

10th Conference and Workshop in Community Psychology in Slovakia 2023

27th - 28th November 2023

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



FACULTY OF SOCIAL
AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES
Comenius University
Bratislava

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Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia, 2023

Conference and Workshop Community Psychology in Slovakia 2023
27. 11. - 28. 11. 2023

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Mlynské luhy 4, 821 05 Bratislava, Slovakia

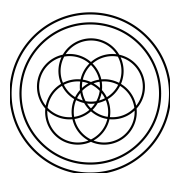
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doc. Mgr. Lenka Sokolová, PhD.

10th Conference and Workshop in Community Psychology in Slovakia 2023

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME
Monday, 27th November 2023

MORNING SESSIONS

9.10 - 9.20 Opening ceremony

doc. JUDr. PhDr. Lucia Mokrá, PhD.

(Dean of the Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, Comenius University in Bratislava)

prof. Mgr. Júlia Kanovská Halamová, PhD.

(Head of the Institute of Applied Psychology, Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences,
Comenius University in Bratislava)

SESSION 1

**9.20 - 9.40 The interactive community setting and the development of
a collaborative social network to promote social innovation in an intercultural
perspective. The path in the European YouCount project**

Fortuna Procentese

**9.40 - 10.00 Fostering Community-based Advocacy and sociopolitical
participation of Women who are Violence Survivors: Research
& Action contributions for program development**

Maria Vargas-Moniz

**10.00 - 10.20 Exploring neighborhood characteristics and their influence
on adolescent's problem behaviours**

Julinda Cilingiri

10.20 - 10.40 coffee break

SESSION 2

**10.40 - 11.00 Community Collaboration to Support Recovery: Recovery
Homes and Problem-Solving Courts**

Justin Bell, Andrew Camilleri, Elizabeth Garrity, Edith Leonard, Brock Abdon,
Leonard A. Jason

**11.00 - 11.20 Surviving Covid-19 abroad: International students' experiences of
belonging throughout the pandemic**

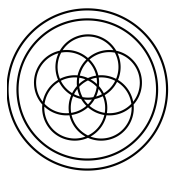
Andrew P. Camilleri, Justin Bell, Luciano Berardi, Olya Glantsman

11.20 - 12.20 GUEST PRESENTATION:

How should I ask? Ethical and efficient data collection in queer research

Andrea Stašek

12.20 - 13.20 lunch break



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AFTERNOON SESSIONS

SESSION 3

13.20 - 13.40 And who will help us? Explaining the relationship between precarity, trust in government, and attitudes toward migrants

Matúš Grežo

13.40 - 14.00 Fostering social inclusion of marginalized youths across Europe: a multilevel analysis of the individual, interpersonal, community-related, and contextual drivers within the EU-funded project YouCount

Flora Gatti, Fortuna Procentese

14.00 - 14.20 Five Hindrances: investigation into perceived barriers to meditation

Denis Deriglazov

14.20 - 14.40 coffee break

SESSION 4

14.40 - 15.00 Transformative power of mentoring for youth development in communities, schools, and talent domains

Gurdeep Singh, Ramchander Goel, Manohar Gupta, Aarun Aggarwal

15.00 - 15.20 Empowering communities through digital equity? New media usage in vulnerable groups and the consequences for participation

Magda Petrjánošová

15.20 - 15.40 Dark tetrad as a predictor of conspiracy beliefs related to the Covid-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and monkeypox virus

Radoslav Merva, Peter Teličák, Daniela Kováčová

15.40 - 16.00 The Dark Tetrad, Anxiety, and Loneliness as Predictors of Internet Addiction

Rastislav Janičík, Peter Teličák, Leonard Komár

16.00 - 16.20 coffee break

SESSION 5

16.20 - 16.40 Community psychology for a citizen-friendly urban design

Emanuele Esemio, Florencia Gonzalez Leone, Stefania Carnevale, Caterina Arcidiacono

