



## ABSTRACT BOOK

WEDNESDAY, June 16<sup>th</sup>

16.00-20.00

PRE CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

### **Publishing Qualitative Research**

Brendan Gough, *Leeds Beckett University, United Kingdom*

This workshop is designed to help colleagues make informed choices about publishing qualitative research. The workshop will cover

- Different types of qualitative research paper
- Empirical v position papers
- Epistemologies
- Modes of data collection
- 'naturalistic' and online data
- Aspects of quality and distinction
- Some 'model' articles
- Reasons for manuscript rejection
- Sample rejection letters
- Validity issues
- Various approaches to rigour
- 'Friendly' outlets for qualitative research within Psychology and beyond

Examples of published work will be discussed, covering different methodologies, methods and positions, with a view to identifying best practice for diverse audiences. Participants are also invited to bring works in progress for discussion at the workshop.



# Qualitative Research in Psychology in Europe

ONLINE 16-19.06.2021 • Thessaloniki, Greece

THURSDAY, June 17<sup>th</sup>

11.00-11.30

WELCOME

Maria del Rio Carral, *President of EQuiP*  
Eleftheria Tseliou, *Conference Chair*  
Carolin Demuth, *Conference co-Chair*  
Eugenie Georgaca, *Conference co-Chair*

11.30-14.00

INVITED PANEL | ROOM #1

**Creating bridges between European qualitative researchers**

**Chair:** Eugenie Georgaca, *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece*

**Speakers:**

Katharina Hametner, *Sigmund Freud Private University Vienna, Austria*  
Jan de Mol, *UCLouvain, Belgium*  
Irina Todorova, *Northeastern University, Boston & Health Psychology Research Center, Bulgaria*  
Irimi Kadianaki, *University of Cyprus, Cyprus*  
Noomi Matthiesen, *Aalborg University, Denmark*  
Jarl Wahlström, *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*  
Nicolas Dauman, *University of Poitiers, France*  
Carolin Demuth, *Aalborg University, Denmark*  
Philia Issari, *National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece*  
Asztrik Kovács, *Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary*  
Maria Dempsey, *University College Cork, Ireland*  
Lorenzo Montali, *University of Milan-Bicocca, Italy*  
Milda Kukulskienė, *Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Lithuania*  
Luke Joseph Buhagiar, *University of Malta, Malta*  
Anneke Sools, *University of Twente, Netherlands*  
Ingunn Johanne Ness, *University of Bergen, Norway*  
Bernadetta Janusz, *Jagiellonian University, Poland*  
Paula Castro, *University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE-IUL), Portugal*  
Adriana Baban, *Babes-Bolyai University, Romania*  
Natalia Busygina, *Moscow State University of Psychology & Education, Russia*  
Sue Widdicombe, *University of Edinburgh, Scotland*  
Biljana Stanković, *University of Belgrade, Serbia*  
Radomír Masaryk, *Comenius University, Slovakia*  
Maja Smrdu, *University of Primorska, Slovenia*  
Marco Gemignani, *Universidad Loyola, Spain*  
Maria del Rio Carral, *University of Lausanne, Switzerland*  
Joanna Brooks, *The University of Manchester, United Kingdom*  
Oxana Bayer, *Alfred Nobel University, Ukraine*

*Time scheduling is according to Eastern European Time (EEST)*



As EQUIP is a new association, trying to bring together qualitative researchers in psychology from all European countries, this panel aims to ‘create bridges’ between people and research traditions of different European countries, through taking a simple first step: introducing ourselves to one another! We envisage this to be an informal and lively session, during which speakers briefly describe the situation of qualitative research in psychology in their country. Each speaker has been asked to address: a) how developed qualitative psychology research is in their country, b) what fields of psychology are covered, c) which research methodologies are more popular, d) where qualitative research is done and by whom. There will be time for discussion as well as spontaneous presentations of countries not included in the list. Through participation of 28 countries, we are very much looking forward to collectively constructing a panorama of qualitative psychology research in Europe, as a beginning of future collaborations that will help shape the future of European qualitative research in psychology. We envisage this to be an informal and lively session, during which speakers briefly describe the situation of qualitative research in psychology in their country. Each speaker has been asked to address: a) how developed qualitative psychology research is in their country, b) what fields of psychology are covered, c) which research methodologies are more popular, d) where qualitative research is done and by whom. There will be time for discussion as well as spontaneous presentations of countries not included in the list. Through participation of 28 countries, we are very much looking forward to collectively constructing a panorama of qualitative psychology research in Europe, as a beginning of future collaborations that will help shape the future of European qualitative research in psychology.

15.00-16.30 Parallel #1

**15.00-16.30** **SYMPOSIUM | ROOM #1**  
**Crossing and questioning borders with(in) qualitative research: Perspectives on migrations**  
**Organizer/Chair:** Angelo Benozzo, *University of Valle d’Aosta, Italy*  
**Discussant:** Lorenzo Montali, *University of Milan-Bicocca, Italy*

Qualitative research can be described – in epistemological, methodological and historical terms - as a practice that crosses borders and problematizes them, then redefines and overturns them. It is in this practice of crossing that the border reveals itself in all its porosity, liminality and fragility, characteristics that can open up potential new research paths. In psychology, the wide range of qualitative studies has made it possible to overcome many of the perimeters/contours that have characterized (and still characterize) our discipline. Through qualitative research practices, numerous transitions have been achieved: the shift from a focus on the individual to one upon the relationships between individuals as the constitutive element of phenomena; from research in the laboratory to research in the actual live contexts in which these phenomena



occur, from mathematical formalization to the importance attributed to words and discourses; from the central position given to variables in the explanation of phenomena to an interpretative reading of reality so as to grasp it in all its complexity. In this symposium, some researchers will present their ongoing research projects on different science and technology issues, analysing their impact on society. Furthermore, they will reflect on how the metaphor of crossing the border acts in their research. The symposium hopes to be an opportunity to work through the image of crossing borders and see how this image can be put to work in qualitative research in terms of interdisciplinarity, variety of contents, the methods used and the phenomena investigated.

### **Managing diversity in healthcare. Perspectives on cultural competence**

Andreina Bruno , Giuseppina Dell'Aversana, *University of Genoa, Italy*

**Aim/background.** Cultural competence (CC) for professionals and organizations has been recognized as a key strategy to reduce health care inequalities for migrants and to promote responsiveness to diversity. Its definition is currently debated: some authors criticized CC discourse by highlighting that the lack of conceptual clarity around the use of the term 'culture' in clinical encounters may inadvertently reinforce racial and ethnic biases and stereotypes. The aim of the study is to explore in the Italian context some critical issues in the development of CC services and the use and understanding of the CC construct. **Methods.** According to Creswell (2005), the exploratory nature of qualitative research makes it ideal for exploring a little-known topic, as in the case of Italy's culturally competent care initiatives. 8 experts with different backgrounds and renowned for their professional expertise in the promotion of migrants health were interviewed. Data were analysed using thematic analysis. **Findings.** Diversity poses challenges for healthcare providers in the clinical relationship and multiple barriers to quality care services. The use of the term cultural competence does not appear widely diffused and is interpreted using different perspectives, with approaches suggesting to overcome the categorical vision of culture, emphasizing intravariability within cultural groups. **Conclusions.** Migration is an act of "crossing the borders" that led to cross the borders of our disciplines: it will be discussed how the contribution of various disciplines (anthropology, psychology, organization studies) concur to shed light on diversity in healthcare, considering its ethical and practical dimensions.

### **Crossing identity borders in healthcare interactions with foreign patients**

Valentina Fantasia, Marilena Fatigante, Cristina Zucchermaglio, Francesca Alby, *Sapienza University of Rome, Italy*

In healthcare encounters, participants' cultural and social identity plays an important role on their mutual understanding, affecting the shared construction of meanings and practices during the visit (Bischoff et al., 2008; Degrie et al., 2017). Whereas traditional psychological approaches consider social identity as a stable, given entity, qualitative, discursive perspectives examine the situated ways in which identities and positions (Harré and Davies, 1991) are made relevant in talk (Antaki e Widdicombe 1998), through a variety of linguistic resources. The in-depth examination



of medical interactions with foreign patients can contribute to understanding whether identity categorisation hinders or fosters the intercultural communication in health setting. Combining a discourse analytic framework with quantitative analyses, our study aims to analyse identity markers emerging in doctor-patient interactions with native and non-native patients. Our dataset comprises 60 video-recorded cancer consultation visits, including 20 visits with foreigner patients, collected in the Oncology Department of three Italian hospitals. Visits were transcribed and analysed according to the conversational analytic principles (Sacks, Schegloff, & Jefferson, 1974). Preliminary findings indicated that, in interactions with foreign patients, both institutional identities (i.e. doctors' team, patient's group) and culturally-related identities (geographical, linguistic) are prevalent and made relevant by both doctors and patients. Analyses revealed how these references are sequentially managed throughout the different phases of the visit, helping to overcome or thicken communicative and cultural borders. Ultimately, our work goes in the direction of crossing methodological approaches, highlighting how identities can be conceptualised as a fluid-borders phenomenon, acquiring meaning as the medical interaction unfold.

**I feel Moroccan, I feel Italian and I feel Muslim: Second generation Moroccan and identity negotiation between religion and community belonging**

Marco Rizzo, Anna Miglietta, Silvia Gattino, Angela Fedi, *University of Turin, Italy*

In contemporary Western societies, the 2nd generation immigrants face a process of negotiation between cultural sets that can be hardly depending on the cultures involved, as happens in the case of Moroccans of Islamic religion. The negotiation involves many personal dimensions including identity and is likely influenced by the assimilative pressures exerted by the plural society. Differently from their parents, Moroccan 2G are growing up in a cultural crossing that combines their ethnic and religious differences in multiple ways. From an ecological perspective, the above described processes happen in the communities in which people are involved i.e., where everyday living takes place and cultural transmission happens. The current study focused on the negotiation process of one's own identity in Islamic Moroccan 2G, considering how their ethnic, national and religious belongings intertwine with the thrusts coming from the community they consider most important. For doing so, we started from the community that participants considered most important, and explored the measure in which their religious, ethnic and national identity were related to their most important community. Twenty adult Moroccan 2G (10 M and 10 F, mean age: 20.9, range: 18-27) were involved in semi-structured in-person interviews. Results highlighted how the management of ethnic and religious identity is a particularly complex issue for these individuals and the results of this process are related to very different conceptions of religiosity and the forms it takes in everyday life (e.g., system of values vs. a set of practices)



## **Memorializing migrants' deaths in the Mediterranean Sea between division and reports. The case of Lampedusa**

Ciro De Vincenzo, Adriano Zamperini, Ines Testoni, *University of Padua, Italy*

Over the last decades, the dramatic deaths in the attempt to cross international borders have become more and more frequent and evident. According to optimistic estimates, at least 70,000 people have lost their lives in the last thirty years. The route from Libya-Tunisia to Lampedusa island, in Italy, and to Malta – the central Mediterranean route – is literally a submerged cemetery. Scientific literature has identified several factors which made death a probable event in migration routes. Nevertheless, little attention has been paid to victims' experience (those who have survived and/or testimonies), as so as to the one of "liminal communities", peripheric places which found themselves at the core of social, political and humanitarian events in a global dimension. The research we present shows preliminary results of an analysis on memorialization and commemoration practices about victims of migration which took place in Lampedusa, on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the sinking in the 3rd October 2013. That day has become symbol of an unending series of tragedies, since the impressive number of victims – 368 –, and the short distance to the island in which the shipwreck happened. Using ethnography and interviews, it emerges a conflictual and divided memory landscape, in which three different kinds of elaboration contemporarily coexist in the space-time of commemoration: the institutional, the generative and the antagonistic one. Yet, each of those reflects a "suspension" in the memorialization process carried on by their members, in which memory work is constantly urged by everyday reports documenting new tragedies to empathize with.

**15.00-16.30**

**SYMPOSIUM | ROOM #2**

**Using qualitative psychology research to understand and challenge inequality**

**Organizer/Chair/ Discussant:** Jo Brooks, *University of Manchester, United Kingdom*

In the United Kingdom, the professional body for psychologists (the British Psychological Society [BPS]) is trying to engage more actively with policy and policymakers. As members of QMiP (the BPS's Qualitative Methods in Psychology section), we have unsuccessfully submitted policy proposals to the BPS which have been deemed by some in the wider membership as perhaps 'too political'. In this symposium, we will reflect on how those of us undertaking qualitative research in psychology understand (and can evidence) how the broader social and political context inevitably frames our discipline, with examples from three studies on different aspects of inequality in the UK. Simon Goodman will discuss how members of the UK public talk about and account for income inequality. Sarah Seymour-Smith will focus on health inequalities and her work on potential barriers to prostate cancer diagnosis for African-Caribbean men in the UK. Laura Kilby will focus on the intersecting inequalities experienced by homeless single mothers in the UK, explaining how current UK legislation relies on particular problematic assumptions and categorisations. We will reflect with the audience on the difficulties we can face as qualitative psychologists in aligning our work as part of the broader mainstream discipline, and



consider how we might, as part of the EQuIP community, form allegiances to support work with the aim of bringing about change.

### **How members of the public account for and challenge income inequality**

Simon Goodman, *De Montfort University, United Kingdom*

**Objectives:** Disparities between income levels within the UK remain high, which detrimentally impacts on social cohesion. What little psychological literature there is about inequality has focussed on attitude scales that do not fully address how people make sense of and argue about such a complex issue so there is a limited understanding of the explanations that people give for this controversial topic. Therefore, the objective of this research is to understand how members of the public account for income inequality and how is it justified or problematized. **Design:** This objective requires a Discursive Psychological approach that focuses on what is accomplished by talk in interaction. **Methods:** A discourse analysis was applied to five focus group discussions with a total of 24 participants of mixed socio-economic and demographic backgrounds across the UK. **Results:** The key arguments are that inequality is inevitable, is unfair and works as a motivation. Individual characteristics and choice are used to argue for high wages and against high taxation and to explain inequality. Benefits exploitation and tax avoidance are presented as problematic. Immigration, housing costs and business that pay low wages are also all criticised. **Conclusions:** Inequality is simultaneously presented as problematic and unfair, inevitable and good, suggesting complex and ambivalent opinions regarding inequality. However, effective arguments for maintaining inequality dominate.

### **Changing perceptions of the digital rectal examination as a barrier to prostate cancer diagnosis in African Caribbean men**

Sarah Seymour-Smith, *Nottingham Trent University, United Kingdom*

**Objectives:** African-Caribbean men in the United Kingdom in comparison with other ethnicities have the highest incidence rate of prostate cancer. Psychosocial aspects related to screening and presentation impact on men's behaviour, with previous studies indicating a range of barriers. This study explores one such barrier, the digital rectal examination (DRE), due to its prominence within UK African-Caribbean men's accounts. **Design:** An interview study was conducted as part of a wider project which aimed to produce a mobile application to raise awareness in the community. Thus interviews were designed to explore a range of issues such as prostate cancer awareness levels, barriers to being tested, treatment concerns and views on how best to educate men. **Methods:** African-Caribbean men with prostate cancer (n=10) and without prostate cancer (n=10) were interviewed. Participants were recruited with the help of African-Caribbean research collaborators. A synthetic discursive approach was employed to analyse the data. **Results:** Findings illustrate that the interpretative repertoire of homophobia in relation to the DRE is constructed as having an impact upon African-Caribbean men. However, the discursive focus on footing and accountability highlight deviations from this repertoire that are built up as pragmatic and orient to changing perceptions within the community. **Conclusion:** Health



promotion interventions need to address the fear of homophobia and are best designed in collaboration with the community.

### **Identity rights and homeless mothers: denial, oppression and loss**

Laura Kilby, *Sheffield Hallam University, United Kingdom*

**Purpose:** To examine taken-for-granted identity categories routinely used within existing homelessness legislation, and to evaluate identity denial, oppression and loss experienced by homeless mothers. **Background:** The inequity that homeless people experience is profound. Their unmet needs are multi-dimensional and inter-related. Moreover, dominant media and political discourse constructs a homogenous 'homeless community' in which specific issues facing homeless women are largely obscured. Existing English homelessness legislation relies upon a binary distinction between 'single' and 'family' homelessness, however research with homeless women reveals significant numbers of homeless mothers, whose children are temporarily in the care of others, as a result these women become categorised as 'single'. **Methods:** The project takes a multi-method approach, combining different qualitative methods. Documentary analysis of current homelessness policy legislation and of mainstream media representations of homelessness requires a discursive approach. Qualitative interviews with 40 homeless mothers (thematically analysed) allows exploration of the impact of legislative categories and dominant representations of the 'homelessness community' on maternal identity denial, oppression and loss. **Conclusions:** This qualitative psychological study of maternal identity construction contributes to a large scale multi-disciplinary project examining intersecting physical, psychological and material inequalities facing homeless women. This area of homelessness research has been hitherto largely neglected. The central aims of the project are to build robust empirical evidence which can contribute to calls for changes in policy and legislation affecting homeless women. This project exemplifies how qualitative methods can be used to better understand inequality and build evidence which supports calls for policy change.

**15.00-16.30**

**SYMPOSIUM | ROOM #3**

#### **Complex systems approaches to qualitative research: creating bridges**

**Organizer:** Alexios Brailas, *Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Greece*

**Chair/Discussant:** Konstantinos Papachristopoulos, *University of Crete, Greece*

Today, advances in complexity theory and non-equilibrium dynamics create a new epistemological framework for working with complex human systems. A brand new set of terms (autopoiesis, co-evolution, emergence, self-organization, anotropy, fitness landscapes, strange attractors, dissipative structures, bifurcations) offer new insights and can be employed to inspire new creative directions in psychological research and practice, especially for practitioners working with individuals and groups, such as psychotherapists, educators, social workers, and qualitative researchers. However, the use of complexity terminology in social sciences remains today at the level of a helpful metaphor. Claire Glasscoe points out that as systemic psychologists and practitioners, "our focus is relational and ... we may be more attracted to qualitative methods, which seem to approximate to our practice as therapists because these often involve





us in interviews and consideration of context.” However, in the words of William Doll, “Chaos and complexity theories ... are still in their early stages of development and, hence, do not yet have a well-formed research methodology.” Further work is needed to bridge the gap between complexity theory framework of reference and in situ research practice. Is there a well-formed systematic way of doing qualitative research with/in complex human systems? In this direction, this symposium serves to open a space for dialogue and provide applied models that help create bridges between psychology researchers, practitioners, and their methods when working with complex living systems.

### **The community is the method: Group work approaches to qualitative research**

Alexios Brailas, *Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Greece*

Konstantinos Papachristopoulos, *University of Crete, Greece*

Two dominant methods for empirical data collection/elicitation in qualitative research practice are interviews with individuals and focus group discussions. Both methods can be utilized in the same research project to extend and enrich the body of empirical data collected. However, they are usually employed in distinct sessions and in separate settings. Although, it is quite common for the one method to inform the other during data collection (for example by increasing theoretical sensitivity of the interviewer or the focus group facilitator), and integrate with each other at the later phases of data analysis (e.g. to increase the validity and trustworthiness of the research), yet there is no systematic way to integrate them into a coherent unified process for data collection and analysis in one single session. In the present paper we present a coherent method for data collection combining individual with group elicitation techniques. The proposed method begins from the individual level and gradually moves to the whole-system level (community), passing through pair and small group work phases. Furthermore, this method can be used not only for data collection but also for preliminary data analysis, by discovering the sequence that connects the emerging narratives during the small group work. We present preliminary results from a workshop where we experimented with this method in a group of twenty-one participants. We discuss further implications, practicalities, and matters of data ownership, publication rights, and ethical concerns. We conclude that the proposed method can help bridge the gap between individual and group techniques in qualitative research and combine.

### **A proposed systemic paradigm for the function of accommodation centers for unaccompanied minor refugees in Greece**

Elektra Stefanou, *Athenian Institute of Anthropos (AIA), Greece*

Panagiotis Kostis, Spiridoula Chronopoulou, Souzana El Nomani, Giorgos Tsakiris, Marina Petropoulou, Aggeliki Psareli, Christos Harisis, Giannis Dager, Elli Konstadopoulou, Fotis Parthenidis, *The HOME Project NGO, Greece*

Pavlos Salichos, *Athenian Institute of Anthropos (AIA), Greece*

Pavlos Salichos, *Athenian Institute of Anthropos (AIA), Greece*

The presupposition of vulnerability as a core feature in refugee experience remains the basis of the vast majority of the projects running, targeting this population in Greece. Based on this fact,



these projects aim mainly at the provision of psychosocial, legal and educational support, depriving refugees from the opportunity to develop their capacity to access their own resourcefulness, cultivating their autopoietic process. Following this theoretical hypothesis, and trying to answer the need for the emergence of a new different paradigm, THE HOME PROJECT NGO' s guest house for unaccompanied minor refugees "SOKRATES" made an effort of creating a new functioning model based on the systemic approach. Two are the main components of this paradigm: (a) the development of abilities contributing in integration and autonomous living and (b) the co-creation of a shared vision, establishing a learning organization, through the autopoietic process of the worker's interdisciplinary team. Aiming at sharing the process of change in practices and the so far results of this endeavor, an action research method was used, evolving around an adjustment of an existing experiential task used in Athenian Institute of Anthropos (AIA) by Greek systemic practitioners for "negotiation of contract in school classrooms". This experimental model suggests a new way of understanding the refugee experience and planning assessment and intervention strategies, through monitoring change and co-creating a context for cultivating interdependence.

### **How systemic thinking can help the self of the therapist navigate through therapy bumps**

Elena Tragou, *Athenian Institute of Anthropos (AIA), Greece*

The "self" of the therapist as a concept has been studied by numerous models and psychotherapy fields. From Freud to Rogers to Elkaim it has offered psychologists a wonderful research tool to study their self concepts, reactions, self notions and behaviors. In systemic understanding the notion of self of the therapist adds two more critical research aspects, that of the participant observer and 2nd order cybernetics. The "self" becomes a dynamic, ever shifting systemic concept, that entails many roles, many voices, many shifts, and many intertwining "selves" all of which coexist and speak of the "self" of the therapist before, during and after sessions. More importantly, sessions that go "sour" highlight those different selves. It is when therapists feel blocked, stalled, or distressed that they get in touch with the plethora of their selves, their interconnections as well as their connecting patterns. Interestingly enough, when therapists reflect upon and embrace those voices, they become able to make a systemic shift and take a chance to do something creatively different in therapy. Toward that systemic understanding, I used the analytic autoethnographic (AA) method in order to dwell into these voices. AA allows researchers to use the self and their personal experiences as a source of data development and collection. Furthermore, I propose that when combining AA with the qualitative notion of participant observation, therapists can create an enriched research tool that can combine personal narratives, the selves being observed, and thus possible emerging systemic shifts.



### **Synallactic collective image technique as elicitation and evaluation method: A dialectic systemic approach**

Konstantinos Papachristopoulos, *University of Crete, Greece*

Alexios Brailas, *Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Greece*

Problems of conventional linear evaluation models can be understood as an impoverished 'conversation' between realities and models of evaluating these realities. These models seem not to take in deep consideration of the indeterminate attributes and of non-linearity in our ever-changing context. Researchers and professionals usually lack the experience of a developmental evaluative process that combines both person level and emergent group level intelligence of what worked in any kind of social intervention(s). In the present paper we present a method through which we evaluated two educative interventions in students and artists that had to do with the notion of "Fear and cooperation" and the notion of "Humanities in modern science". The proposed method begins at the individual level and gradually moves to the whole group level (community), passing through pair and small group work phases. During these phases an image that was initially developed from a sole participant is "expanded" (in size and information) by "capturing" inner voices of the self, and the pair and/or team. This kind of collaborative evaluative research can be situated within the specificity of a discipline (e.g., researchers, social scientists) or it can be situated across disciplines where diverse perspectives come together in multidisciplinary teams to pursue a research question in more comprehensive and/or integrated ways. We present some preliminary results of using this method in diverse samples and we conclude that the proposed evaluation approach can help bridge the gap between individual and team representations of training and/or other interventions.

**15.00-16.30**

**THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM #4**

#### **Phenomenology of self**

**Chair:** Ekaterina Nazina, *National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia*

#### **A grounded theory of critical life events**

Ekaterina Nazina, Anna Fam, *National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia*

Despite the relevance of psychological research of a changing person in a changing world, there are still many blank spots. In particular, a literature gap exists regarding the phenomenology of critical life events as those events in which (and due to which) changes occur in a person and his perception of oneself and the world. The aim of this constructivist grounded theory study was to make a phenomenological description of reconstructed critical life events. Based on the experiences of 12 participants (young adults with incomplete or complete higher education), the emergent theory of critical life events reflects the peculiarities of the personality changes, which take place in three stages: (a) external changes due to the objective life events, (b) internal changes resulting from the process of comprehending and (c) external changes due to conscious effort. The findings contribute to a better understanding of the mechanisms of personality change and may guide the work with people who have faced critical life events.



### **Introductions to early recollections contribute to a coherent sense of the self**

Mia Levitt Frank, *University of Haifa, Israel*

This qualitative study explores adults' early recollections (ERs) (specific onetime events, before the age of ten) as a mechanism for the construction and preservation of the self. According to Adlerian theory, individuals project their concept of the self onto ERs, narratives which contribute to the continuity and coherence of the self. The majority of research on ERs is quantitative. The study population included twelve; normative adults aged 45-65, secular Jewish Israelis from central Israel. A semi structured interview included elicitation of ERs. ERs were interpreted from a holistic framework, and an open grounded theory approach. Findings show that the vast majority of the ERs in the study (42 out of 43) are preceded by an introduction to the story. Some introductions are longer and clearly delineate the transition between the introduction and the plot, others are shorter, and often the transition is not as clear. Many include background information to the story, a context of time and place, or reference to wider reality (family, historical period, norms, and routines). Some include reference to current life, or present a contrasting experience to the plot that follows. These findings suggest that the introduction to an ER, a framework established by the storyteller, may contribute to the ongoing formation of a coherent sense of self, and that the introduction to an ER may be part of the mechanism for restoring a sense of self, particularly when self-change is required in the face of dynamic life circumstances. The findings offer research and clinical implications.

### **Do you see the pain?**

Michal Krumer-Nevo, *Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel*

Representing human subjects belonging to different racial, ethnic, economic or sexual groups in qualitative research that aims at promoting social justice raises political and ethical questions. It carries the potential for both emancipation and subjugation. In the form of emancipation this process carries the potential for the 'Other' to feel understood, supported and empowered. Winnicott's empathic knowing is of this type. In its second form it carries the potential for subjugation, when the representation serves mastering the other, reducing her subjectivity and turning her into the Other, in what we call, following Foucault, a panoptical knowing. Scholars of critical psychology have proposed several strategies for avoiding Othering – from rich narratives through collaborative and multivocal writing, participatory action research, dialog, reflectivity to photovoice. This talk will tell the story of a project of filming homeless persons by a young photographer, and discusses the dilemmas of representing the Other through the photos he created. Although there is much writing that focuses on deconstruction of photos along the lines of gender, ethnicity and sexual orientation, there is less discussion of the ways to resist Othering in photos of classed people, such as homeless persons. Taking photos of homeless persons that will resist Othering elicits issues of the interconnection between public and private, power relations, and hegemonic notions of home and body. The lecture will discuss these issues through a close reading of the photos.



### **Phenomenology of Self in competitive sport situations**

Maja Smrdu, *University of Primorska, Slovenia*

Urban Kordes, *University of Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Elite sport is a fertile ground for researching the expression of Self, since its relevance seem to be increased by social and media exposure. The Self is a construct; it is not something natural or objective, it exists without form, and it is not situated anywhere in the body. Self is typically defined from the structural, component, or functional perspective, although these views can be combined. We will focus on the theories incorporating both structural and functional aspects) and also consider situational and social factors. The study aimed to investigate the expression and function of different aspects of Self during two opposite competitive sports situations; flow and personally perceived failure. We focused on the effect of situational and social factors. With the first-person phenomenological qualitative method based on the micro-phenomenological interview, , we interviewed 14 elite team athletes about their experience of two recent competitive sport performances, Several aspects of Self emerged during qualitative analysis, as well as their importance for particular emotional and behavioural (re)actions. The results indicate that the narrative self is involved in situations later judged as failures, in contrast to situations of flow, where minimal self or even general detachment from Self is central. Various expressions of Self are linked to different social and sports situations. Besides providing valuable insights into content, results confirm the usefulness and significance of the phenomenological technique for investigating and subsequently understanding the complexity of lived experience and the expression of basic, yet unclear psychological constructs, such as Self.

**15.00-16.30**

**THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM #5**

**Qualitative research on social representations**

**Chair:** Delphine Kallai, *UCLouvain, Belgium*

### **How do they think, talk and work with them? Social representations of mental health nurses towards their patients and their influence on the relationship**

Delphine Kallai, Jan De Mol, Philippe Timary, *UCLouvain, Belgium*

**Aim:** We investigate social representations that live among mental health nurses towards their patients. We focus on the interaction between these social representations and nurses' work and nurses' well-being at work. **Background:** Much research already focused on social representations existing in general population regarding psychiatric patients. Fewer research was done about what mental health care-workers think about patients they work with. Moreover, even fewer investigations were done about the impact of these social representations on their work and well-being. **Method:** 18 semi-structured interviews were conducted in Belgium and data analyzed using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis. Our focus is on mental health nurses working in short-stay psychiatric units of general hospitals, as they experience a constant

13

*Time scheduling is according to Eastern European Time (EEST)*



physical proximity with patients presenting a wide range of difficulties and pathologies. Findings: Paradoxality is at heart of nurses' experience as simultaneously contradictory social representations are found at implicit and explicit levels regarding their patients as well as their work and wellbeing. Emotional and cognitive dissonance is thus at work, defence mechanisms arising straight afterwards. Our findings suggest social representations giving nurses their main concerns revolve around the (non)reversibility of the pathology and its potential chronicity, the patients' responsibility regarding their illness and their will to improve, the management of feelings of usefulness and helplessness nurses experience. Conclusion: We asked our participants to express how they make sense of their professional universe. They experience it as complex and filled with uncertainties despite their expertise. Antagonistic social representations on both implicit and explicit levels beget this phenomenon.

### **Temporal dynamics of the social representation of an activity: the case of recruits of volunteer firefighters**

Florian Fournier, Themis Apostolidis, *Aix-Marseille University, France*

Volunteer FireFighters (V-FF) represent 80% of French FFs, which underlines the importance of turnover of recruits. This latter can be explained by the gap between the professional representation (transformation of social representations by process of professionalization, Mias & Bataille, 2013) and the initial social representation of the FF (Riedel et al., 2015). However, the content of these two hypothetical representational structures has not yet been studied. Our exploratory study investigates the evolution of the social representation of FF among 42 V-FF recruits who responded to two collections of hierarchical evocations (standard and substitution instructions): on their arrival in the organization and nine months later. Data was analyzed in an inter-individual way (Vergès tables) and intra-individual through a weighting relative to the action of each element over time for each individual. In standard instructions, a significant change in the structure of the SR suggests the emergence of two distinct representations: social or "collective" representation (altruistic values, material and field of intervention) and professional representation (values and feelings individuals and FF activity). Socialization provokes the emergence of highly valorized elements for FFs in substitution instruction (values, personality, physics), suggesting either a SR role of this latter for a "professionalized" population, like the context for Netto (2011) (professional vs. private), either a rationalization of the lost imaginary. Our results, despite their limitations, show the relevance of the integration of time in the treatment of representational elements. We conclude with a discussion of our interpretations, research tracks and applications.

### **The Individualisation of Depression: Representations of Depression in the Cypriot public**

Maria Orphanidou, Irini Kadianaki, *University of Cyprus, Cyprus*

Depression is a term that is frequently encountered in clinical and lay discourses alike. Despite its familiarity and profusion in daily discourse, research suggests that the public holds varied representations of depression. Given that lay representations relate to treatment outcomes and to the stigma and discrimination towards people with depression, the significant clinical and



social importance of exploring these representations is illuminated. Acknowledging the role of the sociocultural context in shaping representations, the current project aimed to explore representations of depression among the Cypriot public using the socioconstructionist framework of Social Representations Theory (Moscovici, 1961). A total of eight focus groups were conducted with people of different ages; 16-20, 25-35, 40-55, 65-80 years old. Each age group corresponded to a different developmental stage starting from late adolescence, to early adulthood, middle adulthood and late adulthood. Thematic analysis revealed a highly individualised representation of depression, which was sustained by representations of depression as the result of a character weakness evident in the discourses of lay individuals, regardless of their age group. These representations were often linked to females, who were described as more likely to possess weak character traits. These findings will be discussed in light of the particularities of the Cypriot sociocultural context. Clinical and social implications will also be examined, such as suggestions for therapeutic intervention and design of psychoeducation programs.

15.00-16.30

THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM #6

Researching the impact of social and environmental factors

Chair: Helen King, *The Open University, United Kingdom*

**Lone Mothering and the experience of everyday travel. A narrative auto-ethnographic journey of mobility patterns, access to and sustainability of employment**

Jacquie Bridgman, *University of Northampton, United Kingdom*

Men and women's travel patterns have repeatedly been shown to differ. Historically, the transport needs of the commuting wage earner have been privileged over the needs of (predominantly) female homemakers and carers who make more complicated journeys as part of their social and cultural roles. The individual travel behaviours of women, and the impact of life course events such as parenting are not well understood and within the transport literature gaps have been identified pertaining to the role of transport in women's access to and sustainability of work. This PhD project focuses on the mobility experiences of lone female led households in the United Kingdom and seeks to explore their individual embodied experience of everyday travel. Auto-ethnography can be used as a means of explicitly linking concepts from the literature to the narrated personal experience. In this research project I intend to use my own personal story as research literature in conjunction with personal mobility diaries recorded by participants to analyse experience and consider the lives of others from a similar cultural standpoint. Auto-ethnography acknowledges and accommodates subjectivity, emotionality and the influence of the researcher. In choosing this methodological approach it is anticipated that a wide-ranging understanding of the impact, influences and decision making of daily travel and how that is experienced by women from varied backgrounds will emerge.



### **Discourse and the shaping of environments**

Helen King, *The Open University, United Kingdom*

Research aim/background: The ecosystem services approach is a set of institutional practices which highlight relationships between ecosystems and human wellbeing. Within the approach, the psycho-social aspects of people-nature interrelations are termed Cultural Ecosystem Services (CES). These are defined in the literature as ‘nonmaterial benefits obtained from ecosystems’. Substantial incongruity in the characterisation of CES hinders its study. A PhD thesis undertook to deconstruct, explore, clarify and enhance the CES concept. Methods: A flexible, phased qualitative research design explored CES in a single case-study site. Environmental psychology theory unpinned the collection of in-situ data via the analysis of site documentation, semi-structured and unstructured interviews, and marginal participant observation. Data was analysed through a series of lenses including experience of place (phenomenology) and discursive resource (discourse analysis). Findings: Results challenge the published definition and subcategorisation of CES. Whilst CES experiences were observable in their pure phenomenological form, spoken and written accounts of CES were found to be a series of interpretative repertoires. CES are therefore better defined as the ways that humans use discourse to construct and communicate perceptions of nature. Conclusions: Discourse (as a constructive activity) shapes our interrelations with natural environments. It shapes what we think and how we feel about our surroundings; the rules, norms and laws which guide behaviour; and the social practices which impact upon and thus become embedded in ecosystems. The propensity of environments to embody discourse is crucial in defining what is valuable about natural ecosystems, and how these contribute to wellbeing.

### **Neighborhood and Community in the Age of Social Media**

Nikolaos Sfakianos, Maria Koletsi, Georgios Vayias, Dimitris Karras, Konstantinos Koskinas, *Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Greece*

The presentation discusses the main qualitative research findings of an exploratory mixed methods research design, conducted during the first phase of the ongoing project on Growing and Enabling Information Technologies for Online Neighborhoods: Implications and Applications (G.E.I.T.O.N.I.A.). The project aims to develop a pilot mobile application for virtual (online) neighborhoods available to use by residents of a pre-chosen urban area in Attica. Aspired from the Greek name “γειτονιά” for neighborhood, GEITONIA mobile social application is a co-creative research product for public use, as it develops progressively, taking into consideration the findings of the qualitative and quantitative research. During the pilot usage period of the co-created local social application, the social interactivity of neighbors, their local social ties and their community understanding, is going to be examined. For this reason, a set of semi-structured interviews was developed and conducted with a sample of residents (N=14, 8 women and 6 men) of a pre-chosen urban area in Attica. The interviews were analyzed with grounded theory, as an exploratory analytical method applicable to complex social phenomena and definitions. Research findings provide first conceptual definitions of neighborhood, community and their relationship.





Second, the degree of understanding of the ICT value for residents, that focus on the possible future use. The relevant features of a local mobile app for neighborhood level, is also examined. Neighborhood and community relation become understood in reference to spatial proximity, knowledge of other residents, their social bonding, and their interest towards a common local life.

### **Brain Drain and Siblinghood: How the quality of sibling relationships is affected**

Maria Samara, *National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece*

This paper presents a qualitative research that studied the brain drain phenomenon and its effect on sibling relationships. In recent years it appears that more and more young people choose to emigrate after getting their Bachelor's Degree in order to find a job that meets their qualifications and expectations. Home leaving can affect the family cycle and changes can be noted in daily interaction patterns within the family relationships. One of the most important relationships is between siblings, because of its longevity over the lifespan. Therefore, among other role transitions that an individual experiences, due to emigration, sibling relationships undergo transformations, as well. However, how emigration influences sibling relationships has largely been unstudied. Hence, a qualitative research was conducted in order to study the quality of sibling relationship and the possible changes after emigration. In the research participated 13 siblings, who have lived abroad at least for the last 2 years and their brothers/sisters live in Greece. The participants emigrated with the view of continuing their studies and finding a job. The data collection was conducted with semi-structured interviews through the cyber application of Skype. The data were analyzed using the method of Thematic Analysis. At the end of the presentation will be presented some of the findings that showed that sibling relationships are most likely to be dependent on the basic nature and the quality of the relationship rather than the decision of emigration.

16.45-18.15

Parallel #2

16.45-18.15

SYMPOSIUM | ROOM #1

**Crossing and questioning borders with(in) qualitative research: Science, Technology and Society**

**Organizer/Chair:** Lorenzo Montali, *University of Milan-Bicocca, Italy*

**Discussant:** Angelo Benozzo, *University of Valle d'Aosta, Italy*

Qualitative research can be described – in epistemological, methodological and historical terms - as a practice that crosses borders and problematizes them, then redefines and overturns them. It is in this practice of crossing that the border reveals itself in all its porosity, liminality and fragility, characteristics that can open up potential new research paths. In psychology, the wide range of qualitative studies has made it possible to overcome many of the perimeters/contours that have characterized (and still characterize) our discipline. Through qualitative research



practices, numerous transitions have been achieved: the shift from a focus on the individual to one upon the relationships between individuals as the constitutive element of phenomena; from research in the laboratory to research in the actual live contexts in which these phenomena occur, from mathematical formalization to the importance attributed to words and discourses; from the central position given to variables in the explanation of phenomena to an interpretative reading of reality so as to grasp it in all its complexity. In this symposium, some researchers will present their ongoing research projects on different science and technology issues, analysing their impact on society. Furthermore, they will reflect on how the metaphor of crossing the border acts in their research. The symposium hopes to be an opportunity to work through the image of crossing borders and see how this image can be put to work in qualitative research in terms of interdisciplinarity, variety of contents, the methods used and the phenomena investigated.

#### **Climate change as a societal challenge. A trans-disciplinary analysis**

Bruno M. Mazzara, Mauro Sarrica, Giovanna Leone, *Sapienza University of Rome, Italy*

Climate change is a defining issue of 21st century, whose complexity urges to transcend disciplinary boundaries and to develop innovative multi-, inter-, and ideally trans-disciplinary studies, able to face the challenges posed by grand societal matters to single theoretical and methodological precincts. This contribution aims to illustrate an ongoing multidisciplinary study on socio-psychological processes involved in the social construction of knowledge about the topic, starting from the observation of a large gap between the extreme seriousness of the problem and the level of awareness in the public arena. Our basic hypothesis is that in facing environmental risks, when the consequences could be highly dramatical and global as in the case of climate change, a social organization of self-censorship or even a denial take place, which are based on communicative processes and emotional dynamics. In order to understand the interplay between cognitive, emotional and socio-cultural processes involved in social organization of self-censorship and denial, the study analyzes a wide range of communicative contexts, like political debates, mainstream media contents and online exchanges, using a mix of methods, including lexicometric and text-mining analysis of large textual corpora, multimodal analyses of communication, and also experimental study of emotional and cognitive reactions to different communication styles. Drawing on the integrated outcome of these methods, the current contribution will foster the developing of new theoretical and methodological frameworks, able to grasp the connection between communication styles, emotional resonances, and communication flows at individual, interpersonal and societal levels.



### **Moving across borders: the social representations of the “vegetative state” in British, Indian and Italian news**

Edoardo Zulato, Lorenzo Montali, *University of Milan-Bicocca, Italy*

Martin W. Bauer, *London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), United Kingdom*

The vegetative state is a clinical condition in which a patient is wakeful without being aware (RCP, 2013). By creating a liminal state between life and death (Kaufman & Morgan 2005), this condition brings about ontological, medical and ethical dilemmas, such as the understanding of an ambiguous reality by both experts and lay-people (Nettleton, Kitzinger, & Kitzinger, 2014), the formulation of a clear diagnosis (Schnakers et al., 2009) and the end-of-life decision-making (Giacino et al., 2002). To address such dilemmas, it is crucial to investigate the different socio-cultural milieus in which representations of boundaries between life/death or health/illness are constructed, maintained and challenged through communication processes (Bauer & Gaskell, 1999; Jovchelovitch & Gervais, 1999). The research aims to explore the social representations of the vegetative state in the news across different cultural (India, Italy and the UK) and social milieus (left-leaning, right-leaning and religious/tabloid newspapers). Both qualitative and quantitative content analyses were conducted on articles’ headlines and texts taken from Indian (n=300), Italian (n=300) and British (n=300) newspapers published between January 1990 and June 2019. Our results show that the vegetative state is represented through eight frames that vary across both cultural contexts and social milieus. This analysis identifies the political and religious discursive resources used to deconstruct and reconstruct the borders between life and death.

### **Who is responsible for this decision? Technological enhancement at work: bridging disciplines for a critical understanding**

Laura Galuppo, *Catholic University of Milan, Italy*

Silvia Ivaldi, *University of Bergamo, Italy*

Laura Gherardi, *University of Parma, Italy*

Eliana Greco, Benedetta Nicoli, Giuseppe Scaratti, *Catholic University of Milan, Italy*

Technologies can enhance human possibilities of knowing and acting in many ways. The term “enhancement” stems from the idea that human development relies in the achievement of better performances in different fields: biological, cognitive, physical, etc. Apparently neutral, such a concept might frame a discursive and organizational order, with ambiguous results. On the one hand, the so-called “enhancing technologies” can improve life; on the other hand, however, when informing a new order, the risk is to legitimate a technocratic and reductionist view on human processes. In the study, we explore how technological enhancement affects knowledge management and decision-making in two different “highly reliable” organizations: hospitals and air traffic control towers. Both the cases are of interest because several core technologies impact on practitioners’ decisions and knowing processes. Aim of the study is therefore to explore how enhancement informs practitioners’ interpretation of their work, decisions making processes and responsibilities. The study is characterized by a qualitative and



trans-disciplinary approach. Psychologists, sociologists and researchers in legal science have dialogued on several case studies, to critically explore how the enhancement idea impacts on practitioners' discourses and legitimates higher (or lower) mastery and sense of responsibility over their decisions. Qualitative approach helps bridge disciplines and go beyond mainstream discourses on enhancement, sustaining reflexive dialogue among researchers. In the Symposium, evidences from the case studies will be discussed, and reflections on the challenges faced by our research team to overcome reductionism and to enhance critical understanding will be proposed.

### **Gender dysphoria as image of crossing borders**

Alessandra Frigerio, Lorenzo Montali, Annalisa Anzani, Antonio Prunas, *University of Milan-Bicocca, Italy*

Gender dysphoria well incorporates the image of crossing the border between binaries and dichotomous perspectives on gender issues. The lives of transgender people problematize traditional notions of gender identities, as they produce a liminal space that overturns our understanding of mind, body and their relationship. For this reason, gender dysphoria represents a field of experience to investigate thresholds between subjectivity positionings and social discourses. Qualitative methodologies, with their focus on relationality, lived contexts and interpretation, allow to explore complex dimensions involved in phenomena that, like gender dysphoria, imply both an overcoming of borders and serious changes at personal, family and social levels. The ongoing research that will be presented deals with the experiences of parents of children with gender dysphoria, as these parents are confronted with a radical overthrowing of their assumptions about their children, that possibly entails a drastic change in the family arrangement and in the interaction between the family space, the educational system and the social environment. In the symposium, we will discuss the ways in which parents navigate a space where conventional boundaries are crossed and put under discussion, as well as how they try to redefine and establish new borders to front their reality.

