

**Importance of Mother's Lap in the UAE on Children's
Psychological and Educational Growth: Case of a rising nation**

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This research describes the behavioural routine of parents and children in a reading center established in a city in the United Arab Emirates. The researcher, an educational psychologist, and a specialist in teaching methodologies, attempted to promote the importance of mothers reading to their own children. To bring awareness to the importance of this type of scaffolding, and the zone of proximal development, in promoting reading for young children, the researcher established a center for reading at a university social club. Participants included UAE parents and children as well as other non-national faculty and staff. Pre and Post reading activities were administered.

This project was held for the period of two months as the academic year was nearing the end. The researcher's reflective journals and daily logs of participants' behaviour as well as parental concerns were also recorded and analyzed. Previously collected anecdotes of children's behaviour in and out of school are used as supportive data. Evidence seems to suggest that there is a need for awareness of the importance of the proximity of mothers to their children and the importance of a mother's lap on the psychological and educational development of children.

Students' attitude towards drug addiction (Case: Azadshahr)

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The purpose of this research is to study and identify the high school students' attitude towards drugs and addiction in terms of some individual, social, economic and cultural characteristics and the factors affecting

Method of research: This is a descriptive- cross- sectional research performed through documentary- field method.

A sample of 393 high school students (197 girls and 197 boys) was selected by systematic random- cluster sampling among 30 high school and prerequisite course centers in Azadshahr, Golestan. To collect the data a researcher- designed questionnaire was used.

Results: The data obtained from one way analysis of variance and LSD table show the students of Persian literature, the students of extended household lacking friendly relations, the students exercising less or not and the students who spend their spare time with friends have more positive attitude towards drugs and addiction. Also, the results obtained from T. Test show boys have more positive attitude towards drugs and addiction than girls.

Key words: High school students- attitude- drugs- addiction

The Role of Qur'an in Self-Development

Intisar Shabaz:

دراسة بعنوان " دور القرآن الكريم في تربية النفس الإنسانية "

م.م :- انتصار زين العابدين شهباز

لقد فضل الله سبحانه وتعالى الانسان على كل مخلوقاته , وقد ميزه بصفات استحق بها هذه الافضلية دون سائر المخلوقات , لذا فالواجب على كل احد منا بتزكية نفسه وتطهيرها من الذنوب والمعاصي والآثام بأعمال الخير والبر والصلاح , لعل السبب في إختياري لهذه الدراسة يكمن في أن القرآن الكريم اتى بعلم نفس قرآني , ويجب أن نأمل هذه العلوم النفسية على اساس قرآني , ولهذا كان الدافع لاختيار هذه الدراسة التي كانت بعنوان " دور القرآن الكريم في تربية النفس الإنسانية " , بعد ذلك تطرقت الباحثة الى اهمية النفس الإنسانية بأنها المحرك الداخلي للانسان , وعلى اساس ما ينطبع في نفسه من امل ومؤثرات , حيث تلعب التربية والبيئة والعوامل المحيطة به والظروف الشخصية دورا مهما في ذلك , والهدف العام منها حيث ان البحث يهدف الى تعرف دور القرآن الكريم في تربية النفس الإنسانية , ولتحقيق هدف البحث تناولت الباحثة القرآن الكريم وكتب الحديث المعتمدة , اما منهج البحث فقد اعتمدت الباحثة المنهج الوصفي التحليلي , وقد حددت الباحثة المصطلحات الآتية :- القرآن الكريم – التربية – النفس الإنسانية , بعد ذلك تطرقت الباحثة الى طبيعة النفس الإنسانية بأن الانسان هو مدار التربية وموضوعها , ولا بد من فهمه وفهم طبيعته لتصاح له التربية السليمة , وقد وجدت الباحثة في لفظة النفس الإنسانية في القرآن الكريم انها وردت في مائتين وخمس وتسعين آية موزعة على اثنتين وستين سورة ثم تناولت الباحثة النفس الإنسانية في القرآن الكريم وتقسيمها الى ثلاثة مجالات (المجال الذي يقسم النفس حسب قواها وفعاليتها ووظائفها والمجال الثاني يقسم النفس حسب اخلاقها وصفاتها والمجال الثالث يقسم النفس حسب اللفظ الوارد في القرآن الكريم) , ولعل ما يهمنا من هذه المجالات هما الثاني والثالث لانهما مبنيان على القرآن الكريم الذي هو مدار بحثنا .