16.40 - 17.00 Trust and Trustworthiness: How They Are Perceived and Different

Jana Tencerová, Martin Pástor

17.00 - 17.20 Compassion Satisfaction and Compassion Fatigue in Monks/Nuns

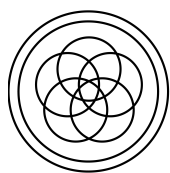
Lívia Kernová, Katarína Křížová

17.20 - 17.40 Perception of SARS-CoV-2 Vaccination among University Students in Slovakia: Focus Groups

Mária Lesičková, Veronika Korim, Radomír Masaryk

17.40 - 18.00 Positive and adverse experiences in childhood as predictors problems at school and school achievement

Teodora Savic



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CONFERENCE PROGRAMME
Tuesday, 28th November 2023

WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

9.00 - 10.00 OZ Odyseus

The issue of sex business as work, legislative adjustments of sex business
and myths about sex business

Dominika Jašeková

10.00 - 11.00 Implementačná agentúra MPSVR SR : Národný projekt Spolu pre
komunity

Presentation of the center's work and workshop activities (in Slovak language)

Soňa Holík, Anna Boříková

11.00 - 12.00 Light* FiF UK

LIGHT*, its non-hierarchical functioning and event organisation

Romana Kubáleková, Julián Vrábel

12.00 - 13.00 lunch break

13.00 - 14.00 Káčko BA

Presentation of the center's work and workshop activities (in Slovak language)

Dávid Popelka

14.00 - 15.00 Maltézska pomoc Slovensko, o. z.

Presentation of the center's work and workshop activities

Eva Jensen

15.00 - 16.00 Comenius University Bratislava

Presentation of a community project in dormitory BA

Lucia Valjentová

CONTENT

Jana Tencerová, Martin Pástor: Trust and Trustworthiness: How They Are Perceived and Different	8
Justin Bell, Andrew Camilleri, Elizabeth Garrity, Edith Leonard, Brock Abdon, Leonard A. Jason: Community Collaboration to Support Recovery: Recovery Homes and Problem-Solving Courts	9
Andrew P. Camilleri, Justin Bell, Luciano Berardi, Olya Glantsman: Surviving Covid-19 Abroad: International Students' Experiences of Belonging Throughout the Pandemic	10
Maria Vargas-Moniz: Fostering Community-Based Advocacy and Sociopolitical Participation of Women Who are Violence Survivors: Research & Action contributions for Program Development	11
Julinda Cilingiri: Exploring Neighborhood Characteristics and Their Influence on Adolescent's Problem Behaviours	12
Guest presentation - Andrea Stašek: How should I ask? Ethical and efficient data collection in queer research	13
Matúš Grežo: And who will help us? Explaining the relationship between precarity, trust in government, and attitudes toward migrants	14
Flora Gatti, Fortuna Procentese: Fostering social inclusion of marginalized youths across Europe: a multilevel analysis of the individual, interpersonal, community-related, and contextual drivers within the EU-funded project YouCount	15
Denis Deriglazov: Five Hindrances: investigation into perceived barriers to meditation	16

CONTENT

Gurdeep Singh, Ramchander Goel, Manohar Gupta, Aarun Aggarwal: Transformative power of mentoring for youth development in communities, schools, and talent domains	17
Magda Petrjánošová: Empowering communities through digital equity? New media usage in vulnerable groups and the consequences for participation	18
Radoslav Merva, Peter Teličák, Daniela Kováčová: Dark tetrad as a predictor of conspiracy beliefs related to the Covid-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and monkeypox virus	19
Rastislav Janičík, Peter Teličák, Leonard Komár: The Dark Tetrad, Anxiety, and Loneliness as Predictors of Internet Addiction	20
Emanuele Esemplio, Florencia Gonzalez Leone, Stefania Carnevale, Caterina Arcidiacono: Community psychology for a citizen-friendly urban design	21
Fortuna Procentese: The interactive community setting and the development of a collaborative social network to promote social innovation in an intercultural perspective. The path in the European YouCount project	22
Lívia Kernová, Katarína Křížová: Compassion Satisfaction and Compassion Fatigue in Monks/Nuns	23
Mária Lesičková, Veronika Korim, Radomír Masaryk: Perception of SARS-CoV-2 Vaccination among University Students in Slovakia: Focus Groups	24
Teodora Savic: Positive and adverse experiences in childhood as predictors problems at school and school achievement	25

