

## Annual Report 2005

**Annual Report 2005** innehåller totalt **223** referenser sorterade efter försteförfattarens efternamn. Under året anställda forskare vid Psykologiska institutionen är markerade med blå färg.

### Lite statistik

- Av 223 bidrag är 66 "in press".
- 118 referenser avser artiklar i vetenskapliga tidskrifter (Journal). Av dessa var 41 st "in press".
- 46 referenser avser böcker eller bokkapitel (Book (chapter)). Av dessa var 22 "in press".
- 8 referenser avser rapporter (Report). Av dessa var en "in press".
- 46 referenser avser konferensbidrag (Proceedings). Av dessa var två "in press".
- 8 referenser avser doktorsavhandlingar (Dissertations) som lagts fram under året.
- 204 av alla bidrag är på engelska, 16 på svenska och 3 på övriga språk (tyska, norska och nederländska).

**Referens:** Adler, N., Glassér, C., & af Klinteberg, B. (2005). A collaborative research effort to bridge boundaries and support deviant youths in contemporary welfare systems. *European Management Review*, 2(1), 88-99.

**Abstract:** This paper analyzes the challenges of introducing new approaches to the care of deviant youths in contemporary welfare systems. The specific study of early intervention programs within the area of psychosocial disturbances will be used to explore the interplay between emerging research results and the introduction of new approaches in different functionally specialized welfare carrying organizations. This paper is based on a collaborative research effort between researchers from education, psychology, psychiatry, sociology, economics and business administration and key actors from schools, police, criminal care, social security administrations, municipal health care and municipal politicians and administrative managers. The paper demonstrates that successful introduction of new coping strategies necessitates significant efforts to support the bridging of boundaries, the challenging of legacies and the learning from evidence to change established structures.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal collaborative research, psychosocial disturbances, public sector management, organizational learning, organizational change

**Referens:** af Klinteberg, B. (2005). Invited presentation, Impulsivity – the key indicator of vulnerability for disinhibitory psychopathology and serotonergic deficiency? *Neurovetenskapliga föreningen (NFG)*, January 31, 2005, Göteborg, Sverige.

**Abstract:** Early onset alcoholics (Type II-form) have been found to display increased scores in impulsivity and sensation seeking related personality traits and low conformity, as well as low levels of the psychobiological correlate of high impulsivity - platelet monoamine oxidase (MAO) activity. Low MAO activity is considered a biological marker of vulnerability for disinhibition and psychosocial deviances, and is repeatedly shown to be strongly associated with high impulsivity. Impulsivity, in turn, is found to be stable over time and constitute a major predictor of delinquent and adult antisocial behaviour as demonstrated in a series of prospective longitudinal studies.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings Type II alcoholics, MAO activity, vulnerability

**Referens:** af Klinteberg, B. (2005). Presentation, Unga kvinnor – och alcohol. [Young women – and alcohol use.] *Alkoholforskningsmöte SAD/SRA, Skarpö, May 26-27, 2005.*

**Abstract:** Risk drinking habits among young females are increasing and constitute a considerable public health problem in our society. The focus is on groups of female adolescents and pregnant women. In the light of research findings indicating that low serotonergic turnover, *per se* a vulnerability factor for early alcohol problems and violence, is found to be lower in neurologically normal newborns with a family history of antisocial personality disorder, as compared to other normal newborns (Constantino et al., 1997). Antisocial personality related personality traits in adolescent females are in turn highly overlapping with abuse problems as recently evidenced in representative normal groups. The implications of these results were discussed in terms of prevention strategies.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings serotonergic turnover, alcohol, risk drinking habits, young women

**Referens:** af Klinteberg, B. (2005). Invited presentation: Neurobiology of Disinhibitory Psychopathology. *The 29th International Congress of the International Academy of Law and Mental Health, Paris, July 3-9, 2005.*

**Abstract:** The neurobiological basis of impulsivity is very well evidenced, not only in groups of patients and criminals, but also in groups of 'normal' individuals. The focus concerns the significance of neurobiological factors of

impulsivity in the development of psychosocial disturbances and forms of disinhibitory psychopathology. Early onset alcoholics have been found to display increased scores in impulsivity and sensation seeking related personality traits and low conformity. Low platelet MAO activity is considered a biological marker of vulnerability for disinhibition and psychosocial deviances, and repeatedly shown to be strongly associated with high impulsivity. Impulsivity, in turn, is found to be stable over time and constitute a major predictor of adult antisocial, delinquent behaviour as demonstrated in a series of prospective studies. Of special relevance to this presentation are some longitudinal findings of early hyperactive behavior and adolescent normbreaking behaviors being connected to adult high impulsivity and forms of disinhibitory psychopathology. Hyperactive behavior was evidenced to be significantly related to subsequent alcohol problems and violent offending, as well as significantly associated with psychobiological measures. The connection between impulsivity and neurobiological indicators in 'normal' adolescents and adults confirms the hypothesis that a biological vulnerability can be present in an individual, without the developing of any kind of psychosocial disturbance, if there are protecting resources in the individual or in his/her family or environment.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings risk factors, hyperactive behaviour, psychobiological markers

**Referens:** af Klinteberg, B. (2005). Presentation, Risk factors in the development of abuse and violence: Psychobiological and longitudinal perspectives, within the session Impulsivity and Risk for Substance Abuse (chair). *International Society for Research on Impulsivity (ISRI) Scientific Meeting*, Washington, November 9-10, 2005.

**Abstract:** In prospective longitudinal projects, childhood hyperactive behavior was evidenced to be significantly related to subsequent alcohol problems and violent offending, as well as associated with psychobiological measures. Furthermore, early onset alcoholics have been found to display increased scores in impulsivity and sensation seeking related personality traits and low conformity. Low platelet MAO activity is considered a biological marker of vulnerability for disinhibition and psychosocial deviances, especially early developed alcoholism, and repeatedly shown to be strongly associated with high impulsivity. Impulsivity, in turn, is found to be relatively stable over time and constitute a major predictor of adult antisocial and criminal behaviour as demonstrated in a series of prospective studies. Some longitudinal findings of early hyperactive behavior and adolescent normbreaking behaviors being connected to adult high impulsivity and forms of disinhibitory psychopathology will be presented and discussed in terms of person-oriented approaches.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings disinhibitory psychopathology, violence, normbreaking behaviour

**Referens:** Ahrén-Moonga, J., Holmgren, S., von Knorring, L., & af Klinteberg, B. (2005). Neuropsychological function and personality in patients with eating disorders. *Academy of Eating Disorders, (AED). 7th international conference on eating disorders*, Montréal, Canada, 27-30 april 2005.

**Abstract:** Earlier studies within the field have identified personality traits that are often represented amongst those suffering from eating disorders (ED). For anorexia nervosa (AN) introversion, conformity, perfectionism and compulsive behaviour are considered the main traits. Bulimia nervosa (BN) is more related to impulsive behaviour, low self-esteem and antisocial personality. The comorbidity with other psychiatric disorders such as borderline or affective disorders is high. Neuropsychological functioning in patients with ED has been studied previously, but the results have been conflicting. This study aims to compare personality and cognitive functioning in patients with eating disorders and a matched group of healthy controls. To assess personality the questionnaire *Karolinska Scales of Personality (KSP)*, have been used. The neuropsychological function has been tested with *Automated Psychological Test (APT)*. 38 patients, with the diagnoses AN (n=15) and BN (n=23), are included in the study. The mean age is 28.8 years (SD=8). 16 patients are considered clinically depressed. Eight of the patients have been diagnosed with a personality disorder.

The patients with eating disorders differs significantly from the controls on the personality scales that measures anxiety, guilt, suspicion and socialisation. When comparing patients with AN to those with BN, differences have been found on scales measuring anxiety, irritability and guilt, where patients with BN are significantly higher. There is also significant difference on the scale for socialisation where bulimics are lower than patients with AN. The neuropsychological test indicates that the patient's subjective assessment of speed, accuracy and performance is lower than what is stated for the control group. A comparison between groups, AN and BN, shows that bulimics employ more impulsive strategies.

Conclusions: Eating Disorders involve disturbances in eating behaviour, but also include several severe symptoms that affect physical condition and psychosocial functioning. Previous research has indicated that certain traits make an individual vulnerable for an eating disorder. The present study shows that patients with eating disorders scores higher than healthy individuals on personality scales measuring anxiety, socialisation and hostility. For patients with BN these tendencies are even stronger. The self-critical evaluation of test scores may be a result of low self-esteem and perfectionism. The results are consistent with earlier findings.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings eating disorders, personality, neuropsychological functioning

**Referens:** Ahrén-Moonga, J., Holmgren, S., von Knorring, L., & af Klinteberg, B. (2005). Personality in patients with eating disorders and self-harming behaviour. *MA Healthcare Ltd, International Eating Disorder Conference*, London, Great Britain, 4-6 april 2005.

**Abstract:** This study focuses on differences in personality and neuropsychological functioning in patients with eating disorders and healthy subjects. Further differences between patients with self-harming and suicidal behaviour are assessed. The participants in the study are all women.

The patients (n=48) have all been diagnosed with an eating disorder. They are aged 17-50 years, mean age 30.5 (SD=8.5). The healthy controls (n=48) are matched for age and sex. The age range is between 18-48 years, mean age 28 (SD=8). Two tests have been used in the study. *KSP, Karolinska Scales of Personality*, a self-assessment inventory and *DIP-Q, Personality Disorder Questionnaire* constructed to combine diagnoses from DSM-IV and ICD-10. Patients with eating disorders and self-harming or suicidal behaviour have higher scores on scales measuring anxiety, psychasthenia and guilt. They score lower than healthy controls on socialisation and detachment. They also suffer from other psychiatric disorders such as borderline or phobic personality disorder to a greater extent than the patients without self-harming behaviour. Patients with eating disorders show higher scores on scales measuring anxiety, guilt and suspicion and lower scores on socialization compared to normative data. Patients with eating disorders and a history of suicide attempts show personality traits high on guilt and low on social desirability. There are differences between women that develop an eating disorder and healthy controls on several personality traits.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings KSP, eating disorders, self-harming behaviour

**Referens:** Alehagen, S., Wijma, B., [Lundberg, U.](#), & Wijma, K. (2005). Fear. Pain and stress hormones during labor and delivery. *Journal of Psychosomatic Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, 26, 153-165.

**Abstract:** Aims: To investigate the course of fear, pain and stress hormones during labor, and the associations between fear, pain, stress hormones and duration of labor in nulliparous women with and without epidural analgesia (EDA).

Method: One day during gestation weeks 37-39, urinary and salivary samples were collected to measure catecholamines and cortisol. Hourly during labor, the participants answered the Delivery Fear Scale and a pain intensity scale, and urinary and salivary samples were collected to measure stress hormones.

Results: The course of fear, pain and stress hormones differed throughout labor in women with and without EDA. Pain and cortisol increased throughout labor in women without EDA. Women who received EDA had more fear, but not more pain, before the administration of the EDA than women who did not receive EDA. Pain, fear and catecholamines decreased when women received EDA, but fear and pain increased again later in labor. Fear and pain correlated, as well as levels of fear in the different phases of labor. During phase one of labor epinephrine and duration of the phase were negatively correlated.

Conclusion: The course of fear, pain and concentrations of stress hormones differed, highly influenced by the administration of EDA. Fear and pain correlated more pronounced than stress hormones and fear, pain and duration of labor.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal obstetrics, labor and delivery, stress hormones

**Referens:** Allvin, M., Aronsson, G., Hagström, T., [Johansson, G.](#), & [Lundberg, U.](#) (in press). *Gränslöst arbete – Socialpsykologiska perspektiv på det nya arbetslivet*. Liber Förlag.

**Abstract:** Någotting har hänt i arbetslivet. Företag, institutioner och myndigheter omstrukturerar allt oftare sina verksamheter för att anpassa sig till en föränderlig omvärld. Arbetet och arbetsorganisationen blir lösare, obestämdare, mer gränslös. Tidigare generella och stabila regler, normer och tekniker för att organisera arbetet upplöses eller omvandlas, och istället måste individen i allt större utsträckning själv initiera, motivera, planera, genomföra och ta ansvar för det egna arbetet. Det betyder att arbetslivet blir mer omväxlande, men också mer komplicerat; mer stimulerande, men också mer kravfyllt; personligare, men med minskad gemenskap; mer fokuserat, men också mer sammanhangslöst; friare, men också otryggare.

Denna bok handlar om dessa förändringar och de psykiska och sociala konsekvenserna som följer med dem. I boken beskrivs och diskuteras de nya arbetsorganisationerna och deras styrmekanismer; de nya kunskapskraven som arbetslivet ställer på individen; de förändrade relationerna mellan arbetet och livet i övrigt, samt; det nya arbetslivets betydelse för stress och hälsa.

Boken är ett resultat av ett mångårigt forskningsprogram med titeln Gränslöst arbete, som bedrivits vid Arbetslivsinstitutet och Psykologiska institutionen, Stockholms universitet. Författarna är forskare vid Arbetslivsinstitutet i Stockholm samt vid Psykologiska och Pedagogiska institutionen vid Stockholms universitet.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) arbetsliv, föränderlighet, stress och hälsa

**Referens:** [Andersson-Stråberg, T.](#), [Sverke, M.](#), [Hellgren, J.](#), & [Näswall, K.](#) (2005). Attitudes towards individualized pay among human service workers in the public sector. In C. Korunka (Ed.), *Organizational psychology and health care*. München: Rainer Hampp.