**16.45-18.15**

**SYMPOSIUM | ROOM #2**

**Qualitative research on the cusp: attending to becomings and the betwixt and between**

**Organizer/Chair:** Paul Stenner, *The Open University, United Kingdom*

**Discussant:** Tania Zittoun, *University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland*

Qualitative research has long held the potential to illuminate issues other methods cannot reach, but this promise is not always honoured. Sometimes qualitative research lapses into applying pre-defined techniques to data sets that have been abstracted from their living setting. This fate is not avoided simply by adding a functional or 'physiological' moment to techniques for anatomising a corpus of data into themes. Attributing pragmatic 'functions' can equally ossify into a set of already established moves. Our focus will be on how to attend to what is not already established in advance and code-able into clear thematic categories. Here, adopting a process ontology can help by orienting towards 'emergence' as it is happening within streams of unfolding events, and attending, a) to unexpected 'becomings' that are on the cusp of emergence and which, b) tend to involve material existing and falling 'betwixt and between' familiar

20

*Time scheduling is according to Eastern European Time (EEST)*



categories. Drawing upon a selection of research problems (ADHD, Brexit, social media use), the papers presented in this symposium consider ways of remaining alive to processes of emergence and becoming, and to the hybridities and multiplicities which can escape coding. Although most contributors are from the Open University we meet the agenda of scholarly exchange / international connection a) by selecting a theme ripe for establishing such connections and b) including a discussant and chair who are leading researchers from Switzerland and Spain. Also, L.Figgou is from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and E.Andreouli and R.Capdevila – despite being OU - from Greece and Spain respectively.

### **Thematic decomposition and analytic sensitivity to emergent becomings**

Paul Stenner, *The Open University, United Kingdom*

In 1993 I published a study based on a variation of discourse analysis called ‘thematic decomposition’. I developed this technique to address a part of my PhD research that dealt with the affectivity at play in situations that involve jealousy. I saw great value in Potter and Wetherell’s recently developed ‘discourse analysis’, but didn’t want to lose sight of the contingent status of my own transcript readings, nor of the broader dimensions of feeling and power beyond the reality constructed in talk. So alongside the DA focus on the construction, variation and function of utterances, I integrated a broadly post-structural concern with the real-time dynamics of ‘subject positioning’ as these unfold in concrete historical circumstances. My interest in reality as process has deepened since then, and my recent collaborative applications of thematic decomposition have grappled more explicitly with the problem of the emergence of novelty. This paper will provide some examples drawn from work with Lindsay O’Dell and Alison Davies on adult women and ADHD, and with Eleni Andreouli and David Kaposi on understandings of Brexit.

### **‘Being one of the weird kids’: friendship and the emergent self in the accounts of adult women with ADHD**

Lindsay O’Dell, Alison Davies, *The Open University, United Kingdom*

This paper draws on the accounts of 16 adult women who have either received a formal diagnosis of ADHD or who self-identify as having ADHD. Only one of these women received a diagnosis in childhood. These women participated in depth interviews relating to their experiences of having ADHD. In our previous paper (Stenner et al., 2018), we conducted a theoretically informed ‘thematic decomposition’ (Stenner, 1992, 1993) and showed how identity transformation is mediated by the social category of ADHD. Using the same methodology, we explore this idea further here with a specific focus on this group of women’s experiences of friendship in childhood and in adulthood. These accounts reveal that their experiences of friendships both accord with, but are also different from, normative expectations of how friendship ‘should’ be conducted. These include the women’s own observations about how their interactions can transgress rules about ‘acceptable’ levels of intensity and reciprocity in conversation as well as by misreading social cues. While acknowledging the often painful lived experiences of troubled friendship



described by these women, our analysis shows how, using the social category of ADHD, they are able to reframe these transgressions in more positive terms by describing them in terms of abilities and strengths. We consider that the social category of ADHD enables a revisiting of previous experiences of friendship and social interaction which provides possibilities for crafting a more positive emergent self.

### **Citizenship under Covid-19: an analysis of UK political rhetoric during the 1st wave of the 2020 pandemic**

Emma Brice, *The Open University, United Kingdom*

The paper presents an analysis of the UK government discourse on citizenship during the first eight months of the Covid-19 pandemic (March-November 2020). We adopted a socio-cultural approach on citizenship drawing on the scholarly tradition of ideological dilemmas and rhetorical psychology as well as in interdisciplinary work on neoliberalism. In our analysis of over one hundred briefings and other material by the Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet, we identified five interrelated constructions of the 'good citizen': the confined, the heroic, the sacrificial, the unfree, and the responsible citizen. The paper maps these constructions onto the ideological dilemmas of freedom/control, passive/active citizenship and individualism/collectivism. We show that, through the rhetorical use of notions of gratefulness for citizens' sacrifice and shared responsibility, the UK government's discourse appears to challenge the dominant model of the neoliberal citizen. However, it solidifies this very same model by individualising and responsabilising citizens whilst abdicating itself from responsibility

### **Qualitative research in the study of emergent politics: Brexit and dilemmas of prejudice**

Eleni Andreouli, *The Open University, United Kingdom*

Katy Greenland, *Cardiff University, United Kingdom*

Lia Figgou, *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece*

The relationship between Brexit and liberalism/authoritarianism has been extensively studied in the social sciences. In social psychology, this topic has been predominantly addressed through the prism of the concept of prejudice, a significant and long-standing social psychological concept. Psychologists have, for example, studied the extent to which individual support for Brexit is associated with variables such as anti-immigration attitudes, authoritarianism and cognitive inflexibility. This paper takes a different view and examines how constructions of prejudice, as complex symbolic resources, help people position themselves and others within the changing political landscape of Brexit Britain. The paper uses data from a focus group study with lay participants before and after the EU referendum in the UK. It draws on a critical discursive approach to show that the relationship between Brexit and prejudice is far from settled: it is debated and argued upon in the framework of a broader political struggle about the future of Brexit Britain. We show that in this context of intense and affectively charged political debate, established systems of familiar understandings 'crack', thus opening up a space for the



emergence of new ideas and positions. This paper focuses precisely on emergence. It illustrates how, in these focus groups, traditional ideological certainties around the meanings of prejudice/tolerance are questioned, whilst new ideological constellations appear to emerge. We present such moments of 'ideological creativity' also reflect on its limitations.

16.45-18.15

SYMPOSIUM | ROOM #3

**Subjectivity and Knowledge: Situated Generalization in the Psychological Study of Everyday Life**

**Organizer/Chair/ Discussant:** Ernst Schraube, *Roskilde University, Denmark*

Based on a critique of abstract and universalistic conceptions of developing psychological knowledge the symposium is engaged in rethinking generalization in psychological theory, methodology and research practice. How to get in touch and explore general connections on the basis of the situated, partial and contextual character of psychological phenomena? Why and how to include the subjectivity, diversity and multiplicity of human life in the practice of generalization? How to involve research participants in the interpretations and processes of generalization? What is the role of critique in the processes of generalization? How to develop analytical concepts and strategies which help us to conceive psychological phenomena as processes and movements, and how does the development of psychological knowledge involve transformations of everyday practice? The aim of the symposium is to contribute to a theoretical and methodological vocabulary of situated generalization which systematically includes psychodiversity and the subjective dimension of human life in psychological inquiry, and roots processes of generalization in persons' common, social, cultural and material practices of everyday living.

### **The Formation of Situated Generalization in Psychological Research**

Ernst Schraube, Charlotte Højholt, *Roskilde University, Denmark*

Within contemporary debates about the possibilities and limits of scientific generalization and efforts of epistemological renewal three major approaches to generalization in psychological research can be identified: (1) numerical generalization, generalizing through representative samples, (2) post-generalizing traditions, conceiving generalization not as a decisive goal in scientific work, and (3) situated generalization, generalizing through subjectivity-in-context. Psychologies of human subjectivity and everyday life permeate the history of psychology from the very beginning. Within these traditions, we can find significant contributions to the formation of a situated generalization. Situated generalization systematically includes human subjectivity, context and change, and focuses on the investigation of the genesis, internal relations and interconnections of phenomena in the construction of psychological knowledge. It attempts to achieve scientific objectivity and general knowledge not at the cost of the subjective and by disarticulating the subjective dimension of human life, but rather through the generalization of



the subjective. Based on a historical perspective, the paper presents basic elements of situated generalization and highlights its significance not only for scientific practices of knowing but also for practices of world-making and forming a viable future.

### **Psychodiversity: General Problems and Local Solutions**

Luca Tateo, *Federal University of Bahia, Brazil and University of Oslo, Norway*

The way cross-cultural psychology approaches the variety of psychic phenomena is still problematic to the extent that it takes culture as independent variable to explain differential magnitude in universal constructs. The gaze always goes from the West to the rest of the world, seriously evoking neocolonialist attitude. It is seldom explicitly produced a research having the West as object rather subject of study. The growing field of indigenous psychology provides a fruitful critique, showing the limitations of many constructs used in current practices. The term “indigenous psychology”, despite its role in decolonizing the discipline, can become a counterforce, implies the idea that there is “the” psychology on the one hand, and there are local psychologies on the other hand, and creates problems of generalization. Considering instead the dialectic between the unique individual experience and the participation to collective activities; between continuity and discontinuity in development; and the relation between mind and culture, every psychology becomes “indigenous”. Culture becomes the set of solutions that local collectives have elaborated to solve general existential problems. Cross-cultural psychology usually compares the solutions, eventually finding that experiences are partly similar and partly different. Instead, the only possible level of generalization is that of the general psycho-social problems that human beings face in different collective contexts. The alternative to the epistemological limits of the cross-cultural and indigenous approaches is to consider the notion of psychodiversity. In analogy with ecological sciences, by studying unique and local psycho-social phenomena one can develop general understanding of psychic processes.

### **Generalization Through Theorizing in Case Study**

Natalia Busygina, *Moscow State University of Psychology and Education, Russia*

Since statistical generalizations are not possible in case studies, research design of that kind is often considered not entirely scientific. But case study opens up the way of obtaining generalized knowledge of a different kind. Conceptual modeling and special selection of critical cases allow for strict deductive generalizations based on logical conclusions like the following: if it is true (wrong) for this case, it is all more true (wrong) for other cases. In psychology however it is really hard to make decision which case should play the role of critical case: the selection of critical case involves a high level of abstraction, highlighting some variables when bracketing all the rest. The most relevant for psychological humanities is the generalization through theorizing on the material of single or multiple case studies that allows for grasping holistic types of human conduct and experience. I think this kind of generalization can be grounded on the concepts of dynamic psychological unit developed by the school of K. Lewin (T. Dembo, B. Zeygarnik) and unit of





analysis developed in cultural historical psychology (L. Vygotsky, L. Bozhovich, F. González Rey) that accentuate qualitative nature of psyche and permit to get away from properties as static notions to psychological qualities in their totality and manifestation as single entities and occurrences. “Perezhivanie” as a configuration of subjective senses is not grasped in acts of objective observation aiming at fixing the number of repetitions, it becomes intelligible through experiential observation and interpretation of the case.

### **Zooming In Zooming Out: Analytical Strategies of Situated Generalization**

Peter Busch-Jensen, *Roskilde University, Denmark*

Fundamental characteristics of psychological processes include the subjective, contextual and transient dimensions of these processes. Therefore, a notion of psychological generalization which does not abstract away human subjectivity and difference, is required. The presentation takes a critical look at the key role of generalization in scientific work in relation to scientific generalization in psychological research. Based on an embodied, subjectivity-in-everyday-life approach to the production of knowledge, the paper discusses how generalization in psychological research practice might be done and presents an analytical strategy of situated generalization, arranged around an imagery of Zooming In to Zoom Out and Zooming Out to Zoom In. The presented strategy is meant to address the interdependencies of the situated and the societal; the particular and the general; ideographic quantitative and nomothetic qualitative data and knowledge. By extension, the analytical imagery of “zooming in – zooming out” invites discussion of how one might bring together key aspects of a hermeneutics of mercy and hermeneutics of suspicion; the endeavor to understand and the endeavor to engage in critique.

**16.45-18.15**

**THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM #4**

**Understanding mental health issues**

**Chair:** Maria Dempsey, *University College Cork, Ireland*

### **Face-work in storytelling and story reception: The Case of Asperger’s**

Emmi Koskinen, Melisa Stevanovic, *University of Helsinki, Finland*

According to the classical idea of Erving Goffman (1955), the threat of losing one’s face is an omni-relevant concern that penetrates all actions in encounters. Participants also seem to be equally sensitive to the loss of their own face as to the loss of their co-participant’s face. Thus, reciprocal protecting of selves and their worthiness, i.e. face-work, is a constant task of interactants. Persons with autism spectrum disorders can be less self-conscious than neurotypical individuals. There is evidence that children with autism are atypical in the patterns of their self-other relatedness, including engagement with others’ attitudes towards themselves (see Hobson 2010). In the present study, we compare the practices related to face-work in storytelling sequences involving neurotypical participants (NT) and participants diagnosed with Asperger syndrome (AS). The method is Conversation Analysis. Our dataset consists of ten



videotaped 45–60-minute dyadic conversations, where one participant has been diagnosed with AS and the other participant is neurotypical, and of nine discussions, where both participants are neurotypical. The collection for this study comprises of participants' stories of embarrassing situations. We found differences in the ways in which AS and NT participants orient to the possible face threats, both in their role as the storyteller and as the story recipient. We discuss our findings in relation to theories of self in interaction, with an aim to illuminate both typical and atypical interactional practices of face-work.

### **Pluralistic analysis as a process for examining reflexivity**

Maria Dempsey, Sarah Foley, Nollaig Frost, *University College Cork, Ireland*

Pluralistic qualitative research allows for multi-perspective approaches to understanding nuanced social and psychological phenomenon. This presentation will discuss our recent research which focused on the complexity of what it means to qualitatively analyse and respond to sensitive data from the reflexive position of the analyst in a pluralistic research team. Our presentation will detail a study that adopted a pluralistic approach to examining how depression is presented and described in an online resource for young people seeking mental health advice in Ireland. As findings which conveyed varied understandings of depression, from a medically understood illness to a socially constructed lived experience were constructed, analysis of the positionings of our group of experienced qualitative researchers highlighted a range of reflexive engagements with and responses to the data. These included anger, sadness, frustration and powerlessness and together, highlight a need for support for those who engage with personal, emotive and sometimes distressing data. Our study reflects the outcomes and experience of using pluralism to examine help-seeking for mental health concerns and the need for further social, cultural and technological responses, but also how challenges of working with such data can inform and influence analysts' experience of and role in the research. This project raises interesting discussion points for examining epistemological and personal reflexivity in a pluralistic team, and the implications of these findings for both research and practice.

### **Qualitative study of the relationship between melancholia and artistic expression in artists**

Evangelia Markopoulou, Lissy Canellopoulos, *National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece*

The present study is aimed at investigating the relationship between melancholia and artistic expression. The term melancholia is not limited to the symptomatology of clinical psychology and psychopathology but defined as an experience associated with artistic creation and shaped by cultural discourses. In detail, the main research questions focus on the rapport between melancholia and artistic expression as well as its qualitative characteristics. In addition, emphasis is given on how the participants' responses are connected to the long history of melancholia and modern psychology and psychoanalysis as well as whether melancholia as observed in the Arts acquires a distinct meaning from the one observed in psychopathology. The study follows a qualitative methodology using semi-structured interviews as a main research tool. In detail, 12



professional artists were interviewed. The collected data were then analyzed using thematic analysis with a phenomenological perspective. Four major themes emerged from the analysis. The first theme is about melancholia as a welcome state of sadness which can be beneficial and creative for the artist. The second theme refers to melancholia as an essential element for artistic expression. In other words, it is seen as a necessary experience for creation as well as for the expression of oneself through the arts. The third theme speaks of the melancholic artist in relation to reality and what's real elaborating on their perceptions concerning deeper truths about themselves and the world. Lastly, the fourth theme refers to the overthrowing of melancholia through artistic expression by transforming it into something that generates positive emotions.

16.45-18.15

THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM #5

Narrative, visual and arts based methodological approaches

Chair: Anneke Sools, *University of Twente, Netherlands*

### **Children's drawings as data in psychology: Replicating William Sterns 1906 Cockaigne study**

Andrea Kleeberg-Niepage, Johanna Degen, *Europa-University Flensburg, Germany*

Although children's drawings have a long history in child- and developmental psychology for exploring children's development related to cognition and intelligence, imagination and creativity, and emotion and mental disorders, drawings as data have only had a marginal role in psychology until today (Billmann-Mahecha, 2010). Furthermore, they were mainly used as projective tests, not as access to children's perspectives (Merriman & Guerin, 2006). One of the first to use children's drawings systematically as research data in psychology was William Stern who saw drawings as "most instructive form of expression of a child's psychic life" (Stern, 1907). In 1906 he collected numerous children's drawings, which were created about the topic 'Cockaigne' ("Schlaraffenland"/land of plenty). In his analyses he focussed on interindividual differences related to age, gender and talent. However, alongside his reflexive contemplations Stern did not mention a specific methodological framework for his picture analyses. In 2019 we replicated Stern's study with 140 German children between 6 and 18 years of age. We analysed both, pictures from 1906 and from 2019, with the documentary method (Bohnsack, 2014) to get access to the children's atheoretical knowledge and thereby to their perspectives. In our presentation we will first, present our findings and address the implications of the differences and similarities in the drawings of then and now. Second, we will discuss the importance of children's drawings for the psychology's understanding of children's perspectives.

### **A narrative approach to researching the imagination of personal futures**

Anneke Sools, *University of Twente, Netherlands*

This paper is about a narrative approach to researching the imagination of personal futures. The approach encompasses an analytical framework for studying future imagination in a holistic way based on dimensions of projectivity (see Mische, 2009) and an elicitation method (Letters from the Future). Using an example letter from a study about post-Referendum futures in Greece,



challenges in researching the imagination of personal futures are discussed drawing on psychological research on futures thinking, sociological research on its sociocultural shaping and futures studies research on possibility thinking. The challenges will be presented in three thematic clusters based on the dimensions of projectivity: (1) Balancing the dimensions of clarity and reach addresses the episodic quality (vividness) of narrative accounts of the future and proposes techniques for eliciting personally meaningful accounts; (2) The experience and meaning of time focuses on the dimensions contingency views, volition (future as moving away or towards), and connectivity between past, present and future. This theme foregrounds narrative sense-making involved in the temporal aspects of imagining the future, thereby highlighting futures thinking as cultural capacity; (3) Engaging spaces of the possible is about the dimensions breadth (multiplicity) and expandability (possibilities as stable, growing or declining). This theme foregrounds narrative imagination and the (co-)constructive nature of narrating the future. Finally, strengths and limitations of using Letters from the Future to analyze dimensions of projectivity in a holistic way are discussed. Specific attention is paid to ethical considerations especially with regard to stretching possibility thinking in possibility-deprived settings.

**The psychology of modern memorials. Using video elicitation to study how visitors experience the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin**

Brady Wagoner, Ignacio Brescó, *Aalborg University, Denmark*

This paper explores the different possibilities and constraints created by memorial sites. Participants were asked to visit the memorial by themselves while wearing subjective camera glasses, a small portable device placed at eye level to record the participants' perceptions and actions from their own perspective (Lahlou, 1999). The footage was then played back to them in a follow up interview that enabled participants to access and explain their feelings, perceptions, ideas and associations, as they unfolded during the visit. Material from fieldwork carried out at the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin will be presented. This material reveals that the norms of behavior people attribute as appropriate to memorial sites depends on how they conceptually anchor the site--for example, as sacred site, tourist attraction, children's playground, modern art, burial ground, etc. A tension between anchors and their associated norms played out both between different visitors to the site (e.g., solemn visitors distracted by selfie taking and children's play) as well as within the same person over the course of a visit. Moreover, we are able to analyze the microgenetic process whereby new ideas about the meaning of the memorial emerge (Wagoner, 2009).



16.45-18.15

THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM #6

**Uncovering the lived experience of adoption**

**Chair:** Sara Skandrani, *Paris Nanterre University, France*

**Bringing together IPA and Psychoanalysis: a research on the children of political prisoners**

Lida Anagnostaki, *National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece*

Alexandra Zaharia, *Hellenic Association of Child and Adolescent Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, Greece*

The aim of this presentation is twofold. Firstly, it sets out to explore an understudied topic, that is, children's experience of the forced separation from their parents who were imprisoned for political reasons. Secondly, as we subscribe to the proposition that psychoanalysis and qualitative psychology can be complementary paradigms (Midgley, 2006), the paper aspires to present a valid combination of qualitative design and psychoanalytic thinking. Greece underwent a very tense political period, from the end of Second World War, when the Civil War erupted (1944-45), till the restoration of democracy, after the fall of the military Junta (1974). During this period, tens of thousands of people of left political persuasion were arrested, detained in prisons or deported. Many children were left behind, to be taken care of the parent who was out of prison (however, most of the times he/she was chased after as well), other relatives or "comrades". Using an IPA methodological design, the study explored in depth these children's (now adults) experiences and how, in retrospect, they make sense of them. Fifteen people, 6 men and 7 women, aged between 52 and 79 years, who had this experience when they were younger than 10 years of age, were interviewed. The findings suggest that in most cases the forced separation because of the parent's ideological commitment was viewed as a 'parental duty', although it resulted in child-parent alienation. The discussion of the findings aims to combine the interpretative approach of the IPA with a psychoanalytic understanding of the data.

**The impact of children's pre-adoptive traumatic experiences on parents - A qualitative research**

Sara Skandrani, *Paris Nanterre University, France*

Mayssa El Husseini, *University of Picardy Jules Verne, France*

Aurélie Harf, *Inserm U1018, France*

For the last decade, children are adopted increasingly at an older age. Their pre-adoptive past can bare traumatic experiences consequent to abandonment, violence or deprivation in birth family or orphanage. The objective of this study is to explore the impact of the child's traumatic past on parental representations and subsequent parent-child interactions. The study includes 41 French parents who adopted one or more children internationally. Each parent participated to a semi-structured interview, focused on the choice of country, the trip to the child's native country, the first interactions with the child, the knowledge of the child's pre-adoptive history. The interviews were analyzed according to a qualitative phenomenological method, the



Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis. Five themes emerged from this analysis : absence of affects in the narrative; denial of the significance of the child’s traumatic experiences; perceptions of the uncanny concerning the child; parental worry about traumatic repetition for the child; specific structure of the narrative. These extracted themes reveal a low parental reflective function when the child’s past is discussed. They highlight the impact of the child’s traumatic past on parents. Exploring the impact of the child’s traumatic experiences on adoptive parents enables professionals involved in adoption to provide an early support to these families and to do preventive work at the level of parental representations and family interactions.

**There and back again – adoptive parents’ experience of foster caregivers**

Vedrana Mirkovic, Vesna Silic, *Centre for Social Welfare of the City of Novi Sad, Serbia*

“Adoption and, therefore, adoptive parenthood manifest different features, in different cultures at different times.” (MacDonald, 2016, p. 10). Adoption is an under-researched phenomenon in Serbia, and is mostly defined by legal framework and social policies, with little respect to scientific findings. This research is a part of a wider project that aims to understand adoptive parents’ experience of adoption process. The goal of the research was to investigate elements of adoptive parents’ experience considering foster caregivers. Thus, the research question was: What is the experience of adoptive parents with their children’s foster caregivers? Using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (Smith, 2015) as a qualitative method of interviewing and data analysis, researchers interviewed 5 adoptive parents – two married couples and one divorced mother, who had already adopted children, or are in the period of adaptation and waiting for adoption to be concluded. Three master themes emerged from narratives – “There...” – context of foster care, “He was really attached to them, and it was probably a bit hard and painful” – the role of foster caregiver in raising a child, and “But, our story ends there” – adoptive parents’ attitude toward foster caregivers. The results are interpreted and discussed in relation to systemic theories (Minuchin, 1974), parallel caregiving systems (Fallon and Goldsmith, 2013), and importance of child relationships with previous caregivers (Bowlby, 1980), as well as in relation to practical implications of findings on preparing foster caregivers and adoptive parents on better collaboration during adaptation process.

<b>18.30-19.15</b>	<b>GREETINGS’ SESSION   ROOM #1</b>
<b>Chair:</b> Eleftheria Tseliou, <i>University of Thessaly, Greece</i>	
Svend Brinkmann, <i>Aalborg University, Denmark</i>	
Kenneth Gergen, <i>Swarthmore College, United States of America</i>	
Jonathan Smith, <i>University of London, United Kingdom</i>	
Wendy Stainton-Rogers, <i>The Open University, United Kingdom</i>	
Jaan Valsiner, <i>Aalborg University, Denmark</i>	
Simon Goodman, <i>Qualitative Methods in Psychology (QMIP)</i>	
Zsuzsa Kaló, <i>Society for Qualitative Inquiry in Psychology (SQiP)</i>	

<b>19.15</b>	<b>WELCOME ONLINE MEETINGS</b>
--------------	--------------------------------

*Time scheduling is according to Eastern European Time (EEST)*



FRIDAY, June 18<sup>th</sup>

11.00-12.30

Parallel #3

11.00-12.30

SYMPOSIUM | ROOM #1

**Ethics and engagement in the research process**

**Organizers:** Laure Kloetzer & Martina Cabra, *University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland*

**Chair/Discussant:** Laure Kloetzer, *University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland*

Qualitative research is usually not only a privileged method in Social Sciences, but also a way of engaging in research, with implications for the kind of relationships that the researcher creates with her research topic, participants, and oneself in the process. As it frequently involves fieldwork in complex settings, long-term relations with research participants or partners, and frequently deals with topics that may be socially controversial, qualitative research raises important ethical questions. The mainstream approach to ethics in the research process follows pre-defined guidelines and rules defined by ethics committees. This has long been reported insufficient for our own needs (see for example Allen, 2005) and qualitative research in practice calls for the ethical responsibility and continuous lucidity (ethical vigilance anchored in reflexivity and critical thinking) of the researchers. The symposium will organize a discussion on the relations of ethics and the engagement modes into qualitative research. We chose not to have a dedicated discussant, in order to invite cross-discussion of the four papers by the authors and organizers in the limited timeframe. The first paper exemplifies key ethical questions emerging from the research activity, beyond the requests of the procedural approach of ethics. The second and third papers question the role of affects in the research project in knowledge production, linked to the wished and true relations of the researcher with her research participants/partners. The last paper shows how ethical issues, often under-elaborated and under-recognized, influence the interactions in psychotherapy.

**Drawing Imaginary Circles – a method for ethical and decolonial ethnography**

Oliver Pedersen, *University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland*

Ethics have become institutionalised in boards and data management plans, far away from the people we, as social scientists, interact with during our research endeavours. Before journeying into unknown territories, I was required to, among others, take a stance towards anonymization (not asked if it is at all a useful concept today) and map a pre-defined course of action should I 'discover' abuse or illegal activity. However, I was not required to reflect on the extractivist nature of classical ethnography nor to account for how I intended to acknowledge people in their own right, that is, giving precedence to their epistemes. While conducting fieldwork on the Faroe Islands, I realized that ethics extend beyond paperwork and experienced the direct human responsibility towards those you meet and the social world they invite you into, which should

31

*Time scheduling is according to Eastern European Time (EEST)*



inform the entire research process. For pragmatic, theoretical or neo-liberal reasons, psychologists tend to fragment the whole, discern phenomena outside their temporal and contextual existence, and fall short in giving equal voice to divergent perspectives – in effect, we fail to recognize the epistemic violence we commit. All of which creates monological and non-ethical instrumentalization of the ‘other’. With these reflections in mind, I present my continuous efforts to de-center the research by studying entire populations, allowing different perspectives to infiltrate and re-orient what I am doing and why, and embracing its potentially generative and transformative role. Thus, proposing that ethical ethnography within psychology requires an approach that concedes epistemic authority and embraces complexities.

### **Building bridges: a reflexion on the relationships during a participatory research**

Concepcion Maiztegui Oñate, *University of Deusto, Spain*

The central activity of participatory projects includes not only research but also action. This paper raises questions of social positioning as a base of the social relationship developed during the process of a participatory research. Using insights from a three years project developed with a group of migrant women, social organisations, an art gallery and the University in Bilbao (Spain), this paper proposes a critical review of the implementation process of collaboration. As the project adopted a partnership approach through active engagement with social organizations and women, the paper discusses the complexity of ethical decisions at every stage of the research process. In particular it questions assumptions regarding the possibility of friendship among woman who assumed different roles in the project and with different social opportunities. In doing that the paper discusses how the development of trust and friendship determines the approach of the projects and the aim of the research. The paper draws on gentle methodologies (Lobo, 2018) including photo voice and participatory arts based research to privilege affective engagement and experiential processes.

### **Getting mad or feeling bored: affects in the research process**

Martina Cabra, *University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland*

In this paper I explore the affective dimension of a researcher’s engagement in the field. Within cultural psychology, scholars have concerned themselves with meaning making as a semiotic process, and have rarely theorized and articulated its affective component. On the other hand, anthropological scholarship has grappled with the affective aspects of researchers’ engagements, yet without real theory of affects. To try and better account for this, I will try to argue that a conceptual clarification of the relationship between signs and affects in the psyche has consequences for how we understand the role of affects in the research process. Based on previous works, which articulate the psychoanalytic contributions to sociocultural research (Salvatore & Zittoun, 2011) I propose to follow André Green’s theory of affects in order to consider the affective qualities emerging in our engagement with participants. I discuss this in dialogue with neighboring concepts such as counter-transference and attunement and I exemplify the proposition with my own ethnographic research on gender norms in children’s





play; where different forms of annoyance, excitement and boredom became compasses for me as a researcher in the research process.

### **Ethical aspects of psychotherapy**

Beatrice Saltarelli, *Istituto Universitario Salesiano Venezia, Italy*

This work, which is part of a PhD project, starts from the idea that the ethical question in professional practice and specifically in psychotherapeutic practice is not exhaustible with the writing of a set of rules to be organized in a code that professionals are called to respect. Instead, the ethical question arises from the contradiction between the illusion of a neutral position of the professional and the different issues of substance, that the practice continuously puts up to him, especially in the perspective that recognizes both the patient and the psychotherapist as a social subject and human agency. The basic goal of the work is to make a personal reflection on this subject, which can then be discussed with other colleagues, to reflect together on the contradictions emerging from practice and to look for possible proposals of change together.

**11.00-12.30**

**SYMPOSIUM | ROOM #2**

**Exploring the contribution of diverse qualitative approaches to the study of mental health**

**Organizers:** Evrinomy Avdi & Eugenie Georgaca, *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece*

**Chair:** Eugenie Georgaca, *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece*

**Discussant:** Julianna Challenor, *Metanoia Institute, United Kingdom*

This symposium aims to explore the contribution of diverse qualitative approaches to the study of mental health practices and psychotherapy. It comprises four studies, drawing upon different methodologies and epistemological traditions with a common focus on mental health practice. The studies examine clinical interventions with diverse populations in different clinical settings, and focus on different aspects of clinical practice. The first study by Toivonen examines the various ways in which agency and non-agency are discursively constructed in psychotherapy sessions and proposes a model regarding the discursive tools participants use to ascribe agency to clients. In the second study, Viou and Georgaca use narrative dialogical tools to explore the development of compassionate voices in the context of group system psychotherapy. The study by Lerou, Avdi and Seikkula attempts to investigate the emergence of unexpressed voices in couple therapy, by analysing sessions through a combination of dialogical analysis and codings of facial expression of affect, and underscores the importance of examining affect in conjunction with dialogue when studying psychotherapy process. In the final paper, Grigoriadou and Georgaca use organizational ethnography to examine the day-to-day functioning of a drug rehabilitation service, arriving at a comprehensive theory regarding the relation between institutional context and professional practices. The material is analysed with grounded theory and theorized through symbolic interactionism and systems theory. By showcasing these different examples of research, the panel aims to highlight both the diversity and the complementarity of different qualitative approaches in examining clinical practice.



### **Discursive analysis in the service of exploring agency in therapy: the 10DT – model**

Heidi Toivonen, *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

People come to seek help from conversational therapy due to an experience of a disturbed or diminished sense of agency. This research explored how non-agency —a client’s sense of lost mastery in one’s life— was discursively constructed in the first psychotherapy session of nine individual long-term psychotherapies. A model of the various agentic and nonagentic discursive positions constructed in therapy was created based on the detailed discursive analysis of session transcripts and a literature review. The 10 Discursive Tools Model (10DT) consists of 10 pairs of discursive means called tools with which agentic and nonagentic positions become ascribed to the clients in the talk of both the clients and their therapists. The model was used both in the analysis of the nonagency constructions in the clients’ initial problem formulations at the beginning of their first session and in studying discursive discordances, conversational sequences where the client and therapist were misaligned in how they ascribed agency or nonagency to the client. The 10DT Model illustrates the potential of discursive methodologies in the micro-level analysis of how agency and its lack are constructed in the moment-to-moment dialogical process of therapy. The model can be helpful in recognizing such instances of therapeutic conversation that are easily disregarded by large scale therapy theories and quantitative approaches and that do not fit the traditional conceptualizations of how psychotherapy proceeds.

### **Exploring compassionate voices in group systemic psychotherapy: a narrative and dialogical approach**

Maria Viou, Eugenie Georgaca, *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece*

In the present study, we apply narrative and dialogical concepts in the study of compassion and we provide some systematic methodological steps to understand how compassion might become part of the inner voice repertoire of clients in group psychotherapy. We analyzed two two-hour group systemic psychotherapy sessions using narrative thematic analysis to organize clients’ and therapists’ narratives in themes. Firstly, we identified clients’ inner voices in their narrative and, secondly, we tracked clients’ and therapists’ voices in the feedback and interventions given to group members. We suggest a mapping of inner voices focusing on the quality of these voices as compassionate or/and reflexive and on the sequential organization of the dialogue among clients and therapists. Hence, the suggested method consists of two levels, each involving different steps. The first level entails the mapping of the inner voices of each member including the identification, naming and description of voices as well as their categorization as compassionate/non-compassionate and reflexive/non-reflexive. The second level involves a sequential depiction of the inner and outer voices unfolding in the group’s therapeutic dialogue. The study points to the therapists’ active role in promoting the clients’ compassionate reflexivity. Also, the analysis indicated that compassionate voices are part of the group process and function as a “rehearsal” before being internalized by the group members and before self-compassion is



expressed. The methodology and results of this study can be used as one method of identifying inner voices, considering the complex dialogical processes that occur in group interactions.

### **Studying unexpressed voices through the investigation of nonverbal interaction in couple therapy**

Vasileia Lerou, Evrinomy Avdi, *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece*

Jaakko Seikkula, *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

This talk explores the significance of studying nonverbal facial expression alongside talk, when examining the process of psychotherapy. In this study, therapeutic interaction is examined in one case of couple therapy on both discursive and nonverbal levels. It is suggested that nonverbal facial expression can be seen to reflect participants' inner voices that are not expressed in talk and as such the study of nonverbal expression can contribute to the exploration of not-yet expressed voices in therapy. Video recordings of four sessions of one couple therapy were studied. Participants' nonverbal expression was examined using the Specific Affect Coding System (Coan & Gottman, 2007) and the multi-actor therapeutic dialogues were analyzed using the Dialogical Methods for Investigations of Happenings of Change (Seikkula, Laitila, & Rober, 2012). Analysis focused on nonverbal expressions of negative affect, which were not clearly evident in participants' talk during the initial phases of therapy. The therapist's responsive stance is shown to gradually facilitate the articulation of these not-yet expressed voices, which are followed by shifts in the couple's emotional expressions. The ability to detect the not-yet expressed voices through the exploration of nonverbal interaction may enhance the effectiveness of therapist's contribution in therapy. This study attempts to underscore the significance of studying therapeutic interaction on multiple levels and introduces a way of studying dialogue in therapy. Furthermore, the use of multiple methodological approaches can contribute to the deeper understanding of interactional phenomena in couple therapy.

### **Studying mental health professional practices through organizational ethnography: a study of a drug rehabilitation program**

Eirini Grigoriadou, Eugenie Georgaca, *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece*

In this talk we discuss the ways that organizational ethnography can be used in order to study mental health professional practices, using as an example our ethnographic study of a drug rehabilitation service. The organization studied was a public dry drug rehabilitation program of the Psychiatric Hospital of Thessaloniki Greece, named 'Alternative Therapeutic Program "Argo"'. The 14 month long participant observation of the organisation's service provision allowed a depiction of the professional practices taking place in the everyday life of Argo, while semi-structured interviews shed light on the interpretations of professionals and service users regarding actions and events of the organization. Grounded theory procedures were utilized for organizing the data collected, in order to construct a comprehensive theory regarding the



relation between institutional context and professional practices. The results were theorized through the interpretative frameworks of symbolic interactionism and systems theory. The study portrays a holistic picture of a public organization that continuously seeks more effective service provision, consistent with its chosen 'alternative' philosophy, that aims to constantly ameliorate the therapeutic interaction with its beneficiaries. Methodological issues of ethnography in organizations are discussed through this attempt to systematically depict the everyday functioning of services within the mental health service system in a way that makes visible and comprehensible the mechanisms through which their existence and functioning are realized, with the ultimate goal of improving and/or completely changing them in the context of a broader reform of the mental health service system.

**11.00-12.30**

**SYMPOSIUM | ROOM #3**

**Methods for data collection and analysis in social creativity**

**Organizer/Chair:** Ingunn Johanne Ness, *University of Bergen, Norway*

**Discussant:** Vlad Glaveanu, *Webster University, Switzerland*

This symposium addresses how methodology is a critical component in advancing the social study of creativity (Lebuda & Glaveanu, 2019) and will examine, in particular, how triangulations of different qualitative methods (sometimes with quantitative methods) in data collection and data analysis have been used in social creativity research. The social approach stands in stark contrast to a more traditional view of creativity that focuses on individual skills and traits (Amabile, 1996, 2008; Barron & Harrington, 1981; Feist, 1998). However, recognizing the relational interdependence of the individual and the social has been increasingly present on the research agenda. In this symposium, some leading researchers in this approach will discuss triangulation and the use of new methods in social creativity research. Questions that will be explored in the symposium are: 1) Why the triangulation of methods can result in a better understanding on how media shapes creatives self-beliefs, 2) How an ethnographic design can lead to a better understanding of creative processes in interdisciplinary work groups, and 3) how research on creativity can build methodological strategies that address the "self-other" and embodied dimensions of creative expression. These contributions will be reflected upon by a discussant and opened to the audience for further suggestions.

**Create creativity understanding. Why we need triangulation of methods to better understand how media influence creatives self-beliefs?**

Iza Lebuda, *University of Wroclaw, Poland*

Media broadcast information that may change the beliefs and behaviors of the audience (Bandura, 2001, 2004). One of the most popular TV formats are talent shows, in which participants present various abilities and are judged by a panel of judges comprised of famous people. The format of such programming — with its direct rewards (praise) and punishments (disdain) after each performance — is conducive to vicarious learning (Bandura, 1986; Pajares, Prestin, Chen, & Nabi, 2009). Due to the fact that symbolic representations of the actions and



situations observed are created, viewers are able to form their own beliefs. Based on social cognitive theory on the mechanisms of how the media impacts viewers (e.g., Bandura, 2001, 2002; Potter, & Riddle, 2007; Pajares, Prestin, Chen, & Nabi, 2009), it can be stipulated that both the participants' of the shows as well as the judges' opinions shape the beliefs of vast numbers of the audience regarding the nature of abilities (Karwowski, 2014). The presentation aim is to share why in investigation how media creating implicit theories about abilities it useful to employ triangulation of qualitative and quantitative data analysis. Special attention would be devoted to the qualitative thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006) of programs from three countries which vary in terms of individualism and collectiveness (Hofstede, 1980): China, Poland, and the US.

**Let's go native: Exploring creative processes in interdisciplinary groups through an ethnographic design**

Ingunn Johanne Ness, *University of Bergen, Norway*

This presentation will report from an ethnographic study on creative processes in interdisciplinary groups aiming to develop innovative ideas. One focal point will be how an ethnographic design enabled the researcher to get close to and capture these processes from the beginning to the end, identifying patterns and characteristics across the groups (Denzin & Lincoln, 2000; Fangen, 2010; Gerson & Horowitz, 2003; Krumsvik, 2014) with an particular emphasis on the methodological procedures involved. The research project was data driven but grounded in a sociocultural approach - and experiences in how to get rich descriptions of the communication and the social interaction among the group members, will be shared. The data were collected through triangulation, combining different methods as participating observation, field-conversations, and interviews, both individual and focus group interviews and how the researcher analysed the data inductively (Hatch, 2002, p. 161; Malterud, 2003, p. 172), seeking for patterns and meaning to gain some kind of understanding of the complex material, will be further elaborated. In the project the aim was to explore the creative processes and understand the relational aspects, which are often invisible at first glance, but, in this study, they were found to be crucial underlying conditions for enabling creativity.

**The challenges of qualitative research in creativity studies. Do we need new methodologies?**

Mônica Souza Neves-Pereira, *University of Brasília, Brazil*

Qualitative research has been gaining ground in psychological research on creativity, especially when we understand it as a human developmental phenomenon that occurs in a dynamic, procedural, systemic and dialogic path, immersed in socio-cultural contexts and limited to time and its irreversibility. To investigate creative processes confronts us with considerable methodological challenges that demand from the researcher not only knowledge and competence, but also challenge their creativity as a knowledge builder. In every new research movement, we encounter methodological scenarios that require unique designs capable to



capture creative phenomena as a process, in transformation and change. There are many options already existing in qualitative research, which have been helping researchers, but the more we dive our study, the more provocations emerge requiring the birth of new methodologies. This presentation is intended to discuss the qualitative research methods applied to creative processes considering its constitutive dimensions and to add new elements considered essential for increasing our understanding of this phenomenon. Besides looking at the creative process as developmental, procedural, dynamic, semiotic and dialogical, we intend to consider the dimension of embodiment of the subject expressing him or herself creatively. This "self-in-culture" in complex interactions and dialogue with the "other-in-culture", gestating the new through dynamic processes and in time is a subject embodied, incarnate, a person who has a emotions, feelings, desires, sexuality, well-being and suffering. How can we, in research on creativity, build methodological strategies that can address this "self-other" as well, especially in its corporeality? This is the challenge that is proposed for this talk.

**11.00-12.30**

**THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM #4**

**Understanding recovery and survival in critical conditions**

**Chair:** Marie-Luise Springman, *Karlsruhe University of Education, Germany*

**Folktales of recovery – from addiction to becoming a helper: deep structures of life stories applying Propp’s theory: a narrative analysis**

Dániel Kiss, Zsolt Horváth, József Rácz, *Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary*

Szilvia Kassai, *Ministry of Human Resources, Hungary*

Background & Aim: Recovery is often depicted as a journey in addiction research. Previous studies suggest that different recovery stories share common turning points and structural elements. Therefore, recovery is often represented as a rock-bottom centered V-shaped narrative. Our study is aiming to find a more detailed and sensible model based on Vladimir Propp’s morphological tale-theory with which recovery can be presented. Methods: Semi-structured interviews on the experiences of active user years, recovery and becoming a sober consultant were conducted with 6 recovering helpers (5 male, 1 female) who has been sober for a minimum of 5 years and work as a professional for at least 1 year or more (10 years maximum). Deductive narrative analysis was carried out to identify the 31 Proppian narratemes. Findings: 28 Proppian narratemes were identified and recovery stories were threaded to a 28-stepped narrative strand. The narrators who face the challenges of addiction are first depicted as passive heroes who are a victim of the enemy (drug, alcohol), but they turn into active heroes on the way out. Fighting the enemy, they face different challenges (craving, relapse), but with the help of donors (rehab, consultants) they find the magical tool (self-knowledge), finally defeat the enemy and find their recovering identity (transfiguration). Conclusions: To apply Propp’s narratemes within analyzing recovery stories seems plausible and well-applicable by providing a well-

38

*Time scheduling is according to Eastern European Time (EEST)*



structured recovery story helping in the creation of redemptive self-experience and strengthen behavioral change. The Proppian archetypal framework seems to be an adaptive structure for such stories.

### **Trauma and temporality in cancer. Young adult cancer survivors' narratives of their trajectories**

Evdokia Ntali, Philia Issari, *National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece*

Ioannis Dinos, *Hellenic Cancer Society, Greece*

The present qualitative study adopts a biographical narrative approach to present the life course of young adult cancer survivors. The sample consists of ten survivors, aged between 18 and 29 years old, who were diagnosed with cancer during adolescence. The participants' life stories were analyzed through a thematic narrative analysis. The analysis highlighted issues initially related to the phase of the disease, where narratives focus on experiences of pain, changes in body image and reactions ranging from resilience to states of emotional despair. The participants' narratives indicate that experiencing cancer during adolescence entails a complexity in terms of temporality; they describe a sense of non-parallel course with the rest of their peers, while separation-individuation processes are delayed and experienced later. Under these circumstances, the identity of survivors is woven around the experience of the illness and is mediated by a long course of challenges—both during the disease, as well as returning to a state of "normality". The period of therapeutic interventions entails a somatic and psychic imprint, and the narration seems to facilitate a process of meaning making around this. A common theme of the narratives is the perception of illness as an experience that activates resilience and leads to a review of life and the construction of a new meaning and identity.

