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Constructive alternativism in education,
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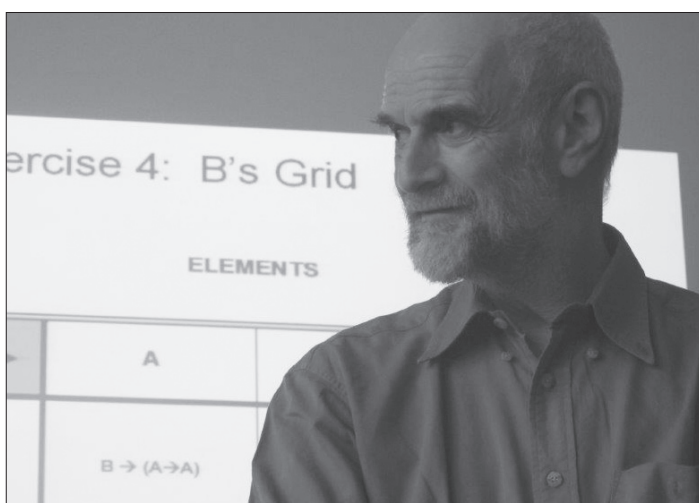
20—23 JUNE **2014**

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Joady Brennan, Harry Procter

Working with Families using PCP

This workshop will introduce participants to Personal and Relational Construct Psychology, an elaboration of Kelly's original approach designed to do justice to the relational nature of human functioning. The bipolar construct is one of the distinguishing features of Kelly's approach. It remains an idea of exceptional power in integrating many different psychological experiences and processes. Individuals for Kelly have construing systems but so also do cultures, organisations and families.

It is vital in therapeutic and consultation to understand and work with the group or family construct system. This allows the family members and the therapist to achieve new levels of understanding of how all the members see the issues, themselves and each other. This leads to fresh dialogue and interaction enabling the family to approach their problems in fresh ways. Harry Procter has developed a variety of interviewing methods and guidelines for working in this way, including Qualitative Grids, powerful methods for mapping and intervening in the interpersonal construing occurring in clinical and organisational settings. The workshop will look at some of the most important of these and give participants the chance to try them out.

Harry Procter has developed and continues to elaborate Personal and Relational Construct Psychology which is based in PCP and more generally Systemic Constructivism. Whilst focussed on families, the approach can be applied to understanding and working with individuals, groups and organisations. He worked for thirty years as a clinical psychologist with the NHS in the West of England. He specialised in the areas of child and adult mental health, childhood learning disabilities and autism. He has published over 40 papers and chapters on the theoretical, methodological and practical aspects of his approach and he has edited two volumes of the selected papers of Milton H. Erickson for Paidos Publications, Barcelona.

KEY WORKSHOP

#1

REFRESH YOUR CONSTRUCTS!

Milan Hejný

Theory of generic models

The quality of mathematical knowledge of students in the Czech Republic leaves much to be desired. According to our experience, one of the biggest reasons for this situation is the transmission educational style. We believe that the constructivist educational style is the way to improve this state of affairs.

The main idea of our understanding of constructivistic ways of teaching is more than 70 years old and comes from Vít Hejný (1904-1977). The contemporary elaboration of this idea consists of two parts:

1) Theory of generic models which describes the process of gaining knowledge as a sequence of five stages: motivation, isolated models, generic models, abstract knowledge, crystallisation.

2) Scheme-oriented education which describes ways to implement the ideas of generic models in everyday teaching.

The theory of generic models will be presented and illustrated by examples.

Prof. RNDr. Milan Hejný, CSc. (* 23 May 1936, Martin) is a leading Czech and Slovak expert in didactics, and a professor at the Faculty of Education at Charles University in Prague. His research team elaborated a theory of generic models and conceived the "scheme-oriented" education theory, also known as the teaching theory focussed on building schemes. From 2005 to 2011 this team compiled a set of mathematics textbooks for 1st level elementary schools. In 2013, it founded the public welfare society H-mat, o.p.s., which serves to develop and disseminate the work started by him and his father. Prof. Hejný is the author or co-author of 16 mathematical publications and more than 270 publications in mathematical didactics, including 13 very frequently cited books. He has lectured at 13 foreign universities and more than 30 international conferences, has been a solver or co-solver in 7 domestic and 4 international grant projects, and acts as a member of the editing board for the Educational Studies in Mathematics magazine and the editing board of the Kluwer publishing house for the Mathematics Teacher Education series.

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#2

David Winter

The continuing relevance and expropriation of personal construct approaches to 'psychological disorder' and therapy: how bright is the future?

George Kelly's perspective on psychological disorder, and its subsequent refinements, will be outlined. It will be argued that this provides a formulation-based approach that still offers a radical and necessary alternative to traditional psychiatric diagnosis, as currently enshrined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

Contemporary approaches to personal construct psychotherapy will then be described, and compared with other models of therapy and constructivist developments within these. There will be consideration both of the distinctive features of the personal construct approach and of its integrative potential. The evidence base for personal construct psychotherapy will also be reviewed, and the paper will conclude with discussion of the future of the personal construct approach to clinical practice.

David Winter is Professor of Clinical Psychology and Programme Director of the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology (the only such programme in the U.K. to have an explicitly constructivist philosophy) at the University of Hertfordshire, U.K. He is a Fellow of the British Psychological Society, and spent most of his working life as a clinical psychologist and personal construct psychotherapist in the British National Health Service, where he applied personal construct psychology in clinical practice and research. His approximately 150 publications include Personal Construct Psychology in Clinical Practice (Routledge, 1992), and Personal Construct Psychotherapy (with Linda Viney: Whurr, 2005), and he is currently editing (with Nick Reed) the Wiley-Blackwell Handbook of Personal Construct Psychology and Towards a Radical Redefinition of Psychology: The Selected Papers of Miller Mair. Although his work has primarily been in the clinical field, it has by no means been limited to this area, and some of his more recent applications of personal construct psychology have concerned serial killers and mass murderers, as well as survivors of civil war in Sierra Leone, West Africa.

KEYNOTE SPEECHES

#3

REFRESH YOUR CONSTRUCTS!

COGNITIVE, NARRATIVE AND EMOTIONAL COMPLEXITY

Complexity has been discussed within the framework of the personal construct theory since pioneering works of James Bieri. However, complexity has been investigated also in other fields (e.g. narrative psychology, integrative complexity theory) and the constructivist studies usually neglect these different approaches. The symposium presents results of a current research project that elaborates on the issue of complexity from these various perspectives. It sums up studies concerned with cognitive complexity, narrative complexity and emotional complexity. Theoretical foundations or empirical results will be discussed in the below mentioned papers.

Marie Kovářová, Miroslav Filip

Convergent and criterion validity of several approaches to complexity

The paper elaborates on different approaches to complexity based on PCP and related theories, namely on constructivist cognitive complexity theory, integrative complexity theory and dialogical self theory. It presents preliminary results of an empirical study concerned with various complexity indexes. These are derived from the Repertory Grid Technique (Bieri's index, intensity, PVAFF), from a modified non-verbal grid (intensity, PVAFF), from TAT protocols (index of integrative complexity) and from Personal Position Repertoire. First, correlations among these indexes and their convergence validity will be discussed. Second, results of a clinical study will be presented. Complexity and other structural scores of in-patients suffering from depression, schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder will be compared in their ability to predict scores on clinical scales, namely HAMD and PANSS.