ثم تناولت دوافع السلوك الإنسانية في القرآن الكريم , منها دوافع فطرية , ودوافع ثانوية اجتماعية مكتسبة , بعد ذلك تطرقت الباحثة الى القيم الاخلاقية للنفس الإنسانية لان الايمان بالاخلاق من اهم المعاني في هذه الحياة وتأتي مرتبتها بعد الايمان بالله وملائكته وكتبه ورسله واليوم الآخر والقضاء والقدر , واذا كان الايمان بالله تعالى وكيانه يرتبطان في المقام الاول بعلاقة العبد بربه , فان الاخلاق ترتبط في المقام الاول بعلاقات الانسان ومعاملاته مع غيره من بني الانسان سواء أكان فردا ام جماعة , وتناولت الباحثة بعض مشكلات علم النفس الحديث , والآثار التربوية النفسية على الفرد والأسرة والمجتمع في القرآن الكريم , وخرجت الدراسة بالعديد من النتائج ومنها :

- أكد القرآن الكريم على ان الانسان افضل ما في هذا الكون من عناصر وموجودات ومخلوقات , ميزه الله سبحانه وتعالى عليهم .
- وردت لفظة الإنسانية ومشتقاتها في القرآن الكريم في مائتين وخمس وتسعين آية موزعة على اثنتين وستين سورة على صور متعددة من الافراد والجمع والتشبيه والاضافة .
- أكد القرآن الكريم ان النفس واحدة ولها صفات ثلاث , فهي أمارة بالسوء فاذا عارضها الايمان صارت لومة تفعل الذنب ثم تلوم صاحبها واللوم بين العقل والشرك اذا قوي بالايمان صارت مطمئنة .
- ان مبدأ التزكية كما يدلنا على الهدي القرآني يتعلق بصفة اساسية هي ان يستحضر الانسان الله عز وجل في نفسه عند كل لحظه وفي كل حال .
- ان علم النفس الحديث لا علاقة له بالنفس جملة وتفصيلا , وانما هي تسمية لصقت به في الماضي , ولا تزال عالقة به الى يومنا هذا فهو علم يدرس السلوك الانساني ولا علاقة له بماهية النفس الإنسانية .
- يؤمن القرآن الكريم بان المجتمع هو مجموعة من الافراد والجماعات الذين تربطهم وحدة الوطن والثقافة والدين , وما ينشأ عن ذلك من علاقات وعادات وتقاليده وانماط و اساليب الحياة ونظمها التي يشتمل عليها المجتمع .

وقد اوصت الباحثة بعدة توصيات , منها :

- ضرورة تدريس القرآن الكريم في الجامعات والمعاهد ليمكنهم من العمل به في حياتهم العملية والعلمية .
- يجب ان نعمل على تربية الانسان تربية تقوم على الربط بين امور الدين وامور الدنيا , فهي كل متكامل لا يمكن الاخذ بأي شق منهما بمفرده , كما جاء في الاية الكريمة : بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم " وابتغ فيما اتاك الله الدار الآخرة ولا تنس نصيبك من الدنيا " (القصص : 77) .
- يجب دراسة آيات النفس في القرآن الكريم دراسة موضوعية وتحليلية وصولا الى نظرة متكاملة عن النفس يمكن من خلالها بناء نظرية نفسية اسلامية .