### **Overcoming an Eating Disorder: The Embodiment of Subjectivity in the Context of Normative Constructions of Gender**

Marie-Luise Springmann, *Karlsruhe University of Education, Germany*

The prevalence as well as symptomatology of eating disorders (ED) are known to differ substantially between persons with different genders and sexual orientations. Yet, there is still no comprehensive explanation for the role of gender for ED. At the same time, improvements in treatment and prevention approaches are urgently needed. Therefore, in the presented study, Grounded Theory Methodology was used for in-depth analysis and comparison of the experiences of 14 formerly affected persons with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. The goal was to develop empirically grounded hypotheses on the role of gender for the development and recovery from ED. Participants' perspectives were integrated in a theoretical model, that sheds light on the importance of normative constructions of gender to participants' interpersonal relations, self-evaluations, and body image. Moreover, it adds to established models by emphasizing interactions of different aspects, that are known to be



important for ED, as they appear in participants' subjective experience. The perspectives of members of LGBTIQ communities are of special value here, since they are underrepresented in psychological research on ED so far. The focus of the presentation is on the recovery process, which participants described as a process of developing self-acceptance and self-determination. Most interestingly, in this process, the acceptance of their own identity, their needs and feelings, as well as their bodies, seem to be inextricably linked to one another and were often linked to dealing with normative constructions of gender. Understanding these links can be helpful to improve treatment and prevention approaches.

**Lives of Egyptian Women as Continues Traumas and Resistance: A gendered reading to the narratives of five trauma survivors**

Kholoud Saber Barakat, Pierre Philippot, *Catholic University of Louvain (UCLouvain), Belgium*

This paper aims at understanding moods of reception, appraisal, and response to trauma, and moods of resistance among five Egyptian trauma survivors. Through analyzing the narratives of five women who experienced multiple severe sexual and/or political traumatic events, it highlights how the political and cultural contexts at which trauma was produced have shaped women's reception to trauma and determined their responses. It is built on in-depth interviews that were conducted in Cairo between January and March 2019 as part of the doctoral project of the first author, under the supervision of the second author. Applying the interpretative phenomenological analysis, six themes emerged from the narratives of the five women highlighting the following; their traumatic experienced were shaped by the dominant gender norms, while they were confronting these norms before, during and after the traumatic events, they were continuously resisting even in the situations of extreme victimization, despite the extreme level of adversity they were reclaiming agency and control, they were adopting a false dichotomy between agency and victimization, suppressing negative emotions was a way of coping with victimization, and finally all of them created meanings to keep going, while these meaning were at the same time a source of guilt. The six themes underline how women's trauma, in this context, are socio-political phenomena that are linked to the social construction of femininity and masculinity. Moreover, these traumas can't be understood, or treated, without putting them in their wider social contexts and associating them to their political and cultural foundations.





## Qualitative Research in Psychology in Europe

ONLINE 16-19.06.2021 • Thessaloniki, Greece

11.00-12.30

THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM #5

Researching aspects of psychotherapeutic practice

Chair: Stella Guarnieri, *University of Bergamo, Italy*

### **Therapeutic frame: How psychotherapists perceive it and bring it into practice**

Polyxeni Papadamou, Vasiliki Yotsidi, *National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece*

The main objectives of this study are to explore how psychotherapists from different therapeutic orientations perceive the therapeutic frame and how they integrate it into the therapeutic process. Taking into account that the therapeutic setting is a transtheoretical aspect of psychotherapy, an empirical approach to better understand the common practices as well as the peculiarities between different schools of psychotherapy is expected to augment clinical work. Semi-structured interviews were conducted to twelve Greek psychotherapists trained in psychodynamic, cognitive-behavioral or person-centered psychotherapy. The therapists shared their perceptions and experiences of the therapeutic frame as both therapists and clients. Data were analyzed using the qualitative method of thematic analysis. According to the results, several aspects of the therapeutic frame (e.g., time, space, fees) as well as the specific boundaries in the therapeutic interchange are varied among therapists with different theoretical orientations and years of clinical experience. On the other hand, a concurrent consistency/stability and flexibility in the therapeutic frame was delineated as a common factor by all therapists, regardless of their therapeutic background, as being necessary for positive therapeutic outcomes to be achieved. These findings provide useful clinical information on how the various definitions of the therapeutic frame and boundaries may be incorporated into the therapeutic relationship and contribute to the therapeutic outcome.

### **Patient's motivation for psychotherapy: using thematic analysis in critical perspective**

Natalia Busygina, *Moscow State University of Psychology & Education, Russia*

Treatment motivation is usually conceptualized in a normative manner by constructing a model of "ideal" patient with "true" motivation and "deviations" from it that require to be corrected. Taking this approach critically we aimed to reconstruct patient's motivation for psychotherapy through an analysis of her/his experience of psychotherapy as a part of her/his everyday life, from the standpoint of the subject. Along with it we were interested in the ways of how subject was being produced in the practice of personal psychotherapy. In-depth interviews with 22 participants about their experience of long-term psychotherapy (psychoanalysis, person-centered therapy, existential analysis) were analyzed using method of reflexive thematic analysis. At the first stages of analysis the data were summarized in two semantic themes: prerequisites for contacting a psychotherapist and dynamics of motivation during the course of psychotherapy. Among the prerequisites an interest in psychology and a personal propensity for self-reflection were highlighted. Psychotherapy was described by participants as a process of discovering new "inner" problems ("psychological complexification"), they were motivated to continue a course

41

*Time scheduling is according to Eastern European Time (EEST)*



due to a deepening belief in psychotherapeutic change. Re-reading semantic themes in critical perspective resulted in interpreting personal psychotherapy as a particular way of becoming “psychological subject” who constructs her/his life according to psy discourses. “Longing for closeness” and a special trust in psychotherapist create an emotional atmosphere in which the dimension of power inherent in psy discourses is obscured and psychotherapist’s re-interpretations of the patient’s problems are perceived as revealing the true state of affairs.

**Countertransference to Trauma in contexts of cultural otherness- qualitative approach to counter transference among trauma therapists in humanitarian contexts**

Mayssa El Husseini, *University of Picardy Jules Verne, France*

Sara Skandrani, *Paris Nanterre University, France*

Marie Rose Moro, *Inserm U1018, France*

Aims. To explore the mechanisms implicated in trauma transmission through counter transference reactions in therapists working with traumatized patients from different cultures or religious affiliations; to identify trauma impact on therapists and the processes underlying vicarious traumatization. Method. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 45 therapists working with traumatized patients and analyzed following the principles of the Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis. Results. First findings reveal several indicators of trauma transmission amongst therapists, identified throughout their narratives. Therapists interviewed could express a feeling of disinclusion from the therapists’ community; inability to re-account the narratives of the patients or to share the emotional confusion stirred by the therapy and that could affect the therapist’s vision of the world around; experiencing moments of strangeness and inner disquiet; discomfort pertaining to the validity of their theoretical background; resonance in the defense mechanisms deployed by therapists and by patients at certain moments of the therapy; resorting to disregarding cultural interpretations/ generalizations to make sense of an utterly painful situation and put a protective distance with the patients’ culture of origin; Conclusion: The findings of this study underline the presence of trauma transmission and depict some of the channels through which it is conveyed within countertransference reactions. However, this transmission is not static and does not necessarily obstruct the therapeutic alliance, insofar as the examination of countertransference reactions helps transform trauma transmission elements into means to better understand the therapeutic process.



**'More than just a therapist': Boundary-Setting and Therapeutic Alliances in Youth Residential Treatment**

Charis Stanek, *University of Chicago, United States of America*

It is well known that one of the key factors to successful therapy is the therapeutic alliance that is formed between therapist and client (Horvath & Luborsky 1993). While it is widely accepted that the therapeutic alliance is important, less is known about how to foster a strong therapeutic alliance in a residential setting. Even less is known about the unique challenges of forming a therapeutic alliance in a state-funded residential facility as compared to a privately funded facility. Strong therapeutic alliances are dependent on healthy boundaries between client and therapist (Simon 1992). Boundaries with clients are ill-defined in residential settings and almost impossible to maintain when therapists are asked to navigate many roles. This paper explored therapists' perspectives on the challenges of navigating multiple roles and establishing boundaries with clients in state-funded and private residential facilities. Interviews were conducted with ten residential therapists and coded using NVivo. Results revealed that therapists' decisions on boundary-setting are determined by a combination of their agencies' goals, their unique training background, and their own moral justifications for their practices. Results also revealed boundary-setting to be more difficult in state-funded facilities due to reduced staff, agency policies, and limited training. In conclusion, this research clarifies that additional funding needs to be allocated to state-funded residential facilities to mitigate some of the challenges to boundary-setting that therapists face in this context given the importance of boundary-setting in therapeutic relationships.

**11.00-12.30**

**DATA SESSION | ROOM #6**

**Analyzing Oral Narratives**

Felix Diaz, *American University in Bulgaria, Bulgaria*

The purpose of this session is to confront and discuss some practical and technical aspects of the narrative analysis of verbal accounts. My outlook relies on the traditions of Conversation Analysis (Mandelbaum, 2013), Narrative Analysis (McAdams & McLean, 2013) and Institutional Ethnography (Smith, 2012), but I will be interested in contributions from any qualitative approach to the detailed analysis of transcripts and audio records. The session will be divided in three parts, focusing in three different analytical moments or aspects: (1) the generation of valid and useful transcripts (with particular respect to issues of translation and the preservation of original voice), (2) analyzing personal change, states and conditions (with particular respect to the status of 'inner' mental entities in psychology), and (3) analyzing social and institutional processes (with particular respect to issues of documentation and the social distribution of experience). The materials we will face consist of story-telling interviews with asylum seekers, collected through the last few years in Bulgaria, Greece and Spain. Each interview is documented in three different formats: one or several digital audio records, a faithful transcript, and an edited narrative written



in first person. I will rely on excerpts in the three formats to address and discuss the analytical aspects of interest.

12.30-13.15

Poster Session

**How do research participants with age-related macular degeneration (AMD) talk about their experiences? A meta-synthesis of qualitative research using discourse analysis**

Jamie Enoch, *City University of London, United Kingdom*

Ahalya Subramanian, *City University of London, United Kingdom*

Carla Willig, *City University of London, United Kingdom*

Qualitative research on the experience of living with age-related macular degeneration (AMD), a chronic condition causing progressive central vision loss among older adults, has increased in recent years. In this exploratory meta-synthesis using discourse analysis, we aimed to survey the discursive landscape across qualitative studies on AMD. Our overarching research question was: are there clear patterns in the interpretative repertoires and discourses used to talk about AMD, and what are their implications for subjective 'ways-of-being' with AMD? An underlying methodological question was the feasibility of conducting secondary discourse analysis on de-contextualised qualitative data extracts. A corpus of extracts of participants' talk about AMD was assembled from 22 studies on experiences of AMD in everyday (i.e. non-clinical) settings. We conducted line-by-line reading of the extracts, attending to common discursive constructions, subject positions, interpretative repertoires and metaphors, seeking to identify recurring patterns or differences across studies or geographical contexts. AMD was variously constructed as a result of bodily decline due to ageing, a threat to independence, and a cause of grief and loss. Less commonly, we identified counter positions: 'fighting' AMD, accepting the condition with stoicism and perseverance, or embracing the changes with hope and curiosity. Discourses were similar across (largely 'global North') research locations. The findings were theorised within critical gerontology and disability theory, considering the "ideological dilemmas" (Billig et al., 1988) between dominant discourses that shape the subjective experience of people with AMD, and more idealistic, political positions that valuably seek to reconfigure society's understanding of ageing and impairment.

**Using qualitative methodology to explore the feeling of certainty in the clinical intuition of the clinical psychologist**

Caroline Winkopp, Jennifer Denis, *University of Mons, Belgium*

Our proposal is to show how a combined qualitative methodology can shed light on the feeling of clinical certainty in the choice of a verbal intervention for clinical psychologist in clinical interview situation. What we call "clinical certainty" is what every therapist have already experienced, a kind of feeling of evidence about what we should respond to the patient during



the interview, a feeling which seems to have suddenly appeared to our consciousness. We have conducted a research to explore this micro-moment of the therapeutic process at the crossroads between clinical reasoning and clinical intuition. Aim: to show how this feeling of clinical certainty is constructed. Background: our work is rooted in a phenomenologically inspired paradigm. Method: we chose a first-person method to get to the heart of the subjective experience of the therapists. We used video feedback and explication interview to access the therapists' non-conscious knowledge. Results: the feeling of clinical certainty was born below the threshold of consciousness. We also discovered that clinical certainty was essentially constructed in a sensory dimension and in an experiential perspective in the constructivist sense of the term. Furthermore, we showed that our methodology could be used as a supervisory tool to improve therapists' practice.

### **The Good, the Better, and the Admirable: Lay Perceptions of Moral Virtue in the United States and Namibia**

Amber Gayle Thalmayer, *University of Lausanne, Switzerland*

Kathryn Iurino, *University of Oregon, United States of America*

Sylvanus Job, *Humboldt University, Germany*

Milena Claudius, *University of Lausanne, Switzerland*

Moral character is vital when you need to know what someone is like. Ethically-relevant terms form a large and important category of person-descriptive terms across languages and societies, and parents rate these qualities as the most important to cultivate in their children. However, this content has largely been excluded from popular personality models and inventories like the Big Five. The field of virtue ethics has also generally excluded discourse from African philosophy. The current study therefore seeks to broaden our understanding of moral virtue by documenting lay conceptions among adults from two highly varying cultural contexts: English speakers in the United States (N = 44) and speakers of Khoekhoegowab, a clicking language, in Namibia (N = 23). In the U.S. sample, the exploration was enriched with a contrast between average adults, and those identified a priori by informant reports and reported activities as particularly virtuous. In both samples, structured interviews explored opinions and observations regarding moral virtue, for example valued traits, the qualities of a good person, and the description of an admired other. Our targeted questions allowed us to use a directed approach to qualitative content analysis. Coding and categories were developed then grouped and presented using rank order comparisons of frequency in order to provide a complete summary of how respondents attributed meaning to the terms, while assessing for levels of consensus in associations. Results will help inform hypotheses about what elements of perceptions of virtue are culturally specific and which are shared across cultures, potentially universally.



### **'I grieve the loss of normality': A Mix-Methods Analysis of Mental Health During COVID-19**

Charis Stanek, Kristen Chu, Bridget Callaghan, *University of California, United States of America*

Why do some people experience heightened distress during collective crises, while others paradoxically improve? Researchers have posited that these improvements may be associated with increases in perceived social support and gains in interpersonal resources that often accompany a collective tragedy (Mancini et al., 2016). In the wake of the outbreak of COVID-19, there has been an increased interest in the mental health ramifications of the global pandemic. The CDC states that those with mental health conditions may respond more strongly to the current stressors than those without mental health conditions (CDC, 2020). We hypothesize that while mental health may worsen after the stressful experience of the global pandemic, some individuals may be resilient or even improve in the wake of this stressor. 147 adults aged 18 or older through the UCLA Psychology Department Subject Pool completed a written response on the impact of COVID-19 on their lives. Additionally, 250 participants were surveyed on topics including social support, mental health symptoms, daily activities, coping strategies, level of stress, and more. Qualitative responses will be coded using NVivo. Quantitative analysis will be conducted with survey data using R. Participants will be categorized based on their mental health symptoms and compared on various measures listed above. Preliminary qualitative analysis suggests that higher perceived social support, perceptions of opportunities gained during the pandemic, fewer major life transitions, self-care practices, and experiences of gratitude all contributed to less distress in response to COVID-19.

### **The Strategy of Popularization and Spreading Qualitative Methodology in Ukraine**

Oxana Bayer, *Alfred Nobel University, Ukraine*

Even though qualitative research is less widespread in comparison with positivist approach to psychology, it is acquiring more and more acknowledgement. This can be seen through relevant textbooks publication, formation of professional organizations, appearing departments in universities practicing qualitative methodology, and eventually a larger portion of such papers even in the most rigidly traditional journals. In Ukraine there is a very scarce practice of qualitative methodology. Interviewing and case methods are fairly popular within other humanities (like sociology and philosophy). Yet in psychology except for some works in discourse analysis, some initiatives in narrative psychology practices and my personal attempts in grounded theory there is nothing of the kind. In my own research practice I have chosen qualitative methods to investigate how witnesses of Soviet Ukraine experienced its circumstances. I have seen what deep and rich data I was able to obtain interviewing my respondents. Moreover, because of their age and mere absence of relevant questionnaires it was impossible to get this information in any other way. I ask everybody for discussion. How I can start and from what can I begin in order to spread and make qualitative paradigm in psychology more popular in my country? Traditions in academic psychology are very strong and rigid, and I know the experience of enthusiasts in qualitative methods in the neighbouring post-Soviet country who were not able to fight the resistance of the tradition.



**Lack of progress towards meeting the gender target: Are the reasons that companies provide predictive of women’s future representation on boards?**

Iliana Misichroni, *Utrecht University, The Netherlands*

Background/Aim. Despite the advancement of women in the workplace over the past decades, women’s representation in top-positions still remains low. In the Netherlands, in 2012, the Dutch government passed a gender target law that requires from companies to increase the representation of women to 30% on their boards. However, Dutch companies have failed to make progress towards this target. This study examined whether reasons that companies provided in their annual reports predicted increases in women’s representation, over time. Methods. The reasons that companies provided in the 2015 annual reports of 83 Dutch companies were analyzed qualitatively with thematic analysis. Findings. Three large themes were identified: “Intentions towards compliance”; “Attitudes towards diversity and gender diversity”; and “Priority in quality over diversity”. These themes were then used for predicting companies’ improvement between years 2011 and 2018, towards meeting the gender target. A quantitative analysis revealed that there was a significant improvement of female representation between those years, even though, the gender target was not achieved. Another finding was that only the companies that explicitly mentioned giving priority in (re)appointments to candidate’s “quality” and not gender diversity, showed less improvement towards meeting the gender target. Conclusions. This study concluded that companies need to increase their efforts in order to comply with the gender target law. Specifically, it seems that companies have the perception that prioritizing on having gender diversity on their boards could prevent them from having candidates with the desirable “quality” characteristics. Companies could benefit from interventions targeted on altering this perception.

**How do men in Austria experience the diagnosis of infertility and paternity through donor insemination?**

Margarete Roth, Margret Jäger, *Sigmund Freud Private University, Austria*

The focus of this work will be on the gender-specific experience of men living in Austria who have been diagnosed with infertility and who were able to fulfill their desire to have a child by making use of a sperm donation. The aim is to find out via their field reports which psychological reactions and emotional effects arise. How do they influence male identity and the finding of a subjective paternity concept? How are stigmas and taboos experienced? This question was investigated on the basis of four interviews with men who are infertile and who became fathers through sperm donation. In addition, two expert interviews were carried out. One was with a psychotherapist from Vienna specializing in fertility, and the other interview was with an expert from Vienna who is regarded to be one of the pioneers of reproductive medicine in Austria. The evaluation was carried out by means of qualitative content analysis according to Mayring (2015) in the form of a summary and inductive category education. None of the interviewees felt that their male identity had been influenced. Matzner (2004) sees a subjective paternity concept of



active and holistic fatherhood as being ideal. All of the interview partners came close to this ideal concept. However, it was shown that the topic of male infertility and fatherhood by donor insemination can still be related to shame, stigma and taboos here. Therefore, it is necessary to consider which steps should be taken in order to change the way this issue is perceived in Austria.

### **Men's experience of anger: A study on emotion phenomenology and qualitative research methods**

Aimilianos Sideris, *University of London, United Kingdom*

This presentation derives from my recently completed PhD study titled "Men's Experience of Anger". The aim of the study was to explore how men make sense of their experience of anger and how they choose to communicate it to an academic researcher. 10 London-dwelling men responded to the advert and had a one-on-one face-to-face interview with the researcher. The interviews were subjected to two stages of analysis: Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis and Discursive Psychology. The former sheds light on the complex nature of the emotional experience, exploring the forceful nature of the emotion (similar to Averill's passion), the negative and the positive effects it has on the participants' lives, as well as the justified and justifiable nature of the participants' relation to their anger. The latter discusses how participants negotiate their self-presentation through their discursive choices and explores anger's cognitive and bodily manifestations and the implications these have for the person, the nature of the emotion constructed as harmful and the guilt that the participants report after experiencing and expressing it. These are then discussed within London's cultural context which is illuminated through a discourse analysis of items collected through internet resources about anger. The discussion aims to investigate the complementarity of the analytic methods and the multi-dimensional experience the evolutionary origins and social constructions of the emotion bring about for the participants.

### **The lived experience of becoming a first-time mother to a preterm infant in Greece**

Nantina Panagou, *Greece Chrysoula Karakitsou, The American College of Greece, Greece*

Becoming a mother is a major transition for a woman with several impacts on herself and her social environment. According to theories on early development of motherhood, the nine months duration of pregnancy is an essential time period for the woman to prepare herself for her new identity and welcome her baby. If the period of pregnancy is cut shorter, the fantasizing and the idealization process are interrupted entailing possible challenges to the pregnant women in their effort to adjust. A qualitative study was conducted, using IPA, in order to explore the lived experience of first-time mothers who had given birth to a very preterm infant in Greece. Three mothers of premature infants were interviewed regarding their perceived identity as mothers, their bonding with their infant and their perceived support of their social environment and the medical staff during their infants' hospitalization at the NICU. The interviews were given approximately 10 months after the infants were discharged from the hospital. The sense of guilt





appeared to dominate the mothers, as their body failed to carry out a full-term pregnancy, while, they also exposed their infants to the shock of hospitalization. Nevertheless, bonding was present even if the mothers were not physically close to their infants. Essential is the support towards those mothers from their social environment as well as from professionals in order to cope with their inner conflicts and the stressful and painful situation of their infant's hospitalization.

### **The role of interpreter during qualitative data set collection in the context of the evaluation of the Gundo-So program**

M. Perray, *Lumière University Lyon, France*

D. Traore, *ARCAD-SIDA, Bamako, Mali*

L. Riegel, *Coalition Plus, Paris, France*

D. Rojas Castro, *Coalition Plus, Paris, France, Aix Marseille Université, Inserm, IRD, SESSTIM, Marseille, France*

B. Spire, *Aix Marseille Université, Inserm, IRD, SESSTIM, Marseille, France*

M. Mora, *Aix Marseille Université, Inserm, IRD, SESSTIM, Marseille, France*

A. Yattassaye, *ARCAD-SIDA, Bamako, Mali*

M. Préau, *Lumière University Lyon, France*

The Gundo-So program is an intervention that aims to empower Malian women living with HIV (WLHIV) through supporting them in their decision-making process to disclose their serological status or not. As part of the French study ANRS 12373 Gundo SO, different quantitative and qualitative data were collected. In order to understand the effects of participating in the study, qualitative data for WLHIV were collected about their personal and social history with HIV, and their social representation of the illness. Semi-structured interviews, performed by French-speaking researchers, were used for the qualitative dimension. A Bambara interpreter was present during interviews to enable participants to adequately express themselves as many women did not speak French fluently. During the interviews, we observed the interpreter's work. First, she played a role in the meaning she communicated to the researchers of participants' discourses. Specifically, she omitted or summarised some information depending on what she felt was important or not to communicate. However, she also proved to be a source of new information. In particular, she enhanced some participant responses with explanations about Malian cultural traditions, and changed some words to improve comprehension. During interviews, Interpreters played a key role in the comprehension and interpretation of patients' discourses. They are necessary in some contexts but they may be perceived as bringing bias to scientific studies. However, they are also an advantage, as they bring greater cultural awareness and therefore greater understanding of the different issues at stake on the ground.



**Between modernity and tradition in emerging adulthood: On ‘modern’ femininity in young women’s everyday talk**

Vanessa Payr, Katharina Hametner, Austria Natalie Rodax, *Sigmund Freud University, Austria*

The role of young women – esp. in the areas of family and work – has changed fundamentally over the last century. With this development – esp. the increased financial independency, the traditional male breadwinner-female housekeeper model is frequently declared obsolete. Furthermore, media debates picture ‘free’ women who make their own, individual lifestyle choices. However and by critically analysing such contemporary pictures of femininity, postfeminist studies warn that the ‘free’ choice narrative often masks still existing traditional gender roles that stabilize gender hierarchies. To further elaborate how female gender roles are concretely lived in everyday practice, this empirical research focuses on group discussion with young female students in the developmental stage of emerging adulthood (between 18 and 25 years). By an in-depth qualitative analysis using the Documentary Method, we analysed their collective orientations in negotiations of femininity. The analysis reveals a tendency among the interviewed young women to return to more ‘traditional’ roles such as ‘the wife’ or ‘the mother’. The interviewed women centrally orient to taking care of the household and children by “serving”, “preparing the nest” and “putting food on the table”. Importantly, they do this by collectively using the free choice narrative as they frequently point to the fact that “women already have all opportunities”. This contribution thus aims to detail which shared, collective orientations and practices collude to a further upholding of traditional gender hierarchies.

**Conceiving and communicating recovery from depression: combining and contrasting visual and verbal accounts**

Nicholas Shaw, Kerry Quincey, Iain Williamson, *De Montfort University, United Kingdom*

Background: Depression is a major public health challenge across Europe, and the second-leading cause for disability worldwide. A shift in research foci has seen increasing efforts to explore depression recovery, the recovery process and how best to treat and manage the illness. Developments in creative research methods has seen a rise in research utilising participant-generated photography, though depression, as a primary condition, is yet to be explored this way. Drawing on theoretical concepts of self, this study ask’s ‘What facilitates and represents recovery through depression?’ Method: Drawing on data collected from two related studies, 18 participants shared their experiences of depression recovery through semi-structured interviews; 8 of whom also captured photographic images to represent their experiences. All data were analysed together using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis. Findings: Three themes that illustrate the process and progress of recovery are reported here: ‘Recognising an altered self’ explores how participants reflected on their distorted perceptions of the world and their reality during their depressive episode; ‘Reconfiguring a concept of self’ considers how participants engaged and negotiated with their depression in progressing towards recovery; and ‘Accepting the whole self’ examines how accepting depression as a part of themselves helped facilitate the



recovery process. Discussion: We consider how participants chose to communicate their depression recovery experiences both verbally and visually and evaluate, how participant-generated photography enabled participants to express themselves beyond mere talk, and how photography, can be further developed and tailored towards a therapeutic tool to help manage, alleviate and potentially prevent, depressive symptoms.

### **Greek Roma mothers' aspirations for their children's educational future**

Ioanna Strataki, Konstantinos Petrogiannis, *Hellenic Open University, Greece*

In the present paper, we aim to examine Greek Roma mothers' aspirations and expectations regarding the education and future of their children by considering the gender aspect. The Roma communities are one of the largest non-immigrant minority groups in Europe (nearly 12 million), either due to their ethnic or cultural and socio-economic status being highly marginalized and discriminated in education, in labour market, housing and social life. Policy makers and practitioners have recognized the need to support Roma children with particular emphasis to psychosocial and academic domain. Nonetheless, there is limited research on the psychological aspects of Greek Roma families. The proximal environment of children, the provided activities at home, and parents' values and beliefs constitute children's developmental niche according to Super and Harkness' (1986) theoretical approach. The analysis is based on 27 in-depth interviews with Greek Roma mothers that have a 3-6- or 9-11-years old child and live in the broader Athens metropolitan area. The interview-study was approved by the university's ethical committee. Parents signed informed consent forms and data were completely anonymized. The study provides an explanation of the complex issue regarding the values of Roma mothers towards education and the future (expectations, aspirations) of their children in the Greek societal context. The findings are of great importance as they assist in understanding their values and beliefs and provide, in turn, more efficient and culturally appropriate approaches of social-educational interventions.

### **My neighborhood: Representation of physical space in virtual environments**

Maria Koletsi, Nikolaos Sfakianos, Georgios Vayias, Dimitris Karras, Konstantinos Koskinas, *Panteion University of Social & Political Sciences, Greece*

Information and communication technologies has become a new field of study, in social sciences. An interest is given in the understanding if and under which ways people and social groups integrate social networking platforms, in their everyday life, for local social organization, such as the geographical territory of neighborhood, and develop patterns of local communal symbiosis. To this direction, visual methods provide useful insight in the exploration of social phenomena by enabling a complementary explanation for the conceptualization of reality. The poster presents the visualization of 14 neighborhoods created by equal participants in the qualitative research (conducted through semi-structured interviews), during the exploratory research period of the ongoing project on Growing and Enabling Information Technologies for Online Neighborhoods: Implications and Applications (G.E.I.T.O.N.I.A.). Project's aim is the development



of a pilot mobile application for virtual (online) neighborhoods available to use by residents of a pre-chosen urban area in Attica. In order to better understand the ways residents, perceive the physical space of neighborhood and reproduce it in the virtual environment, 14 participants were asked to define orally, and then design in Google Maps, their neighborhood. The combination of the individual neighborhoods' designs in the virtual environment, produces a general map where geographical location and distance perception intersect with public habitus and individual and social experiences. As a result, they create overlapping geographical spaces and identifiable socialites. Visualized neighborhoods provide a better understanding on the technological limitations, but also on the opportunities towards a more user-generated social design for virtual spaces.

### **Preventing School Violence: The Evaluation of the School-Based Violence Prevention Program “stark.stärker.WIR.”**

Stella Lemke, *University of Lübeck, Germany*

Thomas Fenzl, *Fresenius University of Applied Sciences, Germany*

Philipp Mayring, *University of Klagenfurt, Austria*

Background: Violence and its consequences represent a major health problem. Effective prevention and health promotion programs supporting positive behavior and health awareness at schools have become increasingly relevant. Our study investigated the effectiveness of the prevention and health promotion program “stark.stärker.WIR” of the Ministry of Culture Baden-Württemberg, Germany. Methods: A total of 50 schools were recruited of which 42 participated in the prevention program (IG), 8 schools were part of the control group (CG). Following a Mixed Methods approach 41 guideline-based qualitative interviews with prevention commissioners and 50 focus-groups, one at each participating school, were analyzed using the inductive category formation technique. Furthermore, questionnaires were completed at two data collection points by students (n=3639), parents (n=2798) and teachers (n=423). The primary outcome was quality of implementation. The secondary outcomes were School and Class Climate, Problem Behaviors and School Performance. Results: Analysis of quality of implementation indicated a successful implementation of the prevention program. The framework acts as a tool to support the existing prevention work by making it more visible, utilized and structured. It subsequently also promotes a higher transparency and indorses the appreciation within the school. There was no significant difference between IG and CG in the secondary outcomes. Conclusions: Results indicate that the violence prevention and health promotion program “stark.stärker.WIR” can make a significant contribution to the establishment of a systematic, purposeful and sustainable prevention work at schools. Despite effects on the primary outcome, changes on the secondary outcomes (School and class climate, problem behaviors, school performance) could not be confirmed.



### **A grounded theory of negotiating identity and agency among forced migrant youth in Malaysia**

Debra Torok, Jessica Ball, *University of Victoria, Canada*

This study used constructivist grounded theory (CGT) to explore how forced migrant youth, living temporarily in Malaysia, renegotiated their identities in light of ongoing precarity and hostility within their sociopolitical environment. Youth who live in transit in Malaysia are denied legal status and face significant structural barriers that constrain their capacities to explore facets of their identity. Using an arts-based and narrative inquiry approach, thirteen adolescents shared how their experiences of forced migration affected their sense of self, belonging, and the future. Participants were recruited from a migrant-serving agency in Malaysia, as part of a larger study on the perspectives of forced migrant youth. Consistent with the inductive nature of CGT, it became apparent that identity negotiation involved navigating oppression and (re)claiming agency, even if only in mundane or situated ways. The overall process youth described was (re)negotiating self to (re)create agency in a context of oppression, discrimination, and rejection. Thus, what began as a study of forced migrant youth identity also became a study of situated agency, with youth pursuing opportunities to learn and grow, constructing spaces of belonging, and defining their identities on their own terms. Findings from this study amplify the perspectives of a population who face ongoing injustice and are often underrepresented in research. Using CGT anchored our analysis in youths' distinct sociopolitical realities, sensitized us to embedded power structures that led to inequities for youth, and facilitated our exploration of how youth renegotiated identity while navigating these structures and in turn created situated agency.

### **Doing qualitative research in a quantitative world: psychology at work in psychiatry**

Malene Broch Clemmensen, *Roskilde University, Denmark*

Asked on the subject, most researchers would presumably agree that scientific character is a common property of all sciences. In principle, there is no difference in the scientific character of nature- and of humanistic science. Likewise, would professionals in psychiatry presumably agree that treating patients is the main task, and would not, as such, discriminate between scientific abstractions of epistemology or methodology. However, discussions on the scientific character of differing approaches are evident in psychiatric research and, also, in the psychiatric practice. These discussions are often rooted in contrasts of quantitative and qualitative research traditions. Empirically informed by qualitative fieldwork in acute psychiatric wards in Denmark, it is shown how a biomedical tradition challenge the conduct of qualitative participant observation, elucidating differing and sometimes contrasting approaches to scientific character. From this perspective, it will be discussed how approaches to explanation and "lack of fit" (how empirical outliers and abnormalities are treated) (Mahoney & Goerts, 2006) can be relevant in an attempt to understand the gap between traditions of science, and, hence also, methodology when qualitative psychology meets the psychiatric practice. Further, the conduct of and rational behind research as hypothesis testing is suggested as a key point of departure for further



discussions specifically dealing with possibilities of actual multiplicity of approaches existing simultaneously in psychiatry. By investigating implications for doing qualitative research in a quantitative world, the hope for this presentation is to explore and discuss how qualitative research in fields “coined” quantitative can contribute specifically to psychology.

**Redefining fatherhood: a narrative inquiry into the experiences of African fathers transitioning to parenthood in Belgium**

Chiemeka Onyeze-Joe, Isabelle Godin, *Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Belgium*

Background: The western practice of fatherhood in contemporary times is rapidly evolving. The modern family demands more involved fathers during pregnancy, birth, and childcare. Migration to Belgium exposes African fathers to different ways they can practice their fatherhood beyond their traditional role as family providers. Aim: This study explores African first-time fathers' experiences of fatherhood in Belgium. It seeks to understand their perceptions and challenges in a different cultural context. Methods: Drawing on a narrative approach, this study analyzed narratives from interviews with 15 African first-time fathers' living in Belgium. Results: Key findings reveal a conflict between traditional perceptions of fatherhood and cultural expectations in Belgium. The first-time fathers described their new reality of active involvement: attending antenatal consultations, preparing for birth, active participation during labour and in nurturing the baby. Their narratives also revealed the challenges they faced, particularly in childcare responsibilities in the absence of extended family support. This level of involvement was described as a significant adjustment to their perceptions of what fathering involvement entails. Despite this clash of cultures, this study showed the readiness in African fathers to adjust and adopt new features of parenting practised by their host society. Conclusion: These findings provide insights about modifications in African fathers' perceptions and practices of fatherhood in a different cultural context. It also adds to the body of knowledge on the involvement of African fathers in maternal and childcare in Belgium.

13.15-14.15

KEYNOTE LECTURE | ROOM #1

**Bridges and Boundaries: Diversity with a Purpose**

Carla Willig, *City University of London, United Kingdom*

Chair: Eleftheria Tseliou, *University of Thessaly, Greece*

Qualitative research has many different faces. It can look like philosophy (for example, when it problematises the notion of 'truth'), it can read like fiction or memoir (such as when it presents narrative accounts of subjective experiences), it can resemble critical literature reviewing (when it uses metasynthesis) or look very much like a clinical case study formulation (for example, when using psychosocial approaches). Furthermore, anything that captures human experience can be used as qualitative data, and there are countless ways in which such data can be analysed, with new types of analysis emerging all the time. The kinds of insights and observations that can be generated on the basis of qualitative analysis can take numerous forms ranging from realist claims about the occurrence of social processes in the real world at one end of the epistemological spectrum, to relativist accounts of how a particular version of reality has been



talked into being on the other. In the face of such diversity, it can be difficult to identify the boundaries that demarcate qualitative research as a discipline distinct from other scholarly pursuits and social engagements. Although there are those who argue that such demarcation is not a desirable move and that there is no need for disciplinary boundaries around 'qualitative research', I do see some value in reflecting on what makes qualitative research 'research'. In this talk I address the question of how we may decide whether something is qualitative research as opposed to other kinds of meaning-making activity concerned with human experience. At a time of increasing diversification of approaches in qualitative psychology and the emergence of a post-qualitative critique of the very notion of qualitative research methodology (conventional or otherwise), I want to reflect on the desirability of describing qualitative research as 'research', and to tentatively propose criteria which will allow us to differentiate between qualitative research and other pursuits that are concerned with exploring human experience and its diverse meanings and possibilities.

14.30-16.00

Parallel #4

14.30-16.00

SYMPOSIUM | ROOM #1

**Bodies Besides Texts: How conducting research as embodied encounters challenges reified categories and decolonizes Psychology**

**Organizer:** Kesi Mahendran, *The Open University, United Kingdom*

Qualitative research has a long-standing interest in embodiment. This counterbalances a focus on the atomised 'thinking' individual and the discursive turn's preoccupations with text. It allows 'bodies to speak'. This symposium draws together research in sensitive settings to explore how research - as embodied encounter - reveals specific insights. Sue Nieland opens by revealing how a particular category of participants who had been designated 'vulnerable' during the pandemic actively participated within interviews as embodied encounters – using the on-line interview to control the interview as situational environment. Nieland explores the dialogical process of how older citizens reified as 'The Silent Generation' resist attempt to silence them. Sophie Zadeh exposes the taken-for-granted, 'matters-of-course' elements of research, namely building rapport, addressing participants' questions and returning from the encounter. Zadeh promotes a reconsideration of self-other dependencies beyond regularised ideas about participation. Clare Coultas then shines a spotlight on the complicities of outsider-led investigations in African contexts by white researchers. Coultas, examining youth sexual behaviour in Tanzania, uses her own whiteness, rather than mitigate against it. Her methods invite continuous reflection on the ethical conduct of outsider-led research. Finally, Mahendran, English and Nieland, unpack the populist imaginary of 'home' as bounded securitized territory. They engage participants as dialogical citizens to evaluate EU integration policy. Revealing social representations of home rooted in movement, intimacy and intergenerational dialogue. The symposium diverts the analytical lens away from analysis of text to the vital embodied processes by which we 'must



speak'. We propose a focus on the embodied encounter contributes towards the decolonization of psychological knowledge.

**Undaunted by the virtual: how dialogical older citizens reveal a lifetime of political engagement through embodied encounters in online interviews**

Sue Nieland, *The Open University, United Kingdom*

Lockdown constraints on interviewing participants has led to a movement from face-to-face to technological solutions and for most researchers this has not been detrimental to their research (Sokhulu, 2020; Vindrola-Padros et al, 2020). However, when the participants are older citizens, aged between 75 and 93 years, categorised within pandemic language as vulnerable and shielding, and are stereotypically seen as inexperienced at online communication, the difficulties may seem unsurmountable. Furthermore, when the research is dialogical, and the researched are allowed to lead the dialogue in order to hear the voices of those who are typically unheard, this adds further complexity when the interview is conducted through an online platform. In reality, however, data collection during the first UK lockdown of 14 participants within the Silent Generation (born between 1927 and 1946) revealed active, animated citizens who were able to articulate their lifetime experiences as politically engaged decision-makers. Rather than being constrained by the online environment, they were in control of the dialogue, making use of Zittoun's concept of 'imaginative loops' that were chronotopic in moving between past and present, and reflected an embodied 'what it felt like' account within their narrative when recalling childhood lives post World War II and their life experiences since. These were embodied encounters, undiminished by their virtual nature, and demonstrated long lifetimes of responsiveness to changing political narratives over time, illustrating how political decisions are situated, relational and aligned to dominant social representations.

**From Mitigating Against to Working With Whiteness: Accounting for Colonial Complicities as Ethical Research Process in Qualitative Social Psychology**

Clare Coultas, *King's College London, United Kingdom*

Outsider-led research in African contexts holds a troubling legacy, being connected to colonial enterprises that worked to 'other' Africans (Cole and Thomas 2009), and which today, contributes to the West's continued monopolisation of knowledge production about the continent (Mama 1997). Drawing on my experience of researching youth sexual behaviour change in Tanzania as a white European woman, I propose that the fundamental principle in social psychology – the study of individuals in interaction with real and imagined others – calls for researchers to go beyond standard reflexive practice in which embodied power dynamics such as whiteness are acknowledged and mitigated against (e.g. by using 'local' interviewers so that 'participants' feel more comfortable). I argue that such efforts at mitigating whiteness in postcolonial contexts





represents a form of coloniality in that the West, as a real and imagined other, is obscured from view and analysis. In this presentation I will outline how I attempted to work with whiteness throughout the research process: from the framing of the study; to the development of methods (e.g. projective storytelling, dialogical triangulation), that enabled a facilitated form of embodied engagement; and the extra ethical considerations in dissemination. I aim to illustrate how whiteness pervades outsider research far beyond the actual data collection encounter, and thus the need to continually reflect on, and account for, the ways in which we as researchers embody this system of power. I argue that accounting for our complicities through embodied research is an important function of ethics in qualitative social psychological research.

**Making Ourselves at Home: How embodied research encounters reveal social representations of ‘home’ which counter the populist political imaginary**

Kesi Mahendran, Anthony English, Sue Nieland, *The Open University, United Kingdom*

Participants invited to participate in research into belonging, integration and citizenship are routinely engaged to either ‘share their stories’ as ‘migrants’ or express their attitudes towards migrant-integration when ‘citizens’. This approach reifies bureaucratic categories. It situates migrants as providers of enlightening knowledge, on their lived realities. Equally it reduces citizens to attitude measures playing a technocratic-managerial role in migration policy. This paper introduces a dialogical approach which engaged with participants (N=76), as dialogical citizens across a migration-mobility continuum, through face-to-face interviews as embodied encounters. Participants explored their own categories of belonging and engaged in dialogue with EU stimulus materials on integration and citizenship. Home is represented within populist political communications as a political imaginary relating to ‘homeland’ a bordered territory or private refuge as the site of ontological security in an uncertain world. This view of home allows citizens to project their fears onto an Other – the intruder/the migrant. ‘Home’ as a political imaginary becomes an effective component of populism precisely because it is not challenged by empirical investigations into home. When engaged in interviews, as dialogical citizens, social representations of home emerge which (i) related to actual and imagined degree of migration-mobility and transnational dialogue. (ii) intimate relationships more than territory and (ii) life stage e.g. disengagement from home, obligation to return home. In conclusion, we argue that populist political communications are reliant on reifying the public as static and the home as bordered. This political imaginary can be countered by qualitative approaches which engage participants in embodied encounters.



14.30-16.00

SYMPOSIUM | ROOM #2

**Multimodal approaches to study children's engagement with the world**

**Organizer:** Asta Cekaite, *Linköping University, Sweden* & Vivien Heller, *Wuppertal University, Germany*

Within the last decades there has been an increasing recognition that studying child development requires to study social interaction in everyday settings (Morelli et al., 2018). While numerous studies have investigated caregiver-child communication (Demuth, 2015), the main focus was on verbal communication whereas embodied practices through which children and their interaction partners constitute their social world remained largely unexplored. With the recent shift to embodiment in the social sciences, the focus is directed to both how embodied forms of socialization practices (e.g. touch) are used by caregivers and how children are socialized towards specific cultural practices of how to use their own body. Multi-modal interaction analysis (Goodwin, 2000) takes into account how various semiotic resources are deployed by the interactants to align their behavior with that of the partners and presents a prominent methodological approach in the study of socialization practices in early childhood (Burdelski, in press; Goodwin & Cekaite, 2018). This symposium brings together scholars that examine children's socialization through embodied interaction from multiple perspectives: cultural psychology, education, and child studies. Heller investigates the role of touch for children diagnosed with autism in a German sample, Ekström & Cekaite examines the social meaning of touch in children's peer groups in Swedish preschools, Demuth investigates how children in a North-Indian pre-school are socialized toward accountability of their bodily conduct. Evaldsson's talk will discuss preadolescents embodied practices for social bonding. Overall, the symposium highlights how multimodal video analysis may contribute to a better understanding of socialization practices in early childhood.

### **Socializing accountability in classroom interactions: embodied discursive practices in a north Indian preschool**

*Carolin Demuth, Aalborg University, Denmark*

When interacting with children, caregivers draw on culturally available discourses and normative expectations. From an ethnomethodological perspective, children are socialized into membership which is demonstrated in the display and recognition of reflexively accountable action (Garfinkel & Sacks, 1970). The present study is interested in how children are socialized into acceptable ways of bodily conduct in preschool settings by analyzing situations where the teacher seeks to have the children engage in, or desist from, some course of action. Analysis looks on the one hand on how teachers produce moral evaluations, and assign blame and culpability regarding children's bodily conduct, and how embodied practices are used in tandem to discursive practices by the teachers. The data corpus comprises video-recorded interactions in a



North Indian preschool with 5-year old children collected during a larger ethnographic study over a period of 3 months. Analysis is based on Discursive Psychology (Potter & Wetherell, 1987; Wiggins, 2017) and Multimodal Interaction Analysis (Goodwin, 2000). Children used subtle embodied interactional moves to express their defiance followed by the teacher's re-framing of the situation. By their joint interactional moves, both teacher and child manage to not threaten the teacher's authority while allowing for the child to resist certain power exertion in culturally acceptable ways. The findings provide insights into the interactive processes through which children are socialized towards a cultural 'choreography' of conflict resolution in teacher-child settings. We also discuss how social stances and identities are conveyed and constructed through various discursive and embodied communicative resources.

