In this thesis, pre-school teachers’ perceived control is examined in relation to problem behaviours of children and the actions of teachers in the classroom. In addition, other factors that are thought to relate to teachers’ perceived control were studied.

The results of Study I indicate that pre-school teachers’ high perceived control was related to high intentions to act in the event of child behaviour problems. Teachers’ high satisfaction with their work was also related to high perceived control. Study II showed that low perceived control was associated with having a high proportion of children with a high level of externalizing behaviours and of boys in the classroom. Study III shows that children who had a high level of externalizing behaviours at the beginning and throughout the school year had teachers with low perceived control. Teachers’ perceived control was not related to their perception of internalizing behaviours in the same way as to externalizing behaviours and it was unrelated to a change in any direction of problem behaviours. Concerning changes in problem behaviours, no other factor was found, except a low child to adult ratio for a positive change of internalizing behaviours. In Study IV, the aim was to examine naturally occurring child–teacher interactions. Teachers’ responding with commands to children was associated with teachers’ low perceived control, whereas restrictive teacher responses were not related to teachers’ perceived control.

The present study indicates that teachers’ perceptions of children are important for their perceived control. It provides evidence that teachers’ low perceived control is associated with their difficulties in handling externalizing behaviours and the behaviour of the boys in the classroom. Responding to problem behaviours can be explained by teachers’ perceived control, and their perception of a child’s sex and externalizing behaviours.

Stereotypes: Suppression, forgetting, and false memory

Tadesse Araya
Doctoral dissertation, Department of Psychology, Uppsala University, Sweden, 2003. ISSN 0282-7492; 122, ISBN: 91-554-5526-3

This thesis presents four studies investigating: 1) whether incidentally primed control-related words can attenuate the impact of activated stereotypes on subsequent evaluation of a target person, 2) the impact of motivated forgetting on the recall of stereotypically congruent and incongruent information, and 3) the impact of a directed forgetting instruction on the false recall and recognition of nonpresented stereotypical information.

In three experiments, Study I showed that participants initially primed with the social category, immigrant, and subsequently primed with words that were evocative of control or self-control, made less negative impression of a target displaying ambiguous behaviors than participants not exposed to such words.

Study II, using a directed-forgetting paradigm, demonstrated in two experiments that participants subliminally primed with Swedish facial photographs who later studied stereotypically incongruent words roughly recalled an equal number of items regardless of the “forget” or “remember” instructions.

Study III showed that participants primed with the social category, immigrant, and then studied a list of stereotypically related and unrelated words falsely recognized more non-presented stereotypical words when they were furnished with a “forget” than a “remember” instruction. Similarly, Study IV (Experiment 2) demonstrated that participants primed with the social category, immigrant, but not with a neutral category, falsely recalled more non-presented stereotypical words when their cognitive capacity was depleted through a concurrent memory load task.

The thesis presents a review and a discussion of some of the theoretical underpinnings of the extant literature on stereotyping and intergroup relations and of the social implications of the present findings.

Recurrent headache among Swedish adolescents: Psychosocial factors, coping and effects of relaxation treatment

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Overall aims of the present thesis were to study the prevalence and psychosocial impact of recurrent headache within a school population in comparison with other types of pain and to examine the use and efficacy of various coping strategies. Further aims were to compare the effects of relaxation treatment among adolescents with recurrent headache to a waiting-list control group, and finally to examine the efficacy of relaxation training administered in a school setting.
From eight schools, 793 adolescents were recruited to a questionnaire study. The results showed that headache is a very common health complaint particularly among girls. Subjects with frequent headache also reported higher levels of depressive symptoms, anxiety, functional disability and other types of recurrent pain, than those with infrequent headache.

A Swedish version of the pain coping questionnaire (PCQ) was translated and administered to the same sample of 793 adolescents. Its psychometric properties were replicated and problem solving was regarded to be the most effective coping strategy.

In a treatment study, 36 subjects suffering from migraine and tension-type headache were randomized to either relaxation treatment or a waiting-list control group. Results showed that half of the adolescents were clinically improved after treatment. In a final effectiveness study, 63 subjects were randomized to one of two types of relaxation training, administered by school nurses. The results showed similar positive outcomes but small differences compared to a non-treated post hoc comparison group. Positive outcomes of relaxation treatment were predicted by one pain coping strategy, positive self-statements but also by higher functional disability before treatment.

In conclusion, more active strategies such as positive self-statements and problem solving were found to co-vary with a better efficacy or outcome after relaxation training. A further exploration of how to optimize treatment for adolescent headache is warranted in future studies. Generally, a broader perspective including social, psychological as well as biological factors could give more information on the complex mechanisms behind headache.

**Long-term outcome, suicidal behaviour, quality of life and expressed emotion in adolescent onset psychotic disorders**

**Håkan Jarbin**

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This study investigated a consecutive cohort of 88 youngsters with onset of a psychotic disorder at age 15.7 (standard deviation, $\pm$ 1.5) years and followed-up 10.6 ($\pm$ 3.6) years after first admission at the age of 26.5 ($\pm$ 3.7) years. A subsample of 15 subjects were assessed with the Five Minute Speech Sample for measuring Expressed Emotion and subsequent recording of relapses during a 2-year period.

A diagnostic split between schizophrenia spectrum psychosis and affective psychotic disorder was usually stable over time. The main diagnostic shift was an influx to schizophrenia spectrum disorder of subjects with a better premorbid function and less insidious onset, compared to those with a stable schizophrenia diagnosis.

Early-onset schizophrenia spectrum disorder usually had a poor functional outcome. Most subjects needed support in the form of a disability pension. Early-onset affective psychotic disorder usually had a good functional outcome. Most subjects worked and enjoyed regular friendships. The functional level before onset of illness was the best predictor of future functional level in psychotic disorders. A family history of non-affective psychosis predicted a worse function in schizophrenia. Frequent episodes and low intelligence predicted a worse function in affective disorders.

Four men (4.5% of the sample) committed suicide. The risk of suicide was increased about 30 times. Almost a third of subjects attempted suicide. Females made more attempts. Suicide attempts were related to more depressive symptoms but fewer negative symptoms at first episode, to readmissions and to dependence on nicotine.

Subjects with schizophrenia spectrum psychoses were less satisfied with life than those with affective psychotic disorder. Subjective satisfaction in schizophrenia was strongly associated to depressive mood while in affective disorders it was associated to degree of employment.

Adolescents with psychosis in families rated high or borderline high in Expressed Emotion either during first episode or after discharge had an increased risk of relapse.

**Postpartum depression—epidemiological and biological aspects**

**Ann Josefsson**

Doctoral dissertation, Division of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Department of Molecular and Clinical Medicine, Division of Psychiatry, Department of Neuroscience and Locomotion, Faculty of Health, Linköping University, Linköping, Sweden, 2003. ISBN 91-7373-537-X, ISSN 0345-0082

Postpartum depression is by definition a major depression with an onset during the first weeks after delivery. In practice, however, the term *postpartum depression* is used to characterize all kinds of depressive symptoms after childbirth. The aims of this thesis were to investigate the prevalence of depressive symptoms during late pregnancy, in the puerperium and 4 years after delivery, and to analyse the mothers’ estimation of...