenda not only in an quantitative sense (by organizing two major scientific events) but also, in respect of the quality approaches, emerging of substantial research reports. All products have influenced deeper the research on this approach applied to the Law and administrative studies. This scientific field, especially in academic culture in Romania but also in South-Eastern Europe, has preserved the status of the Magna Charta university discipline which is using teaching and learning through reproductive knowledge; in this area becomes, more important than others, to design a set of professional-teaching practices which will guide the training process of the experts working on training and education future teachers in this field. Using a qualitative research technique we intend to identify structural and functional relationships involved in the field of didactics principles applied to Law and administrative studies, in a word, we intend to bring to light what seemed hidden until now ...

Keywords: teacher educators, social sciences didactics, law and administrative studies teaching methods, professionalization, European Teacher Education Agenda
Teachers’ and students’ opinions concerning message transmission and reception in class communication

RAMONA HENTER, SIMONA - ELENA INDREICA, TOADER PALASAN

Problem statement: Communication continues to be a hot topic in many areas, with an impressive series of sociological, pedagogical, psychological, linguistic, etc. studies dedicated to it. From a practical standpoint, our investigation mainly focused on class communication, given its characteristics (Pânișoară, 2006).

Purpose of Study: This study aims to investigate teachers’ and students’ views on the transmission and reception of a message in class communication, in view of optimizing the communication process.

Research Methods: The present investigation started from the following research questions: are there differences between teachers and students as concerning message transmission and reception in class communication?; which are these differences? are communication barriers in teaching accentuated by teachers’ and students’ different opinions on class communication? The sample consisted of 92 teachers in secondary school and 127 pupils in secondary school, from Neamt and Brașov counties. We used as research instruments: 1. Questionnaire of opinions on class communication, for teachers, 2. Questionnaire of opinions on class communication, for students; the first 5 items aimed factual data and the other 30 items (built in the “mirror”) concerned teachers’ / students’ opinions about the factors that influence communication, languages that dominate the communication, the barriers in communication, the attitude during communication from the transmitter/receiver point of view, recommendations for effective communication.

Findings: The results show that there are differences of views in teachers and pupils. Their viewpoints are not congruent as regarding the communication process conducted in the formal context of school: the factors influencing communication, as seen by the teachers, are related to students’ preparation for classes and, as seen by pupils, they reflect the teacher’s personality; the dominant language in communication is the verbal one for the teachers, whereas, students prefer the nonverbal one, etc. In conclusion, the process of communication in class, during teaching can be optimized if the differences of opinions of stakeholders in education will be brought to a common denominator.

Conclusions: The results show that there are differences of views between teachers and pupils. They disagree on the communication process conducted in the context of formal school: the factors influencing communication are seen by the teachers as related to students’ preparation and by the students, as related to the teacher’s personality; dominant language is the verbal communication for teachers, for students - the nonverbal etc. Teacher – student disputes regarding the communication process emphasize the communication barriers and distortions of the transmission and reception of a message in class communication. In conclusion, the process of communication in the context of teaching can be optimized if the differences of opinions of the stakeholders in education will be brought to a common denominator.

Keywords: class communication, teachers’ and students’ different opinions
Metacognition and foreign language anxiety

RAMONA HENTER

 Problem statement: Learning a foreign language can be a difficult process, which does not become any easier along with age. Researchers trying to offer a good recipe for learning a foreign language have discovered factors which can help the learner and factors which prevent the achievement of success in such an endeavour. Thus, on one hand, foreign language anxiety has been proved an important trait for predicting success in learning a new language. On the other hand, metacognition seems to empower learners to achieve their cognitive goals.

 Purpose of Study: This study aimed to identify the relationship between foreign language anxiety and metacognition in learning English as a foreign language.

 Research Methods: We used several instruments for assessing metacognitive awareness of the learners as well as their level of language anxiety and performance in learning English.

 Findings: There is a negative statistically significant relation between the two suggested factors, meaning that along with the increase of metacognitive awareness as concerning the process of learning a foreign language, the anxiety towards using it decreases.

 Conclusions: Metacognition should be an integrant part of any language learning programme, as it offers the strategies needed to overcome certain difficulties, including the anxiety towards using a foreign language.

