

## **Psychology and Global Health: A Consortium Model**

**Dr. Chris E. Stout, PsyD Full Clinical Professor,**

**University of Illinois, College of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry**

**Founding Director,**

**Center for Global Initiatives**

Healthcare services, sciences, systems, education, and research all suffer from disconnections – globally and locally, biologically and behaviourally, training and practice. Today we all need to be concerned with illnesses having no borders, bioterrorism threats, SARS outbreaks, flu pandemics, and the list seems endless and compounded by forced migration, refugee struggles, and immigrants' issues. But, until now, there has not been a truly integrated Global Health Consortium that is at once mindful of all the complex aspects of global illness and mental health concerns while also focused on small, regional, outcomes oriented projects that will be agile, responsive, and empowering in clinical, training, and research domains.

A model will be discussed that will reach across disciplines and international borders to bring together partners to provide education, training and research programs that cross-cut with primary care, behavioural healthcare, and public healthcare. It will:

- Advance the education and performance of local and international health professionals and students in health-related fields to meet the challenges of globalization
- Increase responsiveness to existing and emerging global health threats
- Improve preparedness for reacting to manmade and natural disasters and their aftermath
- Strengthen collaboration as well as the sharing of experience and knowledge among various stakeholders in global health (primary care, behavioural healthcare, and public health)
- Improve people's lives by decreasing premature death and disability with a special focus on refugee and immigrant needs and third world populations
- Provide clinical services
- Augment existing medical, psychological, and science education, research, and service capacity (including health education)
- Build capacity of local communities to improve health and health care access
- Motivate the public and private sectors to drive consensus and action for the improvement of health globally
- Fold in issues of behavioural health, violence, and prevention as public health concerns
- Integrate ALL the health sciences with policy and advocacy at both the governmental and non-governmental levels in order to create subsequent funding methods and sources, capacity building, and sustainable development.

Interested attendees will be invited to participate in the development and expansion of this model program and consortium.

## **Foreign Workers in Kuwait: The Experience of Women Faculty**

**Juliet Dinkha**

American University of Kuwait

This paper will use symbolic inter-actionism as the framework for understanding the mechanisms students use in classroom settings to either perpetuate privilege systems and/or to influence the perceptions of others regarding the teaching and scholarship of women professors—especially those that are foreign resident. Some students are particularly engaged in using privilege to devalue the professor and the academic process. Some are more engaged than others in using their socio-political position/s to exert power and authority over women faculty of color. Preliminary findings in Kuwait suggest that the dynamic of such relationships is even stronger due to the class structure and oil base state wealth. Two research questions will be highlighted in the proposed paper: (1) how is student's behaviour and learning shaped by the presence of women faculty of color? (2) What are the implications of this behaviour for institutional policy and practice in higher education and for professional lives of the women involved?

Preliminary conversations with colleagues of color at other universities in the U.S. and now in Kuwait indicated a similarity in experience regardless of cultural background, college affiliation/s, or geographic location. For example, most reported receiving intense negative feedback from students whenever classroom discussions centered on the concept of "white privilege." They also had their credibility challenged and teaching effectiveness questioned. In addition, some students especially those in Kuwait appeared more vested than others in using positions of privilege to exert power and authority within the class. In these cases, course evaluations were critical of the professors' methods, teaching style, and decisions made during the course. Further conversations with white and Kuwaiti colleagues indicate that a majority of students were more likely to rate their performance higher than that of their colleagues of color. Those consulted believed the results were related to the comfort many majority students like to feel when discussing issues of race with white or Kuwaiti professors as opposed to their colleagues of color. They also believed that white and Kuwaiti students in these cases seemed to perceive their white or Kuwaiti professors as having greater credibility in discussing the issues involved.