**Abstract:** The work climate has gone through immense changes during the recent decades, due to industrial reformation, economic recessions, technical advancements, and an increased global competition (Howard, 1995). The so-called New Public Management movement has inspired many European countries and has among other things led to changes in the way that wages are distributed (Pfeffer, 1997; Wikman, 2001). Wage distribution systems partly based on individual performance are increasingly taking over traditional wage distribution systems in many organizations in Europe (OECD, 1995). Employers appear to have great expectations that individualized performance-based wages will bring about higher employee motivation and performance etc (Lawler, 1991). The aim of this study is to investigate attitudes towards individualized pay among human service workers in the public sector and try to identify some of the factors behind their attitudes. Questionnaire data show that employees with the most positive attitudes towards individualized pay already had part of their salary based on performance. A person's attitude towards individualized pay also seems to be positively related to perceived workload and mental health complaints. Older employees and employees with longer tenure reported the most negative attitudes towards individualized performance based wages. This study contributes to a better understanding of some of the factors underlying attitudes towards individually based wages among human service employees.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) individualized pay, attitudes, predictors

**Referens:** [Andersson-Stråberg, T.](#), [Hellgren, J.](#), & [Sverke, M.](#) (2005). Att få vad man förtjänar. Rättvisupplevelser i samband med individuell lönesättning. [To get what one deserves: Perceptions of justice in the individualized pay setting process.] *Arbetsmarknad & Arbetsliv*, 2, 93-107.

**Abstract:** I Sverige har individuell lön haft ett påtagligt genombrott inom den offentliga sektorn sedan början av 1990-talet. Den grundläggande tanken är att individuell lön ska leda till ökad arbetsprestation, men för att detta lönesystem ska fungera som styrmedel måste de anställda acceptera kriterierna för fördelningen av lönedel och uppleva att lönesättningen sker på ett rättvist sätt. Syftet med denna studie är att ta reda på vilka faktorer som kan bidra till individens upplevelser av rättvisa i lönesättningsprocessen. Sammanfattningsvis tyder resultatet på att det är arbetsklimat (t ex återkoppling på arbetsresultat) och lönefaktorer (t ex kännedom om lönekriterier och jämställdhet i lönefrågor) som har störst betydelse. Däremot tycks bakgrunds faktorer och personlighet vara av marginell betydelse för individens upplevelser av lönerättvisa.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal lönesättning, rättvisupplevelser, prediktorer

- Referens:** Andersson-Stråberg, T., Sverke, M., & Hellgren, J. (2005). The mediating effects of pay attitudes in the relationship between work climate and employee work motivation. Paper presented at the *XIITH European Congress of Work and Organizational Psychology*, Istanbul, 12-15 May, 2005.
- Abstract:** Individualized performance-based pay is replacing traditional wage systems in many public sector organizations in Europe. Employers hope that this kind of pay system will have an effect on employee commitment, motivation and performance. Since behavior and actions are influenced by attitudes, employees' attitudes towards individualized pay become crucial. However, there has only been limited research on how pay attitudes affect employee motivation. A central role of pay attitudes also raises the question if the often-identified effect of work climate on employee work attitudes and behavior is mediated by pay-related attitudes. Using questionnaire data the aim of the study is to examine if (a) pay attitudes (attitudes towards individualized pay, pay satisfaction and pay-related gender equality) predict motivation (organizational commitment, work performance, and turnover intention) and, (b) pay attitudes mediate the effects of work climate factors (e.g., autonomy, feedback, and workload) on motivation, after controlling for demographic characteristics (e.g., age, gender and salary). The sample consisted of 1190 Swedish health care workers (response rate 68%); their mean age was 48 years (SD=11), average tenure 19 years (SD=12) and the proportion of women 89 percent. Results of hierarchical multiple regression analysis show that pay attitudes partly mediated the effects of work climate factors on organizational commitment, intention to quit, and work performance. These results indicate that even though work climate factors have a strong impact on work-related attitudes and behavior, pay attitudes do matter. This conclusion suggests that organizations using, or thinking of using, an individualized pay system should make an effort to create or preserve employees' positive pay attitudes.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings pay justice, behavior, motivation
- Referens:** Axelsson, J. (2005). *Long shifts, short rests and vulnerability to shift work*. Stockholm: Stockholm University, Department of Psychology. (Doctoral dissertation).
- Abstract:** At the same time as many urban economies are developing into 24-hour societies it is becoming increasingly popular amongst shift workers to compress their working hours. This is done by working longer shifts (>8h) and/or restricting free time (<16h) in between shifts – the main reasons are to gain longer bouts of free time and extra free weekends. However, there is a limited knowledge of the effects of such arrangements on sleep and wakefulness. Thus, the main purposes of the present thesis were to evaluate the effects of long working hours (in the form of 12h shifts) and short recovery periods. Another aim was to evaluate possible mechanisms that could suggest why some individuals develop problems with shift work while others do not.
- We used a combination of methods - sleep diaries, wake diaries, blood samples and objective measures of sleep and cognitive performance - across whole or large parts of shift schedules to evaluate acute effects of particularly demanding working periods, as well as the total effects of a shift cycle. Study I evaluated the effect of changing from an 8h- to a 12h-shift system. Study II evaluated the effects of long shifts in a shift schedule with both 8h- and 12h-shifts. Study III evaluated the effects of several consecutive short recovery periods (8-9h of recovery) and whether satisfaction with ones' work hours was associated to problems with sleep and sleepiness. Study IV evaluated whether endocrinological markers of catabolic (cortisol) and anabolic (testosterone) activity changed across a shift sequence and whether satisfaction were related to them. Study V was a laboratory simulation of the effects of a short recovery period (4h of sleep) and whether a short nap could counteract any detrimental effects.
- There was no convincing evidence for 12h shifts inducing more problems with sleep and sleepiness than 8h shifts. With regard to recovery time between shifts, the shortest recovery times (only 8h) seriously shortened sleep duration and increased sleepiness, while 12h of recovery (between two consecutive 12h shifts) was judged as having no or limited effects on acute measures. The problems with the shortest recovery periods were worse in a schedule with several consecutive shifts and less pronounced in a schedule with few consecutive shifts. With regard to individual differences, it was found that subjects being dissatisfied with their working hours were vulnerable to short recovery periods, which was evident by less sufficient sleep and an accumulation of sleepiness across work periods with limited recovery time. Interestingly, these problems disappeared when they were allowed to recover after the work period. In addition, dissatisfied male shift workers had lower testosterone levels at the end of work periods, indicating disturbed anabolic activity. The simulated quick return supported that curtailed sleep affected sleepiness and performance and that a short nap could counteract these effects temporarily.
- It is concluded that long shifts (up to 12h) may be acceptable, whereas short recovery time (8h or less) is not. Most of the problems with short recovery periods were related to short sleep and sleepiness, and there is, clearly, a subgroup of workers that suffer more from this than others. It is argued that insufficient sleep and low testosterone levels (in males) might be key factors for developing shift intolerance, mainly by reducing the capacity to recover from shift work.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Dissertation sleep, alertness, sleepiness, shiftwork, tolerance, gender
- Referens:** Axelsson, Ö., Berglund, B., & Nilsson, M.E. (2005). Soundscape assessment. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 117(4), Pt. 2, 2591-2592.
- Abstract:** In order to improve the quality of the soundscape it is necessary to know its descriptive and evaluative properties, and the relationships between these properties. This was explored in a listening experiment with 100 participants (48 women, 52 men; mean age 25,6 years). Each participant scaled 5 out of 50 soundscapes with regard to 116 single verbal attributes, using a visual analogue scale of agreeableness. In addition, acoustical properties of the soundscapes were assessed. A principal component analysis identified two major evaluative components, labeled Hedonic Tone and Eventfulness. Furthermore it was found that the mere presence of common sound sources, regardless of sound level, correlated significantly with these evaluative components. Technological sounds (e.g., traffic noise) were negatively associated with both Hedonic Tone and Eventfulness, while a positive association was found between Hedonic Tone and sounds of nature (e.g., bird song), and a positive association was found between Eventfulness and human sounds (e.g., human voices). These relationships lead to the hypothesis that introduction of nature and human sounds, in combination with the reduction of technological sounds may improve the quality of soundscapes considerably.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal multidimensional scaling, soundscapes
- Referens:** CEC-WG HSEA (co-authored by B. Berglund). (2005). *The Effectiveness of Noise Measures*. Brussels: European Commission, WG HSEA Report, July 2005.

**Abstract:** This Working Group Health and Socio-economic Aspects was set up by the European Commission in order to provide guidance on cost-effectiveness of noise reduction measures and the interaction between different such measures. Strong interactions were found between noise reduction measures taken at the EC level and at the local levels. Therefore, this research focused on finding additional knowledge on how to prioritize solutions. A model study was undertaken in order to predict the effects of noise abatement packages as regards their effectiveness. It was possible to demonstrate what constitutes an effective mix of noise measures for different sources (in scenarios). Ranking the solutions to noise problems was, in principle, guided by two criteria: effect reduction and cost-benefit ratio. Other considerations were equity (who pays the costs and who gets the benefits), the polluter pays principle and the time frame. Some measures have important consequences also in other areas, like air quality, safety, travel time, and energy. Based on the research results, the EC is advised: (a) To develop an ambitious strategy to achieve further noise reduction for road, rail and aircraft noise; (b) To carry out detailed analysis in the course of developing noise actions plans into the most cost-effective solution in their particular case; (c) To raise awareness of noise as a public health issue and to disseminate the knowledge on effective noise abatement.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Report Book (chapter) noise reduction, health benefits

**Referens:** Baraldi, S., Montgomery, H., & Montgomery, W. (2005). Overconfidence in Predictions of Binary Sequences: A Consequence of Probability Matching? Paper presented at *20th Research Conference on Subjective Probability, Utility, and Decision Making (SPUDM20)*, 22-24 August, 2005, Stockholm, Sweden.

**Abstract:** The rationale of the present study was to examine whether overconfidence is at hand in a task that is stripped off from specific contents in order to minimize response bias resulting from availability of misleading information. Twenty-five participants were presented with sequences of 49 binary symbols and were asked to predict the symbol that would follow after the last presented symbol and also to rate their confidence in this prediction. Each sequence was constructed in line with a certain probability that a given symbol was followed by the same symbol. It was found that participants were quite well calibrated when being 100% confident, but markedly overconfident for confidence ratings between 60% and 99%. The overconfidence was mainly due to the fact that participants sometimes predicted the least probable outcome and still were quite confident that they had made the correct prediction. Participants' predictions illustrate the phenomenon of probability matching, which yields suboptimal results for the individual if the goal is to maximise accuracy in predictions. It is concluded that the present results are in line with the notion that overconfidence follows from fundamental misfits between judgements and the external world.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings overconfidence, probability matching

**Referens:** Baraldi, S., & Sverke, M. (2005). Facket och det moderna arbetslivet: TriOs uppgång och fall. *Arbetsmarknad & Arbetsliv*, *årg. 11, nr 1*, 5-21.

**Abstract:** Traditionally, the union has held an important place in Swedish working life. The dynamic nature of today's working life, however, has brought about changes in the needs of union members, compelling unions to adapt accordingly. A common approach to dealing with this issue has been union mergers, which can lead to advantages of scale, broader membership representation, and greater negotiating leverage. A common problem with union mergers, however, is that the majority of them are not carried through to completion. A limited amount of research has been dedicated to trying to explain why it is so difficult to carry out union mergers. This study investigates a failed merger (TriO) amongst four unions within the Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees (TCO). The aim of this study is to investigate those factors that can be considered important when facing a merger, such as information and support, and the general attitude of union members. The results show that there are clear differences between the unions, as well as within the unions, regarding, for example, knowledge of the planned merger, and attitudes toward union mergers.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal union, modern work life

**Referens:** Baraldi, S., Sverke, M., & Chaison, G. (2005). The Mediating Effect of Merger Attitude on the Relationship Union Commitment - Vote Intention. Paper presented at *XII. European Association of Work and Organizational Psychology (EAWOP)*, 12-15 May 2005, Istanbul, Turkey.

**Abstract:** During the past decade there has been an international increase of mergers among trade unions. A common problem with union merger plans however is that many of them fail and are never implemented. Despite numerous studies of failed, as well as successful, union merger attempts, few have focused on the members' attitudes toward the merger, and how those attitudes might affect the merger process. In this study a psychological model was proposed in which union members' attitude toward a planned merger (expected effects from the merger) mediate the relationship between membership attitudes (union satisfaction, job satisfaction, and union commitment) and members' voting behavior in relation to the merger. The analysis, based on members of four Swedish white-collar unions (N=4x1000) involved in an unsuccessful merger attempt, provided some support for the proposed model. Merger attitude fully mediated the effects of union satisfaction, job satisfaction, and union commitment on members' voting behavior. However, this was the case only for one of the four unions, and the significant effects did not generalize to the other three unions. This suggests that one of the unions might have been more motivated to merge than the other three. Also, the study implies that, in order to avoid costly merger plan failures, it is important for unions to probe the attitudinal climate among their members prior to a merger.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings merger attitude, union commitment

**Referens:** Baraldi, S., Sverke, M., & Chaison, G. (in press). The Difficulty of Implementing Union Mergers: Investigating the Role of Members' Merger Orientation. *Economic and Industrial Democracy*.

**Abstract:** The difficulty of implementing union mergers is reflected in the large proportion of unsuccessful planned mergers. In many cases, this is due to members opposing the merger proposal. Despite this problem, few studies have investigated the significance of members' orientations in merger implementation. The ability to predict if members will support a merger proposition would be valuable to union leaders planning mergers. Using questionnaire data from members of four Swedish unions involved in an unsuccessful merger attempt, this study investigates predictors of members' merger orientation – the members' attitude toward union mergers in general, their expectations about specific merger outcomes, and their intention to vote in favor of a

specific merger proposal. The analysis shows that union commitment, union tenure, and being informed about a merger proposal significantly predicted merger orientation. Furthermore, the analysis revealed signs of officer opposition. This suggests that a committed and well informed membership is a crucial precondition to successful merger implementation, and that a merger proposal stands little chance without the support of union leaders.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal union merger, member opposition, commitment

**Referens:** Bergdahl, J., Larsson, A., Nilsson, L.-G., Riklund Åhlström, K., & Nyberg, L. (2005). Treatment of chronic stress in employees: Subjective, cognitive, and neural correlates. *Scandinavian Journal of Psychology, 46*, 395-402.