وقد اقترحت الباحثة :

- اجراء دراسة مقارنة بين القيم الاسلامية والقيم السائدة في مجتمعنا المعاصر .
- تفعيل دور المؤسسات التربوية لمختلفة في البلاد الاسلامية في تحقيق اهداف القرآن الكريم في الفرد والمجتمع

Developing Meta-Cognitive Skills among Elementary School Students

Mohannad Nuaimy:

تطور مهارات التفكير ما وراء المعرفي لدى تلاميذ المرحلة الابتدائية

مهند محمد النعيمي

Training School Counsels in Yemen

Ahmad Amery:

إعداد المرشد النفسي في اليمن

احمد علي الأميري

Abdulla Tariq: the Need for Shari's - Based Psychological Guidance for facing Present and Future Challenges

التقنيات النفسية الشرعية والحاجة إليها إزاء التحديات المعاصرة

عبد الله الطارقي

Abstracts for Keynote Presentations

The future of psychology

Sharon Bream

President, American Psychological Association (APA)

This talk focuses on some of the major issues that will affect the future of psychology. These issues include: the effects of pre-college education; the relationship between the demographics of any society's psychology and that society's human population; the increasing participation of psychological scientists in interdisciplinary programs; the implementation of evidence-based practice; psychology's role in math and science education; and the vital importance of psychology's becoming a truly internationalized discipline.

THE ORIGINS OF PLEASURE AND ANNOYANCE IN HUMANS:

Lessons from Infants

Lewis P. List, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus of Psychology, Medical Science, and Human Development

Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island – United States

Studies of infants provide documentation of the earliest manifestations of behavior, and the opportunity to examine the relevance of early responsivity for childhood learning as well as the role of early experience in later development. The pleasures and annoyances which babies experience, both endogenous and environmentally stimulated, are important determinants of their well-being and life destinies. Of special import is that human newborns arrive ready to receive stimulation in all sensory modalities, and to experience the pleasures and annoyances of sensation. These neurophysiologic dispositions are "gifts of the species," and provide the scaffolding for neuromotor responses and learning to occur. The newborn child is capable of tasting, hearing sounds, smelling aromas, responding to tactile stimulation, and seeing. Individual differences abound at birth, these variations having origins in genetic diversity, congenital or intra-uterine exposures, and prenatal experiences. This presentation will expand, with pictorial documentation, on the baby's capacity for experiencing and responding differentially to pleasant and unpleasant stimulation, and on the role that the basic behavioral repertoire of the infant plays in classical and operant learning. This will form a framework for an analysis of the origins of developmental disabilities, and of the impact of risk factors in early development, including the role of the environment in the death of babies in the first year of life.

International Association of Applied Psychology

M. C. Knowles

Since most of the literature in the field of terrorism is Western and is based upon the Middle East, this paper examines terrorism essentially from a South-east Asian perspective. While there are different types of terrorism in South-east Asia this paper discusses that which occurs in situations where the majority of the population is Islamic so that the terrorist operates in a supportive and conducive environment. This type of terrorism therefore is similar to those found in other parts of the world such as Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan and Chechnya but is different to the sort of terrorism encountered for example in Ireland, England, France, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the Philippines. As such the paper deals initially with the way terrorism has developed in South-east Asia and the institutions that have grown to support it, drawing upon the Indonesian experience as an example. The paper then examines the process by which a person becomes a terrorist and the factors conducive to the making of a terrorist. Lastly the paper discusses strategies for managing terrorism in general and the terrorist in particular. With respect to the latter the emphasis is upon rehabilitation rather than incarceration.