The proposed paper highlights some of the issues previously described from the emic perspectives of the women involved. The stories, shared experience, and comments noted are intended to raise awareness about the professional life of women faculty of color and to highlight possible solutions for the particular gender/racial challenges faced by the women involved

**Expatriation in the United Arab Emirates**  
**Educational and Psychological Implications on Children**

**Dr. Grece Chami-Sather**

**Faculty of Education**

This research aims at describing and analyzing expatriate children's attitudes and awareness as they relocate and travel with their parents for work related purposes in the United Arab Emirates. While immigration is long lasting, expatriation is most of the time temporary and might have a compromising effect on the development of children. This study aims at looking at various social, affective and cognitive aspects of children's understanding of expectations and adaptations as they move between cultures. The implications of this study will aid teachers and parents to rethink the curriculum and adjust their parenting and teaching perspectives for a more cultural and global understanding.

# Gender Differences in Depression among Undergraduates from Twenty Islamic Countries

\*

**Pof. Bader M. Alansari**

**Kuwait Univeristy**

**Dept. Of Psychology**

This study aimed at determining the gender differences in depression among males (N=8533) and females (N=8918) university undergraduates recruited from twenty Islamic countries namely, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, U.A.Emirats, Oman, Yemen, Egypt, Sudan, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Pakistan thought testing two hypothesis. The Beck Depression Inventory-II (Beck, Steer & Brown, 1996), was administered in its Arabic form for all (40) groups except the Pakistani (3) groups, which used the English version. The mean alpha coefficients in the (43) groups in the present study is (0.86) denoting good internal consistency. Results indicated that there are Significant gender differences in (18) groups of (11) Islamic countries in which females tended to be higher in depression namely, Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Libya Algeria, Oman, Morocco, Pakistan, Kuwait, and Qatar, while there are no significant gender differences in depression in Tunisia, Lebanon, Palestine, U.A.Emirates, Jordan, Yemen, Sudan, and Bahrain. Moreover, the interaction between culture and gender on depression were not significant. The implications of the findings were discussed, with some recommendations.

Keywords: *Depression, Gender Differences, University undergraduates, Beck Depression Inventory-II, Islamic Countries.*

*\*This study was supported by Kuwait University, Research Administration through Grant*

*# (ORP001).*

## **Children Witnessing Sacrificial Killing of an Animal:**

### **Action-Research Focused on Children and the Festival of Sacrifice**

**Serdar M. Degirmencioglu, Beykent University**

**Can Gezgor, Istanbul Bilgi University**

**Okan Karka, Istanbul Bilgi University**

Every year Muslims around the world celebrate a religious holiday where the central theme is the Sacrificial killing of a lamb or another animal in the name of god. The holiday is called *Eid al-Adha* in Arabic or *Kurban Bayrami* in Turkish or the Festival of Sacrifice in English.

During the festival, children often witness the sacrificial killing of an animal. It is well-known that young children have difficulty understanding death and there might be negative psychological consequences of exposure to the killing of an animal, particularly at younger ages. Psychologists, however, have paid very little attention to this large-scale exposure that occurs in many countries.

In Turkey sacrificial killing of an animal peaks during the Festival of Sacrifice but psychologists have been completely silent in regards to the possible psychological consequences of exposure to sacrificial killings. This paper outlines an action-research study that focused on the issue in 2005 and 2006.

In fall 2005, e-mail messages were sent to a small number of college students in Turkey requesting narratives regarding negative childhood experiences during the Festival of Sacrifice. Interested students responded with short narratives, which confirmed the expectation about negative psychological consequences of exposure to the killing of an animal. Students reported developing aversion to meat and meat products, particularly after witnessing the killing of an animal that they considered a pet. Some indicated negative experiences following forced exposure and/or forced tasting of the meat. Some individuals reported long-standing difficulties due to their experiences.

Next, the authors examined existing press coverage of the Festival of Sacrifice. The analysis of newspaper archives revealed an abundance of articles focused on procedural issues and no coverage of the psychological consequences of sacrificial killing for children. In order to fill this gap of information, the authors prepared a press release outlining the difficulties children have understanding death and possible negative psychological consequences of exposure to the killing of an animal, particularly at younger ages. The press release also included guidelines to follow in order to protect children from such consequences.

