



School of Social Sciences

Spring 2012

Division of Psychology

Welcome to the Psychological Well-being and Mental Health Research Group newsletter

Welcome to the second newsletter from the Psychological Well-being and Mental Health (PWMH) Research Group; a collection of researchers working in the Division of Psychology at Nottingham Trent University.



One of the key aims of PWMH is to draw together a wide range of researchers with expertise in different aspects of psychological well-being and mental health. Led by Eva Sundin, the PWMH group's unique offer combines high standards in research

methods including qualitative, quantitative and mixed approaches with excellence in teaching across a range of specialist Masters courses.

The group is large, containing 21 researchers as well as postgraduate students and doctoral researchers with expertise in, for example, evaluating psychological treatment, mental health epidemiology, neurobiology and mental illness, occupational health, homelessness and trauma, psychosis, forensic psychology, personality disorder, organisational psychology and many other relevant areas.

In addition to the wide range of research interests, the PWMH group collaborates with many organisations and services on work tasks, initiated with or by the organisation. For example, we are currently working with organisations such as Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service and Rural Development Initiatives; as well as charities such as Rethink, Combat Stress and Age UK.

Psychology is the science of behaviour and therefore has something to say about everything that as individuals, groups and organisations we think, feel, say and do. This means that there is almost always a psychological approach to, and solution for, real world problems and we are keen to help where we can. If this opportunity to work collaboratively sounds useful and interesting to your organisation, please do get in touch and we can explore your ideas or needs together.

We have recently relaunched our group's webpages and you can now find complete descriptions of our recent and current projects, publications and biographies of current PWMH members. You can also link through to the

group's three specialist research units: SOCAMRU (the Sexual Offences, Crime and Misconduct Research Unit), ESRU (the Emergency Services Research Unit) and WOPRU (Work and Organisational Psychology Research Unit). If you are interested in learning more about our research, you are very welcome to visit our website or email us. Similarly if you have any queries or feedback about the newsletter or want to join our mailing list, please email eva.sundin@ntu.ac.uk.

We are also hoping that this newsletter can be a dialogue between us in the research group and those in the world of practice. We are, therefore, happy to include submissions from others so please email us if you have news you would like us to include.

Eva Sundin

Head of the Psychological Well-being and Mental Health Research Group

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Members' news

- **Alex Sumich** was invited to present at the first, of what is hoped will be many, Down Syndrome Research Foundation (DSRF) conferences in September. The event was organised by Professor William Moberly (Stanford University) and Peter Elliot (DSRF, UK), and aimed to bring service users and leading researchers together to explore strategies for the development of therapies for precocious ageing in people with Down's syndrome. Alex's presentation on electrophysiological studies of ageing in Down's syndrome received positive responses from parents, practitioners and researchers.
- **Claire Bloxsom** and **Rachel Horsley** received a stimulating innovation for success award for November 2010 to June 2011. This award was for £10,000 and involved collaborating with HMP Gartree on a project exploring anger and attachment in the murder of a love rival. Initial data were presented at the Division of Forensic Psychology Annual Conference in June 2011 and publications are pending.
- **Viv Brunsden** has been invited to run a workshop on Using Visual Methods in Research at the British Psychological Society's Annual Conference in April 2012. The invitation was made by the Qualitative Methods in Psychology Section, whose Annual Conference will be running in synergy with that of the BPS. Viv has also been invited to act as the discussant for a linked symposium.
- **James Houston, Jeff Goatcher, Viv Brunsden** and **Rowena Hill**, along with the company Rural Development Initiatives, were successful in obtaining a £10,000 Stimulating Innovations in Success Grant for work on psychosocial factors in wildfire prevention. Findings from the project were presented at the conference Wildfire and received an enthusiastic response from practitioners involved both in fighting and preventing wildfires. Publications from this research are currently being drafted.
- **Jens Binder** recently presented at the General Meeting of the European Association of Social Psychology in Stockholm, at a special symposium on acculturation. The findings focus on intergroup prejudice and acculturative challenges among ethnic majorities and minorities in four European countries. The research is part of a larger collaboration with Royal Holloway and Sussex University. A manuscript is in preparation and an invited talk at Royal Holloway followed in November.
- **Glenn Williams** has been involved in a body of research into how engagement with the arts can impact on well-being (see page 9). Glenn has recently disseminated this research at several conferences, including the British Psychological Society's Annual Conference, and the National Association of Local Government Arts Officers (NALGAO) Annual Conference.

