

The 15th Conference on Social and Community Psychology

University of Bergen

Department of Psychosocial Science

20. – 21. November 2013



OVERVIEW

TIME TABLE WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 20th

Time	Activity	Location
09.00 – 10.15	Registration and coffee	Hall/Entrance
10.15 – 10.25	Welcome by Dean Jarle Eid	Room 130
10.25 – 11.25	“Addiction and self-regulation”	Room 130
11.25 – 11.45	Break	Hall/Entrance
11.45 – 13.05	“Culture, health and prevention”	Room 130
13.05 – 14.00	Lunch	
14.00 – 15.00	“Reports from the practice field” (Norwegian)	Room 130
15.00 – 15.30	Break	
15.30 – 17.00	Key-note Arne Holte (Norwegian)	Room 130
	<i>«Spesialisthelsetjenestepsykologene: Braksuksess for psykologene, fallitt for folkehelsen»</i>	
19.00 – 23.00	Dinner and social gathering	Salsa, Vågs- almenningen 6

DETAILS WEDNESDAY 20TH OF NOVEMBER

Time	“Addiction and self-regulation”	
10.25 -10.45	Helga Myrseth	Description and pre-post evaluation of an internet based treatment program for pathological gambling in Norway
10.45 – 11.05	Pawel Atroszko	Conceptualization and measurement of study addiction
11.05 – 11.25	Ricardo G. Lugo	Computer-based learning and student self-regulatory skills: An investigation to possible counterintuitive strategies

“Culture, health and prevention”

11.45-12.05	Åse Mattson	Japanese junior high school counselors' experiences of working with students who self-injure
12.05-12.25	Eunice Adusei	"Their smiles behind the tears" Stressors and resistance resources among mothers in Bolni village: Policy implications of health promotion in Ghana
12.25-12.45	Samar Albarghouthi	The Palestinians cultural understanding of cancer through the lens of community psychology
12.45-13.05	Torill Christine Lindstrøm	Cancer in context

“Reports from the practice field”

(Norwegian)

14.00 – 14.20	Hildegunn Marie T. Schuff	Kreative og deltakende metoder med marginalisert ungdom
14.20 – 14.40	Åshild Berle Fuglestad and Åse K. Rio	A presentation of a low-threshold psychological aid to refugees and immigrants
14.40 – 15.00	Stian Espevoll	Et innblikk i jobben som kommunepsykolog

OVERVIEW

TIMETABLE THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21ST

Time	Activity	Location
08.30 – 09.55	Parallel sessions	Room 130 and 110
09.55 – 10.10	Break	
10.10 – 11.50	“The great challenges – Climate, democracy and peace”	Room 130
11.50 – 12.30	Lunch	
12.30 – 14.00	Poster session, Discussant Simon Øverland	Room 135
14.00 – 14.15	Break	
14.15 – 15.15	Key note Torbjørn Rundmo (Norwegian) <i>«Is risk perception important for safety and pro environmental behaviour? If not, what is?»</i>	Room 130
15.15 – 15.30	Closing of conference	Room 130

DETAILS THURSDAY 21TH OF NOVEMBER

Parallell sessions

Time	Room 130	Room 110
	“Historical perspectives and methods”	“Surprise and insight”
08.30-08.50	Steinar Ilstad Sosialpsykologiens historie - Zeitgeist vs. helter (History of social psychology – Zeitgeist vs. heroes)	Håvard Steinde Aha experience <i><u>NB! This presentation is cancelled and changed to a poster presentation.</u></i>
08.50-09.10	Tom Backer Johnsen Social network analysis	Hroar Klempe The psychology of surprise - a neglected area
09.10-09.15	Short break	
	“Work and organizational psychology”	“Intergroup relations and integration in Norway”
09.15-09.35	Irene Owusu-Poku A qualitative study on work-life balance and health of women in the mining industry: A case study at a mining company in Ghana	Lily Appoh “I am African but my children are Norwegian”: Experiences of African parents raising their children in Norwegian context.
09.35-09.55	Inge Brechan Impact of person characteristics, job description, and situational job characteristics on job performance: Application of the triangel model of responsibility	Henrik Herrebrøden The stereotype content model in Norway

Time	“The great challenges – Climate, democracy and peace”	Room 130
10.10 – 10.30	Gisela Böhm	Climate change in the social media
10.30 – 10.50	Hans Brende Lind	Does value-belief-norm theory predict acceptance of policy interventions to reduce car use and the use of environmentally friendly transport in the Norwegian urban population?
10.50 – 11.10	Bjørn Sætrevik	Memento mori for the Utøya generation: Three experiments indicate that mortality salience may enhance democratic values through sensitizing social processing
11.10 – 11.30	Hroar Klempe/ Liu Bangchun	Who are more peaceful, Chinese or American teenagers? A cross-cultural survey on teenagers’ peace tendency
11.30 – 11.50	Ola Bøe-Hansen	Jerome Bruner’s story making in a security political context

Practical information

Oral presentation

Please show up 10 minutes before your session starts, to upload your presentation to the computer from your USB-memory stick.

Please note that each presentation is set to last 15 minutes plus 5 minutes of discussion.

Poster presentation

The posters will be displayed in room 135 on both conference days.

The official poster session will take place Thursday 21st of November between 12:30 - 2:00 pm. During this time at least one of the authors of the posters will be present to answer questions regarding their poster. If you are presenting a poster you have to deliver the poster to one of the crew on the 20th of November.

How to access the Wi-Fi

Alternative 1: If you already have an existing eduroam account at the institution you come from, you can use this account to log on to the wireless network called eduroam. Choose “eduroam” from the list of wireless networks accessible, and use your existing username and password. You might also be logged on automatically.

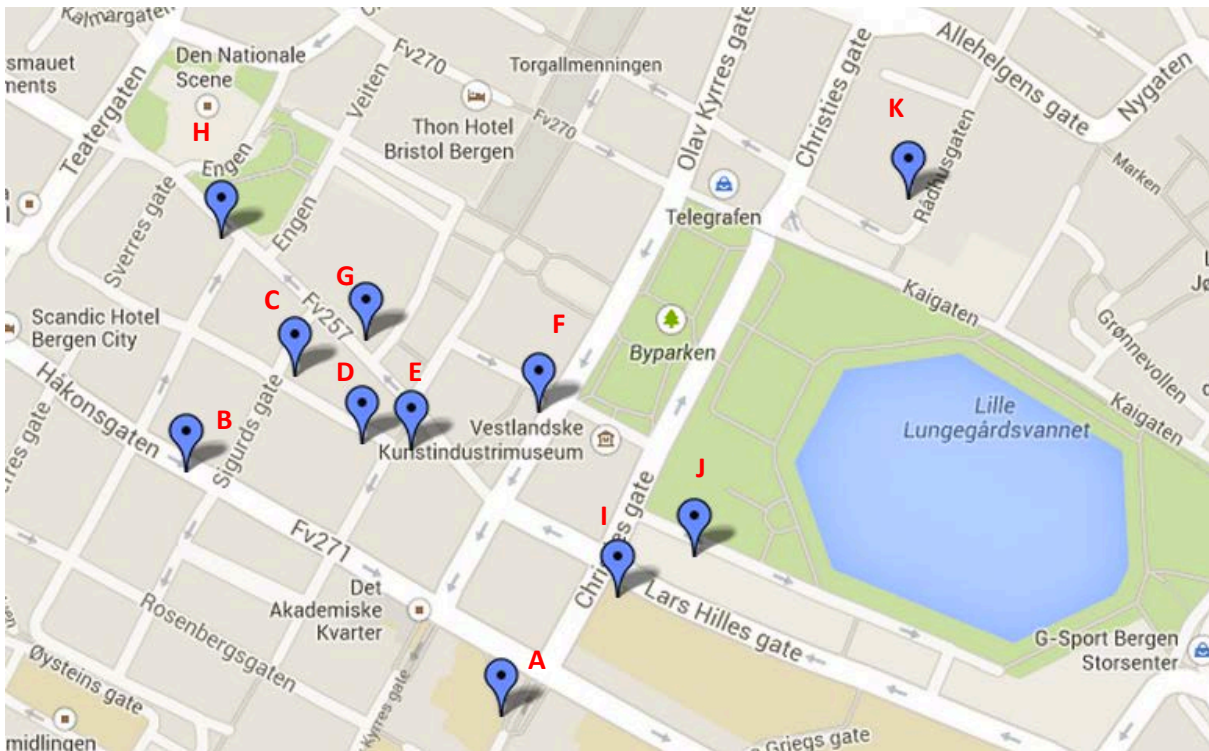
Alternative 2: Chose the network “uib-guest” from the list of accessible networks. A window with information about how to log on will pop up when you open your browser. If you have a Norwegian telephone number, write this in. Do not write a password. A password will be sent to your mobile phone.