The authors also collected views and suggestions from three experts, a clinical psychologist in practice, a clinical psychologist who works with children and a counsellor who works with children and families. The press release was widely distributed two weeks before the holiday and

was also placed at the web site of an independent news agency, along with views and suggestions of the experts and several narratives from college students about their experiences.

The press release led to an increase in the press coverage of the issue and brief but specific suggestions regarding how to treat children during the festival appeared in the press. The authors visited and photographed children at slaughter sites during the holiday and participated in radio programs to further alert the public about the issue.

A similar press release was prepared and distributed widely in December 2006 about a week before the holiday. The press release received more news coverage. More coverage of treatment of children during the holiday was observed in 2006, partly independent of the press release.

The discussion focuses on the role of psychology in serving the public in the MENA Region.

# **How Identity Is Constructed: Analysis of Four Case Studies**

**Dr. Juliet Dinkha**

**American University of Kuwait**

Cultural relocation can be seen as a catalyst for personal transformation that prompts individuals to re-evaluate their identity as well as corresponding issues such as relationships to family, relationships to country of origin, perceptions of the receiving country, and social interactions within school and community. In the United States, where European perspectives dominate the accepted world-view, many individuals find it increasingly difficult to resolve psychosocial conflicts amplified by the expected norms of the dominant social group. This paper investigates how these issues are salient even with individuals living in the Middle East. The paper explores psychosocial conflicts as it relates to race, class, and culture in adolescence living in Kuwait. Four case studies are analyzed in addressing the nature of identity construction and conflict resolution in home and school settings.

This paper presents four case studies, each examining an adolescent's attempts to construct personal identity within the context of a society confronting issues of race, class, and culture. Each case study represents a unique life situation; a college sophomore male (Jordanian and Kuwaiti) resident of Kuwait, a college sophomore male (Iraqi and Kuwaiti) in Kuwait, a Kuwaiti resident male, junior in college of Syrian Origin, and a college freshman female with bi-racial (Indian and Kuwaiti), bi-cultural (Hindu and Muslim) and bilingual (Hindi and Arabic) heritage. Data collection for these case studies made use of a wide range of qualitative methodologies including:

- in-depth interviews with the students and/parents
- both informal verbal and formal written commentaries of teachers
- written summaries of focus group sessions
- written summaries of family psychotherapy sessions
- detailed anecdotal notes
- narrative stories constructed from detailed field notes
- student created written artefacts
- analyses of drawings and of storytelling by students
- logs kept in the home and environment

The use of such a wide range of qualitative methodological techniques facilitated the process of triangulation of data for each case study. The four resulting case studies were then color-coded and analyzed for recurring themes. These themes, in turn, generated a number of questions that merit further investigation.

Interestingly, the results of the four cases are similar regardless of gender and/or age. Participants were highly independent and clearly valued their uniqueness. They also seemed although difficult, adept with moving beyond the limitations of their particular social dynamics and with maintaining their own perspectives regarding reality.

The findings, therefore, support Berry's (1980) theory that individuals need not sacrifice their personal/social selves, but rather can lead dual lives within their particular social niche. Clearly participants felt at ease living among multiple worlds and experiencing the experience of being bi-cultural. They also exhibited a unique ability to resolve conflicts related to their duality. Overall, the emerging themes suggest that critical bonds or attachments among significant adults both at home and at school are necessary for successful resolution from life between two worlds.

