Cultural Psychology Network Meeting

The European Doctoral Network in Sociocultural Psychology

8 & 9 December 2023
Nicosia, Cyprus

University of Cyprus (New Campus)

Program

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Friday 8 December   Room: ΧΩΔ02 B207

15:00 – 15:45	Reception with some coffee and snacks
15:45 – 17:45	**A roundtable discussion on cultural psychology: principles, topics of interest and methodological approaches** *Jaan Valsiner, Seamus Power, Brady Wagoner, Irini Kadianaki, Tania Zittoun and Charis Psaltis* *open to Psychology undergraduate students*
17:45 – 18:00	**Coffee break**

18:00 – 19:30	**PhD Students Presentations**
	    Ayshe Biyikoglu Turkmen (UCY)
	    Jovan Ivanović (UoB)
	    Maria Diplarou (UCY)

19:30	**Pizza dinner**

Saturday 9 December 2023   Room: ΧΩΔ02 B207

*bring your ID with you on this day (passport if non-EU citizen) *

09:30 - 10:30	**Breakfast**

10:30 - 11:30	**PhD Students Presentations**
	    Martín Vergara Wilson (UniNe)
	    Alyssa Pandolfo (LSE)

11:30 - 11:45	**Coffee break**
11:45 – 12:30	**Presentation and Discussion: A genealogy of ideas for the construction of Genetic Social Psychology** *Charis Psaltis and Brady Wagoner*

12:30-13:30	**PhD Students Presentations**
	    Eleni Anastasiou (UCY)
	    Marina Kyprianou (UCY)

13:30 – 15:00	**Lunch Break**
15:00 – 17:00	**Group Discussion**
17:00 – 17:30	**Transportation towards Nicosia center**
17:30 - 19:30	**Guided tour in both sides of Nicosia** *** have your ID with you (passport if non-EU citizen) ***
19:15	**Group Dinner (optional – there is a participation fee)**

Presentations Abstracts

Reducing Prejudice in Post-Conflict Cyprus using Immersive VR

Ayshe Biyikoglu Turkmen
University of Cyprus

Cyprus is an island with a history of intergroup-conflict between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. Since 1974, the island has been divided and this division in return has engendered threats (symbolic and realistic) and a lack of empathy together with antipathetic feelings such as prejudice, mistrust and intergroup anxiety towards the opposing group. Therefore, it is of no surprise that previous attempts to solve the conflict has been rather unsuccessful. In 2003, after the opening of the UN buffer zone crossings contact between the communities initiated. Ever since, research on both communities have drastically increased showing that intergroup contact can be implemented as a highly effective method and is able to heal the broken ties between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

However, due to the segregation and cognitive biases, it is hard to convince individuals to meet with a member of the 'other' community. To our knowledge, no prior research has combined social psychology phenomena and Immersive Virtual Reality (VR) technology to tackle or understand negative emotions or develop an intervention programme targeted to the reduction of these emotions. On this basis, we aim to carry out three independent experiments: Direct VR contact, Empathic Perspective-Taking, and Historical Knowledge to (1) examine whether intergroup prejudice, anxiety and threat towards the 'other' community reduces when exposed to emotional content through Immersive VR and (2) whether VR intervention programmes have to ability to possibly foster positive attitudes between the two communities. By implementing remote contact through VR, we believe this type of intervention could encourage future face-to-face engagement between Cypriots.

When Our History Meets Their History: Strategies Young People in Serbia Use to Coordinate Conflicting Majority and Minority Narratives

Jovan Ivanović
University of Belgrade

When a multiethnic state, such as the former Yugoslavia, dissolves in a violent ethnic-based conflict, new generations grow up on exclusive and one-sided historical narratives. Therefore, we explored the strategies young ethnic Serbs use in building a more inclusive historical understanding out of two conflicting (majority and minority) narratives. The sample consisted of ten pairs of Serb high school seniors who had a task to jointly build one common narrative out of two one-sided narratives adapted from post-conflict textbooks of majority (Serb) and minority (Bosniak) ethnic groups. We used step-by-step dialogical analysis of participants' interactions to capture how in-group and out-group perspectives are collaboratively positioned and coordinated. Our first results suggest participants use various strategies to coordinate conflicting perspectives by, for example, negotiating how in-group heterogeneity

relates to the out-group narrative or relying on meta-group discourse to debate in-group bias in authors' motives.

Political Apologies in Deeply Divided Societies Between and Within Groups:
A Comparative Analysis of Cyprus and Northern Ireland
Maria Diplarou
University of Cyprus

Over the last three decades, there has been a significant rise in the frequency with which group leaders publicly express apologies for the wrongdoing of their collective (Hornsey, Wohl, & Philpot, 2015). The main research goal is to answer why some leaders or groups apologise while others refrain from acknowledging the wrongdoing of the violent past. The current study does a comparative analysis of two deeply divided societies: Cyprus, where no apology was issued for the previous violence, and Northern Ireland, where political apologies were expressed. It's interesting to understand this stark difference between the two examples that share a lot of similarities regarding the conflict backdrop. What is the key element that makes this difference exist?