**Abstract:** This study reports the effect of an affect-focused intervention program, the Affect School (AS), on stress, psychological symptoms, cognitive functioning and neural activity. Fifty employees in social service and education, with high levels of chronic stress, were randomly divided into a treatment (N=27) and control (N=23) group. Complete sets of data were available in 20 participants in the treatment group and in 17 in the control group. The Perceived Stress Questionnaire assessed stress and the Symptom Check List-90 psychological symptoms before and after the treatment. Episodic-memory functioning under focussed and divided attention conditions was also assessed. Prior and after the AS, seven participants in the treatment group were studied with fMRI during episodic memory processing. After the AS there was a reduction in stress and psychological symptoms for the treatment group but not in the control group. The controls showed a reduction in episodic memory functioning whereas the performance of the treatment group remained intact. The fMRI scanning indicated a qualitative change in the neural network subserving episodic memory. These preliminary results suggest that the AS is effective on individuals with high stress.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal psychological stress, memory, functional imaging

**Referens:** Berglund, B., Axelsson, Ö., & Nilsson, M.E. (2005). The soundscape explicated. *Archives of Acoustics, 30*(4), 125-128.

**Abstract:** Landscapes but not soundscapes are planned. Today's noise control is based on traffic noise prognosis and is confined to average sound level of traffic noise. However, the heterogeneous soundscape embraces many component sounds, background sound inclusive. Prognostic design tools are needed by which "quiet" and pleasing soundscapes can be ensured. In a psychoacoustic experiment, promising properties of soundscapes were retrieved from similarities among evolutionary spectra. These were meaningfully differentiated in accord with features of perceived soundscapes extracted by multi-dimensional scaling: (a) position and slope of loudness functions due to qualitative differences (road-traffic exposed or shielded sides of buildings), (b) clusters of shielded soundscapes relative to two types of sound-exposed soundscapes, and (c) relative contribution of direct sound to background in soundscapes. The dualistic similarity approach conveys useful knowledge for soundscape design and mitigation psychophysics.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal soundscape, similarity, evolutionary spectra

**Referens:** Berglund, B., Lindvall, T., & Nilsson, M.E. (2005). Noise. In The National Board of Health and Welfare (Eds.), *Environmental Health Report 2005. Extended Summary*. Stockholm: The National Board of Health and Welfare, pp. 24-27.

**Abstract:** Community noise is a widespread environmental problem in Sweden and is the form of disturbance that affects the highest number of both children and adults. Twelve-year-olds are disturbed by the same noise sources as adults, but, for children, loud music is the most annoying source, whereas road-traffic noise is most annoying source for adults. One child in every seven is annoyed by noise in or near the home and one in four is annoyed by noise in or near the school/kindergarten. One in every five report that after listening to loud music or other loud sounds. They experience ringing, squeaking, howling or buzzing in their ears, this being slightly more frequent among boys than girls. Just over one in ten report that their hearing is sometimes worse after listening to loud music. Children are exposed to hearing-impairing noise to a larger extent than in the past. Sound levels measured in kindergartens and schools exceed the limit for when ear protectors must be worn according to legislation governing health and safety at work. It is important that children's noise exposures in kindergartens, schools and leisure environments are reduced as well as children's exposure to excessively loud music.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Report noise, children, health

**Referens:** Bergman, L.R., & El-Khoury, B.M. (2005). The application of a person-oriented approach in longitudinal research on individual development. In ISSBD Newsletter, No. 2, Serial No. 48. *Supplement to International Journal of Behavioral Development, 29*, 10-13.

**Abstract:** The article gives an overview of person-oriented methods in longitudinal research on individual development. Theoretical and research strategic fundamentals of the person-oriented approach are reviewed and this approach is contrasted to the ordinary variable-oriented approach. The importance of a balanced representation of core variables of the system under study is emphasized as is their representation in the form of relevant patterns in the methodological realization of the approach. One basic and robust method to carry out a person-oriented study is presented, namely LICUR. In LICUR, longitudinal data with the same variable pattern measured at the different ages are used. First a residue of "unclassifiable" objects is removed (usually 1-3% of the observations), then cross-sectional classifications are performed at each age separately, and, finally, the different classifications are linked across age. In this way, both structural and individual stability and change can be studied. Finally, future perspectives are discussed, focusing on the development of new methods based on a paradigm taken from the study of nonlinear dynamical systems.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal person-oriented, cluster analysis, longitudinal development

**Referens:** Bergman, L.R., & Trost, K. (in press). The person-oriented versus the variable-oriented approach: Are they complementary, opposites, or exploring different worlds? *Merrill Palmer Quarterly*.

**Abstract:** The present article gives a brief theoretical and methodological overview of the person-oriented and the variable-oriented approach, how these they are commonly used in longitudinal research and what one should

take into consideration before using either approach. Special attention is also given to the contrast between the person-oriented and variable-oriented approach in terms of dis/aggregation, model appropriateness and usefulness, and prediction as a goal. Future directions are discussed which include the importance of conceptual clarity, practical and theoretical training, and method development.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal person-oriented, longitudinal research, methodology

**Referens:** Bergman, L.R., von Eye, A., & Magnusson, D. (in press). Person-oriented research strategies in developmental psychopathology. In D. Cicchetti (Ed.), *Handbook of developmental psychopathology*, 2nd ed. New York: Wiley.

**Abstract:** In this chapter, person-oriented research strategies in developmental psychopathology are reviewed. By "person-oriented", we mean research strategies where the focus is on the individual and not on the variable. The information about each individual is regarded, as far as possible, as an indivisible unit, both conceptually and in the empirical analyses. It usually implies that individuals are studied on the basis of their pattern of information in relevant variables at the appropriate level. This approach is in contrast to the standard variable-oriented approach where the variable is the main conceptual and methodological unit. In the person-oriented approach, most commonly the variable alone has no importance. Only in combination with other variables in an information pattern does it achieve meaning. These fundamental conceptual and theoretical issues are discussed in the chapter. Common person-oriented research methods are presented and discussed in the context of studying individual development.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) person-oriented, psychopathology, cluster analysis

**Referens:** Bernhard-Oettel, C., & Isaksson, K. (2005). Work-Related Well-Being and Job Characteristics among Temporary Workers in Sweden. In N. De Cuyper, K. Isaksson & H. De Witte (Eds.), *Employment Contracts and Well-being among European Workers* (pp. 177-200). Aldershot: Ashgate.

**Abstract:** This book chapter reviews research on the effects of temporary employment and the role of psychological contracts. Empirical studies from Sweden and other Scandinavian countries published during 1992-2003 have been considered and their main findings and conclusions are summarised. Research gaps and unanswered questions are identified, resulting in suggestions for future research.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) temporary work, health and well-being, Swedish research

**Referens:** Bernhard-Oettel, C., Sverke, M., & De Witte, H. (2005). Comparing three alternative types of employment with permanent full-time work: How do employment contract and perceived job conditions relate to health complaints? *Work & Stress*, 19(4), 301-318.

**Abstract:** Previous research has found alternative employment arrangements to be associated with both impaired and improved well-being. Since such inconsistencies are likely to derive from the type of employment contract as well as the characteristics of the job, this paper compares permanent full time work to alternative employment forms (permanent part time, fixed-term and on-call work) in order to investigate how different employment contracts and perceptions of job conditions relate to individual well-being. This study contributes to the literature by addressing several open questions. Different forms of alternative employment are distinguished and individual background characteristics that might be intertwined with the employment contract are controlled for. Moreover, the scope of this study extends to the effects of perceived job conditions and possible interactive effects with type of employment are tested. Analyses of questionnaire data from 954 Swedish healthcare workers show that perceptions of the job (job insecurity, job control and demands), but not the type of employment contract, predicted health complaints. However, type of employment contract interacted with perceptions of job insecurity, in that insecurity was associated with impaired well-being among permanent full-time workers, while no relationship was found for on-call or core part-time employees. Despite the absence of interactions between employment contract and job demands or job control, it can be concluded that knowledge about the relationship between alternative employment arrangements and the well-being of workers can be enhanced when the combined effects of employment contract and job conditions are studied.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal alternative employment forms, health complaints, job insecurity, job characteristics

**Referens:** Björkqvist, G. (2005). Lifetime Events, Post Traumatic Stress and Co-morbidity in Relation to Coping, Social Support, Quality of Life and Acculturation among Iraqi Refugees in Sweden. Presented at the 9th ECOTS, Stockholm, 17-20 June, 2005.

**Abstract:** Background: The present study presents findings from the baseline assessment made in the project "New Start - Employment and Social Integration among Traumatized Refugees" in Stockholm. In the project were created innovative measures for vocational rehabilitation, language training, and social integration among traumatised refugees. As well, the project included longitudinal psychological research on aspects of primary and secondary traumatisation and its effects as to integration or social exclusion among the refugees.

Methods: 31 Iraqi refugees were interviewed as to prevalence of traumatic Life Events in childhood and adult age, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (diagnosed by the CIDI-Composite International Diagnostic Interview), Peri-Traumatic Dissociation, Extreme Stress, Somatoform disorder, Anxiety disorder, Depressive Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Coping strategies, Social support, Quality of Life and Acculturation. The baseline assessment was followed by a one year and a 2,5 years follow up.

Results: The results of the baseline assessment will be presented. They show a high prevalence of PTSD (93 %, n=29, met all criteria), depression and other comorbidity in the sample.

Discussion: The high prevalence of PTSD, as well as comorbidity, focuses the need to take trauma reactions into account in language education, vocational rehabilitation and other integration programmes for severely traumatised refugees.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings refugees, traumatic events, PTSD, co-morbidity, integration

**Referens:** Blomqvist, M., Augustsson, M., Bertlin, C., Holmberg, K., Fernell, E., Dahllöf, G., & Ek, U. (2005). How do children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder interact in a clinical dental examination?

**Abstract:** Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is currently the most common behavioural disorder in school-age children. The aim of this study was to perform a detailed analysis of behavioural interactions between the dentist and the child patient with ADHD. All children born in 1991 (n=555) in one Swedish municipality were screened for attention and learning problems and assessed for ADHD: Twenty-two children with ADHD and a control group of 47 children without attention and learning problems were included in the study. The dental recall visit was recorded on video. The interaction between the dentist and the child was analyzed in detail and scored as verbal and nonverbal initiatives and responses. Compared to the children in the control group, the children with ADHD made significantly more initiatives, especially initiatives that did not focus on the examination or the dentist. The children with ADHD had fewer verbal responses and more missing responses. In conclusion, the problems in communication resulted in less two-way communication between the dentist and the children with ADHD than the interaction between the dentist and the children in the control group. The children with ADHD had particular difficulties staying focused on the examination.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal ADHD, children, dentist

**Referens:** Boalt Boëthius, S., Sundin, E., & Ögren, M.-L. (in press). Group Supervision from a Small Group Perspective. *Nordic Psychology*.

**Abstract:** The main purpose of this study was to examine a set of independent group variables (group size, gender composition, and supervisory style) in group supervision, and their interrelation with supervisees' and supervisors' view on group interactions, group climate, and attained skill. The study also examined changes over time in supervisees' and supervisors' ratings. Results from hierarchical regression analysis indicate that the group variables measured in this study are interrelated to perceived psychotherapeutic knowledge and skills attainment, group interaction, and group climate. The participants experienced a positive change over time with regard to attainment of knowledge and skills, group interaction, and group climate. Supervisors were more likely to experience a positive change whereas supervisees, and especially supervisees on the basic level, tended to present more stable ratings over time. These data underline the utility and importance of studying group supervision in psychotherapy from a small group perspective.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal group supervision, size, gender

**Referens:** Botteldooren, D., Berglund, B., & Lecher, P. (2005). *Perceived Noise Annoyance Caused by Maglev Trains*. Final Scientific Report, Gent, Belgium: Department of Information Technology, Ghent University.

**Abstract:** The underlying study aimed at quantifying the impact of sound caused by high speed magnetic levitation transport systems on perceived noise annoyance in a realistic setting. An innovative system was implemented for selecting representative participants from the Dutch population, as regards age, gender, level of education noise sensitivity reported anxiety, pre-exposure to train and road traffic noise, general quality of the living environment, and general health. It was grounded in 1500 participants' responses to a specifically constructed questionnaire, which contained items from a nation-wide Dutch and Eurobarometer surveys. Finally 80 (+21) representative participants were selected. During the experiment, which took place in a realistic setting (living room of holiday cottage), groups of 5-7 participants were asked to be seated, relax, reading a magazine or newspaper and were served refreshments. During their stay, traffic noise was reproduced in an ecologically valid way in outdoor loudspeakers. Every 10 min, the participants were asked to assess traffic noise annoyance. At the beginning and after at least 1 hour of the experiment, participants were also asked to scale the annoyance of a set of 7 reference sounds utilized for master scaling. Based on this study, we found that there is no evidence to expect a significant difference in noise annoyance caused by Maglev and TGV trains at the same average façade exposure. Noise annoyance caused by conventional trains was not found to be significantly lower than annoyance caused by these high-speed trains at the same average façade exposure (tested up to 65 dB(A) only). The latter conclusion is in contradiction with earlier work by Vos et al. A comparison to the work of Neugebauer et al. came out inconclusive: although these authors state there is a distinct difference between the two types of trains investigated, their actual results fall within the spread of annoyance levels due to distance to the track and vehicle speed that we observed. Field surveys have shown that for the same average sound level, railway noise causes less annoyance than dense road traffic noise, at least for certain interval of levels. Although our study included several of the factors that may contribute to this effect, we could not observe it, except when the results were limited to sounds recorded at a distance of over 100 m.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Report train noise, annoyance, master scaling

**Referens:** Botteldooren, D., De Coensel, B., De Muer, T., Berglund, B., Nilsson, M.E., & Lercher, P. (2005). Experimental investigation of noise annoyance caused by high-speed trains. In J.L. Bento & D. Alarcao (Eds.), *ICSV 2005-Twelfth International Congress on Sound and Vibration (Paper 846)*. Lisbon: IIAV/CAPS-IST. (Available on CD)

**Abstract:** The difference in perceived noise annoyance caused by train and highway noise at the same averaged noise level, has led to the introduction of the 'railway bonus'. This bonus has found its way to the noise legislation in many countries, leading to more relaxed restrictions on time averaged noise levels, LAeq. With the introduction of high-speed trains and train-like transportation systems based on magnetic levitation, the question has risen whether the railway bonus can still be applied. The paper reports on an experiment that was conducted to answer this question. The experiment that was performed was different from previous efforts in many ways. Most importantly, the experiment was conducted in a realistic setting, a holiday cottage, and participants were asked to engage in light daily activities such as reading a magazine during the tests. Traffic noise was reproduced in an ecologically valid way, using outdoor loudspeakers. Every ten minutes the participants were asked to judge noise annoyance. At the beginning of the experiment and after about 1.5 hours the participants were also asked to rate a set of 7 master scaling sounds. After this experiment, a more conventional listening test was conducted using 45-s excerpts. The experiment was also unique in the way that 100 participants were selected to be representative for the Dutch population. The selection procedure involved careful screening based on a survey that was administered at the doorstep of 1500 persons' homes.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings Book (chapter) train noise, annoyance, master scaling

**Referens:** Botteldooren, D., De Counsel, B., Dekoninck, L., De Muer, T., Berglund, B., Nilsson, M., & Lercher, P.

(2005). *Perceived Noise Annoyance Caused by Maglev Trains. Management Summary*. Gent, Belgium: Department of Information Technology, Ghent University.