Trust and Trustworthiness: How They Are Perceived and Different

Jana Tencerová*

Martin Pástor**

*Institute of Experimental Psychology Centre of Social and Psychological Sciences

**Institute of Applied Psychology, Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, Comenius University Bratislava

The focus of this qualitative study is on how Slovaks define the concepts of trust and trustworthiness. At the same time, it aims to capture the factors that positively and negatively affect the formation of trust, as well as the factors that positively and negatively affect the assessment of trustworthiness. In order to achieve the objectives of this research, an open-ended questionnaire was used to identify the given definitions and factors. The research sample consisted of 60 participants aged 18 to 87 years ($M = 50.06$, $SD = 16.896$). Using the CQR method, participants' responses were analyzed and divided into domains and categories based on their content. The results of the survey indicate different understandings of these concepts, with understanding trust as a type of behavior and trustworthiness as a form of certainty and reliability being the most prominent definitions. Prior experience was the most frequently cited factor influencing both the formation of trust and the assessment of trustworthiness.

Key words: trust, trustworthiness, CQR

Funding: VEGA 2/0035/20

Community Collaboration to Support Recovery: Recovery Homes and Problem-Solving Courts

Justin Bell*, <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0524-8526>

Andrew Camilleri*

Elizabeth Garrity*

Edith Leonard*

Leonard A. Jason*

Brock Abdon**

*DePaul University

**Indiana University East.

Effective healing from substance use begins with community support. Legal systems have started to recognize this power, collaborating with grassroots recovery home organizations like Oxford House. Notably, these abstinence-supportive residences are democratically operated and self-run, with no professional staff on-site. The pairing of a supportive court system and recovery-oriented housing represents a progressive link between formal and community power. As of 2023, approximately 25,000 residents live in over 3000 Oxford Houses in the US, with homes opening in the UK, Canada, and Ghana. As the Oxford House model spreads internationally, more research is needed to understand how legal systems and recovery homes interface to enact community change. The current study examined the relationship between a drug court system and local Oxford Houses in Dearborn County, Indiana in the United States. Qualitative interviews were conducted with drug court staff to understand their perceptions of Oxford House, its relationship in the rehabilitation process, and the history of its emergence in the community. Staff viewed Oxford House as an essential asset for providing safety and accountability for residents, especially compared to less-supportive options in the area. However, staff expressed fears about a lack of formalization in Oxford House. Several expressed concerns about the potential for abuse with perception that Oxford House lacked supervision. Findings reveal tensions between formal and community power, but also reveal hope for a new future of addressing substance use issues.

Key words: partnership, substance use, legal systems, community

Funding: No funding

Surviving Covid-19 Abroad: International Atudents' Experiences of Belonging Throughout the Pandemic.

Andrew P. Camilleri

Justin Bell, <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0524-8526>

Luciano Berardi, <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9426-2797>

Olya Glantsman, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5712-2688>

DePaul University

There is an extended research worldwide that has explored diverse characteristics of communities and their relations with adolescents' problem behaviours. The social structure theories suggest that neighborhood disorganization, isolation and resident mobility are important factors that might increase the likelihood for teenagers to misbehave and use substances, because they exert limited social control over the children to socialize and regulate behaviours and attitudes. Researchers have provided indicators to approve such thesis, but effects on misbehaviours seem peripheral; there is less influence compared to the family and peers' characteristics. This report discusses some results regarding to neighborhood factors, based on a multi stratified sample of 13-17 age old adolescents from urban, suburban and rural communities of three of the biggest cities in Albania. High schoolers self-reported about their past and present behaviours (such as substance use, school dropout, violence, delinquency, etc.) as well as their perception on 5 indicators of their neighborhood: More than 40% of the adolescents resulted with a high level of risk (significantly higher for boys, older students and those from urban communities) from availability of drugs and arms in their community, low attachment, laws and norms favorable to drugs and crime, community disorganization and high mobility. With further multivariate analysis, on the variables explored related to the adolescents' neighborhood, residential mobility increases the likelihood that adolescents engage in antisocial behaviours. Results suggest that there are no good or bad neighborhoods to raise children, they do not influence all of them on similar trajectories of development and socialization.