If you can't access the internet in any of these options, or if you can't get it to work, feel free to contact one of us in the Crew, and we will be happy to help you.

Information about lunch and dinner / where to buy food and snacks during the conference

On the 1st floor of the Faculty of Psychology (andre etasje) there is a cafeteria where you can buy sandwiches, baguettes, coffee, soft drinks etc. There is also a 7/11 just around the corner from the Faculty of Psychology.

The map below shows a selection of cafés and restaurants in walking distance from the Faculty of Psychology



A: Cafè Spesial

B: Ichiban Take away

C: Naboen

D: Sumo

E: Godt Brød

F: Brunello

G: Zupperia

H: Cafè Opera

I: Faculty of Psychology

J: Smakverket

K: Kafe Magnus

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

“Spesialisthelsetjenestepsykologene: Braksuksess for psykologene, fallitt for folkehelsen”

Arne Holte

Nasjonalt folkehelseinstitutt

Psykiske lidelser er landets største helseutfordring i form av forekomst, belastninger på barn, sykefraværskostnader, uførhetstrygdkostnader, tapte arbeidsår, sykdomsbyrde, totale sykdomskostnader, forholdet direkte - indirekte kostnader, og dødelighet. Vi kan ikke behandle oss ut av dette uføret. Vi må forebygge. Samhandlingsreformen, Folkehelseloven, Satsingen på

psykologer i kommunene og Standarder for psykologisk embetseksamen legger til grunn at psykologer kan gjennomføre både psykisk helsefremmende tiltak og psykisk sykdomsforebyggende tiltak. "Men er det sant?" spør Arne Holte og presenterer ti punkter til en strategi for forebygging og går igjennom utdanningsprogrammene i Bergen, Oslo, Trondheim og Tromsø for å finne ut hva psykologene lærer i grunnutdanningen som setter dem i stand til å møte de forventningene samfunnet har til dem.

Oral presentation in Norwegian.

“Is risk perception important for safety and pro environmental behaviour? If not, what is?”

Torbjørn Rundmo

Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Safe and pro environmental behaviours may be closely linked to each other because the same measures which promote safety also can contribute to behavioural change necessary to meet future environmental challenges. Accordingly, the main aim of this presentation is to discuss important and not so important factors which may concur in improving safety as well as the environment. The discussion will be based on several studies which we have carried out during the last twenty years. It includes research on occupational as well as traffic and transport safety. First, three hypotheses about the association between risk perception and safe behaviour will be presented and discussed. The discussion will be based on results of two surveys carried out amongst employees in the offshore oil industry. Thereafter, perceived risk will be related to risk sensitivity, risk tolerance and worry and results from several surveys about the associations between these factors and demand for risk mitigation in transport will be presented. Comparisons of demand for risk mitigation amongst politicians, safety experts and lay people will be made. Finally, the role of risk perception and worry for safe and pro environmental travel mode use will be discussed based on an ongoing study and data materials collected in year 2004 and 2008. It is concluded that perceived risk may be of minor importance for safe and pro environmental behaviours.

Oral presentation in Norwegian.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

“Addiction and self-regulation”

Theme:

“Addiction and self-regulation”

“Description and Pre-Post Evaluation of an Internet Based Treatment Program for Pathological Gambling in Norway - A Pilot Study.”

Helga Myrseth¹, Geir Scott Brunborg², Magnus Eidem³ & Ståle Pallesen¹

¹Department of Psychosocial Science, University of Bergen, Norway, ²Norwegian Social Research, Norway, ³Innlandet Hospital Trust, Department for substance abuse and addiction, Norway

Although the effectiveness of treatments for pathological gamblers is gaining support, only 10% of pathological gamblers seek treatment. Providing treatment via the Internet may lower the thresholds for treatment seeking. A new telephone and internet-based treatment program for pathological gamblers is presented in this article, along with a pre-post evaluation of the program. The participants (N = 112) were problem gamblers who were either self-referred or referred by their general practitioner. Data from post treatment and 3-months follow up are evaluated. The results suggest that using Internet and telephone assisted treatment interventions can significantly reduce symptoms of pathological gambling (measured by the South Oaks Gambling Screen – Revised). The intervention was also associated with improvement on cognitive distortions, measured by the Gamblers Belief Questionnaire, and general psychological distress and psychopathology as measured by the Symptom Checklist-90-Revised. Although Internet-based treatment programs have been suggested to have advantages compared to traditional face-to-face therapy, research in this area is scarce. This pilot study contributes to the growing literature in this area, and provides tentative support for the effectiveness of Internet-based treatment interventions for pathological gamblers.

Keywords: *addictive behaviors, disordered gambling, internet treatment, cognitive behavioral therapy*

Oral presentation in English.

“Conceptualization and measurement of study addiction”

Paweł Atroszko¹ & Ståle Pallesen²

¹The University of Gdańsk, Department of Psychometrics and Statistics, ²The University of Bergen, Department of Psychosocial Science

Study addiction can be conceptualized preliminarily within the framework of work addiction studies, and more generally within the behavioral addiction field, as a compulsive over-involvement in studying which interferes with functioning in other domains and that is detrimental for the individual and/or his/her environment. A psychometric tool for measurement of study addiction, the Bergen Study Addiction Scale (BSAS), was developed on the basis of the Bergen Work Addiction Scale. The instrument reflects six components of addiction: salience, mood modification, tolerance, withdrawal, conflict and relapse, and one component concerning addiction-related health problems. Initial validation studies were conducted among students in Norway (N = 218) and Poland (N = 554). The hypothetical one-factor solution of BSAS had acceptable fit to the data in both samples (RMSEA = 0.030, CFI = 0.99, TLI = 0.98 in Norwegian and RMSEA = 0.083, CFI = 0.93, TLI = 0.90 in Polish) and the scale demonstrated good reliability, Cronbach's alphas were 0.74 and 0.76, respectively. The scores on BSAS were positively and moderately related to learning engagement in the Polish sample ($r = 0.50$) suggesting that study addiction does not overlap with learning engagement. Hierarchical regression analyses showed that, when controlling for age, gender and personality traits, BSAS scores are negatively related to academic performance. In the Polish sample the BSAS scores showed curvilinear relationship with perceived stress, exam stress, quality of life, general health and sleep quality. The results suggest that above a certain score on the BSAS the correlates begin to indicate worsening in the functioning of individuals. Establishing cut-off point for study addiction risk on the basis of a quadratic relationship to the outcome measures representing functioning will be discussed. It can be concluded that the initial results showed that BSAS has good psychometric properties.