### **The social meaning of touch in child-child interaction in Swedish preschool activities**

Anna Ekström, Asta Cekaite, *Linköping University, Sweden*

This study examines embodied features of child peer-group socialization by focusing on touch in children's interactions in preschools in Sweden. Multimodal Interaction Analysis is used as an analytical method to reveal the situated embodied accomplishment of socializing actions. Touch is fundamental in children's early years, and the importance of caregivers' touch for children's early development is discussed in psychological studies on infants and mothers. However, interaction with peers constitute a significant part of early childhood education, and peers play a crucial role for children's learning and development (e.g., Rubin, Bukowski & Bowker, 2015). The current study draws on 10 hours of video-recordings in a Swedish preschool for children 1-5 years. 98 episodes of actions including child-child physical contact were identified. By using Multimodal Interaction Analysis, the study uncovers the various ways children deploy touch in peer interaction, and how children orient to each other as embodied subjects. The study reveals three main functions of touch: 1) affiliation and affection between children, 2) controlling the other child's actions and 3) play activities (e.g. rough-and-tumble, chasing games). The results indicate that children readily accept other children's touch actions and straightforwardly touch others; only half of the identified touch-actions were accompanied with talk that, for example, justified the touch, and few touch-actions were preceded with talk announcing the touch or granting permission to touch another child. The study suggests that children in early childhood educational settings (with established peer group relations) orient to other children as accessible and available for embodied social interaction.



### **Varying trajectories of tactile engagement in interactions with children with autism spectrum disorder**

Vivien Heller, *Wuppertal University, Germany*

This study investigates the role of touch in classroom interactions with children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Recent studies show that touch is a significant communicative and affectively valenced mode of interaction and socialization (Goodwin, 2017) both in family and school settings. As a semiotic resource that establishes corporeal and sensorial contact, touch serves to organize and maintain children's attention and participation, to instruct them how to handle objects in educational activities, and to regulate emotions, e.g. when managing the child's distress (e.g. Cekaite & Bergnehr 2018). For children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), a hyper- and hyposensitivity to touch has been documented, and a growing body of psychological research is interested in what ways this special sensitivity might be consequential for children's engagement in their social worlds. Kadlaskar et al. (2019) show that when caregivers use touch to direct the child's attention, autistic children are more likely to orient away from touch. Studies that consider other functions of touch and examine the interactive dynamics of tactile engagements are lacking so far. Adopting the methodology of multimodal interaction analysis (Goodwin, 2000), the present study addresses this gap. Drawing on 12 hours of video-recorded classroom interactions with three children diagnosed with ASD, it traces interactive trajectories of tactile engagements in which the teachers' touch serves different interactive and emotional functions. Three exemplary sequences are presented demonstrating that children respond in tactile communication in various ways, and that their varying engagements are associated with different purposes of touch.

### **Children's bonding rituals: embodied practices of intimacy and vulnerability**

Ann-Carita Evaldsson, *Uppsala University, Sweden*

This study explores school children's normative and non-normative embodied patterns of intimacy and friendship. In doing so I outline activity trajectories of children's bonding rituals and the ways children become a part of these rituals. Simultaneously, I highlight children's embodied practices of intimacy and vulnerability. The data is drawn from long-term ethnographic studies combined with video recordings of girls' and boys' peer group interactions in Swedish multiethnic elementary school settings. The analysis is based on a multimodal interactional approach, focusing on how children organize their participation, through mutually elaborating modalities (embodied and material) in situated activities and how these are embedded in everyday peer group practices. The findings show that both girls and boys rely on a range of embodied practices (gaze, bodily orientation, proximity) in organizing peer alignments. Dyadic friendship alliances were manifested through gestures of intimacy; such as affectionate touch (hugs, strokes or putting an arm around the other); directing their gaze at the other and/or through overlapping



laughter, while engaging one another in friendship related subjects or simply by being close to each other. In building up and sustaining intimate dyadic relationships the participants simultaneously distanced their bodies from other children, the long-term effect being that some children were excluded from these bonding rituals. Looking at children's bonding rituals indicates that boundary work and forms of micro processes of inclusion and exclusion, form a central part of how children navigate intimate friendship relations.

**14.30-16.00**

**SYMPOSIUM | ROOM #3**

**The potential of conversation analysis and discursive psychology for psychotherapy process and outcome research**

**Organizer:** Eleftheria Tseliou, *University of Thessaly, Greece* & Peter Muntigl, *Ghent University, Belgium*

**Chair:** Eleftheria Tseliou, *University of Thessaly*

**Discussant:** Anssi Peräkylä, *University of Helsinki, Finland*

This symposium aims to highlight the potential of Conversation Analysis and Discursive Psychology for psychotherapy process and outcome research. The field of psychotherapy research has been historically dominated by the polarity between qualitative approaches focused on how therapy works and quantitative approaches concerned with therapy outcomes or whether therapy works. For the past few decades, change process researchers have attempted to overcome such polarities by studying therapy processes as within-session or micro outcomes. Conversation Analysis (CA) and Discursive Psychology (DP) are qualitative approaches that offer pertinent insight into therapy outcomes as micro processes and interactional accomplishments. These approaches provide a bottom-up, inductive perspective on outcomes and allow for a naturalistic, detailed, and sequential analysis of how therapeutic change occurs utterance by utterance. However, their use in psychotherapy change process research remains marginal. Our aim in this symposium is to illuminate their potential by hosting contributions of Conversation Analysis and Discursive Psychology psychotherapy researchers. More specifically, Tseliou et al. present a meta-synthesis of 35 qualitative studies of systemic and constructionist therapies depicting change process as a discursive accomplishment. Muntigl and Horvath present a CA study focusing on the interactional and sequential achievement of repair in alliance ruptures sampling various psychotherapeutic treatments. The DP study presented by Wahlström illuminates how therapist and clients participating in individual therapies, construct the client's mind as a shared object for investigation. Finally, Ong and Niels illustrate the ways in which therapists in open dialogue meetings mitigate their epistemic and deontic authority, by means of CA.



### **Learning from a qualitative meta-synthesis: the discursive performance of change process**

Eleftheria Tseliou, *University of Thessaly, Greece*

Charlotte Burck, *Tavistock Clinic, United Kingdom*

Liz Forbat, *University of Stirling, United Kingdom*

Tom Strong, *Werklund University of Calgary, Canada*

Michelle O'Reilly, *University of Leicester, United Kingdom*

Change process research has contributed to the study of in-therapy processes leading to change and of the unfolding sequences of change. Despite the potential of discursive research methodologies for change process research, their use to date remains marginal. In this presentation we aim to highlight their potential by drawing on our qualitative meta-synthesis project aiming to investigate change process in systemic and constructionist therapies. Through a systematic search of PsycINFO and MEDLINE data bases, 2977 studies were screened against eligibility criteria resulting in the selection of 65 qualitative research studies of systemic and constructionist therapies. The findings of a sub-sample of 35 studies analysing in-session dialogue data, mostly utilizing discursive methodologies, were synthesized by thematic analysis. In this presentation we focus on one of the four overarching themes, entitled “Moving forward dialogue”, which we present as a “case example” illuminating how therapist(s) and clients navigate through stuck or unhelpful dialogue towards the accomplishment of “small outcomes”. Our discussion further illustrates how change process comprises of concrete, discursively evident shifts occurring in therapist and client micro-interactions. Empirical evidence from discursive research studies foregrounds the subtle discursive work often taken for granted in everyday clinical practice. Clinicians’ reflexive awareness of their own contributions enables them to be alert to the nuances of client discursive responses and to intentionally and reflexively use language to work on the complex interactional aspects of therapy performance.

### **Alliance ruptures and conversation analysis**

Peter Muntigl, *Ghent University, Belgium*

Adam Horvath, *Simon Fraser University, Canada*

Bordin (1979) proposed that clients’ re-enactments of dysfunctional interpersonal patterns in the therapy session, and the resolution of the ensuing stress or rupture in the working alliance, is the core of the psychotherapy process. There has been a great deal of theoretical and empirical work done on alliance ruptures: from the therapists’ intentional perspective, the nosology of these disruptions, and the relation of these events and therapy outcome. In our research we have examined these events as an interactive discursive process wherein the disruption (rupture) in the therapy progression and relationship is managed in conversation turn-by-turn. From a corpus of previously identified types of Alliance Ruptures (Safran et al., 2011), from different psychotherapeutic treatments, we use the conceptual and methodological resources of Conversation Analysis to examine and identify interactional patterns that come into play in creating the hiatus in the therapy process commonly identified as a “rupture”. Our main focus is



placed on the interactional sequences that achieve, or fail to achieve, re-affiliation of the therapists' and client's relation and achieve a consensus of goals or purpose to move the therapy process forward. For this paper, we consider the variety of interactional practices used to repair alliance ruptures. We end our presentation by discussing ways of bridging alliance rupture research with conversation analysis.

### **Exploring "mind": discursive construction of an observer position in psychotherapy**

Jarl Wahlström, *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

**Background.** Metamodels of change in psychotherapy depict the client as being in a so-called object position, where he/she feels beleaguered by a problematic experience or acted upon by it. During therapy, adopting an observer point of view, the object position is supposed to evolve into an empowered stance, a subject position. The aim of this study was to investigate how the observer position, shared by client and therapist, is discursively achieved in the therapeutic conversation. The positioning entails particularly constructing "the mind" of client as a potential object of exploration. **Method.** Transcriptions of video-recordings from the first and tenth sessions of nine individual psychotherapies were first subjected to a thematic analysis in order to find instances where phenomena of the client's "mind"—thoughts, feelings, wishes, aspirations, and so on—were talked about. Secondly, a thick description, using concepts from discourse analysis and discursive psychology, of these instances was given. **Findings.** Constructing "the mind" was mostly initiated by the therapists, using conversational means from a professional therapeutic discourse. Responses by clients to these invitations varied and were mostly accomplished with means from a colloquial discourse. The different discursive efforts through which an image of the client's mind as a shared object for investigation was created were mostly effective when the therapist joined the client's own linguistic register or sowed affiliation with his/her emotional attitude, rather than if the therapist used elaborated expressions from the therapeutic discourse. **Conclusions.** Therapists need to customize their discursive practices according to clients' personalized language usages.

### **Conversation analysis of open dialogue network meetings**

Ben Ong, Niels Buus, *University of Sydney, Australia*

Open Dialogue is a collaborative approach to working with people and their support networks during times of mental health crisis. A central principle of the approach is the promotion of dialogue between all the participants. Open Dialogue therapists are advised to create opportunities for all voices to be expressed and to view all voices as equal. This includes the voice of therapists having no greater or lesser "value" or authority than other participants. Therapists thus have potentially conflictual roles of managing the session while also downgrading or mitigating the authority of their positions. With these issues in mind, we wanted to analyse and understand what conversational practices characterise Open Dialogue conversations. We video recorded 14 hours of Open Dialogue sessions in a child and youth mental health service in Western Sydney. Therapists had experience in the Open Dialogue approach and were also

63

*Time scheduling is according to Eastern European Time (EEST)*



undertaking advanced training in the approach. We have used Conversation Analysis to investigate these conversations. Conversation Analysis focuses on the conversational practices utilised by the participants and how these practices achieve social actions, rather than references to internal motivations or broader social discourses. In our analyses we identified some ways that therapists work to mitigate both their epistemic authority (their claims to knowledge about the family), and their deontic authority (their ability to determine the actions of others) when directing a session. These results have implications for other psychotherapeutic approaches that seek to promote collaboration with clients and families.

14.30-16.00

THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM #4

Psychosocial perspectives on subjectivity

Chair: Hannah Glassman, *University of Sydney, Australia*

**The politics of belonging in Alcoholics Anonymous: A qualitative analysis of the negotiation processes members use to enact belonging in AA**

Hannah Glassman, Maja Moensted, Paul Rhodes, Niels Buus, *University of Sydney, Australia*

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is a community-based peer-to-peer support organization designed to help individuals who self-diagnose as alcoholic achieve and maintain abstinence. A prevalent critique of AA is that members must conform to a single, inflexible illness narrative, taking on a specific 'alcoholic' identity and performing a set of practices to address this condition. Conversely, a small body of research suggests that, rather than comprising the uniform adoption of one rigid package, integration into AA is achieved as a result of negotiating individual beliefs, values and preferences into the AA model. The current study aimed to explore what processes members use to enhance and enact belonging in AA as they negotiate membership. The study involved semi-structured interviews with 15 AA members recruited from meetings across Sydney, Australia. The study used conceptions of the politics of belonging and belonging as performance, and data were analyzed thematically. Findings included that while some participants easily assimilated with the core AA narrative, many had to put in substantial work to belong, and others had their belonging compromised by an inability to embrace a key aspect of AA ideology. Findings highlighted many components of AA ideology and practices that were negotiable by participants and identified that the only non-negotiable was accepting the belief that alcoholics have no control over drinking. Findings are discussed with respect to how the boundaries of belonging in AA have been contested following broader patterns of societal change over time.





**„I always had kind of a rich inner life...” – toward a grounded theory of professionals’  
‘discovery’ of the psychological**

Julia Struppe-Schanda, Markus Wrbuschek, Claire Gutkowski, Julius Metzler, Gregor Wasicky,  
*Sigmund Freud Private University Vienna, Austria*

Within the increasingly heterogeneous occupational field of psychosocial services, practitioners operate with different objectives based on diverging theoretical and technical foundations. Most approaches to psychosocial well-being share the idea that psychological reality needs to be addressed as a more or less autonomous dimension of human life. As a consequence, practitioners’ notions of psychosocial well-being relate to how they conceptualize the realm of the psychological as such. However, to date psy-disciplines such as psychology or psychotherapy still have not arrived at a consensus as to what psychological reality is or is considered to be. Against this backdrop we aimed to investigate the process through which professionals working within the broad field of psychosocial services came to discover the psychological as an autonomous dimension of human life. We assume that explicit and implicit definitions of the subject matter not only depend on the professional affiliation and the technical approach of professionals but also on their initial encounter with the psychological, which often takes place in a pre-professional and everyday-context. In our study we asked participants from different psychosocial occupations to think back to when they first became fascinated by something that they understood to be distinctly ‘psychological’ (even if not by that particular name) and invited them to reflect on the development of their fascination. By using an open grounded theory methodology, we developed four basic modes of encountering the psychological (inner world, outer world, literature, coincidence).

**Practices of Self-Optimization in Contemporary Digital Culture. A Qualitative Inquiry of  
Psychosocial Aspects of ‘Self-Tracking’ and a Critical Revision of Theories of Self-Regulation**

Oswald Balandis, *Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany*

The aim of my presentation is to shed light on the psycho-social aspects of self-tracking practices from a cultural-psychological and social scientific point of view in order to revise the classical psychological concept of self-regulation. Everyday self-tracking practices are understood as meaning-making of technologically produced personal data on behavior (activity-tracking) and emotional states (mood-tracking). Based on concepts and categories grounded in qualitative analyses (Grounded Theory Methodology) of narrative interviews with self-trackers, these practices are theoretically understood as (a) perpetuating self-relations in which persons continuously search for potentials to optimize themselves and (b) embedded in socio-technical imaginaries of unbiased data provided by solution-oriented and feedback-giving technologies. These imaginaries represent trans-individually shared systems of meaning, goals of action, and ways of achieving those goals in which individual problems are believed to be computationally understandable and technologically solvable. In this regard, self-tracking technologies facilitate socially and culturally embedded optimizational self-relations by providing digitally mediated



symbolic gratifications where people temporarily solve psycho-social conflicts by giving meaning to their personal behavioral/emotional data. Furthermore, those practices facilitate and normalize expansions of therapeutical knowledge systems into everyday life where auto-diagnostics as practices of transformation become a continuous imperative of action. Against this background, the presentation aims at reconceptualizing classic notion of self-regulation as a critical and context-sensitive concept of self-optimization, thus addressing the need to understand those self-relations in their socio-cultural embeddedness.

### **Insights from the Inside– Mindfulness between Discourses and Subjectivity**

Viktoria Niebel, *Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany*

In this presentation, I will provide insights gained through the qualitative analysis (with the Grounded Theory Methodology) of narrative interviews that will help to understand the linkages between discourse and subjectivity by the example of people that are intrigued by practices of mindfulness. The aim is to examine, how psychological theories and concepts shaped discourses of mindfulness and how they have become a contemporary 'folk psychology' (Jerome Bruner). Mindfulness is a versatile phenomenon at the crossroads of different types of knowledge as well as a set of various self- and world-related understandings. After being primarily a Buddhist core concept, embedded in spiritual understandings of life itself, it has been translated into numerous western approaches and became popular as a technique in a multitude of settings: e.g. as mindfulness-based intervention, implemented in therapeutical programs as well as corporations, or in self-help-literature. There is no clear definition of mindfulness but different notions with differing implications: Practicing mindfulness promises to prevent stress, to develop concentration, calmness, and productivity. Furthermore, mindfulness as a whole is believed to lead to individual and even societal transformation. All of this shows that mindfulness has become a technique used to deal with impositions in late modernity, as well as a perfectly integrated tool in neoliberal governmentality. It is therefore of major importance to explore the ways in which subjectivities are produced through mindfulness-related practices and discourses, which aim to evocate certain states of mind but also to manage them.



14.30-16.00

THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM #5

Researching social exclusion

Chair: Maya Lavie-Ajayi, *Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel*

### **Using Collective Memory Work to study Cannabis Use**

Maya Lavie-Ajayi, Amalia Ziv, Halleli Pinson, Haggai Ram, Nir Avieli, Eran Zur, *Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel*

Although increasingly legalized in many countries, cannabis remains the most widely illegal recreational drug used globally. Leaving aside studies anchored in historical and cultural approaches, most research on cannabis is constructed around concepts of addiction and deviance. To explore the relationship of cannabis use as a leisure activity with social identity in early adulthood, we explored our own experiences using the method of Collective Memory Work (CMW). CMW engages researchers/research participants in a process of discourse analysis of their own memories, in order to develop an understanding of how individual experiences are ideologically and socially constructed. We held a series of meetings in which we analyzed short narratives we wrote about early memories related to cannabis use and social self-image. Decisions about the research process and product—from the research question through every stage of the data analysis—were made collectively and consensually and discussions were held with sensitivity and respect to an extent that they fostered trustworthiness and even solidarity among participants. Overall, by applying CMW this study helped to unravel the ways in which individuals collaborate, albeit subconsciously, with discourses and ideologies related to cannabis use. In this presentation we will discuss the challenges and advantages of using CMW in the research area of cannabis use, as an example of a sensitive research area, owing to the quasi-illegal status of cannabis use, and its connections with intimate spheres of experience, self-image, and sense of well-being.

### **Positionality and ethics: Researching HIV and AIDS in a rural community**

Jacqueline Akhurst, *Rhodes University, South Africa*

Mary van der Riet, Dumisa Sofika, *University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa*

Background: Researchers' experiences of the emotional impact of researching sensitive topics is under-reported. This research was done in a rural resource constrained context, where there is a high prevalence of HIV infection. As researchers we needed to live there whilst exploring the sensitive topic of sexual and reproductive health-related behaviours. Aim: This paper explores researcher positionality, during a study of people's management of risk in sexual activity. Methods: A quasi-ethnographic approach required researchers to live in the site for periods of time, resulting in different forms of relationship being established. Recordings of group debriefing sessions between the PI and graduate students, as well as interviews (by the author) and discussions on the journeys two and from the field, were transcribed by research team members. An iterative, participatory process of data generation and analysis was followed, based



upon thematic analysis. Findings: Living in the community raised insider/outsider issues, as researchers participated in broader social life, adding relational and emotional dimensions to the process. Exploring such a sensitive topic as HIV and AIDS, in the resource constrained context, led to blurred boundaries: researchers found themselves being positioned as confidantes, counsellors or development workers. They were challenged by the emotional intensity of the research and their related responsibilities. Conclusions: The findings illustrate the need for enhanced ethical awareness that could not be pre-determined whilst planning the research. They also highlighted the need for ongoing support, with built-in risk assessments for both participants and researchers.

### **Struggling for social participation; the stories of disabled women in Greece**

Eleni Valiakou, Elias Avramidis, *University of Thessaly, Greece*

Researching the social experiences of traditionally marginalized groups has long been high on the research agenda. Disabled people and their struggle for social participation, for example, have been the focus of many critical psychological studies. In so doing, researchers have drawn on theoretical understandings surrounding the notion of “social capital” and its impact on the formation of identities and the maintenance of marginalized positions in various social domains. The present study focuses exclusively on disabled women whose double oppression has been well-documented. Research aim: To investigate the perceptions of disabled women regarding their social participation though highlighting various aspects of their accumulated social capital. Methodology: The study forms the second part of a sequential mixed-method design which is rooted within the tradition of the transformative research paradigm. In this study, semi-structured interviews with twenty disabled women were conducted with a view of eliciting their experiences of social marginalization and shedding light on their social oppression. Thematic analysis was the adopted approach for the analysis of the collected data. Results: Thematic analysis yielded seven thematic categories representing various dimensions of social capital necessary to facilitate the social inclusion of the participating disabled women namely, formal networks, informal networks, social support, trust, experiences from life with disability, sexual and body issues. Conclusions: Recommendations for the improvement of social inclusion of disabled women are discussed along with methodological issues germane to the research process.

### **Experiences of people with mobility impairments within Romanian environment**

Adriana Baban, *Babes-Bolyai University, Romania*

While the experience of disability may involve common aspects across persons with different impairments living in different countries, the particularities of such an experience that arise as a function of embodied living are crucial to the understanding of it. Most information about the experiences of people with disabilities in Romania comes from external observations and surveys, while their perceptions are significantly understudied. This study aims to investigate: (i) how



people with mobility impairments experience disability; (ii) how the medicalization of disability and its reduction to the 'impaired body' affects the way people construct their identities; (iii) what alternative discourses people with mobility impairments bring forward to shift social perceptions of disability as a personal tragedy and a social pathology. Phenomenological analysis performed on the transcripts of 11 semi-structured interviews revealed five major themes: feeling different; reframing normality; perceived as a 'different regnum'; confined by physical barriers; ghosts of the past and desires for the future. The study highlights a need for challenging the dominate discourses established by the social model of disability, emphasizing the role of people with disabilities in changing the segregative attitudes and practices within society.

**14.30-16.00**

**WORKSHOP | ROOM #6**

**Constructing Typologies in Qualitative Research Using Ideal-Type Analysis**

*Sally O'Keeffe, City University of London, United Kingdom*

*Emily Stapley, Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families, United Kingdom*

Ideal type analysis is a qualitative method for analyzing data to construct typologies in research. Ideal type analysis is a flexible method that can be used with a diverse range of qualitative data sources, including interviews/focus group transcripts, case notes, field notes and observations. This approach has also been used to make sense of complex datasets, including longitudinal qualitative data, data from multiple perspectives, and data collected with mixed methods. Ideal type analysis involves sorting the cases in the dataset into clusters of similar cases, identifying 'optimal' cases that best represent those clusters, and then forming ideal type descriptions. Each type, or grouping of participants, in an ideal type analysis is formed through the systematic comparison of individual participants with each other. The approach is distinctive among qualitative methods, and offers something different to either case-study or thematic approaches - it provides a means for the researcher to retain a focus on the individual participant's experience, as well as on the patterns that exist across the dataset, and within and between groups in the dataset. In this workshop, we will present ideal type analysis as an approach to constructing typologies. We will introduce the stages of ideal type analysis and there will be an opportunity to practice carrying out the stages of ideal type analysis using real data.

**17.00-18.30**

**Parallel #5**

**17.00-18.30**

**SYMPOSIUM | ROOM #1**

**On the edge of society: marginalized young people and the struggle of subjectivity**

*Organizer/ Chair: Sofie Pederson, Roskilde University, Denmark*

Young people on 'the edge of society' are often understood primarily in relation to given norms regarding health, education, work-life etc. In today's (neoliberal) society, young people's problems are often individualized in the sense that dealing with these issues often become a private matter. From a social psychological perspective, we intend to explore the subjectification processes embedded in various institutionalised settings (social psychiatry, unemployment

69

*Time scheduling is according to Eastern European Time (EEST)*



benefit system, and treatment facilities for drug users), and the ways in which the problems that young people experience are intimately connected to the concrete conditions that they are living with. Overall, we aim to understand the specificities of how young people in marginalised societal positions experience these systems and how they navigate and manage themselves in relation to these. From a critical standpoint, we are particularly interested in exploring how young people in various ways, through their participation, alter or mould these systems and how this allows them to experiment or re-negotiate their identities and social positions. The papers will, through their different methodological and theoretical approaches, illustrate how qualitative research can take up different positions in-between exploring and co-constructing new possibilities for young people on the edge of society and contribute to developing practices and technologies for dealing with the threat of marginalisation and stigmatisation that paradoxically is inherent in welfare-practices.

### **On the verge of the labour market: unemployed by choice**

Sabina Pultz, *Roskilde University, Denmark*

Labour markets today have become increasingly precarious with a plethora of non-standard employments emerging. As a consequence, we witness eroding boundaries between categories such as ‘unemployed’, ‘freelancer’, ‘self-employed’ etc. Based on in-depth interviews with 39 young formally unemployed people, I investigate how some people who use the Danish unemployment system in other ways than it is intended. They view unemployment benefit as entrepreneurial support, as one of the participants bluntly puts it, while trying to establish themselves professionally. By exploring how the young people are governed in the unemployment system in relation to how they govern themselves, I conclude that they while they are situated in a marginalized societal position, they govern themselves in ways that allow them to live the lives they wish for. In doing so they refuse to identify with being unemployed and instead conduct themselves as freelancers in alignment with what Rose (1999) has termed ‘enterprise culture’. However, this also comes with a price. In paradoxical ways these young people live up to neoliberal ideas about self-marketizing but at the same time they refuse (also neoliberal) ideals about being self-sufficient and economically independent. I discuss how these young people on the verge of the labour market negotiate for a new understanding of what it means to be unemployed. At the same time, they challenge hegemonic ideas about work being restricted to paid work (“labour”) while promoting an understanding of work outside capitalist conceptualizations (“work”).

### **Living on the edge: paradoxes and new (life)spaces in institutional practices**

Sofie Pederson, *Roskilde University, Denmark*

Young people in social-psychiatry often feel extremely marginalized in their everyday life; they have (most often) fallen behind in the educational system, their social life (often) presents a



challenge, and the prospects of ever living 'a normal life' seem almost out of reach, while at the same time, this is what is fantasized about and idealised. In a Danish context, support is considered a temporary measure in the shape of e.g. living facilities or supported housing, which implies an institutional rationale of facilitating - and ensuring - (measurable) development. This, however, is often experienced by the young people as a pressure and an imperative to move(on) which makes the institutional setting a paradoxical matter; of concurrent support, possibilities and pressure. To explore this paradox – and possible ways to overcome it - the paper draws on both practice research and social psychological therapy with young people living in social-psychiatric institutional settings. The paper suggests that co-exploration and co-creation of new possibilities for action and of what matters may well be productive ways forward: by questioning or transgressing the traditional frames for treatment in social-psychiatry, it becomes possible to not only deepen our understanding of the challenges of young people in marginalized positions, but simultaneously to co-create new practices and possible (life)spaces – both individually and collectively. This involves not only relational dynamics but also the way in which institutional (life)spaces are materially produced and arranged.

### **Young (drugs-users)? Aesthetically Mediated Subjectivities in Social Work**

Mads Bank, *University of Southern Denmark, Denmark*

Social work and drug-treatment has for decades - perhaps centuries - struggled with the problem of how not only to target, problems, symptoms deficiency and deviance, but to help users in develop positive, desired subjectivities. This is in particular a problem in contemporary social work with young drug-users, where issues about identity, normality and social inclusion often are part and parcel of both the underlying causes and the possible solutions. These issues are central to many practices drawing on the linguistic turn and post-modern therapeutic traditions (narrative, systemic, solution-focused). Here a reflexive critical understanding of language is mobilised in order to engage in the construction of more preferred narratives about identity and so on. However, psychologists and social workers in treatment practices are still left with the problems; How to produce more desired subjectivities, when the frame and context is still 'treatment'? And how to break with the frame of treatment and everyday discourse, where treatment is about individual problems, and traditional psy-technologies are the central tools for development. In this paper, I will investigate how young people as a part of 'group-therapy' work with self-made micro-movies and pictures, and how this enable them to engage with more flexible and adaptive understandings of themselves. I will show how art and aesthetic processes can modulate the frame of treatment and facilitate other ways of being and relating.



17.00-18.30

SYMPOSIUM | ROOM #2

**A discursive, rhetorical approach to the study of citizenship**

**Organizer:** Irini Kadianaki, *University of Cyprus, Cyprus*

**Chair:** Eleni Andreouli, *Open University, United Kingdom*

**Discussant:** Rose Capdevila, *Open University, United Kingdom*

In this symposium we discuss how a rhetorical, discursive analytical approach can support a critical, social psychological approach to citizenship. This perspective on citizenship aims at understanding citizenship from the perspective of social actors and not from a policy, state-level perspective, as it usually approached. It regards citizenship as a socially constructed and contested topic and examines how citizenship is constructed, negotiated and contested by different social actors in different socio-political arenas of everyday life. We argue that this epistemological standing invites a discursive, rhetorical analytical approach, which highlights how citizenship is discursively constructed, the ideological resources in which these constructions draw from and the ideological and rhetorical functions and implications of these constructions. To exemplify our analytical approach we present research that examines citizenship constructions regarding different social groups (i.e. LGBTQI+ and migrants), in different national contexts (i.e. Cyprus and Greece) and through different types of data sets, namely: social media, newspapers and online deliberation, parliamentary discourse and interviews with various social actors. Our aim is to highlight the merits and limitations of each of these datasets in advancing a critical social psychological approach to citizenship, through a discursive, rhetorical analysis.

**Analysing constructions of sexual citizenship through newspaper data and social media**

Irini Kadianaki, Maria Avraamidou, Marina Kyprianou, *University of Cyprus, Cyprus*

Eleni Andreouli, *Open University, United Kingdom*

This presentation discusses constructions of sexual citizenship in two different settings in the context of Cyprus. The first is an analysis of how civil union legislation, which first authorized same-sex partnership in the country, was presented in Greek Cypriot newspapers between 2011 and 2015. The second presents an analysis of how LGBTQI+ flag raising at the University of Cyprus in 2018 was debated by users in the Facebook page of the University. We discuss how these different media, print and social, present argumentative contexts with distinct characteristics and rhetorical aspects, in terms of dialogicality, language and format of arguments. We discuss their methodological potentials and their limitations in understanding how citizenship is constructed and debated by the social actors involved.





### **Conspiracy theories in public deliberation on a gender recognition law in Greece: implications for a social psychology of citizenship**

Antonis Sapountzis, *Democritus University of Thrace, Greece*

Lia Figgou, Ioannis Michos, *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece*

Conspiracy theories are a form of political thinking whose study is gaining prominence within social psychology in the last years. Although they are often linked to paranoia and deficient political reasoning, some researchers argue that they represent a normal cognitive process (Douglas & Sutton, 2018), while others focus on the potentially negative and discriminatory outcomes of belief in conspiracy theories (e.g. Byford, 2014). The majority of existing work has focused on processes on the level of the individual, while less attention has been paid to the intergroup level of conspiracy theories. In this presentation we examine the unprompted uses of conspiracy theories by people who participated in a public deliberation in Greece, on a legislation about the right of LGBTQI+ people to self-define or change their gender in legal documentation. Following a discursive perspective, we analyze the internet posts in the official site of the ministry of Law in relation to this issue. The specific methodology allows us to examine the situated used of conspiracy theories and how they may be used to rhetorically delegitimize the voice of LGBTQI+ community demanding equal rights. Results are discussed in relation to the link between conspiracy theories and a critical social psychology of gender citizenship. Discussion also points out the challenges that online deliberation data poses to discursive, in particular and qualitative research in general.

### **Debating the Right to Self-Defined Gender Identity in Parliamentary Discourse: Human Rights, Heteronormativity and Sexual aspects of Citizenship**

Ioannis Michos, Lia Figgou, *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece*

Recent literature on sexual citizenship reveals a tension between approaches that tend to globalize “queer rights” through human rights rhetoric, on the one hand, and approaches that emphasize the risk of mainstreaming queer identities, on the other. Aiming to contribute to these debates, the current study documents the rhetorical constructions of the right to self-defined gender identity in the context of a Greek parliamentary debate. The minutes of the VI Greek Parliamentary session on a bill related to the legal recognition of gender identity constituted the analytic material of the study. Analysis, which utilized principles and concepts of Critical Discursive Social Psychology, highlighted four key constructions. The first represents the right to self-defined gender identity as equivalent to any other human right and depicts its recognition as a condition (and implication) of “real” equality. The second constructs the right to self-defined gender identity as a shared belief and its opponents as misinformed citizens who could be enlightened by the appropriate knowledge. The third constructs expert opinion as a necessary condition for the legal recognition of self-defined gender identity. Finally, the fourth challenges the universality of the particular right and castigates human rights rhetoric, representing it as a



"Trojan horse" through which Western values invade and alter Greek national identity. The discussion focuses a) on the implications of these constructions in the particular political context and their links to the dilemmas of sexual citizenship, and b) on the challenges of exploring the functions of parliamentary discourse, given the multiple audiences that it simultaneously addresses.

### **After the threat of Grexit: Identities, mobility and belonging in Greek everyday discourse**

Maria Xenitidou, *University of Crete, Greece*

Ioannis Michos, Martina Sourvinou, *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece*

The aim of the present study is to interrogate identity constructions in everyday discourse in Greece in the context of Grexit. Mobility and citizenship seem common concerns across everyday, public and institutional discourse, raising such questions as: (i) who belongs where within the national and EU contexts; (ii) who benefits and who is left out from the EU integration regime. These questions are incumbent to a number of national policies but also to issues which concern (the freedom of) movement, the welfare state and the European integration project, as Grexit indicates. Grexit is treated here as a verbal and rhetorical context of (i) contestation and mistrust, entailing arguments and counter-arguments related to the relationship with the EU and with 'others'; (ii) critical juncture in the sense-making of mobility and belonging, with the potential to resource constructions of identity and citizenship in specific ways. While formal politics provide a context of inclusion and exclusion, these are also matters of everyday social relations and public debate. As such, the paper focuses on everyday constructions of mobility, belonging, identity and citizenship in the context of Grexit (N=20 interviews with Greek citizens and settled migrants). Drawing on discursive and rhetorical approaches in social psychology, we present the lines of argument formulated in relation to the mobility of EU citizens and "third-country nationals" in Europe in the context of challenges to European integration – noting the rhetorical strategies used – and discuss their ideological and political consequences. Focusing on the discourse of social actors may shed light on overlooked aspects of identity politics and of the politicization (and de-politicization) of mobility and belonging.

**17.00-18.30**

**SYMPOSIUM | ROOM #3**

#### **Psy Disciplines and Critical Research - A Contradiction?**

**Organizer:** *Christian Küpper, Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences, Germany*

**Chair/Discussant:** *Sigga Waleng, Roskilde University, Denmark*

Professional action and mental suffering cannot be understood independently of social circumstances. What does this mean for practitioners and scientists in psychotherapy and neuroscience? On the one hand, practitioners working in the psychosocial field are familiar with the consequences of violence, unemployment and conflicts and scientists are well aware of the consequences of publishing pressure and third-party funding on the quality of their research. However, they can rarely systematize this knowledge due to day-to-day demands. In academic psychology and neuroscience, on the other hand, this implicit knowledge is neglected because the experimental-statistical mainstream is unable to map the complexity of the individuals'

74

*Time scheduling is according to Eastern European Time (EEST)*



activity and everything subjective is suspected to be irrational. Also, this approach is unable to map the influence of working conditions on practitioners' as well as scientists' actions. Thus, the gap between research and practice persists despite attempts to overcome it with the Scientist-Practitioner model. The aim of Critical Psychology is to produce practically relevant insights that promote emancipation. The objective conditions of subjective experience are brought to light and typical possibility spaces are explored, such that subjectivity and objectivity form a dialectical unity. The research style is oriented towards participatory action research, qualitative and ethnographic methods. Nevertheless, the primacy of the subject over the method forbids the establishment of abstract methodical rules. On the basis of three studies of qualitative practice research with a socio-critical view of psychotherapy and academia, we want to discuss which problems have arisen in the research process. Overarching questions are: How can we deal with the different interests of researchers and practitioners, which insights and barriers does participatory research provide, and which contradictions and fears did we encounter?

### **Participatory Practice Research on Emancipatory Action Potential of Behavioral Therapy**

Leonie Knebel, *Freie Universität Berlin, Germany*

Since its beginnings, behavioral therapy has been accused of being a social technology for the production of desired behavior. An emancipatory psychology wants to contribute to self-enlightenment about societal dependencies which is a prerequisite for improving one's own situation. The research project pursues the aim of exploring the possibilities and contradictions of a behavioral therapeutic practice with emancipatory intent. The study involved psychotherapists as well as patients with depressive suffering. Over the course of one to two and a half years, six outpatient psychotherapies were accompanied by problem-centered interviews. The interviewees had the opportunity to participate in the evaluation, in each case the results were made available and discussed. The interpretation of the material followed a subject-science approach (Markard, 2018). This presentation is limited to the results from a therapeutic perspective. It was possible to reconstruct a typical possibility space for emancipatory interventions in behavioral therapy with three dimensions: these include attitudes that promote human development as a sensual activity, diagnostic tools that connect societal conditions with mental health problems and an understanding of therapeutic goals as strengthening personal agency without personalization. Despite the therapists' critical claim, collective opportunities to change restrictive living conditions play a marginal role. This points to a limitation of the isolated therapeutic work in private practice, in which an exchange is only established for medical purposes. In order to fully develop the emancipatory potential, a cooperation of public-organized psychotherapy care with social workers, user-initiatives and social movements is proposed.



### **Psychotherapeutic Care of Refugees - A Perspective of Practical Psychotherapists**

Anna-Maria Thöle, *Charité Berlin, Germany*

With the so called “refugee crises” in 2015/2016, various research projects increasingly focused on the question of psychotherapeutic care and treatment of refugees. In psychological research, studies have been published on the prevalence rates of mental disorders, the influence of various stress factors, especially potentially traumatic events such as war, torture, displacement and the loss of close relatives on mental health, and on psychotherapeutic treatment methods. However, the question which difficulties practical psychotherapists face in the psychotherapeutic care and treatment of refugees remained relatively unnoticed. The presented study focuses on this topic. Qualitative interviews with practicing psychotherapists were carried out and analyzed using the principles of Grounded Theory. In the interviews we analyzed different 'portrayals' of refugees. In the presentation I will deal with potentially problematic consequences of these 'portrayals' as well as possible reasons for their use. In doing so, I also address the diverging interests of researchers and practitioners.

### **How do neuroscientists think about criticism of their field?**

Eileen Wengemuth, *University of Marburg, Germany*

Neuroscience as a discipline has been faced with criticism from various different fields, including philosophy, sociology, psychology as well as from neuroscience itself. Points of criticism range from criticism of methods to the questioning of implicitly underlying philosophical or sociological assumptions. On the other hand, neuroscience is a flourishing research field with a lot of resources and is often considered to have a strong impact on the development of psychology as a science. For the first part of my dissertation project, I have conducted a literature analysis to give an overview of the points of criticism have been made. For the second part, I have interviewed neuroscientists to tackle the question of how they view different points of criticism, what they themselves would criticize about their field and of how this view is related to their understanding of science in general. For conducting as well as analyzing the interviews, I have used a grounded theory approach in combination with the critical-psychological approach of praxis research. In my presentation, i would like to show that neither criticism of neuroscience as well as neuroscientists' view on different points of criticism can be understood without taking into account the working and research conditions in an economized academic system.



17.00-18.30

THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM #4

Narratives of experiencing health conditions

Chair: Eirini Skopelitou, *National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece*

**The experience of psychotherapy for women with breast cancer.: An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis**

Eirini Skopelitou, Philia Issari, *National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece*

The aim of this qualitative study is to explore the experience and meaning of long-term psychotherapy for women diagnosed with breast cancer. Previous studies underline the helpful role of brief counseling interventions and group therapies, however, there are few studies looking at the effects of long term psychotherapy in the Greek context. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with six participants who had undergone mastectomy (aged 33-63 years old), all of whom were at least for two years in a psychotherapeutic process, at a Day Center for the Psychological Support of Cancer Patients, in the city of Athens. Interpretative Phenomenological analysis was employed and preliminary research findings include: Participant experiences related to the breast diagnosis and related difficulties that lead to seeking psychotherapy; long term therapy as a self-exploration, self-awareness, and personal growth process for cancer patients; the importance of the psychotherapeutic relationship, and the need for long term psychological support. Issues related to long term psychotherapeutic services are also discussed.

**Bariatric Experienced Transition: The patient's personal experience after the bariatric surgery**

Savvas Karasavvidis, *University of Eastern Finland, Finland.*

Marianna Tsatali, *University of Sheffield, United Kingdom*

Elias Sdralis, *Interbalkan Medical Center of Thessaloniki, Greece*

Background: Many quantitative studies identified outcomes after bariatric surgery (body image, self-esteem, self-concept, taking control of his / her life) and benefits such as the improvement of their health, appearance, interpersonal relations with his/her partner but some patients continue to struggle with weight loss, maintenance and regain, and resulting body image dissatisfaction. Research Aim: To investigate the personal experience after a bariatric surgery and to identify the transition changes from obesity to normality. Methods: Phenomenological analysis using patients after a bariatric surgery (n=24) divided in 4 focus groups organized in two seasons, one for building trust and intimacy and the second for more deep information. Semi-structural questions and thematic analysis were used for the results. Findings: Mood, suicide, anxiety disorders and depression affect bariatric patients because of the disappointment after the surgery. The obese patients show greater difficulties in adapting to the new demands, including the need to cope with stress and the other problems in a new way, to relearn to eat, distress over weight loss plateau and failure to achieve a normal-looking body. Also noted feelings of emptiness, hunger pains, and loss of energy, social phobia and a general reduction of



quality of life. Some participants describes a sense of inferiority and vulnerability-safety in unknown environment. Conclusions: Current qualitative study suggests that patients are more prepared for a transition by applying educational empowerment programs. The outcomes like “fewer symptoms”, “ability to assume new roles”, “perceived well-being” gives the opportunity to change or adapt self-care knowledges, attitudes and expectations.

### **Finding your voice: a voice centered listening analysis about finding acceptance within yourself**

Natalie Huf, *Sigmund Freud University Berlin, Germany*

This project discusses the matter of ‘othering’ and what is like to live with a disability. It draws from own experiences, following a method of autoethnography analysis. With this method, the researcher is the same person as the author of the introspection. Later on, the written text is submitted to a voice-centred listening analysis method, which aims to work out the inner processes of a person (in this case, a person with a disability – PwD) in understanding her inner and outer world and what it means to live with her conditions in social context. Throughout the biography the experience of feeling different stood out, which can be demonstrated by the occurrence of self-critical voices, such as guilt and shame. A process of empowerment can also be observed in the lifespan of the author, which is revealed by the later emergence of self-accepting voices. As a conclusion of this study, it is shown that the awareness about the relations with disabilities should be raised. The project also provides materials to further and deeper discussions, which are required in order to build a more precise portrait of such issues.

### **“It is becoming more and more accepted”: Women’s narratives of in vitro fertilization with donor oocytes**

Yulia Panayotova, *Health Psychology Research Center, Bulgaria*

Irina Todorova, *Northeastern University, Boston & Health Psychology Research Center, Bulgaria*

Tatyana Kotzeva, *Burgas Free University & Institute for Population and Human Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria*

Background: Infertility is a complex issue that involves couples in long months and diverse methods of treatment. It elicits multiple themes and cultural values, having to do with the taken for granted life path and meanings of parenthood. Aim: To highlight women’s relations to assisted reproductive procedures, medical specialists and family members, during their paths as oocyte recipients. Methods: The current paper employs a narrative approach, based on 7 in-depth interviews with women, who have undergone In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) with donor eggs. Women’s average age was 43 years old, they lived in large Bulgarian cities. The interviews lasted between 60 and 120 minutes, were recorded and transcribed verbatim in Bulgarian language. Findings: We analyze women’s narrative reconstruction of the previously taken for granted



definition of motherhood, biological kinship and genetic continuity. Women's narratives construct acceptance (with time) of carrying a pregnancy with donor eggs and normalization of this relatively new form of conception. They create a narrative identity as women and mothers in light of donor IVF and reduce the perceived distance from the donor oocyte and future baby. In these narratives, women include their partners and medical providers with their role in redefining parenthood and family. Discussion: Infertility is a condition replete with contradictory emotions and difficult decisions. Third-party reproduction adds additional complexity to the meanings of nature, continuity of kinship, parenting and identity. In Bulgaria, as in other countries, women perceive (anonymous) egg donation as an option that preserves the 'normality' of pregnancy, childbirth and kinship.