## **Attitudes toward seeking counseling among Jordanian students**

**Asma Masri-Jana; Paul E. Priester**

**University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**

This study presents an overview of the research exploring factors that impact attitudes toward seeking professional psychological services. One of the most commonly used instruments in this line of research is the Fischer's Attitude towards Professional Psychological Services (ATPPS) scale. The ATPPS was translated into Arabic and psychometric data were gathered with a Jordanian college sample ( $n=300$ ). Results suggest unacceptable low reliability estimates ( $\alpha=.14$ ) with this sample. It is suggested that researchers may do well to create culturally-specific instruments in this line of research, rather than translating and using Western examples.

# **Tension, Stress, Depression, and Coping Skills of Palestinian and Jordanian University Students.**

**Nazih Hamdi & Dalal Alami:**

The purpose of this study is to investigate the mental health status of university students in Palestine compared with the mental health of university students in Jordan. Mental health variables used in the study were tension, psychological depression, stress and coping skills.

The study was based on the assumption that university students in Palestine live under the oppression of Israeli occupation therefore are exposed to stress which influences their mental health more than university students in Jordan.

A sample of three hundred and fifty one (156 males and 195 females) university students in Palestine, and (345) (116 males and 229 females) university students in Jordan were selected randomly. Measures of psychological tension, stress, depression, and coping skills were administered to .....

The findings of the study were:

1. Palestinian students achieved a significantly higher average than Jordanian university students on the psychological tension Scale.
2. Female students achieved a significantly higher average than male students in the psychological tension Scale.
3. There was no interaction between gender and university affiliation (Palestinian vs. Jordanian) in the psychological tension Scale.
4. Palestinian students achieved a significantly higher average than Jordanian students on the depression Scale.
5. No differences were found between male and female students on the depression Scale.
6. No interaction way found between gender and university affiliation on the depression Scale.
7. Palestinian university students were exposed to intensive psychological pressures.
8. No differences were found between male and female Palestinian students in their exposure to psychological pressures.
9. Jordanian university students were exposed to moderate psychological pressures.
10. No differences were found between male and female Jordanian university students in exposure to psychological pressures.
11. Palestinian university students used coping skills intensively and frequently.
12. Male Palestinian university students used coping skills more than female Palestinian students.
13. Jordanian university students used coping skills moderately.
14. No differences were found between male and female Jordanian university students in their use of coping skills.

# **Association of Fathers' involvement and sensitivity in childcare, and preschoolers' socio-emotional well being in a Palestinian sample**

**Roney Srour**

**Arab Israeli PhD student**

**Hebrew University of Jerusalem**

Fathers are primary and important figures in the family. In Western societies, fathers' involvement in the family has been shown to benefit children in a number of developmental domains. Talking about Arab societies in general and the Palestinian society in particular, are known to be patriarchal and masculine societies, but almost no empirical data exists about fathers in these societies.

In this study I asked:

- 1.) What kinds of father involvement (provision of resources, accessibility, engagement/interaction, responsibility) are most influential in promoting the children's socio-emotional well being?
- 2.) What is the role of fathers' sensitivity (apart from involvement), in benefiting their children.
- 3.) Do children's representations of their fathers mediate the impact of father-involvement and father-sensitivity on the children's socio-emotional well being?

The hypothesis of the presented study is that fathers' who are actively involved in their children's life and behave sensitively to them promote their children's socio-emotional well being. Further, I hypothesized that children's positive mental representative of father mediates this association.

The sample is comprised of 84 Arab Jerusalem families (42 with boys target child and 42 with girls target child). Families were visited at their homes. Dimensions of father involvement were assessed by three questionnaires, filled out by fathers and their spouses separately. "Father Sensitivity" was assessed by coding a videotaped father-child play interaction according to two coding protocols combined. The MSSB (MacArthur Story Steam Battery) was used to video tape the children's representation of both parents and self during story completion. Socio-emotional competence was measured by: self representation, the CBCL filled out by mothers, other questionnaire "Social Skills Rating Scale" (SSRS) was filled by teachers.