**Abstract:** The annoyance impact in realistic settings of traffic noise was assessed for one, two or four train passages, primarily high-speed trains, or continuous road traffic noise. An innovative system for selecting representative participants from the Dutch population was implemented, as regards a number of critical variables (age, gender, level of education, noise sensitivity, reported anxiety, home exposure to train and road traffic noise, general quality of living environment, and general health). In total, 1500 candidate participants responded to the specifically constructed questionnaire with items from a nation-wide Dutch survey and the Eurobarometer. Participants with typical Dutch response profile were recruited on a first come, first serve basis (in total 80 plus 21 extra persons). In the experiment, 5-7 participants were seated to be relaxed and to be reading a magazine or newspaper. They were served refreshments. Traffic noise was reproduced in outdoor loudspeakers in an ecologically valid way. Every 10 min, participants were asked to assess noise annoyance. At the beginning and at brief intervals during the experiment, participants assessed the annoyance of a set of 7 reference sounds utilized for master scaling. At the same average façade exposure, no significant annoyance difference was neither found for Maglev and TGV, nor for conventional trains and the high-speed trains (only tested up to 65 dBA). The latter result contradicts Vos et al.'s earlier findings. Neugebauer et al.'s results fall within the spread in annoyance values due to distance to the track and vehicle speed that we observed. Field surveys have shown that for the same average sound level, railway noise evokes less annoyance than dense road traffic noise, at least for a certain interval of levels. Although our experiment included several of the factors that may contribute to this effect, we were unable to observe this kind of effect, except for the case when the sounds were recorded at a distance of more than 100 m.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Report train noise, annoyance, master scaling

**Referens:** Botteldooren, D., De Muer, T., De Counsel, B., Berglund, B., & Lercher, P. (2005). An LAeq is not an LAeq. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 117(4), Pt. 2, 2616.

**Abstract:** Classical dose response relationships for environmental noise annoyance have been based on Ldn or Lden. These exposure measures are essentially based on an energy averaging measure, LAeq. Differences between groups of sources (e.g., continuous or event based) are accounted for by using separate dose-effect relationships. In society today, one often sees that event loudness is traded for number of events which is perfectly acceptable within the LAeq based annoyance concept. Clearly a more unified theory for noise annoyance is needed to fully account for the effect of such trade-offs. In this paper a model implementing such a theory is presented. The perceptual model starts from the premises that a sound event has to be noticed for it to contribute to overall annoyance. The model accounts for the fact that noticing a noise event not only depends on the level of the event itself but also on background noise, sound insulation and acoustic characteristics of the dwelling, level of attention, etc. The severity of the effect of a noticed sound on overall annoyance is assumed to primarily depend on the signal to noise ratio. The model allows to account for modifiers such as previous exposure, noise sensitivity, and coping. The model results are compared to the findings of a recent field experiment. Conclusions based on calculated and experimental trends are presented.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal notice events, annoyance, sound level

**Referens:** Montgomery, H., Lipshitz, R., & Brehmer, B. (Eds.). (2005). *How professionals make decisions*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

**Abstract:** According to Zsombok (1993), naturalistic decision making is "the way people use their experience to make decisions in field settings." The objective of this volume is to present recent advances in naturalistic decision-making research and methodology. Its title is intended to capture a central characteristic of naturalistic decision-making, namely, the importance of studying people who have some degree of expertise in the domain in which they make decisions. The book is divided into three broad sections: Individual Decision Making, Decision Making in Social Contexts and Methodology. The substantive concerns pertain to how individual and groups make decisions in professional and organizational settings, and to developing suitable methods for studying these questions rigorously.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) naturalistic decision making, expertise

**Referens:** Bunce, D., Kivipelto, M., & Wahlin, Å. (2005). Apolipoprotein E, B vitamins, and cognitive function in older adults. *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*, 60B, 41-48.

**Abstract:** Recognition of dated and contemporary famous faces, short-term memory, and visuospatial abilities were investigated in adults aged 75 years and older as a function of apolipoprotein E (APOE) genotype,  $\epsilon 4$  or not  $\epsilon 4$ , and whether participants recorded normal or low levels of B vitamins. No associations between B vitamins and APOE were identified in respect to short-term memory or visuospatial skills, or for contemporary famous faces. However, in respect to the recognition of dated famous faces, deficits in persons carrying the  $\epsilon 4$  allele who also recorded low vitamin B12 values were found. The results suggest that the neurological structures and processes supporting face recognition may be vulnerable to the combined influence of the APOE  $\epsilon 4$  allele and low levels of vitamin B12. This finding was unrelated to incipient dementia up to 6 years following testing. The results are discussed with reference to the neuroanatomical reserves that epsilon4 carriers may possess.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal aging, ApoE, cognition

**Referens:** Busch, H. (2005). Appraisal and coping processes among chronic low back pain patients. *Scandinavian Journal of Caring Sciences*, 19, 396-402.

**Abstract:** Objectives: Appraisals and coping play important roles in musculoskeletal disorders, but how these aspects develop over time remains unknown. The aim of the current study was to examine the development of pain-related appraisals, coping and well behaviours among chronic low back pain patients.

Methods: 22 outpatients (15 women, 7 men) of working age were interviewed about past and present experiences of chronic low back pain. The interviews were analysed using Grounded theory.

Results: The majority of the participants used disregarding processes in response to chronic low back pain. The disregarding process developed from a psychological defence into a conscious coping strategy, the transition mediated by a crisis. This defence seemed to protect the participants' self-concept and reduce emotional discomfort, although it did not promote rehabilitation. The disregarding strategy was usually employed in later

phases of the disorder and was consistent with active attempts at changing pain-related behaviours.

Study limitation: Most of the participants had experienced chronic low back pain for several years, thus the risk of memory bias cannot be ruled out. Furthermore, the sample was composed of relatively healthy subjects, thus the findings may not apply to chronic low back patients in general.

Conclusion: Acceptance of chronic low back pain favoured rehabilitation and helped participants change pain-related behaviours.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal pain, appraisal, coping

**Referens:** Canivet, C.A., Östergren, P.-O., Rosén, A.-S., Jakobsson, I.L., & Hagander, B.M. (2005). Infantile colic and the role of trait anxiety during pregnancy in relation to psychosocial and socioeconomic factors. *Scandinavian Journal of Public Health, 33*, 26–34.

**Abstract:** A study was undertaken to assess the impact of psychological, psychosocial and socioeconomic factors on the risk of having a child with infantile colic. Psychosocial and psychological factors were assessed by self-administered questionnaires in the 17th, and by telephone interviews in the 35th–37th pregnancy weeks; infantile colic occurrence was assessed by telephone interviews at infant age 5 weeks; subjects were 1,099 mother–infant dyads. High trait anxiety increased the colic risk; OR 2.04 (95% CI: 1.16, 3.59), and so did affirming a perceived risk of spoiling young infants with too much physical contact; OR 1.77 (1.07, 2.91). In the final step of a multivariate model, not cohabiting with the child's father was the factor with the strongest association with colic; OR 3.48 (1.38, 8.77). Analyses of effect modification showed that high education seemed to protect from the influence of high trait anxiety. Young women were particularly high in trait anxiety, and being exposed to both these risk factors seemed to act synergistically on the risk of having a colicky infant; OR 2.41 (1.12, 5.18). Psychological and psychosocial factors were found to be significantly related to an increased risk for infantile colic, and these factors interacted with age, parity, social support, and educational level in a complex manner. Even though no single most important psychosocial risk factor was identified, the findings lend support to the strategy of offering special attention in terms of information and support in the maternal healthcare system to very young women, women who do not cohabit with the father, and women with high trait anxiety.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal trait anxiety, infantile colic, pregnancy

**Referens:** Christianson, S.Å. (Ed.). (in press). *Offenders' memories of violent crimes*. Wiley & Sons.

**Abstract:** The book presents a blend of up-to-date review of the existing literature in this field, unpublished findings, and theory on topics related to the offenders' memories of violent crimes. The volume explores offenders' memories, with particular emphasis on theory and empirical research on such topics as memorial patterns in perpetrators; instrumental and reactive offenders; traumatized offenders, cultural differences, gender differences, crime-related amnesia, detecting lies and deceit, confabulation and false confessions, interviewing techniques, expert witnesses and lay peoples opinions. Specific questions discussed include the following: What is the nature of eyewitness memory in offenders? Have offenders' memories special characteristics that differ from those of victims and bystander witnesses? What factors can explain different memorial patterns in perpetrators' memories for violence? Are acts of instrumental violence remembered differently than acts of reactive violence? Do offenders with heightened levels of antisocial psychopathology remember differently than other offenders do? How does lowered levels of intelligence affect offenders' memory? Do social factors, gender, age and cultural traditions influence the manner in which offenders recall their offences? Which factors play the most crucial role in malingered amnesia? What has experimental memory research to offer to further our understanding of crime-related amnesia? What are the beliefs among lay people and mental health professionals regarding offenders' memories and crime-related amnesia? Which factors will enhance the possibilities for suspects to provide investigative information? What interviewing techniques are effective to accurately identifying suspects as truthful or untruthful? How can the interviewer recognize confabulation and false confessions in suspects? Research on these issues has been extensive, but has never been brought together in a comprehensive volume for students and working professionals. This volume also discusses methodological difficulties and ethical dilemmas that are associated with different paradigms and procedures currently used to study offenders' remembering and telling about violent crimes. Furthermore, the book presents broader theoretical perspectives to guide further research on offenders' memories and testimonies. This is the first volume of its sort, devoted to summarize findings from laboratory simulations, field studies, case studies, and clinical studies.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) violent crime, memory, offenders

**Referens:** Christianson, S.Å. (in press). Searching for offenders' memories of violent crimes. In S.Å. Christianson (Ed.). *Offenders' memories of violent crimes*. Wiley & Sons.

**Abstract:** The point of departure in this chapter is a case story, which shows the importance of, and need for, an understanding of offenders' memories in violent crimes. In the mid-sixties, Margaret MacDonald, a 33-year-old citizen of Toronto, stabbed her abusive common-law husband to death. Margaret claimed to be amnesic for the crime. She claimed to have no memory whatsoever of the act of killing, but remembered events immediately before and after the killing (Gould & MacDonald, 1988; Porter, Birt, Yuille, & Herve, 2001). The case attracted immense media attention and it was revealed that Margaret had been abandoned and abused as a child, experienced being a sex-slave, prostitute, alcoholic and drug addict, and exposed to violence throughout her life. Due to her history of longstanding abuse, Margaret herself and the women's movement in Canada regarded her as a victim rather than a perpetrator. Eventually, she was acquitted of murder and received a probation sentence. Less than a year later, she killed her second husband and was sentenced to life imprisonment. The case of Margaret MacDonald tap many of the theoretical and applied issues covered in this chapter, such as understanding the relationship between emotion/trauma and memory, post-traumatic stress disorder, crime-related amnesia, offender characteristics, forensic interviewing, detection of deception, development of criminal behaviour, recidivism, and treatment prognosis.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) violent offenders, crime-related memory, trauma

**Referens:** Christianson, S.Å., & Engelberg, E. (in press). Remembering emotional events: The relevance of memory for associated emotions. In N. Ohta & B. Utzl (Eds.), *Memory and Emotion: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*. Blackwell Publishing.

**Abstract:** The chapter presents a brief review of basic principles uncovered in studies of the relations between emotion and memory. Understanding these principles is crucial when eliciting and evaluating the recall of witnesses to and victims and perpetrators of violent crime.. Research shows that traumatic experiences tend to persist in memory, both with respect to the emotional event itself and with respect to the central, critical detail information of the emotion-eliciting event. Such consistent findings make it possible to capitalize on the interconnection that seems to exist between memory for the event as such and associated emotions. We discuss the issue of memory of associated emotions in order to highlight their potential as cues in retrieving information from episodic memory.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) memory, emotion, eyewitnesses

**Referens:** [Christianson, S.-Å.](#), Merckelbach, H., & Koppelman, M. (in press). Vrieme-related amnesia. In A. Heaton-Armstrong, E. Shephard, G. Gudjonson & D. Wolchover (Eds.). *Witness testimony: Psychological, investigative, and evidential perspectives*. Oxford University Press.