Key words: cognitive complexity, theory of dialogical self, integrative complexity, rep grid

Ivo Čermák, Vladimír Chrz

Model of narrative complexity

Model of narrative complexity is articulated. Todorov's concept of "narrative transformation" and Bruner's concept of "trouble" are used as a frame of narrative complexity conceptualization. Narrative transformation is presented as "something what story telling does with constitutive trouble". Narrative complexity is thus defined as a differentiation and integration of various aspects of narrative transformation. Narrative complexity refers both to disposition and also to the process and to the result of narrative experience constructing in its complicatedness, completeness, and changeableness. The presented model consists of eight interconnected aspects: 1) differentiation and integration of topic storytelling, 2) differentiation and integration of

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agency, 3) differentiation and integration of narrative construction, 4) differentiation and integration of values and believes embodiment, 5) differentiation and integration at the level of reflection, 6) differentiation and integration of different perspectives, 7) differentiation and integration of characters (protagonists), 8) differentiation and integration in communication and socio-cultural contexts.

Key words: narrative complexity, differentiation, integration, narrative transformation, trouble

Lucie Chadimová, Tomáš Urbánek

Recent Czech studies on cognitive and emotional complexity

Our contribution will be aimed on the concept of complexity in two specific domains. First part will explore the area of scoring cognitive complexity using textual analysis. So called "integrative complexity scoring system" has been developed by Phillip E. Tetlock, Peter Suedfeld and collaborates. They enriched Kelly's concept of cognitive complexity as an ability of differentiation by integration and multiple integration. We will present results of recent study of cognitive complexity and it's correlation with divergent thinking measures and personality traits. Second part of our presentation will be devoted to the topic of emotional complexity, the ability of taking others' perspective, as measured by the Interpersonal Decentring by Melvin Feffer.

Key words: cognitive complexity, conceptual complexity, emotional complexity, interpersonal decentration, divergent thinking, creativity, Big Five

Ivo Čermák, Petr Štěpánek, Jana Schmidtová

Fragmented narrativity: Developmental trauma in diaries

Concept of fragmented narrativity enables to understand dynamics of relation between storytelling and trauma. Fragmented narrativity refers to experiences and memories that are difficult to express and share with other people. Trauma destroys the very process of new meanings making and thus the capacity for personal story telling is limited. Shattered narrativity is illustrated by diaries and drawings created in therapeutic context by severely and repeatedly traumatized girl (with complex developmental trauma). Trauma disrupts her memories and experiencing of past and present events and she can externalize them only through fragmented story telling. Patient's accounts in diary demonstrate her trial to create a meaningful narrativity gradually integrating difficult traumatic experiences during psychotherapy.

Key words: complex developmental trauma, fragmented narration, storytelling

SYMPOSIUM – COGNITIVE, NARRATIVE AND EMOTIONAL COMPLEXITY

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Joady Brennan, Adele Pile

The Supervision Experience

We are inviting participants to engage in a European-wide propositional conversation about what we mean by "supervision".

In order to practice, we must work within a regulatory framework, much of which relies on concepts from psychoanalysis, and aspects of which can seem irrelevant from a stance of collaborative intervention.

We have both been working on developing the Supervision Framework for the Constructivist College of the UK Council for Psychotherapy to enable our members to become Registered Supervisors.

We would like to invite your support in elaborating a Constructivist take on the documenting and evidencing of supervision skills. Can we create shared constructs about what makes for useful supervision?

Rather than getting caught up in the box-ticking requirements, can European Constructivists work together to create a relevant shared framework to make explicit and document the rigour of our uniquely propositional approach?

We hope this will be a collaborative workshop leading to a project involving constructivist therapists across Europe.

If you plan to attend, contact us and we will email you the Constructivist College Supervision Competences to think about beforehand: joadybrennan@mac.com; adele.pile47@gmail.com.

Key words: supervision, practice-based research, competences, professional development, evidencing practice

Susan Bridi

A PCP construction for adolescence

The Psychology of Personal Construct (PCP) does not provide a systematic theory of development. Children and adolescents, as well as adults, are described as 'forms of motion', constantly engaged in the activity of meaning-making.

I am working on a doctoral research whose purpose is to systematize a series of considerations about adolescence from a PCP perspective, drawing from the contributions of psychologists, practitioners and researchers, who adopt this theoretical approach and deal with adolescents in their professional activities. During this focus group I will present you the preliminary results of my research, encouraging a discussion about them and inviting you to reflect upon what could be a possible construction of adolescence in PCP terms and what could be the resources, the limits and the potentials of working with adolescents using a PCP perspective

Key words: adolescence, focus group, PCP professionals

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6

Susan Bridi, Claudia Ghitti

Pick a card! Exploring meanings through images

The creative use of images, drawings and metaphors can be a very powerful tool for exploration of personal meanings in various professional settings.

We consider image-based conversations, in particular, to be a simple yet very effective way to explore personal construct systems, often allowing an easier access to contents that may otherwise be too threatening to share or difficult to verbalise.

In this workshop, we are going to experiment with some of the different ways in which we can use images, in one to one therapy and group settings, thus promoting the adoption of different perspectives and the experience of sociality. We are going to use a specific set of cards that have been chosen because of the great variety and richness of their images' themes. The evocativeness and ambiguity of these cards make them particularly suitable to open a great variety of different perspectives.

Key words: images, different perspective, sociality

Janka Eliasova, Janko Buve and Matthias Rosenberger

Multi Grid Analysis with the sci:veso Software

Whoever has to decide on something needs a comprehensive basis of information and realises soon that "hard facts" alone are not enough. Particularly, if people take active part in something, "soft facts", i.e. the intuitive knowledge or the so-called gut instinct, are often the most decisive factors for success. However, the biggest and most important part of this rational knowledge is not instantaneously available but can often only be accessed on an intuitive level. To capture it we have developed sci:vesco®, a computer-aided interview and analysis technique (Multiple Grid Analysis). sci:vesco® is an interactive Repertory Grid technique by use of which you can reliably analyse opinions of individual interviewees, groups or entire companies. Opinions, convictions, and forecasts can be analysed fast, individually and almost without any target data (software based). The result of a sci:vesco® analysis is an attractive, intuitively understandable, three-dimensional graphics which possesses an incommensurably high explanatory power in respect of content.

In this practice oriented workshop we would like to show various tools support the analysis and the export of results, e.g. the Semantic Corridor **–** to show individual opinions within the principal component space, Single and Group References – to disclose differences in meanings between individuals and groups (statistical spread, variance), Comparison of Point of Times – to represent developments etc.

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS & DISCUSSIONS

#7

Mary Frances

Intruders in the Night – a constructivist approach to working with our dreams

Working with dreams has received relatively little attention in constructivist literature. In PCP, dream work tends to be referred to primarily as a 'loosening' method with the focus on shifts in the conversational process rather than working specifically with dream content.

In his original 2-volume work, George Kelly had many interesting things to say about dreams and I have found his approach broadly compatible with some of the practical methods of Jungian analyst Robert Johnson.

Based on these ideas, the workshop will highlight some key aspects of constructivist dream work, and we will experiment with practical approaches using our own dreams or dream-fragments to explore what might be possible.

Key words: dreams, constructivist, dreamwork, loosening

Mary Frances, Massimo Giliberto

Teaching Constructivism or Being a Constructivist Teacher? – an exploration of practice

Our starting point is the proposition that there are significant differences between teaching constructivism and being a constructivist teacher. An expert teacher of constructivism may not always translate the theory into their own classroom activities, while another teacher less familiar with the theory may ably embody constructivist practice in their teaching.