Families across cultures:

The influence of religion and socioeconomic status

James Georgas

University of Athens

Athens, Greece

To what degree is the structure and function of the family changing in cultures throughout the world? Will family systems in countries of the majority world inevitably follow the same path as in North America and Northern Europe as predicted by modernization and globalization theories? In a recent study of families across cultures, thirty nations were chosen so as to represent the different geocultural zones around the globe. This lecture presents the results of the relationships between socioeconomic level and dominant religion of countries and family roles, family networks, general values, family values and emotional bonds. The relationships between affluence level of countries and psychological variables are well known in the literature, but the results of this project indicated the significant role of religion on psychological variables related to family. The paper focuses on these relationships in Islamic, Protestant, Catholic, and Christian Orthodox countries.

Is Psychology Universal?

Saths Cooper

Vice President of the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS) and President of the 2012 Cape Town XXX International Congress of Psychology.

Psychology as a science claims universality. However, its modern public representations suggest that its value-neutrality may be apposite for a largely north-western hemisphere. In transitional and developing societies where there is increasing acceptance of psychology's practical applications, its impact and utility are often seen as an adjunct to medical intervention. Psychology's western professional focus may have bypassed the socio-economic reality of a greater part of the world, with its scientific underpinnings and merit going unrecognized. The resolution of the complex pressures placed on majority-world psychologists will determine whether psychology is broadly accepted as universal.

A UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS IN MEETING MODERN LIFE CHALLENGES

Janel Gauthier, PhD

Secretary-General, International Association of Applied Psychology

Chair, Ad Hoc Joint Committee for the development of a universal declaration

Of ethical principles for psychologists

Human societies across the globe have established progressively closer contacts over many centuries, but recently the pace has dramatically increased and the world has become more interdependent than ever. Money, technology, raw materials and products move ever more freely and swiftly across national borders. So do ideas and cultures. As a result, psychology is confronted with cross-cultural issues that are challenging, particularly with respect to values across a range of cultures. It is a great deal more difficult to ensure in a globalized world that our research and professional services are designed and carried out with respect for cultural diversity and indigenous values. Research shows that there are similarities in ethical values across countries, continents, and over time. Even where there are differences in the emphasis on individualism and collectivism, science and traditional healing, secular and religious authority, and authoritarian/democratic governance, there is a meeting ground in terms of respect, caring, integrity, and the collective well-being of society. The purpose of this address will be to consider this research and what a universal declaration of ethical principles for psychologists could mean in today's changing world, particularly in a region such as the Middle East and North Africa.

Stress induced gastro-intestinal vulnerability:

Modulation by psychological variables"

J. Bruce Overmier,

Professor of Psychology, University of Minnesota

Vice President of the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS)

Gastric ulcers are a common disorder, and more so in regions where basic hygiene is compromised. In 2005 Dr. Barry Marshall won the Nobel Prize in Medicine for his discovery of a stomach bacterium called *Helicobacter pylori* that is associated with ulcers. This discovery displaced the prior popular Alexandrian belief that the primary causes of gastric ulcers were psychological stress-based; the new "modern" view is that gastric ulcers are caused by the bacterium. The new "modern" treatment now is to simply kill the bacterium to cure the ulcer. But, there may reasons to doubt the primary causal role of the bacterium. Psychological stress-modulating factors likely modulate vulnerability to this disease. Behavioral based research with animal models will be presented that confirms psychological factors as important modulators. Resolution of the conundrum of ulcer disease and its proper treatment likely lies in rejection of separation of body from mind and integration of behavioral-psycho-social factors into treatment .

Functional Roles of Social Support within the Stress and Coping Process:

A Theoretical and Empirical Overview

Ralf Schwarzer, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

This presentation reports four longitudinal field studies and one experimental study designed to shed light on the functional roles of social support within the stress and coping context. First, the enabling hypothesis is examined that assumes a facilitating effect of support on self-efficacy, which, in turn, promotes coping with the aftermath of cardiac surgery. Second, we discuss the support cultivation hypothesis that regards support as a mediator between self-efficacy and various outcomes, such as depressive mood, as illustrated by a finding on the experience of macro social stress during the migration. Third, support is highlighted as a coping resource by specifying provided partner support as a predictor of patients' coping with cancer. It was found that the direct effect of provided support on coping needs to be mediated by received support in order to become effective. Fourth, coping efforts of a target person are found to be predictive of support intentions of a potential provider. The better a victim appears to cope with various stigmas, the higher the likelihood that a significant other is willing to help. Fifth, in a dyadic study on coping with cancer, partners were found to provide high levels of support to patients but received support was affected only at later points in time. Time-lagged partner effects may characterize resource transfer in asymmetric social situations in which only one element of the dyad is under severe stress.