Key words: international students, Covid-19 pandemic, sense of belonging, food insecurity, housing insecurity

Funding: DePaul University, Division of Student Affairs, Department of Access, Attainment and TRiO

Fostering Community-based Advocacy and Sociopolitical Participation of Women who are Violence Survivors: Research & Action contributions for program development

Maria Vargas-Moniz

Applied Psychology Research Center Capabilities and Inclusion/ Ispa - Instituto Universitário

The violence & severe discrimination against women tales of horror, achievement and resilience are recurrent worldwide; the ones who survive, and make their situations public, tend to be considered another sector of service users, with assigned case management professionals, whose role is mostly providing referrals and some supports to comply with systems regulations and access requisites. The presentation is focused on exploring the results of a PAR project “PEER NETWORK: Gender Violence and Empowerment” focused on the partnership among women’s survivors of gender violence, still challenged but overcoming the barriers imposed by the pandemic context establishing a nationwide network of women representatives for advocacy and informing violence prevention strategies. The data to be presented result from a qualitative analysis of a series of focus-groups and meetings, as well as the co-construction of intervention manuals and materials for peer-learning initiatives. The data were transcribed in verbatim formats (2021-2023) through thematic analysis with MAXQDA Software (2022), in five domains: a) Co-organizing Peer Network guidelines; b) Shared Concept of Advocacy; c) meeting management; d) professional support and e) sustainability. Results emphasize the need for systematized information made available directly for survivors, that women require the validation and integration of their own experiences, there is the need to develop a framework of systems articulated to increase effectiveness, are able to intervene in critical incidents/crisis, and advocate a culture of prevention of abusive interpersonal relations. The conclusion is focused on PAR model reflecting the multidimensional and ecological nature of gender-based violence, and the relevance of extended community-based networks for the violence and severe discrimination prevention against women.

Key words: Gender-Based Violence, Peer-Networks, Advocacy

Funding: EEAGRANTS/CIG OC4_B11 and FCT UIDB/05299/2020

Exploring Neighborhood Characteristics and Their Influence on Adolescent's Problem Behaviours

Julinda Cilingiri, <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0180-3596>

"Aleksandër Moisiu" University of Durrës Faculty of Education,
Department of Psychology

There is an extended research worldwide that has explored diverse characteristics of communities and their relations with adolescents' problem behaviours. The social structure theories suggest that neighborhood disorganization, isolation and resident mobility are important factors that might increase the likelihood for teenagers to misbehave and use substances, because they exert limited social control over the children to socialize and regulate behaviours and attitudes. Researchers have provided indicators to approve such thesis, but effects on misbehaviours seem peripheral; there is less influence compared to the family and peers' characteristics. This report discusses some results regarding to neighborhood factors, based on a multi stratified sample of 13-17 age old adolescents from urban, suburban and rural communities of three of the biggest cities in Albania. High schoolers self-reported about their past and present behaviours (such as substance use, school dropout, violence, delinquency, etc.) as well as their perception on 5 indicators of their neighborhood: More than 40% of the adolescents resulted with a high level of risk (significantly higher for boys, older students and those from urban communities) from availability of drugs and arms in their community, low attachment, laws and norms favorable to drugs and crime, community disorganization and high mobility. With further multivariate analysis, on the variables explored related to the adolescents' neighborhood, residential mobility increases the likelihood that adolescents engage in antisocial behaviours. Results suggest that there are no good or bad neighborhoods to raise children, they do not influence all of them on similar trajectories of development and socialization.

Key words: neighborhood, antisocial behaviours, adolescents, Albanian cities, residential mobility

Funding: University of Tirana, Faculty of Social Sciences

How should I ask? Ethical and efficient data collection in queer research

Andrea Stašek

Masaryk University, Brno

Navigating the nuanced landscape of LGBTQIA+ research requires an understanding of both ethical considerations and pragmatic data collection techniques. This workshop provides a comprehensive overview, designed to equip researchers with the tools to conduct studies that respect queer individuals and groups. The session also addresses the pragmatic side, offering insights into constructing inclusive survey and interview items while maintaining the efficiency. The practical lab segment immerses attendees in a review of specific questionnaire items, illuminating their potential strengths and pitfalls.