The study provided new data on the kinds of father-involvement that are most beneficial to children's socio-emotional well being, in the Palestinian society. Results show that boys' socio-emotional well being is most strongly associated with "father accessibility" and "quantity of father interaction with their children", while girls socio-emotional well being is most strongly associated with fathers' sensitivity. These gender differences are not familiar in Western samples. In addition it was found that "mother disciplinary representation" in children's story

completions (MSSB) mediates the above reported association. It was also found that the balance between “father’s respect of child’s autonomy” and “the quantity of father interaction with children” is associated with higher level of mother disciplinary representation, which leads to better socio-emotional adaptation in preschoolers. Results will be discussed according to the meaning of fathering and disciplinary parenting in the Palestinian society.

**Behavioral and Neuropsychological Effects of  
Neurofeedback on ADHD Children: Preliminary Results**

**NAZARI, Mohammad Ali\* and BERQUIN Patrick\*\***

**University of Picardie Jules Verne**

**France**

Neuro feedback, based on operant conditioning, is a form of biofeedback which uses electrical signals from the brain detected by electrodes that are placed on the scalp. It is completely non-invasive training in which the person's brainwaves are "fed back" to him or her via computer. Today, one of the most applications of neuro feedback is an alternative treatment of ADHD, and it is utilized to study of attentional mechanisms. Nine ADHD children ranging in age from 7 to 12 years were provided with intensive neuro feedback training. The training consists of two or three sessions per week for 2-to 3-month (24 sessions). The neuro feedback protocol was to increase the power in beta1 band (15-18Hz) and simultaneously to decrease the power in the theta band (4-8Hz). Pre- and post-treatment behavioral and neuropsychological evaluation consisted of a version of the Swanson, Nolan and Pelham questionnaire (SNAP-IV), the second version of Continuous Performance Test (CPT-II) and Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children-III (WISC-III). Results indicated that the neuro feedback was associated with improvement on "omission error" subscale of CPT-II, enhancement in "performance scale" (especially in the picture completion subscale) of WISC-III. Furthermore, behaviors related to the disorder were related as significantly reduced in home according to parents on SNAP-IV.

\* Doctoral student of cognitive neuroscience in University of Picardie Jules Verne (France)

\*\* Neuropediatre and professor of University of Picardie Jules Verne (France)

## **Working Memory Deficits in Obsessive Compulsive Tendency**

**Abdrabo Moghazy Soliman**

**Department of Psychology,**

**Faculty of Arts, University of Tanta,**

**Tanta- Egypt**

Working Memory is a group of cognitive functions that moment to moment preserving and updating information in service of performing complex. Working memory has been examined in a wide range of behavioural and mental disorders. One of the very common disorders is Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, but least behaviourally investigated. The present study aimed at examining the involvement of working memory in obsessive and compulsive behaviours. The current study is tended to examine the impact of high Obsessive-Compulsive tendency on working memory performance together with the impact of severity of obsessions and severity of compulsions on Working Memory performance. Besides, exploring the relationships between Obsessive-Compulsive tendency and performance on a number of WM tasks (suppression ability, central executive, phonological and visio-spatial components of working memory and suppression ability). Yale-Brown Y-BOC Obsessive Compulsive Scale along with a number of working memory tasks that measure central executive, phonological and visio-spatial components of working memory, and working memory capacity were administered. Fifty-Eight participants, 30 males, aged 19 to 32 years (Mean = 22.19, SD = 3.76), took part in the experiment. Results showed that participants with high scores on all of obsessive-compulsive sub scores performed very poorly on almost all of the working memory tasks. The severity of obsessions slowed down the performance on central executive task but did not affect phonological store, suppression ability or visio-spatial components of working memory, nor working memory capacity. The severity of compulsions delayed the performance on central executive, phonological and visio-spatial components of working memory and suppression ability but did not affect capacity of working memory for visual materials. The obsessions, and compulsions, severity of obsessions, severity of compulsions significantly negatively correlated with all of the working memory tasks

*Using the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual  
Of Mental Disorder (DSM IV)*

*IN Treatment of the Psychotic Disorders*

**Walid Kailane**

*Private Practitioner*

*Amman, Jordan*

Internationally, two diagnostic classification systems had been used in diagnosis of the mental disorders; the British system which used the ICD-9 M, and in America they used the DSM versions. The only differences between those two systems are in the number of digits for the diagnostic codes.