As teachers who would aspire to both teaching and practicing constructivism, we would like to engage in a conversation focused on four main areas:

— some presuppositions and methods which differentiate teaching constructivism v constructivist teaching;
— the role-relationship between teacher and students and its practice implications;
— questions and confusions which may arise when we try to blend content and method;
— and analysis of a small informal research project developed with students of the ICP in Padova.

We will offer short presentations on each topic, with time for comment and discussion in the group to share and develop our ideas.

Key words: teaching, practice, constructivism

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8

Mark Heckmann

The OpenRepGrid project – Software tools for the analysis and administration of repertory grid data

In the workshop participants are introduced to the OpenRepGrid project. Part of the project is an open software for the analysis of repertory grid data. The software currently comes in two flavours: As an online analysis tool and as an add-on package for the R program. The workshop gives an introduction to the software, its development philosophy and outlines the set of currently implemented features. Moreover, it is demonstrated how researchers may extend software features to suit their needs and actively contribute to its development. Further information about OpenRepGrid can be found on the program's website under www.openrepgrid.org.

Key words: repertory grid, software

Shulamith Kreitler

Meaning – its nature, functions, assessment and training

The purpose is to introduce the participants to the meaning theory (Kreitler & Kreitler) which provides a new way of understanding what meaning it and how it affects our cognitive functioning, manifestation of personality tendencies and emotions, as well as our worldview and how we construct and maintain our reality. Major concepts of the meaning theory – meaning system, referent, meaning value, meaning unit and meaning variables – will be presented. The participants will learn to assess their meaning assignment tendencies by coding their own Meaning Test and will experience the methods of meaning training. Possible applications of the meaning system in the participants' own work will be discussed.

Key words: meaning, cognition, consciousness, personality traits, emotions

Milica Krneta

Perciever Element Grid: Creativity as a limit

This workshop will combine metatheoretical, theoretical and predominantly clinical approaches to certain aspects of Qualitative Grid (QG) methodology. Metatheoretical presumptions of Personal Construct Psychology (PCP), relacionism and potentialism, will be elaborated in the beginning. After that, we will be concentrating on relevant PCP theoretical grounds, Sociality Corollary and Role and their application in QG, based on the work of Harry Procter. The main focus of this workshop will be on specific form of QG – Perciever Element Grid (PEG). Examples of utilisation of PEG in psychotherapy will be presented with Selves, Roles and

literature characters relevant to the client. Participants will have the opportunity to practice their usage of PEG.

Key words: Perceiver Element Grid, qualitative grids, psychotherapy

Susanne Lakin

Optimal Ageing: an investigation using approaches from Personal Construct Psychology and kinesiology (Optimum Health Balance)

The workshop will provide an opportunity for participants to investigate the meaning for them of the term 'Optimal Ageing' and to release the stress on their priority 'holding pattern'. To do this, they will use approaches from both PCP and kinesiology.
PCP techniques will be used to elicit constructs and ladder the advantages and disadvantages of the priority area of construing.
Simple approaches from Kinesiology will be introduced to identify the priority area of construing and to find the construct pole which holds the most stress.
Vibrational icons from Optimum Health Balance (a branch of kinesiology) will be used to open up the relevant programmes in the body/mind/spirit and to release the stress at the highest energy level.

Key words: optimal ageing, laddering, stress, kinesiology, vibrational icons

Adrián Montesano

Narrative techniques in couple therapy: from vicious circles to the unfold of virtuous projects

During the last decades, significant cultural changes have had an enormous impact on those who enter in long-term couple relationships. Therefore, modern couple therapy has had to adapt to the changing demands arising from the new forms of relating. One of the most recent developments in the field is the introduction of narrative practices such as externalizing conversations, deconstructive questioning, developing stories from unique outcomes, and Procter's circular diagram. In this study we examine the use of narrative techniques as a way of helping couples to face a variety of relational (e.g., infidelity, power struggles, etc.) and health (e.g., depression, chronic pain) problems. Process and technical aspects will be illustrated through the presentation of practical examples. The implications for theory and research are also discussed with regard to the relational nature of identity and its relationships with the mechanisms of change.

Key words: couple therapy, narrative therapy, externalization, Circular diagram, family construct system

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10

Clare Morris

A Load of Old Buttons & Pegs: elaborating non verbal construing through touch and vision

Facilitating construing through the use of buttons of varied shapes, sizes, colours and textures can help to access construing in a fun and novel way, particularly useful when the topic is not tangible, relatively non verbal or abstract. Harry Procter's perceiver element grids (PEG) provide an excellent way to structure and display elaborations for therapy and research. This workshop will present some examples in clinical practice, research, teaching and interviews, and there will be an opportunity for participants to use the structure of PEGs to explore their own construing about PCP or another topic of their choice using my own collection of buttons. A digital camera to photograph participants' choices of buttons will be useful.

Key words: P.E.G., non verbal construing

Clare Morris

Yoga & PCP

This practical workshop will use yoga and mindfulness to raise our awareness of sensations in the body and their relationship to our own construing. The role of yoga in my work with people with a wide range of disabilities including cognitive impairment is still being developed, and the evidence to date is encouraging. Engaging people in talking about the topic is in itself interesting, revealing much about an individual's construing of their physical limitations and their elaborative choice in managing it. The opportunity to attempt movements that are achievable is both validating and motivating in rehabilitation. Stretching muscles and an understanding of the relationship between yoga postures and their specific effects on the mind brings a sense of well being to people who otherwise may be seen to be unsuitable for rehabilitation or who have a psychosomatic component to their condition.

Key words: yoga, mindfulness, non verbal construing

Harry Procter

PCP, culture and society

The presenter recently completed a review chapter for the forthcoming Wiley-Blackwell Handbook of Personal Construct Psychology (Ed. Winter and Reid) on PCP, Culture and Society. Some of the ideas contained this will be shared. The workshop will use experiential exercises including the use of Qualitative Grids to tease out themes such as culture contact, culture shock and, dilemmas arising out of cultural transitions.

Key words: cultural construing, power, dialogical social construct

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS & DISCUSSIONS

11

REFRESH YOUR CONSTRUCTS!

*Alessio Barsaglini, Sandra Bruschi, Lucia Ceschin,
Mariagrazia Esposito, Stefania Maretti, Elena Mascalzoni,
Patricia Naves Piraino, Margherita Rasori, Elisa Secco,
Sara Stancari*

The therapist's smile

Smiling is a deeply symbolic expression within human interactions, particularly in a therapeutic conversation. One is led to believe that "the smile" is a means to express a natural "positive" feeling, although it is a familiar experience forcing yourself to put up the "right face" looking as though you are cheerful when actually you are not. Smiling can be a powerful way to validate/invalidate a client's specific construct and the therapist can consciously use it to favour the elaboration of the client's personal system of constructs, especially the nuclear role's structure always implied in the therapeutic relationship.

Assuming that smiling might be used as a conversational technique in psychotherapy, we are interested in investigating how the patient can construe the therapist's smile.

We will explore this query by asking the clients ("if you don't know what is wrong with someone, ask them, they may tell you") and by collecting and then analyzing material from therapeutic interviews, forum on the internet and bibliographic research.

This analysis will help us formulating more accurate prediction on the impact that the therapist's smile can have during the therapeutic course.

Key words: smile, validation, social role

Eleonora Belloni

Am I a caregiver? Social positioning by children of people with Dementia.