**Abstract:** It is not uncommon that defendants claim amnesia for the crime of which they are accused, particularly in cases of homicide where 25-45% of offenders claim amnesia. In this chapter, we present arguments against and for the existence of such amnesias. Against the authenticity of amnesia, empirical data from interviews with homicide offenders indicate that they often have a strong motivation for feigning amnesia, and that their memory loss may possess typical features of malingered amnesia. Simulated or imagined amnesia may be at least as common as dissociative amnesia. However, unstructured clinical interviews are not a reliable way of differentiating between these types of amnesias. On the other hand, it can be pointed out that many offenders claiming amnesia report their own offence, or fail to take measures to avoid capture. There are consistencies across their reports which are striking, and their descriptions do indeed bear some resemblances to other patients' accounts of psychological forms of amnesia in clinical circumstances. Furthermore, victims sometimes report similar amnesias, and memory errors are common in eyewitnesses; nobody disputes the motives of these parties. Also, amnesia itself only rarely has legal implications, and may be damaging to the conduct of a person's defence; it will certainly be challenged vigorously by the prosecution. Another point is that alcoholic blackouts are common in heavy drinking populations, and there is a high rate of offending and violent crime in such groups; it is not surprising that some individuals who have consumed large quantities of alcohol report amnesia for their offence. Finally, even the sceptic will not usually query the presence of amnesia in certain neurological conditions, such as epilepsy, hypoglycaemia, and somnambulism, although these can be at least as difficult to assess as the psychological forms of memory loss.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) crime, amnesia, offenders

**Referens:** [Daukantaite, D.](#), & [Bergman, L.R.](#) (2005). Childhood roots of women's subjective well-being. The role of optimism. *European Psychologist*, 10, 287-297.

**Abstract:** The focus of the study is on the importance of early optimism for adult subjective well-being (SWB). Only females were studied. Data from age 13 and age 43 were taken from the Swedish longitudinal research program Individual Development and Adaptation (IDA, Magnusson, 1988). We investigated the longitudinal relationship between early optimism and optimism at age 43, its mediation via positive and negative affect measured at age 43, and finally the "effect" on global life satisfaction at age 43. For this purpose, structural equation methodology was used and the fit indices were compared among three extended cognitive-affective models, based on Chang's work (Chang, 2002). The best fitting model suggests that early optimism influences optimism at middle age, which in its turn has both a direct influence on global life satisfaction and an indirect influence via the negative affect dimension. In further analyses we studied the importance of early optimism for adult SWB in relation to the importance of a number of other factors measured in adolescence. Optimism at age 13 was the only factor that was consistently related to women's SWB at age 43.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal optimism, subjective well-being, longitudinal

**Referens:** [Daukantaite, D.](#), [Zukauskiene, R.](#), & [Bergman, L.R.](#) (in press). The role of sociodemographic factors to Swedish and Lithuanian employed women's subjective well-being: Within and between-nation comparisons. *International Journal of Social Welfare*.

**Abstract:** National differences in subjective well-being (SWB) and relationships between SWB and socio-demographic factors were investigated in samples of middle-aged employed Swedish (N=316) and Lithuanian (N=308) women. The results showed that the Swedish women scored significantly higher on each SWB component than their counterparts in Lithuania, except in extrinsic job satisfaction. For the Swedish sample, the largest mean differences between different socio-demographic groups were found for global life satisfaction between married/co-habiting and single women and between women who had at least one child and those without children. For the Lithuanian sample, the largest differences in all SWB components were found between women characterized by high or low education/income.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal subjective well-being, cross-national, employment

**Referens:** De Coensel, B., Botteldooren, D., De Muer, T., Lercher, P., [Berglund, B.](#), & [Nilsson, M.E.](#) (2005). Observation on the influence of non-acoustical factors on perceived noise annoyance in a field experiment. In *Inter Noise 2005* (Paper 2028). Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: Brazilian Acoustical Society (SOBRAC). (Available on CD).

**Abstract:** The influence of non-acoustical factors on noise annoyance was studied in a unique field experiment. An innovative system was implemented for selecting representative participants from the Dutch population, as regards age, gender, level of education, noise sensitivity, reported anxiety, pre-exposure to train and road traffic noise, general quality of the living environment, and general health. It was grounded in 1500 participants' responses to a specifically constructed questionnaire, which contained items from a nation-wide Dutch and Eurobarometer surveys. Finally, 100 representative participants were selected. During the experiment, which took place in a realistic setting (living room of holiday cottage), groups of 5-7 participants were asked to be seated, relax, reading a magazine or newspaper and were served refreshments. During their stay, traffic noise was reproduced in an ecologically valid way via outdoor loudspeakers. Every ten minutes, the participants were asked to assess traffic noise annoyance. At the beginning and after at least 1 hour of the experiment, participants were also asked to scale the annoyance of a set of 7 reference sounds utilized for master scaling. In this field experiment, residual effect on noise annoyance was found from non-acoustical factors like noise sensitivity, environmental worry, and health status. Even after master scaling, it seems that

inter-individual variation in traffic-noise annoyance remains which is dependent on certain important non-acoustical factors.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings annoyance, person-factors, noise sensitivity

**Referens:** [de Frias, C.M., Annerbrink, K., Westberg, L., Eriksson, E., Adolfsson, R., & Nilsson, L.-G. \(2005\).](#) Catechol O- Methyltransferase Val158Met Polymorphism is associated with cognitive performance in nondemented adults. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience, 17*, 1018-1025.

**Abstract:** The catechol O-methyltransferase (COMT) gene is essential in the metabolic degradation of dopamine in the prefrontal cortex. In the present study we examined the effect of a Val158Met polymorphism in the COMT gene on individual differences and changes in cognition (executive functions and visuospatial ability) in adulthood and old age. The participants were 292 nondemented men (initially aged 35-85 years) from a random sample of the population (i.e., the Betula study) tested at two occasions with a 5-year interval. Confirmatory factor analyses were used to test the underlying structure of three indicators of executive functions (verbal fluency, working memory, and Tower of Hanoi). Associations between COMT, age, executive functioning and visuospatial (block design) tasks were examined using repeated measures analyses of variance. Carriers of the Val allele (with higher enzyme activity) compared to carriers of the Met/Met genotype (with low enzyme activity) performed worse on executive functioning and visuospatial tasks. Individuals with the Val/Val genotype declined in executive functioning over the 5-year period, whereas carriers of the Met allele remained stable in performance. An age x COMT interaction for visuospatial ability located the effect for middle-aged men only. This COMT polymorphism is a plausible candidate gene for executive functioning and fluid intelligence in nondemented middle-aged and older adults.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal aging, genetics, executive functions

**Referens:** [de Frias, C.M., Nilsson, L.-G., & Herlitz, A. \(in press\).](#) Sex differences in cognition are stable over a 10-year period in adulthood and old age. *Aging, Neuropsychology and Cognition*.

**Abstract:** Sex differences in declarative memory and visuospatial ability are robust in cross-sectional studies. The present longitudinal study examined whether sex differences in cognition were present over a 10-year period, and whether age modified the magnitude of sex differences. Tests assessing episodic and semantic memory, and visuospatial ability were administered to 625 nondemented adults (initially aged 35-80 years), participating in the population based Betula study at two follow-up occasions. There was stability of sex differences across five age groups and over a 10-year period. Women performed at a higher level than men on episodic recall, face and verbal recognition, and semantic fluency, whereas men performed better than women on a task assessing visuospatial ability. Sex differences in cognitive functions are stable over a 10-year period and from 35 to 90 years of age. Decreasing levels of estrogen in women and sex differences in age-related cortical atrophy do not seem to influence cognitive sex differences.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal sex differences, memory, aging

**Referens:** De Muer T., Botteldooren, D., De Coensel, B., [Berghlund, B., Nilsson, M.E., & Lercher, P. \(2005\).](#) A model for noise annoyance based on notice-events. In *Inter Noise 2005* (Paper 2033). Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: Brazilian Acoustical Society (SOBRAC). (Available on CD)

**Abstract:** Exposure effect relationships for environmental noise annoyance have been based on Ldn or Lden, two measures based on energy averaging LAeq. For event based sources, typically, event sound level is traded for number of events in modeling the impact of noise on annoyance. Clearly, a more united theory for noise annoyance is needed to account fully for the effect of such trade-offs. The model presented in this paper is grounded in the hypothesis that noise annoyance is primarily determined by noticed intruding sounds. The model starts by careful prediction of the occurrence of 'notice-events'. It takes into account signal to noise ratio of the target sound with respect to the ambient (natural) background level, the indoor background level, the activity the listener is engaged in, etc. Noticed events are appraised via an emotional and a cognitive path. As a test case, our model is applied to annoyance and acoustic data from a field experiment in a natural setting in which participants were engaged in other activities than focused listening to sounds. Target sounds were train noise with varying event intensity and number of events, and free flow road traffic noise from highways and roads. The outdoor background levels were 39-49 dBA.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings train noise, road traffic noise, annoyance

**Referens:** De Witte, H., Goslinga, S., Chirumbolo, A., [Hellgren, J., Näswall, K., & Sverke, M. \(2005\).](#) Baanonzekerheid als schending van het psychologisch contract bij vakbondsleden: Gevolgen voor vakbondsattitudes en opzegintentie in België en Nederland. [Job insecurity as a violation of the psychological contract among trade union members: Consequences for attitudes towards unions and the intention to resign membership in Belgium and the Netherlands.] *Gedrag & Organisatie, 18*, 1-20.

**Abstract:** In this article the consequences of job insecurity among union members are explored. Having established that most members have instrumental motives for joining a union, and using psychological contract theory, we hypothesize that job insecurity among union members correlates with a lower level of perceived union support, lower satisfaction with the union, reduced (affective) commitment towards the union, and a higher intention to resign union membership. These hypotheses were tested in Belgium and the Netherlands. Evidence was found to support the assumed association between job insecurity and a reduction in perceived union support. In Belgium, job insecurity was also associated with reduced union satisfaction and intention to resign membership. In neither country job insecurity was associated with union commitment. These results partly support the hypothesis that union members experience job insecurity as a violation of the psychological contract with the union.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal job insecurity, psychological contract, union

**Referens:** [Dimdins, G., & Montgomery, H. \(2005\).](#) Attitudes to freedom and equality among Swedish and American students. In F. Tersman (Ed.), *Democracy unbound - Basic explorations* (pp. 29-43). Stockholm: Stockholm Studies in Democratic Theory, 1.

- Abstract:** The study compared Swedish and American attitudes towards freedom and equality and examined the perceived trade-off between both concepts in the two groups. First-year students from Stockholm University and Stanford University took part in the study. The participants ranked ordered a number of values—among them equality of opportunity, freedom of lifestyle, economic freedom, and freedom of speech—and indicated to what extent they were prepared to increase freedom in their society at the expense of reducing equality, and vice versa. The participants also indicated their preferences for different options in public policy decision scenarios. There were no significant differences in terms of value preferences between both samples. But there was a difference in terms of readiness to compromise freedom for equality or equality for freedom. Participants with very strong preferences for either freedom or equality in the Swedish sample were more likely for compromise between both values than participants with strong preferences in the US sample. Participants with moderate preferences for freedom or equality in either sample were unlikely to give up freedom for equality or vice versa. The results are discussed in the context of previous cross-cultural studies comparing political value preferences in both countries.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) equality, freedom, attitudes
- Referens:** Dimdins, G., [Montgomery, H.](#), & Austers, I. (2005). Differentiating explanations of attitude-consistent behavior: The role of perspectives and mode of perspective taking. *Scandinavian Journal of Psychology*, 46(2), 97-106.
- Abstract:** We examined whether participants could differentiate between explanations of attitude-consistent behavior related to EU-membership given from two perspectives (EU supporter and EU opponent) by means of three perspective taking modes (the explainer's own perspective, imagined ingroup members' perspective, and imagined outgroup members' perspective). Participants were presented with explanations provided from different perspectives and perspective taking modes, and they were asked to judge the extent to which they agreed with each explanation, to guess the attitude of the provider of each explanation, and to rate the quality of each explanation in various respects. Participants could not differentiate between explanations given by in-group members and out-group members who imagined the same perspective. They responded more favorably to explanations given from own perspective than the imagined perspectives. The results suggests that there exists a shared understanding about how both sides should explain attitude-consistent behavior, but this understanding is measurably different from the actual explanations.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal intergroup perception, opinion, shared reality
- Referens:** [Dåderman, A.M.](#), [Hellström, Å.](#), Wennberg, P., & [Törestad, B.](#) (2005). Using the Karolinska Scales of Personality on male juvenile delinquents: relationships between scales and factor structure. *Nordic Journal of Psychiatry*, 59, 448-456.
- Abstract:** The aim of the present study was to investigate relationships between scales from the Karolinska Scales of Personality (KSP) and the factor structure of the KSP in a sample of male juvenile delinquents. The KSP was administered to a group of male juvenile delinquents (n=55, mean age 17 years; standard deviation=1.2) from four Swedish national correctional institutions for serious offenders. As expected, the KSP showed appropriate correlations between the scales. Factor analysis (maximum likelihood) arrived at a four-factor solution in this sample, which is in line with previous research performed in a non-clinical sample of Swedish males. More research is needed in a somewhat larger sample of juvenile delinquents in order to confirm the present results regarding the factor solution.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal juvenile delinquents, factor structure, KSP
- Referens:** [Dåderman, A.M.](#), [Selenius, H.](#), [Wirsén Meurling, A.](#), & [Levander, S.](#) (in press). Male offenders with dyslexia undergoing forensic psychiatric investigation are characterised by an impulsive strategy measured by APT. *Journal of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology*.
- Abstract:** The general aim of the study was to examine whether male offenders with dyslexia, undergoing forensic psychiatric investigation are characterised by an impulsive strategy with the objective to examine if such strategy may have influenced the character (impulsive vs. planned) of their recent crimes. The focus was on the participants' theoretically relevant (Kagan, 1966) impulsive-reflective strategies measured by the Automated Psychological Test (APT) system. Another aim was to replicate previous research performed in the dyslexic population regarding relevant tests included in the APT. An additional aim was to validate dyslexia diagnoses in the participants using APT. Participants (age 16-35) were 9 males with and 13 males without dyslexia (DSM-IV). As expected, dyslexics displayed impulsive strategies; thus they preferred action before goal-orientation. Their recent crimes were, however, not rated as more impulsive than those of the nondyslexics. Using relevant tests from the APT we have also validated dyslexia diagnoses. The findings and potential implications for further studies are discussed.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal impulsiveness, APT, dyslexia
- Referens:** [Eisler, A.D.](#), [Eisler, H.](#), & [Yoshida, M.](#) (in press). How does culture affect environmental commitments and sensibilities? *Abstract book of the 18th International Congress of Cross-Cultural Psychology*. Isle of Spetses, Greece.
- Abstract:** Human ecology, focusing on human beings as biological organisms and social beings in interaction with nature and their environment, was studied. We used cross-cultural comparisons of highly developed and wealthy cultures such as Germany, Japan, Sweden, and the USA. The results indicate that the German, Swedish and the USA subjects are more similar in their perception of nature and environmental attitudes and behavior and differ from the Japanese group. Contrary to predictions, the greatest similarity was found between the Swedish and the United States groups. In addition, the Swedish subjects had the most romantic attitude toward nature. The results also demonstrate cultural variations in environmental views and values, but generally suggest that the preservation of the natural environment has intrinsic value for human life. Across cultures, the result indicate that the natural environment and the beauty of landscape, being a source of sensorial pleasure for humans. The findings are discussed in terms of the theoretical implication that the human behavior patterns concerning human ecology result from the impact and actions of a particular culture at a particular period of time.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings attitudes, behavior, environment

**Referens:** Eisler, A.D., Eisler, H., & Yoshida, M. (in press). The cognitive representation of global risks: Empirical studies. In S. Dannenmann (Ed.), *Coping with risks due to natural hazards in the 21st century - RISK 21*. Rotterdam, NL: Balkema Publishers.

