

Young people's experiences of transition

RORY O'Connor and Clare Cassidy (University of Strathclyde) have been awarded £78,869 from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to study young people's experiences of transition. 'The multiple transitions associated with becoming an adult have major implications for identity, self-esteem and psychological well-being,' explains Dr O'Connor. 'But research has focused narrowly on educational and occupational outcomes and does not systematically examine how transition experiences vary according to ethnicity, gender and class.'

The Strathclyde study will compare ethnic minority and white young people. 'The limited data that exist on minority ethnic young people suggest that they are at increased risk of social

exclusion. We hope this research will significantly enhance existing and future policy initiatives across the UK seeking to support young people in transition.'

O'Connor and Cassidy will

use focus groups, a large-scale survey, a baseline interview and a follow-up interview. The survey sample will comprise 250 young people aged 16–17 years and 17–18 years. Two thirds will be drawn from the minority ethnic communities and the remaining third from the white community. 'The study draws upon social identity theory and other dominant theories drawn from health and social psychology. The measures will be primarily quantitative in nature, measuring a range of sociological and psychological variables, such as psychological well-being, self-esteem,

...work in progress...work in progress...work in progress...work in progress...

Flexible coding of space in the brain (BBSRC 2001–2004)

Glyn Humphreys & Peter Praamstra (School of Psychology, University of Birmingham. E-mail: g.w.humphreys@bham.ac.uk). We are examining the way in which spatial representations are encoded in the brain, contrasting the representation of space within and between objects. Experimental studies are combined with neuropsychology and transcranial magnetic stimulation.

Attention and executive function after stroke (Stroke Association

If you would like your recently funded research to feature in this column, contact Lisa Morrison on lismor@bps.org.uk with the funding body, amount awarded, period of funding, title, contact details and a clear summary of the project in under 50 words.

2001–2005)

Glyn Humphreys, Jane Riddoch & Alan Wing (School of Psychology, University of Birmingham. e-mail: g.w.humphreys@bham.ac.uk). We are developing a neuropsychological screen for such difficulties and evaluating rehabilitation projects aimed at improving attentional and executive disorders.

A whole utterance-based communication aid for people without speech: An office workplace implementation (EPSRC funded 2001–2004)

John Todman (Department of Psychology, University of Dundee. E-mail:

j.todman@dundee.ac.uk)

Aided communication for non-speaking people that involves word-by-word generation of each utterance is too slow for effective communication. This project aims to integrate complementary approaches to systems that focus on a) free-ranging social conversation (TALK in the UK) and b) situated conversation as in the office workplace (FrameTalker in the USA).

The role of the amygdala in conditioned fear and anxiety (MRC Career Establishment Grant)

A.S. Killcross (School of Psychology, Cardiff University. E-mail: KillcrossAS@cf.ac.uk) The project examines neural systems involved in

fundamental learning that allows us to attach emotional significance to events and actions in everyday life. It also investigates the effects of drugs on neurotransmitters to alter the balance and effectiveness of fear learning.

The neural bases of Pavlovian-instrumental interactions (Wellcome Trust)

A. S. Killcross (see above) How do different brain systems interact to deal with signals for motivationally salient events such as food or drugs of abuse? These signals profoundly influence voluntary goal-directed behaviours, and this has implications for the way in which the brain responds in drug addiction.

part-time employment, and educational achievements. Interviewees will be asked qualitative questions essentially, covering six domains: Home/Family; School/Education; Work and access to services; Future; Self and Identity; and Transition.' Twelve months later, the 100 interviewees will be followed up. Both qualitative and

quantitative measures will tap issues around adjustment and transition.

The project starts at the beginning of July 2002 and continues to December 2004.

□ *To find out more about the research, e-mail Dr O'Connor on rory.o-connor@strath.ac.uk. Also see the Joseph Rowntree Foundation website: www.jrf.org.uk.*

Like all sections of *The Psychologist*, 'Supporting research' depends on your contributions. E-mail Lisa Morrison on lismor@bps.org.uk with your tips, questions, work in progress – anything related to the research process that you think would be of interest to our wide audience.

RESEARCH REQUESTS

■ I AM undertaking a PhD study examining the outcomes of a range of psychodynamically oriented treatments currently used with children who are believed to have disordered attachment. The study will incorporate structured interviews to investigate in depth, perspectives of therapists, parents/carers and children upon treatment outcomes.