Value Priorities of Muslim Minorities and Majority Groups in Europe

Shalom H. Schwartz
Department of Psychology
the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

This paper will present a set of seven cultural value orientations useful for describing the cultures of nations and of ethnic groups. These orientations are grounded in theory and have been used to compare the cultures of 74 countries. We will learn how to measure the seven orientations by using a questionnaire distributed to samples of individuals from a country. We will discuss appropriate sampling to enable comparisons to the existing database of 74 countries.

Professional Collaboration in the Face of Disaster and Trauma

Elizabeth Nair, PhD,

Work & Health Psychologists (WHP), Singapore

This paper reviews the collaborative professional network established across four countries faced with physical and psychological devastation in the wake of the Boxing Day Indian Ocean tsunami in December 2004. Supported and encouraged by the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS), a core group of psychologists at the forefront of the psychosocial rebuilding work in Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand were first brought together over a three day workshop in Singapore in May 2005. Encouraged by their national psychology associations, these psychologists have continued with their collaboration and sharing of ideas, programs and plans with each other, and with the wider international psychology community, at regional and international congresses. The objective is to keep track of how the action research unfolds in these four countries in parallel, so that there is a unique contribution to the body of knowledge on the long term effects of active, deliberate and dynamically evolving planned interventions in the face of disaster.

A Dysfunctional Nation and Its People

Dr. Raymond H. Hamden

Clinical & Forensic Psychologist

Consultant in Political Psychology

There are four realities that are present in the stressed out or very injurious nation. People do not know who they are or they have a false picture as to who they are, they do not sustain their relationships through deep friendliness, defenses are used repeatedly, and contentment skills are minimal. Contentment skills are those abilities to sustain long-term relationships, intra-community and inter-community. When a nation is in pain and stress, psychological defenses will arise. Psychological Defenses have two purposes: to give pleasure and to avoid pain .

In Political Psychology, professionals want to walk through pain so that citizens can discover a true positive identity. Oftentimes leadership comfort can go deeper than the pain .

The principles of an unhealthy nation:

- Trust is at a lower level of suspicion .
- Belonging is blind loyalty .
- Joy is having a life preoccupied with activity .
- Peace is absence of emotion .
- It is your leader's job to make happiness in the Sectarian .
- It is the other person's fault .
- If they change, we will be happy .
- Don't know what others feel !
- Become emotional or cold and callous !
- Ignore difference of opinions .
- Talk about the person, not dialogue .
- Bring up past failures to help the other person understand how wrong he/she is .
- Confront, don't negotiate !
- Use addictions to lessen pain .

These principles are not painted on the walls, but they are the implicit assumptions that govern relationships between people of a nation. As these assumptions work themselves out, the relationships become more and more strained. Due to the pain and stress, often as not, addictive behaviors will arise to kill the pain. The nation cannot endure pain.

The profession of psychology in Europe and Middle East: presents challenges an future prospective

Pierangelo Sardi,

Executive Committee of EFPA, Vice-president of CEPLIS,

- 1) The profession of psychologists in European countries and European Union
 - 2) The organisation and relevant activities of EFPA
 - 3) And of its Member Associations, authorising or accrediting psychologists
 - 4) EuroPsy, the European certificate of psychological competences
 - 5) Network building appreciated by EU and CoE (Disaster & Crises, Traffic Safety, School, etc).
- Finally, some proposals for future and continuing cooperation between EFPA and the psychological organisations in Jordan and MENA.