**Abstract:** The present study, which is part of a comprehensive project, examines both cultural diversity and cultural similarity of perceived global risks between German, Japanese, Swedish and American subjects (n = 1,317), with the focus on human ecology. Similarities as well as differences between the four cultures were found. Unexpectedly, the German and Swedish subjects were most concerned about hunger and poverty. Another notable similarity is that overpopulation was viewed as a high-risk by both the Swedish and the American groups. Gender differences were also obtained. The findings contribute to our understanding of how people in different cultures and of different gender presently perceive global risks. The current research provides substantial evidence that perception of risks represents a cultural value, belief, ecological worldview and a level of knowledge that may have developed over long periods of the particular cultural group's experience of both the physical and the social environment. However, over the course of human history the dangers faced have changed in many respects.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) culture, human ecology, perception

**Referens:** Ek, U., Fernell, E., & Jacobson, L. (2005). Cognitive and behavioural characteristics in blind children with bilateral optic nerve hypoplasia. *Acta Paediatrica*, 94(10), 1421-6.

**Abstract:** Aim: To describe cognitive and behavioural characteristics in a group of blind children with bilateral optic nerve hypoplasia (ONH).

Methods: Data from records, parents, teachers, and repeated developmental assessments of 13 blind children with ONH born in 1988-1998 were analysed. All children had neuroimaging and/or hormonal evidence of midline malformations. They were all blind and able to communicate with speech.

Results: Severe mood swings and temper tantrums were common, especially during the first years of life. Later in life, sluggish tempo, low frustration tolerance and a narrow range of interests were common. Autism had been diagnosed in 6/13 children, autistic-like condition (ALC) was found in another three. The behaviour of the remaining four children was not within the autism spectrum. Eight children had cognitive capacities within the normal or near-normal range; five had mental retardation. Autism/ALC was found in all cognitive subgroups. All children exhibited fluent speech and, of these, 12 had started to talk at the expected age, but had clear deficiencies in communicative ability.

Conclusion: These children had a common pattern of behavioural characteristics including autism spectrum disorders independent of intellectual capacities.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal cognitive, blind, ONH

**Referens:** Eklund, J., Alm, P.O., & af Klinteberg, B. (2005). Monoamine oxidase (MAO) activity and triiodothyronine (T3) level in violent offenders with early behavioural problems. *Neuropsychobiology*, 52(3), 122-129.

**Abstract:** The focus is on evaluating the relationships between early behavioural problems and biochemical variables at adult age and their significance for early criminality and violent behaviour in a life perspective. In the present study, using prospective longitudinal data, a sample of males with a history of early criminal behaviour and male controls (n = 103) were investigated concerning (1) teacher-rated behaviours at age 11-14 years; (2) platelet monoamine oxidase (MAO) activity and tri-iodothyronine (T3) level at adult age; (3) registered early criminality (11-14 years); (4) records of violent offending up to age 35 years, and (5) interview data on smoking. The main finding was that a combined risk level pattern of low MAO activity and high T3 level was found significantly more frequently than expected in violent offenders with an early behavioural risk pattern. Furthermore, there was a significant interaction effect between early attention difficulties and smoking on MAO activity, as well as an effect by smoking on MAO activity. The findings are discussed in terms of the possible influence of biological vulnerability to certain behaviours, which in combination with possible childhood stress, enhance the risk for antisocial behaviours and subsequent violence.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal monoamine oxidase, tri-iodothyronine, criminality, violence, attention difficulties, aggressive behaviour, longitudinal study

**Referens:** Eklund, J.M., & af Klinteberg, B. (2005). Stability and change of criminal behaviour patterns: a prospective study of young lawbreakers and controls. *The 5th Annual Conference of the International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services (IAFMHS)*, Melbourne, Australia, April 18-21, 2005.

**Abstract:** Background: Research has supported different trajectories in the development of antisocial behaviour (e.g. Moffitt, 1993). The life-course persistent trajectory is characterised by an early onset of antisocial behaviour, as well as behavioural problems like hyperactivity and aggression. The adolescence-limited trajectory is more frequently occurring and associated with antisocial behaviour during adolescence. There is also some support for a common antisocial trajectory which comprises adolescents with minor but recurrent antisocial acts. Finally, an adult-onset trajectory has been demonstrated in some studies.

Aims: The aim of the present study is to identify subgroups of criminal and non-criminal boys at three age periods: early teenage period (before 15 years); late teenage period (16-19 years) and early adult period (20-24 years). Further, the purpose is to study the development of criminal behaviour over time and to investigate whether males that follow different pathways differ concerning individual, family and peer related factors, focusing especially on indications of early behavioural problems, family climate and peer contact.

Methods: The sample comprised a group of young male lawbreakers (n=192) and controls (n=95) that participated in a prospective longitudinal study and were followed from age 11-14 years to adult age. Cluster analysis was used in order to identify subgroups of males with criminal and non-criminal behaviour. The cluster analyses were based on three variables: the total number of crimes committed during the period; number of different types of crimes committed; and the degree of seriousness of the crimes.

Results: According to some preliminary results, three subgroups of males could be identified for each of the three age periods. At the early teenage years the subgroups could be described as follows: a group of non-criminal boys, a group of boys with occasional crimes of medium degree of seriousness, and a group of boys

with repeated criminality of higher seriousness. At the two following time periods, non-criminal, criminal and violent criminal groups were identified. Looking at the development over time, there was a higher than expected stability of non-criminal behaviour. Almost all of the boys who were not criminal during the early teenage years remained non-criminal until the age of 24. When following the group with occasional early crimes, the progression did not differ from what could be expected. The majority of these subjects had a positive development while some continued on a criminal pathway. Within the group with repeated early criminality fewer boys than expected had a positive development and more boys than expected were criminal at the latter time periods. A closer description of the subgroups, as well as results of comparisons between the subjects following pathways characterised by stable, positive or negative development over time will be presented.

Conclusions: The results will be discussed in the light of previous research findings with focus on possible risk and protective factors during the development of criminal behaviour.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings criminality, development, risk factors

**Referens:** Eklund, J.M., & af Klinteberg, B. (2005). Personality characteristics as risk indications of alcohol use and violent behaviour in male and female adolescents. *Journal of Individual Differences*, 26(2), 63-73.

**Abstract:** The present study focused on personality characteristics in adolescent boys ( $n = 414$ ) and girls ( $n = 552$ ) in 8th grade with self-reported violent behavior and risky alcohol use. Adolescents with indications of violent behavior and/or risky alcohol use, compared to others, were generally more impulsive, had a stronger need for change and action, were less adjusted and socially conforming, as well as more aggressive. The findings pointed toward a clustering of problem behaviors. Furthermore, adolescents with a combination of violent behavior and alcohol use had more pronounced personality scores than subjects who reported only one of these behaviors. The main finding was that among girls these behaviors appeared to be associated with more deviant levels of the personality characteristics in focus.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal personality, alcohol use, violence, adolescence

**Referens:** Eklund, J.M., & af Klinteberg, B. (in press). Stability of and change in criminal behavior: A prospective study of young male lawbreakers and controls. *International Journal of Forensic Mental Health*.

**Abstract:** With Moffitt's developmental typology of antisocial behaviour as a starting point, the general aim of the study was to investigate the stability of and change in criminal behaviour from early adolescence to early adult age. The purpose was also to explore the role of individual, family, peer and school related risk factors in the development of criminal behaviour. The study was based on data from the prospective longitudinal research project 'Young Lawbreakers as Adults', in which a group of adolescent male lawbreakers and controls were followed from the 1960s into the 1990s. The results were in favour of a distinction between adolescence-limited and persistent criminality, and supported the suggestion of a common set of risk factors dimensionally related to offending, rather than trajectory-specific risk factors. The findings indicated that, in addition to these common risk factors, early attention deficits and manifestations of aggression might be of specific importance to persistent criminality.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal criminal development, risk factors, longitudinal study

**Referens:** Falkenberg, H., Näswall, K., & Sverke, M. (2005). To cope with work related stress: The role of problem-focused and emotion-focused strategies. Poster presented at the *XIIth European Congress of Work and Organizational Psychology*, Istanbul, 12-15 May 2005.

**Abstract:** Increased market competition has resulted in high demands for adaptability and flexibility in organizations and the work situation for many employees has become unpredictable and insecure. Numerous studies indicate that the changing nature of work is associated with experiences of stress among the employees. Whereas stress has been shown to affect health and work related attitudes negatively, the strength of such effects is likely to depend on the appraisal of the situation as well as on which coping strategies the individual uses. Some studies indicate that problem-focused strategies may be the most effective to cope with stressful situations, while other studies have shown emotion-focused strategies to be more effective. The aim of this study is to further investigate the role of problem-focused and emotion-focused coping strategies in reducing negative health and attitudinal effects of work related stressors, such as uncertainty about one's role in the organization. Personality is assumed to influence this process and individual characteristics are included as control variables in addition to demographic variables. Questionnaire data were collected during the fall of 2004 among salaried employees in Sweden. Preliminary results show that the different types of coping strategies had some moderating effect on the relation between work related stressors and attitudinal and health outcomes, after controlling for demographics as well as personality characteristics. These results contribute to an increased understanding of which role coping strategies have in reducing stress during uncertain working conditions and are useful for occupational health practitioners as well as the managers interested in alleviating work related stress experiences.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings coping, work-related attitudes, health

**Referens:** Falkenberg, H., Näswall, K., & Sverke, M. (2005). Health care professionals' work climate during a decade of change in an acute care hospital. Paper presented at the *XIIth European Congress of Work and Organizational Psychology*, Istanbul, 12-15 May 2005.

**Abstract:** The health care sector has in many countries been subject to extensive budget cuts resulting in major organizational changes to reduce costs and increase efficiency. These changes, which include downsizing and an increasing influence of market forces, may affect employees' perceptions of the work climate. It is likely that different kinds of change could affect employees' work climate in divergent ways and that different health care professions could be affected differently. The aim of this study is to investigate how the work climate changed for different occupational groups (physicians, registered nurses, and assistant nurses) in a Swedish acute care hospital going through numerous changes. These changes include transformation from a public administration unit into a non-profit public stock company in 1994 and into a private for-profit stock company in 1999, as well as downsizing during the period 1996-1998. Questionnaire data, collected 1994, 1996, 1998, and 2002, indicate that the variations in work climate between different kinds of change were quite small, but

that different health care professions to some extent were affected differently by the various changes. The results contribute to an increased understanding of how structural change may affect work climate, which in turn, may have important implications for organizational effectiveness and service quality.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings work climate, organizational change, health care professions

**Referens:** [Fatouros, H.](#), [Preisler, G.](#), & Werbart, A. (in press). Communicating with patients with schizophrenia: Characteristics of well functioning and poorly functioning communication. *Qualitative Research in Psychology*.

**Abstract:** Twenty-seven video-recorded interviews with nine patients diagnosed with schizophrenia, were analyzed using qualitative methodology. Sequences of well-and of poorly functioning communication were distinguished and characteristic verbal and nonverbal means of communication were described. In well-functioning communication, the interviewer asked short open questions, explored the emotional content in the narrative and invited social interaction by nonverbal means resulting in a dialogue. The patient took active part and the narrative became extensive and elaborated. In poorly functioning communication the conversations were often fragmented, incoherent and confusing with long pauses. The participants avoided eye-contact and the nonverbal communication displayed indicated discomfort and tension. The interviewer's part in the patient's narrative was found to be important.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal communication, grounded theory, schizophrenia

**Referens:** Gallagher, D.G., & [Sverke, M.](#) (2005). Contingent employment contracts: Are existing theories still relevant? *Economic and Industrial Democracy*, 26, 181-203.

**Abstract:** Within most nations there has been growing evidence of a shift from "traditional" or on-going employment contracts to arrangements which are more "fixed-term" or "contingent" in structure. The growth of contingent employment arrangements raises questions concerning the applicability of existing theories of individual behaviour (e.g., satisfaction, motivation, etc.). Utilizing "employment commitment" as an illustrative example, this article examines potential limitations in the applicability of commitment theory to different forms of contingent employment contracts. It also addresses some implications for union representation in contingent work arrangements.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal commitment, temporary employment, union

**Referens:** Gallagher, D., [Sverke, M.](#), Fullagar, C., Clark, P., Carroll, A., & [Hellgren, J.](#) (2005). Commitment to the union: A longitudinal investigation of construct validity. Paper presented at the conference *Commitment in Organizations: Accumulated Wisdom and New Directions*, Columbus, Ohio, 28-30 October, 2005.