Keywords: *Study addiction, learning engagement, academic performance, scale, measurement.*

Oral presentation in English.

“Computers Based Learning And Student Self-Regulatory Skills: An Investigation to Possible Counterintuitive Strategies”

Ricardo G. Lugo & Svein Åge Kjos Johnsen

Department of Psychology, Lillehammer University College

Schools have adopted computers as learning tools without considering the negative outcomes this may have on students. Students are required to possess self-regulation skills that will assist them in learning while controlling impulsive behaviours. Giving students access to the net and computers may in fact increase counterproductive behaviours. A study was conducted to establish relations between the use of computers in school and self-regulatory behaviours. Results show that students have difficulties controlling impulsive behaviours and often use computers for entertainment instead of scholastic purposes.

Oral presentation in English.

“Culture, health and prevention “

Theme:

“Culture, health and prevention “

“Japanese junior high school counselors' experiences of working with students who self injure”

Åse Lundegaard Mattson¹, Michikazu Ono² & Toshihiko Matsumoto³

¹University of Bergen, ²Waseda University, ³National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry

The objective of this study was to explore how counselors at junior high schools in Japan experience working with students who self injure.

Ten counselors, all female, working at ten different junior high schools in the same city in Japan participated. Two semi-structured interviews were conducted with each participant. The first interview formed the basis of the analysis, whereas the second interview was a members check intended to validate the information gathered from the first interview.

Four themes emerged from the analysis. The first theme, "The counselors", describes how the participants saw and conceptualized their workplace, and their role as counselors. The second theme, "Self injury is an entrance to the underlying problems", describes how the participants viewed self injury and other 'problem behaviors', and what many counselors thought to be the main cause of self-injury and other problem behaviors: difficult parent-child relationships. Self-injury was seen as a means for the students to regulate difficult emotions arising from problems at home, as well as a means of appealing to parents who do not 'see' them. The fourth theme "The challenges of the job" describes the challenges and difficulties the counselors encountered in their work.

Keywords: *Self Injury, Qualitative research, Junior high school, Japan, Cultural Psychology*

Oral presentation in English.

“Their smiles behind the tears”

Stressors and Resistance Resources among Mothers in Bolni Village: Policy Implications for Health Promotion in Ghana.

Eunice Adusei

Department of Health Promotion and Development, University of Bergen.

The aim of the study was to understand the processes for health and well-being of mothers in poor areas of the Northern Region of Ghana. The Ottawa Charter (1986) attributes health to fundamental conditions like peace, shelter, education, food, income, sustainable resources etc. Very poor ruralities in sub-Saharan Africa hardly meet these fundamental conditions to foster well-being. For women in such areas, the situation becomes extremely difficult. Patriarchal relations are strong and men continue to control most productive resources such as land, livestock, tools and means of transport. Men retain most of the proceeds of their work whilst expecting their wives to meet most of the family’s needs through food production and earnings from other income- generating activities (Koopman, 1995). Women in deprived areas encounter a lot of challenges yet some of them do manage to cope.

A total of 11 participants, all local mothers in child-bearing age were involved in the study and data collection methods included in-depth interviews and observation during a field visit in July 2013.

The presentation will focus on some of the stressors that affect the well-being of mothers in Bolni Village and the Resistance Resources used in coping with them. Some of the stressors identified in the village included motherhood, gender roles, financial difficulties, climate changes, absence of basic amenities, etc. Resistance Resources such as supportive relations, good health, social position, income-generating activities, religion and motherhood were adopted by Bolni mothers to cope with these stressors.

The Salutogenic model which emphasizes health enhancing processes will be used to discuss the results. The implications of these to health promotion practice in Ghana will be captured in the presentation.

Oral presentation in English.

“The Palestinians Cultural Understanding of cancer through the lens of community psychology”

Samar Albarghouthi

Department of Psychology, Norwegian University of Science and Technology,

Early detection and effective treatment are the most crucial factors that could reduce morbidity and mortality associated with cancer (Cohen & Azaiza, 2010)¹. Scholars confirmed that culture plays a significant and substantial factor that affects the attitudes to health, illness and health behavior (Leininger, 1995). This is applicable on the Palestinian culture which has its own tradition that is intertwined with cultural beliefs, values and practice regarding cancer. Cancer has been reported as the third cause of death among the Palestinians with a percentage of 10.8% according to the health report in the middle of 2011 (PHIC)³. Palestine suffers from late diagnosis of cancer whereas 42% of the cancer patients have been diagnosed in stage III and 18% were diagnosed in stage IV (Hazboun and Glennon, 2011)⁴.

The main aims of the present study were to explore qualitatively two main hypotheses: the first to identify the Palestinians perceptive and understanding of cancer. The second, identifying the consequences and the outcomes of this perspective. This study used the grounded theory methodology (GTM) to analyze the data, where 16th in-depth interviews have been conducted from the West Bank. All the interviews were in Arabic (using the local dialect) which then translated into English. The interviews were tape recorded, transcribed, and analyzed to identify common themes. The results showed three main significant factors that formulated the Palestinians cultural understanding of cancer: The role of kinship and social network, the role of religion and finally the Mistrust with the Palestinian health care system. Two levels were evoked for the consequences of the Palestinians cultural understanding of cancer: On the cognitive level where the Palestinians hold negative attitudes and beliefs around cancer through connecting cancer to death, considering cancer as incurable, doubts on true recovery and the fear of recurrence. It has been revealed through direct or indirect negative attitudes of the cancer patient or/and the family. On the behavioral level the informants started to act and behave towards their belief system on cancer through labializing and hiding cancer and the orientation to conceal and illness opacity. Reluctance to screening performance were also noticed which might escalate to the treatment rejection.

What is our major role as community psychologists in Palestine? Mainly it is to help disadvantaged people who live under colonization, oppression and marginalization to voice their stories and narratives on cancer. To convince them that the dominant cultural narratives regarding cancer in Palestine can be challenged and promoting alternative stories. That it is the time to overcome the silence, stigma and shame towards cancer and replace it with resilience, resistance to build a better community in Palestine and moving towards creating social change. Regaining the control begins

“Culture, health and prevention “

through our understanding of what the Palestinians live in, raising consciousness to recognize the source of the problem. Gaining solidarity, cohesion and integration and the Palestinians rejection for the existed ideology and being more critical (Thompson, 1984)⁵. Future research project will investigate more deeply the three main factors, and connecting it to more CP perspective that is needed in the Palestinian community.

Keywords: *Palestinians, Culture, Cancer, Community psychology.*

Oral presentation in English.

