

The narrative construction of identity in young adopted adults

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McAdams refers to the process of identity construction as the development of a sense of unity and purpose given the demands of world and society. It is a process in which young people reorganize and reconstruct their life story to produce a coherent autobiographical narrative. This work investigates the construction of life stories in young adults that have been adopted in childhood. The aim of the study is searching for the narrative construction of the identity in adopted people. We want to know how the motive of the adoption appears in the narrative of a life story and its function on the construction of the narrative self. We have been interviewing six young adults with the Life Story Elicitation Interview protocol. The interviews have been recorded for later transcription. Case studies are being elaborated from the interviews. All interviews are submitted to a structure process and content descriptive analysis, based on the systems of Gonçalves, Henriques and col. (2002; 2006a; 2006b; 2006c) and to tridimensional system of global coherence of life narratives (Habermas and col. 2005; 2008; 2009). The analysis of the narrative identity is based on the structural coherence of the autobiographic narratives (McAdams, 2001) and on the dialogic relation between the position of the narrator and of the others (Fivush, 2008). The multiplicity of imago, characters and voices of the narrative speech were analyzed according to the constructs of McAdams (1993), Hermans & Kampen (1993), Hermans (2008).

Implementing clinical monitoring of psychodynamic psychotherapy in a public community centre for young people: Service issues in bridging practice and evidence

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Young people frequently drop-out of psychotherapy and this calls for further empirical evidence (Weisz& Kazdin, 2010). It is important to understand transference-countertransference dynamics between patient-therapist dyads that influence dropout. It is important to identify therapeutic identity and techniques, since in the real world clinical practice psychotherapists use non-manualised eclectic approaches derived from different trainings, clinical experience, and supervision. The objective of this ongoing prospective study is to identify characteristics of the patients and of the therapists associated to treatment engagement as opposed to drop-out, in long-term (open-ended) psychotherapy in a community setting public service in the Council of Cascais. We are using Baruch et al (1998, 2009) definition of drop-out, in a analogous therapeutic setting in London: termination of treatment on the basis of a unilateral decision made by the patient without the agreement of the therapist and supervisors who regard as inadvisable, which is not due to external life-event factors (such as change of residence) and happens before the 21st session. Participants enrolled so far in the study are 58 patients, aged 11 to 23 years (M=14,2; SD= 4,25), 39% boys , and 10 therapists (1 male; 9 female). Instruments used are 1) for patients: socio-economical level (Graffar Scale), ICD-10 diagnostics, Assessment of Global Functioning (AGF), YSR, CBCL, ASR (ASEBA); 2) for psychotherapists: Therapeutic Identity Questionnaire– Thld (Sandell et al 2007) and the Counter-transference questionnaire (Betan et al 2005) Results will explore the associations between drop-out probability and the predictor patient and therapist variables.

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A model of relationship between research and practice is needed that will incorporate multiple stakeholder perspectives and testing the effectiveness of interventions already in use in real-world clinical practice (Hoagwood & Olin, 2002). This paper reports a pilot-study of implementing an effectiveness monitoring scheme of open-ended psychodynamic psychotherapy for young people (10-24 years) in the Council of Cascais in partnership with a university research unit, involving a repeated measures prospective design assessing: 1) clients' diagnostic at intake using Aseba questionnaires YSR/ASR, CBCL, TRF, ICD-10 diagnostic and AGF; 2) therapeutic alliance and counter-transference after 5 sessions using the WAI and the Counter-Transference questionnaires, 3) follow-ups after 3, 6 and 12 months. This report focuses on the psychotherapists representations and their engagement. The 10 psychotherapists of the service participated: A qualitative questionnaire was sent them asking to describe their representations of the scheme in their daily clinical practice. A Hermeneutic-phenomenological qualitative method was used to analyse responses (Midgley, 2004). Three main a priori dimensions were used, with emergent sub-categories: 1-Intrusive versus facilitative of the therapeutic process (e.g. confidentiality issues and reflexivity); 2- Organizational issues (e.g. unpaid extra-work, logistic problems and service delivery restructuration); 3- Clinical significance of the data (e.g. issues in matching psychodynamic theoretical models with atheoretical diagnostic instruments and constructs). The qualitative results will be integrated with quantitative measures of psychotherapist engagement with and adherence to the research scheme.