In Italy the majority of people with dementia are assisted within the family by primary caregivers, however the concept of "caregiver" is often taken for granted.

According to a constructionist perspective and the positioning theory (Harré & Van Lagenhove, 1999), identity is considered as a shifting process constructed in interaction with others.

The paper presents the preliminary results of a wider research exploring how primary caregivers construct their identity in relation to the disease and to the sick person. Narrative interviews have been conducted with 14 daughters and 13 sons of people with dementia. The interviews are analyzed through a content and a positioning analysis, giving particular attention to a gender comparison. The results show the caring experience as a continuous negotiation, where the relatives constantly (re) consider their positioning according to the illness, the others and the social expectations. Four "movements" are proposed to describe these negotiations: shifting, balancing, detachments and belonging.

Key words: dementia, caregiver, positioning, identity

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#12

Eleonora Belloni

The self-characterization as a tale

Considering the self-characterization as a tale implies the opportunity to tell it through alternative voices and play with different storylines.

This study presents a methodological exploration on the analysis of self-characterizations and it is a part of a wider research on narratives of primary caregivers of people with dementia. In particular, the self-characterization of a daughter describing the care relationship with her sick mother will be taken into account and analyzed through three perspectives. Some of the analysis criteria of Kelly (1955) are integrated with the analysis of tales of Propp (1968), especially the attribution of roles. Combining these perspectives, a narrative theme (Giliberto et al., 2012) is created in order to focus on the personal processes and the relational network beyond the content of the text. The dialog between these different techniques will be critically presented and a reflection on the possible clinical applications will be suggested.

Key words: self-characterization, tale, narrative theme, narrative analysis

Gabriele Bendinelli, Chiara Lui

Play as a way of knowing, learning and changing. What happens if the PCP plays with children?

Starting from a brief excursus about how various psychological theories treated the theme of child's play, this work is aimed to go beyond the realistic dichotomy between fantasy and rationality. Constructivist's assumptions and procedural perspective drive us to explore play as a tool in children's hands, through which they can know, understand and give sense to their experiences. PCP's Professional Constructs will be the lens to describe children's different ways to play and understand their Experience Cycles from their point of view. In this perspective, play can become indeed a setting to facilitate learning in many different contexts and to design therapeutic interactions, not only with children, but also with adult patients.

Key words: play, children, learning, fantasy, rationality

Edita Bezdičková

In search for psychotherapy: Discipline in perspective(s)

As a person with a double formation (sociological and psychotherapeutic), I intend, in this presentation, to ask question the therapeutic work as an institution and a as a discipline. I believe these questions precede the practical work of a therapist. Such reflection might seem unnecessary at first, however, when taking a closer

CONFERENCE PAPERS

#13

REFRESH YOUR CONSTRUCTS!

look it becomes highly relevant. Not only is there a long standing critical sociological reflection of therapy as a discipline normalizing its clients, but the questions about the character of the services therapists offer periodically returns among the helping professionals themselves. Be it due to the recent professional debate about the "future of psychotherapy in the Czech Republic" or because of the postmodern constructivism critique of the therapeutic practice, I believe it is important to step out of our everyday meaning system at least sometimes and ask ourselves – what are we actually doing when doing psychotherapy? There is a variety of perspectives that allow us to do so – ranging from the critique of psychoanalysis by Lash, Rieff and others through the antipsychiatric movement and Goffman's Asylum up to Foucaults genealogical overview of disciplinary strategies, sociology criticizes the therapeutic colonization of private worlds. The critique does not remain unanswered in psychotherapy – for example by Epston and White's narrative therapy or by Gergen and Anderson's postmodern constructionist approaches. All of the reflections mentioned above inspire radical changes in therapy itself. Such reflections are therefore important in establishing a deeper dialogue about the definition of the profession and its practical consequences for the quality and the characteristics of the services it offers.

Key words: sociology, reflection, psychotherapy, institution

Edita Bezdičková

Training in Mexico – culturally sensitive dialogical practices?

This presentation departs from the idea that doing therapy outside of one's cultural context enables developing one's "skills at hearing others' world views" and raises awareness of the break between individualizing therapeutic practices on the on hand and their embeddedness on broader social contexts on the other. I discuss this rather general idea about developing a culturally sensitive therapeutic practice by presenting and autoethnographic account of my experience of undergoing therapeutic training at Kanankil Institute in Mexico. Instead of theorizing about cultural sensitivity I explore the changes that occurred in my understanding and usage of language and culture in the therapeutic process/ I do so in a dialogical manner, meaning, I mediate and re-present the conversations with the colleagues and my clients in Mexico, raising questions for further reflection rather than formulating final answers.

Key words: dialogical, autoethnography, language, culture, cultural sensitivity

Daniela Boccardi

A therapist looking for actors

All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players. They have their exits and their entrances, and one man in his time plays many parts (W. Shakespeare, As you like it, Iacopo: act II, scene VII).

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14

What is the link between Shakespeare's words and Personal Construct Psychology? What are the similarities between the stage and the therapy room?

This work aims to explore some possible answers to these questions, drawing from constructivism and drama therapy, a discipline that we might consider a meeting point between theatre and psychology. Particular attention will be given to a comparison between the fixed role therapy and the role theory of Robert Landy.

Key words: theatre, constructivism, drama therapy, role

Ivana Bojić

A binocular view of self-characterization

In this paper several self-characterizations were analyzed using Personal Construct Psychology (PCP) and discursive psychology (DP) approach. Governed by the metaphor of binocular view, these approaches, taken together, can bring new information regarding self-characterizations, more than each of them used separately. DP questions are considered as new hypotheses which provide insight into the broader social context within which one's personal constructions can be considered. In that way, understanding of content as well as formal features of one's constructs is enriched. Agency of a person may be enriched in the light of the new metaphor – person as discourse analyst – as a way to take into consideration both personal and social constructs. Potentials and limits of agency, as well as its contribution to change, are further discussed in the light of this binocular approach.

Key words: discourse analysis, personal construct psychology, binocular view, agency, therapeutic change

Karin Buzzegoli, Cristina Sassi, Mariaemanuela Timpano

The refreshing barter: the construction of the Professional Role in group context.

This paper focuses on the training of constructivist hermeneutics psychotherapists and aims to point out those aspects which, in our opinion, make the group such a privileged channel in the construction of the Professional Role.

We will hypothesise that the group, as an enclosed and transitory context, could promote an openness to explore different alternatives and to experiment within the Professional Role.

In the dissertation, we will especially concentrate on the circularity of processes of construction and elaboration of the Professional Role and of each group member's personal system; on the circularity of the processes of construction and elaboration of professional role relationships within the group; on the importance which shared experimentation has in facilitating a propositional elaboration of the Professional Role.

Key words: professional role, training in psychotherapy, group setting

CONFERENCE PAPERS

#15

Anna Celli, Elena Sagliocco

Narrating "panic": complaint and therapeutic process

In our clinical practice we often work with people who report a problem described as "panic attack". Those who go through this kind of experience often make reference to physical symptoms; they have a physiological interpretation about what is happening to them.

Consistently with our approach, there is not a proper meaning in referring to psychiatric and nosological categories: nevertheless, we choose to reflect on this experience to underline the possibility of a therapeutic relationship starting from our clients' complaint.

We consider the aspects of commonality in the way many clients describe their problem; we focus on their narration, and on the dimensions of construct involved. Our attempt, then, is to highlight our way of construing professionally the disorder, the experience that many clients have, but also what happens within the psychotherapy.

