

of dissociation. The Children's Apperception Test results showed no unusual themes, and the families did not show any distinct patterns of functioning on the Family Questionnaire.

In conclusion, these findings indicate that American children who report past-life memories are intelligent, and their reports do not appear to arise from psychopathology.

Título/Title: "Indicadores Psicofisiológicos e Psicossociais do Impacto do relacionamento Conjugal no Desenvolvimento Pessoal e Relacional dos filhos na fase adulta" - *"Impact of marital relationship on adult's children health"*

Instituição/Institution: Universidade do Minho - Braga

Duração prevista/Estimated duration: 2001/01 - 2004/01

Investigadores/Researchers: Prof. Maria da Graça Pereira Alves, Dra. Vera Araújo-Soares

Abstract:

Goals: This project intends to analyze the impact of the marital relationship on adult children using psychosocial and physiological measures.

Methods: 200 young adults composed the sample that was made of undergraduate students at the University of Minho from several fields of study.

Instruments: The variables accessed include the Portuguese Versions of: the Separation-Individuation Process Inventory (Christenson & Wilson, 1985); the Miller Social Intimacy Scale (Miller & Lefcourt, 1982); the Perceived Social Support (Procidano & Heller, 1983); the Conflict Tactics Scale (Strauss & Gelles, 1990); the Ways of Coping Questionnaire (Coyne, Aldwin & Lazarus, 1981); the Beck Depression Inventory (1973); the State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (Spielberger et al.); The Rotterdam Symptom Check List (Haes et al., 1990); and the Perception of Parental Relationship by their Adult Children (Pereira & Araújo-Soares, 2002).

The physiological measures included heart rate, blood pressure and skin conductance.

Subjects had to fulfill a physiological protocol that included watching a movie that elicited positive emotions and one that elicited negative ones. They were assessed at several times: baseline, after each movie, relaxation and while talking about the experience.

Results: Young adults from problematic families (conflictual parental relationship) had lower social support and higher symptomatology. We also found significant differences in all physiological measures: blood pressure, skin conductance, heart rate dealing with negative emotions. As expected, we also found significant correlations between coping, social support, self-differentiation and intimacy on one hand, and between psychological morbidity, symptomatology, aggression and parental relationship on the other.

Conclusion: The results emphasize the impact of the marital relationship on the developmental process of grown up kids with implications on their physical and mental health. The group with poorer perception of parental relationship has higher arousal when confronted with negative emotions. The need for psychological intervention to minor the intergenerational risk of parental relational problems on these young adults is emphasized.

Título/Title: "Psychophysiology of Transliminality"

Instituição/Institution: SIU School of Medicine, Springfield - USA

Duração prevista/Estimated duration: 2001/01 - 2004/01

Investigador/Researcher: Dr. James Houran

Abstract:

There exist in the brain cognitive mechanisms that are responsible for the active suppression (or gating) of information from conscious awareness. These mechanisms may be weak or erratic, and transliminality has been hypothesized to derive from such. It was therefore expected in a test of vibrotactile sensitivity that individuals with relatively high transliminality scores (HT) would have lower thresholds than individuals with relatively low transliminality scores (LT), the HT group would take less time than the LT group to obtain a threshold, and the presence of a stimulus that competed for attention would increase the time and thresholds of the HT group to a greater extent those of the LT group. Fifty participants (17 HTs, 33 LTs) completed three repetitions of threshold testing using the CASE IV System while exposed to each of four competing auditory conditions (two Intensity x two Complexity). Results confirmed predictions, but only the intensity of the competing stimulus, rather than its relative complexity, interfered with vibrotactile thresholds of the HT group.