 Keywords: foreign language anxiety, metacognition, metacognitive strategies
Problem statement: The present study aims to highlight the mediator role of job satisfaction in the relationship between perceived organizational safety climate and organizational trust. This study was conducted on 147 participants with the age between 21 and 58 years old (60.5% women, 39.5% men; M = 33, SD = 9, 92). We performed mediation analysis using hierarchical linear regression analysis for the evidence of mediation and prediction models proposed by the present study. Results reveal that job satisfaction is a partial mediator (Sobel Test: Z = 6.65, statistically significant at p = .05, mediation effect = .19) of the relationship between safety climate perceptions and organizational trust. A positive perception of the safety climate is associated with a high job satisfaction and a high level of organizational trust in the employees. Safety climate dimensions and job satisfaction have a significant impact on the dimensions of organizational trust. When the employees perceive a positive safety climate and when they have a high level of satisfaction with their jobs they display a higher trust in the organizational management.

Keywords: perceived safety climate, organizational trust, job satisfaction
The impact of personal resources on organizational attitudes: job satisfaction and organizational trust

EUGEN AVRAN, CORNEL LAURENŢIU MINCU, ALEXANDRA MARIA DEMIAN

Introduction
The purpose of this study is to investigate the relationship between personal resources, job satisfaction and trust in the organization, as well as highlighting the resilience moderator effect on the relationship between these variables.

Hypothesis
1. Dispositional optimism is related positively with trust in the organization.
2. Life satisfaction is positively related to trust in organization.
3. Dispositional optimism is related positively to job satisfaction.
4. Life satisfaction is positively related with job satisfaction.
5. Dispositional optimism is related positively with trust in the organization.
6. Resilience is related positively with dispositional optimism, trust in organization and job satisfaction.

Methods
Participants. The study was conducted on a sample of 149 participants, including 63 males and 86 females, selected from different organizational environments.

The instruments: 1) Job Descriptive Index (Smith, Kendall și Hulin, 1969); 2) Organizational Trust Profile (Ellis și Shockley-Zalabag 2001); 3) Satisfaction with life scale; 4) Life Orientation Scale (LOT-R); 5) The Brief Resilient Coping Scale (Sinclair și Wallston, 2004).

Results and Conclusions
The research highlights the importance of personal resources in developing important organizational attitudes: job satisfaction and trust in the organization. The results highlights statistical correlations between life satisfaction variable and job satisfaction variable (r = 0.268; p<0.01), life orientation and life satisfaction (r=0.494; p<0.01), resilience and life orientation (0.416; p<0.01), resilience and trust in organization (r=0.230; p<0.01), resilience and life satisfaction (r=0.225; p<0.01). Hierarchical regression analysis indicated that life satisfaction is a good predictor of job satisfaction and trust in the organization, while dispositional optimism only helps to explain trust in the organization. Statistical results of the analysis show that the moderation model has no validity.

Keywords: life satisfaction, job satisfaction, dispositional optimism, resilience, organizational trust
The suicidal state between "the wish to die" and "an urge to die"

LAVINIA DUICĂ

Aim of study: to describe the motivational dynamics behind two types of suicidal states in order to differentiate between „the wish to die” and „an urge to die”.

Material and method: Through the perspective of existential analysis, this study discusses and compares the psychodynamics of the suicidal states taken into consideration a case diagnosed with “Recurrent depressive disorder. Major depressive episode, without psychotic elements. Personality disorder of borderline type” respective „Major depressive disorder. Severe major depressive episode with psychotic elements”.

Results and conclusions: The comparison between the two cases highlights a difference in the conceptualization of the suicide state in each of the two cases considered. In the first case, the suicidal state was psycho-dynamically based on the association between the second fundamental motivation (characterized by the “love for life”) and the third fundamental motivation (generally centered on the idea of „being myself”). A dissatisfaction at the level of the second motivation (depression) can become manifested by the state of psychic dissociation. In the second case, the suicidal state resulted from combining the second fundamental motivation (characterized by the verb „to enjoy life”) with the first fundamental motivation (qualified by the motto “to be able to be”).

The unfulfillment of both the first and the second motivation which constitute the very ground of the Person leads to a very severe life threatening condition as long as reality is strongly disturbed and as long as life is perceived as indesirable.