**17.00-18.30**

**THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM #5**

**Questioning methodological traditions in Qualitative Research**

**Chair:** Asztrik Kovács, *Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary*

**Potentials and challenges of analyzing interpretation sessions in qualitative research teams – group dynamics as a specific research level**

Constanze Oth, *International Psychoanalytic University Berlin/Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, Germany*

Since the 1970s in qualitative social research an increasing number of interpretation groups and research workshops for evaluating communicatively obtained data have been established (e.g. Allert et al. 2014; Reichertz 2013; Paulus, Woodside & Ziegler 2010). The central argument and explanation for the steadily growing popularity of this practice is an increase in knowledge and data quality through multiperspectivity. On the one hand this leads to the development of heterogeneous readings, on the other hand to consensual validation (Mruck and Mey 2000: [26]). The various interpretations of different researchers suppose to raise validity and intersubjectivity. By contrast, the research and analysis of interpretation group practice is still a desideratum. My dissertation project examines empirically the promise of quality through a „positive declared multiperspectivity [translated by C.O.]“ (Reichertz 2009: [31]). For this I evaluate six interpretation sessions of different groups with different method(olog)ical approaches. It focuses on the development of common and/or heterogeneous interpretations. Furthermore the interrelations between the socio- and psychodynamics of the research object and (unconscious) group dynamics, so called re-enactments, are examined. For this purpose an evaluation using the ethnohermeneutic method is suitable. During the oral presentation I want to discuss my first conclusions from my research focussing on potentials and challenges of the group interpretation practice.



**Mapping qualitative research in psychology across five Central-Eastern European countries: Contemporary trends: A paradigm analysis**

Asztrik Kovács, Dániel Kiss, Szilvia Kassai, Eszter Pados, Zsuzsa Kaló, József Rácz, *Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary*

This study describes the current state of qualitative psychology and gives an overview of the philosophical paradigms used in English language qualitative psychology studies from the post-socialist countries of Central Eastern Europe. For political and historical reasons, academic life of this area is unique, providing a special field for investigation. This study explored the following research questions: Which philosophical paradigms are used in qualitative psychology? What kind of methods are applied? What kind of fields in psychology are examined? Thirty-five articles were analysed from five countries. Articles were examined through their paradigmatic considerations, using a dichotomous qualitative quasi-testing to distinguish positivist/postpositivist from interpretive/constructivist paradigms. We examined the methodology and content of various articles and analysed the keywords to explore common themes of interest. A dominant constructivist philosophical approach was present. Pure positivist articles were found to be quite rare, but mixed paradigms seemed to be frequent. Most of the methodologies were not specified. In terms of interest, the most commonly examined field was found to be social psychology. In the postsocialist era, mixed paradigms were conspicuous since culture and tradition might have had a significant effect on ontology, epistemology, and knowledge of the researcher.

**Generalisation claims within qualitative interview-based studies: a systematic analysis of articles within three health-related journals over a 15-year period**

Konstantina Vasileiou, *University of Bath, United Kingdom, University of West Attica, Greece*  
Julie Barnett, *University of Bath, United Kingdom*

Background: Qualitative research is often criticised for having limited ability to generalise results to the broader population. However, such a conception of external validity is rooted in quantitative research whereby statistical rules and certain sampling techniques determine the potential for generalisation to the broader population. Instead, qualitative researchers propose that a different kind of generalisation, that of analytical or theoretical generalisation, is possible in qualitative research endeavours. Methods: In this paper, we conducted a systematic analysis of single-interview-per-participant qualitative designs within three health-related journals from the disciplines of psychology, sociology and medicine, over a 15-year period to examine whether and what sort of claims to generalisation were made by the authors. Data pertinent to generalisation claims were extracted and analysed using qualitative and quantitative analytic techniques. Results: Using the distinction between theoretical/analytical, inferential, and representational generalisation (Lewis & Ritchie, 2003), we mapped the generalisation claims





that were made by the authors against these categories. Conclusions: We discuss the extent to which these results are consistent with the nature of qualitative research.

**17.00-18.30**

**WORKSHOP | ROOM #6**

**QCMap: an interactive web application for Qualitative Content Analysis**

*Thomas Fenzl, Fresenius University of Applied Sciences, Germany*

Qualitative Content Analysis became a standard procedure of text analysis in social and behavioral sciences (Titscher et al., 2000). It had been developed thirty years ago on the basis of Quantitative Content Analysis with the aim of providing a method, which allows to analyze large amounts of textual material rule-guided, economically and inter-subjectively, with the central process of the assignment of categories to text passages being a qualitative, interpretive procedure. For this purpose, clear content analytical rules and step-by-step models had been developed and refined based on theoretical considerations for several content analytical techniques including summarization, inductive category development and deductive category application (Mayring, 2014). When thinking about software programs for qualitatively oriented text analysis (CAQDAS), available tools like MAXQDA, Atlas.ti and others are often based on the philosophy of Grounded Theory. Hence, several problems arise when trying to use such tools to implement the procedures involved in the various techniques of Qualitative Content Analysis. Hence, an open access web-based software tool was developed which is directly based on the techniques of Qualitative Content Analysis (Mayring, 2014). The workflow-guided program presents pre-structured templates following the several steps of analysis and produces output files, which allow for further quantitative analysis of frequencies and contingencies of categories in the category system. The web-application guides the user interactively through the steps of analysis.

In the workshop, the web-application [www.QCMap.org](http://www.QCMap.org) will be demonstrated and participants will have the opportunity to get hands-on experience with the tool, including the categorization of textual material.

**19.00-20.30**

**Parallel #6**

**19.00-20.30**

**SYMPOSIUM | ROOM #1**

**Qualitative research on identity - celebrating diversity - Part I of II**

**Organizer/Chair:** *Carolin Demuth, Aalborg University, Denmark*

**Discussant:** *Meike Watzlaw, Sigmund Freud University Berlin, Germany*

Identity is a key term in psychology and one of the central topics in qualitative research in psychology today. There is an increasing recognition of identity as a lifelong process, which is much more fluid and dynamic than previously assumed. Views of identity as being constructed



and closely interwoven with cultural and relational practices have opened empirical spaces for identity research into discourse and interactive negotiations, and the embeddedness of identity in a material and culturally pre-structured world. Identities in modern societies – especially in an increasingly digitalized world are constantly contested and disputed. In light of these recent global societal changes individuals face specific challenges and threats to identity (Bamberg, Demuth & Watzlawik, forthcoming). This calls for methodological approaches that are able to capture these fluid and flexible notions of modern identity. The panel will present a variety of qualitative approaches that lend themselves to the study of identity ranging from Foucauldian/Critical Discourse Analysis, Discursive Psychology, Narrative Practice/Small stories approach, Positioning Analysis, Multimodal (Inter)action Analysis, to Diary Analysis and Autoethnography. The presentations come from various subfields of psychology and investigate identity in various contexts such as young motherhood, coronary heart disease, online performances of affect in online vlogs, teams working via Skype, self-writings, as well as confessing to transgressions, accounting for ‘problematic’ behaviour or identity change, and managing success. With this panel, we hope to contribute to a fruitful discussion amongst identity researchers from different research traditions and to advancing the field through possible new ideas that result from the synergies of this discussion.

### **Narrative identities as practice and process**

Michael Bamberg, *Clark University, United States of America*

In contrast to traditional psychological identity theories with their privileging of ‘interiority’ as proxy for ‘the person’ with internal memories, beliefs, and motives, I will make the case for ‘practice’ and ‘process.’ The ‘narrative practice’ approach relies on storytelling as ubiquitous and life-long interactional practice, one babies are woven into already before they are born. In and through these practices people are forming a sense of who they are along three dimensions of identity navigation: (a) sameness and difference from one another as the dimension to affiliate and dis-align; (b) agency and passivity as the dimension to manage the world-to-person-to-world direction of fit; and (c) constancy and change as the temporal dimension to navigate growth, stagnation, and decline. In contrast to making these three dimensions unapproachable as parts of human interiority, I am suggesting that they are visible (i.e., empirically analyzable) in storytelling practices at three levels of positioning: (i) in textual structures and content of stories; (ii) in positions taken in the storytelling interaction; and (iii) in positions vis-à-vis master narratives or dominant discourses. I will demonstrate this type of narrative analysis with an example from publicly available interactions of the HK celebrity Edison Chen with Anjali Rao, in which he (successfully) navigates the three identity dimensions, demonstrating how he has changed - from low agency to becoming responsible and adult - and re-aligning/affiliating with his clients and consumers. I will conclude with a discussion of identity as ‘process’ - in contrast to identity as ‘content.’



### **Affective positioning in cancer vlogs: performing narrative identities of illness on YouTube**

Korina Giaxoglou, *The Open University, United Kingdom*

Alexandra Georgakopoulou, *King's College London, United Kingdom*

This paper focuses on vlogs of cancer as sites of performing and authenticating the illness experience and the emotional self. Our approach to these vlogs is based on the research paradigm of small stories and positioning as an apparatus for capturing stable or continuous aspects of storying and identity and more or less fragmentary, troubled, and transgressive moments of storying and identification (Bamberg et al. 2011; Georgakopoulou 2015). As we will show, the study of online performances of affect calls attention to practices of affective positioning, which are understood, here, as the modulation of distance or proximity to (i) the illness, (ii) the story recipients (known and unknown) and (iii) the emotional self, indexing illness story templates and culture-specific ideologies of emotion. Drawing on this framework, we will examine how the vlogger shifts her positioning at these different levels in the process of performing her narrative identity as a cancer patient and influential vlogger. Implications for narrative, identity and emotion research in online contexts will be discussed.

### **Diary analysis to study identity dynamics**

Tania Zittoun, *University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland*

From a sociocultural psychology perspective, identity is approached as dialogic and dynamic process, developing over time and as the person is experiencing a changing world. Diaries, which people write daily and little time after they experience daily events, offer a unique way to approach such dynamics. In addition, writing is a semiotic activity which, as such, participates to the elaboration of human experience; hence studying diary offers access to dynamics of identity in the making. Diaries are thus both reflecting identity dynamics, and participating to them.

Diary analysis can thus be conceived as means to study identity, by focusing on a series of dimensions that correspond to a dynamic and dialogic understanding of identity. In this presentation, I will present these dimensions, drawing a collaborative study (with Alex Gillespie and colleagues) of the diary of a British young woman during World War II, part of a public database, Mass Observation. More generally I will discuss the interest of analysing public self-writings for the study of identity, and more generally, human development in its sociocultural world.



19.00-20.30

THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM#2

**Meaning construction in interpersonal and clinical settings**

**Chair:** Georgia Gkantona, *Centre of Systemic Therapy and Counseling, Greece*

**Processes of therapeutic change in the implementation of the Polyphonic Drama Method: A dialogical analysis**

Georgia Gkantona, *Centre of Systemic Therapy and Counselling, Greece*

Dialogical Self Theory conceptualizes self as a dynamic multiplicity of relatively autonomous I-positions in the landscape of the mind (Hermans, Kempen & Van Loon, 1992). Each I-position has its own voice and narratives and usually some voices are more activated than others ((Bocus et al., 2017). In psychotherapy settings clients often try to cope with activated internal voices laden with negative emotions. The ‘The self as a theater of voices’ (Hermans, 2006) is a conceptual tool that provides therapist and client with an imaginative procedure for the exploration and change of clients’ stressful self-narratives that restricts client’s well-functioning. The Internal Multi-Actor Performance method (IMAP) is a newly introduced therapeutic process inspired by the theater metaphor. It focuses on the performance of an imaginative play in which the stressful as well as the other activated internal voices correspond to actors on a fictional stage of mind. The client’s narratives are facilitated by the therapist and address each other forming various dialogues (agreement, disagreement, negotiation) and thus the plot of the story. These dialogical processes of positioning, counter-positioning and repositioning aim at altering the dominance of the stressful voice and move the self to a more dialogical construction. The IMAP is illustrated with a case example of a client suffering from depression. Segments are dialogically analyzed in regard to features of the I-positions as actors (voice, external or internal positions, actors’ dominance) as well as their interaction and process of change (sequentiality, divergent or integrative dialogues, coalitions).

**Identity transformations in a Cypriot, mental health rehabilitation center: A dialogical analysis among residents and professionals**

Rebecca Mouyi, Irini Kadianaki, *University of Cyprus, Cyprus*

The ways that people make sense of mental health issues and diagnosis of mental illness is an issue with important clinical and social implications. The purpose of this ethnographic, case study was how residents and professional of a mental health rehabilitation centre in Cyprus represent mental illness and relate to each other. For the purposes of this presentation, only findings of interviews with ten residents diagnosed with mental illnesses, (i.e. schizophrenia) and previously hospitalized in mental clinics will be presented. Thematic analysis identified different themes in the ways that residents constructed etiology, diagnosis and therapy of mental illness and their relationships with others. In order to understand how participants related to social others and their perspectives about mental illness, dialogical analysis was conducted. The findings

84

*Time scheduling is according to Eastern European Time (EEST)*



exemplified how these perspectives were understood and were treated by participants and examined the transformative effect on the ways that residents defined themselves. The implications of the findings are discussed in relation to the stigma that surrounds mental health problems and particularly residents of mental health rehabilitation centers and how it intervenes on their progress of rehabilitation and the redefinition of their identity.

### **Are more at risk the couples who understand each other or the ones who fight for understanding?**

Valeria Ugazio, *European Institute of Systemic-relational Therapies, Italy*

Stella Guarnieri, *University of Bergamo, Italy*

According to the model of semantic polarities (Ugazio, 1998, 2013), the couple's life together starts by the meeting of two different worlds of meanings, the result of previous co-positionings. The semantics of freedom, power, belonging and goodness guide the choice of the partner, construct and couple's bonds in a different way and give rise to peculiar expectations. The meeting between partners generates conflicts and enigmatic episodes which can be explained by analyzing the couple's semantic exchange. The couple semantic cohesion is a new variable (Ugazio & Fellin, 2016; Ugazio & Guarnieri, 2018) which can be defined as the degree to which partners share their meanings during the conversation. In order to explore precisely the couple's semantic arrangements, we applied the Family Semantic Grid (Ugazio & Guarnieri, 2017, 2018) to the first two psychotherapy sessions of 20 couples. There are two kinds of semantic cohesion: narrated and interactive. The former is detected from the narrated story, whereas the latter from the lived story, expressed mainly by nonverbal communication. The results show that low semantic cohesion can destabilize couples, creating many enigmatic episodes. But high semantic cohesion can also threaten couples, as a matter of fact, irrelevant conflicts can jeopardise a long-lasting relationship.

### **Following the Activities of a Mental Health Patients' "Day Care Club": Participants' Experience and Meanings**

Konstantina Podara, Maria Logdanidou, Petros Fotiadis, *424 GMHG- MENTAL HEALTH CENTER, Greece*

People with severe mental health problems often experience difficulties in their interpersonal relationships and daily activities due to the nature of their condition, its chronicity and social prejudice often leading to the patient's withdrawal and social isolation. In relation to a more holistic approach (to mental health care) treatment model, a weekly activity: "Day Care Club" is implemented at the Mental Health Center of 424 General Military Hospital of Greece since 2015. The aim of the present study is to investigate the experience and meanings of being a participant in the "Day Care Club" and the possible impact of this participation on participants' lives according to their view. 13 individual semi-structured interviews were conducted with



patients/club participants by an independent interviewer in order to collect data which was analysed by the method of Thematic Analysis. The participants talk about their motives and benefits by following the activity, as well as their objections and concerns. Analysis indicated that the participation in the “Day Care Club” is represented in the participants’ accounts both as indication of discrimination and compliance as well as chance for communication- interaction, activation and social integration. The conclusions of the survey consist a usefull tool for a critical reflection of the Center’s Mental Health professionals’ work and a guide for redefining the goals of the therapeutic process.

19.00-20.30

THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM#3

**Unpacking challenging societal issues: Violence, abuse and public fear**

**Chair:** Anne Marie Crean, *University College Cork, Ireland*

**The impact of the Irish State’s response on the meaning-making, experiences and identity of Former Residents of historical institutional child abuse**

Anne Marie Crean, *University College Cork, Ireland*

It has been over twenty years since the Irish State acknowledged the abuse experienced by former residents of historical child institutions. This acknowledgement included a national apology, the development of the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse the publication of the Commission findings and the establishment of a Residential Institutions Redress Board. This response can be viewed as a mechanism of transitional justice; a mechanism in which victims, the nation and institutions confront the past through symbolic reparations and resources designed to provide truth, reconciliation, justice and healing. Twenty former residents of historical institutions who participated on at least one element of the State response were interviewed using semi-structured interviews. Grounded theory was utilized to analyse participants’ experience of participation in the State’s response and their meaning-making processes in relation to these experiences. Results explore changing identity positions through participation in State responses but yet participants continue to experience moral exclusion from the dominant society. This research has implications for ongoing policies seeking to meet the needs for social recognition and acknowledgement of former residents of historical child institutions.

**Public fear in the wake of the bomb: Understanding the slow rise of nuclear fear in Denmark**

Ivan Lind Christensen, *Aalborg University, Denmark*

The fact that splitting or fusing some of the smallest entities in the universe – the atoms – can bring about the end of the world, as we know it, remains an almost mythical paradox in our mental landscape in modernity. While we have all been raised with this unsettling truth and thus find it somehow easier to accept (or maybe just easier to forget), for some generations, not that long ago, this truth was revealed for the first time. In this presentation, Moscovici’s social

86

*Time scheduling is according to Eastern European Time (EEST)*



representations theory is applied to the study of the slow rise of nuclear fear in the Danish public from 1945-1963 through an analysis of the public press, government white papers and popular science books during the period. The study presents a close analysis of how the new unfamiliar knowledge of nuclear science was transformed to the everyday familiar public knowledge in the society using the two processes of anchoring and objectification. The study traces the transition from an ambivalent but mostly positive positioning of nuclear technology to a clearly more skeptical and pessimistic attitude in the late 50's and early 60's. Drawing on this analysis I argue that the rise of public nuclear fear developed along two continuums: one concerning the experience of proximity (home-away) and the other concerning the experience of materiality (atmospheric-cellular level).

### **A Thematic Analysis of Individuals' Experiences in Psychologically Abusive Intimate Relationships**

Dori Lansbach, *The University of Edinburgh, Scotland*

Psychological abuse, independent of physical abuse in intimate relationships is an under-researched area of intimate partner violence. There is little consensus among researchers as to what constitutes psychological abuse, how to define it, and how one of these relationships evolves over time. Despite the scarcity of research, studies indicate that this type of abuse is more pervasive and insidious than physical abuse (Semple, 2001); it has been shown to have serious physical and psychological consequences and to be an important predictor of physical violence (Hennings & Klesges, 2003). Thematic Analysis was conducted on seven naturally occurring blogs by individuals who gave accounts of their experiences in psychologically abusive relationships. Four key themes were identified: 'blissful beginnings,' 'the invisible nature of abuse,' 'loss of self,' and 'the cycle of abuse.' Individuals described the beginning stages of their relationship as 'blissful' and their partners as overwhelmingly charming. A sense of psychological abuse being 'invisible' in nature pervaded accounts as there were no physical marks; the wounds were internal, and it slowly built over time. Women described a 'loss of self' or identity, as well as a 'cycle' of brief periods of warmth, abusive and manipulative tactics, hostile withdrawal, and intermittent warmth again. The findings extend our understanding of how individuals experience and make sense of psychological abuse, and highlight potential ways in which purely psychologically abusive relationships differ from physically abusive ones. The current findings from the blogs are being used to conduct further research in the area of psychological abuse.



19.00-20.30

THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM #4

Methodological advances in Qualitative Research

Chair: Vivien Burr, *University of Huddersfield, United Kingdom*

### **Interpretive Clustering vs Thematic Analysis: innovation in qualitative analysis**

Vivien Burr, Nigel King, *University of Huddersfield, United Kingdom*

In this paper, we introduce a method of qualitative analysis we have termed 'Interpretive Clustering'. Using examples from our own research on the meaning of outdoor spaces, we will demonstrate how using thematic analysis and IC on the same data set can lead to different but complementary insights. The Repertory Grid is a highly flexible and participant-led research method, widely adopted across a number of disciplines. It is frequently used by qualitative researchers as part of in-depth interviews to explore participants' meaning-making, and enables a swift and direct focus upon issues that are of importance to the participant. The resultant interview data are typically analysed using thematic methods such as IPA and Template Analysis, and the grid data itself (constructs) have also been treated thematically to identify similarities in construing across participants. But thematic analysis can neglect the idiographic aspects of the data and the important ways in which participants may differ from each other. By contrast, Interpretive Clustering looks at the construing of individual participants and asks how aspects of their meaning-making are related to and have implications for each other. We will show how thematic analysis identifies participants showing apparently similar concerns, but Interpretive Clustering reveals important variations in how these concerns are embedded in different webs of meaning for different participants. We will end by commenting on the potential of Interpretive Clustering to perturb the qualitative-quantitative binary.

### **The past and present of triangulation and social representations theory: A crossed history**

Sabine Caillaud, Marjolaine Doumergue, Nikos Kalampalikis, *Université Lumière Lyon 2, France*

This presentation examines some of the main processes in the evolution of triangulation in qualitative research (QR) and social representations theory (SRT) in social psychology in recent decades. Namely, by adopting a cross-historical approach, we will seek to outline how SRT can strengthen its epistemological approach by embracing triangulation, and to highlight that an examination of past and current debates on SRT can provide relevant insights for QR in psychology. We will show how, progressively over time, in both fields (SRT and QR), discrepancies between data obtained by different methods were no longer considered a threat to scientific validity of the data but as a way to deepen understanding of the phenomenon being studied. Thus, we will describe the ways in which, by developing systematic triangulation, which combines the various epistemological, theoretical, and methodological backgrounds of different methods (data collection and/or analysis), SRT fulfills its potential even more in contributing to a societal social psychology. We will discuss the idea that, reciprocally, SRT provides a framework in which





QR can develop some of its full potential, for example, in the areas of multi-method studies, multidisciplinary, and engagement with social change.

### **Researchers' triangulation in interviews analyses: the subjectivity as an asset to the production of original interpretative ideas**

Léa Restivo, Lelaurain Solveig, *Aix-Marseille Université, France*

Triangulation is considered as an efficient strategy to ensure credibility, that is consensually defined as a relevant criterion to assess qualitative studies quality (Delefosse & al., 2016). Researchers' triangulation is particularly used in studies based on research interviews. Initially defined as a means to cross different researchers' analyses of the data, it seems to be more and more presented as a way to limit the influence of researchers' subjectivity, as the increasing use of the kappa index can attest. However, another way to apprehend researchers' triangulation is to consider the subjectivity of researchers as an asset. This perspective refers to long-standing concerns in the literature, particularly in the case of feminist sciences studies for which subjectivity appears as a resource for (and not an obstacle to) scientific production (Haraway, 1988; Hartsock, 1983). Based on a qualitative study exploring women's experiences and representations of intimate partner violence (N = 19 women), the objectives of this communication is 1/to present how researchers triangulation has been conducted in this study (e.g., researchers' characteristics, number of meetings, meetings progress) and 2/to discuss how this strategy contributed to the data analyses. Going beyond the minimization of the limits inherent to data analysis by a unique researcher, here triangulation, and especially the intersubjectivity it implied, fostered the productions of original interpretative ideas. These results invite us to not reduce researchers' triangulation to a 'peer-checking' process aiming at avoiding subjectivity, but to apprehend it as a way to diversify the views on the object, enhancing thus the understanding of its complexity.

### **A research method for in-depth analysis: Voice Centered Listening**

Marie-Luise Springmann, Franziska Müller, Sasmita Rosari, Mechthild Kiegelmann, *University of Education Karlsruhe, Germany*

Jochen Kramer, *Türkische Gemeinde in Baden-Württemberg e.V., Germany*

Analyzing psychological issues often demands to go beyond the overtly articulated content to search for latent meaning. Voice Centered Listening (VCL) is presented as a structured method that can be applied additionally to other qualitative methods when facing difficult yet meaningful material. The procedure comprises several readings of the data that separately address the content, the researcher's own reactions to the data, the subject's self-related messages, the social context, and the different "voices" in which the subject speaks about his or her experience. Working with the VCL adds to qualitative data analysis when trying to grasp intrapersonal and interpersonal dynamics: With its sensitivity to different, often conflicting, parts or "voices" within a subject, VCL creates methodological access to the complexity of psychological experience and



social relationships. It is therefore not only helpful for systematically analyzing intrapsychological conflict, but for also understanding the individual's experience in a social context. VCL provides a structured method of working with content (what is said) as well as language (how something is said), sensitizing for content that might be difficult to express or might even be silenced. Despite these advantages, applying VCL holds challenges such as its specificity to culture and language and the considerable amount of time required for in-depth analysis. Examples from ongoing research projects are used to illustrate the process and added value of working with VCL. We argue that the use of VCL provides a valuable contribution for analyzing the complexity and ambiguity of psychological processes.

19.00-20.30

THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM #5

**Illuminating cultural, national and historical processes**

**Chair:** Noomi Matthiesen, *Aalborg University, Denmark*

**“I would have an obligation to learn a bit about the country that I’m a citizen of”: discourses of citizenship among the ‘Brexit Irish’**

Marc Scully, *Mary Immaculate College, Ireland*

This research adds to the growing qualitative social psychological literature on citizenship (Condor, 2011; Stevenson et al, 2015; Xenitidou & Sapountzis 2018) through a case study of discourses of transnational citizenship in the post-Brexit environment. In the aftermath of the United Kingdom’s decision to leave the European Union, there has been a notable upsurge in eligible British citizens taking up citizenship of European countries. Most prominently, there has been a large increase in applications from British residents for Irish passports, with many of these coming from those eligible for Irish citizenship through descent: the so-called ‘Brexit Irish’. Past research on the Irish in Britain has illustrated the rhetorical constraints on claiming Irishness in an English/British accent, with such claims being subject to accusations of inauthenticity (Hickman et al, 2005; Scully, 2012). Through a combination of interview and focus group methods, I spoke to 25 such claimants of Irish citizenship through descent. Working in the tradition of critical discursive psychology, I examine the identity work of participants around Irishness, Britishness and Europeaness. I analyse how legal claims on Irish citizenship are interwoven with psychological claims on Irish identity, occasionally leading to ideological dilemmas that must be resolved. In particular, I look at how participants rhetorically arrange their identity claims against anticipated accusations of inauthenticity. I suggest that demonstrating a knowledge, or a willingness to learn, about contemporary Ireland is a means of accomplishing this, and that this represents a variant of the ‘earned citizenship’ discourse noted by Andreouli & Dashtipour (2013).



**The use of positive emotion discourse in war narratives in the Greek history school textbooks:  
Reaffirming nationalism as an affective regime of knowledge**

Efthalia Konstantinidou, *University of Western Macedonia, Greece*

Although tracing and eliminating prejudice against national others as a major concern in international school textbook research has contributed to efforts for textbook revision by concentrating on the negative aspects of nationalism, its positive, patriotic aspects have been left unexplored as unproblematic. Drawing on discursive social-psychological perspectives on prejudice and nationalism, and taking into account of the evaluative nature of emotion language, the discourse analytic model presented here combines textual micro- with macro-analysis (Discursive Psychology, Systemic Functional Linguistics, and Foucauldian Discourse Analysis), by focusing, on one hand, on the use of positive emotion language for constructing the national self in war narratives in the Greek history school textbooks as persuasive accounts of national history, both objective, i.e. morally and politically impartial, and patriotically partisan, favouring particular versions of historical events. On the other hand, the analysis is extended to the macro-level by focusing on the use of positive emotion language as embedded in institutional, pedagogical practices by which nationalism is reaffirmed in the public imaginary about the past as an affective regime of knowledge, regulating the emotional features of collective identities and memory. In addition, it is argued that the very absence of emotion language in the construction of national others creates an asymmetry between the representation of the national self and other, which further strengthens the patriotic partisanship of the historical narrative.

**Crowdsourcing ‘Philotimo’: Delineating a cultural keyword using thematic analysis**

Manos Hatzimalonas, *University of Minnesota, United States of America, University of East London, United Kingdom*

Alleged as the epitome of the Greek psyche, yet complex and controversial in its interpretations, ‘Philotimo’ remains largely unexamined by modern social science. An internet-mediated study sought to explore the complex nuances of philotimo as defined by Greeks internationally. Data was collected through long-form questionnaires (n = 270), an online collection of over 3.000 definitions and short narratives, and a large number of social media interactions relating to study posts on Facebook and Twitter. Thematic Analysis was employed across all data sets with an emphasis on ‘meaning’ rather than ‘content’. This data-driven trans-media approach consisted of identifying, analysing and reporting patterns within data, and allowed for social and psychological interpretations of data relating to the questions: 1) How do Greeks define Philotimo 2) How do those definitions relate to individual and social dimensions of the self. A further exploration of micro-linguistic, everyday small narratives between people on the backdrop of current events allowed for recognizing ‘event’ constructs over ‘experiences’, and socially-oriented over individually-oriented phenomena. This approach afforded a broadened



view of an 'event' from its 'micro social' dimension through to its wider, cultural variants. Preliminary results identified strong associations with age, economic status, level of education, geographical proximity to urban or rural areas, and philotimo. Further analysis highlighted philotimo's situational sensitivity as well as its quality as an ego-delineating cognitive mindset that helps a person overcome issues of relevance, conflict and specificity, while promoting pro-social behavior that encourages social membership and civic friendship.

### **Psychology and the Nordic ideal of parenting**

Noomi Matthiesen, *Aalborg University, Denmark*

In the spring of 2018 the Danish Ministry of Children and Social Affairs' raised a societal debate about parenting culture, upbringing and discipline. In this debate it was pointed out that children in primary school are undisciplined and unfocused, and that this may be due to parenting norms that place too much focus on the consideration for the child's needs and individual autonomy. This paper examines current ideals about parenting norms by analyzing three central Danish parenting books that were published in 2017. The books argue that the two biggest challenges faced by parents today are that children are increasingly mentally vulnerable and that children are increasingly occupied by themselves and their own needs. These challenges are linked to the historical deconstruction of parental authority. The books describe parenting ideals where parents act as psychological coaches for their children who, by using an appropriate mix of dialogue and demands, promote the development of children who are resilient, self-regulating, need-aware and flexible. The paper argues that the technical psychological parenting ideal promoted in the books supports the development of neoliberal subjects. It is argued that the appropriate neoliberal subject is self-optimizing and individualizing, which implies that the individual must bear the risk and responsibility for failure, potentially increasing the individual's vulnerability. It is further argued that ideals are based on a scientific discourse which potentially marginalizes and alienates parents, and blurs the moral dimensions of parenting inherent in family life.

20.30-22.00

SOCIAL PROGRAMME



SATURDAY, June 19<sup>th</sup>

10.00-11.30

Parallel #7

10.00-11.30

SYMPOSIUM | ROOM #1

**Qualitative research on identity - celebrating diversity - Part II of II**

**Organizer/Chair:** Carolin Demuth, *Aalborg University, Denmark*

**Discussant:** Meike Watzlawik, *Sigmund Freud University Berlin, Germany*

Identity is a key term in psychology and one of the central topics in qualitative research in psychology today. There is an increasing recognition of identity as a lifelong process, which is much more fluid and dynamic than previously assumed. Views of identity as being constructed and closely interwoven with cultural and relational practices have opened empirical spaces for identity research into discourse and interactive negotiations, and the embeddedness of identity in a material and culturally pre-structured world. Identities in modern societies – especially in an increasingly digitalized world are constantly contested and disputed. In light of these recent global societal changes individuals face specific challenges and threats to identity (Bamberg, Demuth & Watzlawik, forthcoming). This calls for methodological approaches that are able to capture these fluid and flexible notions of modern identity. The panel will present a variety of qualitative approaches that lend themselves to the study of identity ranging from Foucauldian/Critical Discourse Analysis, Discursive Psychology, Narrative Practice/Small stories approach, Positioning Analysis, Multimodal (Inter)action Analysis, to Diary Analysis and Autoethnography. The presentations come from various subfields of psychology and investigate identity in various contexts such as young motherhood, coronary heart disease, online performances of affect in online vlogs, teams working via Skype, self-writings, as well as confessing to transgressions, accounting for ‘problematic’ behaviour or identity change, and managing success. With this panel, we hope to contribute to a fruitful discussion amongst identity researchers from different research traditions and to advancing the field through possible new ideas that result from the synergies of this discussion.

#### **Applying discursive approaches to identity: Maternal identities and parenting cultures**

Abigail Locke, *Keele University, United Kingdom*

In this paper I consider the way in which the study of identity has been approached using discursive approaches and within a frame of Critical Health Psychology. Critical approaches to health psychology move away from individualistic concerns to consider the ways in which wider social-psychological, socio-political and socio-cultural processes may influence the ‘choices’ available to us in relation to our health and wellbeing practices. I particularly emphasise identities in everyday contexts and the changes that can occur when encountering challenges to one’s own or someone else’s health. Discursive approaches, and in particular Critical Discursive



Psychology, offer a way in which to investigate identities at work in both macro and micro levels. In this paper, I consider early motherhood as an example and consider the ways in which identities are enacted, situated, relational and embodied in discourses around the maternal, situating this within wider contemporary parenting ideologies. I discuss the work around maternal identities, in particular the way in which mothers orient around a 'good mothering' discourse considering the ways in which this has become bound up with debates around the different choices made in parenting practices.

### **Examining Agency Qualitatively: Diversity, challenges and opportunities**

Sue Widdicombe, Cristina Marinho, *University of Edinburgh, Scotland*

Our focus is on a key aspect of self-identity, agency, which has been researched from a diverse range of theoretical and methodological perspectives. Our aim is to articulate the different ways in which this intangible quality has been translated into an object of research and knowledge and the assumptions that researchers make in the service of that translation. To this end, we examine empirical examples of agency as manifest in descriptions of self being in control; in grammatical forms and intentionalist terms such as 'want to'; in taking the first turn in an interaction; in saying something that doesn't fit a dominant discourse; or claiming a lived experience. Our broader aim is to use these empirical examples to show the correspondence between theoretical assumptions and the rationale for asking certain kinds of questions; between assumptions made about the ontology of each phenomenon and the methodology used to render it researchable. Furthermore, we show how different epistemological assumptions determine the kind of object researched and whether it is located within the person, in narratives, discourses or interactions, and depicting or enacting agency. Highlighting the web of assumptions brings into sharp relief the important subjective element in researching self-identity which is manifested in the choices and the decisions we make. In conclusion, we outline two key challenges for identity researchers: one is to make explicit the assumptions and decisions that drive the research, and the second is to consider whose concerns are addressed; the researcher's conceptual or the participants' live, practical concerns.

### **Examining identity with multimodal (inter)action as methodological framework**

Sigrid Norris, Tui Matelau-Doherty, *Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand*

Multimodal (inter)action analysis (Norris 2011) is a methodology to analyze identity production in everyday life. This methodology has strong theoretical foundations in sociocultural psychology (Vygotsky 1976; Wertsch 1998), mediated discourse analysis (Scollon 1998, 2001; Norris and Jones 2005), interactional sociolinguistics (Goffman 1959, 1963, 1974, 1981; Gumperz 1982; Tannen 1984) and social semiotics (Kress and Van Leeuwen 1996, 2001; Van Leeuwen 1999). In multimodal (inter)action analysis, identity is viewed as being made up of elements, which can change on a small scale from moment to moment and on a more general scale throughout time,



showing the fluidity of identity production, but also allowing for the analysis of stabilization of identity. The methodology consists of several analytical tools and three basic units of analysis: The lower-level, the higher-level, and the frozen mediated action (Norris 2004). When examining video recorded data or interviews, one examines the situated nature of participants' production of identity elements on the micro level. Utilizing the analytical tool, modal density foreground-background continuum of attention/awareness, one can determine the simultaneous multiplicity of identity element production (horizontal identity production). When examining ethnographic data, interviews, and fieldnotes, one can utilize the analytical tool >layers of discourse< to analyze the immediate, continuous, and general identity element production. Thereby situated identity is shown to be embedded in the meso and macro levels of socio-historical and socio-cultural identity production (vertical identity production). This presentation showcases the methodology with excerpts from studies such as identity production in families or identity production in teams working via Skype.

10.00-11.30

THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM #2

Understanding educational contexts and practices

Chair: Sigga Waleng, Roskilde University, Denmark

### **Paradoxes of success in university students' narratives**

Svetlana Yaroshevskaya, Tatiana Sysoeva, *Psychological Institute of Russian Academy of Education, Russia*

Academic achievement, or academic success is usually studied as a variable in quantitative psychological research. But is it something requiring critical evaluation and is it unambiguously clear to students themselves? We've conducted 20 in-depth interviews with sophomore year students from Moscow universities and analyzed the data using reflexive thematic analysis. We produced three themes: success as high grades; success as knowledge; success as inner states. These three themes also form a kind of continuum, moving from totally external criteria of success (grades) through mixed forms (knowledge as mastering a program is still oriented to external standards, but knowledge as horizon-broadening already isn't) to completely internal ones (like interest, well-being, and self-transformation stand out). In this movement from external to internal, themes also get more complex. But all three themes are played out in combination, and in individual narratives – however sophisticated version of internal criteria our informants employ, – paradoxically there's always a place for grades-oriented vision of self and others. At the same time it's impossible for our informants to completely and willingly reduce their success to grades. This conflictual meaning of grades was evident throughout our interviews, but there were no traces of critical stance towards the educational system. Even questions of own well-being were signaling for students their individual problems requiring individual decisions, such as transferring to another university or program or self-regulation. Based on new series of interviews with recent graduates we assume that it takes time and experience with the institutional arrangements for critical stance to emerge.



### **Bridging perspectives as a path to democratic research?**

Sigga Waleng, *Roskilde University, Denmark*

Within school psychology, the field of children's perspectives has recently grown enormously, but extensive research has also been conducted from teachers' and parent' perspectives. This research has contributed to legitimacy and understanding of the interests at stake for each party involved in school life – especially by giving voice to silenced groups such as children or parents from minority groups and thereby contributing to democratic processes. However, in some cases this 'voiced' approach also escalates already existing conflicts, especially when focused on highly disputed and conflictual issues. Within the field of school exclusions and expulsions as my research is positioned in, research conducted from e.g. a teacher perspective risks placing the responsibility of school life heavily on parents' shoulder, and thereby mirroring and contributing to conflicts between parents and teachers. Therefore, I engage with multiple relevant parties involved in exclusion and expulsion practices. In a quest of making sense of the common issues at stake when a pupil is excluded from school, I have pursued such a multi-vocal methodology through following pupils, teachers, parents and principals in an extensive process of ethnographic field work at a local school. On a theoretical foundation of critical psychology, I will discuss if a multi-vocal approach can be seen as a contribution to democratic processes and how the analytical bridging of perspectives can be established. My claim is that bridging various perspectives on a common matter can contribute with a collective understanding of the issues at stake and thereby create a collective space for action.

### **University students take pictures and discuss well-being: the use of the Photo-voice method**

Stavroula Laou, Philia Issari, *National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece*

This qualitative study aims at the exploration and understanding of the way University students experience, comprehend and give meaning to their well-being in everyday life. The sampling is purposive and focuses on freshmen and senior students, attending universities in the region of Attica. Data collection was accomplished through optical methods and focus groups. Initially, participants were asked to take pictures (use of Photo-voice) in order to imprint images regarding their experience on mental health. Subsequently, they were given the opportunity to describe and give meaning to their pictures while participating in focus groups (4 focus groups of 6 to 8 student per group), as well as to exchange views on matters related to well-being. The research optical material was analyzed using multifaceted thematic analysis and the verbal data with thematic analysis. Findings are discussed, among other things, in relation to their importance on student counselling, both on prevention and intervention level.





10.00-11.30

THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM #3

**Making sense of chronic health conditions**

Chair: Nicolas Dauman, *University of Poitiers, France*

**Using qualitative research to study indigenous' narratives on coping with Diabetes**

Maya Maor, *Israel Academic College, Israel*

Maya Lavie-Ajayi, *Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel*

Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM) is disproportionately prevalent among indigenous groups, with especially poor treatment outcomes and higher complication rates. Studies of the role of indigenous cultures in coping with T2DM tend to view it from an external point of view (Etic). Consequently Indigenous cultures are often reduced and treated mainly as a cause for insufficient compliance with bio-medical treatment regimen. This is also the case with the minority Bedouin population of Israel. This paper is based on the first qualitative study designed to explore Bedouin men and women from Israel' narratives of coping with T2DM. Examples from grounded theory analysis of over 50 in-depth interviews reveal how listening to people' own voices expands previous understandings of indigenous culture in at least two ways. First, the influence of indigenous culture on coping is mediated through ethnic inequality, such as lack of routine medical examinations or unsuitable living conditions. Thus indigenous culture negative influence on coping is not predetermined. Second, indigenous narratives allows us to see how indigenous culture is used in the service of optimal coping, e.g. using religious beliefs to counter T2DM related stigma, extended kinship ties for support or indigenous based foods to control glucose blood levels. Together these findings elucidate the critical role of qualitative in-depth interviews study design in understanding and targeting both obstacles specific to indigenous groups coping with T2DM, and utilizing indigenous groups-based knowledge as resources for coping.

**'I am not ME anymore': The experiences of men living with systemic lupus erythematosus**

Iain Williamson, Marrisha Sandhu, *De Montfort University, United Kingdom*

Tawanda Pendeke, *Aston University, United Kingdom*

Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus is a complex, debilitating auto-immune condition with uncertain progression and prognosis. The overwhelming majority of clinical cases are amongst women and research (both medical and psychosocial) on men's experiences of living with SLE remains scarce. The present study aims to address this omission by providing a holistic overview of men's experiences. Method: A grounded theory approach informed data collection which occurred in three phases with an international sample of 20 men with confirmed SLE diagnosis and 6 long-term partners. Participants were recruited from support organisations and came from Israel, Italy, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, the United States and Zambia. Participants were able to contribute to the study flexibly through face-to-face, phone or Skype/FaceTime interviews (N=18) or extended email correspondence (N=8) with one of the



research team. Findings: Three interlinked themes have been selected for this presentation. The first considers loss of selfhood and masculinity and how men's roles, self-image and relationships are threatened by an illness which is debilitating, fluctuating and poorly understood. The second explores the difficulties of achieving a confirmed diagnosis and ongoing frustration with healthcare services which were often perceived as hostile and/or fragmented. The final theme discusses ongoing challenges around disclosure, shame and perceived stigma. Discussion: We consider which aspects of men's experiences converge and diverge with accounts from women with the condition, address some of the limitations of the study and outline implications for healthcare and support organisations at improving men's with SLE quality of life and clinical care experiences.

### **Empowering Patients Approach to Chronic Tinnitus – A Grounded Theory Study**

Nicolas Dauman, *University of Poitiers, France*

Soly Erlandsson, *West University, Sweden*

René Dauman, *University of Bordeaux, France*

Medicine usually defines tinnitus as the perception of sounds in the absence of stimulation of the auditory pathway. Although widely cited in the literature, a definition like this does not make sense to the threats towards self-perception and life that tinnitus intrusiveness entails to chronic sufferers. Continuous efforts are required from patients to detach themselves from the ailment, trying to engage in activities that are engrossing enough to allow them moments of distraction. Once their involvement ceases, increased awareness of tinnitus is a signal heralding that sustainable progress is not being made despite their efforts. In order to attain tinnitus patients' first-hand experience, we conducted open-ended interviews with 22 French participants (10 women, 12 men, aged 18–84) following a constant comparison analysis in accordance with Glaser (1978) and Holton & Walsch (2017). To circumscribe fluctuations of intrusiveness, preventing the risk of being overwhelmed by tinnitus, emerged as participants' main concern. To handle their frustration (i.e. the core category), participants tried to understand why their annoyance varied over time and they strived to maintain order in their perception by the help of the auditory surrounding. They also made attempts to alleviate conflicts arising within social relationships as a way to soften tinnitus intrusiveness. The more they were able to handle their daily frustrations, the better they coped with their condition. A rehabilitation model for implementation in clinical settings will present issues surrounding a persistent sense of helplessness in suffering individuals and how tolerance towards these emotions can be reached.