The illustration of a clinical case will underline that the therapeutic process and the experience we live with our clients become the field from which a new narration takes form, built together, step by step.

Key words: panic attack, therapeutic process, therapeutic relationship, complaint

Chiara Centomo

Suffering as illness? An exploratory research in a Mental Health Service

In the last century psychology entered into the historical debate about the meaning and nature of suffering; however, analysis of the literature shows that there is not an unequivocal and satisfactory meaning of "suffering", which is generally placed in the range of convenience of the construct of "illness". Personal Construct Psychology criticizes this choice, but affirms that, for a suffering person, it can represent one of the ways in which to construe one's own experience, in order to understand, anticipate and handle it. This choice canalizes how one perceives oneself, but also actions taken and solutions adopted.

In this paper the results of a qualitative study aimed at exploring this hypothesis are presented. Participants include members and employees (male nurses, psychiatrists and psychologists) of a Territorial Day Hospital in Padua (Italy). In the concluding section a definition of "suffering" from the PCP point of view is put forward.

Key words: suffering, illness, Mental Health Service, qualitative research, change

Vukasin Cobeljic

How cured hemato-oncological disease in children and adolescents can be seen as an invitation for reconstruction

In this presentation we will discuss the way in which children and adolescents who are cancer patients and their parents construe the beginning of the disease, the treatment period and the period of return to „normal" life after healing.

It is demonstrated how the principles of personal construct psychology can be applied within this specific population.

Subsequently, the results of qualitative research conducted in 20 adolescents who have been cured are presented. A semi-structured conversational interview was used, which included the ABC technique and laddering. We also applied the PEG (Perceiver-Element Grid), with elements „ I before illness", „I during illness" and „I after illness". The idea is that the illness, as a very unpleasant and stressful event, and ways of reacting in the circumstances, can be construed in alternative ways. Gradually, this may lead to reconstruction („the Illness has made me stronger and more mature ").

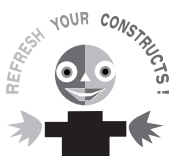The general conclusions and practical advice for work are shown at the end of the presentation.

Key words: disease, threat, uncertainty, alternative construing, reconstruction

Nelarine Cornelius

History revisited

„Now history, just as contrasted with chronology, is a method of study, not a definitive set of causes. In personal-construct theory one may be interested in a historical type of study because it helps to reveal the successive patterning of the elements for whose interpretation his client's personal constructs are formed" (Kelly, 1991, p. 122). Kelly's writing on historical study has received limited attention. However, the recent rise in the interest in historical methods applied in traditional social science context (including life history and psychobiography storytelling and narrative methods) points towards the possibility of developing new, PCP-based historical research methods. In this paper, I will introduce experimental PCP-based historical methods, applied to the exploration of interactions between institutions, firms and communities, and their impact on public reason, in the context of developed nations, and emerging economies with a colonial and postcolonial past (Pakistan, Nigeria and Lebanon) focusing on the impact on democratic practices.

Key words: personal construct theory, historical methods, emerging economies, public reason, models of democratic practice

CONFERENCE PAPERS

17

REFRESH YOUR CONSTRUCTS!

Ivan Đorđević, Hana Stamatović

Why include bodywork in PCP therapy?

Personal construct psychology (PCP) argues that the process of construction is as corporeal as it is verbal. PCP offers a broad theory that fosters creativity, yet many practitioners seeking guidance in work with tacit material find scarce literature and resources on the subject.

In this paper, the reasons for this void are addressed, along with common fears and dilemmas therapists face when encountering nonverbal material in the therapy room. Corporeal material (eg. bodily sensations, motion, psychosomatics, symptoms…) will be considered as elements or discriminations on a low level of cognitive awareness and used as a way to address nonverbal construing. A metaphor of the body as a map of core constructs is presented as a way to explore and elaborate nonverbal constructs, along with some clinical examples of working with corporeal material in therapy. In addition, some physical and psychological prerequisites to working with the body are suggested.

Key words: nonverbal construing, psychotherapy, embodiment, core constructs elaboration

Vladimir Džinović

A rhetorical approach to personal constructs

In this paper we argue that constructs are created in everyday conversations among people as dialogical tools. The implications of the rhetorical approach to Personal Construct Psychology are also discussed. The Conversation Construct Analysis (CCA) as a new qualitative research method designed to map the constructs articulated in discussions and to trace their changes is presented. CCA is applied to the analysis of the constructs articulated in a group of primary school teachers which were discussing about their profession. Twelve cluster-constructs were elicited which refer to the main dilemmas in teachers' practice: a) teachers' versus pupils' responsibility for the change in school; b) care about pupils' interest versus looking for the balance of the interests; c) cooperate with others versus insist on school subject specificity; d) surviving in school by the lowering of professional criteria versus lack of meaning and feeling depressed; e) validation in practice versus external validation.

Key words: PCP, rhetoric, qualitative research, teacher professional development

Alessia Faccio

Numbers on the shoulders

Living in a local context where children and young people are automatically certified by public services of childhood and working personally with children with a diagnosis of learning disability, I felt the need of analyzing them the point of view of present literature, both of constructivist approach and other approaches.

Refresh your constructs!
Constructive alternativism in education,
psychological care and democracy

#**18**

Thanks to it, I scrutinize the case of a little girl who had been directed from her teachers to social services due to her apparent dyscalculia, but later entrusted indirectly to me to see if I could help her with a path of school recovery before the diagnosis of the childhood psychiatrist. Through Personal Construct Psychology, using the creativity cycle, the body, the voice and mimicry, I'm going to propose an alternative reading of the learning process of numbers and texts.

Key words: learning disability, creativity cycle, dyscalculia, childhood, personal construct psychology

John M. Fisher

An exploration of the impact of an 8 first line Leadership Development programme using Time Event Grids

This paper explores the changes in self-perception of first line supervisors in a manufacturing environment as a result of taking part in an eight day Introduction to First Line Supervision training course.

Participants completed a Time Event Grid (Procter) at the start and at the end of the course. These were then explored to identify elements of self identity, changes in perception, movement of constructs and tightening/loosening of constructs on how they perceive themselves and how they believe their team perceives them.

Key words: leadership, TEG, practitioner

Laura Gelli

Kelly and the first chapters of Genesis: having fun with hypotheses

The choices, the basic options in people's lives, are they dictated without exception by the sum of lived experiences or are they actions / interpretations able to build further meanings and values over the meanings attributed to the previous experiences? Does Man choose on the basis of internal or external forces, or rather his processes are self-invented at a particular time, based on predictions that he makes on his future through his interpretation and that turn out to be useful? It is starting from these questions that I have tried to speculate on how the system of the PCP theory, apart from reasons linked to philosophy or related to Kelly's studies, has to be ascribed to the importance he gives to the sacred text. From his perspective, Kelly maintains that the constructs are more useful if they were thought of as bipolar, and in the myths of creation, in particular those of Genesis, we find this useful dichotomy in view of a construction of the origins of the world and of man. In particular, in the biblical narration of creation, the elements of knowledge seem to spring from the experience of separation, of a world that seems to come to life through bipolar aspects.

Key words: George A. Kelly , Genesis, bipolar constructs

CONFERENCE PAPERS

#19

REFRESH YOUR CONSTRUCTS!