Keywords: suicide, existential analysis, motivation
The public image of Romanian police forces reflected by the media

ALINA CIABUCA

One of the main ways to capture the image of an institution is represented by the manner in which it is promoted by the media. Considering the newspapers articles referring to the police forces published during one month, we conducted a syntactic analysis, followed by a content one, in the form of thematic analysis. Results showed insufficient attention paid by the media to the institution and its activities and reflected o rather limited view, focused on covering specific crime incidents and ignoring some aspects of the activities performed, the public cooperation and support, the processes involved, etc. This media analysis revealed the need for the police to pay more attention and to be more actively in promoting its image.

Keywords: public image, police, mass-media
Time perception, age, cognitive correlates and emotions

CRISTIAN VASILE

Problem statement: The time perception is different not only between different age categories, but also between individuals from the same age stage. The experience of time is also dependant on the subjective perception of the activity type an individual performs. From the neuropsychological view, there are many brain areas involved in time perception, and in this regard we cannot analyze only few brain sectors, but an entire network or system.

Purpose of Study: The study discusses the subjectivity of psychological perception of time and the relation between time perception, age, cognition and emotion.

Research Methods: The paper refers to some studies regarding the time perception and cognitive and emotional correlates.

Findings: Using logical connections together with research findings from different studies a general frame regarding time perception was found.

Conclusions: The relation of the time with the subjective internal representation is a systemic, strong and complex one, of a major importance for human beings.

The time perception is strongly related to the feeling of social exclusion and to the meaning of an individual’s life.

The age, the specific of activities, emotions associated with the activities, cognition, all are in a direct relation with time perception which in turns influences all these aspects and functions. We discuss here about a circular model in which the time and the personality influence each other.

Keywords: time perception, cognitive correlate, emotions
Identity Structures Therapy in emotional disturbed subjects

CRISTIAN VASILE

Problem statement: Identity Structures Therapy (IST) is a form of psychotherapy of which techniques start from the assumption that there are five major areas of the self-concept (identity structures) on which an individual could feel disturbances.

Purpose of Study: The study describes three case studies of emotional disturbances and the effects of IST applied on them.

Research Methods: In the paper case studies are used in order to analyze the effects of IST on emotional disturbances.

Findings: Following a correct identity structures evaluation and the right approach for each identity structure unbalance, substantial improvement were observed in subjects with anxiety, low self esteem and depression.

Conclusions: Using IST we noticed a substantial improvement in clients (their problems have decreased in intensity and some were solved). As a related result, it could be noticed that other issues associated with the major problems decreased in intensity too.

Following these case studies, but also other instrumental observations/findings on different subjects when IST was applied, the results indicate that IST had a high efficiency in emotional disturbances for the subjects implied in therapy.

Keywords: Identity Structures Therapy, self-concept, emotional disturbance
The influence of Alternative Therapy on GSR reactivity at youngsters - A pilot study

MARIA MION POP

Problem statement: The occupational therapy role increase in everyday life. Fatigue, stress, work load, the work program or disorganized learned activities may cause on the human body anxiety disorders, depressive, panic attacks (Holdevici, 2011).

Objectives
To highlight possible changes on the GSR amplitude and time until return for psychology students after they had an oral examination.

Assumptions
The alternative therapy method applied, influence statistically significant the amplitude of the GSR.
The alternative therapy method applied, influence statistically significant the GSR time until return.

Method
Participants
A number of 28 master students, 24 female and four male, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, University of Bucharest, rural and urban Areas.
Instruments: the Polygraph Lafayette LX 4000 series.
A scenario of relaxation with Techniques from alternative therapies was applied in the way of inducing the disconnection from the oral exam and reconnection to the real environment.

Results
The results obtained statistical significant differences regarding the dependent variables: amplitude of GSR and time until return of GSR.
The therapeutic method succeeded in disconnection from the oral exam and reconnection to the real environment in the way of increasing the GSR amplitude due to the unconscious activation meant to reconnect the participants to the real environment.

Keywords: GSR amplitude, GSR time until return, alternative therapy, unconscious activation
Optimizing/Reducing the self-perceived stress level, heart rate and blood pressure by cognitive behavioral intervention plan in a multinational organization from Romania

CATALINA DUMITRESCU

Problem statement: The main stress factors identified by Cooper, Sutherland and Winberg (2010) can be: the job requirements (workload program to work, the relationship between work and personal life, shift work), control over work; Support at work), etc. Cognitive behavioral therapy through rigorous set plans based on scientific may bring improvement of the various physical and mental disorders related to stress experienced by employees (Holdevici, 2011).