“Cancer in Context”

Torill Christine Lindstrøm¹, Sigrunn Drageset², Kjell Underlid² & Tove Giske³

¹Department of Psychosocial Science, University of Bergen, Norway, ²Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, Bergen University College, Norway, ³Haraldsplass Deaconess University College, Bergen, Norway

Coping with cancer is a multifaceted problem. Although primarily perceived and conceived as a medical problem to be coped within the world of medicine and medical technology; but for the patients who receive a cancer diagnosis it also implies problems to be solved within their psychological, personal, and social worlds. How these problems are met and dealt with have many implications for the patients' compliance to and reactions to treatment, quality of life, and general adaptation. It may even affect the progress of the cancer itself – the psychosocial contexts and networks of cancer patients are many, in particular: the patients' partner, family, friends, neighbours, colleagues; and in addition the medical professionals they meet during their treatment.

This presentation will focus on characteristic coping strategies and challenges with regard to the psychosocial adaptation of breast cancer patients – our study was qualitative. Data were collected at Bergen University Hospital. Data presented are from our previous research (Drageset & Lindstrøm 2003, Drageset & Lindstrøm 2005, Drageset, Lindstrøm & Underlid 2010, Drageset, Lindstrøm, Underlid & Giske 2010, Drageset, Lindstrøm, Underlid & Giske 2012), as well as on our ongoing follow-up study. Data were collected through interviews with 21 women with newly diagnosed breast cancer, and from 10 of them, interviewed approximately one year later. Data were analyzed using the qualitative meaning condensation method (Kvale 1997).

Keywords: *coping, cancer, contexts, social challenges, social resources*

Oral presentation in English.

“Reports from the practice field”

Theme:

“Reports from the practice field” (Norwegian)

“Creative-participatory methods with marginalized youth”

Hildegunn Marie Tønnessen Schuff

Ansgar University College, & ABUP at Hospital of Southern Norway

In participatory action research (PAR) with young people, PhotoVoice has become a popular method through which the youth are given an opportunity to share their perspectives and voicing ideas through photographs and discussions. Can this way of working with youth be expanded to other modalities and expressions? Can we go from *PhotoVoice* to *DanceVoice* or *MusicVoice*? What can we learn from music therapy and dance therapy? Is the reflective-empowering process basically the same regardless of modality and form? How much can the participants be invited into the decisions about methods and ways of expressing themselves? I am exploring these methodological opportunities in my mixed-methods PhD-project focused on crosscultural mental health resources for minority youth in Norway. The project is a work-in-progress, in cooperation with a mental health ward for children and youth at the regional hospital (ABUP, Sørlandet sykehus) and possibly with the local concert hall (Kilden), where the youths' exhibition/performances may take place. In this presentation, possibilities and dilemmas in working with creative-participatory methods with marginalized youth will be presented and discussed in collaboration with those who attend.

Key words: *Participatory research, crosscultural youth, mental health, creativity*

Oral presentation in Norwegian.

“A presentation of a low-threshold psychological aid to refugees and immigrants.”

Åshild Berle Fuglestad & Åse K. Rio

PPT Bergenhus

We would like to introduce a project at PPT Bergenhus - a low-threshold psychological aid to refugees and immigrants- and give a summary of a project evaluation.

This project was developed to give psychological aid to adult pupils in the school of Nygård in 2008. In Bergen municipality all adult foreigners who are entitled to obligatory or voluntarily Norwegian language classes are centralized in this large school, which has in average 1500 adult pupils every year.

The low-threshold psychological aid is now one of our standard services at PPT Bergenhus. For the time being we are two psychologists involved in the project part time. The contact with the clients is established through teachers or administrative staff at the school.

Through this service clients are offered consultations with a psychologist without having to go through formalities like referral and waiting lists. The aid is aimed at more common and minor mental health issues, and will not deal with acute patients. We do not screen the clients initially, nor do we involve diagnostic processes. Self-reported challenges and problems are used as base.

To ensure the quality of the project we did an investigation based on data from client contacts from February 2008- December 2009. We will give a summary of the findings. Additionally we supply data about how the offer has evolved in relation to who the clients are and what the issues are that they seek counselling for.

We also comment on the practical and theoretical background for developing such an offer as the low-threshold psychological aid for refugees and immigrants, in a health promotion perspective.

Keywords: low-threshold psychological aid, health promotion, prevention

Oral presentation in Norwegian.

“Et innblikk i jobben som kommunepsykolog”

Stian Espevoll

What are the duties of a psychologist in a municipality? And in what areas can psychologists contribute with their expertise to promote health through treatment and preventive work in the local society?

Stian Espevoll is a recently educated psychologist from the University of Bergen. He would like to invite us into his daily life and give us an idea of the roles and responsibilities that may accompany a psychologist for the adult population in a small society. Espevoll will share his experience of some of the challenges he has encountered this far in a newly established employment in the municipality of Sund.

Keywords: *community, psychology, society*

Oral presentation in Norwegian.

“Historical perspectives and methods”

Theme:

“Historical perspectives and methods”

“Sosialpsykologiens historie – *Zeitgeist* vs. helter”

Steinar Ilstad

Department of Industrial Economics and Technology Management, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Fremstillinger av sosialpsykologiens historie har lett for å bli opplevd som provokasjoner. De som legger vekt på å gjøre rede for fagets helter (Wundt, Freud, Allport, Lewin, Likert osv.) anklages for å overdrive betydningen av enkelte personer, undervurdere eller helt overse enkelte andre, og generelt undervurdere betydningen av tidsånden til enhver tid (dominerende kulturelle orienteringer, kontekstuelle hendelser og trender etc.). De som fremstiller sosialpsykologiens historie kun som et aspekt ved den allmenne kulturhistorien beskyldes for å undervurdere betydningen av fremragende og karismatiske enkeltpersoner, eller generelt være postmoderne skrullinger.

Kontekstuelle hendelser og trender som har vært nevnt som årsaker til sosialpsykologiens utvikling omfatter naturvitenskapelig og teknologisk utvikling, politisk motiverte sosiale reformer, andre verdenskrig og holocaust, Vietnamkrigen, kvinnebevegelsen, toneangivende skoleretninger i generell psykologi etc. etc. Selv om dette kan ha mye for seg, kan det også sies at alle forsøk på fortolke sosialpsykologien bare som et aspekt ved den allmenne kulturhistorien til enhver tid også er kulturavhengige, og dermed vilkårlige, relative og usikre. Flere sentrale emner, problemstillinger og synspunkter i sosialpsykologien har en svært lang tradisjon og har eksistert gjennom skiftende kulturer opp gjennom historien. Men mange ting som har vært aktuelle til ulike tider er imidlertid forlatt nå ved å bli sett på irrelevante, feilaktige etc.

De store navn i sosialpsykologiens historie var mer eller mindre karismatiske eller transformatoriske ledere som hadde etterfølgere som lot seg inspirere og stimulere av dem, godtok deres visjoner og mål, identifiserte seg med dem, hadde tillit til dem etc. Senere ble deres feil, begrensninger og mangler oppdaget, hvilket ga rom for nye innflytelsesrike personer.

Keywords: History of social psychology, Zeitgeist, great man theory, transformational leadership.

Oral presentation in English.

“Social Network Analysis”

Tom Backer Johnsen

Department of Clinical Psychology, University of Bergen

Social Network Analysis is growing very rapidly within the social sciences, in particular in sociology, and deserves attention as a potentially useful research tool. It seems that in contrast with attribute types of data (typically a variables by attributes matrix) and typically handled with programs like SPSS and Statistica, relational data (unit by unit, modeled as networks) seems to be underused in much of psychological research.