Mark Heckmann, Matthias Kaulartz

A crowd-clustering approach for the content analysis of constructs

A widely applied technique to analyze constructs across multiple repertory grids is content analysis. The approach involves a small number of researchers identifying thematically coherent clusters of constructs and labelling them accordingly. In this study we introduce a crowd clustering approach to content analysis that allows for a high number of workers to participate in the process. We present an algorithm and a workflow to systematically split and re-integrate the task of content analysis. A crowd-clustering approach has several benefits: a) it is less time-consuming; b) it can lead to a higher ownership concerning the results of the analysis if interviewees are involved; c) it allows for complete outsourcing of the content analysis process to crowd-sourcing services. The results of an empirical study comparing the crowd clustering to the classical content analysis approach are presented.

Key words: repertory grid, content analysis, crowd-clustering

Alena Jůvová, Štefan Chudý, Pavel Neumeister, Jitka Plischke

Reflection of constructivist theory in current educational practice

In the overview study, we would like to present the basic constructivist approaches that have affected or influenced the current concept of education. The interaction between teacher and pupil, in addition to certified teacher for mediation didactic content pupil / pupils reflect personality traits, psychological traits, attitudes and cultural capital of the educational actors (educational) process. With the changing roles of teacher and pupil, which come with a concept based on pedagogical constructivism, the need for adequate training of undergraduate teachers and teacher education in practice, may be also accepted. Discourse analysis will focus on the implementation of constructivist theory of knowledge in education and didactics.

Matthias Kaulartz, Mark Heckmann

Comparing interactive online and face-to-face repertory grid interviews in terms of construct quality and practicability

Face-to-face interviews are the traditional way repertory grids are performed while interactive, computer-based methods that work entirely autonomous without an interviewer are not widely spread. In this study we present a novel approach to allow rep-grid interviews not only being conducted interactively but also fully automated within an online web application. The specially developed software includes a complete elicitation module that supports triadic, dyadic and monadic element comparison and

Refresh your constructs!
Constructive alternativism in education,
psychological care and democracy

#20

implements a virtual interviewer who teaches the subject how to elicit and possibly ladder proper constructs.

In an empirical study about female shoe fashion the traditional repertory grid interviews are compared to the interactive sessions in terms of quality of the results and the practicability of the interview process itself.

Key words: repertory grid, interactive, online, computer based, construct quality

Shenaz Kelly Rawat

"The leader's Shadow"– Construings of PCP Coaching models

During the last 7 years I have been working on a series of programs with Enterprise Ireland and Stanford University in the US-called 'Leadership for Growth'. As an Occupational psychologist and leadership Coach. I have had the opportunity to construe and explore the meaning and understanding of the power and influence of the leader in an organisation– the program was aimed specifically at the CEO and CFO of each organisation.
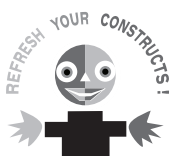
I would like to explore the impact of 'The leader's Shadow' on shaping the culture of an organisation– in a paper which offers a leadership coaching framework underpinned by Personal Construct Psychology.

Shulamith Kreitler, Michal M. Kreitler

Meaningfulness of life and quality of life

The purpose was to construct and test a new measure of meaningfulness of life (MOL) based on the meaning system (Kreitler & Kreitler). It extends the common connotations of MOL beyond personality to cognition and amplifies the overall rating of MOL through identification of specific domains. The 38 items of questionnaire refer to the meaning dimensions of the meaning system. The subject had to check the extent to which each item contributes to MOL and exists in one's life. 90 undergraduates were administered the new MOL measure, the test of meaning and a quality of life measure. The results showed that most of the items checked as contributing to MOL coincided with meaning dimensions used in the meaning test and with those existing in one's life. The MOL measures correlated with quality of life. The now MOL questionnaire proved reliable, valid and generative of important information about the individual.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

Key words: meaningfulness of life, meaning, meaning system, quality of life

REFRESH YOUR CONSTRUCTS!

A. Riccardo Lorenzon

Constructivist psychotherapy and Buddhist meditation

Constructivist psychotherapy and Buddhist meditation represent major working tools of two world views, Constructivism and Buddhism which share, in their fundamental assumptions, some common features, such as the idea that the world in which we live is not "out there" and "independent" from the observer and that knowledge of it is not direct but more an interpretation of it. Each person constructs his/her world on the basis of prior experience, in a given context and with the goal to anticipate as well as possible future events for pragmatic convenience. Drawing from my personal meditative experience as well as from my present psychotherapeutic training and education, I suggest the hypothesis that meditation may be a potential and useful tool in the psychotherapeutic setting. And, even more, it can also be an additional path for professional and personal growth for the therapist himself.

Key words: meditation, Constructivism, Buddhism, mind

Anita Martellacci, Sara Rossi

Dispersion and allocation of dependency in Obsessive-compulsive disordered people

According to the dimension of dispersed/undispersed dependency peculiar to Kelly's Personal Construct Theory (1955), people suffering from psychological disorders often show undispersed dependency.

The aim of this study is to evaluate the dispersion and the allocation of dependency in individuals diagnosed as suffering from obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) by analyzing their Dependence Grids. Chiari et al., in a previous study (1994), suggested two different paths of dependency in which the dependency is typically undispersed: the path of dependency initiated by the transition of guilt, and the path of dependency initiated by the transition of threat.

The interest of this study is to propose an hypothesis about the path of dependency in OCD patients, based on the dispersion of dependency that our research highlights.

Key words: obsessive-compulsive disorder, path of dependency, dispersed/undispersed dependency, personal construct psychology

Adrián Montesano

Dilemma-focused therapy: unravelling meaning of inner conflicts

The notion of Implicative dilemma was originally developed by Hinkle (1965) in his popular doctoral dissertation about the change of personal constructs. Stemming from this line of

research the Multicentre dilemma project has investigated the role of inner conflicts in health foregrounding their relevance for symptom maintenance across a variety of clinical conditions. These conflicts are meant to hinder the process of change and the engagement of clients in psychotherapy. Recent theoretical and technical developments have been devised to deal with conflicts within the therapeutic context in order to resolve resistances and facilitate readiness to change. A flexible intervention protocol will be presented, giving particular emphasis on how to harmonize clients' desire of change with their need of conserving personal coherence.

Key words: implicative dilemmas, intrapersonal conflict, transdiagnostic therapy

Vladimir Musicki

PCP and narrative psychology: A comparative analysis

PCP and narrative psychology share a number of basic assumptions both in theory and in practice. This article elucidates similarities in their philosophical backgrounds as well as in their guidelines for psychotherapeutic practice. The construct might be seen as a flexible and adaptive model for creation of diverging multifocal stories which include the narrator as a protagonist involved in relationship with other actors. Every act of discrimination is essential for construing specific events and creating effective comprehensive stories at the same time. Both constructivist and narrative psychotherapy hold the same notion of therapy as a hermeneutic, interpretative and storytelling activity equally distributed between therapist and the client. The act of knowing what is 'out there' is intrinsically connected to the capacity to create or imagine what that 'out there' might be to begin with. This paper will discuss common points between the two approaches as well as their differences.

Key words: PCP, narrative psychology, constructivist metatheory, psychotherapy

Mara Ognibeni, Ombretta Zoppi

Who are we when we are with the other? Reflections on the sociality corollary and on the personal role

We'd like to reflect on the sociality corollary and on the concept of the personal role, which is extremely relevant for Kelly. Our attempt is to widen and expand these aspects of the theory, starting from our clinical, didactic, and personal experience; in our opinion, the professional constructs concerning the notion of role could be extended and developed. They could become more comprehensive of the many clinical elements which sometimes happen to be difficult to explain.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

 # 23

REFRESH YOUR CONSTRUCTS!