Publication news

International Journal of Emergency Services

Viv Brunsden, Head of NTU's Emergency Services Research Unit has become the Editor in Chief of a new peer-reviewed journal, the *International Journal of Emergency Services* (IJES).

Published by Emerald in 2012, the journal will address a broad spectrum of issues relevant to universal services such as fire and rescue, police and ambulance, as well as more specialised services such as the coastguard, and air-sea or mountain rescue.

Taking a multidisciplinary approach with psychology playing a key role, the IJES is interested in the functioning of the emergency services; the planning, prevention and recovery stages of emergencies and disasters; and responses and reactions to emergencies.

Psychology Seminar Series

The Division of Psychology in the School of Social Sciences hold a regular weekly seminar series over the academic year to invite excellent internal and external speakers to present their research findings. This is an integral part of our research culture in the Division which stimulates psychological thinking and debate, and informs about current developments in the various subfields of psychology.

All seminars are from 4 pm – 5 pm on Wednesdays and will be held in the Chaucer building, on the City site unless otherwise stated.

To see upcoming seminars please visit www.ntu.ac.uk/s3event.

Should you want to listen to one of our speakers, please inform the Research Seminars Coordinator Dr Gillian Smith at gillian.smith@ntu.ac.uk prior to the event you wish to attend.

Events news

Biopsychosocial Perspectives in Psychosis Conference

In June 2011 the Division of Psychology hosted a conference examining biopsychosocial perspectives in psychosis, with a specific focus on psychological trauma and cannabis use.

The event held at the Nottingham Conference Centre saw keynote addresses from leading figures including Professor Richard Bentall (University of Liverpool) author of *Madness Explained: Psychosis and Human Nature* (Penguin, 2003); Professor Mark Shevlin (University of Ulster) co-founder of the Northern Ireland Trauma Psychosis Research Network; Dr Ciaran Shannon (Queen's University Belfast) Consultant Clinical Psychologist NHS Belfast; and Dr Paul Morrison (Institute of Psychiatry, London).

Around 90 people registered for the event, including representatives from the University of Nottingham (Psychiatry and Psychology, Social Policy); the Early Intervention Psychosis team, Nottingham; Hearing Voices Network; Institute of Mental Health; BACP (the British Association for Counselling and

Psychotherapy) and UKCP (UK Council for Psychotherapy) counsellors; Mental Health Research Network; Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Nottingham (CAMHS); and NTU staff and students (Psychology, Criminology and Social Work).

Dr James Houston, who organised the event, commented: "The event was fantastic for academics, practitioners and students alike. The guest speakers presented some incredibly interesting new findings, which sparked lively debate with attendees. It was great to see so many people from differing perspectives attending and contributing to the event – and to see the breadth and depth of interest in this area across Nottingham."

For more information please email james.houston@ntu.ac.uk.



Work and Well-being workshop: developing healthy work environments

The Division of Psychology recently welcomed UK academics, practitioners, employers and policymakers to a workshop entitled *The Workplace Makes a Difference: How Can We Develop Healthy Work Environments?*

The workshop considered the results from the ESRC-funded project 'Work and Well-being – In Context' and explored how organisations can take a comprehensive approach to developing work environments that enable employee well-being, health and performance.

It also provided a forum for attendees to debate leading-edge ideas and to hear

from renowned guest speakers about the research evidence in the area of health and well-being at work.