Safety listening in organizations: An integrated conceptual review
Alyssa Pandolfo
London School of Economics and Political Science

In many domains of work, voicing concerns is crucial for preventing high consequence accidents and scandals (e.g., aviation disasters, corporate fraud). Yet, investigations of failings increasingly report that voicers were not listened to. To explore this, we undertook a conceptual review of safety listening in organizations: responses to any voice that calls for action to prevent harm. Synthesizing research from disparate fields, we found 36 terms/definitions describing safety listening (e.g., deaf effect, whistleblower retaliation) which typically framed it in terms of listeners' motivations. These motivational accounts, we propose, are a by-product of the self-report methods used to study listening (e.g., surveys, interviews), which focus on listening perceptions rather than actual responses following speaking-up. In contrast, we conceptualize safety listening as a behavioural response to voice that has cognitive, interactional, and environmental factors, and recommend that research uses more behavioural and ecologically valid data (e.g., conversation transcripts).

Composite Utterances in the Work of Conceiving
Martín Vergara Wilson
University of Neuchâtel

From a Vygotskian perspective, concepts develop. As higher psychological functions, they start their development as concrete social relations, to become—after a certain course of development—psychological functions. The way we generalize using signs transforms throughout life, and it changes in each specific use of words. While Vygotski gives speech the leading role in the play of concept formation, the data produced in my doctoral research (i.e., video recordings of interactions among student engineers and professional engineers) show that diverse semiotic means (e.g., artifacts, inscriptions, abstract representations, and

gestures), also play a seemingly key role. Although the participation of semiotic means other than speech in communication and conceptual thinking is already well known, it has not been clearly articulated with the Vygotskian account on concept development. In this communication, I will essay a coherent reading of these composite utterances, integrating them into a cultural-historical take on the development of concepts.

Asylum, Disability and Identity in the Healthcare Setting: the case of Cyprus
Eleni Anastasiou
University of Cyprus

This research aims to explore the healthcare experiences of asylum-seekers (AS) with disabilities and examine the impact of their intersecting identities on interactions with the healthcare system. The study will investigate the perceptions of AS with disabilities, healthcare providers (HPs), and other key stakeholders regarding healthcare support and services for this specific group.

Firstly, employing a direct-realist approach and thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006), the research will delve into the perspectives of AS, HPs, and key stakeholders. Secondly, it will use a dialogical approach (Gillespie & Cornish, 2010) and the conceptual framework of Laing, Phillipson, and Lee (1966) to explore intersubjective relations between AS and HPs, specifically focusing on direct and meta-perspectives. Through individual interviews with AS, HPs, and stakeholders, the study aims to understand the impact of AS' intersecting identities on healthcare experiences.

The research aims to uncover alignment or divergence in perspectives, providing a comprehensive understanding of the experiences and perceptions of all parties involved in healthcare for AS with disabilities. The presentation will address methodological considerations, such as the use of intersectionality (Crenshaw, 2013) in qualitative data analysis and the application of dialogicality to answer the study's research questions.

Political Participation and Citizenship conceptualizations amongst young Greek Cypriots (18-28)
Marina Kyprianou
University of Cyprus

One of the first conceptualizations of Political Participation (PP) can be traced back to Ancient Greece, the emergence of representative democracy and the construction of a prototypical citizen who must dutifully participate in the polity (Verba, Scholzman & Brady, 1995; Pickard, 2019). Ever since there have been several conceptualizations of PP reflecting to an extent this first conceptualization (van Deth, 2016). However, they rarely come as a reflection of lay individuals understanding of PP or the complex contextual realities people are socialized in. The same pattern is observed in citizenship literature, which often reflects the institutional top-down understandings of citizenship as well (Andreouli, 2019).

Assessing the motivating parameters of PP (see Gil de Zúñiga, Diehl & Ardévol-Abreu, 2017) has been the default approach employed in PP research. However, a drop in electoral PP had many researchers trying to understand how and if young people are indeed politically

participating, through assessing how contextual socio-political and generational changes have influenced their PP practices, their understandings of PP as well as the construction of their citizenship identities (see Condor & Gibson, 2007).

In my research. I will follow a critical and context specific approach to assess young people's PP conceptualization and the construction of their citizenship identities. I will assess how lay individuals understand these concepts through employing a bottom-up approach using focus group discussions (Kitzinger, 1994) to observe how such concepts are discussed in the context of dialogue between young people (Wiling, 2013). Moreover, I am choosing Cyprus as my research context especially due to the recently observed drop in electoral PP (see Charalambous & Kanol, 2019) and the unique political context of the island (see Psaltis et al., 2021). Summing up, I will assess how PP and citizenship are constructed amongst young (18-28) Greek Cypriots, who are either actively engaged in the political life of the island and those who are explicitly not, to assess any possible differences in their understandings of these concepts.