

Posters

Double Moon - Exploration of the clinical and psychometric properties of the instrument among children with divorced parents

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Divorces have increased exponentially in the last 30 years in Western societies, following a range of various social changes. Family is no longer the type of institution to preserve at any cost, and marriage becomes a relation that remains while is compensatory for the couple. Consequently values change, giving more weight to interpersonal relationships than their institutional dimension (Torres, 1996). Divorce is the higher rupture in the family life cycle and can not be considered as a single event, but a chain of events that extend over time (Carter & McGoldrick, 1995). The crisis that causes the separation and that is caused by it, goes further than the moment when the rupture occurs (Cigoli & Scabini, 2000). Transitions bring disorganization and suffering, implying the entire network of relationships in which the individual belongs. When parents separate, children and teenagers need to face the crisis they face, which has multiple implications. The primary objective of our study is to explore the qualities of the projective technique Double Moon (Greco, 2004), explore the appropriateness to the Portuguese reality, and whether it is a useful tool to use in psychological assessment, particularly in the evaluation of children whose families gone through divorce proceedings. Thus, we need to do an exercise that complements the psychometric with the qualitative and projective characteristics of this instrument in order to assess the qualities of the instrument, and adapt them to the Portuguese population.

Concurrent validity of Family Semantics Grid

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The Family Semantics Grid (FSG) is a unitizing and coding system for the semantic analysis of dyadic therapeutic conversations and self-narratives. It is based on the hypothesis (Guidano 1987; Ugazio 1998) stating that each psychopathology is linked to a prevalent bipolar pattern of meanings or Family Semantics (FS). In particular, phobic disorders should be connected to the "semantics of freedom" which has the fear/courage emotions and independence/dependence polarity at its core, obsessive-compulsive disorders to the "semantics of goodness" based on the innocence/guilt emotions and good/evil polarity, eating disorders to the "semantics of power" characterized by pride/shame emotions and victory/defeat polarity, and finally mood disorders to the "semantic of belonging" which has the joy/desperation emotions and inclusion/exclusion polarity at its core. The FSG provides a system for coding these four semantics extracted from the transcripts. In order to test the FSG concurrent validity we applied it and the SWAP-200 to the first counseling session of 75 subjects divided into five groups with different psychopathologies: respectively 15 with a phobic disorder, 15 with an obsessive-compulsive disorder, 15 with an eating disorder, 15 with a mood disorder and 15 without symptoms that ask for a consultation for life problems. The results on the correlation between FSG and SWAP-200 will be presented. We expect that individuals with a phobic, obsessive, eating and mood disorder are matched by a corresponding SWAP-200 diagnosis and by the semantics hypothesized. The clinical implications relating to the therapeutic process will be addressed as well.

Portuguese short version of the Experiences in Close Relationships Questionnaire (ECR-S)

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The Experiences in Close Relationship Scale (ECR; Brennan, Clark, & Shaver, 1998) is one of the most used self-report measures to assess adult attachment dimensions. Attachment anxiety subscale items are related to fear of abandonment, to hypersensitivity to rejection and dependence and high levels of distress activation in face of unavailability or unresponsiveness. Attachment avoidance items are related to subject's fear of interpersonal intimacy, an excessive need for self-reliance and difficulties to self-disclose. Although ECR presented adequate psychometric properties across different samples and languages, the length of the original (36 items) and abbreviated (18 items) measures may hinder its implementation in some research (Wey, Russel, Mallinckrodt e Vogel, 2007). Therefore Wey and colleagues (autores, 2007) developed a 12-item version of the scale that showed equivalent psychometric properties to the original version of the scale, in what concerns internal consistency, test-retest reliability and factor structure. The central aim of this poster is to present the psychometric properties (through Confirmatory Factor Analysis and Internal consistency coefficients) of the ECR Portuguese short version, and compare them to the original version, in a sample of 370 university students. Results concerning the adaptation process of the ECR-S will be discussed, as well as the implications of using the ECR-S on the study of adult attachment patterns.

The role of mutual in-feeding in self-narrative change

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Narrative therapy suggests that therapeutic change is the result of the emergence and amplification of unique outcomes (innovative moments - IMs), which are exceptions to the clients' dominant self-narrative. These IMs can evolve into a new self-narrative, however its emergence can be extremely threatening, because it challenges the usual way clients experience the world. Thus a strategy that mitigates the significance and implications of novelties usually arises: a return to the dominant self-narrative. This process, called mutual in-feeding, is a cyclic relationship between the clients' dominant voice and the non-dominant voice (IMs), preventing significant change. This process contributes to the stability of the problematic self-stability, leading to therapeutic failure. The present research aims to study the role of the mutual in-feeding process in