The University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Neil Gorman, opened the workshop and welcomed the participants to NTU. Dame Carol Black, the National Director for Health and Work, provided the keynote address and outlined the national agenda on health and work. The opening keynote was followed by Dr Maria Karanika-Murray (Division of Psychology, NTU), Professor Marc van Veldhoven (Tilburg University), Dr Nadine Mellor (Health and Safety Laboratory) and Dr George Michaelides (Division of Psychology, NTU), discussing recent research into healthy work environments.

The closing keynote was delivered by Professor Stephen Wood (University of Leicester).

The event was well-attended with participants from key stakeholder groups including businesses, academia and practitioners.

This project was supported by the Economic and Social Research Council's First Grant scheme to Maria Karanika-Murray. For more information on the workshop, the presentations, and / or the project, please email maria.karanika-murray@ntu.ac.uk.

Course news

Introducing the Psychological Well-Being module

The PWMH Research Group is pleased to announce a new module on the MSc Psychological Well-Being and Mental Health course which was launched in the 2010-11 academic year that focuses on the topic of psychological well-being.

Psychological well-being is an underexplored area in psychology, with the bulk of research over the decades focusing on what is wrong with human beings and how to fix them, rather than identify the strengths that people possess and how they can flourish. This new module attempts to redress this imbalance.

Over a ten-week period, students immerse themselves in the theoretical perspectives and the practical implications of using a psychology that identifies what makes people's lives pleasurable, engaging and meaningful. Students are encouraged to apply this psychology of well-being to their own lives and are provided with the insights into how they can enable other people to foster a sense of well-being in their own lives.

Topics that are often covered in this module range from the experiences of psychological flow, love and altruism to being grateful, mindful and exercising creativity and resilience. Most importantly, this module is aimed at empowering students to uncover those hard-to-know secrets on how to be happy.

For further information on this module please email the module leader at glenn.williams@ntu.ac.uk. For information about the MSc in Psychological Well-being and Mental Health visit www.ntu.ac.uk/pgpsych or email the programme leader at james.houston@ntu.ac.uk.



Scholarships

Sneha Chatterjee, a full-time MSc Psychological Well-Being and Mental Health student and Norsyaquina Shamsudin, full-time MSc Forensic Mental Health student, have been awarded International Scholarships which part-fund their studies.

To win the scholarship they had to convince the panel of the usefulness of their studies to help them achieve their future career goals. They also had to evidence their academic excellence. The competition for these awards is very strong indeed and these are outstanding achievements.

Alex Barker, who is also a full-time student on MSc Psychological Well-Being and Mental Health, was awarded a scholarship from Postgrad Solutions Ltd. Each year the company offers six bursaries; four of these are restricted to Engineering and IT students, with the remaining two open to students on any UK postgraduate course. Alex was part of an extremely competitive field, and his winning of the scholarship is an extraordinary achievement.

Congratulations to all our scholarship winners. If you are interested in studying any of our Masters courses in Psychology, please visit www.ntu.ac.uk/s3fees to see what scholarships are available.



Student volunteering

Although the MSc Psychological Well-Being and Mental Health (PWMH), and the MSc Forensic Mental Health (FMH) have only been running for three years, our students are already achieving significant success, both academically and in the workplace.

Three students on the MSc Forensic Mental Health, Kate Davies, Zoe Birtwistle and Hollie Clarke, are all working as volunteers at Nottingham Prison. This is an excellent opportunity for the students to put into practice what they have learned on their course so far.

PhD success

Emma Swan, who is a part-time, final-year student on MSc Psychological Well-Being and Mental Health, has been offered a PhD place at Birmingham City University to conduct studies into Mental Health Recovery.

Her programme was originally due to start in April, but Emma was determined to complete her MSc first.

Instead of passing the award to someone else, the University held the place open for Emma, allowing her to stay at NTU until she completed her Masters. This shows the level of confidence the project leader has in Emma and she is to be congratulated on her excellent achievement.

Congratulations are also due to Dean Fido, who has just completed the MSc Forensic Psychology, for winning one of the fiercely competitive NTU Vice-Chancellor bursaries for a PhD. His research will investigate brain function in relation to aggression.