The focus for this type of data is defined as “... a set of social actors ... and a set of dyadic ties between these actors ...” where the structures are analyzed “... to identify local and global patterns, locate influential entities, and examine network dynamics” (Wikipedia). The “actors” may be persons or other units, while the “ties” may be various kind of relations between the actors.

The past few decades have seen a merge between mathematics (graph theory), computer software (computations and graphics) and applications in many different fields resulting as a rich field of possible approaches within relational data analysis.

The apparent lack of interest within psychology in this type of analysis is somewhat strange, because a number of different fields could potentially benefit from this approach, including not only group research (the classical field, sociometry), but also organizations, families, rumor / information propagation, and neurobiology to name a few.

The presentation will consist of a very brief review of the approach, plus the main tools. Mathematics, as graph theory, the use of graphics, as well as various statistics describing the structure as well as the individual members within the structures. Suggestions for software and key references to literature will be included.

Keywords: *Methodology, Data Structures, Social Network Analysis.*

Oral presentation in English.

“Surprise and insight”

Theme:

“Surprise and insight”

“Aha-experience”

Håvard Steinde

The aha-experience is not a new phenomenon, nor a rare one. Most people have several times in their lives experienced that a solution to a problem has come rather quickly and sudden after a period of stagnation. It is common to talk about four dimensions in the aha-experience: (1) suddenness, (2) ease, (3) positive affect and (4) judged truth. In this paper we wanted to see if there is a difference for the subject before and after the insight, concerning the four dimensions. The data was collected by subject's aha-experiences and by a questionnaire. The results show that for suddenness and judged truth there is a significant difference before and after the insight. These results are supported in the literature.

Oral presentation in English.

“The psychology of surprise - a neglected area”

Hroar Klempe

Department of Psychology, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

The interest of psychological topics may come and go. The psychological research on emotions may count as the best example. Yet the psychology of surprise may count as another. The latter received great attention in the early phase of modern psychology, but has not been dwelled very much with since then. However we may find some research and one aspect that has been focused on is to what extent surprise can be regarded as an emotion or not. This is a crucial question and much of the research also point in the direction that it cannot solely be regarded as an emotion. Thus in this paper I will focus on how the psychology of surprise is understood in a historical perspective, in which it is highly related to changes – both emotional and cognitive. Recent research confirm this, and I will present some results from a small qualitative investigation (N=25) made this year, which concludes that surprises seems to be highly related to nonverbal patterns of reaction.

Oral presentation in English.

“Work and organizational psychology”

Theme:

“Work and organizational psychology”

“A qualitative study on work-life balance and health of women in the Mining Industry: A case study at a Mining Company in Ghana”

Irene Owusu-Poku

Department of Health Promotion and Development, University of Bergen

Both work and non-work activities are crucial to living and hence there is a need for balance and integration of career and other demands of life (Sturges & Guest, 2004). In many African countries after the Beijing conference in 1995, employers are aiming to increase the number of female employees and integrate them in their businesses. This has opened new opportunities for many professional women but also the challenge of juggling the demands of a career and life outside work, which has health dimensions necessary to explore. Mining is among the demanding and task driven jobs worldwide with increase in number of women (Jones, 2006). The study was framed within the context of Antonovsky's Salutogenic theory that explored the stressors which were encountered in the course of work-life balance and the resources which contributed to achieving health and wellbeing of women in mining.

Semi-structured in-depth interviews were used as the main method of collecting data from 10 fulltime women employees in a Mining Company in Ghana. The data was analyzed using thematic network analysis by systematically coding and identifying patterns.

All women irrespective of marital status complained of work taking most part of their life. Many stressors such as perpetual break in relationships, over demanding tasks at work, bad road network to and from work and inadequate sleep were encountered. Resources were perceived to be few, and included salaries for their hard labour at the end of the month and understanding partners contributed to the thriving of women in mining.

There is a need for health care providers, society, supervisors, and employers to appreciate the contribution of mining women, understand their challenges as employees, and therefore provide adequate support in order to promote their health. Employers can also consider mechanisms of reducing travel time on the bad road to and from work in order to support the wellbeing of women employees.

Oral presentation in English.

“Impact of person characteristics, job description, and situational job characteristics on job performance: Application of the triangle model of responsibility”

Inge Brechan,

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The triangle model of responsibility (Schlenker, 1997) proposes responsibility and accountability is influenced by identity/self-relevance, task prescription, and event/control. It has previously been successfully linked to job engagement (Britt, 1999). The purpose of this study is to test the hypothesis that it can also contribute to explain job performance. Survey data was collected from 703 employees in 12 different companies, measuring several aspects of job design, job satisfaction, job performance, and person characteristics. Results of a multiple regression analysis indicated that both person characteristics (i.e., competence and health), job description (i.e., task clarity), and situational job characteristics (i.e., work load and task predictability) contribute to explaining job performance. These factors remained significant predictors also when controlling for organizational membership (i.e., which of the 12 companies the person worked for). Although there was a significant correlation between job satisfaction and job performance, job satisfaction did not contribute to explaining job performance beyond what could be attributed to the factors representing the triangle model of responsibility.

Key words: Job performance, job design, responsibility

Oral presentation in English.

“Intergroup relations and integration in Norway”

Theme:

“Intergroup relations and integration in Norway”

“I am an African but my Children are Norwegian”: Experiences of African Parents Raising their Children in Norwegian Context.

Lily Appoh & Berit Overå Johannesen

Department of psychology, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Studies have shown that immigrants from non-western countries rearing their children in a western country often find themselves in conflict between teaching their children values they find important and those prevalent in their new society. Furthermore there is evidence to suggest that children of immigrants generally adapt quicker and better to the values of the host culture leading to generational clashes with regards to parenting. This study is about the experiences of eight African families regarding raising their children in an environment that is very different from the one they themselves have been raised in. It is part of a larger investigation on the everyday life experiences of immigrant African families living in mid-Norway. We take a contextual, cultural psychological approach. All the adult family members and many of the children in this study came from Africa and have a history of family life in Africa. When they now live in Norway it implies that the social context in which the families are situated is not the same as the one in which family characteristics such as the relationship between the family members and the relation between the core family and the larger community grew and developed. Both the family as such, and the individual family members, now find themselves in a relatively new different societal and cultural context. Preliminary findings indicate that even though our eight participant families have different backgrounds, and their general experiences are different, all the adults express an experience of tension or conflict with Norwegian values and practices in raising their children.

“The Stereotype Content Model in Norway”

Henrik Herrebrøden & Hege Høivik Bye

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The Stereotype Content Model (SCM) has been proposed as a pan-cultural framework for understanding how structural relationships between groups (status and competition) in a society shape the content of the stereotypes associated with different social groups along two core dimensions: warmth and competence. A core feature of the model is that many groups do not receive univalent positive or negative stereotypes, but rather are perceived ambivalently as either competent and cold or incompetent and warm. The present study focuses on the SCM in the Norwegian context and was conducted to explore the validity of the SCM in Norway.

First a pilot study was conducted in order to explore which groups people perceive the Norwegian society as consisting of. Participants ($n = 40$) were asked to list the various groups they think are prevalent in Norway. 25 groups were selected, either based on the participants' lists or the authors' evaluations of previous studies. Then a main study was conducted in which participants ($n = 244$) were asked to rate how people in Norway generally view the selected groups in terms of warmth and competence.