The most widely-used diagnostic classification system in USA is the "DIAGNOSTIC AND STATISTICAL MANUAL OF MENTAL DISORDER (DSM)"

In my present paper I will list all of the 16 diagnostic categories as it's appeared in the DSM-IV, and I will present one full diagnostic criteria and the expected psychiatric treatment by drugs for Schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders according to the DSM manual.

As defined by the DSM, the mental disorder means: clinically significant behavioural or psychological syndrome or pattern that occurs in an individual and that is associated with present distress or disability. "

Currently, three kinds of treatments (Behavioural, Psychotherapy, and Psychiatric including medical and ECT) are being used by the professionals and psychiatrists. But any kind of treatment is depending on several factors such as: Severity of the disorder, History of the patient with the disorder, Patient's Family history with specific disorder and others.

Even though, researches did not find significant differences between the kinds of treatment in improving some of mental disorders neither found and preferable treatment over another. But researchers concluded that the preferable treatment is the combined one.

At the last section I will present brief description of the most used of psychiatric drugs and the adverse side effects of each in addition to that I'll provide a list of the most prescribed drugs by showing the generic and trade name for each.

## **Death Obsession among the Palestinian population**

### **In the Bethlehem area and its relationship**

#### **To other variables during Al-Aqsa Intifada.**

<sup>1</sup>**Nahida Al-Arja**, <sup>2</sup>Taisir Abdallah

<sup>1</sup>**Caritas Baby Hospital, Bethlehem, Palestine**

<sup>2</sup>Birzeit university, Ramallah, Palestine

The aim of this study is to explore level of death obsession among a sample (n=601) of Palestinians living in the city of Beit Jala, Village of Al-Khader, and Aida Refugee Camp in Bethlehem area. The researchers used Abdel-Khalek scale 1998 to test the hypotheses. The cronbach Alpha was .92. To answer the hypothesis, the researchers calculated the frequencies, the standard deviations, the percentages, the mean and median, as well as the one way analysis of variance, the t-test and Tukey test to verify the sources of variances. Palestinian women had significantly higher DOS mean score than men. However Palestinian Muslims had a significantly higher mean DOS total score than their Christian counterparts. An analysis of variance (ANOVA) on place of residence was significant. The correlation between the DOS total score and house sheltering were not statistically significant.

## **SELF CONCEPT IN CANCER PATIENTS**

**Dr. Mustafa Muftah Elshagmani**

*Faculty of Arts - October University*

*Libya*

**Dr. Mohamed A. Elfagieh**

*Faculty of Medicine- October University*

It is known that one of the main object for orientation and psychological guidance as an inseparable part from the directive operation is to help the individual in the development of his self perfect concept.

Just as the self concept has a great influence on the healthy side of the person which is the subject of our study especially the chronic diseases as cancers whereas the positivity of this concept, that's mean the positive concept of the person about his self has a great role to face the disease and to treat it.

The study aims at:

1. Cognition of the self concept near the cancer patients for its importance, which has a great influence in the therapeutical process of the disease.
2. Perception of causes of the self concept weakness near the cancer patients reaching to the preparation of the psychological directive programs to adjust the negative self concept which has the great influence in the therapeutical process and their tendency to the recovery.

The importance of this study hide in the self concept study near the cancer patients, appearing in the perceptions and imaginations of the person about his self and the extent of his acceptance of his disease, whereas the corporal disorders have a great influence on the perceptive sides which appear in the positive or negative ideas which the patient make about his self when he is affected by the disease, these ideas are important to assist the patient and his tendency to the treatment.