Dean laid the foundation for this work in his MSc research project, where he investigated

the involvement of frontal lobe inhibitory mechanisms in trait aggression in university students. That study made good use of the Division's recently acquired electroencephalography equipment and event-related potential methods.

Dean's PhD research aims to expand the data set to allow for more powerful models of aggression in students and to extend the study to investigate forensic populations including those with a history of psychological trauma. Other possible avenues will include study of the effects of nutritional interventions for aggressive behaviour on brain function. It is anticipated that his PhD addresses issues not only of interest to the PWMH group but to others working within the Division in areas of Cognitive Neuroscience.

Masters courses

Members of the PWMH Research Group are involved with the delivery of a range of Masters courses including the MSc Psychological Well-Being and Mental Health, MSc Forensic Mental Health and the MSc Forensic Psychology.

These courses are aimed at graduate students but also practitioners working in the areas of mental and well-being but who may wish to expand their psychological understandings in relation to their practice areas.

All of these courses are available one year full-time or two years part-time.

For further information on our courses please visit www.ntu.ac.uk/s3 or contact us on s3.enquiries@ntu.ac.uk.

Conference presentations

A number of students have presented findings from their MSc independent research at conferences. Edo Shonin, William Van Dorn, Alex Barker and Emma Swan all discussed their work at Wellbeing 2011.

In addition, William and Edo presented at the 21st World Congress of Psychosomatic Medicine in South Korea.

Presenting at these types of conferences is competitive and the students had to submit abstracts for scrutiny before being invited. The students presented alongside established academics in the field. They are to be commended not only for their success in getting through the selection process but also their professionalism in carrying out what can be a daunting task. Well done to all of them.

We have also had some undergraduate success: two of our final year students, Elizabeth Nudd and Miguel Granja Espiritosanto, presented their projects at the British Psychological Society undergraduate conference earlier this year.

Lizzy's project used electroencephalography to investigate reading ability in students, while Miguel looked at the effect of mood induction through music on mechanisms of working memory. Miguel is currently writing up his project for submission to the journal *Human Brain Mapping*.



Travel news

Gillian takes her research to Australia and Canada

PWMH researcher Gillian Smith has been busy presenting her work internationally with trips earlier this year to Australia and Toronto, Canada.

The Australia trip was funded by a prestigious Society for the Study of Addiction Travelling Fellowship to attend the 37th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society and to work and present findings at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) at the University of New South Wales, Sydney.

Her visit to Canada was on the request of Professor John Cunningham at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) to present her work at the Addiction Rounds Seminar Series. Here she briefly outlines the highlights of her trips.

“NDARC is an internationally recognised research centre in the addictions, with over 100 staff.

“My visit was kindly hosted by the excellent Dr Tim Slade and we are currently working on profiling polydrug use in Australian data. While at the centre I presented some current and existing work on alcohol and drug patterns and enjoyed some feedback on new work on alcohol use in a bar setting.

“The friendly, collegiate atmosphere was contagious – over nibbles and drinks on the patio, a new collaboration arose with Dr David Bright and Dr Jennifer Chalmers over joint interests in drug substitution and policy strategy. I also took the opportunity to visit the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre, with a guided tour of this valuable public health service by Dr Marianne Jauncey, the centre’s Medical Director. A unique experience, given the worldwide scarcity of supervised injecting services, this was an important insight into the social, economic, political, medical and personal context of both the centre and its clients. Thanks must go to all at NDARC for their hospitality, particularly Dr Slade and Professor Michael Farrell.



“After a wonderful week in Sydney, and a brief holiday diving at the Great Barrier Reef, it was off to Melbourne for the second half of my Australian experience. At the KBS conference I presented a manuscript co-authored with PWMH researcher Mhairi Bowe. With a number of excellent comments, we hope to submit ‘Social capital and alcohol use behaviours in England: A population based study’ for publication at the end of September 2012. These valuable activities would not have been possible without the Society for Study of Addiction and Division of Psychology and I am grateful for their support.