I would appreciate hearing from any professionals working in this area who might be interested in taking part in this study. Your involvement would entail a preliminary discussion followed by a structured interview of no more than one hour.

Ruth Bullivant

Tel: 01453 756649;
e-mail: Ruthbullivant@tesco.net;
fax: 01452 385847

■ I AM an MSc health psychology student at the University of the West of England. I am doing some research based at the Eye Hospital in Bristol looking at the psychosocial effects of corrective surgery on adults with a squint. I am looking for adults with a squint to form a group to compare with the study group being operated on at the Hospital.

People wishing to take part

in the study will be asked to fill in some questionnaires and have a short interview with the researcher. If you know anyone with a squint, or you have a squint yourself please contact: me.

Sue Jackson

Tel: 01454 250482; e-mail:
sue@winterbourne.freeserve.co.uk

■ MALE participants are needed for a study on the effect of current life events on the therapeutic work of counselling or clinical psychologists. This is for a PhD thesis at Bristol University. Please contact me for more information.

Peter Martin

E-mail: pamartin@dircon.co.uk

■ WE are interested in identifying British and European researchers working in areas of positive psychology (e.g. happiness, creativity, humour, wisdom, youth development, optimal performance – see www.positivepsychology.org or the *American Psychologist* January 2000 special issue for further information). We invite you to submit your details to the European positive psychology database that is under construction. Please contact me for further information or to register your interest.

Alex Linley

E-mail: P.A.Linley@warwick.ac.uk

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

listed by deadline

17 May 2002

Royal Society. Postdoctoral Fellowships Abroad. Tel: 020 7451 2539; e-mail: info@royalsoc.ac.uk; website: www.royalsoc.ac.uk

31 May 2002

Research Into Ageing. Research fellowships and PhD studentships. Contact: Dr Susanne Sorensen. Tel: 020 7404 6878; website: www.ageing.org

European Science Foundation. European Latsis Prize for research in the cognitive sciences. Contact: Jens Degett. E-mail: jdegett@esf.org; website: www.esf.org/prize

1 June 2002

NERC. Small Research Grants. Contact: Dr J. Baker. Tel: 01793 411564; website: www.nerc.ac.uk

BackCare. Major research grants. Tel: 020 8977 5474; e-mail: back_pain@compuserve.com; website: www.backpain.org

10 June 2002

BBSRC. Research grants applications. Contact: Clair Watts or Avril Allman. Tel: 01793 414669/413027; e-mail: clair.watts@bbsrc.ac.uk or avril.allman@bbsrc.ac.uk; website: www.bbsrc.ac.uk

1 July 2002

NERC. Standard Research Grants. Contact: Dr J. Baker, tel: 01793 411564, website: www.nerc.ac.uk

12 July 2002

Cancer Research UK. Clinical trials grants. Contact: Dr Lynn Turner. Tel: 020 7317 5178; website: www.cancerresearchuk.org

25 July 2002

National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression. Young Investigator Award for scientific research into severe mental disorders, primarily schizophrenia and depression. Contact: Audra Moran. Tel: 00 1 516 829 0091; website: www.whsource.com/narsad.html

31 July 2002

British Occupational Health Foundation. Research grants. Contact: Brian Glazer. Tel: 020 7317 5898; fax: 020 7317 5899; e-mail: admin@bohfr.org.uk
ESRC/EPSRC. People at the Centre of Communication and Information Technologies (Phase 2) outline applications. Contact: Tracy Davies or Susan Blackwell. E-mail: tracy.davies@esrc.ac.uk or susan.blackwell@esrc.ac.uk; website: www.esrc.ac.uk

30 September 2002

Anna-Monika Foundation. Funds for research into depression. Contact: FA. Henn. website: www.zi-mannheim.de/ams/e/eprize.htm.

open date schemes

ongoing until 1 Feb 2004

US National Institute on Ageing. Research projects. Contact: Linda Whipp. Tel: 00 1 301 496 1472; E-mail: lw17m@nih.gov; website: grants.nih.gov/grants/guide.html

See January issue for more open date schemes.

A searchable database containing full details of the various national and international funding opportunities for psychologists can be found on the Society's website at www.bps.org.uk/careers/funding.cfm

If you are a grant-awarding body, please e-mail Lisa Morrison (lismor@bps.org.uk) with details of your scheme for inclusion in this column.