The word "can" within the sociality corollary suggests that playing a role in a relationship with a person is not an automatism, or a fact in itself, but it can represent an actual possibility that we choose to catch or not. If we consider playing a role as a choice and we see this as a way of movement towards the other person within an understanding process, we can have the possibility to act with the other in an efficient and useful way; thus, also for the establishment and the maintenance of a therapeutical relationship.

Key words: *s*ociality corollary, personal role, understanding process.

Maria Cristina Ortu, Ombretta Zoppi

Wounding relations, binding relations: the role of the victim in violent relationships

This paper intends to deploy a PCP analytical perspective in order to understand the roles involved in a victim-offender relationship towards the construction of an alternative viewpoint.

Starting from the presupposition that our behaviour can be interpreted as an experiment to verify our out anticipations, the choice itself of a specific partner within a specific relationship experience, has to be reread from within the actor's personal construct system.

This approach aims therefore at tracing a personal sense which can make more understandable such behaviours and such choices. In particular, this paper asks which vision of the Self can give sense to the experience of violence, how this can develop, what can make it different from a relationship without violence, which repetitive elements are clustered in this choice and how it can be maintained over time.

Finally, we would like to discuss the implications of such perspective in the planning of a taking-charge therapeutic intervention.

Key words: victim-offender relationship; personal sense; violence experience.

Marie-Louise Österlind

Is there a perfect match? Construing and re-construing leadership, quality and professional development in a social care organisation.

Social care organisations provide services vital to the care recipients' health and wellbeing. The qualified work tasks performed in these organisations is performed and often led by professionals with considerable professional jurisdiction, such as nurses and physiotherapists. This paper discuss the effects of an organisational change process in a social care organisation, from the professionals' and the managers' perspectives. From the professional point of view, the team organisation, designed to meet

Refresh your constructs!
Constructive alternativism in education,
psychological care and democracy

#24

requirements for increased efficiency and quality, had brought on several contra productive effects. These professions formerly organised in specialist units, were assigned to several teams and therefore required to report to several managers. Both managers and professionals found unclear managerial roles and jurisdictional conflicts. The professional groups feared that loss of peer-group and managerial support would lead to de-professionalisation. Their perceived remedies were scheduled meetings with all staff categories, and increased options to develop their professional knowledge.

Key words: social care, team organisation, quality, professional development, leadership

Marie-Louise Österlind

"What have you bee up to today?" Construing and re-construing head teacher's work and role

Head teachers are expected to be pedagogic leaders who support their teachers' professional development in order to improve long term teaching quality and goal achievement. Research shows that many heads perform a multitude of administrative and hands-on tasks, while trying to balance diverging and sometimes incomprehensive objectives and expectations.

This paper reports from a project where six Swedish head teachers reflected over their tasks and role, using the diary-in-group-method. The results show how the participants construe their role in relation to their complex and multifaceted work situation, and to their personal and professional ambitions. They all seem to have a personal approach to their role, which allow them to balance the contrasting demands and to accomplish a personal equilibrium.

The participants appreciated the research process, which provided individual reflection on the diverse tasks that filled their days, and collegial feedback and reflection on important aspects of their professional role.

Key words: head teachers, leadership, diary in group

Maria Giulia Panetta

Intimacy 2.0 Construing intimacy in online chat rooms

What are the dimensions of meaning involved in an intimate relationship? And when the context is no longer the everyday, but is a virtual chat room; are we allowed to consider that relationship as intimate? Taking the PCP as a guiding light, by using a semi-structured interview and the pyramid technique by Landfield (1971) the experience of a chat room user will be explored, trying to underline the processes and the differences that lead to the construction of an intimate relationship in real and/or in virtual life. The Sociality Corollary and its implementations are used as the main tool to understand the chat room experience in order to elicit the dimensions of meaning implied in a born-

CONFERENCE PAPERS

#25

REFRESH YOUR CONSTRUCTS!

and-developed online relationship, and whether those meanings make it possible to be established or not.

Key words: chat room, intimacy, online, sociality corollary

Elisabetta Petitbon

Working with male anger in Ireland: development and arrest

The purpose of this Paper is to inform the way we are working with groups of men who are abusive to their intimate partners. The particular practices of violence is deconstructed and might include judgment of others; acts of diminishment; acts of power; being careless; acts of control; detaching; acts of cruelty; notions of superiority and so on. Deconstructing what is addressed with violence can enable the person to become more aware of the origins and consequences of this in their life. The client and therapist will explore the history of ideas/belief and practices of violence in their life and articulate, narrate them so that links can be made between the individual's constructions and how these practices may be supported and sustained by broader constructions of gender, power and other culturally embedded notions.

Key words: anger therapy, men anger, anger

Elisabetta Petitbon, Chiara Lui

"Magic mirror in my hand, who is the fairest in the land? ...You, my Narcissus".

Personality Disorder is a big part of the classic psychiatrist literature, often used as a label to choose the best approach for a possible intervention, in a deterministic perspective. Narcissistic Personality Disorder (NPD) is the most common label that most of us, as well as our patients, would use to describe a person (friend, boss and, especially, partner) too concentrated in themselves. But how much this label can offer a way to understand the person instead of a rigid description that would not allow us to see the person? Starting from a description of modern research about NPD, we would like to present a possible way to explore NPD in constructivist terms. The PCP's assumption of self-reflexivity allows to gain a view of the couple interaction in which both the partners can understand constraints and possibilities of their personal construct systems in co-actions reaching their sense of agency.

Key words: Narcissistic Personality Disorder, self-reflexivity, agency, partner.

Refresh your constructs!
Constructive alternativism in education,
psychological care and democracy

#**26**

Alessandro Piattoli

Are imagination, fantasies, and thoughts, experiments? The role of "autistic material" in making experience within psychotherapy process.

Within the therapeutical process, the movements which facilitate a personal change for the client, and therefore for his/her experience, are often revealed, at first, by differences in his/her usual behaviour. The author tries to explore, according to PCT, the role that modifications of fantasies, imagination, and thoughts, have within the therapeutical process, as a way of making a new experience. Some theoretical reflections, will be described through the illustration of a clinical case, with the effort to avoid the risk of falling in the duality mind-behaviour (body).

Key words: psychotherapy, imagination, fantasies, PCT, experience

Silvia Poiesi

"Seeing with your fingers and touching with your eyes": a constructivist interpretation of autistic sensory experiences.

The choice to speak about autism, focusing in particular on the "senses" (namely the perceptive processes), stems from the desire to explore such a condition from the point of view of those who experience autism firsthand, since our construction system can act as a barrier to its complete understanding. Starting from firsthand accounts of autistic people, and referring to Olga Bogdashina's work, I will first describe some characteristics that seem to represent the different sensory profiles. By using the professional constructs I will try to provide a better understanding of such experiences. My findings will be also supported by clinical examples taken from my educational experiences with autistic children.

Key words: autism, educational experiences, sensory profiles, perceptive processes

CONFERENCE PAPERS

Matthias Rosenberger

Supporting democracy

The use of collective intelligence is against the background of ever– increasing complexity and dynamics increasingly important. An individual is hardly in a position to include all relevant information to the decision of an issue today. The challenge in the future will probably be to reduce social complexity (Diversity of opinions and values) in digestible units without cutting the original content complexity.