**Abstract:** Commitment continues to be a topic which fascinates researchers at both the theoretical and applied levels. As evident in the literature, it is well recognized that the foci of commitment can be numerous and diverse. The year 2005 marks the 25th anniversary of Gordon et al's (1980) landmark study which drew heavily from emerging research on "organizational commitment" to develop criteria for the measurement of commitment to labor organizations. The hallmark of Gordon et al's research was the proposition that union commitment was a "multi-dimensional" construct (i.e., loyalty, responsibility, willingness to work, and belief in unionism). One issue associated with the study of union commitment (and commitment in other contexts) is the extent to which self-reported levels of commitment are either static or variable over time. If, in fact, union commitment is based on strong ideological beliefs, then one would expect both the level and dimensionality of union commitment to be relatively stable. This paper reports the results of a ten-year longitudinal study of union member commitment. Relying on the methodical framework of alpha, beta and gamma change, the paper addresses the extent to which union members may become more or less committed over time (alpha), and the degree to which they may also shift their expectations such that they alter their subjective metric (beta) or even redefine the concept of union commitment (gamma).

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings union commitment, union membership, psychometrics

**Referens:** Gavazzeni, J., [Wiens, S.](#), & Fischer, H. (2005). Emotional reactivity to negative and neutral pictures in younger and older adults. Presented at the meeting of the *Society for Psychophysiological Research*, Lisbon, Portugal.

**Abstract:** Aging affects brain functions and is associated with a range of cognitive changes. How emotional processes are affected by aging remains in many aspects unclear. This study used electrodermal activity and subjective ratings to assess emotional processes in relation to complex negative or neutral pictures. In the experimental setting, two groups of healthy younger (20 ? 30 years old) and older (70 ? 80 years old) adults viewed pictures shown on a computer screen while electrodermal responses were measured. After each picture-presentation subjects rated their subjective emotional experience. The results demonstrated that older adults had a lower level of electrodermal activity in comparison to younger adults during exposure to pictures collapsed across type of picture (negative and neutral). Moreover, negative pictures increased the electrodermal activity in younger compared to older adults, while the older adults had higher electrodermal activity to neutral pictures compared to younger adults. Rating data showed that older adults experienced emotional pictures as being more negatively arousing than the younger adults. No age-group difference was evident in terms of affective rating of neutral pictures. In conclusion, older adults, compared to younger, demonstrated lower physiological reactivity and enhanced subjective emotional experience during exposure to negative pictures. These age differences may indicate different emotional processing strategies in young and old adults during exposure to negative pictorial information.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings aging, emotion, psychophysiology

**Referens:** Goslinga, S., [Hellgren, J.](#), Chirumbolo, A., De Witte, H., [Näswall, K.](#), & [Sverke, M.](#) (2005). The role of union support in coping with job insecurity: A study among union members from three European countries. *South African Journal of Industrial Psychology*, 31, 72-78.

**Abstract:** The present study examines the potential moderating role of union support in the relationship between job insecurity and work-related attitudes and well-being of unionised employees. Survey data collected among

union members from three European countries (The Netherlands, Italy and Sweden) show that job insecurity is associated with reduced levels of job satisfaction, well-being and organizational commitment. Contrary to expectations, union support moderated neither the effect of job insecurity on job satisfaction nor its effect on well-being. However, in two countries a moderating effect of union support on relation between the job insecurity and organizational commitment was found.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal job insecurity, social support, work attitudes

**Referens:** Habib, R., Nyberg, L., & Nilsson, L.-G. (in press). Cognitive and non-cognitive factors contributing to the longitudinal identification of successful older adults in the Betula Study. *Aging, Neuropsychology and Cognition*.

**Abstract:** Studies of successful aging have typically defined elderly who fall in the upper end of a distribution of test scores as successful. A different definition of successful aging requires that older adults fall at or above the mean level of younger adults and maintain this level over time. Here we examined this definition of successful aging in a sample of 1463 individuals between 50 to 85 years of age. Based on principal coordinate analysis of cognitive and non-cognitive variables, we identified a group of 55 (8.3%) 70-85 years olds that were high functioning. This group of elderly showed elevated performance on a range of cognitive tasks. Non-cognitive factors that characterized this group included education and subjective health. The participants were re-tested 5 years later and the same type of analysis was repeated. Of the remaining individuals who initially were classified as high functioning, 18 (35%) remained high functioning and thus met the definition for successful aging. Years of education was a significant predictor of who remained successful over time.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal memory, successful aging

**Referens:** Hallberg, U.E. (2005). *A Thesis on Fire: Studies of work engagement, Type A behavior and burnout*. Stockholm: Stockholm University, Department of Psychology. (Doctoral dissertation).

**Abstract:** The overall address of the present thesis was the relationship between being 'on fire' and burning out. More specifically, the thesis focused largely on two representations of involvement in work (work engagement and Type A behavior) and their respective relationships with burnout. Another pervading theme was construct validity in assessing burnout and work engagement. These themes were addressed in four empirical studies, conducted in a sample of health care workers (Study I) and a sample of information communication technology consultants (Studies II, III, and IV). Study I aimed to extend the previously preliminary support for the construct validity of the Swedish version of the Maslach Burnout Inventory. The objective of Study II was the discriminant validity of the Utrecht Work engagement Scale against the theoretically adjacent constructs job involvement and organizational commitment. Another objective was the translation and evaluation of a Swedish version of this scale. In Study III, the aim was to investigate (cross sectional) association between Type A behavior, work engagement and burnout. Study III had two foci: 1) whether Type A behavior interacted with job stress to constitute an additional risk factor for burnout, and 2) the associations between the main components of Type A behavior (achievement striving and irritability/impatience) and burnout as well as work engagement. Study 4 concerned the longitudinal relationships between Type A behavior and burnout, and between work engagement and burnout. The results presented in the present thesis support the construct validity of Swedish versions of the Maslach Burnout Inventory and the Utrecht Work Engagement Scale. It was further indicated that emotional exhaustion and depersonalization (or cynicism) constitute the core aspects of burnout, and that work engagement has a strong positive health component. Type A behavior was found to be associated with burnout and work engagement in cross sectional data, however different aspects of Type A behavior appeared to have somewhat different association with burnout and work engagement respectively. The achievement striving aspect of Type A behavior was primarily related to work engagement, whereas being irritable was associated with less engagement and more burnout complaints. No indications of an interaction between Type A behavior and job stress was found. The most important finding of Study IV was that change in Type A behavior was unrelated to change in burnout across time, indicating that previously established associations may be the result of a confounding variable. Furthermore, Study IV supported the notion that work engagement and burnout are bipolar opposites and constitute a work well-being continuum. The present thesis concluded that whereas Type A involvement in work does not predict any change in employees well-being on the work engagement-burnout continuum. Probably, the largest contributor to change in this well-being continuum is organizational variables. Hence both research and practice would benefit from exploring how work engagement may best be enhanced using job redesign. To avoid conceptual confusion, burnout should be distinguished from exhaustion syndrome however it should be acknowledged that burnout may have negative impact on health. Type A behavior may be related to other types of health deterioration (e.g. fatigue) however it is probably unrelated to the specific kind of exhaustion in combination with loss of motivation that constitutes the typical burnout reaction.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Dissertation work engagement, type A behavior, burnout

**Referens:** Hellgren, J. (2005). The nature of job insecurity: definitions and measurement issues. Keynote address presented at the *Changing world of work conference*, Vanderbijlpark, South Africa 8-9 March 2005.

**Abstract:** Over the past decades job insecurity has emerged as an important stressor in modern working life, and perceptions of job insecurity have consequently been found to correlate negatively with job and organizational attitudes as well as mental and physical health complaints. However, even if measures of the construct are available, measurement properties in terms of reliability, factor structure, and predictive validity are far from clear. The purpose of this study is to address this issue by validating a job insecurity scale using confirmatory factor analysis. Data for the study were collected within a European collaboration project comprising samples from Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, and Sweden. The criterion-related validity is estimated by correlations with theoretically meaningful constructs assessed in the five samples. The results of multi-group confirmatory factor analysis reveal that the estimated measurement model holds true in all participating countries. The results also show that the job insecurity measure correlates satisfactorily with theoretically derived correlates. The results stress the importance of developing valid measurement scales in order to satisfactorily estimate the relationships between job insecurity and its postulated outcomes.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings job insecurity, definitions, measures

**Referens:** Hellgren, J. (2005). Job insecurity and its relationship to health outcomes, carry over and work-family conflict. Paper presented at the *XIith European Congress of Work and Organizational*

- Abstract:** The issue of job insecurity has received growing recognition in connection with increased usage of large workforce reductions and reorganizations in order to improve organizational effectiveness and competitive ability. Although research suggests that job insecurity is negatively related to employee work attitudes and well-being, some issues concerning these relationships have not yet been fully addressed. First, concerns about the continued existence of one's job (quantitative insecurity) and desirable job features (qualitative insecurity) could relate differently to outcomes. Second, little empirical attention has been directed towards the issue of work family conflict and carry over effects in relation to job insecurity perceptions and its dimensions. Based on cross-sectional data from two Swedish organizations (one public and one private), this study shows that quantitative insecurity was the most important dimension in that it negatively affected all outcome variables even after controlling for demographics and work climate variables. The results also reveal that qualitative job insecurity was related to tiredness and mental health complaints. While job insecurity appears to have negative consequences for employees and their organizations, the results indicate that the consequences of insecurity may also over spread to family and other aspects of life.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings job insecurity, work-family conflict, carry-over
- Referens:** [Hellgren, J., Näswall, K., & Sverke, M. \(2005\). There's more to the picture than meets the eye: A comparison of downsizing survivors with changed and unchanged job content. \*South African Journal of Industrial Psychology\*, 31, 87-93.](#)
- Abstract:** Organizational downsizing, in the form of permanent layoffs and offers of early retirement, has become a frequently used strategy. Previous research has identified work attitudes and well-being of survivors as critical for obtaining the anticipated beneficial outcomes, but knowledge is limited regarding the effects of downsizing on different types of survivors. Drawing upon theories on organizational attachment and well-being, the aim of this study was to examine the effects of downsizing on employee attitudes and well-being by comparing survivors who had their work situation changed as a function of the downsizing process with survivors whose situation remained unaffected. Longitudinal questionnaire data were obtained during the course of downsizing. The results show that survivors with a changed work situation reported higher levels of role stress, less favorable job attitudes and more health complaints as compared to survivors who did not have their work situation changed. These findings are important in order to better understand and counteract negative reactions following organizational downsizing.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal downsizing, survivors, stress
- Referens:** [Hellgren, J., Sverke, M., Falkenberg, H., & Baraldi, S. \(2005\). Physicians' work climate at three hospitals under different types of ownership. In C. Korunka & P. Hoffmann \(Eds.\), \*Change and Quality in Human Service Work\* \(pp. 47-65\). Munchen: Rainer Hampp Verlag.](#)
- Abstract:** In an attempt to make hospitals more cost effective and improving the quality of medical care, privatization of Swedish hospitals have become more frequent during the past decade. There is a need for knowledge about psychological effects of privatization on health care personnel. We investigated physicians' perception of their work environment in three hospitals with different forms of ownership - from traditional public administration to for-profit private stock company. The results point towards certain advantages of privatized hospitals. Physicians at the privatized hospital included in the study perceived their work environment in some respects as more positive than did the physicians at the non-privatized hospitals.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) work climate, health care, privatization
- Referens:** [Hellgren, J., Sverke, M., & van der Vliet, C. \(2005\). The union side of downsizing: Investigating members' union attitudes. In H. De Witte \(Ed.\), \*Job insecurity and trade union participation in Europe\* \(pp.117-135\). Aldershot: Ashgate.](#)
- Abstract:** Downsizing is a topic that has received growing recognition along with the increased flexibility of the labor market, and numerous studies show strong negative reactions among the survivors. However, whereas the bulk of research suggests that downsizing may impair employees' well-being, attitudes toward the organization, and performance less is known about how employees perceive their union in the downsizing process. Indeed, numerous institutions are likely to have an influence over how layoffs are being carried through - among them unions - and it could readily be assumed that employees in downsizing organizations will evaluate the role played by these different actors. For instance, employees who perceive that their union treats the members in a just and fair way and is capable of representing their interests are likely to express positive attitudes toward their union. In contrast, members' union attitudes could be expected to become more negative if the performance of the union is evaluated in a less favorable way.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) job insecurity, union, downsizing
- Referens:** [Hellström, Å. \(2005\). Anatomy of stimulus comparison. In J.S. Monahan, S.M. Sheffert & J.T. Townsend \(Eds.\), \*Fechner Day 2005\* \(pp. 113-118\). Proceedings of the 21st Annual Meeting of the International Society for Psychophysics, Traverse City, Michigan, USA, October 19-22, 2005.](#)
- Abstract:** Stimulus comparison by human observers is a more complex process than the subtraction carried out by a simple *comparator*. This is shown by the patterns of time- and space-order "errors." Specifically, experiments show that the two compared stimuli exert differential influence on the comparative response. This invalidates models based on additive bias or semantic congruity. The sensation-weighting (SW) model can account for many of the results. One important consequence is that the discriminability of two stimuli depends on which of them is varied.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) Proceedings stimulus comparison, sensation-weighting model, time-order error, space-order error, stimulus discrimination, Fechner Day
- Referens:** [Holmberg, U., Wexler, D., & Christianson, S.Å. \(in press\). Interviewing Offenders: A Therapeutic Jurisprudential Approach. In S.Å. Christianson \(Ed.\). \*Offenders' memories of violent crimes\*. Wiley & Sons.](#)