And Who Will Help Us? Explaining the Relationship Between Precarity, Trust in Government, and Attitudes Toward Migrants

Matúš Grežo, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3537-2862>

Institute of Experimental Psychology of the Centre of Social and Psychological Sciences, Slovak Academy of Sciences

Aim of the study: Precarious living conditions — the subjective experience of insecurity resulting from objective financial strain — have been shown to drive intergroup prejudice. The present study tests a new theoretical model that assumes precarity promotes negative attitudes toward migrants by reducing trust in government as a direct agent responsible for migration. **Methods:** A sample of 600 Slovaks completed self-report scales measuring perceived financial threat, financial well-being, trust in government, and three scales measuring attitudes toward migrants. **Results:** Results show that high precarity was associated with negative attitudes both directly and indirectly through trust in government. However, the direct effect proved to be more significant. **Conclusion:** In general, the results are consistent with the theory that individuals experiencing precarity may hold negative attitudes toward migrants because they view them as a potential competitors threatening their already limited resources. However, the results also suggest that feelings of insecurity about one's financial situation can lead to the belief that the relevant institutions are incompetent and untrustworthy, which reinforces the perceived threat posed by migrants.

Key words: attitudes toward migrant, financial threat, precarity, trust in government

Funding: This work was supported by the VEGA under Grant no. 2/0035/20: Cognitive and Personality predictors of Trust Building.

Fostering Social Inclusion of Marginalized Youths Across Europe: a Multilevel Analysis of the Individual, Interpersonal, Community- Related, and Contextual Drivers Within the EU-funded Project YouCount

Flora Gatti, <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2149-6570>

Fortuna Procentese, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1617-0165>

Department of Humanities, University of Naples Federico II

Across Europe, many youths are at risk of being left out of society. The EU-funded project YouCount (Horizon 2020) aims at fostering social inclusion of marginalized youths (15-29 years old) across 9 countries and 10 case studies by creating youth-friendly communities using a Citizen Science approach (Jorgensen et al., 2022). Social inclusion is a complex, dynamic, and multidimensional phenomenon which depends on the context and on the characteristics of the community where it happens (Giarè et al., 2020; Moyano et al., 2020; Yang et al., 2019) as well as on the characteristics of the involved individuals and social groups; consistently, it needs to be addressed at several different yet intertwined levels (individual, interpersonal, community-related, contextual). Nevertheless, while several definitions of social inclusion are available in the established literature and frame it based on different perspectives and approaches, studies addressing it as a complex, multilevel construct are only few and do not deepen the intertwinement of the many factors and levels that may affect it. Moving from this gap and building upon the data gathered across the 10 case studies in YouCount, this contribution will provide a multilevel framework for addressing the complexities related to social inclusion dynamics with specific reference to youths. A psychosocial model for social inclusion of youth will be presented too. The theoretical and practical implications of the proposed framework will be discussed, since having a multilevel model of social inclusion allows to implement interventions tackling it considering its complexities and the several intertwined dimensions it involves.

Key words: social inclusion; youths; ecological perspective; theoretical framework; citizen science

Funding: Grant agreement ID: 101005931, funded by the European Commission under the Program Horizon2020

Five Hindrances: Investigation Into Perceived Barriers to Meditation

Denis Deriglazov

Institute of Applied Psychology, Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, Comenius University Bratislava

Meditation research and information about mindfulness effects on wellbeing and psychological traits leads to spread of the techniques among outpatient and general population. However, unpleasant experiences that arise during practice and their connection with adherence and dropouts are poorly investigated. This study explores barriers to meditation on the basis of Five Hindrances concept through development and psychometrical validity testing of the novel scale. Analysis among English and Russian speaking participants ($n=297$) identified 4 factors based on 17 items. Results showed negative correlation between meditation experience and Hindrances score (Spearman's $\rho=-.501$) and 4 subconstructs. Post hoc comparisons revealed significant difference with large effect size among meditating and those who intent to meditate (Cohen's $d=1.23$) and dropout (Cohen's $d=0.96$) groups. Additional construct validity was assessed through intrinsic motivation to meditate and wellbeing index which showed low to medium effect size differences. Suggestions for future research and discussions of the results concludes the study.