Plasticity and reorganization of the brain following sensory loss: Results from blind and deaf individuals

Prof. Franco Lepore, Ph.D.

Research Center in Neuropsychology and Cognition (CERNEC),

Department of Psychology,

University of Montreal,

Montreal (Quebec) CANADA

The brain, though extensively organized at birth, is subject to modifications as a function of experience or integrity of its component systems. In this presentation, I shall try to demonstrate that, in the absence of a sensory system, the residual ones benefit from this differentiation by taking over the former's cortical territory, at times leading to improved performance in these

systems. Thus, blind subjects show improved performance in auditory localization in far and near space, in way finding in a human size labyrinth and in some tactile discrimination tasks. Using ERPs, fMRI and PET imaging methodologies, we show that some of these stimuli evoke activity not only in their designated cortical regions but also in visual cortex, and the amount of activation is correlated with performance. Super-performance was not demonstrated in deaf subjects in the tasks we used (visual facial recognition using Gaussian apertures called ‘Bubbles’), but visual stimuli (coherent moving dots) did activate auditory cortex in these subjects. We also show, using cochlear implanted deaf subjects, who either are proficient in language comprehension or not, that re-establishing the function through the prosthesis can either reactivate auditory cortex or lead to good auditory performance, or the cortex continues to respond to visual stimulation, leading to interference in a number of auditory functions.

”Intercultural Proficiency in the Helping Practices:

Understanding Power Dynamics in the Context of Culture“

Tahereh Pirhekayaty, PhD.

President of the Iranian American Psychological Association.

Founder and president of the Institute for Multicultural Counseling & Education Services Inc.

This workshop is designed to help health and mental health practitioners enhance their This workshop focuses on the role of culture in working with diverse populations, and the understanding of power dynamics within and between the context of cultural groups including age, gender, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, disability, religion, education, profession, and immigration.

Moreover, the paper will discuss the power dynamics of culture including the multiplicity of cultural identity, evolutionary aspects of cultural adaptation, transition, and bi/multicultural identity development in our era. Cultural power dynamics on the development of a sense of self and of others, motivation, resiliency, and cooperation vs. competition.

Culture Analysis: A Within-Culture Therapy

Prof. Marwan Dwairy,

Palestinian psychologist from Israel

Therapy is not a tool with which to change the client's culture. Culture should rather be exploited to bring about therapeutic change. The therapist should identify subtle contradictions within the belief system of the client and employ cultural aspects that may facilitate change. Similarly to how a psychoanalyst analyses the psychological domain and brings conflicting aspects to the consciousness (e.g. aggression and guilt) in order to mobilize change, a culture analyst analyses the client's belief system and brings contradicting aspects to the consciousness in order to mobilize revision in attitudes and behaviour. The assumption that underlies culture analysis is that culture influences people's lives unconsciously. When therapists inquire into and learn about the client's culture, they may find some unconscious aspects that are in conflict with the conscious attitudes of the client. Once the therapist brings these aspects to the awareness of the client, a significant change may be effected. Unlike the unconscious drives which are revealed through psychoanalysis, these intra-culture conflicts are not supposed to be threatening because all aspects revealed are culturally and morally legitimized. This process can be described in humanistic terms too. In much the same way that a Rogerian therapist establishes an unconditional positive regard and empathy to facilitate the coming forward of the real authentic self, a culture analyst establishes positive regard and empathy to the culture and facilitates the coming forward of more and more aspects of the culture that were denied and that may be employed to effect change. Alternatively, one can understand this process in terms of generating cognitive dissonance within the client's belief system that necessitates change. Regardless of the theoretical explanation, in order to conduct a "within-culture therapy," therapists need to be open and incorporate several aspects of the culture in the therapy in order to create a new dynamic within the client's culture. Beside empathy, a thorough inquiry into the client's culture in order to identify the cultural aspects that may be employed in therapy is needed. Here are some examples of within-culture therapy.