“Shortly after returning to Nottingham, I received an invitation to spend a week at CAMH from internationally recognised addiction researcher, Prof John Cunningham. CAMH is Canada’s largest mental health and addiction teaching

hospital, and known worldwide for its research.

“During the visit, Professor Cunningham and I discussed current work, future direction and collaborative projects with two major projects planned for the future (in acute alcohol problem avoidance and polydrug implications for treatment). I also presented my work to other addiction clinicians and researchers at their Addiction Rounds. The talk was broadcast online and linked up to other CAMH sites in the city visually and through the chat function.

“This trip was an excellent opportunity to meet other researchers at CAMH, to enjoy the beautiful city, CAMH and the University of Toronto. I extend my sincere gratitude to Professor Cunningham for his kind invitation and his wonderful hospitality and I look forward to our collaborations.”

PhD focus

Tackling the phenomenon of hearing voices

Sarah Cruddas is currently in the second year of her PhD. Her study is entitled *Childhood adversity, paranoia and voice hearing: Exploring the mediating role of shame, submissiveness and fear of disclosure*.

This research aims to increase understanding of possible mechanisms by which the relationship between trauma and psychotic-like symptoms operates. It will take a symptom-orientated approach, focusing specifically on voice hearing and paranoia in the general population and support networks.

The link between aversive early experiences and psychosis has been explained in terms of a cognitive susceptibility, which is triggered by negative early experiences that produce negative beliefs about the self and others. This, in turn encourages people to be less open in their relationships with others. Research suggests associations between fear of self-disclosure of personal or distressing information and psychotic voice hearing and paranoia.

Using a questionnaire design, fear of disclosure, shame and adult submissiveness will be explored as possible mediators in the relationship between early aversive experiences, such as childhood threat, rejection and abuse and voice hearing and paranoia. Sarah is currently collecting data, which will be analysed using quantitative methods, such as structural equation modelling.



Getting to the root of Internet addiction

For her PhD studies Daria Kuss is conducting research into the prevalence and symptoms of Internet addiction.

The research is particularly focused on how use of the Internet, which is very natural to most people, can become problematic and lead to serious negative consequences.

A key element of the research will be to develop a framework upon which the diagnosis of different types of Internet addiction can be based. This follows previous research which argued that the general term "Internet addiction" is too vague and that there is a need to start looking more closely at specific forms of addiction: namely addictions to online gaming, online gambling, online social networks, and other Internet applications.

The research will also look at Internet addiction in relation to personality traits



across different cultures, by looking at sample groups from both the UK and China. Whether the prevalence, onset and treatment of addiction differ depending on culture will be explored as well as the exposure to and the specific usage of the Internet.

The research has the potential to benefit prevention and treatment efforts when targeting symptoms specific to certain cultural groups. Ultimately it is hoped that this research will assist in understanding the reasons behind the development and maintenance of Internet addiction, as well as the recovery processes.

If you would like to know more, please email daria.kuss@ntu.ac.uk.

Doctoral research explores Game Transfer Phenomena

First-year PhD student Angelica B Ortiz de Gortari is investigating Game Transfer Phenomena – how experiences from video games can be transferred to real life. Her research focuses on the psychosocial, cognitive and physiological effects of video game playing.

The term Game Transfer Phenomena has been adopted by many people with some even calling it a new medical term. Angelica has already presented at a number of international conferences, published academically and written book chapters. Her research findings are making an impression in the media and have appeared in newspapers such as the *Boston Globe*, *International Herald Tribune*, *The Guardian*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Daily Mail* and video game websites such as Gamespot, Kotaku, Eurogamer and Gamepro.

Graduate focus

Graduates promote mental health research in the NHS



After studying Psychology at NTU, Amy Shuttlewood, Jo Almeida and Steph Kings are helping to promote and facilitate mental health research within the NHS across the East Midlands and South Yorkshire.