Key words: meditation, mindfulness, five hindrances, dropouts

Funding: No funding

Transformative Power of Mentoring for Youth Development in Communities, Schools, and Talent Domains

Gurdeep Singh
Ramchander Goel
Manohar Gupta
Aarun Aggarwal

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Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Mentoring is a highly individualized educational measure that can support youth development in communities, schools, and talent domains. Depending on the target population, goals, structure, and medium, mentoring for youths can differ considerably. This study conducted the main types of mentoring programs and practices for youth development in communities, schools, and talent domains. Despite the popularity of mentoring programs, many programs fail to realize the full potential of mentoring as meta-analyses consistently show relatively small effects of mentoring. The discrepancy between the potential and actual effect of mentoring is referred to as the mentoring paradox. Crucial aspects that are held responsible for the mentoring paradox, such as adequate planning and implementation of mentoring programs, adherence to research-based mentoring practices, as well as quality assurance of mentoring programs through systematic program research and evaluation are described. Finally, implications on how to professionalize mentoring are provided for different stakeholders.

Key words: professionalize mentoring, talent mentoring, youth mentoring

Funding: No funding

Empowering Communities Through Digital Equity? New Media Usage in Vulnerable Groups and the Consequences for Participation

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Institute for Research in Social Communication, Slovak Academy of Sciences

In today's rapidly evolving digital landscape, access to and effective utilization of new media have become integral to various aspects of life and equally important for individuals and communities. Not using the new media (to its full potential) can mean less or no participation in important areas of social life. However, in Slovakia these opportunities are still not equally distributed with socioeconomic status, gender, age and education level being among the important factors in lived inequalities offline and online. Building on our previous research, we have initiated a targeted project centered around children, youth, and young adults (aged 10-25 years) falling into three distinct categories: 1) members of ethnic minorities, 2) individuals with disabilities, and 3) those hailing from families with lower socioeconomic status. We aim to comprehensively assess the opportunities, scope, forms, genuine psychological advantages, and obstacles related to their new media usage with consequences for participation. In this paper, we discuss our preliminary findings from semi-structured interviews.

Key words: new media, participation, digital divide, youth, young adults

Funding: VEGA 2/o169/21 The role of new media in supporting higher quality of life, resilience and education levels in children, youth and young adults depending on (non) existence of a disability, their ethnicity and socioeconomic status

Dark Tetrad as a Predictor of Conspiracy Beliefs Related to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the War in Ukraine, and Monkeypox Virus

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Peter Teličák*, <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8233-9769>

Daniela Kováčová**

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**Department of Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Trnava

One of the sources of conspiracy beliefs appears to be the socially aversive personality traits represented by the Dark Tetrad construct. These mentioned conspiracy beliefs have a negative impact on social dynamics, serve as sources of prejudice and discrimination, and have a detrimental effect on health-related attitudes. The aim of this study was to examine whether socially aversive personality traits are a source of conspiracy beliefs regarding the war in Ukraine, monkeypox virus, and the Covid-19 pandemic. The research sample consisted of 324 participants (69% women) aged 18 to 60 years. The average age of the entire research sample was 26.23 years ($SD = 6.48$). Conspiracy beliefs about the Covid-19 pandemic were measured using the Unfounded Covid-19 beliefs scale (Teličák, Halama, 2022). To measure conspiracy beliefs about the war in Ukraine and the monkeypox virus, we created 12 items, of which 8 items measured conspiracy beliefs about the war in Ukraine. Socially aversive personality traits were measured using a short Dark Tetrad questionnaire (Neumann et al., 2022). The data were analyzed using linear regression analysis, where individual conspiracy beliefs were defined as dependent variables and socially aversive personality traits as predictors. Education, age, gender, and religion were included as control variables. The results showed that psychopathy is a positive predictor of all three types of conspiracy beliefs. Machiavellianism emerged as a predictor of conspiracy beliefs about the Covid-19 pandemic. Overall, socially aversive personality traits explained from 4% to 8% of individual dependent variables.