Objective
Hypotheses
We assume that the implementation of the optimization cognitive behavioral therapy program will decrease the overall level of professional distress.
We assume that the program of therapy will reduce the participants self-perception of health impairments at the workplace.
We assume that cognitive behavioral therapeutically intervention will optimize the heart rate and blood pressure levels at the end of working program.

Method
Participants
The participants were a number of 60 employee (M age = 34.00, SD = 3.02), including 34 men and 26 women, employees of a Hypermarket from Bucharest, Romania.

Instruments
1) The self perceived stress level inventory adapted from Pitariu, Capes (2008).
2) Medical blood pressures and pulse measurement instrument

experimental design
Dependent variables:
Blood pressure (indicators: maximum and minimum values of Blood pressure)
Level of professional stress-instrument (indicator: average overall score)

Results and Conclusions
The results confirm the Hypotheses regarding the Cognitive Behavioral Intervention Plan. Therapeutic intervention program on occupational stress highlighted that employees who participated in this therapeutic program were able to optimize the self-perceived stress level and also the heart rate and blood pressure after finishing the working program as previous studies evidenced (Cooper and Cartwright, 1997; van der Klink et. al., 2001; Giga et. al., 2003, Kleber and van der Valden, 2003).

Keywords: self-perceived stress level, heart rate optimization, blood pressure optimization
Optimizing the level of well-being in personal development groups in integrative therapy

GINA ANTIGONA RĂDULESCU CHIRIAC

Ryff (1989), the author of well-being scale presents a number of social and subjective indicators: Sense of community integration, goods, sense of security, happiness, satisfaction at work, etc.

Objective
To highlight the possibility of optimizing the level of well-being in personal development groups in integrative therapy.

Hypotheses
The integrative therapy techniques applied in the personal development groups optimize the level of well-being perceived by the participants.

Method
Participants were a number of 26 female, age between 22 and 51 years old (Mean=29.03; S.D.= 8.7), different professions: psychologists, economists, engineers, medical staff. The instrument was Well-being (Ryff) with 42 items. The dependent variables were: positive relations, autonomy level, control, personal development, sense with life and self-acceptance. The independent variable was the therapeutic intervention at the level of development groups.

The results highlights that the level of autonomy, positive relations and the sense with the life has been statistically significant increased after participating at the development group intervention program.

Keywords: optimizing the level of well-being, integrative psychotherapy, methods of role play in group development
Vocational guidance orientation for undergraduate students at psychology

ANGELA BOGLUȚ, STELIANA RIZEANU

Introduction
In the last 5 years the universities in Romania gained research-development projects in order to sustain the vocational orientation of the students in the psychologist’s profession. Hence, since 2004 when the law of psychologist regulates the psychology as profession in Romania, the undergraduate students at psychology benefit after graduation from a liberal profession.
Objective: to highlight in what way the undergraduate students need vocational guidance before bachelor graduation.

Method
Participants were a number of 56 undergraduate students at psychology, Hyperion University, Bucharest.
The instrument was a vocational guidance survey based on qualitative scales.
The results highlight the needs of vocational guidance, the informational channels regarding the admission to the faculty of psychology and also for the specialization in the fields of psychology.
The conclusions underline the needs for vocational guidance, career counseling and also the undergraduate students’ needs for participating at scientific manifestation in psychology.

Keywords: vocational guidance, career counseling in psychology, scientific manifestations
A correlative study between pain perception at doctor and the level of self-perceived stress at undergraduate students at psychology- a pilot study

STELIANA RIZEANU, TEODOR MIHAILA

Introduction
Codreanu, Bogluț & Chraif (2014) investigate the pain perception at doctor related with the positive and negative emotions as state and traits.

Method
Participants
The participants were a number of 36 undergraduate students at psychology, age between 20 and 28 years old, (M=23.16; S.D.= 2.04) Hyperion University, Bucharest, Romania, all working at the moment of questionnaire application.

Instruments
Questionnaire measuring pain perception doctor (Codreanu, 2013). This questionnaire is only 8 items that measure self-perceived pain on a Likert scale from 1 (not at all) to 5 (very high).

Job Stress Scale (Parker & Decotiis, 1983), the scale has 13 items on Likert scale from 1 to 5, measuring two dimensions: stress level and anxiety.

Experimental design: dependent variables: the pain perception at doctor, the perceived stress level and anxiety level.

Results confirm the hypotheses regarding the strong positive correlation between the level of perceived stress and anxiety and the level on pain perception at doctor.