Working for the Mental Health Research Network (MHRN) as clinical studies officers, the graduates' primary role is to recruit participants for research studies and carry out any psychological assessments. Here they offer an insight into their exciting careers in mental health research... so far:

"The MHRN is part of the National Institute for Health Research, which supports and helps make research happen within the NHS in England. The MHRN is split into eight hubs across the country and we are based at the East Midlands Hub in partnership with South Yorkshire, covering Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and South Yorkshire.

"Working closely with mental health trusts and universities in these areas, we are able to support all types of research including randomised controlled trials, service evaluations, qualitative studies, epidemiological research, genetic research, eScience studies and industry-sponsored studies.

"So far we have helped recruit participants to a variety of successful studies, such as the CHAMP project (Cognitive behavioural therapy for Health Anxiety in Medical Patients).

"As clinical studies officers, we recruited participants from hospital outpatient waiting

rooms for a randomised control trial of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) for health anxiety. Once participants were recruited, we facilitated all psychometric assessments at baseline and during a five-year follow up.

"The great thing about our role is that it's so varied. The type of studies we may work on range in terms of the type of mental health problem we are investigating, and also in the service population we recruit from. The MCOP (Medical Crisis in Older People) programme is a good example of this. Our work in this group of studies includes conducting assessments of cognitive impairment in people aged 65 and over who experience confusion, usually due to dementia or delirium. Conducting assessments on a busy hospital ward can be very challenging, especially when talking to distressed participants and their relatives.

"While the majority of our work is centred on recruitment and assessment support, there have also been opportunities for us to get involved with treatments and interventions. For instance, the PROMISE project (Promoting Mental Health in Schools and Education) was a depression-prevention programme based on CBT and interpersonal therapy. We co-facilitated weekly Personal Social and Health Education lessons for 13-16-year-olds in secondary schools. We taught skills relating

to self-esteem enhancement, problem solving, emotional regulation, using support networks and conflict resolution. This study demonstrates how diverse our role can be and shows the fantastic opportunities available within the MHRN.

"At the MHRN, we are keen to aid research in whatever way we can and to help researchers get their study off the ground. Research Network Manager Ann Priddey states that: If you are a researcher or a clinician with a research study, please talk to us about how we can help and support you with your research. If you have never been involved in research before, please also talk to us, as we can match your clinical interests to current research studies, and train and support you to get involved.

"To work as a clinical studies officer, it is preferable to have either a nursing background or a degree in Psychology and some relevant experience. Studying at NTU has given us the essential qualifications to work for the MHRN and given us all an excellent theoretical background to put into practice in our day-to-day work."

If you would like information about how we can support your research, please visit www.mhrn.info or contact Hub Administrator Jo Greenwood on **0115 823 1282**.

Research focus

Arts participation as a path to well-being

Dr Glenn Williams has been collaborating with Nottingham-based arts group Cultural Consortium, and Escape: Community Arts in Action from Stratford-on-Avon to evaluate the provision of a participatory arts programme in Warwickshire.

This academic research was funded by Warwickshire County Council and has been one of the most detailed analyses of the impact of creative activities on people with long-term mental and physical issues, who currently rely on the NHS for ongoing support.



The evaluation involved collecting information from programme participants, service providers and other key stakeholders through the use of semi-structured interviews and validated questionnaires.

This work has shown that engagement in artistic and creative activities can help to decrease mental ill-health symptoms among participants, as well as increasing their mental-health-related quality of life.

Findings from the three-month pilot of this programme were presented at two academic conferences: Well-being 2011 at Birmingham City University and the 8th European Congress

of Community Psychology at York St John University. Results from data collected over a 12-month period will be communicated on 25 November, with an invitation-only event for service users, practitioners, policymakers, and academics at Warwick's Northgate House Conference Centre.

This work will be used to inform health and social care policies, commissioning and practice. With the recent provision of personal budgets in social services care provision, arts and health programmes could have a galvanising effect for the health and well-being of service users, their carers, and in developing healthier, happier communities.

The neural basis of expressed emotion in individuals with schizotypal personality

Dr Preethi Premkumar has been studying what happens in the brain when people with a personality trait called schizotypy listen to criticisms and positive comments and observe social rejection.