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Training and Licensure in a Changing World".

Raymond D. Fowler, PhD

The evolution of training in applied health care psychology, the origins of licensure and other forms of certification, and various emerging forms of human service in psychology including prescriptive authority.

Training and Qualifications of Psychologists at Arab Regional Countries

Meeting needs and challenges:

(Regional overview with National focus on Yemenite experiences)

Hassan Kassim Khan

President, Yemen Psychological Association

Board Member of IUPsyS

This paper aims to initiate discussions among Arab- International academicians and professionals on the following main issues:-

- To what extent Psychology university curriculum (under-postgraduate) meet professional and ethical standards ...the local needs and challenges facing Arab countries?
- Is it time for reflection and assessment for updating qualification and training of psychologists in the Arab countries developing general requirements, licensing systems, professional and ethical standards to practice the profession...the possibility of a Unified Arab Licensing??
- How to utilize international experiences on this issues ...what is global or local in the training and qualification of Psychologists.

Expected out-comes:

- Reflection and Assessment of the current existing training programs. Open discussions of the problems, obstacles and barriers by participants from different Arab countries.
- Exchange of National , Regional and International accumulated experiences on updating and the developments of training programs to meet professional , ethical standards of the discipline of Psychology , needs and challenges facing countries of the Arab Region .
- Developing proposals, future plans to update and enhance Psychology as a science and profession at countries and regional levels.

Culture and sexuality

WALID SARHAN F.R.C.Psych.

Consultant Psychiatrist

Amman- Jordan

Two Studies on Sexual knowledge attitude and behavior were conducted on 150 married Jordanian women and 150 single Jordanian men.

The results showed poor knowledge and confused attitude and then behavior is affected.

The studies showed clearly the need for sex education which is lacking, and awareness for sexual problems.

Why Some People are Addicted to Computer Games

An analysis of psychological aspects of game players and games

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Basic demographic information of computer game addicts and the relationship between game addicts and personality was studied by psychological approaches among college students in Beijing, China .It was found that :

1. Game addiction score of male students was significantly higher than that of female students. Different kinds of games had different attraction to game players.
2. Personality of Warmth, Emotional Stability, Rule-Consciousness and Perfectionism were negative correlated to the scores of game addiction. Dominance, Vigilance, Apprehension and Tension were positive correlated to the scores of game addiction.
3. Game players attached importance to the game elements of game theme, fidelity, beauty and appreciation, interaction and competition, free creation, promotion and power, skill presentation and use, sense of achievement and physical control.
4. Game software usability dimensions of Expression of Interface and Help information, Suitable for Individualization, Consistent or Conformity to User Expectations did contribute to computer game addiction.

CULTURAL INFLUENCES ON PERSPECTIVE TAKING

Sandra M. Fowler

Psychologists are aware of the tremendous influence culture has on behavior. However, taking culture into consideration in clinical and consulting work can be a difficult challenge since many cultural differences are subtle even though they have a definite impact on results. Differences in values and attitudes require an ability to accept new perspectives in order for cross-cultural communication to be effective. This paper focuses on cultural and personal differences regarding perspectives and how cultural values influence behavior.

Qualitative Methods in Psychology –

New Challenges for Context-Sensitive Research

Carolin Demuth

University of Osnabrueck

Human Sciences

Department of Development and Culture

Osnabrueck - Germany

Although qualitative research has a long tradition in the social sciences, for a long time qualitative methods were ignored or be given the status of “not being empirical” within the field of academic psychology. Lately, however, there has been an increasing call for qualitative research in psychology, especially cultural psychology. While in the past, standardized instruments that were developed in a Western context have often been applied to other cultural contexts without questioning their appropriateness to describe, understand, and explain different cultural realities, there is now an increasing awareness that if we want to understand human behaviour, we need to study it in natural every day settings within the cultural context in which it occurs and using a methodological approach that is able to study the meaning and belief systems underlying a specific behaviour.