Consistent with predictions based on the model, paired samples t -tests showed that 18 out of the 25 groups were rated as ambivalent scoring significantly higher on either warmth or competence. Hierarchical cluster analyses revealed that several cluster solutions were possible for our sample. A five cluster solution was chosen, with clusters consisting of 1, 3, 5, 8, and 10 groups, respectively. Three of the five clusters were rated significantly higher on one of the dimensions. Our study supports that many groups are associated with ambivalent stereotype content with regards to warmth and competence and overall it supports the validity of the SCM in the Norwegian cultural context.

Keywords: Stereotype, Stereotype Content Model, warmth, competence

Oral presentation in English.

Theme:

“The great challenges – Climate, democracy and peace”

“Climate change in the social media”

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This paper investigates the public discourse about climate change. Social web contributions such as blog entries and reader's comments to articles serve as sources of public discourse. We assume that climate change is perceived as what we call a controversial societal risk. These are risks that are characterized by complexity and scientific uncertainty, that involve a multitude of social actors, and that touch upon ethical issues. A quantitative content analysis of social web contributions is presented. A collection of 1.000 contributions from various sources was rated with respect to the extent that they expressed scientific uncertainty and the controversial character of climate change. In addition, they were analyzed according to three aspects: (a) Whether the author's evaluations focused upon harmful consequences of the risk or on morality, (b) if and what types of emotion were expressed, and (c) whether evaluations were based on intuitive reasoning rather than on a thorough deliberation of arguments. The main hypothesis is that if climate change is considered as highly controversial then the discourse focuses on ethical considerations, elicits emotions such as outrage, and induces intuitive reasoning. Results show that scientific uncertainty and the controversial nature of climate change are much less expressed in the web contributions than was expected, but the expected relationships between science perception, risk, morality, and emotion were largely found.

Key Words: Climate change, risk perception, public discourse.

Oral presentation in English.

“Does the Value-Belief-Norm Theory predict acceptance of policy interventions to reduce car use and the use of environmentally friendly transport modes in the Norwegian urban population?”

Hans Brende Lind & Torbjørn Rundmo

Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Department of psychology

The Value-Belief-Norm Theory (Stern, 2000) attempts to explain differences in environmentally significant behaviour, and includes a range of variables, from values, general and specific environmental beliefs, to personal norms of behaviour. The aim of the current study was to investigate whether the theory is successful in predicting peoples acceptance of policies aimed at reducing the use of private motor vehicles in urban areas and the use of environmentally friendly modes of transport for commuting to work. The results are based on a mail survey questionnaire distributed among a representative sample of the Norwegian urban population. Using structural equation modelling, it was found that the model predicted 61% of the variance in acceptance of policies aimed at reducing car use. Furthermore, logistic regression analysis showed that personal norms were highly predictive of car use.

Keywords: *Values, beliefs, norms, environmental behaviour, transportation choice*

Oral presentation in English.

“Memento mori for the Utøya generation: Three experiments indicate that mortality salience may enhance democratic values through sensitizing social processing”

Bjørn Sætrevik

Department of psychosocial Science, University of Bergen

Reminding people of their eventual death (mortality salience, MS) has been shown to enhance conformity to the culture’s dominant values, typically demonstrated as increased patriotism. In the winter of 2011/2012, few months after a terrorist attack may have sensitized the population for such issues, we performed three experiments to examine the effect of MS on views of democratic values and social processing for Norwegian students. In Experiment 1 participants that were asked to reflect on their own death, showed increased adherence to democratic values. Experiment 2 used a subliminal MS presentation, and indicated a similar, although weaker, effect. In Experiment 3 explicit MS led to increased processing time in a Stroop task for words related to social categorization, although the effect was only seen for mentally flexible participants. This may indicate that MS effects operate through mechanisms of sensitizing social categorization, and may be contingent on individual differences in mental flexibility. MS effects have not previously been shown in this setting or with these outcome measures. The results are discussed in the context of terror management theory and coalition psychology.

Keywords: Mortality salience; Terror management theory; Coalition psychology; Evolutionary psychology; Subliminal presentation; Stroop task

Oral presentation in English.

“Who are more Peaceful, Chinese or American Teenagers? A Cross Cultural Survey on Teenagers’ Peace Tendency”

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Teenager’s peace tendency is one of the key factors for the peaceful world as they are the main part of peacemakers in the future. But there is little research on the extent to which Chinese teenagers endorse peacefulness. This paper reports the peacefulness of Chinese teenagers in a high school, where students come from two different areas. A new Chinese TNT scale is completed based on Mayton’s TNT. The result shows that Chinese teenagers are more peaceful than American teenagers. And the differences of peacefulness differences are also discussed.

Key words: Peace Tendency, Nonviolence, Chinese Teenagers

Oral presentation in English.

“Jerome Bruner’s Story Making in a Security Political Context”

How can narratives of classical literature shape contemporary security political narratives?

Ola Bøe-Hansen¹ & Glenn-Egil Torgersen¹²

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The information technological development, increasing demand of openness, and the complexity and variation in the global security situation, set higher demands to both political narratives as well as awareness in political bildung. In his book *Making Stories – Law, Literature, Life* (2002) Jerome Bruner discusses the decisive significance of narratives in literature, autobiographies and law. In literature he gives an account of the ingredients used in classical works and lists the most important in twelve points, with plot, characters, obstacles, allies and goals as some keywords (Ibid., 2002:72). Crucial to a plot is *peripeteia* (peripety) – a sudden change of events, reversal of circumstances, or turning point – that creates the nerve of the plot (Ibid., 5).

Derived from Bruner’s ingredients we have found the following four questions central to shaping narratives for political bildung and education: *What is to be achieved? Who moves what? How attain the objective? When is adjustment needed?*

Peripeteia will in the context of this paper be compared to a sudden and unforeseen attack, awakening (cf. Bollnow) or the transition into a new and more comprehensive understanding and consciousness that breaks with the expectations. Based on Bruner’s twelve ingredients for a story, the objective of this paper is to discuss if this approach can be used to critically shape and analyse narratives linked to political bildung – especially related to security political actions and the public space. One of the findings in this study is that narratives must be sufficiently robust to endure attrition, and at the same time sufficiently flexible to adjust for changing conditions.

Keywords: *Peripeteia (peripety), political bildung, narrative theory, actor and audience analysis, security policy.*

Oral presentation in English.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

“Mastery expectations among psychology and engineering students”

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Norwegian University of Science and Technology

The main aim of this study was to explore mastery expectations among psychology and engineering students, and examine whether there were differences across gender and due to study program. In Norway it may be gender-stereotypical division in the choice of education and career. The results are based on a questionnaire survey carried out among Norwegian first-year students at two different study programs. One was at NTNU- Dragvoll (psychology), and the other at the University College of Sør-Trøndelag (electrical and renewable energy engineering, n = 145). The overall response rate was 34.6 per cent. The sample consisted of 30.3% women and 69.7% men. The results showed that there were no significant differences between the mastery feelings of women or men, and the differences across studies were also insignificant (see Table 1). Stepwise regression analysis aimed to explain variance in mastery expectations showed that general self-efficacy had a significant impact on the respondents confidence in their own mastery. The degree of individual gender-scores had little effect on the results. The variables that could explain the most of the mastery expectations were general self-efficacy and academic self-concept.

Poster presentation in English.