Keywords: anxiety, pain perception, self-perceived stress
Gender, positive and negative emotions predictors for the self-perceived pain at undergraduate students at psychology - a pilot study

MIHAELA CHRAIF, ANGELA BOGLUȚ

Introduction

Pain perception may differ by gender but may correlate with positive and negative emotions at young undergraduate students at psychology (Codreanu, Boglut & Chraif, 2014). Based on correlations tested in the previous work, present study presents a linear regression having as criteria the pain perception at doctor.

Hypotheses: Gender, positive and negative emotions as a state and trait positive and negative emotions of personality are predictors of self-perceived pain at the doctor for the young undergraduate students at psychology.

Method

Participants were a number of 65 undergraduate students, Faculty of Psychology, University of Bucharest, age between 19 and 26 years old (M=21.80; S.D.=4.14), 35 female and 30 male, rural and urban areas.

The instruments

1. Pain perception at doctor questionnaire (Codreanu, 2013) with 8 items measuring the self-perceived pain from 1 to 5 on the Likert scale.
2. Questionnaire measuring emotions as state and traits by de Levine şi Xu (2005) in Romanian version MEST-Ro adapted by Pitariu, Levine, Muşat, & Ispas, 2006) with 5 positive emotions and 5 negative emotion on a Likert scale from 1 to 10.

Results confirm the hypotheses regarding the gender as predictor for pain perception at doctor (R=0.641; R square=0.410; p<0.05). In this respect the present study reinforces the results obtained in the previous study of gender differences regarding the undergraduate students at psychology pain perception at doctor (Codreanu, Boglut & Chraif, 2014) offering this time a predictive model.

Keywords: pain perception at doctor, negative emotions, positive emotions
Correlative study between satisfaction, self-perceived stressors and coping in an educational versus technical organizations from Bucharest

MIHAELA CHRAIF, ANDREEA MATEESCU

Occupational stress plays an important role in many types of health problems (cardiovascular diseases and physiological). Blegen (1993) underline that job satisfaction is influenced by the employee’s perceived stress. In his study the author highlighted that stress and organizational engagement correlated with job satisfaction and perceived stress level and obtained a statistically significant negative correlated with the level of job satisfaction.

The objective is focused to highlight possible correlations between the variables job satisfaction, perceived job stress level and coping strategies in educational versus technical organizations from Bucharest.

**Hypotheses**
- Satisfaction of rewards correlate statistically significant negative with self-perceived stress levels.
- Satisfaction in relationships with managers correlate statistically significant negative with self-perceived stress levels.
- The level of job satisfaction correlate statistically significant negative with self-perceived stress levels.
- Self-perceived stress levels significantly correlated statistically significant with coping mechanisms adopted.

**Method**
Participants: The participants are a number of 72 employees from two different organizations (educational and technical), including 15 males and 57 females, aged between 23 and 71 years (m1 = 40.27 SD = 14.17, m2 = 41.91, sd = 11.18).

The instruments: 1) Job satisfaction scale and coping scale adapted from Pitariu (2008); 2) Job Stress Scale questionnaire (adapted from Parker & Decotiis, 1983) comprising two dimensions: time stress and anxiety.

**Results and Conclusions:** The results highlights statistically significant correlations between job satisfaction variable (SSA) and Anxiety (A) ($r = -0.33, p <0.05$), satisfaction of awards and rewards (SPR) and stress time (ST) ($r = -0.37, p <0.05$), satisfaction of rewards (SPR) and Anxiety (A) ($r = -0.36, p <0.05$), satisfaction of rewards (SPR) and self-perceived stress level - total (STR) ($r = -0.40, p <0.05$), at the employees from the educational organization.

Regarding the employee from the technical organization there are statistically significant correlations between variables satisfaction of awards and rewards (SPR) and stress time (ST) ($r = -0.40, p <0.05$), satisfaction of awards and rewards (SPR) and Anxiety (A) ($r = -0.38, p <0.05$), satisfaction of awards and rewards (SPR) and self-perceived stress level - total (STR) ($r = -0.44, p <0.01$), satisfaction in relationships with managers / supervisors (SRM) and stress time (ST) ($r = -0.44, p <0.01$), satisfaction in relationships with
managers / supervisors (SRM) and self-perceived stress level - total (STR) \( r = -0.41, p < 0.05 \), satisfaction workplace - total (S) and stress time (ST) \( r = -0.53, p < 0.01 \), satisfaction at work - total (S) and Anxiety (a) \( r = -0.45, p < 0.01 \), satisfaction at work - total (S) and self-perceived stress level - total (STR) \( r = -0.55 p < 0.01 \).