This presentation emphasizes the importance of qualitative studies to complement quantitative research in psychology and the need for the respective training in the methodological curricula. Qualitative methods are not merely different “methods” or tools but rather methodologies that have developed from diverse theoretical traditions and need to be understood and applied within their specific epistemological background. Although, qualitative research is a very heterogeneous field, the various approaches share their foundation on social constructivism and follow the principles of the Qualitative Paradigm which will be laid out briefly. Criteria of rigor that have

been developed and established to ensure validity of qualitative research as well as possibilities for method triangulation will be discussed.

An illustration of applied qualitative research will be given by presenting a discourse analytical study on mother-infant interactions. The study is based on an approach within the field of cultural developmental psychology that combines qualitative and quantitative procedures in order to gain a holistic view of the phenomena under study.

Abstracts for Roundtable Discussions

Psychology in the Middle East:

Present and Future Challenges

Serdar Degirmencioglu

The Role of Psychology in the Transformation

Of South African society

Saths Cooper, PhD & Ann Watts, PhD

Despite the terrible role of psychology in South Africa's oppressive and repressive past, the authors posit that psychology is alive with possibilities for positive societal change and transformation. In this joint presentation, the chequered role of psychology in South Africa will be addressed. From its World War II origins, through its role in underpinning apartheid, to its current position as a profession widely relied on, the factors that have given psychology its eminence in South African society and university education and training programs will be explored.

The authors will rely on historic and scientific evidence as well as their specific roles in the fight for national recognition of and respect for psychology. The first author will utilize his anti-apartheid role, as well as his nine years of incarceration in apartheid jails, his banning and house-arrest to illustrate the indelibly changing face of South African psychology. The second author will utilize her experience in national, regional and international psychology organizations and neuropsychological rehabilitation to focus on the developmental spaces that psychology should concentrate on in the years ahead. In drawing parallels for psychology in the majority/developing world, the presentation will ensure that the spectrum of what South African psychology entails is covered, including professional training programs, the state of organized psychology, and the private practice of psychology.

FOCUS ON MODERN LIFE CHALLENGES AND THE DRAFT UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF ETHICAL PRINCIPLES FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS

Co-chairs and Co-convenors:

Janel Gauthier, PhD, Ad Hoc Joint Committee Chair, and IAAP Secretary-General

Elizabeth Nair, PhD, Ad Hoc Joint Committee Member, and IAAP Treasurer

Hassan Kassim Khan, PhD, First MENARCP Scientific Program Chair, and IUPsyS Executive Committee Member

This Roundtable will discuss the 2005 draft of the Universal Declaration of Ethical Principles for Psychologists, which is an international initiative under the auspices of the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS), the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP), and the International Association of Cross-Cultural Psychology (IACCP). The Ad Hoc Committee for the development of the Declaration, chaired by Professor Janel Gauthier, is in the process of revising the current draft. The objectives of the Roundtable are three-fold: a) to learn from psychologists working in the Middle East and North Africa about their modern life challenges; b) to learn about the significance of the draft Declaration for them in meeting those challenges in culturally sensitive ways; c) to receive comments and advice from them on the cultural appropriateness of the definitions, concepts and language used in the document as well as any additional issues or concerns that may have regarding the draft Declaration. All participants in the 2nd MENARCP are kindly invited to attend the Roundtable and contribute to the development of a universal declaration of ethical principles that is sensitive to natural and cultural differences, and relevant to local communities and indigenous values.

Training and licensing of psychologists:

The regional and national organization of psychology as a profession

Co-chairs and Co-convenors:

Dr. Adnan Takriti, Dr. Walid Sarhan, Dr. Adnan Farah, Dr. Taiseer Elias, Dr. Asaad Zubi, Dr. Zuhair Zakaria, Dr. Hasan Qasem.