“Terapeuter sin selvopplevelse i terapisisituasjonen”

Benne-Christer Bakke Marius Jakobsen, Ylva Jansen & Olaf Skalda

Department of psychosocial science, University of Bergen

In this empirical study we explored how therapists experience themselves in therapy, a situation without a third person present. The third person is assumed to play an important part in influencing the self of the third person. Due to the structure of individual therapy there is no third person present, which makes it interesting to see how therapists experience themselves in this situation. To investigate this question we conducted interviews with four therapists. The Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) approach was used in order to analyze the interviews. From the analysis we found differences regarding integration between role and self among the therapists, and ability to regulate distance to the patients. In addition we explored how the therapists may be using themselves as the third person in therapy. Based on our findings we made two preliminary hypotheses: 1) The degree to which therapists have achieved self-role integration will influence the therapeutical process, and 2) The therapists ability of boundary/distance- regulation will affect the therapeutical outcome.

Keywords: *third person, IPA, self- role integration, therapist, psychotherapy.*

Poster presentation in English.

“Why autonomy-support and self-determined motivation is important for school. The relationship between teachers’ social support, students’ motivation, and perceived school performance.”

Lucas M. Jenø¹, Åge R. Diseth²

¹Department of Education, University of Bergen, ²Department of Psychosocial science, University of Bergen

The purpose of the present study was to investigate the relations between motivational predictors of school performance. Specifically, between students perceived autonomy-support from their contact teacher, their basic needs satisfaction, autonomous motivation, and perceived competence, in a sample of 316 upper secondary school students. A structural equation model showed that students' perceived autonomy-support predicted their need satisfaction, which in turn predicted autonomous motivation, and perceived competence. Autonomy-support, autonomous motivation, and perceived competence predicted perceived school performance. Finally, the students' perceived autonomy-support from their contact teacher was partly accounted for at class-level. This type of research is important for education because it provides information of which type of motivation is associated with school performance. Furthermore, it provides useful knowledge of a complete motivational framework on school performance which has been neglected in Norwegian research.

The present findings are in line with previous research and theoretical assumptions. Autonomy-supportive teachers and need satisfaction of autonomy, competence and relatedness is associated with the development of students’ autonomous motivations such as intrinsic motivation and identified motivation. Importantly, autonomy-support also predicts perceived school performance, underscoring the importance of the teachers’ role. Autonomous motivation, as opposed to controlled motivation, has shown to be highly associated with students’ psychological well-being, physical health, persistence, lower dropout rates, creativity, and higher conceptual understanding and school performance. Thus, school environments that foster choice, self-paced learning, self-initiative, volition, endorsement of the behavior, and base the task around students’ interest and goals, is recommended.

Keywords: Autonomy-support, basic needs, self-regulation, school performance

Poster presentation in English.

“Does *Toxoplasma gondii* affect human behavior, personality and the risk of developing mental illness?”

Bjørn Holmøy, Henrik Helgerud & Alexander Garvik Merkesdal

Department of psychosocial science, University of Bergen

Sexual reproduction of the protozoan parasite *Toxoplasma gondii* occurs only in the intestines of a feline. It therefore appears to be strong selective pressure for the parasite to develop a mechanism whereby transmission from an intermediate to a definite host is enhanced. A convincing body of evidence suggests that *T. gondii* causes behavioral changes in rodents that increase the likelihood of being predated by cats. Approximately 30 % of the human population is infected worldwide, and the parasite prefers to infect the central nervous system. Infection in humans is usually considered asymptomatic and harmless, with the exception of immunocompromised individuals and pregnant women. Independent studies have shown that this assumption should be reconsidered, and that latent infection may influence human behavior, personality and mental health. More specifically, the literature suggests that *T. gondii* might have a causal role in traffic fatalities, suicides, changes in personality traits and neuropsychiatric disorders like schizophrenia. The mechanism whereby *T. gondii* influences psychological processes in humans is currently unknown, but several possible mechanisms have been proposed.

Keywords: parasite, *toxoplasma gondii*, behavior, personality, mental illness.

Poster presentation in English.

“Are those bullied at school more vulnerable when exposed to workplace bullying?”

Øystein Løvik Hoprekstad, Hilde Torp & Ståle Einarsen

Department of Psychosocial Science, University of Bergen

Bullying in the workplace is a well-known antecedent of mental and psychosomatic health problems. Workplace bullying is about lasting exposure to negative acts from one or several other people at work, without the ability to defend oneself, often with severe negative outcomes for those targeted. Being a severe social stressor, early experience with bullying may make permanent changes in one's social coping mechanisms. The aim of this study is therefore to investigate whether experiences of bullying during secondary school act as a moderator on the relationship between workplace bullying and depressed mood among adults. We hypothesize that the relationship between workplace bullying and depressed mood is stronger for those who experienced bullying during secondary school. The analyses were carried out on survey data collected from a cohort of pupils in the Hordaland region of Norway at the age of 13 ($N = 927$), 14 ($N = 958$), 15 ($N = 970$) and 30 ($N = 536$). The results suggest that experiences with bullying at school did moderate the relationship between exposure to workplace bullying and depressed mood in adulthood, but contrary to our expectations, the effect of bullying is stronger for those not bullied at school than for those bullied at school. Furthermore, the results indicate that when exposure to workplace bullying is low, those bullied at school have a higher level of depressed mood than those not bullied at school. However, both groups score equally high in depressed mood when highly exposed to workplace bullying. These findings indicate that both the effects of school bullying and workplace bullying are detrimental, and stresses the importance of not just preventing bullying from taking place, but also treating those exposed to it at an early stage in order to prevent negative long-term outcomes.

Keywords: Workplace bullying, depressed mood, school bullying, social stress.

Poster presentation in English.

“Effects of unit cohesion on military skills during a peacekeeping mission”

Mathilde Bégu, Helois Ignolin, Ådne Thomassen & Jon C. Laberg

University of Bergen

The present study investigated the effect of unit cohesion on subjective military skills in a group of Norwegian soldiers deployed to Kosovo on a six months peacekeeping mission in year 2000. A previous study (Thomassen, 2009) showed that unit cohesion moderated the relationship between threats as experienced by the peacekeepers, and influenced their health over time. The influence from cohesion contributed both as a main effect on subjective health complaints, and as a moderating effect on the impact from experienced threats.

The present study was designed to elucidate the effect of cohesion on self-reported military skills in the same group of Norwegian soldiers. Self-reported military skills were measured by Military Skills and Abilities (Solberg, 19997). Horizontal cohesion was measured by a sum score of 4 items on horizontal cohesion from the Siebold & Kelly (1988) Platoon Cohesion Index. Participants were divided into high and low cohesion groups by a median split of the cohesion score at T2 - the first month in Kosovo. A prospective, longitudinal design was adhered to, and military skills were measured 5 times: T1 (in Norway, before deployment to Kosovo), T2-T4 (in Kosovo, during the first, third, and sixth month), T5 (in Norway, 6 months after the end of the peacekeeping mission).

A two-way ANOVA with repeated measures showed a significant main effect of Group on military skills, due to overall higher military skills in respondents in the high cohesion group as compared with the low cohesion group. Further, a main effect of Time was observed, due to increasing scores on military skills from T1 to T5. Finally, a significant interaction of Group and Time was caused by higher self-reported skills in the high cohesion group than in the low cohesion group at T2.