### **The interrelation of multiple identities: The experience of LGBTQ individuals living with multiple sclerosis**

Periklis Papaloukas, Iain Williamson, Julie Fish, *De Montfort University, United Kingdom*

This PhD study explores the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans\* (LGBTQ) individuals living with the chronic condition of multiple sclerosis (MS) whose effects are both specific and profound. Chronic conditions have been under-explored in LGBTQ communities outside of the



context of HIV, especially via a multi-methodological qualitative approach. The research employs an innovative integrative conceptual framework, in order to investigate this topic. It is posited within a critical health psychology epistemological paradigm, theoretically informed by phenomenological psychology and visual ethnography. The integrated data have been collected via interviews and participant-authored photographs which have been analysed using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA). Twenty-eight participants, from Europe and all over the world, have taken part. The analysis of the data has produced several themes. For the purposes of this presentation we specifically discuss the theme of 'The complex integration of MS and LGBTQ identities: the losses of the self'. MS is a transformative condition which alters the core self of individuals and fundamentally modifies their perceived, and felt relations with other individuals. Their life is infused by heteronormativity assumptions, and influenced by heterosexist and ableist experiences, creating a new health lifeworld. We discuss insights from the study, applications for intervention and aware-raising and consider additional opportunities for applied and impactful opportunities which the participant-authored photos have provide us with. We illustrate this with our reflections on a dissemination and engagement event which took the form of a public photographic exhibition.

**10.00-11.30**

**THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM #4**

**Innovations in Qualitative Data Sampling and Analysis**

**Chair:** Nigel King, *University of Huddersfield, United Kingdom*

### **Multi family member interview studies: implementation and evaluation**

Hanna Van Parys, *Ghent University Hospital, Belgium*

The field of qualitative systemic research both in therapeutic contexts and in non-therapeutic contexts is in full development. One of the methodologies that have been advanced in recent years is Multi Family Member Interview Studies. This approach allows for the detailed and systematic analysis of family practices and the co-construction of shared family realities. Multiple family members are interviewed around the same topic (e.g. the experience of having a seriously ill family member) using the principles of Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) interviewing. Data analysis consists of four steps: 1) in-depth analysis of the individual interviews including detailed memo-writing, line-by-line coding based on the research questions, clustering of the codes and writing up a narrative for each of the interviews using the principles of IPA. 2) Analysis of the interviews on a family level based on the narratives and the code systems from the first step. 3) Integration of the themes and subthemes constructed on the family level, resulting in new cross-family thematic categories. 4) A continuous auditing process throughout all steps of the analysis. In this presentation, the focus will be on the merits and perils of this methodological approach exemplified by different examples of recently published studies. The approach enables us to carefully compare, reflect on and integrate the perspectives of family members and in this way lifts our systemic understanding of for instance illness experiences within families. At the same time issues like network confidentiality arguably put a strain on the level of depth in manuscripts.



### **Wordsworth's Nuns: Considering Constraint and Freedom in Qualitative Data Analysis**

Nigel King, *University of Huddersfield, United Kingdom*

Joanna Brooks, *University of Manchester, United Kingdom*

There is a growing range of methods of qualitative data analysis that offer procedural guidelines, both as facets of specific methodologies (IPA, Constructivist Grounded Theory etc) and as more generic methods for researchers to adapt to their own needs (principally various forms of thematic analysis). Such guidelines often present not only a sequence of steps in the analytic process but also suggestions for the analytic structures that may be employed. This approach to qualitative data analysis (QDA) has been subject to a good deal of criticism. It has been accused of feeding “methodolatory”; the promotion of correct procedure as a road to truth. More broadly, it is seen by some as inhibiting wider creative engagement with data and understanding of texts, with data decontextualised and coded rather mechanistically. We wish to challenge these arguments in the present paper. In his sonnet “Nuns fret not at their convent’s narrow room”, the poet William Wordsworth advocates for the liberating potential of constraint. We believe a similar argument can be made in relation to QDA; that used wisely, the apparently constraining nature of procedure and structure can be freeing for the analyst. We draw on own experiences of using Template Analysis as an exemplar of this case.

### **"Feeling at home" in an experiential research group**

Carla Willig, Aylish ODriscoll, Martina Gerada, *City University of London, United Kingdom*

Julianna Challenor, *Metanoia Institute, United Kingdom*

Ahmed Bipasha, *Glasgow Caledonian University London, United Kingdom*

Virginia Eatough, *Birkbeck University of London, United Kingdom*

In this presentation we reflect on the process of conducting experiential qualitative research within the context of a group of co-researchers. Inspired by the format of memory work groups, our group of seven female qualitative psychologists used written accounts of our own contemporary experiences of the chosen trigger, ‘feeling/ not feeling at home’, to gain a deeper understanding of the way in which our experiences are constituted and to interrogate the relationship between discourse and subjectivity within this. We have adopted a pluralistic approach to the analysis which involved reading our accounts through a series of lenses, including discursive, phenomenological and narrative. Systematic reflection on the kinds of questions we ask about our experiences has become a part of the process of analysis. As such, our research could be described as a form of collective auto-ethnography. We will identify and reflect on the challenges and opportunities inherent in this method. These include i) our emotional investment in the data, ii) grappling with the diversity of approaches to analysis and epistemological orientations within our group, iii) the relational dynamics in the group, iv) logistical challenges and maintaining momentum, v) the process of learning from one another, and vi) honing our reflexivity skills through raising awareness of deeply held assumptions about our experiences,

100

*Time scheduling is according to Eastern European Time (EEST)*



the trigger and the process of conducting qualitative research. Emerging results will be presented to illustrate our research process.

### **Video Stimulated Recall Interviews: The case of parent-pedagogues' collaboration in everyday settings**

Paula Cavada-Hrepich, Noomi Matthiesen, *Aalborg University, Denmark*

Visual research methods have been effective in studying people's relationship to their material environment and their understanding of difficult or mundane situations that are difficult to put into words (Gabb, 2008, Pink, 2007; Reavey, 2011). Notably, visual elicitation has helped to explore the richness of participants' lifeworld and their negotiations (Radley & Taylor, 2003; Hilppö, et al., 2017). This paper explores the different advantages, considerations and challenges that the use of video-recorded observations of everyday encounters offers as props or stimulated recall (Dempsey, 2010) for exploring the parents' and pedagogues' experiences of collaboration. The empirical material consists of 30 video-recorded observations of children's delivery and collection of 15 children and. The footage was played back to both parents and pedagogues, separately. In situ commentaries and an interview followed discussing different aspects of those recorded interactions related to their emotional recall, ideas, associations, and conduct explanations. The gathered material allowed to have a deeper understanding of what signs do parents and pedagogues consider essential in their collaboration, what signs are they trying to convey and the reasons and emotions behind their actions. However, the multisensorial richness of video observations requires several phases of analysis to not lose sight of the aim of the study and to enhance the sensitiveness to enquire on key actions and interactions. Finally, this paper reflects on the implications of positioning between parents, pedagogues and the researcher when a third-person perspective mediated by the video-recorded observation is used as a visual prop.

**10.00-11.30**

**THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM #5**

**Tackling socio-political issues**

**Chair:** Federica Cavazzoni, *University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy*

### **A mixed-method exploration of agency and well-being in a group of Palestinian children living under military oppression and political violence: the role of gender and living contexts**

Federica Cavazzoni, Alec Fiorini, Hala Kittaneh, Guido Veronese, *University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy*

Through a mixed-method explanatory design, the study investigates the role of gender and living contexts in influencing Palestinian children's perception of oppression, their access to resources for improved psychological functioning, and their ability to cope with hardships. Two hundred

101

*Time scheduling is according to Eastern European Time (EEST)*



and fifty Palestinian children from cities, villages, and refugee camps ( $M=11.58$ ,  $SD=1.49$ ) completed four self-reported measures, Multilevel Student's Life Satisfaction Scale, Children's Hope Scale, Children's Impact of Event Scale, and Positive and Negative Affect Scales. Then, based on drawings and walk-along interviews with 75 children ( $M=10.27$ ,  $SD=1.38$ ) from the same contexts, thematic analysis was performed to detect gender and context-specific differences regarding all the variables, which assisted in the interpretation of quantitative findings. Findings showed higher girls' satisfaction in the dimension of school and higher values of negative affect. Correlation analysis revealed that older girls displayed lower levels of life satisfaction, positive emotions, arousal symptoms, and agency. The comparison of urban, rural, and refugee camp participants yielded statistically significant differences concerning children's satisfaction with their lives ( $MSLSS: F(2, 245) = 10.69$ ,  $p < .001$ ) and positive emotions ( $F(2, 245) = 6.49$ ,  $p = .002$ ). Six themes emerged from the TA: girls' feelings of insecurity and uncertainty; gender gaps in mobility and accessibility to public spaces; education as a mean for equal rights; perceived gender inequality; environmental unpredictability in the context of Gaza; unstable social and environmental conditions in the refugee camps. Participants' strategies of resistance to endure adverse living conditions were explored.

### **Interpretive phenomenological analysis of social movements in modern Russia**

Ekaterina Hilger, *University College London, United Kingdom*

Dmitry Khoroshilov, *Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia*

The 21 century is characterised by a sudden upsurge of social movements: 'Occupy Wall Street' movement, 'Yellow Vests' in France, 'Arab Spring'. The contemporary social movements are characterized by the diversity of participants and by the lack of common political demands, which often make doubt the possibility to produce among them a common identity. Our study considers the development of the 2010-2018 Russian protest movements from the angle of view of collective emotions shared in a group. Our conceptualisation of collective emotions integrates cognitive and affective, individual and societal aspects of this phenomenon. In our study, we applied the interpretative phenomenological analysis which represents an ideographic method interested in particular details of a unique experience. As a result of the phenomenological analysis of the interviews with the participants of protest movements in Russia, the main themes were identified: 'participation in demonstrations as identification with the country', 'experience of injustice as stepping out comfort zone', 'intention to change social order', 'handling the fear of punishment', 'deception and lost illusions'. According to socio-psychological theories and the results of the analysis of our empirical data, we identified the collective emotions of precarity, seen through the prism of the personal experience lived by the activists of social movements. Thus, it is possible that the collective emotions of precarity, which embody the people's vulnerability within the existing social and political order, constitute a means by which to identify the protesting community.



### **Countermobilizing collective action in ‘communist’ Czechoslovakia**

Klara Jurstakova, Evangelos Ntontis, *Canterbury Christ Church University, United Kingdom*

Despite a wealth of social psychological findings on collective mobilization, how collective demobilization and countermobilization operate in repressive regimes has not been thoroughly addressed. We address this gap through an analysis of archival materials (N=9 documents) related to countermobilizing processes in ‘communist Czechoslovakia (1948-1989)’. Thematic analysis and discourse analysis were used to outline the practical and rhetorical countermobilization processes of the state authorities and representatives in three key events respectively. We show that the authorities not demobilized people practically as well as rhetorically. They (1) discredited the opposition leaders, (2) delegitimized opposition events through recourse to public safety concerns, (3) re-framed the identity of the opposition as ‘anti-state’ and ‘anti-nation’, and (4) re-framed national history narratives to portray the opposition as a threat to ‘national identity’. We highlight the importance of considering the wide range of mobilization processes in relation to collective action in repressive, non-Western contexts, and in better understanding how power is maintained by countermobilization and demobilization strategies of the state authorities.

**10.00-11.30**

**THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM #6**

**Research on organizational practices**

**Chair:** Virpi-Liisa Kykyri, *University of Jyväskylä, Tampere University, Finland*

### **Attitudes and perceptions of professionals on the application of family mediation in Cypriot legal system**

Martha Kalana, Vasiliki Christodoulou, *University of Central Lancashire, Cyprus*

The aim of this study was to examine the attitudes and perceptions of professionals on the application of family mediation in Cyprus. Family mediation is an out of Court structured procedure that it is used as an alternative conflict resolution process. It is applied in cases of conflict divorces for child custody adjustments. Based on The Family Mediation Act of Cyprus (62(I)/2019) professionals are eligible to apply family mediation are lawyers, psychologists, and social workers. Six professionals were recruited for the purposes of this study, two of each discipline. Data were driven via semi-structured interview and were analysed by thematic analysis. Questions were concerned with the stance of professionals regarding the current child custody process and the potential benefits and challenges for both professionals and the public by the application of a family mediation process. Thematic analysis of interview data revealed three themes: current procedures, mediation process and mediation can only bring positive results. In terms of the current procedures theme, participants emphasized factors that support a heavy reliance on the court system while at the same time recognising its negative



psychological and practical impact. In the second theme, professionals conveyed the necessary controls, ethical considerations, and trainings for developing a proper divorce mediation process, emphasizing the potential for a non-adversarial process, and seeing it as a new professional opportunity. In the third theme, a positive outlook for the intervention was presented with scepticism in view of practical barriers, public perceptions, and issues surrounding the enforcement of agreements.

### **Conflict as it happens: affective elements in a conflicted conversation between a consultant and clients**

Virpi-Liisa Kykyri, *University of Jyväskylä, Tampere University, Finland*

Risto Puutio, *Metanoia Institute, United Kingdom*

Although emotions are relevant for conflicts and conflicted interactions, the role of emotions in organizational conflicts has remained understudied. This case study aimed to shed light on conflicted interactions within organizations, looking at the role of nonverbal affective elements in the interactions. Bringing together organizational “becoming” and embodiment approaches, the study focused on a conflict which emerged during a multi-actor consulting conversation. Previous organizational research has not provided a detailed description of a conflicted interaction “as it happened” between clients and a consultant. The episode in question was analysed via a micro-level discursive method which focused specifically on the participants’ use of prosodic and nonverbal behaviours in conveying emotions. Changes in prosody were found to have an important role in how the conflict between a consultant and an employee client emerged and was handled. The employee’s criticism, targeted at the consultant, was intertwined with wider disappointment connected to an ongoing initiative for change in the organization. The interlocutors were unable to proceed until the affective aspect of the conflict had been addressed. Nonverbal and prosodic means had a central role in creating legitimate space for the employees’ feelings: they helped to validate the feelings and thus led the interlocutors to act in a more constructive manner in their handling of the conflicted situation. Multi-modal analysis proved capable of illuminating the felt, sensed, and affective elements of interactions in conflict situations. Implications for theory, research, and consulting practices are discussed.

### **Exploring charity sector wellbeing support for UK police**

Helen King, Graham Pike, Gini Harrison, *The Open University, United Kingdom*

Research aim/background: Increasing studies show the impact of organisational stress, operational risk and complex demand on police wellbeing. UK police forces and the NHS provide healthcare support to police officers and staff via employee assistance schemes, occupational health programmes and public health services. This statutory support is heavily supplemented by the third sector, and UK government policy instructs police chiefs to signpost to charities as part of a package of care. However, evidence of the services provided by police wellbeing





charities is scarce, and there are no published academic papers on the interventions provided by this occupational charity sector. This project aimed to gain a broad understanding of the role charities play supporting the health and wellbeing of police in England and Wales. Methods : The study obtained insight into the i) policing need for services, ii) types of police wellbeing charity, iii) healthcare services provided, iv) approach to delivering services, and v) current status of the sector. Data were collected across three phases: Phase 1: Analysis of records (n38) held by the Charity Commission (non-ministerial government department which registers and regulates charities in England and Wales). Financial data was categorised using descriptive statistics. Textual data was manually coded. Phase 2: Semi-structured interviews with senior managers from different charities (n16). Interviews were recorded, transcribed and analysed via NVivo-assisted thematic analysis. Phase 3: One day filmed research workshop with charity managers and wellbeing academics (n12). Observational and activity-generated data was analysed via thematic analysis. Findings : Charity participants report an increasing requirement for health/wellbeing support from policing personnel, particularly around mental health. They identify barriers which prevent police officers and staff both from disclosing their health needs to employers, and from accessing to public health support. Some of these barriers are forms of stigma:

- Perception of loss of status within peer group
- Fear of negative impact on career progression
- Sense of risk around disclosing occupation in public settings

Police wellbeing charities are independent from employers and the NHS, and exist solely to maintain or improve the health and wellbeing of current/former policing personnel. This status allows them to maintain confidentiality. The approach taken is occupation-orientated, person-centered, preventative, bespoke, and aims to dovetails with statutory provision where possible. A diverse array of holistic services are provided across the sector, including physiotherapy, psychological interventions, peer mentoring, financial support, training/education and advice. Police wellbeing charities are organised and administered in different ways. Most 'benevolent and/or welfare trusts' can be categorised as micro or small sized charities. Larger (national) police wellbeing charities generate almost three-quarters of the total income for the sector. Consistency in philanthropic funding is a major challenge for the sector. Charities differ in the healthcare services provided according to i) geography, ii) occupational status of beneficiaries, and iii) availability of alternative support. Subsequently the amount/type of support available to employees differs according to which region they are based in. Further research is required to understand health stigma in policing and the impact of healthcare inequality for police officers/staff across England and Wales.



11.30-12.15

Poster session

**Between happiness and strain - about the experiences of parents with a preterm born baby**

Ingrid Maria Fahrenguber, Margret Jäger, *Sigmund Freud Privatuniversität Linz, Austria*

A premature birth presents parents with major challenges: ideas and plans need to be discarded, suddenly there are medical issues, such as therapy, medication and illnesses, which are related to preterm birth. The aim of the project was to collect the experiences of parents with children at selected neonatological wards in Austria, especially the psychological stress and which long-term consequences are still recognizable today. The goal was to record the current state of psychological care and to use this knowledge to suggest ways of changing the care situation for parents, also to find suggestions to strengthen the social environment and the personal attitude of those who are affected. Narrative interviews were conducted from a total of 19 people, who were evaluated by narrative analysis. Results show: these parents experienced emotional fluctuations between hope and fear, depending on the health status of the children. Differences were recognized, in the exercise of parental roles, the emotional handling of situations and based on the experience of their everyday life situations during this time. Mentally, many women at the beginning had symptoms of mild postpartum depression but stabilized over time. All interviewees were able to rely on support of their close social environment. The stability of the couple relationships, but also their own abilities to deal with problems, had a great importance in dealing with this situation. The psychological care in the different institutions has a lot of catching up to do and the individual needs of parents have to be addressed and supported.

**Early recollections serve as cultural and individual metaphors**

Mia Levitt Frank, *University of Haifa, Israel*

This qualitative study explores adult's early recollections (ERs) (specific onetime events, occurring before age ten) as both cultural and individual metaphors. ERs, subjective, metaphoric narratives reflecting an individual's schemas are shaped by the individual and by cultural context. Existing research on ERs and culture focuses predominantly on individualism as opposed to collectivism in Western and Asian cultures. The majority of research in the field of ERs is quantitative including the research on early recollections and culture. The study population included twelve, normative functioning adults between the ages of 45-65, secular Jewish Israelis from central Israel. The qualitative research tool, a semi structured interview, included elicitation of ERs, followed by questions pertaining to leading values and future plans in life. This study adopted the qualitative 'grounded theory' approach for data analysis. ERs were interpreted from a holistic framework, based on Adlerian models of interpretation, and an open grounded theory approach. The majority of participants shared individually focused memories. Three participants shared memories of collective experiences, depicting a metaphor of 'togetherness", symbolizing an underlying structure of an individualistic culture imbued with collective characteristics in



contemporary Israeli society. In eleven of the twelve interviews conducted, ERs relayed served as metaphors for content in the interview which followed the early recollections, such as wishes and plans for the future, current life issues or the current interaction with the researcher. These findings demonstrate how ERs as metaphors reflect both cultural significance and individual perspectives, including subjective current experience and emotion, and perception of interactions.

### **Intergroup and Intragroup Dilemmas in Greece's LGBTQI+ intersectional movement**

Stavroula Diamanti, *University of Crete, Greece*

The LGBTQI+ community is constituted worldwide by various dilemmas linked to different political ideologies. The current study understands these dilemmas as creating an ambivalence (Billig, 1987; 1988) concerning community's identity. Taking this constructivist approach, a thematic analysis of data collected from individual semi-structured interviews of seventeen gender (e.g. gender-fluid) and sexual (e.g. pansexual) minority self-identified individuals was conducted in Athens, Patras, and Crete, regarding the emergence of a wave of a new type of self-organised Prides and autonomous initiatives all over Greece, since the first self-organised LGBTQI+ Pride called 'Festival of Visibility and Demands for the Liberation of Gender, Body, and Sexuality' held in Crete in 2015. The themes identified showed that when the individuals talked about the whole of the community they constructed a sense of unity against the heteronormative society. On the other hand, when the conversation was about the community itself they stressed the 'intractable' differences which constrained it from getting together towards common goals. We believe that the issues raised in this study are important in order to reexamine the cohesion (or not) of the LGBTQI+ communities, but also minority groups overall.

### **Exploring teachers' accounts of their positive and negative emotional experiences in the workplace**

Aikaterini Georgiou, *Primary School of Aghia Paraskevi, Greece*

Efthalia Konstantinidou, *University of Western Macedonia, Greece*

The study presented here attempts to contribute to the growing research in organizational studies on emotions in the workplace, as well as in educational studies on teachers' emotions, from a discursive socio-psychological point of view. Its main aim is to bring to the foreground teachers' own orientations, while they talk about their positive and negative emotional experiences in the workplace. The study was conducted between 2017-2018, 10 teachers with long teaching experience, men and women, working in primary schools in a suburban area of Thessaloniki, on the North of Greece, were interviewed at their homes or at one of the researchers' home. A semi-structured interview schedule was used, by means of which participants were invited to talk as 'reflective practitioners' about their positive and negative emotional experiences with pupils, parents, colleagues and principals, as well as about the ways they managed their emotions in everyday school life and their emotion management training needs. Their answers were analyzed as situated accounts, where emotion language was



mobilized in order to specific actions be accomplished and identities be constructed. Taking into account the evaluative nature of emotion language, the analysis revealed the complexity of teachers' understandings of their workplace as a moral world.

### **Practice research: Beyond the dualism between technification and abstraction?**

Sigga Waleng, *Roskilde University, Denmark*

Psychological research methodology is often thought of in terms of 'techniques' such as semi-structured interview, observations or surveys promising us 'scientific' knowledge and allowing transparency independent of the research subject in question. However, understanding methodology as a matter of applying the right technique has been manifold criticized because of its reductionistic understanding of knowledge production. These criticisms point to the lack of considering the 'human factor', its restricted possibility of overcoming common sense due to a strong theoretical pre-structuring and for being an arbitrary categorization of the research process. These criticisms point toward more 'human', flexible and open approaches to empirical work that at the same time allows a more thorough integration of methodology and ontology. In my current research on disciplinary exclusions in school within a practice research framework, I aim at developing a cultural-historically based understanding of disciplinary problems and means. In a pursue to move beyond common sense understandings of disciplinary exclusions as 'logical' reactions to 'bad behavior', a flexible and open methodological approach that allows co-researchers to form the research is crucial. However, such 'flexibility' is likely to be conceptualized as mere improvisation and thus fall prey to being so vague and abstract that insight into the knowledge production process is constrained. I will discuss how this dualism between technification and abstraction of psychological methodology can be overcome within practice research when researching disciplinary practices in school.

### **Development of a measurement instrument for patient perception of treatment goal achievement (TGA) using a mixed methods development process**

Birgit Burkhardt, Anja KÜchler, Toni Blümel, Rainer Sabatowski, Ulrike Kaiser, *University Hospital "Carl Gustav Carus", Germany*

Christian Kopkow, *University of Cottbus-Senftenberg, Germany*

Background and aims: The therapeutic goal setting of people living with chronic pain is highly individual. The quality of the therapeutic alliance is determined by the matching of the goals of therapist and patient (goal consensus). Likewise, the therapeutic alliance is a major predictor for the outcome of a therapy. Subsequently the adjustment of goal consensus on a regular base is favorable for the quality of therapeutic work. Common measurement instruments, evaluating Interdisciplinary Multimodal Pain Therapy (IMPT), focus on the goal setting of the therapist. At this time, little is known about the patients view. Goal Setting: We are working on a Core Outcome Set (COS) for IMPT. As part of the project the domain patient perception of treatment goal achievement is elicited as construct of interest (content validity). Based on this finding the



items of the initial scale are worded. Methods: Concept mapping (CM) is a multistep process that integrates qualitative and quantitative approaches, including group processes, multivariate statistical analyses, and group interpretation. In our study we start the CM by focus groups of local patients (total N=30) to extract a broad picture of patients therapeutic goals. This picture is enriched via a nationwide online sample. A cluster analysis is performed and the clusters are interpreted by the patients. Outlook: The focus group will take place from November 2019 until March 2020 in a local hospital. We aim to finish the statistical analysis in August 2020. The deadline for the online-interpretation process is October 2020.

### **The motivation to seek therapy as revealed in the biographies of gamblers and their spouses attending a gambling relief program**

Spyridoula Patouna, *National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece*

This study aims to highlight the motivation for gamblers and their spouses to ask for help and visit a Therapeutic Program. Using qualitative methodology, 60 biographies were collected with the collaboration of KETEHA ALFA, a Gambling Relief Programm, from 30 gamblers and their 30 spouses, proving this research as the only and biggest qualitative research in Greece which studies the experiences of both gamblers and their spouses. Using content analysis, a variety of categories emerged from the biographies. The findings reveal a significant number of motivations. For men, the biggest motivation seems to be their spouses' support and the realization that they need help and guidance from a specialist to face their addiction. Women also realize that visiting a therapist is the only way to bring change in their lives. At the same time, their will to support their husbands and to save their marriage seems to be strong enough. The existence of children plays an important role for both, men and women. At the same time, a crisis event in the couple's relationship can be a considerable factor that leads to therapy seeking. As stated in the biographies, treatment is a whole new world for people to explore, bringing them closer to the truth of themselves and helping them in becoming stronger, overcoming difficulties and building a new functional mindset.

### **The effects of uncertainty and the rule of subjectivity: An interpretative-narrative study following the 2011 nuclear disaster in Fukushima**

Taube Dayan Shira, *University of Haifa, Israel*

A nuclear radiation cannot be seen, heard or touched. It has no smell or taste or colour. If not in extremely high levels, it leaves no immediate physical injuries or damages to property as other disasters. It can be perceived to be somewhere, nowhere or everywhere. This paper presents a narrative study of young people who grew up in Fukushima outside the restricted zone in the six years following the 2011 nuclear disaster. Not officially recognized in danger due the radiation and thus not evacuated, these youngsters spent their childhood in the shadow of a radiation threat. The paper focuses on the vagueness around the perception of the threat, as to who was



affected by it, what determined that, and how this vagueness in itself became the main implication of a disaster. While quantitative-positivist research approaches dominant the field of trauma and disasters, the main purpose of this paper is to present the benefits of an interpretive narrative approach to the study of responses to potentially traumatic events among youngsters. The paper emphasizes the ability of the approach to unfold the role of subjectivity in case of trauma, especially in extreme cases on uncertainty. Moreover, the paper discusses the holistic nature of a narrative unit that allows exploring in depth ecological-developmental aspects that are significant throughout growing up. Finally, the paper presents the contributions of the narrative approach in revealing the multiple voices of the young local population in an important socio-political discourse, already spread outside the borders of Japan.

### **Parental styles in parent-child game-playing interactions: challenges when developing an observational coding scheme**

Vaida Jakubauskaite, Michael Forrester, Joachim Stoeber, Suzanne Cogswell, Lauren Spinner, David Williams, *University of Kent, United Kingdom*

Observational research in parent–child interactions often focuses on interactional quality, behavioural sequence, or predetermined behaviours of interest, analysing the behaviours of both the parent and the child. In the current project, parent–child interactions were observed to identify differences in parental styles focusing on the parent’s behaviour, where the child’s behaviour provides contextual information. This project aims to develop a comprehensive observational coding scheme facilitating the emergence of a system for identifying different parental styles in a play-based instructional context. Parents and children aged five to seven were video-recorded collaborating on 2 puzzles for 20 minutes in a laboratory setting. Initially, 5-minute video fragments were selected where 3 parents displayed distinguished behavioural differences (e.g., instructional style, support, reaction to struggle). The parents’ behaviours were analysed inductively (i.e., using a data-driven “bottom-up” approach) to establish sufficient segmentation and coding granularity. This required identifying fine-grained behavioural segments answering the question “What constitutes the parent’s action in this particular context?”, considering all observable aspects of the parent’s behaviour, and naming the behaviours appropriately. During the initial analyses, 20 behavioural codes within 7 distinct categories emerged (e.g., praise, decision-making, direct instruction), allowing for the construction of a pre-pilot coding scheme. Further development revealed the challenges in establishing consistent, accurate, and reliable segmentation and coding when developing a quantitative coding scheme that remains sensitive to the differentiation of qualitatively different parents’ behaviours during parent–child interactions.



### **The female presence in the funeral industry: gender perceptions**

Annalisa Grandi, Lara Colombo, Daniela Converso, Nicoletta Bosco, Gloria Guidetti, *University of Turin, Italy*

Introduction. Gender stereotypes in societies can strongly influence female or male presence in professional contexts. The female presence in "non-traditional" roles has long been a topic of interest for the scientific community (Irvine & Vermilya, 2010; Miller, 2004; Silva, 2008; Wolkomir, 2012); despite this, the funeral sector is a research area that is currently little studied, even though it involves a clear male majority in terms of gender distribution. Objective. The study aims to explore the scarce, even though growing, female presence in a sector strongly dominated by men, such as the funeral industry, through a qualitative research. Method. The research involved 13 women employed in the funeral services of north-western Italy. The interviews and focus groups, conducted with a semi-structured track, were audio-recorded – subject to the signing of the informed consent form – and transcribed in full. The data collected were analyzed using textual content analysis techniques (Template Analysis). Results. From the analysis of the data it emerged how gender stereotypes are still rooted in the funeral sector. In particular, the characteristics of care work have been recognized to the female figure, while the male figure has characteristics linked to physical performance. Limits. The identified sample is not particularly large and is limited to the north-western area of the country. Innovative aspects. The present study highlights the characteristics of a particular work context, and provides new knowledge of the growing presence of women in a typical male sector.

### **The performance of postmodern therapeutic stance: A critical discursive social psychology approach**

Ioanna Moraitou, Eleftheria Tseliou, *University of Thessaly, Greece*

During the last few years, there has been an increasing interest by constructivist psychotherapies in the postmodern therapeutic stance, which is often referred to as non-interventive stance. Non-intervention, although associated with collaboration and equality between the therapist and the client, is usually viewed as a psychological characteristic of the therapist. Recent discourse analytic studies have investigated how this particular stance is being performed in therapeutic interaction. However most of them approach it through a one-dimensional lens focusing either on the micro-level of interaction, considering the therapist's non-interventionism as a given, or undertaking a macro-level analytic perspective, considering the therapist's power as indisputable. The present study, using data from twenty-nine transcribed sessions, presentations, and interviews with postmodern therapists, attempted to approach non-interventionism through a multilayered perspective utilizing critical discursive social psychology. Analysis highlighted the dilemmatic way by which therapists and clients manage power asymmetry in their relationship which seems interrelated with the generic ideological dilemma between expertise and equality. In this presentation this interrelation is highlighted through the analysis of an extract in which on the one hand the postmodern therapist tries to downgrade his



authority, while on the other hand the client allows him to control the discussion. This particular discourse analytic approach is discussed as a useful methodological tool which can enhance practitioners' reflexivity through micro- and macro-analysis of the therapeutic process.

**The qualitative constitution of language and emotions: Using discursive psychology to explore accountability and evocation of emotions within descriptions of different versions of events**

Marios-Dimitrios Chatzinikolaou, *University of Derby, United Kingdom*

Previous research propositions surrounding the concept of emotions have not taken into consideration the factor of language, and to what extent it can essentially guide emotional experience. This research aimed at investigating the link between emotion and language in individuals' interaction, while establishing how the concept of accountability is applied within descriptions of different perspectives of events. Twenty newspaper articles (naturalistic data) were collected electronically, concerning the incident of Elliot Rodger's murders in Isla Vista, California, in 2014. Discursive psychology was utilized as a thorough analytical approach to study emotions within a specific context, using discursive devices to further examine the integration of language on emotions, while following the approaches of ethnomethodology and conversation analysis. The analysis focused on two different factors that were considered accountable for Rodger's killings; the authorities' level of enforcement in the events and Rodger's mental health. The study concluded that emotional experience is mainly subjective, highly linked to specific social actions individuals undertake within their language use, and emotions are able to form alternative interpretations regarding occurrences within specific sociocultural contexts. Such conclusions have observable implications, as the mind is not a mere isolated and private space, but rather a shared phenomenon that is described through daily interactions. Future recommendations include the identification of more discursive devices, along with additional qualitative methods such as Foucauldian Discourse Analysis and Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis that can be employed to approach the data.

**Approaching gendered biographies: On the intersection of psychological and gender research on postfeminist selves**

Natalie Rodax, Austria Katharina Hametner, Sandra Reisch, *Sigmund Freud University, Austria*

More than ever, femininity is a central issue in gender research. For instance, various studies stress that debates on femininity are fed into modernity discourses that discuss that nowadays, every woman gets to choose her own life and is thus free of (patriarchal) restrictions. However, feminist research on pop cultural discourses found that normative context factors that keep on disciplining the female body fade into background in these contemporary debates on femininity. Theories of postfeminism criticise that in a frame where every woman seems to forge her own destiny, complying with beauty norms is considered as something unproblematic and achievable by will power. Although (post)feminist studies have offered a differentiated perspectives on socio-political dimensions of femininity and a first insight into the intersection with psychology, the explicitly psychological development of gendered selves framed by contemporary





postfeminist calls to femininity is yet to be further explored (Gill, 2017, p. 620). In this contribution, we argue that a qualitative psychological approach can provide access to analysing women's (gendered) biographies at the intersection of psychological and social processes. We will methodologically ask how different psychic dispositions and mechanisms can be addressed by a qualitative in-depth analysis that applies a biographical approach together with an analysis technique that is explicitly designed for identifying the implicit knowledge of everyday practice in a social framework, namely the Documentary Method.

### **The experiences of regret about the unchosen alternatives and grief: comparison of phases**

Antonina Belchenkova, Anna Fam, *National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia*

Due to irreversibility of choice, people are often faced with ambivalent experiences and feelings, one of which is the regret about the unchosen alternatives (RUA). Literature review showed that the experience of regret has some similar features with the process of grief, as they both occur due to the lost contact with any important personality value, have different phases and may involve analysis of the past, which brings new meanings to the present. Nevertheless, phenomenology of the regret in relation to choice has almost never been an object of a special research. Thus, the aim of the present study was to qualitatively explore the specificity of RUA experience, to allocate its phases and association with the experience of grief. 31 in-depth semi-structured interviews were conducted to collect 40 real life situations of RUA, which were analyzed using an IPA methodology. All situations were initially divided into three categories, according to the intensity of regret, measured by a special 10-point scale: low, medium, and high. According to results, a) RUA arises mostly after personally meaningful and significant choices, rather than after less significant ones; b) phases of regret are similar to previously allocated phases of grief, and the intensity of RUA is different on each of the phases (in particular, high RUA mostly falls on the phase of «Acute grief» and is absent on the «Completion» phase); c) each phase of RUA has specific phenomenological, linguistic and behavioral markers. The findings contribute to better understanding of mechanisms of the regret experience.

### **Generativity in entrepreneurs' life stories**

Izabella Ilea, Dániel Jenei, Orsolya Vincze, *University of Pécs, Hungary*

According to narrative psychology, people construct their life in narrative form. Narratives help people to build up a meaningful story of the self. McAdams (1985), in his structural model of narrative identity, described some essential elements of life story. Among others, appears the generativity, which concerns the aim to contribute a positive legacy that will outlive the self. The objective of the present study was to examine generativity in life stories of entrepreneurs and employees. We presume that entrepreneurs are more likely to reconstruct their past corresponding the themes of generativity than employees from different companies. We also assumed that the generativity of entrepreneurs might predict their economic success. In the



study, N=24 participants (n=12 entrepreneurs and n=12 employees, 22 male, 2 female) were interviewed using a shortened version of the life-story interview developed by McAdams. Themes of agency, communion and the narrative frame of commitment story were used in coding. Economic indicators such as ROE and ROS measured economic success for each enterprise. The results only partially proofed our expectancies.

### **Parental grief and the experience of divine struggle: narratives of israeli bereaved modernorthodox parents**

Rivi Frei-Landau, *Orot Israel College of Education, Israel*

Background: child loss may shatter one's worldviews and undermine faith. Whereas much is known about religion's role in times of loss, less is known about the concept of 'Divine struggle' (DS) following child loss, particularly among diverse samples. Furthermore, most prior research examined DS quantitatively; hence, an in-depth examination of the subjective experience of DS is needed. This study's goal was to explore the DS experience among a unique religious sociocultural group: Israeli Modern-Orthodox (MO) Jews. Methods: employing a narrative approach, we interviewed 20 bereaved Jewish MO parents about their coping process, searching for possible manifestations of DS. Findings: a narrative analysis revealed that one third of participants reported no DS, whereas two thirds of interviewees demonstrated two types of DS: an explicit and an implicit/silenced DS. These three subtypes (none, explicit DS, implicit/silenced DS) were differentiated by four main categories: the core emotional experience, parent's response type, the perceived significance of faith in the coping process, and the impact of grief-induced DS on the parent-God relationship. The implicit/silenced DS subtype is novel and was not previously documented in literature. Furthermore, it was found to be related to the values of Modern-Orthodoxy, which involves unique tensions between religion, nationalism, and modernism. Conclusions: from a theoretical perspective, findings shed light on the various manifestations of DS and underscore the need for culturally-sensitive inquiry of DS among individuals of different faiths. From a clinical perspective, findings highlight that DS may be silenced, suggesting that therapists' extra awareness is required.

### **Qualitative Dyadic analysis: Two sides of a story**

Rivka Tuval-Mashiach, *Bar Ilan University, Israel*

The growing interest in studying close relationships contributed to the upsurge of research studying dyads, such as parent-child dyads, romantic partners, or the two partners of the therapeutic dyads. The importance of developing a better understanding of the use of the dyad as the unit of analysis has therefore gained increased attention. It has been suggested that dyadic studies should always focus on relationships, and that this should be implemented in sampling, analysis, and interpretation, as well as in conceptualizing the study from a dyadic perspective. While the quantitative literature is flourishing about the topic, little was written about dyadic research, and especially about conceptualization and analysis. Qualitative research is especially suited to study processes and relationships and examine how individuals shape others and are shaped by them as well. Therefore, the aim of my presentation is to suggest the potential of



qualitative dyadic analysis for understanding relationships. In my talk, I'll present a qualitative approach to dyadic analysis, and discuss its potential and limitations to studying dyads. As illustrations, findings will be presented from two studies on dyadic contexts: One from a research on the experiences and dyadic coping of 12 male heart disease patients who suffer from PTSD, and their partners. The second example will be based on a study with 12 mothers and their adult daughters, on their relationships and coping with the daughters' process of coming out of the closet as lesbians.

### **Fairy Tales Revisited: Agents of Moral Development in Childhood**

Flora Papitsi, Evanthia Ganetsou, *The American College of Greece - Deree College, Greece*

A thematic analysis of both classic fairy tales and narratives of popular blockbuster animation movies with regards to their contribution to children's moral development revealed that the stories unfold communicate a manifold of moral lessons that help children resolve inner moral conflicts. By arousing children's interest in moral codes, fairy tales constitute a safe environment where children can practice moral mastery and construct their superego, by gradually internalizing the morality reflected in the stories and positioning themselves in relation to them. Children use imaginary characters as a reference, identifying with them by reasoning on ethical controversies and resolving moral conflicts in adaptive ways. The present review explores a wide range of moral lessons taught, including the value of conscientiousness (e.g. Cinderella, Pinocchio) and agreeableness (e.g. Sleeping-Beauty, Snow-White), as well as the importance of empathy (e.g. Snow-Queen, Tangled) and forgiveness (e.g. Beauty and the Beast, Toy Story). Appreciating the virtues of patience and integrity (e.g. Despicable Me, Lion King, Three Billy-Goats) and respecting diversity (e.g. Zootopia, Shrek) are also individually discussed. Understanding the importance of rules such as not trusting strangers (e.g. Bambi, Hansel and Gretel) or the necessity of obeying parents' rules and advice (e.g. Inside Out, Little Red Riding Hood, Peter Pan) are further considered. Finally, fairy tales help children appreciate the loyalty to one's ethical choices (e.g. Ice Age, Little Mermaid, Monsters Inc., Up) and recognize the value of making effort to reach one's own goals by never giving up hope (e.g. Aladdin, Finding Nemo, Frozen).

### **Cultivating research engagement and education – considering teacher expectations and reality**

Sarah MacQuarrie, *University of Manchester, United Kingdom*

There is an abundance of information targeted at education professionals but few studies have investigated how teachers make decisions when seeking to engage with research. The interpretation of research findings is not straightforward and a component of resulting success depends on the understanding held by teachers and how knowledge informs practice. Thus, how teachers acquire such knowledge and use it was the focus of the project. Implementation factors tied to research processes provided the theoretical framework for considering teachers' self-perceptions in interviews and a focus group that were analysed using a semantic, hybrid,



thematic approach. Twelve interviews and a focus group with twelve participants were conducted. Teachers' reports regarding their attempts to be involved and engage with research were in line with the theoretical basis. The term proactive implementation references the multitude of processes that may or may not feature when teachers interact with research and has clear value when considering teachers' self-perceptions regarding research. Looking ahead there is a clear case to seek out how schools and teachers contribute to and interpret research evidence. The talk will come to a close by providing an overview of the development and adoption of the open science model within the project that in effect formed a qualitative protocol.

12.15-13.45 Parallel #8

**12.15-13.45** **SYMPOSIUM | ROOM #1**  
**Identities on the Move: discursive constructions of transnational migration**  
**Organizer/Chair:** Félix Díaz, *American University in Bulgaria, Bulgaria*  
**Discussant:** Abigail Locke, *Keele University, United Kingdom*

Through recent years, migration into Europe has gained relevance as a public concern, bringing conflict and debate as the numbers of asylum applicants raise and the European Union persists in reinforcing borders and developing repressive and restrictive policies towards foreigners within. This historical trend, combined with the migratory processes fueled by economic crisis and growing scarcity across countries, is changing and diversifying the discursive currency regulating inter-ethnic relations. This symposium gathers five contributions about the production in talk of collective identities of people in trans-national transitions. The analytical approaches are discursive. The studies refer to data relative to trans-national identities in Australia, Greece and the UK. In some of the studies, the talk refers to the speakers' own identities as migrants/refugees/asylum applicants; in others, it refers to the identities of third peoples in the speakers' countries. The analyses are concerned with problematics including, but not limited to, access to health by foreigners; constructions of belonging and identity; the relational context of forced displacement; vital trajectories in change or in stagnation; intersectionality across class, culture and nation; and place and intergroup relations. We will discuss how these different contributions exploit the analysis of spoken discourse for a better understanding of trans-national identities, and consider possible directions for social and political intervention emerging from the studies.

**Cancelled identities: exile to stagnation**  
 Félix Díaz, *American University in Bulgaria, Bulgaria*

I present and discuss an analysis of experiences of forced displacement as they are constructed in narrative verbal reports by asylum applicants stranded in Greece. The materials under scrutiny are seven oral history interviews in which, individually or as married couples, asylum applicants describe their transition from a normal life at home to a current grim situation of waiting to be



approved to start a new life in Europe. Participants had arrived in Greece in the last few years, coming from Afghanistan, Guinea Conakry, Iran, Pakistan or Sierra Leone. Interviews were held either in English or in the participants' mother tongue (Farsi or French) with consecutive translation to English. We transcribed these interviews and produced an edited 1st-person narrative from each. My analysis of the transcripts considers (1) how the teller's agency emerges through their vital trajectory as the relative outcome of responsible decisions, external pressure, random events etc., and (2) experiences of life becoming stagnated, suspended or absurd, along the journey and especially in the current accounting moment. These two narrative aspects contribute to the production of void or cancelled identities. The resulting analytical account stands in contrast to mainstream constructions of 'the refugee/migration problem' in Europe, which rely on orientalist and postcolonial fantasies of refugee identity. An applied potential of this research is bringing alternative accounts into consideration; a second applied use is to build educational resources for European youth to confront this problematic from a better-informed and critical perspective.

#### **Space as a resource and implication of (inter)group relations and rights: Analyzing discourse on the refugee issue in Greece**

Anastasia Zisakou, Lia Figgou, *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece*

This study aims at exploring the way in which constructions of space and identity are mobilized in interviews on refugees' reception and entitlements in Greece. Our analytic material consists of individual semi-structured interviews conducted with 19 people of Greek nationality in Thessaloniki, while the analysis has been based on critical discursive social psychology. Analysis indicated the multiple ways that participants have available to construct the intersection of place identity and intergroup relations. On the one hand, proximity and contact with refugee populations were represented as a potentially justified basis for reactions against their settlement and integration. Intergroup distance and separation (ghettoization), on the other hand, was represented as a sufficient condition of anomy on the part of the minority, and, by implication, as a source of problematic intergroup relations. Furthermore, constructions of divided and clearly demarcated spaces, spatial metaphors and territorialized aspects of identity served to legitimize tighter boundary controls and refugees exclusion. Discussion of findings draws parallels between the contradictory implications of intergroup (space) proximity constructed in our interviewees' accounts and historical dilemmas of the social psychology of intergroup relations.

