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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THYROID DISEASE AND DEPRESSION, DEFENSE MECHANISMS AND DIFFICULTIES IN EMOTION REGULATION

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ABSTRACT: This paper presents the results of a research regarding a number of psychological issues among patients with thyroid disease, compared to people without thyroid disease. Five objectives were identified. They aim to establish whether there is a relationship between thyroid disease and (1) *depression*, (2) *difficulties in emotion regulation*, (3) *humour* and (4) *projection*. The fifth objective aims to determine whether there is a relationship between the use of *humour* as a defense mechanism and *depression* among people with thyroid disease. The study found that people with thyroid conditions have higher levels of depression and more difficulties in emotion regulation compared to the control group. They use projection as a defense mechanism more frequently and humour less often. There is a negative correlation between the use of humour and the level of depression.

Keywords: depression, difficulties in emotion regulation, defense mechanism, humour, projection, thyroid dysfunction

MATERNAL CAREGIVING AS A MODERATOR OF RELATIONS BETWEEN AGE, ANXIOUS ATTACHMENT, EMOTIONAL REGULATION DIFFICULTIES, AND COUPLE SATISFACTION

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ABSTRACT: The study of maternal caregiving impact upon later-life development can expand family research by connecting it with personality and social studies, with insights into lifelong individual development, but also into couple psychology.

In the present study, maternal care has been shown to be an effective moderator for long-established negative relations between variables such as age and relationship anxiety, age and emotional regulation difficulties, the anxious attachment style and couple satisfaction, emotional regulation difficulties and couple satisfaction, which means that such relations only hold statistically for a sub-category of the general population in which they have been measured in a manner not accurately determined up to now.

The present paper is a sequel to previous ones within an ample project aiming to show how easily-measured indicators of family structure can overcome the dominant view that family systems are difficult to maneuver into research methodology. Introducing a simple demographic question regarding participants' maternal care has been used in order to significantly differentiate between such dissimilar developmental situations to be taken into account.

Results are interpreted within the context of family systems and family structure indicators. It is suggested that personality research may benefit from considering the two distinct situations not enough examined in the literature while studying developmentally diverse contexts. Practical recommendations are made in a final methodological discussion and directions for future research are given.

Keywords: family structure, maternal caretaking, attachment figure, anxious attachment style, emotion regulation, couple satisfaction.

PROFILE OF THE VICTIM OF DOMESTIC PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE IN ROMANIA

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ABSTRACT: Emotional abuse in domestic relationships is an almost non-existent topic in Romanian research. While a number of studies have been conducted on sexual abuse or physical violence, no relevant research was found during the documentation for this article from the authorities', medical, social or victims' perspectives. The main objective of the article is to outline how victims relate to emotional abuse and how they identify elements of emotional abuse in a society that still normalises many of the forms in which it manifests itself. Victims of domestic violence, even when they have managed to leave abusive

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relationships, can become people who constantly live in fear, people who emotionally isolate themselves so as to stop suffering and being vulnerable and often defend, hide and isolate themselves from those around them. In Romania, this vicious circle is currently not adequately addressed because the community mentality is often against the victim.

Keywords: emotional abuse; domestic violence; abusive relationship; psychological violence; effects of emotional abuse.

THE EFFECT OF DIVORCE ON ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT[†]

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ABSTRACT: Being a single parent is becoming a common and growing reality in recent decades as we are witnessing a "social normalisation" of divorce, reducing the destabilising effects on the psyche of those involved. However, not as much normalisation as we wouldn't see a similar increase in the difficulties of adapting to the new realities of the family.

Divorce is a process that begins several years before the legal separation and often involves conflict between the parents, and continues after the separation, with attempts to adapt to a new reality. The present research explores the effects of divorce on adolescents' relationships: with the others and with self, from the perspective of specialists (teachers, counsellors, psychotherapists), and a direct assessment of selected factors through standardised questionnaires.

The findings show both negative and positive effects on adolescents: an increase in aggression (verbal and hostility), an increase in being aware of emotions, a decrease in generalisation, standards and self-esteem, furtherly differentiated between subjects with divorced parents and/or exposed to interparental conflict. The underlying emotion is fear of abandonment in the context of separation and interparental conflict, threatening and affecting emotional security, the child's bridge to the world. A rewarding result of the research shows that social trust is not affected, with adolescents finding the necessary support from friends or in school.

Keywords: interparental conflict; divorced parents; child adjustment; social defense; single-parent families.

[†] Paper made under the coordination of Associate Professor Beatrice Manu, PhD, at Spiru Haret University, Faculty of Psychology and Education Science, Bucharest.

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ANXIETY, DEPRESSION, AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER [§]

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ABSTRACT: The present research aimed to study aspects of the relationship between attention disorder with hyperactivity and impulsivity and anxiety, depression, social problems among children between the ages of 6 and 17 years.

The tools used were the CBCL (Achenbach Empirically Based Assessment System) questionnaire and the Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Deficit Assessment Scale filled in by parents. The participants in the research were 32 children included in the education system, school or preschoolers and their parents.

The results of the research led to the correlation of the variables of attention problems with anxiety/depression problems as well as to the variables correlation of singleness/depression problems with social problems.

The research can be continued by expanding the group of participants. Its usefulness is found both in the field of counseling or psychotherapy and in the educational field.

Keywords: hyperactivity, attention, anxiety, depression, social problems.

[§] Paper made under the coordination of Lecturer Oana Pănescu, PhD, at Spiru Haret University, Faculty of Psychology and Education Science, Bucharest.

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