More democracy is desirable in any case, even in the company. Gene Sharp (2010) provides a novel concept for victims of dictator states and calls it "A Conceptual Framework for Liberation".

 # 27

REFRESH YOUR CONSTRUCTS!

In this he describes a ten-point plan, such as democratization of states without violence is enforceable. But what do we mean by democracy, especially at the institutional level? Norma Osterberg-Kaufmann (2010), works in her studies this topical issue in Europe. But how can international markets work, if we have not yet agreed on an accepted, consistent values and control system? These are all tough questions about the future. Whatever our future, we'll have to order the severance, we live in a permanent revolution.

Key words: democracy, collective intelligence, Multigrid analysis

Laura Scartezzini

A PCP construction for deadly sins

The seven deadly sins have been described in the first century AD, but if we look at the current description of some psychiatric disorders it is possible to find common elements, for example the idea of a norm, something that is good to do or to be. According to this view, failing to achieve this goal could lead to two kind of painful experiences, being guilty of a deadly sin or suffering from a psychiatric illness.
If we look at these painful experiences through Personal Construct Psychology we assume that every person is constantly engaged in trying to make sense of the world which he/she is living in, so we can comprehend how the deadly sins can be seen not as lacks but as meaningful actions.
The aim of this paper is to reflect upon a possible construction of every deadly sin through the perspective of PCP.

Key words: seven deadly sins, Personal Construct Psychology, construction

Barbara Strobachová

Education and inclusion of Roma children in basic schools – a phenomenological study

The paper presents a study focused on meaning of "school" in Roma children attending a basic school. It tries to understand their specific ways of construing and discuss them in a relationship to difficulties that these children often face. During the presentation steps of a phenomenological text analysis called Meaning Constitution Analysis (applied to interviews with children and their teachers) will be illustrated. Finally, conclusions for education of Roma children in basic schools will be discussed.

Key words: education, Roma children, Meaning Constitution Analysis

Refresh your constructs!
Constructive alternativism in education,
psychological care and democracy

#**28**

Radim Šíp

Constructivism as a manifestation of a new paradigm

The paper turns attention to the fact that different authors (Dewey / Mead, Piaget, Vygotsky, Kelly) who did not refer to each other brought in the occidental area ideas that are, in fact, very similar. Evidently, it came from the same source. All of them are, according to the author of the paper, different manifestations of a change of paradigms. In relation to knowledge and getting knowledge, there are two paradigms that are still operating in our cultural milieu: the old, say the early modern, one, and the new, late modern one. To be able to understand adequately this shift, paper provides us by a new definition of the term "paradigm", which goes beyond Kuhn's understanding using ideas of M. Foucault and M. Weber. So, the paradigm would be understood as a historical a priori which is retrospectively reconstructed from the analysis of events and thoughts in the manner of Weber's ideal type. On this basis, the author shows that pragmatism, Kelly's constructivism, Piaget's developmental psychology, or Vygotsky's cultural-historical psychology sprang out of the new – late modern – paradigm, from the same "genetic logic". Therefore, there were not a need of direct influence to bring similar ideas, and therefore, the question who influence who is useless.

Giulia Tortorelli, Martina Tonincelli

Working with parents: a constructivist view

Starting from the experience of working with parents in clinical settings, this paper presents some theoretical and methodological considerations about parental support and caregiving functions, in a constructivist framework. The focus is on an interesting tool used in a pedagogical context, created to improve parental skills: the Kit "Moi, comme parent…" ("Supporting parenting. Tools to reinforce educational skills" – S. Lavigueur, S. Coutu, D. Dubeau, 2011). Using PCP professional constructs, we would like to discuss some critical questions about limits and resources of that technique and suggest some possible applications for the operators working with parents.

Key words: parental support, Personal Construct Theory, educational skills, parenthood

Caroline Ward

Art and psychotherapy – reimagining human distress

Human creativity, the ability to imagine and reimagine a person's world, may be said to be at the heart of personal construct psychology (PCP).
This presentation asks if a purely psychological approach like PCP is sufficient to understand and take the strain of human

REFRESH YOUR CONSTRUCTS!

distress. How can art inform and perhaps challenge PCP so that an artistic consideration of our work may empower us and our clients to live more inspired and compassionate lives? Could the psychotherapeutic interaction be conceived as a co-created work of art that enables clients to reimagine their despair, so as to transform the darkness?

This talk will be illustrated by works by Michelangelo, Rembrandt, Van Gogh and Rodin and it will consider how the ideas of Irish poet and Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney on the poetic process might illuminate and inspire our psychotherapeutic practice.

Key words: art; psychotherapy; reimagining; compassion.

Refresh your constructs!
Constructive alternativism in education,
psychological care and democracy

*Chiara Centomo, Elena Bordin, Alessandro Busi,
Sara Candotti, Chiara Lui, Marco Ranieri*

Rivista Italiana di Costruttivismo

This poster would like to present Rivista Italiana di Costruttivismo, an online free journal dedicated to the promotion of Constructivism. This non-profit initiative provides a platform in Italy for contributions of theoretical, empirical and methodological interest, developed within this epistemological matrix. The aim is to give voice to Italian constructivists, but also to publish foreign authors' translated articles.

The Journal houses works related to all those branches of knowledge in which Constructivism features; inspired by the passion of a group of psychologists, it offers a privileged space to papers developed in the field of the Personal Construct Theory.

In order to maintain high standards of scientific quality, all manuscripts submitted by the authors are sized up through a peer-review process, carried out by a group of national and international referees, with the exception of translated articles originating in professionally recognized foreign journals.

Key words: online journal, Italian, promotion of Constructivism, promotion of Personal Construct Theory, scientific standards

Clare Morris, Brian Appleby

Embracing the unwelcome stranger: pilot study to develop a methodology to understand and define the experience and support needs of people living with the risk of inherited prion disease

This poster shows how the use of buttons has helped to elaborate the experience of one family who live with a progressive and fatal genetic disease they conceptualise as The Stranger. Harry Procter's Perceiver Element Grids provide the structure and methodology to understand and communicate this experience.

Key words: P..E.G, Inherited Prion Disease

Alice Riccardi

Which space of possibility? A narrative experience in an Italian Forensic Hospital

A narrative group one-year experience in a Forensic Hospital in the North of Italy. In this particular context, in which care and detention coexist, the conditions of daily life tend to restrict personal expression and creative attitude. The purpose of this group, based on Aesop's fables readings, was the possibility to allow participants to link their own stories to the narrative content and start a sense making process through the sharing of their life experiences. Participants were all men of mixed age hosted in

POSTERS

#31

REFRESH YOUR CONSTRUCTS!

the hospital. What has changed in these persons, in the context, in me? The PCP theory framed the sense of this experience.

Key words: PCP, narrative approach, Forensic Hospital

Cathy Sparkes, Clare Morris

Independent living vs. dispersing dependency: introducing Personal Construct Psychology

This poster presents a case study to demonstrate the application of dispersing dependency to promote independent living and well being in a young man with acquired brain injury.

Key words: acquired brain injury, dispersing dependency

TABLE OF CONTENT

Refresh your constructs!
Constructive alternativism in education,
psychological care and democracy

#**32**

MAP OF IMPORTANT POINTS

1 **Hotel Continental**
Kounicova 6 / Brno

2 **Kino Scala**
Moravské náměstí 3 / Brno

3 **Dům umění města Brna (The Brno House of Art)**
Malinovského nám. 2 / Brno

Railway station Brno   Bus station Brno

Organizing institutions

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Faculty Of Education MU

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