Keywords: self-perceived stress level, job satisfaction, coping strategies
Gender differences in workload and self-perceived burnout in a multinational company from Bucharest

MIHAI ANIȚEI, MIHAELA CHRAIF, ELENA IONIȚĂ

Introduction

The objective is focused to highlight gender differences regarding the workload and self-perceived burnout in a multinational company from Bucharest.

Hypotheses
There are statistically significant gender differences regarding workload at the employee of the multinational organization.

There are statistically significant gender differences regarding the self-perceived burnout level at the employee of the multinational organization.

Method
Participants: The participants were a number of 40 employee from a multinational organization from Bucharest, 18 male and 22 female age between 20 and 30 years old.

The instruments: 1) The workload scale (Ioniță, 2014) ; 2) the self-perceived burnout scale (Ioniță, 2014).

Results and Conclusions
The results confirmed the statistically significant the hypotheses (p<0.05). The implications of the studies underline that the employee had to have a organized work program, well balanced relation family-work and time for relaxing activities.

Keywords: workload, self-perceived burnout level, implication in work
Correlative study between quality of life and well-being dimension in an IT Company from Bucharest

MIHAELA CHRAIF, MADALINA ROŞU

Introduction
Hendreş (2009, apud Argyle 2001 et al) highlights that education has a strong influence on the variable quality of life in developing countries, Costa & McRae (1980) evidenced that the temperament and personality traits influence human reaction in different situations.

The objective of the research is to highlight possible correlations between quality of life and the dimensions of well-being measured with Ryff’s Well-being scale at IT employee from a Romanian Company from Bucharest.

Hypotheses
There is a statistically significant correlation between self-perceived quality of life and level of independence.

There is a statistically significant correlation between quality of life and level of self-perceived control.

There is a statistically significant correlation between quality of life and personal development.

There is a statistically significant correlation between quality of life and positive relationships.

There is a statistically significant correlation between quality of life and the meaning of life.

There is a statistically significant correlation between quality of life and self-acceptance.

There are statistically significant gender differences regarding the self-perceived burnout level at the employee of the multinational organization.

Method
Participants: The participants were a number 40 employee from an IT consultancy company from Bucharest, 12 males and 28 females from HR and consultancy departments.

The instruments: 1) Ryff’s Well-being scale (PWB-R)”, 2) Quality of life scale, Flanagan (QOLS)”.

Results and Conclusions
The results confirmed the statistically significant partially the hypotheses (p<0.05). Hence, there is a statistically significant correlation between the Quality of life and the following dimensions of the Well-being: self-control (r =0.65, p<0.01); positive relations (r =0.52, p<0.01); sens of life (r=0.45, p<0.01) and self-acceptance (r =0.67, p<0.01).

Keywords: well-being, quality of life, positive relations, self-acceptance
Gender differences in self-perception of mental health, physical health and the level of burnout in a multinational company from Bucharest

MIHAI ANIȚEI, MIHAELA CHRAIF, ANDREEA SITARU

Introduction
Demerouti și Bakker (2007) studies burnout at workplace as exhaustion and detachment, Maslach (1982) highlighted three dimensions of burnout: emotional exhaustion, depersonalization and personal accomplishment on supervisors and managers in HR.

The objective of the research is to highlight possible gender differences in self-perceived level of work related stress (physical and mental) and burnout at the employee from a multinational Romanian Company from Bucharest.

Hypotheses
There is a statistically significant gender difference regarding the variable total self-perceived stress (stress level professional).

There is a statistically significant gender difference regarding the level of mental stress.

There is a statistically significant gender difference regarding the level of physical stress.

There is a statistical significance gender difference regarding the level of self-perceived burnout at the workplace.

Method
Participants: The participants were a number of 30 employee in a multinational company from Bucharest, age between 21 and 53 years old, 14 female and 16 male.

The instruments: 1) Workplace stress scale (Sitaru, 2012); Mental state health scale (Sitaru, 2012); Physical state scale (Sitaru, 2012); the self-perceived burnout scale (Ionită, 2014).