Key words: Conspiracy, Dark tetrad, Covid-19, Monkeypox, Ukraine

Funding: This work was supported by the Slovak Research and Development Agency under the contract No. APVV-20-0335

The Dark Tetrad, Anxiety, and Loneliness as Predictors of Internet Addiction

Rastislav Janičík*, <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8415-8697>

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Internet addiction has emerged as a growing social concern. This addiction's origins may be linked to individual's personality and emotional traits. In the context of our investigation, we have chosen to concentrate on the dark tetrad, a constellation of personality traits commonly associated with socially undesirable behavior, such as the internet addiction. Emotional factors such as anxiety and loneliness may also serve as predictive indicators for internet addiction, especially when rooted in the fulfillment of an individual's social needs, wherein the internet can serve as an ideal intermediary, subsequently fostering the development of pathological behaviors and addiction. The objective of this study was to illuminate the interconnections among these constructs and explore their roles within the sphere of internet addiction. 295 participants aged 15 to 46 years ($SD = 4.60$) partook in the research. Data were obtained via a translated version of the Short Dark Tetrad personality traits questionnaire (SD4 – The Short Dark Tetrad). Internet addiction was assessed using a translated version of the Internet Addiction Test (IAT). Data pertaining to anxiety were acquired through a translated adaptation of the Depression, Anxiety, and Stress Scale-42 (DASS-42). Loneliness was gauged using a three-item loneliness scale (UCLA - Three-Item Loneliness Scale). Regression analysis results, while controlling for socio-demographic variables (age, gender, education) indicate that sadism, anxiety, and loneliness emerge as positive predictors of internet addiction. Collectively, these variables account for 14% of the variance in internet addiction.

Key words: Dark tetrad, Anxiety, Loneliness, Internet addiction

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Community Psychology for a Citizen-friendly Urban Design

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Community psychology offers useful and innovative tools for urban design and for an active and participatory investigation of the citizen's needs in the interaction between physical and psychological spaces. Some fundamental constructs such as the sense of community, coexistence, social trust and Quality of Life (QoL) provide an understanding of the social dynamics within the context and redesign spaces on a human scale, which are resilient to the social changes of today's liquid modernity. The paper starts from an analysis of the field literature. More specifically it focuses on the study of the interventions carried out, the information materials produced and the articles written on the Molo San Vincenzo regeneration project in Naples carried out by the communitypsychology lab and network organisations in the years 2015-2023. Furthermore, it focuses on digital technologies and the onlife networks as providers for new collaborative and participatory roles of the population and the stakeholders leading to the engagement, empowerment and education of the population. These materials show some activating and participative tools used in the intervention to design urban spaces in accordance with citizen's needs. They are useful to understand the urban social meanings, the importance of participatory intervention methodologies such as Action-Research and thematic analysis of the contributions collected and the proactive use of new technologies for the activation of multi-level participatory community regeneration processes. This work presents an innovative best practice in modern urban design processes using the principles of community psychology.

Key words: Urban design; Participatory Psychology; Multidisciplinarity; Participatory Action Research; Urban Regeneration

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The Interactive Community Setting and the Development of a Collaborative Social Network to Promote Social Innovation in an Intercultural Perspective: The path in the European YouCount Project

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As part of the European YouCount project, aimed at developing social innovation processes through Citizen Social Science (Hecker et al., 2018), participatory tools were used to respond to the emerging needs and common problems of citizens and stakeholders engaged in social inclusion actions. The collaborative process activated aims to promote a model of intercultural coexistence inscribed in the dimension of interdependence and relational reciprocity present in territorial communities. Starting from the establishment and formation of the Young Citizen Social Researchers (Y-CSS) group, the methodology used to promote interaction between citizens of different nationalities will be presented, with specific reference to the construction of interactive community settings and the development of a collaborative social network.