When cohesion was high, soldiers may have developed better military capabilities, due to higher effort and better skills to respond to the common goal of this mission.

Cohesion has been identified as one of the most important properties of small groups. High cohesion in a military group may affect the group member's communication and how they share information, result in a better cooperation, influence decision making, and finally influence group performance.

Keywords: Group cohesion, subjective military skills, peace-keeping mission.

Poster presentation in English.

“A qualitative approach to assess integration and multicultural acceptance among Fargespill members”

Åse Marie Giske¹, Linn Nyjordet Evanger¹ & Line Rønning²

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Fargespill, meaning “color play”, is an explosive and strong musical performance presented by children and youth from all around the world, including Norway. On stage you will meet about 80 children and adolescents from 30 different nations. Norway is moving towards a multicultural society, where Fargespill has been assumed to play an important role in promoting integration among their members. This study aimed to capture the members’ experiences of the participation, with particular interest in personal development, but also other aspects related to the participation. Nine participants (mean age 17.2 years) were selected for the study, where semi structured interviews were conducted. The results of the study suggest that Fargespill promotes tolerance and acceptance among adolescents of different cultural backgrounds. The ethnic Norwegians reported being less prejudiced and more open toward individuals from other cultures as a result. Fargespill had also been an important arena for the immigrants in order to get in contact with ethnic Norwegians, which, according to Allport’s concept of the contact hypothesis, can be beneficial in order to reduce prejudice between opposing social groups (Hogg & Vaughan, 2011). Furthermore, participation lead to increased pride over own cultural roots among the Norwegians as well as the immigrants. The latter group reported positive affect in association of having elements from their culture presented in the shows. In several aspects, Fargespill seems to be an important contributor with respect to issues believed to be beneficial for successful integration. More research is planned.

Keywords: integration, prejudice, tolerance, culture, immigration.

Poster presentation in English.

“Mobbing og Theory of Mind hos barn og unge med autismspekterforstyrrelse”

Line Harstad Groven, Vibeke Cherielle Lokøy & André Syvertsen

University of Bergen

Research has shown that children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are at higher risk to be involved in bullying than other children. Autism spectrum disorders are characterized by a deficit in Theory of Mind (ToM), which is the ability to understand one’s own and other’s minds. This ability is important in understanding the perspectives of others, understanding that statements may have double and/or deceptive meanings, engage in symbolic thought and play, encode thoughts and emotions of others based on their nonverbal affective expressions. All these abilities are important in social interaction.

The purpose of this review was to further investigate the relationship between ToM and bullying among children and youth with ASD. We found that children with ASD appear to be more socially vulnerable than typically developing children. This is likely to be influenced by their reduced social intelligence which is related to ToM deficits. Difficulties understanding deception makes them easier targets of bullying. Moreover, research has also shown that social interaction may provoke anxiety with children with ASD and they may prefer to engage in isolated activities. Nevertheless, they still show interest in social relationships with others. Their lack of social skills is likely to make social situations challenging and anxiety-provoking, and even though they want to, they are less able to take social initiatives. As a result, children with ASD often experience having fewer friends, may be perceived as “odd” by their peers and therefore be more susceptible for victimization. The lack of friends deprives them from an important source of social interaction, which is known to foster ToM development. Interventions can be made to enhance ToM related skills which subsequently may make children and youth with ASD less vulnerable for victimization.

Keywords: Theory of Mind – Autism Spectrum Disorder – Bullying – Victimization – Peer relationships

Poster presentation in English.

“Blir kvinnelige psykopater sjeldnere oppdaget enn mannlige?”

Ingvild Rasmussen, Silje Scevig & Sina Gulbrandsen

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Forskning på psykopati peker i retning av at prevalensen av mannlige psykopater er svært høy sammenlignet med kvinnelige. Denne posteren vil diskutere hvorvidt den estimerte prevalensen av kvinner med psykopatiske personlighetstrekk kan være for lav, og presentere mulige årsaker til dette. Posteren vil først greie ut om konseptuelle problemer knyttet til operasjonalisering og diagnostisering. Videre vil fire mulige årsaker til at kvinner sjeldnere blir avdekket som psykopater bli diskutert: (1) Utvalgsbias, (2) kjønnsbias i måleinstrumentet the Psychopathy Checklist, (3) konseptuell og kulturell oppfatning av kjønn påvirker diagnostisering og (4) psykopatiske trekk kan ha ulikt uttrykk hos kvinner og menn som kan føre til forskjellige diagnoser.

Nøkkelord: *Psykopati, kjønnsforskjeller, the Psychopathy Checklist, kvinnelige psykopater.*

Poster presentation in Norwegian.

“Mortality salience influences social categorization for cognitively flexible people”

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The experiment is part of a study of mortality salience (MS), the process of reflecting on one's own mortality, in a Scandinavian setting. The experiment studied MS related to underlying cognitive processes and individual differences in cognitive style. 40 participants completed the “need for cognitive closure” questionnaire as a measure for individual variation in cognitive style. As a manipulated variable, the participants were randomly selected to be primed with writing about death (MS group) or toothache (control group). The dependent variable consisted of a Stroop task where the participants were told to name colors different words were written in. Some of the words were neutral in content, while others related to social categorization. In line with the theory of spreading activation in associative networks, MS priming would lower the threshold of activation for cognitive constructs associated with MS, thus resulting in longer reaction time (RT) for words related to mortality. A ratio of RT social categorization words / RT for neutral words were then calculated. A factorial ANOVA found no main effect for experimental manipulation or cognitive style, but there was a significant effect of manipulation for participants high on cognitive flexibility, resulting in increased RT on words relevant for social categorization. This indicates that MS affects processing of social categorization for participants high in cognitive flexibility. This finding can shed more light on the underlying components in how MS affects behavior.

Keywords: Mortalitetens saliens; terror management theory; Stroop; sosial kategorisering; kognitiv fleksibilitet.

Poster presentation in Norwegian.

"Unit cohesion and personality hardiness in a peacekeeping mission"

Ådne G. Thomassen¹, Sigurd W. Hystad¹, Bjørn Helge Johnsen¹, Grethe Johnsen², Jon Christian Laberg¹

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Military units serving in international peacekeeping missions must typically operate in stressful conditions of increasing danger, complexity and uncertainty, which in turn can lead to a range of mental health complaints for the deployed soldiers. Unit cohesion and personality hardiness are both suggested as factors known to increase stress resilience under such conditions. The present study examined the influence of unit cohesion and personality hardiness on mental health complaints among personnel serving in a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Kosovo. The importance of unit cohesion as a social influence on the deployed soldiers' stress resiliency is well established. Few studies have, however, examined how cohesion interacts with personality hardiness. We performed multivariate regression analyses in which self-reported mental health complaints were regressed on our explanatory variables. Demographic information and a baseline measure of health complaints were included as control variables. Our findings suggest that both cohesion and hardiness contributed to increased stress resiliency, as measured by lower level of reported health complaints. As expected, our baseline measure of health complaints accounted for a larger portion of the variance than our other predictors. Moreover, an interaction between cohesion and hardiness suggested a combined effect, beyond the contribution of the predictors individually. For individuals who scored high on hardiness, levels of health complaints were not affected by cohesion levels. On the contrary, individuals who scored low on hardiness reported lower levels of health complaints when cohesion levels were high.

Keywords: Cohesion, hardiness, mental health complaints, peacekeeping missions.

Poster presentation in English.

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