#### **Victimization, agency and cryptocolonial imagery: analyzing interview talk with Greek neomigrants in Melbourne**

Nikos Bozatzis, *University of Ioannina, Greece*

In contemporary social theory, global migration flows often come to be treated in two distinctively diverging ways. More often than not, migration is seen as a victimizing process; a process that violently up-roots persons and groups from their familiar, national, socioeconomic



milieu, re-grounding them, uneasily, within a different and often hostile national / socio-cultural environment (e.g. Ahmed, Castaneda, Fortier & Sheller, 2003). At other times, though, social theory adopts a more agentic tenor when treating global migration (e.g. Chambers, 1994). Indeed, the argument has been made that migration processes instantiate the incessant 'spirit of modernity' that has been re-configuring the geopolitical map of the globe for some centuries now (Papastergiadis, 1993; 2000). In this presentation, employing tools and concepts from critical discursive social psychology (Wetherell, 1998), I explore constructions of victimization and agency in interview talk with migrants. The forty-four participants in my field research migrated from various urban and rural locations in Greece to Melbourne (Australia) during the period 2010-2014; at a time when the global financial crisis that broke out in 2008 reached and tore apart Greece's socio-economic fabric and, arguably, led some 300,000 persons (Labrianidis & Pratsinakis, 2015) to take up a transnational migration life-path. In exploring constructions of victimization and agency in this body of interview talk I focus, primarily, on the crypto-colonial (Herzfeld, 2002) cultural imagery mobilised and the associated rhetorical / ideological positions claimed and / or disclaimed when my interviewees accounted for their decision to leave Greece and migrate to Australia.

**12.15-13.45**

**SYMPOSIUM | ROOM #2**

**Macro-change at the micro level: the qualitative analysis of representation and discourse about structural change**

**Organizer/Chair:** Paula Castro, *University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE-IUL), Portugal*

**Discussant:** Vlad Glavaneau, *Webster University, Switzerland*

This symposium is concerned with sense-making under changing macro-level circumstances, exploring how the analysis of discourse and communication may contribute to understanding the directions that it assumes and the functions it performs. Individuals, groups or communities receive macro-level social change - new laws, new turistified cities, new gentrified neighbourhoods, new influxes of immigrants - in different ways, accepting or contesting it through different rhetorical strategies, organized in different communicative formats (Moscovici, 1976), linked to social representations that can be more or less dominant in a society or a culture (Castro, 2012). Drawing from an integrated approach joining social representations theory and social-psychological discourse analysis (Batel & Castro, 2018), this symposium explores from a psycho-socio-political perspective, how the macro-level transformations of law, place and group are taken up at the micro-level of discourse and communication, in some cases enabling plural and non-dichotomous debates, in other cases hiding plurality of representations, and hindering plural understandings of the world. The individual presentations will explore:

- 1) how new citizenship rights and duties, proposed by a Golden Visa law, may transform citizenship and are debated by a new wave of Chinese migration to Portugal
- 2) the debate about touristification is constructed in the Portuguese press, showing or hiding the plurality of (contradictory) representations.
- 3) how two dominant representations about a regenerated neighbourhood in Lisbon are presented by residents to claim their legitimacy to place



4) the coexistence of different social representations for integration circulating amongst the Arab community in Malta.

### **Exploring new citizenship configurations through discourse: the case of investment visas in Portugal**

Tânia R. Santos, Paula Castro, *University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE-IUL), Portugal*

Eleni Andreouli, *The Open University, United Kingdom*

Investment visas in Portugal are a neoliberal legal innovation (Castro, 2012; Wacquant, 2012) proposing a de-territorialised citizenship in exchange of financial investment (consumption) from third country nationals. This new configuration of citizenship contrasts with a more traditional way of settlement that requires participation in the labour market (production) and long-term permanence. These different citizenship regimes stem from different meanings and expectations of who the migrant is and how he/she can participate in the wider society (Andreouli, 2019) - and their consequences in everyday interactions are still unclear (Verkuyten, 2018). Drawing on social representations theory, we explore how this re-configuration of citizenship is understood by the migrant community that has used it the most: Chinese nationals in Portugal. We applied snowball sampling to recruit key informants and holders of investment visas from the Chinese community (total n= 30) and conducted in-depth interviews. In this paper, we explore the themes and discursive repertoires (Batel & Castro, 2018) related to the transformations of the understandings of citizenship and mobility. Results show that the legal innovation of investment visas brings new social representations to the fore (e.g. of the right to mobility) but these are anchored in the hegemonic representation of neoliberal priorities and values. By analyzing discourse, it was possible to unpack how new social representations of citizenship are contributing to the transformation of social representations of mobility, although stabilizing – and closing down alternative views from – priorities of consumption in the global order.

### **Contributions from social representations theory in analyzing a hegemonic and depoliticized discourse: exploring urban tourism representations in the press**

Enrica Boager, Paula Castro, *University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE-IUL), Portugal*

The intensification of urban tourism is changing our ways of living, understanding, and governing the city. Characterized by the co-existence of old and new social actors sharing the same (changing) place, tourism can contribute to the emergence of new social, spatial and economic inequalities, with local problems arising. Nonetheless, tourism is often understood by decision-makers as a fast way to economic growth and presented to the public as a simple, mainly consensual and inevitable phenomena. This hegemonic representation tends to hide political choices and the plurality of voice and vision, with the consequent depoliticization of the issue (Maesele, 2015). The present study draws from social representations theory and aims to offer an integrative theoretical perspective and a methodological proposal for analyzing discursive strategies about turistification. The proposal will help in contrasting discourses that present a



depoliticized view of the world as reliable and acceptable, favouring the reproduction of hegemonic representations, with those with more plural options, offering heterogeneity of vision and accommodating divergent ideas, favoring the advance of alternative representations. This is put in practice through a content and discursive analysis conducted on a corpus of 247 articles from four Portuguese journals. We look at how a process of tourism intensification (in Lisbon) is presented to the public and argued by different voices, along seven years (2011-2017) that have contributed to establish the city as one of the most visited in the world. Results show the presence of communicative formats contributing to reproduce or dispute the hegemonic depoliticized representation.

### **Making-sense of change in a regenerated and gentrified neighborhood**

Leonor Bettencourt, Paula Castro, *University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE-IUL), Portugal*

John Dixon, *The Open University, United Kingdom*

In gentrified neighbourhoods that underwent urban interventions both long-time residents and new incomers are called to elaborate new meanings and actions within a context of everyday interactions with new others and new places. Analysing the social representations that the two groups construct about the place, the others and their relations in place, contributes to a better knowledge about how urban regeneration is locally interpreted, and may (or may not) concur to social cohesion and a shared use of the regenerated places. This study focuses on an inner-city neighbourhood in Lisbon - Mouraria – well-known for its lively public place sociability, and today emerging from a regeneration plan and experiencing gentrification. Semi-structured interviews (n=30) were conducted with old and new residents. They are explored in order to understand representations of the relations between the two groups, uses of place and its transformations. In particular, we explore how two official and powerful representations diffused in the media and in political speeches about the neighbourhood – an exemplary traditional neighbourhood and a cosmopolitan/multicultural neighbourhood – are used by both groups to justify their positions, their legitimacy in living there and using the public places. Findings show that both groups strongly mobilize a representation of Mouraria as a traditional neighbourhood. Long-time residents mostly contest place transformations, emphasizing threats to the neighbourhood's – and their - identity. New gentrifiers do not see the transformations as endangering the identity of the place, and represent themselves as legitimate residents through their love of it, and a refusal of the gentrification "identity".

### **Arab Migrants in Malta: Changing Projects and Representations**

Luke J. Buhagiar, Gordon Sammut, *University of Malta, Malta*

The focus on "projects" favoured by some approaches within social representations theory provides a conception of temporality that accounts for processes of stability and change. Projects





constitute 'futures' that a collective moves towards. Advancing one project over others entails the negotiation of particular social representations, and their study in intergroup contexts requires a focus on different groups' representations of the integration project that involves the entire gamut of dominant and nondominant communities in the societal landscape. In this paper, we present findings from a qualitative inquiry that investigated social representations for integration circulating amongst the Arab community in Malta. Previous research documented essentialist cultural attributions were levelled at this community by the Maltese. Argumentation analysis conducted on the data revealed that different social representations of integration are in circulation amongst the Arab community that promote somewhat similar ends. We conclude by arguing that this qualitative research serves towards understanding changing social representations within intergroup contexts.

12.15-13.45

THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM#3

Qualitative Research contributions to clinical practice

Chair: Birgit Burkhard, *University Hospital "Carl Gustav Carus" Dresden, Germany*

### **Being a practitioner researcher: Bridging the gap between research and practice**

Marilena Karamatsouki, *University of Bedfordshire, United Kingdom*

As a doctoral researcher, I am interested in how the relational space that emerges in the conversation between client and therapist interconnects with the relational space of the different voices that emerge within the therapist. My research is situated within the clinical setting of my private practice, in a country that goes through a social, political and economical crisis. In this context of reality, I am alongside my clients, creating together transformational experiences in the process of change. From the dual role of a practitioner researcher, I am bridging the methodologies of Collaborative Inquiry and Dialogical Processes, as well as Autoethnography, which are complementary to each other and which I already use in my clinical work as part of good practice. Within these methodologies, I use stories to capture the vivid experience of the psychotherapy process. In these stories, the focus is on the relational conversation between my client and myself, creating together new bridges of connection. This oral presentation is about how story writing can be used as a tool in qualitative research. In this way, story writing gives me and my client new awareness about therapy and research and can help to bridge the gap between qualitative inquiry and practising psychotherapy.



### **Qualitative research as a tool for developing clinical measurements**

Birgit Burkhardt, Anja Küchler, Toni Blümel, Rainer Sabatowski, Ulrike Kaiser, Christian Kopkow, *University Hospital "Carl Gustav Carus" Dresden, Germany*

Background and aims: We are working on a Core Outcome Set (COS) for Interdisciplinary Multimodal Pain Therapy (IMPT). The development of a well-targeted measurement scale for a COS is based on a clear conceptualization of the construct of interest. By applying qualitative approaches, we aim to deepen the understanding of the underlying patient-oriented constructs and include the patient's view in the construction process. By this means patient empowerment and shared decision-making in the field of chronic pain are fostered. Goal Setting for the Oral Presentation: Although mixed-research is becoming more and more popular in the field of psychology in the last decades, it is still rarely considered for scale development. A conceptual framework for the conceptualization of psychological constructs (latent variables) by mixed-research is proposed. A brief summary of PROs and CONs of different qualitative approaches is presented. Methods: We work by synthesizing information from systematic literature research, a consensus process and qualitative approaches (e.g. concept-mapping and grounded theory). Patients are included alongside psychologists, physicians, physiotherapists and nursing staff in our qualitative research approaches. Results/ Outlook: So far we defined seven main constructs (e.g. Patient perception of treatment goal achievement) for the COS by applying Delphi approaches and focus group discussions. Via concept mapping and grounded theory we will identify and describe behaviors that underlie these constructs. The development of the initial instruments and the validation steps will follow.

### **Women's Pathways from Alcohol dependence to Recovery: a qualitative meta-ethnographic review**

Zetta Kougiali, *University of Roehampton, United Kingdom*

Alicja Pytlik, *University of East London, United Kingdom*

Kirstie Soar, *London Southbank University, United Kingdom*

Research highlights differing physical, psychosocial effects of alcohol on women and men. Women's heavy drinking is often rooted in trauma and histories of abuse, while socio-cultural factors often affect both the initiation of use as well as pathways to recovery. Research has largely focused on the epidemiology of alcohol use, while considerably fewer studies have examined the elements that facilitate recovery and the socio-cultural specificities that affect women's lives. To address this gap, we conducted a qualitative meta-synthesis to explore women's pathways from alcohol addiction to recovery. 23 qualitative studies from 1998 to 2018 were identified from relevant databases and were synthesized to delineate the process and mechanisms leading to recovery. Results highlight the complex interplay between adverse childhood experiences, sense of self, and wider dynamics of power. Alcohol was initially used as a corrective agent and as a tool of artificial empowerment regulating structural and familial imbalances but use progressively became compulsive and overpowered every aspect of life.



Initiation of recovery was often hindered by shame and stigma and facilitated by belonging and acceptance found in recovery circles as well as a revision of ‘the self’ within wider social structures. Implications for treatment, policy and practice are discussed.

12.15-13.45

THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM#4

**Methodological advances in QR in applied settings**

**Chair:** Mary Van Der Riet, *University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa*

**A Process Method for Assessing Mental Capacity to Give Research Consent in Focus Group Research with People with Learning Disabilities**

Melanie Rimmer, *The Open University, United Kingdom*

Liz Croot, *The University of Sheffield, United Kingdom*

Focus group methods are well suited to research with people with learning disabilities, but there are practical considerations when using this method. The Mental Capacity Act 2005 (UK) considers that all people with learning disabilities have, by definition, an “impairment of the mind or the brain”, and therefore researchers in England and Wales are required by law to assess the decision-making capacity of each participant before seeking their consent to participate. To conduct these assessments individually for focus groups of 4-12 people would place an unreasonable burden of time and bureaucracy on the participants. For some research studies, this burden would likely be disproportionate to the risk to individuals. It is a burden which does not fall on people without learning disabilities who participate in research. And it could deter people with learning disabilities from participating in research, effectively excluding them. In order to carry out focus groups with people with learning disabilities discussing healthy eating, we needed a procedure for assessing capacity and seeking consent which upheld ethical standards and was also proportionate to the nature of the research and the risks involved. We developed and trialed a novel process method for assessing the mental capacity of individuals with learning disabilities in group settings and seeking their consent to participate in focus group research. The method builds on Dewing’s process model of consent which views consent as an ongoing social process negotiated between the researcher and the participant. We present our method and demonstrate that it is ethically robust, practical, and efficient.

**Developing and evaluating a novel unsupervised focus group methodology for examining moralised identity groups**

Annayah Prosser, *University of Bath, United Kingdom*

Tim Kurz, *University of Western Australia, Australia*

Many of the most pressing issues facing society, such as climate change, involve inherently moral issues of harm, fairness, and equality. In response to such issues individuals often choose to adapt their behaviour in light of their moral intuitions, forming moralised identities around minority practices such as vegetarianism, veganism, zero-waste, or effective altruism. These identities play



a key role in encouraging or hindering wider social change efforts through their activism and communication. How groups socially construct these identities is an important topic of study, however accessing such in-group talk is difficult for a number of methodological and philosophical reasons. Researcher-oriented designs (such as interviews) may inexplicably encourage heightened demand characteristics within moralised group members as they attempt to convince the researcher of the validity of their cause. Naturally-occurring data (such as tweets) may not provide the depth and control necessary to effectively explore identity performance and construction. In this talk, I address these issues by outline the development of a novel un-moderated focus group methodology that seeks to address existing methodological difficulties in this area. The method creates a ‘physical echo-chamber’, from which group members can explore a number of questions without direct researcher participation. I explore the various ways in which participants navigate this novel methodology, such as taking on a moderator role, and explore why this is useful for discourse analysts. I then evaluate the effectiveness of the method at bridging the theoretical difficulties identified and indicate further applications of this method for examining moralised identity groups.

#### **Tapping into participant’s reflexivity in qualitative research**

Dimitra Givropoulou, Eleftheria Tseliou, *University of Thessaly, Greece*

Reflexivity is considered a key component for hermeneutic/constructionist qualitative research. Since the researchers are no longer considered to be objective or value-free in relation to the phenomenon they explore, they are expected to reflexively contemplate on the ways in which they contribute and shape research processes and outcomes. Consequently, researcher’s reflexivity is associated with issues of transparency and trustworthiness of qualitative studies. Although the notion of reflexivity has been almost exclusively associated with the researcher, the last decade has seen a growing interest in participant’s reflexivity, broadly defined as the participant’s reflexive responses that are stimulated by his/her involvement in research. Such an interest is closely linked to the premise that knowledge production is a joint accomplishment between researcher(s) and participant(s). The aim of our presentation is to illustrate participants’ reflexivity as a means of enhancing qualitative research. First, we discuss the construct of participant’s reflexivity and relevant research practices. Next, we present some examples of tapping into participants’ reflexivity drawn from an interpretative phenomenological analysis study on how trainee family therapists develop reflexivity in the context of psychotherapy training. Finally, we propose that inviting and utilizing participant’s reflexivity has several implications for qualitative research regarding the role of participants, the depth of analysis and the evaluation of research processes and interactions.



### **The frustrations of supervising (and teaching) engagement with an illstructured problem such as qualitative thematic data analysis**

Mary Van der Riet, Nicholas Munro, *University of KwaZulu-Natal, University of South Africa*

Qualitative data analysis is rigorous and rich at the best of times, and slippery and frustrating at the worst of times. In our experience, some of the worst of times arise when we supervise our Masters level students' initial attempts at presenting their findings from qualitative data analysis. In our context, the structure of the Masters degree often leads to supervision being undertaken electronically. We present cases of our supervisory commentary on drafts of the findings section of their theses. Here, supervisors "teach" qualitative data analysis (and how to present the findings from qualitative data analysis) by responding in writing to these drafts. We show how our supervisory engagements through written commentary on these drafts attempt to nudge students into rigorous analysis and epistemic thinking, beyond the meta-cognitive tasks of following technical steps outlined in textbooks. We reflect on how and why these forms of interaction are often extremely difficult and frustrating, and how particular pedagogical moves in our supervisory commentary might mediate the shift to the epistemic thinking that is necessary for the nature of qualitative data analysis as an ill-structured problem.

12.15-13.45

THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM#5

**Illuminating Educational matters**

**Chair:** Jonas Yde Højgaard Frydenlund, *Aarhus University, Denmark*

### **How to study that which is not there? Absence from school as matter replaced**

Jonas Yde Højgaard Frydenlund, *Aarhus University, Denmark*

Absence from school has often been studied as, to use Mary Douglas' (1966) famous notion of dirt, "matter out of place". Mandatory education (most often schooling) tells us that children are supposed to be at school: therefore we notice when they are "pupils out of their seats". This prompts questions such as "where are they?" and "why are they not here?" These questions are best studied and answered outside of schools. In contrast, I want to show that we can gain insight from studying absence from school, at schools. This requires different questions. I will base these questions on the idea that absence gains effects through how it is responded to. Absence does something to our situation and calls for an answer or response (Meyer, 2012). Such responses range from marking absence as problematic, calling home or the attending peers forming new friendship groups. What are the conditions that make certain responses seem appropriate (Holzkamp, 1998)? For example, what conditions make disciplinary meetings an appropriate answer to absence, rather than say a friendly talk with the absentee? How do these responses foster further response? For example, absentees may begin disliking school because they experience it too disciplinary, or parents step in to shield the child by "authorizing" their further absence. It is a study of how the meaning and appropriate response to absence is a continually

125

*Time scheduling is according to Eastern European Time (EEST)*



moving target. A study of absence, not as “matter out of place”, but rather a study of absence as continually “re-placed”.

**Constructions of ‘bullying’, ‘cyberbullying’ and ‘everyday violence’ in educators’ discourse: argumentative lines and ideological dilemmas in context**

Kyriaki Karagianni, Antonis Sapountzis, *Democritus University of Thrace, Greece*

The current study advances a critical discursive social psychological approach to study educators’ constructions of ‘bullying’ in the context of Greek schools (Ging & O’ Higgins, 2016; Wetherell, 1998). Although bullying has been an established area of research in the field of psychology, only recently, this issue has been discussed in Greece, within the context of human rights and citizenship against violence. The majority of studies in social sciences have highlighted the limitations of the available macro-discourses of this construct; the present study, though, following a critical discursive social psychological analysis, highlights the contradictory repertoires invoked by lay actors on ‘bullying’ and ‘cyberbullying’ discourse. It analyzes secondary school teacher’s discussions in focus groups (N=11) concerning ‘bullying’, ‘cyberbullying’, and ‘everyday violence’. Educators’ argumentative lines highlight the severity of bullying incidents, or instead, downgrade the harshness of everyday violence, nominated as ‘bullying’ by students; in the latter case, they degrade the importance of this concept as an extravagant category, potentially endorsing ‘moral panic’. We argue that educators’ arguments reflect ideological dilemmas of liberalism, concerning the necessity to control students’ aggressive and unacceptable behavior, in order to protect victims’ rights; another dilemma refers to educators’ potential to delineate ‘bullying’, while psy-expertising would be necessary. Some first thoughts regarding participants’ positioning and embodied affect are discussed, based on discursive psychological analysis.

**The results of school bullying experience in chronic victims: a retrospective qualitative study**

Vassiliki Makrydaki, Vassiliki Deliyanni-Kouimtzis, *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece*

Literature has until recently focused mainly on the traumatic dimension of school bullying and the negative consequences for the victims, giving less emphasis to mental resilience and post-traumatic growth. Furthermore, recent research has shown the importance of the relationships/interactions between bullying victims and significant others in shaping the consequences of the experience. The present qualitative study examines the experience of school bullying among six adult chronic victims (1 man and five women) and the role that interactions with significant others played during this process. Data have been collected through semi-structured interviews and analysed through thematic analysis. The results showed that the specific victims experienced immediate and long-term negative consequences. However, it has been found that, in most of the cases, the prolonged negative impact coexisted with post-traumatic growth and that supportive relationships contributed to victims’ mental resilience during school bullying, facilitating their efforts to re-organize their lives. Only one participant



focused mainly on the negative consequences of the experience, a fact that probably relates to the lack of substantial support during both the chronic bullying experience and her present life conditions.

12.15-13.45

THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM#6

**Understanding the use and impact of the media**

**Chair:** Philippa Carr, *University of the West of England, United Kingdom*

### **Reporting racism**

Yarong Xie, Sue Widdicombe, *University of Edinburgh, Scotland*

The ambiguity of racism is repeatedly acknowledged, but yet to be addressed amongst discursive social psychologists. Most discursive approaches to racism focus on how members of the majority deny, discuss or reproduce racism. Little attention is paid to minority members' reports of racism, and what there is tends to be based on researcher-led interviews. This project sets out to examine how people report racial encounters in online forums.

Six discussion threads reporting racial encounters were sourced from Mumsnet's TALK, a UK-based online forum for parents. Guided by discursive psychology, the analysis focused on how original posters described what they (or their children) have encountered, how they designed these descriptions, and how these descriptions were received by the responders of the posts.

Several discursive patterns were observed. Original posters: 1) identified themselves using racial membership categories, thus working up their entitlement to report the encounters as race-related; 2) described the incidents as unexpected, and thereby portraying them or their children as innocent targets; 3) formulated their reasons to post by virtue of parental obligation; and 4) assessed the incidents, and these assessments were subsequently oriented to by the responders as resources to (dis)affiliate with original posters.

These pervasive discursive patterns imply that people, in real-life interactions, treat the notion of racism as ambiguous and open for debate; unsolicited reporting of racism is treated as vulnerable to discount and challenge; and that reporting racism is a collaborative achievement – the entitlement and legitimacy to report are jointly constructed and corroborated by the responders.

### **Focus group discussions on WhatsApp: ecological validity, deliberation and inclusion**

Anna Colom, *The Open University, United Kingdom*

WhatsApp is the most accessed instant messaging application in the world. Its ubiquity in many people's everyday lives points to new possibilities for its use in conducting focus group discussions. Yet, although WhatsApp is increasingly being studied as a new social and communicative space across disciplines, for example in health research, education or the humanitarian sector, literature on its potential as a research method is scarce. This paper contributes to the qualitative research methods literature on online focus group discussions by exploring the use of a focus group on WhatsApp as part of a broader digital ethnography with



young activists in Western Kenya. It argues that the ubiquity of the application in the daily activities of research participants offers high ecological validity and new options for its design, which transcend the traditional categorisation between synchronous and asynchronous online focus groups. Its deliberative value, explored through discourse analysis, also transcends its use as an extractive research method, with potential to work as a hybrid between an online focus group and an action research method. In arguing these points, the paper will also highlight lessons related to research ethics and inclusion.

### **Media portrayals of major crimes in Cyprus**

Marianna Leonidou, Vasiliki Christodoulou, *University of Central Lancashire, Cyprus*

Media representations of major crimes is a topic of much interest with respect to the types of stories that draw media attention, the social representations and stereotypes that are being reproduced as well as the developing social narrative. The study explored the media depictions for two major crimes in Cyprus which arguably drew significant public attention as well as changes in police procedures. The study focused on online media publications, sourcing sixty separate articles and implementing thematic analysis informed by a social constructionism epistemology. The emerging themes suggested a strong power dynamic existent in the text including simultaneous dehumanization and empowerment of the perpetrators, as well as humanization and attempts at familiarization with the victims. A second theme indicated texts searching for explanations for the crimes through recounting offenders' psychological state. Nonetheless, this theme was riddled with ambiguity, with the text deferring from assigning any concrete or clarifying information. Similarly, another theme revealed vague messaging with reference to the threat/safety of using social media dating sites leaving the reader with an inflated sense of personal accountability and victim blaming. A fourth theme told of a public outrage on case elements touching on systemic failure concerning racial discrimination. Elements of exerting sensationalism and at the same time seeking information to relieve readers' anxiety are discussed. Significant emphasis is placed on the ambiguity of the media messaging introducing elements of uncertainty, systemic failure, personal accountability, victim vulnerability and perpetrator strength.

### **Using Discursive Psychology to explore how the super-rich account for their domestic staff**

Philippa Carr, *University of the West of England, United Kingdom*

Research Aim/Background: Media studies research has found that historical dramas present the super-rich as benevolent employers with a duty to the wider community. However, the super-rich have a negative impact upon society as their behaviour maintains inequality. The construction of inequality is located within mundane talk requiring the analysis of other forms of programming. This presents a need to explore how the super-rich warrant having domestic staff in television documentaries. Methods: Forty-two hours of non-subscription terrestrial UK television data was gathered throughout 2016 that included the term, super-rich. A qualitative





research approach, Discursive Psychology was used to analyse the corpus. Discursive Psychology allows the exploration of how individuals manage their accountability for their use of staff. Findings: Talk about domestic staff constructs extreme inequality as acceptable and mundane. It was found that employing staff was presented as essential for the super-rich and aspirational for others. Super-rich individuals present themselves as deserving of their domestic staff. The editing of the broadcasts was used to create an ambiguous argument that questions the deservingness of the super-rich. Wealthy people construct their domestic staff's circumstances as unfair but acceptable due to the financial benefits. Conclusions: Talk about domestic staff allows for the construction of extreme inequality as acceptable. Individuals account for their use of employees for everyday tasks by drawing upon individualistic and post-colonial ideology. This allows the super-rich to negotiate their moral identity for the disadvantages experienced by their domestic staff.

**14.45-16.15**

**INVITED PANEL | ROOM #1**

**Pluralism in qualitative research: benefits, challenges and prospects**

**Chair:** *Carolyn Demuth, Aalborg University, Denmark*

**Speakers:**

*Wendy Stainton-Rogers, The Open University, United Kingdom*

*Michael Bamberg, Clark University, United States of America*

*Nollaig Frost, University College Cork, Ireland*

*Brendan Gough, Leeds Beckett University, United Kingdom*

*Marie Santiago-Delefosse, University of Lausanne, Switzerland*

Qualitative research has experienced an explosion of new and creative methodological procedures and an increasing diversification and pluralism over the past decade. While some researchers celebrate the new pluralism as liberation from hegemony and as the end of “paradigm wars” within qualitative research, others see a danger in “meshing” methodological procedures as integrating diverse qualitative approaches may create some tensions with regard to combining different epistemologies and sometimes also ontologies. In this panel, we want to discuss the following questions: What are the benefits of plurality in qualitative research in psychology and what are some challenges we encounter? What might be the prospects with regard to future developments? Some possible points for discussion are: - Avoiding dogmatism – Qualitative Research is creative in nature - does this mean ‘anything goes’? - Do we need new methods? Or is there a risk of developing ever new “techniques” without being clearly rooted in a specific theoretical approach – in contrast to the old spirit in qualitative research to work within specific “schools” and research traditions and closely develop methodological procedures from these theoretical perspectives and epistemologies. Is there a risk of losing conceptual clarity between the philosophical underpinnings of the various methodologies, i.e. differences in epistemology and ontology? - Should we even depart from traditional ideas of how we establish scientific knowledge and focus on the pragmatic outcome, as some post-modern scholars

129

*Time scheduling is according to Eastern European Time (EEST)*



suggest? - Pluralism as using multiple methods to investigate complex social questions – what is the difference from triangulation and method integration? Other points for discussion are very much welcome! We would like to ask you to prepare a brief (3-4 minute) statement on the topic of the panel. There is no need, however, to send this statement to us beforehand. You do not need to submit an abstract either. The panel will be structured as follows: - The moderator(s) will give a brief introduction to the topic (approx. 5 minutes) - The panel members will be briefly introduced by the moderator (total approx. 10 min) - Each of the 5 panel members (Uwe Flick, Michael Bamberg, Nollaig Frost, Brendan Gough, Marie Santiago-Delefosse) will then have 3-4 minutes for a brief statement of their personal perspective on the topic - The 5 panel members are then asked to start the discussion on one specific aspect formulated by the moderator (total approx 30 Min) - The discussion will then be opened to include the audience (approx 20 Min) - Final conclusion by the moderator.

16.30-18.00 Parallel #9

**16.30-18.00** **INVITED SYMPOSIUM | ROOM #1**

**Qualitative Research in South Europe: Cultural Innovation, Challenges, and Opportunities**  
**Organizer/Chair:** Marco Gemignani, *Universidad Loyola, Spain*  
**Discussant:** Thémis Apostolidis, *Aix Marseille University, France*

Despite the steady growth of qualitative research in psychology in South Europe, this movement has experienced various challenges mostly related to static epistemological traditions in the academia. Yet, at the same time, various community-based events have contributed to shifting social orders and changing academic sensibilities toward collaborative and critical approaches to knowledge. In addition, the increased presence of qualitative research within EU funding schemas might contribute to potential changes in the dominant paradigm. This change is not coming just from scholarly considerations about science, but also from bottom-up and community-based needs in the South Europe societies. For instance, the refugee crisis is a key focus of social research, especially in border countries of Europe. One of the presentations will critically analyze the possibilities for ethical and justice-based research with refugee populations in Greece. France’s tradition in Social Representation Theory also represents a mayor area of research for qualitative psychologists, especially for its relevance to critically analyze cultures and normative practices, both within the field of health psychology and within methodologies that are still based on positivism and empiricism. The presentations concerning qualitative psychology in Spain and Italy also underscore the ongoing challenge of bringing methodological innovation and critical thinking about epistemology and science within mainstream psychology. Both presentations underscore the potential for innovation that may come from deconstructions and reconstructions of careers and gatekeepers in psychology, as well as from engaging with specific



subversive actions, such as the creation of a Spanish association for the promotion of innovative qualitative research.

### **Practical and academic challenges and possibilities of conducting research with refugee people in Greece**

Philia Issari, *National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece*

In this presentation I reflect upon practical and academic challenges and possibilities of conducting research with refugees in Greece –drawing mainly upon qualitative participatory studies conducted within the context of the Centre for Qualitative Research in Psychology and Psychosocial Well-being and in collaboration with the Organizations *Médecins du Monde* and Red Cross. I will explore research challenges and possibilities from a social justice perspective which emphasizes an ethic of care, as well as a non pathologising stance in relation to human issues, and advocates that the research processes and outcomes need to go beyond academic discourse, to benefit people, and to be socially relevant and sensitive, raising awareness and mobilizing stakeholders and community actions.

### **Triangulating for doing qualitative social psychology: challenges from a French example**

Thémis Apostolidis, *Aix Marseille University, France*

In South France the two last decades a “social psychology of health” was developed as a research and intervention practice focusing on solving health problems in the different social and cultural contexts in which they occur. In order to approach phenomena in their natural environment of emergence and in a holistic manner, triangulation has been used as a qualitative research strategy enabling a contextualized approach to be taken to the phenomena studied. Triangulation research strategy was developed based on the epistemological and theoretical framework of Social Representations Theory (SRT). The SRT focuses on how individuals and groups make sense of the world around them by actively creating their own reality based on shared knowledge. SRT is a social phenomenological approach which emphasizes on the implementation of a contextualization exercise on the phenomena studied by using methodological polymorphism. We present examples illustrating several forms of triangulating procedures for studying representational phenomena related to the construction of health and illness (e.g. methodological, theoretical and/or researcher). We discuss the importance of a deeper understanding of the cultural, normative and ideological roots of health practices, which yet seems to have little to do with health issues per se in the specific socio-historical context of our contemporaneity We challenge triangulation as a meaningful and dynamic research paradigm for conceiving theory-driven methods designs in psychology and for generating empirical and theoretical knowledge.



### **Qualitative research in social and organizational psychology: the Italian way**

Sara Petrilli, Silvio Ripamonti, *Università Cattolica, Italy*

Alessandra Frigerio, *Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca, Italy*

This presentation provides a description of qualitative research in Italian social and organizational psychology. The first section of the article identifies three major historical periods for the development of qualitative methods in Italy. In the second section, we present a review of the qualitative articles published in the last five years. Our analysis shows that the health field stands out as having the greatest number of publications, both for social and organizational psychology; the absolute prevalence of the interview as a data collection method; and that Grounded theory, Discourse analysis, and Conversation analysis are the most cited references for data analysis. We discuss these results in relation to the set of rules that regulates the careers of researchers in Italy (and abroad), and to the only partial acceptance of qualitative research in Italian psychology.

### **Rediscovering the roots and wonder of qualitative psychology in Spain: A cartographic exercise**

Marco Gemignani, *Universidad Loyola, Spain*

We report and interpret the results of an online survey in which 47 qualitative researchers in psychology answered questions about the strengths and challenges of being a qualitative researcher in Spain. The participants enthusiastically endorsed the use of qualitative methodologies, which were especially praised for being able to bring researchers closer to the roots of psychology by acknowledging fundamental human processes such as interpretation, depth in data collection and analysis, research rapport, care, epistemological and cultural diversity, and commitment to social justice. They also pointed out some practical challenges related to methodological standardizations and feeling undervalued within Spanish psychology, which tends to be positivist, empiricist, and realist. The participants provided specific suggestions to increase the knowledge, visibility, and appreciation of qualitative methodologies in psychology in Spain. In concluding this presentation, we will explore the possibilities and challenges of forming a Spanish association of qualitative psychology.



16.30-18.00

THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM #2

Exploring gender and sexism

Chair: Jeff Gavin, *University of Bath, United Kingdom*

**Insights in a vulva-circle - Exploring a female\* body experience**

Josephine Jacobi, *Sigmund Freud University Berlin, Germany*

Do you ever wanted to know what happens when women\* are looking at vulvas? This study gives relevant and rare insights in the intimate atmosphere of a vulva-circle, in which art and artistic expression was used to stimulate communication, processes of shared learnings, and individual emotional processing amongst the participants. The author of this study wanted to trace how young women\* shift between the tension of the feminist legacy of the 1970s, sexual liberation and negative representations of their genitalia and sexualization in the media by providing a safe space in which socially taboo topics can be discussed openly. Following an explorative approach, the discussed content was determined by the participants themselves. The shared stories, experiences and thoughts of the participants were analysed by using a two-stage procedure. In a first step, a systematic overview was created that differentiates the multitude of subject areas that were stimulated by dealing with the vulva image material. In a second step, the ambivalences found were analysed more detailed, by using a voice-centred-listening approach. The topics and their inherent ambivalences ranged from the linguistic / visual representation of the female gender and its impact, to gender-related social norms, to individual experiences of engagement and estrangement with their own vulva. It will be discussed how far women benefit from the (pop) cultural revival of the vulva in art and how the hardened oppressive structures of the female body still work in women and become evident e.g. through internalization of sexism. Keywords: vulva, vagina, vulva-art, feminism

**Slut shaming, sexism and cultural double standard in adolescence: How the “slut” stigma relates to victim blaming and rape myths**

Margot Goblet, Fabienne Glowacz, *Université de Liège, Belgium*

Slut shaming is defined as the stigmatization of an individual because of his or her appearance, including clothing, hair or make-up, actual or perceived sexual availability and sexual behavior. This stigmatization is reflected in social and relational sanctions, such as rumors, ostracism or insults, such as "slut", "slang", "fag" (Armstrong, Hamilton, Armstrong & Seeley, 2014; Robinson, 2005). "Doing gender" is a learning process (West et Zimmerman, 1987) and slut shaming discourse is co-constructed in interaction with peers. Whereas participating in the adolescent gender fabric, slut shaming perpetuates stigma and sexist violence (Bamberg, 2004; Duru-Bellat, 2017). We conducted 8 mixt and non-mixt focus groups with adolescents aged 15 to 18 (N=43) addressing dating violence and sexist and sexual cyberviolences. Thematic analyses permitted to

133

*Time scheduling is according to Eastern European Time (EEST)*



identify indicators of slut shaming discourse in adolescents' gendered performance. Participants' productions reactivate developmental and identity preoccupations, namely how to define and position oneself regarding gendered issues and traditional gender roles in post-modernist context, with regard to one's own socio-cultural environment and school culture. Slut shaming is embedded in young girls' daily lives as well as they may affix the "slut" stigma to other girls. Sexualized self-presentation is highly codified since adolescence and may be sanctioned, according to a double standard. In other words, what young people describe as "peer's gaze" seems to participate to shape their masculinities and femininities in construction. Issues of victim blaming, reaffirmation of rape myth and sexism appear to be related to slut shaming discourse.

### **Understandings of male victims of sexual assault: A qualitative metaanalysis**

Jeff Gavin, Leda Blackwood, Emily Johnstone, *University of Bath, United Kingdom*  
Adrian J. Scott, Goldsmiths, *University of London, United Kingdom*

The stereotypical scenario of sexual assault involves a female victim of a male perpetrator. While there is a large corpus of research, both quantitative and qualitative, on female victims, there is comparatively less on male victims. This trend is continuing with more recent forms of intimate violence, such as stalking and image-based sexual abuse. This study draws together findings from four qualitative studies on understandings of male victims of sexual assault. While the focus of each study differed and the methods of data collection varied, there were striking similarities in understandings of male victimhood, which are explored here. Study 1 was a 'mock jury' focus group study which explored how understandings of male stalking victims are constructed and contested in a group setting. Study 2 was a large scale vignette study exploring individuals' perspectives of male victims of image-based sexual abuse (i.e., revenge pornography). Study 3 and Study 4 drew on naturalistically occurring Twitter data to explore public discourse, debate and disclosure around male victims of sexual harassment and rape in the context of #metoo. Data from each study were originally analysed using thematic analysis. The findings of these four studies were then subjected to qualitative meta-analysis, which identified four overarching themes: not a real man; male victims' overreactions to assault; the impossibility of male victimhood; and trivializing the assault. Taken together, these themes demonstrate how assumptions around normative masculinity may work against male victims of sexual assault. This is discussed in terms of reporting and help-seeking by male victims.

### **"It's not easy being good": Women's exiting trajectories in and out of street prostitution and substance use**

Nili Gesser, *Temple University, United States of America*

Scholars generally agree that exiting street prostitution is a complex process. Unfortunately, women are rarely successful on their first exit attempt. While studies on entering prostitution abound, not much is known about their trajectories of exit and return to prostitution. This study



addressed this gap by interviewing 29 women formerly engaged in street prostitution and substance abuse about their experiences of relapse and return to prostitution. In-depth, semi-structured interviews with participants lasted between 65 and 170 minutes and were recorded and transcribed verbatim. They were coded in two cycles (initial and focused coding) using ATLAS.ti 8 qualitative software. Results indicated that exiting both prostitution and substance use was critical to women's recovery. The women further described two different types of relapses with vastly different consequences – a short lapse in their recovery which contrasted with a long return to the life of drugs and prostitution on the streets. Lastly, the interviews clearly demonstrate that previous failed attempts at recovery were still beneficial for the women and play a role in their successful recovery path. In conclusion, it is important to respect every attempt to exit, and to offer services in the early stages of relapse to avoid an extended relapse with more severe consequences. Implications for exiting programs and for service providers are discussed.

**16.30-18.00**

**THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM #3**

**Contributions to higher education and early career issues**

**Chair:** Andrea Karsten, *Paderborn University, Germany*

### **Developing an academic self? Early career researchers' enculturation processes**

*Andrea Karsten, Paderborn University, Germany*

Academic writing is probably the most critical practice in the process of becoming an academic and developing an academic self. In and through academic writing, early career researchers negotiate possible ways of acting as writers and researchers, of balancing personal and career goals, and of finding their place in their respective scientific communities. The aim of this contribution is to shed light on early career researchers' enculturation processes when becoming academic writers and disciplinary scholars from a language and communication centered psychological perspective. For this purpose, a corpus of varied conversations of early career researchers centering around their academic writing practices is studied using the language-psychological concept of voice as main analytical focus. These conversations around academic writing were gathered with a number of different qualitative data collection methods (videography, interviews and reflexive texts). The resulting oral and written (re-)constructions of early career researchers' writing practices are then cross-analyzed to identify individual and collective voices that are significant for the enculturation process. At the conceptual intersection of language, self and culture, the analysis illustrates possibilities, constraints, and demands that ECR face in order to develop a consonant academic self in and through writing. The contribution thus seeks to contribute to questions such as how academic writing and the development of self are intertwined, what discourses about writing are at work in academic transition processes, and how enculturation into academic communities is performed and negotiated at a micro-level.



### **Challenges facing scientific mobility: The case of early-career researchers**

Vlasta Sikimić, Tijana Nikitović, Kaja Damjanović, *University of Belgrade, Serbia*

Given the emphasis on the epistemic benefit of mobility in contemporary science, our study aims at exploring the driving forces behind scientific mobility as well as the main existential challenges that early-career researchers face. We performed semi-structured interviews with seven researchers (five non-EU and two EU citizens) about their experience of academic mobility in the EU. Four participants were women and all were in their early thirties. We used thematic analysis as an analytic method and searched for themes and patterns within and across the interviews. The three main sources of challenges that researchers face are explicit rules (e.g., necessary documentation, limited contracts and positions) and implicit rules of academia (e.g., job insecurity, pressure to publish, overtime, maternity leave), as well as challenges related to adaptation to a new socio-cultural environment (e.g., language barrier, interpersonal conflicts). The two main driving forces were positive motivation to learn and collect new experiences and negative motivation of escaping difficult conditions in the home country. Negative motivation was present solely among non-EU participants who also experienced more difficulty in adaptation to the new environment. Participants notably expressed worry for their professional and personal prospects. Finally, some participants even reported discrimination at the work place. We conclude that in order to achieve epistemic benefit for the group, it is first necessary to provide fair work conditions, i.e. adequate pay and longer-term contracts. Moreover, it is necessary to provide institutional support and to integrate foreign researchers in order to counteract the negative aspects of scientific mobility. Keywords: Social epistemology of science, scientific mobility, existential challenges, migration motivations, thematic analysis

### **An exploration of students reporting benefited from their experience in a University's counselling center; An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis**

Maria Matiaki, Andrew Thompson, *University of Sheffield, United Kingdom*

Suzie Savvidou, *University of Sheffield International Faculty, CITY College, Greece*

Background: Investigating change as a result of therapy and the underlying processes that contribute to a change has been a central research topic over the years. The aim of the study was, to gain a nuanced account of the students' experience of receiving counselling with a specific emphasis on what might have helped and hindered change. Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis was used to explore individual experiences. Semi-structured, in-depth interviews were conducted with 10 former clients of a university's counselling center in Greece. All Participants had been in counselling with counselling trainees using an integrative counselling approach. All





aspects of the study adhered to IPA guidelines and the analysis process followed a rigorous procedure that was subject to audit. The results contain six superordinate themes: 1. Alliance which included both positive and negative relationship issues; 2. Personal characteristics of trainees, which included knowledge level, professionalism and personality; 3. Client self-involvement which included expectancies and awareness of internal resources; 4. A change that brings change which focused on how gaining insight of perceived change brought about further change; 5. Beliefs about counselling focusing on how clients' beliefs about therapy affect their motivation and trust; 6. Organization, Modality and Flexibility focusing on how structure and flexibility in modality affect the therapeutic process. The results provide a better understanding of the experiences likely to contribute to change in people receiving counselling from trainees operating in an educational context.

### **Coaching of Poorly Qualified Individuals: An Intervention Study**

Philipp K. Görs, Friedemann W. Nerdinger, *University of Rostock, Germany*

Further education services may have a great impact on the employability of poorly qualified individuals, who are well-known for their heterogeneity and individual educational experiences, inducing high complexity for coaching. Therefore, this research focuses on the coaching of poorly qualified clients as a transformative service, to improve well-being and to transform lives. The empirical study investigates the interactive process of poorly qualified individuals' transformation, how it can be improved and its possible impact on the success of further education. Thus, the research design draws on qualitative interviews with unemployed poorly qualified clients and coaches from further education services, which were analysed according to principles of content analysis. A first series of interviews (N = 17 clients) was conducted in 2018, providing insights into causal-attribution, motivation, role behaviour and expectations as well as former experiences of poorly qualified clients, which help to understand the process of value co-creation between client and coach. After that, the findings were processed and included in the guideline for the second interview series (N = 8 coaches), each with two interview dates in 2019. At first, the coaches were confronted with the empirical findings by presenting and discussing two ideal types of poorly qualified clients. Furthermore, the second interview dates were used to evaluate this intervention in terms of how the coaches had worked with clients of the types in the meantime. Results of both interview series will be presented and a comprehensive model of clients' and coaches' interaction in further education services will be given.