Schizotypy is characterised by magical thinking, unusual perceptual experience or odd behaviour and speech. When patients with psychosis experience negative expressed emotion by a close relative in the form of criticism or hostility, they are more likely to relapse and remain in hospital for a longer period of time. They also experience more depression, anxiety and lower self-esteem. At a neural level, the response may be one of heightened activity of brain areas for exerting cognitive control of one's emotion. Dr Premkumar collaborated with leading scientists at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London to conduct this research.

Participants who scored highly or minimally on a questionnaire for schizotypy were invited to take part in the study. In the first

part (Premkumar et al., 2011a), participants listened to criticisms, positive comments and neutral comments made by their close relative (a parent, sibling or partner) while undergoing functional magnetic resonance imaging.

When listening to criticisms compared to listening to neutral comments, participants activated more strongly the brain areas for cognitive control. When listening to positive comments compared to neutral comments, the group with schizotypal traits, who had a lower mood at the start than the group without schizotypal traits, also activated to a lesser extent brain areas involved in reward processing. These findings were interpreted as the group with schizotypal traits having an attenuated ability to respond to rewarding aspects of positive comments.

In the second part of the study (Premkumar et al., 2011b), participants viewed images of people depicting different types of social emotions during interaction with others, namely rejection, acceptance and neutral emotions. During rejection relative to neutral

scenes, the group without schizotypal traits activated, whereas the group with schizotypal traits deactivated, the brain areas involved in rejection.

It was inferred that the group with schizotypal traits may be distancing themselves from rejection scenes. Further research is needed using electroencephalography into the timing of the underlying cognitive processes that are involved in the response to expressed emotions.

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Publication news

New textbooks

Popularising Research

A new book on research dissemination, *Popularising Research*, is edited by Philip Vaninni and contains a chapter by staff from our Emergency Services Research Unit (ESRU: a sub-unit of the Psychological Well-being and Mental Health Research Group).

The book, about to be published by Peter Lang, covers a wide variety of innovative ways to disseminate research and has an extensive accompanying website where you can view examples of these methods.

Although the book will not be published until early 2012 the website is already up and running and has open access. The ESRU chapter entitled 'Brick, ball, hoax call: the dissemination of psychological research on attacks on firefighters through multi-media art-works' is authored by a team including Viv Brunnsden and Rowena Hill. The chapter details a project to disseminate research into violence against fire and rescue service personnel through the use of art exhibitions in local community spaces.

A 'teaser' of the chapter is on the website as well as a film about the ways in which a professional artist, Joe Robinson, worked with the project team:

<http://tinyurl.com/3jg6a34>. The film also contains imagery of some of the artworks developed during the project.

Improving Organizational Interventions for Psychosocial Stress and Well-Being

This new book, soon to be published by Routledge, brings together a number of experts and discusses the importance of process and context issues for the success or failure of such interventions.

Edited by a team including Dr Maria Karanika-Murray, the book explores how context and process can be incorporated into programme evaluation, providing examples of how this can be done, and offers insights that aim to improve working life.

Although there is a substantial body of research supporting a causal relationship between working conditions and employee stress and well-being, information on how to develop effective strategies to successfully reduce or eliminate psychosocial risks in the workplace is much more scarce and sometimes ambiguous or inconclusive. Indeed, researchers in this field have so far attempted to evaluate if interventions are effective to improve workers' health and well-being and organisational performance (outcome evaluation).

Little attention has been paid to the strategies and processes likely to enhance or undermine interventions (process evaluation). The focus of this volume is to suggest avenues to improve organisational interventions by considering how they are developed, implemented and evaluated.

This book discusses conceptual developments, practical applications and methodological issues in the field. As such it is suitable for students, practitioners and researchers in the fields of organisational psychology and clinical psychology, as well as human resources management, health and safety, medicine, occupational health, risk management and public health.

As well as being co-edited by Dr Karanika-Murray, other PWMH research group members have also contributed to the book as chapter authors, specifically Viv Brunnsden, Kevin Maguire and Rowena Hill.

Other publications

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