Key words: collaborative methodology; citizen science; intercultural togetherness; living lab; social innovation

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Compassion Satisfaction and Compassion Fatigue in Monks/Nuns

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The thesis examines compassion satisfaction and compassion fatigue of Slovak monks and nuns as a result of their compassionate care for clients. The thesis' design is both quantitative and qualitative. The main goal of the quantitative part was to map the prevalence of compassion satisfaction and compassion fatigue, and to examine their correlations with constructs of self-compassion and self-criticism. Seventy-four monks and nuns participated in our research. The data were collected using a battery of questionnaires, which consisted of the Compassion Fatigue and Satisfaction Self-Test for Helpers, the Self-Compassion Scale, and the Self-Criticism Scale. We conducted in-depth interviews for the qualitative portion of our research. Our goal was to get a better picture of our participants' experiences and understanding of compassion satisfaction, compassion fatigue and self-compassion in their work. We were also curious about the strategies that our participants used to alleviate states of compassion fatigue. Seven participants from our total sample agreed to be interviewed. The qualitative data were analyzed using thematic analysis. Prevalence results showed that the majority of our respondents experienced compassion satisfaction, while levels of compassion fatigue were varied. We found significant correlations between compassion satisfaction, compassion fatigue, self-compassion, and self-criticism variables. Using thematic analysis, we identified several strategies that monks and nuns used to combat compassion fatigue. We also described our participants' experiences with compassion satisfaction and compassion fatigue, and their perception of self-compassion. Limitations and recommendations for practice are discussed.

Key words: monks/nuns, compassion satisfaction, compassion fatigue, self-compassion, self-criticism

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Perception of SARS-CoV-2 Vaccination among University Students in Slovakia: Focus Groups

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In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic due to the new SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. Most experts saw vaccination as the key to fighting the pandemic. Despite the fact that vaccine hesitancy is not a new phenomenon in society, the arrival of the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine made vaccination a highly polarizing topic in Slovakia. At the time when the data was collected, Slovakia was experiencing the third wave of COVID-19 while being one of the least vaccinated countries in the EU. We lacked insight into the distinctive social and contextual factors associated with SARS-CoV-2 vaccine perception in Slovakia. The aim of our research was to examine the perception of SARS-CoV-2 vaccination in a selected population. Our sample consisted of university students (n=51), based on previous surveys indicating lower vaccine willingness among younger individuals. We conducted eight focus groups with these university students, and our analysis of the subsequent transcripts employed thematic analysis. In relation to the perception of COVID-19, we identified several themes among our respondents. Their perception of the disease changed over time. We categorized our participants into three groups based on their attitude toward the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine: accepting, hesitant, and rejecting. For each of the groups, we identified themes that reflect the perception of vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 and played a role in shaping decisions and opinions. Regarding information gathering, our subjects relied on four main sources: professional written sources, media, releases from institutions and authorities, and personal contacts. The results of our research suggest that SARS-CoV-2 vaccination is not merely a medically driven topic; its perception is influenced by various social factors. Identifying these variables and using targeted approaches to different population segments could inform a future communication strategy.

Key words: focus groups, pandemic, perception, SARS-CoV-2, vaccination

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Positive and Adverse Experiences in Childhood as Predictors Problems at School and School Achievement

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This study explores the interplay between adverse childhood experiences, school problems, and school achievement. It also investigates whether positive experiences can act as a protective factor, potentially mediating the impact of adverse experiences on school problems and achievement. Data was collected through a survey carried out by UNICEF and the Institute of Psychology at the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade in 2018, involving a representative sample of 2,800 individuals. We focused on a subset of the population aged 18 to 30, totaling 1,002 participants. The findings revealed a non-significant correlation between adverse experiences and academic achievements, while a negative correlation was observed with educational problems. The mediating effect persisted concerning school difficulties even after controlling for sociodemographic factors. In contrast, adverse childhood experiences did not emerge as a significant predictor of academic success. These outcomes underscore the influence of developmental experiences on later life achievements, in this case education. They prompt a discussion about how the education system can level the playing field for children with diverse developmental backgrounds. Additionally, it underscores the importance of creating support programs and strategies for children who have faced suboptimal developmental experiences. It appears that positive experiences can mitigate the impact of negative ones, particularly in terms of socialization and behavioral issues, offering potential avenues for intervention. Addressing these concerns is crucial for ensuring that all children have an equitable shot at a successful education and future.

Key words: ACE, adverse childhood experiences, school achievement, education

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