Results and Conclusions
The results highlight statistically significant correlations between the total self-perceived stress level and self-perceived burnout (r=0.67; p<0.01); physical self-perceived stress level and the level of self-perceived burnout (r=0.53; p<0.01) and the self-perceived level of mental stress and the self-perceived level of burnout (r=0.49; p<0.01).

Keywords: self-perceived mental stress, self-perceived physical stress, burnout at workplace
Learning to achieve or learning to perform – A need analysis on students’ career skills

CAMELIA TRUTA

Problem statement: The necessity of increasing undergraduates’ and graduates’ employability is ubiquitous for Romanian universities who continuously try to improve the career counselling services they offer to the students. Still, there seems to be a discrepancy between professionals’ effort in this direction and students’ declared benefits from it.

Purpose of study: The present study aims at investigating students’ needs regarding career counselling. Their attitudes and behaviors regarding career orientation and their availability towards this activity were also investigated.

Research Methods: 238 undergraduates completed a need analysis questionnaire developed for this study. Questions focused on: information regarding career, support for job hunting, types of desired career counselling activities, required skills in profession, information sources, motivational factors and availability towards career counselling activities.

Findings and conclusions: Data indicates that students place a much stronger emphasis on developing soft skills than hard skills, on placing the responsibility for their professional development mainly on teachers and educational system. They consider themselves as well informed regarding future career options, still they use little information for professional development during studies. Suggestions regarding ways to increase the impact of career counselling efforts in universities for both the benefits of graduates and institutions are discussed.

Keywords: career counselling, employability, career skills, professional development
Situational Judgments Tests – a fact in call center personnel selection. Pilot study

MADALINA PETRESCU, VLAD BURTAVERDE, TEODOR MIHĂILĂ, ANCU MIHAELA

Introduction
Situational Judgment tests represent a challenge for the organizations in our days. Borman and Motowidlo (1993) claimed that performance at work has both contextual and task orientation dimensions.

Objective: The objective of this research is to first to validate in a pilot study a situational test that can be used in call center personnel selection process.

Hypothesis
The situational judgments tests have predictive value for call center performances.

Method
Participants were a number of 60 employees in a call center from Bucharest, age between 18 and 43 years old, 35 female and 25 male. The instruments were 2 situational tests created to predict the performances in the call center selected for the present pilot study. The results confirm the predictive value of the situational tests (R=0.327; R Square=0.107; F=6.921; p<0.05). The conclusions underline the importance of implementing situational testing procedures for employee personnel selection procedure.

Keywords: situational judgment tests, personnel selection, performance at workplace
Vocational guidance orientation for undergraduate students at psychology

ANGELA BOGLUȚ, STELIANA RIZEANU, VLAD BURTAVERDE

Introduction
In the last 5 years the universities in Romania gained research-development projects in order to sustain the vocational orientation of the students in the psychologist’s profession. Hence, since 2004 when the law of psychologist regulates the psychology as profession in Romania, the undergraduate students at psychology benefit after graduation from a liberal profession.

Objective: to highlight in what way the undergraduate students need vocational guidance before bachelor graduation.

Method
Participants were a number of 56 undergraduate students at psychology, Hyperion University, Bucharest.

The instrument was a vocational guidance survey based on qualitative scales

The results highlight the needs of vocational guidance, the informational channels regarding the admission to the faculty of psychology and also for the specialization in the fields of psychology.

The conclusions underline the needs for vocational guidance, career counseling and also the undergraduate students’ needs for participating at scientific manifestation in psychology.

Keywords: vocational guidance, career counseling in psychology, scientific manifestations
Audio-visual reaction and fine handling errors – a pilot study

DANIELA DUMITRU, MIHAELA CHRAIF

Introduction
Investigating the laterality was a predilection for psychophysiology researchers (Oldfield, 1971, Ellis & Ellis, et.al., 1998, Zeigler & Bischof, 1993, Porac & Coren, 1981). The preference for one side of the body (handedness, footedness, eye, ear) was investigated and the results can be displayed as following: favoring right hand: 88.2%; favoring right foot: 81.0%; favoring right eye: 71.1%; favoring right ear: 59.1%; same hand and foot: 84%; same ear and eye: 61.8% (Porac & Coren, 1981). The reason for this is supposed to be the dominance of the left cerebral hemisphere that controls the right part of the body.

Objective
The objective of this research is to highlight the differences in multiple stimuli reaction in connection to the number of left hand, right hand and total (left and right) errors in fine handling abilities.

