

ABSTRACTS

The activities of school psychologists in the contemporary education system

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The needs of modern schools necessitate the broadening of the scope of activities of school psychologists. The school psychologists have to work with therapeutical, educational, and organizational issues. In order to become more effective in the fulfilment of their work task school psychologists have to work preventively. They have to work more as consultants and in collaboration with educational staff, pupils, families and other relevant groups. Their education and training have to focus both on core psychological, educational, and sociological theoretical knowledge, as well as on practice and continuing education.

Illness representations of breast cancer in healthy and diseased women: A qualitative study

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This qualitative study investigated the differences in structure and content of illness representations of breast cancer between healthy women and breast cancer patients. Women's own beliefs of identity, causes, consequences, time- line and curability of breast cancer were explored using semi- structured, face-to-face interviews. Ten healthy laywomen and eight women who had undergone mastectomy were interviewed. The comparison of the illness perceptions of healthy women with those of patients indicated some differences regarding the seriousness of breast cancer, its impact, as well as the cure and control of this disease. Healthy women overestimated the severity of breast cancer, perceived its consequences to be more serious and were less likely to perceive it as a controllable and curable disease. Healthy women also held different causal attributions for breast cancer, reporting stronger beliefs in genetic and environmental causes for breast cancer than did patients. The discrepancy in findings has implications for the maintenance of cancer- detection behaviors among healthy women, for their willingness to seek or accept medical care for possible symptoms, and for their attitudes towards cancer patients.

Possible selves: Their contribution to the understanding of the conceptions of self, self- concept, and self- esteem and the determination of behavior

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The present paper focuses on the concept of self in relation to possible selves and possible selves' contribution to the understanding of conceptions of self-concept and self-esteem. Possible selves represent individuals' ideas of what they might become, what they would like to become and what they are afraid of becoming and thus provide a conceptual link between cognition and motivation. They act as parts of the working self-concept and are responsible for ways of behaviour which are inconsistent with (a) what others perceive to be our "true selves" and (b) to our self-concept and self-esteem profile assessed by psychometric inventories. A discussion of the nature and function of possible selves is followed by an exploration of their role in addressing problems including the unity of the self, the stability and malleability of the self, the self-concept and self-esteem and the relationship between self-concept and behaviour since possible selves are differentially activated by the social situation and determine the nature of the working self-concept at a certain time. Consequently, they challenge the use of standard self-concept and self-esteem inventories which ask about generalised or average views of self because of the role of the working self-concept in the function of hidden aspects of self at a certain time.

Williams syndrome: Genetic aetiology, clinical features and neuropsychological profile

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The aim of the present paper is to describe and discuss the genetic aetiology, clinical features, cognitive strengths and weaknesses, as well as the usual linguistic abilities in Williams syndrome. Williams syndrome is a rare neurodevelopmental disorder identified by a unique kind of mental retardation despite a seemingly preserved language capacities. Initially, it was hypothesized that the study of this unique neuropsychological profile could enhance the understanding of the relationship between the cognitive and linguistic system. However, recent research findings lessen the initial enthusiasm without undermining the challenge of further comprehension of the syndrome.

Health Psychology: Psychological aspects of incurable illness

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This article deals with psychological aspects of incurable illness. That is, When, How and Why the patient needs to be informed of his diagnosis, the prognosis of his illness and his possible death. Furthermore, we present Kubler-Ross's theoretical model regarding incurable disease as well as the views of her critics.