**16.30-18.00**

**THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM #4**

**Gendered discourses**

**Chair:** Anastasia Flouli, *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece*

### **Gendered power relations in women-tomen interviews: A critical reflective analysis**

Ayelet Prior, Einat Peled, *Tel Aviv university, Israel*



Many qualitative studies in psychology rely on in-depth interviews. The gendered dynamics and power relations in qualitative interviews shape research findings and thus should be reflexively explored. In this study we investigated the gendered power relations in women-to-men interviews on controversial sexual behavior. We applied a poststructuralist feminist perspective to analyze the gendered power relations in in-depth interviews with 20 Israeli men who pay for sex (MWPS) about their experience and perceptions of paying for sex. The men were recruited through social media ads. Almost all the men, as well as the young female interviewer, were Jewish, born in Israel, and university educated. The data was interpretively analyzed based on a post-structural feminist reflexive framework, aiming at achieving ethical and substantive validity. The analysis suggested that the interviews were accompanied by a sense of threat and that both the interviewer and interviewees interacted cautiously, acting as defended subjects (Hollway & Jefferson 2013; Huysamen, 2018). They seemed to defend themselves against three major threats that characterized the gender power relations in the study—the threats of deviancy, sexual objectification and forced intimacy. These threats varied in their magnitude and manifestations among and along the interviews, but nonetheless seemed to be present in each of them. The concept defended subjects as illuminated in this study may be analytically useful for understanding various other power dynamics in interview-based qualitative studies in psychology and their impact on the generated data. Further, the findings emphasize the value of a thorough reflexivity in qualitative psychological studies.

### **Negotiating feminised discourses: a discursive analysis of how men construct body image and appearance-related matters**

Candice Whitaker, *Leeds Trinity University, United Kingdom*

Brendan Gough, Helen Fawkner, Nova Deighton-Smith, *Leeds Beckett University, United Kingdom*

Dominant masculine behavioural ideals present barriers to men's discussion of sensitive issues, routinely positioned as a feminine endeavour. Recent increases in public dissemination of male-specific health and wellbeing information has had some success in legitimising young men's engagement with certain topics. However, body image and appearance-related matters remain distinctly feminised in social discourses and thus, a contentious issue for young men to navigate. A consequential tendency for non-disclosure has troubled research investigations in the area, resulting in inconsistencies in the literature and a lack of evidence-based knowledge application. We explored how young men construct, negotiate and legitimate their engagement in appearance-related discussions. Thirteen young men aged 18-35 years (M=27) took part in semi-structured interviews lasting between 23 and 73 minutes (M=41.5). A critical discursive approach to analysis highlighted three main interpretative repertoires drawn upon by the young men to construct body image and appearance-related matters: 'Women have it worse', 'As long as you're healthy', and 'The bigger issues of masculinity'. Results indicated a current lack of valid (masculine) body image-related discourses available to young men, resulting in implicit reproduction of the topic as feminised. However, participation was legitimated by self-positioning as an emancipatory agent, where discussion of sensitive issues was reconstructed as



performing traditional masculine attributes of strength and confidence. Findings are discussed in relation to the importance of designing intervention strategies which take a deficit of (masculine) discursive resources into account, as well as identifying opportunities to position engagement as an emancipatory activity.

### **Femininities, Intra-gender interactions and Resistance**

Maria Nefeli Dimopoulou, *London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom*

In light of a recently imposed Greek law that allows Greek citizens to self-determine their gender identity and corresponding to the theoretical frameworks of Social Representations Theory and Social Gender Identity, this qualitative research investigates and compares how Greek young adult heterosexual and homosexual women conceptualise and resist their social gender identity and how these inform their interactions. A total of 20 in-depth semi-structured interviews (10 with homosexual and 10 with heterosexual women) were conducted in Greek and analysed in English through Thematic Analysis. Data analysis revealed a shared sense of a social feminine identity in homosexual and heterosexual women that originated through the women's positioning towards Greek hegemonic gender representations. Moreover, results disclosed a practical realisation of the social feminine identity derived from participants' idiosyncratic femininity performance and their feminist identity at the individual level. Interestingly, while contested at the individual level, hegemonic gender representations prevailed at the social/interactional level between homosexual and heterosexual women. By demonstrating the relationship between gender representations, social gender identity, and gender identity practices, this study contributes to the theoretical frameworks of social representations theory and social gender identity and the investigations of social representations of sexual minorities.

Keywords: social gender identity, resistance, femininity, intra-gender interactions, social representations, Greek young adult heterosexual and homosexual women, comparative study, in-depth interviews

### **Sexist rhetoric in spoken language: A feminist post-structural discourse analysis**

Anastasia Flouli, Christina Athanasiades, *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece*

The purpose of this study is to examine sexist rhetoric in the spoken language of men and women who were born in Greece after the constitutional consolidation of the gender equality act (1975). Sexist rhetoric in spoken language refers to the verbal expressions of hostile and benevolent sexism which maintain the patriarchal status quo while deepening the discrimination against women. The study was conducted using qualitative research methods. In detail, 20 men and 20 women participated voluntarily in semi-structured interviews so as to speak of their thoughts and experiences concerning sexism in spoken language. The feminist post-structuralist discourse analysis was chosen as the most suitable methodological and theoretical framework for the analysis, focusing on the inculcation of the dominant discourses used by men and women in order to interpret and/or justify sexist rhetoric. Findings showed considerable differences between men's and women's discourses, especially regarding the ways in which these discourses



contribute in maintaining hierarchical relations of power. Women drew on their everyday felt experiences of sexist rhetoric to speak of the “victim’s” and “sex-bound” discourse, while men spoke only in theory, using the discourses of “abstain” and “disdain”. The discourses of “silence”, “selective action” and “opposition” were the most common, used by both men and women. Still, women appeared to experience verbal expressions of sexism as an intentionally used tool for discrimination against them. The results are meaningful for providing a new understanding of how sexist rhetoric relates to sex-based discrimination and thus, crucial for promoting gender equality.

16.30-18.00

THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM #5

QR insight on the Covid-19 pandemic

Chair: Evangelos Ntontis, *Canterbury Christ Church University, United Kingdom*

**Ideological state mechanisms and the mobilization of risky behaviours in extreme events: The case of the Church of Greece during the COVID-19 pandemic**

Evangelos Ntontis, *Canterbury Christ University, United Kingdom*

Nikos Bozatzis, *University of Ioannina, Greece*

Vicky Kokkini, *University of Thessaly, Greece*

In the early days of the COVID-19 outbreak in Greece, the Greek Orthodox Church refused to temporarily halt its congregations and insisted on keeping with the ritual of communion, which typically involves the practice of spoon-sharing for the participants. Additionally, its representatives attempted to mobilize their followers to participate. Traditionally, researchers have used social identity as a cognitive mechanism through which social influence processes, and by extend leadership as well as the adoption of risky behaviours, operate. In this paper, we address the rhetorical and interactional aspects of social identity in relation to mass mobilization in risk taking behaviours. We present a discursive analysis using empirical data that comprise 17 interviews with priests of the Greek Orthodox Church given in Greek national TV channels during the first two months of the pandemic. We support that in order to appeal to and potentially mobilize participants to engage in risky practices, influential group members must mobilize flexible descriptions of multiple social identities and group-based practices and draw on particular repertoires that attend to the country’s immediate sociohistorical context. In some occasions the Church pronounces its doctrinal faith, whereas in other instances doctrinal faith is counterweighted by emphasizing the Church’s law-abiding, science-adhering, and reasonable characteristics. Priests also sometimes employ the notion of ‘personal responsibility’ to manage the institution’s accountability in cases where transmission of the virus might occur. We conclude by discussing the implications of our analysis in relation to the social psychology of risk-taking and leadership.

**Allegory Analysis – A Qualitative Approach**

Linus Günther, *Sigmund Freud University Berlin, Germany*



This study aims to examine the use of screen from children 4-6 years old during the lockdown period due to the covid-19 pandemic in the Netherlands. This period lasted from March to June 2020. In order to carry out this research, qualitative methodology was employed. The research tool was the interview. In total, 20 interviews were gathered by 20 parents who had children 4-6 years old, studying the factors that favored increased screen engagement. Using content analysis, a variety of categories was emerged. Parents described many situations in which they needed to hand an ipad to their children in order to be able to work on their computer, cook, or take care of the house while the children were busy watching videos on the electronic device. The restrictions of the lockdown offered fewer opportunities for entertainment, and as a result children were allowed to watch more television than before. In some situations parents narrated that they felt bad or depressed, missing their own families, so they spent more time on their phone and they allowed children to watch something on the ipad or television too. Having a sibling seemed to reduce the use of screen in some situations, since children had someone to play with. Parents admitted that they saw the consequences of the increased screen time after the lockdown period was over and several of them found it challenging to find the balance of setting rules again.

#### **A Double Pandemic: The experience of sexual abuse victims in the Age of COVID-19**

Keren Gueta, Carmit Klar, *Bar-Ilan University, Israel*

The study examined the implications of the outbreak of COVID- 19 pandemic and the changes that been made (e.g. quarantine, isolation, closing of public services) in "the first wave" on victims of sex offense and Rape Crisis Centres (RCC) in Israel. The quantitative aspect describes the changes that took place in the calls received in the various channels to the Rape Crisis Centers in the first four months of the epidemic compared with the data received in these months in the previous year (2019). The qualitative aspect is described in two complementary layers. The first - the effects of the epidemic on victims and their perceptions regarding assisting factors in this context and the second - the effects of the epidemic on the work of Rape Crisis Centres. The voices of the victims indicate an experience of significant shock which is manifested in emotional flooding, anxiety and lifestyle changes and the increased need for treatment and assistance alongside the lack of therapeutic responses. They also indicated on the perceived short term benefits from the Covid-19 restriction such as a validation of their chronic fear and anxiety. In addition, the study findings relate to the experiences of the RCC workers and volunteers presented acute calls received with considerable congestion at night. It should be noted the flexibility and creativity of the RCC and the desire to aid and help victims who have led to finding diverse solutions during this period.

#### **The use of screen from children 4-6 years old during the lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Netherlands**

Spyridoula Patouna, Charalampos Pouloupoulos, *Democritus University of Thrace, Greece*



This study aims to examine the use of screen from children 4-6 years old during the lockdown period due to the covid-19 pandemic in the Netherlands. This period lasted from March to June 2020. In order to carry out this research, qualitative methodology was employed. The research tool was the interview. In total, 20 interviews were gathered by 20 parents who had children 4-6 years old, studying the factors that favored increased screen engagement. Using content analysis, a variety of categories was emerged. Parents described many situations in which they needed to hand an ipad to their children in order to be able to work on their computer, cook, or take care of the house while the children were busy watching videos on the electronic device. The restrictions of the lockdown offered fewer opportunities for entertainment, and as a result children were allowed to watch more television than before. In some situations parents narrated that they felt bad or depressed, missing their own families, so they spent more time on their phone and they allowed children to watch something on the ipad or television too. Having a sibling seemed to reduce the use of screen in some situations, since children had someone to play with. Parents admitted that they saw the consequences of the increased screen time after the lockdown period was over and several of them found it challenging to find the balance of setting rules again.

**16.30-18.00**

**THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM #6**

**Phenomenological perspectives**

**Chair:** Anastasia Mospan, *National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia*

### **Phenomenology of uncertainty**

Anastasia Mospan, Dmitry Leontiev, Alesya Shilmanskaya, *National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia*

Uncertainty occurs at all levels of human life: in everyday life, in interpersonal and intergroup communication, in decision-making situations. However, the definition of this complex phenomenon remains uncertain. The purpose of this study is to investigate how people consider uncertainty from the phenomenological point of view. The data was obtained from 1st year university students (N = 110), aged 17 to 20, 82% women, 18% men. The respondents were asked to answer several open questions concerning the way they define uncertainty and deal with it on the example of specific situations from their life experience. The method of Qualitative Document Analysis (Altheide et al. 2008) was used for a qualitative analysis of the self-reports. The answers to the first question, concerning the understanding of uncertainty, were divided into 6 thematic groups: emotional reactions; epistemological and ontological categories referring to the limits of predicting the future and uncontrollable nature of objective reality; limited self-knowledge (uncertainty of desires, goals and priorities); relations with others (failure to understand others); uncertainty of choice (ambiguity). The answers to the question of how the respondents coped with the situation of uncertainty were divided into 9 thematic categories: active actions, help and support from others, passive temporizing, analyzing and searching for information, planning one's actions in the future, changing the attitude to the situation, self-



regulation, a compromise between different alternatives, intuition. The results show a multifaceted structure of the uncertainty construct. A qualitative-phenomenological approach provides a new perspective of individual differences in attitudes towards uncertainty.

### **Phenomenology of personal changes in early youth**

Alesya Shilmanskaya, Anastasia Mospan, Dmitry Leontiev, *National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia*

Do people change and what are these changes? Recent studies show that the vast majority of people want to change at least some aspects of their personality traits (Hudson, Roberts, 2014), but what people mean by personal change remains a question (Hudson et al., 2019). The purpose of this study is to conduct a phenomenological analysis of how young people understand personal changes in their life experience. The study sample consisted of first year students of the National Research University Higher School of Economics (N = 110), aged 17 to 20, 82% women, 18% men. The respondents were asked to answer several open questions, in particular, what has changed in them over the past 2-3 years and how they know that something has been changed in them. Qualitative Document Analysis (QDA) (Altheide et al. 2008) was used for a qualitative analysis of the data obtained. As a result, 12 categories were identified that describe personal changes. The three most frequent categories were directly related to the development of self-regulation and personality potential. Three categories characterized changes in terms of interaction with people around them, communication skills. Finally, four categories described changes in worldview and the inner world. Thus, we see that qualitative-phenomenological methods make it possible to describe the content of medium-term personality changes during the transition to early adulthood.

### **Experiences of miscarriage in women with children: internalized loss**

Milda Kukulskienė, Nida Žemaitienė, *Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Lithuania*

1 out of 4 pregnant women experiences a miscarriage (Miscarriage Association, 2019), which is classified as a psychologically traumatic event, associated with an increased risk for depression, anxiety, alcohol dependence and suicide (Kulathilaka et al., 2016). A large proportion of women who have had miscarriage, sooner or later have children, but fetal loss can present long-term emotional challenges and be associated with parenting experiences (Volgsten et al., 2018). The aim of research was to analyze the experiences of miscarriage in women with children. Methods: A qualitative research strategy was chosen. Data was collected applying individual biographical in-depth interviews. 19 women who had one or more miscarriages more than 6 months ago and had children participated in the study. The methodology of Classical Grounded Theory according to B. Glaser (Glaser & Strauss, 1967; Glaser, 1978, 1998, 2008) was applied. Findings: The experience of miscarriage emerged as internalized loss. After the termination of pregnancy at symbiosis stage, women felt physical and emotional emptiness, compared themselves to the



image of a “walking coffin”, felt disappointed and betrayed by their body, and did not trust it during other pregnancies. Medical interventions were described as "macabre" and mechanical, causing a sense of depersonalisation. The significance of miscarriage in motherhood was associated with existential transformation and the experience of the fragility of life. Conclusions: Miscarriage as an internalized loss is an intense, isolating, existential experience. Lithuanian women who experienced a miscarriage named the need for specialized psychological help.

**Being with “another that is nevertheless my body”: a contribution to phenomenology of pregnancy**

Biljana Stanković, *University of Belgrade, Serbia*

Abstract: Described in phenomenological literature as a highly specific and exclusively female experience, pregnant embodiment poses various challenges to woman’s subjectivity and her everyday functioning. Central for that embodied experience is definitely a fact that there is another being growing inside woman’s body that gradually becomes increasingly differentiated and autonomous, which is why pregnant subject is described as “decentered, split, or doubled” (Young), living in a body that is “simultaneously dual and alien space” (Kristeva). The aim of the presentation is to explore various aspects of this experience, by relying on a phenomenological analysis of 15 first-time pregnant women’s narratives. The analysis reveals a dynamic interplay of embodied and technologically mediated experience as central for both the identification with the pregnancy/baby and individuation of the baby for the mother. On one side, woman’s experience of pregnancy and the baby is mediated by medical knowledge/technology (ultrasound plays a prominent role in this respect); on the other, woman has a privileged epistemological access to the baby through embodied experience of its position and movements, recognizes patterns of activity and even interaction. Different aspects and specificities of these two modalities of experience, as well as the changing process of their interaction and relative contribution, are discussed in detail. As an outcome of the joint unfolding of these processes, from a pregnant woman’s perspective, the baby becomes increasingly more specific, elaborate and eventually begins to be perceived as an independent being. In conclusion, the implications of these findings for our normative understanding of (inter)subjectivity (and the role of medical technology) are discussed.

18.30-20.00 Parallel #10

18.30-20.00 SYMPOSIUM | ROOM #1  
**Meaning making in couple therapy – discursive approaches**  
**Organizer/Chair:** Jarl Wahlström, *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*  
**Discussant:** Peter Muntigl, *Ghent University, Belgium*

Couple therapy is an established modality of psychotherapy. Although different theoretical orientations within the field hold various views on the object of treatment and mechanisms of





change, the actual practice of couple therapy is commonly characterized by its special kind of a multiactor undertaking. The sessions involve at least three people—a married or cohabiting couple and a therapist—and often four, when the session is conducted by two therapists working in tandem. These persons are involved in a quite unique social and communicative enterprise, trying to find sense and meanings concerning issues in the couple's personal life, usually experienced as problematic, painful and complex. These features of couple therapy prove the sessions to establish themselves not only as means to solve or alleviate the couple's problems of joint living, but also as specific and illustrative instances of social and collaborative meaning construction. This symposium offers presentations of three intensive case studies on meaning making in couple therapy. Avdi and Lerou conjoined discourse analysis with close attention to affective expression to study the role of affects in shifts of meaning in dialogical conversations. Janusz, Matusiak and Peräkylä combined content analysis of Interpersonal Process Recall interviews with conversation analysis of the interaction in actual sessions to study how therapists perceived influences of their own assumptions on their discursive professional practices in sessions. Kykyri and Wahlström, using discursive analysis of Stimulated Recall Interviews, explored how clients and therapists observed their own participation in an episode of joint meaning construction in a session.

#### **Affective and discursive processes of meaning-making in couple therapy**

Evrinomy Avdi, Vasileia Lerou, *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece*

In this paper, we explore the interactional processes through which the joint reconstruction of the problem takes place in couple therapy. The joint creation of new meanings for the clients' difficulties and shifts in the habitual -and presumably limiting- subject positions clients occupy are considered important aims of psychotherapy talk. Within couple and family therapy, contemporary approaches draw upon the principles of dialogism and promote a responsive and collaborative therapist stance as a pre-requisite for therapeutic change. However, there is little research on how these practices are carried out in actual sessions. In this presentation, we examine the affective and discursive processes through which the problem is jointly (re)constructed in one case of couple therapy, and illuminate the therapist's role in this process. The research material is drawn from one couple therapy session, conducted in a Family Therapy Department in Greece in the context of the Relational Mind project. For the purposes of the research project, all sessions were video-recorded with four cameras, in a split-screen mode. The session was selected, following an initial dialogical analysis, as one that entailed primarily dialogical conversations. The session was examined using discourse analysis, whilst paying close attention to the affective expression of participants and its role in the promoting shifts in meaning. Analysis of the case underscores the importance of the therapist's affective responsiveness in facilitating emotional expression and joint narrative elaboration of delicate issues in the couple's life. The implications of this small-scale study for psychotherapy theory, practice and research are discussed.



### **The therapeutic conversation and the therapist's mind - conversation analysis and interpersonal process recall**

Bernadetta Janusz, Feliks Matusiak, *Jagiellonian University, Poland*

Anssi Peräkylä, *University of Helsinki, Finland*

**Aim:** The explanatory research framework was adapted to investigate whether couple and family therapists are able to perceive and then take reflective stance towards their professional discursive practices during the family and couple therapy sessions. **Methods:** The data were obtained from the family and couple therapy consultations and from the transcripts of the Interpersonal Process Recall that was done directly after the sessions. The IPR transcripts were analyzed according the rules of content analysis. Video-recorded data from fragments of the sessions were subjected to conversation analysis. **Results:** The results showed that therapist's assumptions (e.g. gender related) or their non-neutral stance held unchallenged can have various consequences for the interaction like impossibility of circular thinking and/or the maintenance of a 'not-knowing' stance as well as the inability of introducing circular/symmetric interventions during the session. The possibility of taking reflective stance and meta- position regarding chosen part of therapeutic dialog (discussed during IPR) was interconnected with defined therapist's interactional practices. **Discussion:** Using two methods: the IPR, which focuses on the content of the therapist's mind— such as the origin of their ideas in the process of their formation of hypotheses—and conversation analysis, which is suitable for analysing the multidimensional and highly interactive talk in couple and family therapy constitutes methodological challenge. However, as the process of conducting the session/introducing interventions takes place simultaneously on two levels—in the therapeutic conversation, and in the therapist's mind—two methods, one for cognition and the other for interaction seem to be relevant.

**Keywords:** Interpersonal Process Recall; Conversation Analysis; raptures; corrective moves

### **Uplifted or protected? Using stimulated recall interviews to investigate meaning making in couple therapy**

Virpi-Liisa Kykyri, *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

Jarl Wahlström, *University of Tampere, Finland*

**Background.** The Stimulated Recall Interview (SRI), where the interviewee is shown video-recorded material from a psychotherapy session and asked about his/her thoughts and feelings during the episode, was originally developed as a method for investigating therapy clients' private experiences during individual psychotherapy. When applied to couple therapy the SRI affords an exploration of complex processes of collective meaning construction. **Method.** The data was obtained from SRIs collected in the Relational Mind research project on interaction in



couple therapy. Each participant was individually, within one day following the therapy session, shown four video clips from episodes in the session, selected based on pre-established criteria, and asked about their thoughts, feelings, and bodily sensations during each episode. For this study the transcripts of SRIs of two spouses and two therapists on one episode from one session was subjected to an in-depth discursive analysis. Findings. During the session the wife had told about comments given her earlier by her husband's relatives, this leading to a discussion on the husband's position in his extended family—whether he was 'uplifted' or 'protected', or called upon as a 'savior'—, and the impact of this on the marital relationship. In the SRIs each participant reported and commented on how they perceived the evolving meanings in the therapy conversation, on their own way of participating, and on their emotional experience of the social interaction. Conclusions. The SRI is a promising method for investigating complex social and individual processes of constructing shared social realities.

**18.30-20.00**

**SYMPOSIUM | ROOM #2**

**Adapting Qualitative Research to Social and Technological Change: intervening in and for our changing times**

**Organizer:** Ines Langemeyer, *Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany*

**Chair:** Laure Kloetzer, *University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland*

**Discussant:** Ernst Schraube, *Roskilde University, Denmark*

How can social sciences, and psychology in particular, adapt to study social and working situations, which are continuously changing at a fast pace and often integrate complex technologies? How should they -or can they- position their main focus on knowledge building with critical engagement with the challenges of action and transformation raised on an everyday basis in these milieux? In this symposium, we will discuss three examples showing how qualitative methods, grounded in the tradition of historico-cultural psychology and intervention, try to adapt to these realities, and sometimes make use of some of the features of these social and working situations, to develop methodological and conceptual approaches with tend to keep this double focus of contributing to scientific knowledge and to social transformation in changing environments.

**Supporting co-development of shared work practices and individual occupational paths – “Change dialogue” as an agile method for enhancing transformative agency**

Heli Heikkilä, Laura Seppänen, Hilikka Ylisassi, *Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Finland*

How to enhance meaningful learning processes when work life demands for fast but insightful results from developing processes? How to support simultaneously work communities' and individual employees' transformative agency in changes of working life? These questions have inspired us in our project “Change dialogue” (2019–2020), which aims at developing a new, agile method to be used by superiors and HR professionals together with individual employees and



work communities. The method is based on principles of Developmental dialogue (Mott 1992; Heikkilä & Seppänen 2014; Ylisassi et al. 2016) and Developmental Work Research (Engeström 1987) but is co-created in collaboration with participant organizations' HR specialists and superiors. The goal of "Change dialogue" is to combine both the viewpoint of an individual employee and the work community, and to offer a toolkit to experimental developing and learning. We will describe the co-creation process and present preliminary results of the evaluation phase of the project: How are individuals' and work communities' transformative agency interrelated? What do we learn from the agile method's potentials of supporting both work community's and individual employee's transformative agency? The data will be analyzed by using qualitative methods based on classifications of types of transformative agency and learning actions (cf. Heikkilä & Seppänen 2014; Engeström et al. 2013).

### **Qualitative research on modeling for energy transition**

Ines Langemeyer, *Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany*

The planned comprehensive use of solar energy and windmill power plants etc. as sustainable energies raises the question as to how the energy system (power grids e.g.) shall be transformed and how , mart' technologies support systems that balance and coordinate between uneven power generation and consumption. Simulations and test sites as they are run by larger units of researchers at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology give an account of relevant transformations concerning ways of life, work and education as well. The paper deals with the qualitative research conducted to understand how modeling takes place in this transformation project. One aspect of this development is the world-changing character of scientific inventions such as artificial intelligence and 'deep learning', through which more and more dimensions of societal life become dependent on scientifically invented technologies. As this brings about new problems of safety, quality and control, the scientification of work is scrutinized. Methodologically, 10 researchers of different disciplines in this area were interviewed (problem-centred interviews) to compare their views on modeling. Main questions for this analysis were: In what ways do scientists reflect unintended effects or shortcomings of their models? In what ways do their models incorporate different logics/rationalities? And finally: What makes scientists feel sure about the rightness of their assumptions?

### **Turning Working Tools into Learning Means: Video Confrontations in Robotic Surgery**

Laure Kloetzer, Hélène Cristofari, *University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland*

Robotisation of the operating room has transformed the practice and organization of surgical work at the macro (hospital and inter-hospital organization), meso (team and interdepartmental work) and micro (surgeon and staff) level, with significant impact on interprofessional collaboration, interprative work and technical gestures. These transformations raise new



challenges for the training of surgeons and surgical teams. Recent studies have highlighted the limits of the traditional methods of surgical training, based either on apprenticeship and on-the-job learning, or on simulation methods (Beane, 2018). Our previous work, conducted in collaboration with a Finnish team of researchers and surgeons, has explored the potential of Cross Self-Confrontations for the initial and continuous training of surgeons in robotic surgery (Seppänen, L., Kloetzer, L., Riikonen, J., & Wahlström, M., 2016; Seppänen, Kloetzer & Wahlström, 2017). It concludes that uncertainty, complexity and the need for interpretative mode of work (Norros et al., 2015 ; Norros, 2018) dominate robotic surgery, making training a difficult and long process, and that Cross Self-confrontations (Kloetzer, Clot & Quillerou, 2015) are a promising method for overcoming some of the current limits of teaching and learning robotic surgery. Our current project explores this issue from an interprofessional perspective focusing on micro episodes of learning in the surgical room, with a sociomaterial and multimodal analysis. Our analyses aim at contributing both to our understanding of learning through practice in digital environments, and to the edition of videomaterial for the professional learning and training of practitioners.

**18.30-20.00**

**SYMPOSIUM | ROOM #3**

**Using Qualitative Research to Make Life Better**

**Organizer/Chair/Discussant:** Radomír Masaryk, *Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia*

Although research is generally understood as the investigation of ideas to establish facts and reach conclusions, critical approaches in psychology have come up with the idea that doing research could also have a powerful impact on the well-being of local communities. In our symposium, we take a look at three research projects that are attempting to make life better by focusing on eliminating stereotypes against stigmatized minorities and discerning between trustworthy and untrustworthy news messages. Júlia Halamová, Martina Baránková, and Bronislava Strnádelová will summarize research into compassion and self-compassion; and Júlia Halamová, Martina Baránková, and Petra Langová will address research into criticism and self-criticism. Their projects combine qualitative approaches with objective methods, such as eye tracking and measuring heart-rate variability, to see how changes in compassion, self-compassion, criticism, and self-criticism may be related to stereotypes against stigmatized minorities. Radomír Masaryk, Dominika Vajdová, and Nikola Vorelová will present their work on how young people understand health-related information and which strategies they use to discern between trustworthy and untrustworthy news. All three presentations will include practical examples of interventions designed to increase skills in handling stereotypes and discerning trustworthiness, and will discuss the challenges and pitfalls of measuring the impact of such interventions.

### **Compassion and self-compassion: a summary of qualitative research in Slovakia**

Júlia Halamová, Martina Baránková, Bronislava Strnádelová, *Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia*



The study summarizes the findings of various qualitative research studies on free associations and focus groups on compassion and self-compassion. All of them used consensual qualitative research with a few members of a core team and one auditor to elaborate on how healthcare professionals and non-experts perceive the terms. The findings supported the position that compassion and self-compassion are multidimensional constructs consisting of emotional, cognitive, and behavioural aspects. However, most people perceived compassion and self-compassion primarily in terms of emotions.

### **Criticism and self-criticism: a summary of qualitative research in Slovakia**

Júlia Halamová, Bronislava Strnádelová, Martina Baránková, *Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia*

The study summarizes the findings of various qualitative research studies on free associations on criticism and self-criticism and a video-recording analysis of self-criticism. All of them used consensual qualitative research with a few members of a core team and one auditor to elaborate on how healthcare professionals and non-experts perceived the terms. The findings supported the position that criticism and self-criticism are multidimensional constructs consisting of emotional, cognitive, and behavioural aspects. However, most people perceived criticism and self-criticism primarily in terms of cognitions.

### **Understanding health-related information and discerning between trustworthy and untrustworthy news messages**

Radomír Masaryk, Dominika Vajdová, Nikola Vorelová, *Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia*

Discerning between what are trustworthy and untrustworthy news messages has become a global educational challenge, and it is especially pressing when it comes to health-related messages. One example of this problem is vaccination refusals, where some attempts to educate have proven to be ineffective or even counterproductive. In our research, we used focus groups to look into the ways that young people understand health-related information and what strategies they use to discern between trustworthy and untrustworthy news. We identified that the quality of editing work seems to play a vital role in identifying a piece of news as either trustworthy or untrustworthy.

**18.30-20.00**

**SYMPOSIUM | ROOM #4**

**Visibilising power: Intersectional feminist approaches to methodological innovation**

**Organizer:** Rose Capdevila, *The Open University, United Kingdom*

**Chair/Discussant:** Abigail Locke, *Keele University, United Kingdom*

This symposium engages with the contributions of feminist theorising to qualitative approaches with a particular focus on visibility. Historically, many forms of quantification have tended to produce knowledge in a way that has excluded experiences which deviated from the normative



white able-bodied male. In a broad sense, feminist methodology has been concerned with questioning how knowledge produced about our social world engages with the social realities of those living in contexts of inequality, particularly women. Each paper in this symposium tackles the empirical challenge that this commitment demands. The first paper, by Rickett, Morris and Thompson presents Feminist Relational Discourse Analysis (FRDA) - a novel approach to discursive analysis developed by the speakers. This approach makes the personal functions of discourse visible through a prioritisation of participant voice allowing for a politicised reading of power, agency and resistance. The second paper, by Lazard and Capdevila describes processual selfie completion, a method developed by the authors to study the practice of selfie sharing and posting, to visualise the immediate, interactive, microprocesses that are implicated in this behaviour. This allows the problematisation of discourses of pathologisation that pervade this area of research. The third paper, authored by Dann, Prokopiou and Callaghan, reports on research conducted with tattooed women in the UK which explores the centrality of the body for contextualising and expanding our understanding of qualitative research. The discussant, Abigail Locke, will highlight the resonances in these papers in impelling the possibilities of qualitative research through the engagement with intersectional feminisms.

### **Voicing resistance and power: A feminist approach to capturing the personal and the political**

Bridgette Rickett, Anna Morris, *Leeds Beckett University, United Kingdom*

Lucy Thompson, *Michigan State University, United States of America*

As one of the most widely used qualitative analytical method, discourse analysis has demonstrated itself to be a useful and flexible method for exploring power and identity where discourse is seen as the central site of identity construction. However, recent feminist concerns over power, agency, and resistance have drawn attention to the absence of participants' first-hand experiences within broad discursive accounts. For many qualitative researchers with an interest in power relations, such as feminist researchers, this is a problematic silence which renders the personal functions of discourse invisible. Using an analysis of gender, class and emotional labour in UK Higher Education, we argue that the dynamics of this labour and the personal injuries sustained from it make the 'personal' and 'political' inextricable. To this end we argue that voice is the key site of meaning where dynamics can be captured. Therefore, we will present the recent formulation of Feminist Relational Discourse Analysis (FRDA – Thompson, Rickett and Day, 2017) as the means to apply a voice-centred analytical approach for engaging with experience and discourse in gendered and classed talk around emotional labour. Finally, we conclude that by prioritizing voice, FRDA invites qualitative researchers interested in discourse to produce a new and politicized reading of power, agency, and resistance, where the voices of participants remain central to the discursive accounts of researchers.

### **Do you see what I see? Visibility and pathology in digital spaces**

Lisa Lazard, Rose Capdevila, *The Open University, United Kingdom*



In this paper we will discuss how we have used feminist theory and practice to inform our empirical engagement with the study of social media. Intersectional feminist approaches, whilst inherently diverse and multiplex, coalesce around a critique of the means by which knowledge about our social worlds becomes produced given an a priori context of inequality. These concerns are central to the development of our methodological strategy which takes a multimodal processual approach to understanding how we make sense of ourselves and others online. Specifically, we explore selfie culture and photo sharing through the curation of women and girls' online identities and the ways in which the visual has been taken up in research in this area. Using empirical examples from our research on women's engagement with photo sharing practices online, we trace a path through feminist theoretical and methodological engagements in and outside of psychology and how these have informed and shaped our own uses of visual methods. This has led us to develop a technique we refer to as processual selfie completion, that attends to the immediate, interactive, microprocesses that are implicated in everyday posting practices. In this way, gender, generation and other markers of difference, that can be obscured by the very mundanity of these practices, become visibilised and open to examination. More specifically, we argue that the ways in which our uses of visual methods attend to nuance in practice allows the problematisation of predominant discourses which pathologise women's engagements with visibility on digital platforms.

#### **Our bodies in research: feminist approaches to analysis and reflexivity**

Charlotte Dann, Eva Prokopiou, *University of Northampton, United Kingdom*

Jane Callaghan, *University of Sterling, Scotland*

With reflexivity being a defining feature of feminist qualitative research, we can make sense of how the researcher becomes a part of the research – personally, disciplinarily, and professionally. As well as reflexivity informing the research conception, approach, and analysis, there is a part of qualitative research that is not often considered – the literal body in the process. Discourse analytic work often fails to take the body into account, favouring text. The body is important for feminist research, in understanding the ways that the body is mediated by culture, by language, and by subjectivities. This paper explores how the body becomes a part of the research – interviews with fourteen UK- based tattooed women are examined, with the body being a central part of the analysis. Within this consideration for the bodies of both interviewees and the researcher, an additional layer of context is added to the analysis. This paper highlights the need to expand our understandings of qualitative research and consider the use of innovative feminist approaches to research in reframing our analyses as well as our reflexivities in research.





18.30-20.00

THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM #5

**Making sense of health care**

**Organizer:** Paula Castro, *University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE-IUL), Portugal*

**INDIGO: a mixed-methods technique for developing interventions with stakeholders**

Kelly Birtwell, Rebecca Morris, Christopher Armitage, *University of Manchester, United Kingdom*

Involving stakeholders in the design and development of interventions is of increasing importance. However, many health and social care interventions are complex, comprising numerous interacting components as well as 'unseen' factors. Integrating the perspectives of professionals, patients and members of the public regarding an intervention as a whole, as well as the individual component parts, can therefore be challenging. In this presentation we introduce INDIGO (INtervention DesIGn with stakeHolders), a mixed-methods technique that is particularly suitable for involving stakeholders in the design stage of intervention development. Drawing on the technique of storyboarding, INDIGO utilises an interactive timeline chart and tokens representing specific intervention elements that are combined to create a visual representation of an intervention: the 'INDIGO map'. INDIGO maps can be created by the researcher or participant and explanatory notes can be added to the map or to the accompanying worksheet. The maps can be used as a basis for discussion and as part of a consensus-building activity. We will present the background to INDIGO and provide illustrations of its use in recent research developing a brief mindfulness-based intervention. We will also discuss future applications and development of the approach. In sum, INDIGO is a novel technique that can be incorporated into a range of intervention design and development approaches (e.g. the MRC Framework for the development of complex interventions, the Person-Based Approach), supporting participants to consider interventions holistically rather than restricting their views to those of individual component parts.

**Constructing distance and proximity in nurse-patients relations through classbased dehumanization and humanization: a narrative approach**

Paula Castro, *University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE-IUL), Portugal*

This presentation investigates the role of Classism - i.e. the use of widely shared belief-systems for making inferences about individuals once they are categorized in a certain class (Lott, 2002, 2012) - in how nurses tell the stories of patients in pain and their joint stories with them. The role of classism as expressed in dehumanizing depictions of low SES others, has been mostly studied



for short interactions, or when the Other can be quickly “disconnected” away from Self (Harris, 2012). Much less studied is how it impacts Nurse-patient relations – which sometimes last a long time, require repeated interactions and care. However, if in these relations the patient cannot be totally disconnected from Self, he/she can perhaps be pushed away, maintained at a distance – and one way of achieving this might be to dehumanize him/her. Moreover, humanized descriptions of middle SES others are also found in the literature, and the patient can also and instead be maintained in proximity – perhaps by being humanized, also through the shared belief systems of classism. This presentation will address this issue, by exploring nurses narratives about their pain patients of different SES, obtained with episodic-narrative interviews with 50 female nurses. We explore how they ascribe roles, traits and responsibilities and identities to Self (nurse) and Others (patients of different SES), whether this constructs distance or proximity and how, and whether there is more complexity and reflexivity in some accounts and more we/them plots in others.

**Narrative analysis of written accounts – Life History Calendar data combined with open ended survey questions as a promising alternative to longitudinal interview studies**

Ingrid Schéle, Anna-Sara Claeson, *Umeå University, Sweden*

Prospective, longitudinal interview studies are time consuming. Easier-to-manage alternatives could thus be a valuable complement. We decided to collect participants’ written retrospective accounts of how they perceived the onset and progression of Chemical Intolerance, and the circumstances they considered meaningful in this process. In order to attain thorough accounts of the chronological sequence of events, support recall, and encourage narrative depth, we combined a Life History Calendar (LHC) with open-ended questions. The LHC has been developed to facilitate retrospective recall of life events in several life domains concurrently. The combination of open-ended interview questions and a LHC has been shown to provide deeper insights into the participants’ struggles and choices, not apparent in the LHC entries. How well the approach works as a survey, based solely on self-reported data, had not been tested previous to our study. In our survey-based study 11 participants made between 11 and 76 LHC entries and wrote 500 to 2000 words in reply to 10 open-ended questions. The LHC provided a chronological sequence of events for our narrative analysis, while the open-ended questions provided more subjective, emotional descriptions less bound to specific events. Preparing data for analysis mainly consisted of creating chronological “storyboards”. We argue that combining the LHC and open-ended questions can facilitate a reasonably rich account of participants’ experiences prior to, during and after a critical life event, that can be analyzed rather effectively with a narrative approach. The most obvious setback was that our approach did not allow for clarifying follow-up questions.



18.30-20.00

THEMATIC SESSION | ROOM #6

Exploring youth communities and refugee identity issues

Chair: Gry Marie Tybjerg, *Roskilde University, Denmark*

**Exploring Barriers and Facilitators to Delivering Integrated Mental Health Intervention and Parenting Intervention to Parent Refugees or Asylum Seekers Living in the UK**

Safa Kemal Kaptan, Filippo Varese, Nusrat Husain, *The University of Manchester, United Kingdom*

Panoraia Andriopoulou, *Manchester Metropolitan University, United Kingdom*

War-torn individuals are particularly vulnerable through direct trauma exposure as well through their parents' responses (Fazel et al., 2012). Therefore, the positive effect of family support has been acknowledged as a major protective factor for psychological wellbeing (Erucar et al., 2018). Although some parents may know about the importance of mental health, they hardly seek mental health services for themselves and their families (Colucci et al., 2015). There is evidence that psychological therapies and parenting interventions, including those based upon Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy principles, can be helpful, including in refugees and asylum seekers (Acarturk et al., 2015). However, therapies that work in one setting may not necessarily work in other settings and may need to be adapted to account for cultural differences. This study thus investigated the barriers and facilitators to delivering EMDR and a culturally-adapted parenting intervention (Learning Through Play-LTP) in the UK. Twenty-four one to one interviews were conducted with parent refugees, parent asylum seekers, stakeholders and mental health professional in North West England. Thematic analysis produced three main themes: the content of interventions (cultural understanding, health and social conditions); characteristic of facilitator (trusting relationship, communication, professional support); conditions of delivery (time, venue). Several challenges and facilitators have been identified for facilitators using EMDR and LTP for refugees and asylum seekers. Comprehensive understanding of these challenges and facilitators is important to create an effective delivery of interventions and provide more equitable health services for this vulnerable group.

**Refugee youth's identity negotiations through film education**

Evi Avdelidou, Ioanna Bibou Nakou, *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece*

The presentation outlines an approach to building resilience to ensure psychosocial well being and inclusive practices for migrant/refugee youth, at the community level, and using film education and/or participatory video tools as a means for youth-led advocacy. Young



migrant/refugee people, discursively constructed as one of the most marginalized group, face significant hurdles to get their voices heard and valued. In these circumstances, filmmaking and participatory video form effective ways to include and reach this population and puts one of the most marginalized groups at the centre of the advocacy process. Our theoretical background is based on the psychosocial resilience concepts, the psychoanalytic concepts of splitting and transitional space along with critical theories of identity and media and a critical race approach to validate the use of cinematic engagement as a way of forming an alternative interactive space among the migrant/refugee youth in transition for enhancing resilience and inclusive practices. The group of participants (10 young people aged 11-14 years old attending a NGO) participated in a weekly action research project. Filming, screening and workshop process was assessed through an action research, mixed methods approach, involving: participant observation of young migrant/refugee people and participatory workshops undertaken as part of the screening process. According to the thematic analysis of the youth' participation, visual and cinematic content has been found to explore borders allowing for the migrant/refugee youth' s negotiation of identity in a dynamic, interactive, creative way.

### **Methodological dilemmas, options and limitations in relation to the investigation of youth communities**

Gry Marie Tybjerg, *Roskilde University, Denmark*

The aim of this presentation is to discuss methodological dilemmas, options and limitations in relation to the investigation of youth communities by situated participating observations (Haraway, 1991). In the Danish primary school system there has been an increasing focus on transitions to further education with the intention of breaking with social inequality such as tests, educational readiness courses and ongoing assessments (Hämäläinen, 2015). This project investigates what will be meaningful to young people's communities and how such communities negotiate social self-understanding interacting with their societal and institutional conditions such as these educational arrangements (Holzkamp, 2013; Lave, 2011; Dreier 2008). By participating and engaging in the communities and getting to know the young people over time, I partly explore the issue together with the young people, and partly from an analytical youth perspective. This raises methodological questions about how researchers get access to young people's communities and negotiate their position and legitimacy in and outside an institutional context and spaces away from where adults usually take part (Højholt, 2005, 2012). It also raises ethical and personal dilemmas in relation to where you can go and how far and about acceptance, trust, confidentiality and (faking) friendship (Mørck & Khawaja, 2009; Duncombe & Jessop, 2012). How can the researcher at one at the same time find out what is meaningful to young people's communities by being a member of such communities whilst, on the other hand, maintaining the theoretical interest of research from the adult researcher's analytical point of view– and how to overcome this potential contradiction?

### **What can we learn from Further and Higher Education students' lived experiences of attempted suicide?**



Jude Smit, Lisa Marzano, Erminia Colucci, *Middlesex University, United Kingdom*

This presentation will discuss the mixed methodology and emerging findings from a UK-based research study into what we can learn from Further and Higher Education students' lived experiences of attempted suicide. It will highlight qualitative research design across a series of sub-studies and demonstrate how using arts-based methods helps us gain insights that words alone may not convey or facilitate. The presentation will consider how we can use innovative research methods to challenge perceptions and stigma, break down barriers and share insights into the impact on a person's sense of self, sense of others and ways of being in the world, as well as reflecting on gaps in service provision and research. This will be contextualised by a Rapid Evidence Assessment (REA) of literature, which identifies the need for further qualitative research into student suicidality. Findings from a national student survey, with more than 100 responses, qualitative semi-structured interviews, which include a section on the impact of Covid-19, and arts-based responses will be discussed. Although each person's lived experience is unique, the findings of this study identify some of the challenges for young adults, the impact of and on their experiences in Further and Higher Education, potential ways that they can support themselves and ways that others can provide meaningful support. These qualitative research findings have the potential to provide valuable insights that can contribute to society's understanding on a human and individual level and by using visual methods, generate new insights in relation to this under-explored area.

**20.00-21.00**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY | CLOSING CEREMONY**