Hypotheses
There are statistically significant left hand errors in fine handling abilities regarding the correct/incorrect/omitted reactions in undergraduate students at psychology.

There are statistically significant right hand errors in fine handling abilities regarding the correct/incorrect/omitted reactions in undergraduate students at psychology.

There are statistically significant total (left and right) errors in handling abilities regarding the correct/incorrect/omitted reactions in undergraduate students at psychology.

Method
The participants were a number of 63 undergraduate students at Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, University of Bucharest, ages between 19 and 25 years old (M= 22.41; S.D.= 2.1), 18 male and 45 female, from rural and urban areas. The instruments: 1) The Labyrinth test B19; 2) Determination test, both from Vienna Tests System (2012).

Results and Conclusions
The results confirmed the hypothesis (p<0.05) regarding the ambidextrous participants. Hence those who have a low level of handling errors with both hands had a lower number of incorrect reactions. So handling with both hands offers the possibility to adjust the response (the left hand reaction that is predisposed to errors is adjusted with the right hand response, which is better).

Keywords: fine handling, fine handling errors, motor coordination
Differences between motivation from competition and motivation from individual goals under the influence of inductive reasoning

MIHAELA CHRAIF, DANIELA DUMITRU

Introduction
The research we propose is focusing on inductive reasoning and its influence on motivation. Motivation is easy to be influenced in real life, the triggers being various and complex. Isolate them in laboratory environment and decide if those factors will have the same influence outside is as hard as it gets. We try to see if inductive reasoning tasks can influence motivation and in what way, hoping that we can draw ecologically valid conclusions at the end.

The objective is focused to highlight motivation from competition and motivation from individual goals differences under the influence of inductive reasoning task, in male and female students at psychology.

Hypotheses
There are statistically significant inductive reasoning differences regarding motivation from competition personality task in male and female students at psychology.
There are statistically significant inductive reasoning differences regarding motivation from individual goals personality task in male and female students at psychology.

Method
Participants: The participants were a number of 60 undergraduate students at Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, University of Bucharest, ages between 19 and 28 years old (M= 23.38; S.D.= 2.5).

The instruments: 1) The OLMT personality test; 2) AMT inductive reasoning test (Vienna Tests System).

Results and Conclusions
The results confirmed the hypothesis (significantly at p<0.05) for the undergraduate female group (T= -2.21; df=42; p=.032<0.05). Applying 2-Way ANOVA there were not obtained statistically significant differences concerning gender and inductive reasoning on motivation from individual goals and motivation from individual personality task. Nevertheless, the small group of male undergraduate students could be a cause for this result. Hence, in a future study we shall increase the number of male undergraduate students sample to be equal to the number of female students.

Keywords: inductive reasoning, motivation from individual goals, motivation from competition
Communities of practice as a mean for decentralization

DANIELA DUMITRU, VLADIMIR ENACHESCU

Introduction
School as an institution that nurtures education is heavily criticized nowadays, because it is not doing what it supposed to do. We try to propose a new vision that is easy to implement. One answer is decentralization so curricula can be more versatile and adapted to the regional context. In the process of decentralization the local community has the primary role and in curriculum design the local communities of practice, we try to prove, have the leading part.

The objective of the present research is to open a new discussion about the communities of practice in the context of decentralization process.

Method
For this theoretical paper we used documentation, conceptual analysis and content analysis as methods of research.

Results
The characteristics of a community of practice can be extrapolated to all communities to describe them, process that allows us to start a classification and a setting for the best approach to use the community as an educational opportunity. So using apprenticeship as a compelling learning process, the new conception of community of practice takes the relationship from a master / student or mentor / mentee to the relationship of changing participation and identity transformation from the community of practice. The community has in its center a social learning theory, which comes from combination of two main axes: one linking theories of social structure and theories of situated experience, and another linking theories of practice and theories of identity. Decentralization appears to be the solution, because it allows quickly identification of problems and search for the most suitable answers. The transfer of authority from one level of education organizations to another level allows the mobilization of resources, which is the cause of many debates aimed at decentralization.

Conclusions
All stakeholders (parents, tutors, local authorities, etc.) can be a part of communities of practice and for this reason they can participate in the curriculum development of their schools. So the community of practice appears to be a tool as well as an environment adequate for the decentralization process.

Keywords: decentralization, community of practice, curriculum development