- Abstract:** Humanity and respect in police interviews that promote admissions should not only be seen from investigative and legal perspective because it is likely that therapeutic jurisprudential derived admissions promote experiences where a murderer or a sexual offender may work through the crime committed. Hereby, such admissions may be memory enhancing as well as facilitating psychological well-being. Regarding psychological well-being in therapeutic jurisprudence, there is a need for further research because Holmberg and Christianson's study (2002) only showed a relationship between perceptions of the police interview and psychological well-being. It is important to define the concept and find methods to measure psychological well-being in the legal context because when it is defined and measured, it offers a greater opportunity to develop legal methods and procedures. The use of the modified SOC instrument in this study may have somewhat weakened the results compared to when the original 13 items SOC form is used. However, this study indicates that psychological well-being in legal context can be measured and further research suggests using different standardized instruments to identify more deeply the psychological well-being in therapeutic jurisprudence.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) therapeutic jurisprudential, offenders, investigative interviewing
- Referens:** Holmgren, S., Molander, B., & Nilsson, L.-G. (in press). Intelligence in adult age: Effects of sibship size and birth order. *European Journal of Cognitive Psychology*.
- Abstract:** A study on intelligence (i.e., block design and word comprehension) and executive functioning (i.e., working memory and verbal fluency) as related to family size and birth order was performed in middle-aged, young-old, and old-old adults. Previous studies and theories on the structural issues of family environment and its relationship to intelligence was the point of departure of this research. Using data from healthy participants, aged 35-85 years, in the Betula project (Nilsson et al., 1997, 2004), this study revealed that effects of sibship size and birth order, previously demonstrated in children, remain in adult age. Working memory was the most sensitive of the four tests used for revealing effects of the sibship size and birth order. Implications for the relationship between executive functioning and intelligence, and implications for the confluence and resource dilution models (Blake, 1981; Downey, 2001; Zajonc, 1976) are discussed.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal sibship size, birth order, intelligence
- Referens:** Isaksson, K., Hellgren, J., & Pettersson, P. (2005). Union involvement during downsizing and its relation to attitudes and distress among workers. In H. De Witte (Ed.), *Job insecurity and trade union participation in Europe* (pp. 97-117). Aldershot: Ashgate.
- Abstract:** The effects of collective coping strategies, such as union participation in management, and negotiating, as a means of alleviating negative impacts have tended to be neglected in research of downsizing effects. The aim of this study was to compare unemployed persons with those who left on early retirement, and with surviving personnel in terms of attitudes towards their company and trade union and predictors of distress. Data were collected in a large retail firm through questionnaires (n=885). Laid-off personnel had clearly the most negative attitude towards their union. Organizational commitment however, was at the same average level in all groups. Further, early retirees had a significantly lower mean level of distress than the other groups. Perceived union support had an indirect effect on distress among persons who were laid off but had found a new job, mediated by degree of satisfaction with outplacement measures. Among survivors, however, organizational commitment - alongside perceived insecurity and workload - were of greater importance.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) downsizing, survivors, union
- Referens:** Isaksson, K., Johansson, G., Lindroth, S., & Sverke, M. (in press). Women's career patterns in Sweden: A life-event approach. *Community, Work and Family*.
- Abstract:** Although research and models on career patterns often are implicitly assumed to be of general validity, they are usually coloured by their cultural, ethnical and historical background and by a lack of gender perspective. A review of research on women and career development (Philips & Imhoff, 1997) concludes that research in the recent decade took important steps but critical gaps still remain. One such gap concerns changes and transitions in women's careers. The general aim of this paper is to describe career patterns over the life course of women born in the 1950ies - in terms of shape, level and stability. Data were taken from work histories in the interviews of a sample of Swedish women aged 43 (n = 109) as part of a longitudinal study. Career patterns were plotted based on life events related to education, family and work. Results revealed relative stability of labour force participation, but not of work hours over the life course. Career progress in terms of moving to higher career levels was a common feature of the cohort. However, continuous full-time work (from 16 to 43) was highly unusual and almost entirely limited to women without children.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal women, career, life course
- Referens:** Johansson, G. (2005). Stresslandskapets förändrade karaktär. [The changing nature of work.] I R. Ekman & B. Arnetz (Eds.), *Stress. Individiden - Samhället - Organisationen - Molekylerna [Stress. The Individual - Society - the Organization - the Molecules]* (pp. 72-76). Stockholm: Liber Förlag.
- Abstract:** This chapter considers current societal and organizational transitions that tend to affect the stress and health of individuals in paid employment. It is claimed that new stressors are substituted for those that characterized the industrial era, whereas stress in terms of a biopsychosocial process remains unchanged. New stressors emerge as a consequence of factors such as globalized economies and rapid diffusion of information and communication technology. Examples of emerging conditions are the fact that work may be performed anywhere and at any time, that increased speed of communication increases work intensity, and that parallel activities and frequent interruptions increases mental work load.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) work, stress, change
- Referens:** Kabir, Z.N., Ferdous, T., Cederholm, T., Khanam, M.A., Streatfield, K., & Wahlin, Å. (in press). Mini-nutritional assessment of rural elderly people in Bangladesh: The impact of demographic, socio-economic and health factors. *Public Health Nutrition*.
- Abstract:** Objective: In stating the Millennium Development Goals, United Nations targets to halve malnutrition around the world by 2015. Nutritional status of the elderly population in low-income countries is seldom focused. This study aims to evaluate the magnitude of malnutrition among an elderly population in rural Bangladesh.

Design and setting: Data collection for a multi-dimensional cross-sectional study of community based elderly people aged 60 years and over was conducted in a rural area in Bangladesh.

Subjects: Of 850 randomly selected elderly individuals, 625 participated in home interviews. Complete nutritional information was available for 457 individuals (mean age 69±8 years, 55% female). Nutritional status was assessed using an adapted form of Mini Nutritional Assessment (MNA), including body mass index (BMI, kg/m<sup>2</sup>). Age, sex, education, household expenditure on food and self-reported health problems were investigated as potential predictors of nutritional status.

Results: BMI <18.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, indicating chronic-energy deficiency, was found in 50% of the population. MNA revealed a prevalence of 26% protein-energy malnutrition and 62% at risk of malnutrition. Health problems rather than age had negative impact on nutritional status. Level of education and food expenditure were directly associated with nutritional status.

Conclusion: In order to reduce world hunger by half in the coming decade, it is important to recognise that in the elderly population, particularly in low-income countries, a substantial proportion is undernourished.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal malnutrition, old age, Bangladesh

**Referens:** Kabir, Z.N., Ferdous, T., Cederholm, T., Khanam, M.A., Streatfield, P.K., & Wahlin, Å. (2005). Magnitude of malnutrition among the elderly population in rural Bangladesh. Poster presentation at the *International Conference on Mainstreaming Ageing in Health Systems and Rural Development*, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

**Abstract:** Objective: To describe the nutritional status of elderly people by age-groups, sex and socio-economic status in rural Bangladesh.

Materials and Methods: Data collection for a multi-dimensional cross-sectional study of elderly people aged 60 years and over was conducted in a rural area in Bangladesh. Of 850 randomly selected elderly individuals, 625 participated in home interviews and 473 appeared for clinical investigation. Nutritional status, the main outcome, was assessed by physicians using Mini Nutritional Assessment (MNA) specifically designed for elderly people. Age, sex, education, previous and current occupation, household expenditure on food and self-reported health problems were investigated as potential predictors of nutritional status.

Results: According to MNA, our results show a prevalence of 26% protein energy malnutrition and 61% at risk of malnutrition totaling to a magnitude of nearly 90% of elderly people in a rural Bangladeshi area with a grim nutritional profile. Among the elderly, health problems rather than age increment has greater negative impact on nutritional status. Level of education and expenditure amount on food are directly associated with nutritional status.

Conclusion: This study is the first population-based study to address nutritional status of the elderly population in Bangladesh. Results from this study provides increased awareness in Bangladesh of the importance of proper nutrition to prevent premature age related illnesses and disabilities, chronic diseases enabling older population's contribution to economic and social development.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings aging, ill health, nutrition

**Referens:** Kansj, J., Wichström, L., & Bergman, L.R. (2005). Eating problems and their risk factors: A 7-year longitudinal study of a population sample of Norwegian adolescent girls. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 34, 521-531.

**Abstract:** The longitudinal stability of eating problems and their relationships to risk factors were investigated in a representative population sample of 623 Norwegian girls aged 13-14 followed over 7 years (3 time points). Three eating problem symptoms were measured: Restriction, Bulimia-food preoccupation, and Diet, all taken from the 12-item Eating Attitudes Test. The aim of the study was to investigate the stability of these eating problem symptoms both as separate components (as opposed to total symptom load) as well as from a syndrome perspective. Over 7 years, dieting behavior showed the highest correlational stability (0.32). Regarding stable eating problem syndromes, at all 3 time points, 1 group of girls with generalized eating problems was found, characterized by simultaneously pronounced bulimic tendencies and dieting. However, we did not establish individual stability across 7 years for this syndrome group. Through development, eating problem symptoms were associated with characteristic risk factors. Similarities and differences between findings regarding eating problems and eating disorders are discussed.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal eating problems, adolescents, risk factors

**Referens:** Karlsson, I. (2005). *Memories of traumatic events among Swedish police officers*. Stockholm: Stockholm University, Department of Psychology. (Doctoral dissertation).

**Abstract:** Police officers run a risk of exposure to extremely stressful and traumatic situations in their work. Such situations may involve anything from being the first to arrive at the scene of a traffic accident to investigations of brutal murders or acute threat situations in which they themselves are forced to use force. The main purpose of this thesis was to study police officers' memory for emotional events. One aim of this thesis was to investigate situations perceived as stressful by Swedish police officers and to look at the support and help they received in relation to these situations. One focus in this research is on how we remember an emotional event and how ratings of reactions and symptoms develop over time. Another question raised is: "Do police officers remember emotional events differently than people in general?" Given that police officers often deal with highly emotional events in their occupation, their experience may improve their accuracy in remembering such events. Study 1 explored whether police personnel were more correct in their observations of a simulated violent crime than were civilians. Results showed that police officers were more accurate in remembering details of the crime than were police recruits, civilian students and teachers. Police officers' greater ability to sort out and analyze information from a crime-relevant situation may be based on their professional knowledge and experience of violent crime. Study 2 compared experienced police officers and civilians with respect to memory performance and intergroup biases in a witness situation. The results showed that police officers remembered the perpetrator and his weapon more accurately than did civilians. Moreover, in their evaluation of an immigrant and a Swedish perpetrator, police officers were less ethnocentric than were civilians. Study 3 investigated situations perceived as stressful by Swedish police officers and looked at the kind of support and help they received in relation to these situations. Results showed that most of the traumatic experiences

reported by police officers occurred early on in their careers. The traumatic experiences often remained in their memories in the form of visual, tactile and olfactory sensations. A variety of stress reactions were described in connection with these experiences, such as inability to talk about the situation, muscle tremors, nausea, denial, flashbacks, etc. As regards ways of working through traumatic experiences, more than half reported that it helped them to talk about the event with their colleagues. A notable finding of this study is that the majority of officers did not receive any support at all from their superiors in connection with the event. In Study 4, police officers involved in a mass shooting resulting in seven dead civilians were asked to describe the event 10 months after the event, five years after the event and again nine years after the event. All police officers in this study reported having vivid memories of the mass shooting incident, and visual and auditory memories of the event were best retained, although a decline was observed nine years after the incident. Regarding working through the traumatic experience, the police officers had not been offered professional help in connection with the mass shooting incident.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Dissertation trauma, memory, police officers, eyewitnesses

**Referens:** Karlsson, I., & Christianson, S.Å. (in press). Police Officers involved in a manhunt of a mass murder: Memories and psychological responses. *Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies & Management*.

**Abstract:** In the present study, 11 police officers responding to a mass shooting carried out by a young offender resulting in seven dead civilians were asked to describe the event 10 months after the event, five years after the event, and again nine years after the event. Emotional impact and memories of the mass shooting are discussed in relation to time elapsed, support from co-workers, supervisors and professionals. All police officers in the study reported having vivid memories of the mass shooting incident, and visual and auditory memories of the event were best retained, although a decline was observed nine years after the incident. Police officers rated their psychological stress as very high and reported various symptoms associated with the event. Regarding working through the traumatic experience, the police officers had not been offered professional help in connection with the mass shooting incident. Speculatively, if officers had been offered organized debriefing in connection with the mass shooting incident and if they had experienced social support from superiors, they may have been helped to better integrate the trauma memory into their overall life story.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal police officers, memory, mass murder

**Referens:** Khanam, M.A., Kabir, Z.N., Streatfield, P.K., Cornelius, C., & Wahlin, Å. (2005). The double burden of disease among the elderly people in rural Bangladesh. Poster presentation at the *International Conference on Mainstreaming Ageing in Health Systems and Rural Development*, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

**Abstract:** Objective: To describe the burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases in the elderly in rural Bangladesh.

Method: Data used for this paper com from the study "Poverty and Health in Ageing", a collaborative project between ICDDR,B- Centre for Health and Population Research, Bangladesh and Karolinska institutet, Sweden. This is a cross sectional study of approximately 600 elderly persons aged 60 years and above. The project was conducted in the ICDDR,B study area in Matlab, a rural area 55 km south of Dhaka, the capital city. Data were collected in two settings, first by interviews in the home setting by experienced field research assistants, and second by clinical examinations in the health centers conducted by physicians. During the clinical examination, blood samples were collected and random blood glucose and a number of other parameters were analyzed. Data for 468 participants are used in the present study.

Result: Preliminary analyses show that 90% of the study sample reported suffering from non-communicable diseases and 74% from communicable diseases, 68% reported suffering from both communicable and non-communicable disease (double burden of disease). Analysis of determinants of double burden of disease shows that age, sex, literacy and socio economic status are significantly associated with suffering from both communicable and non-communicable diseases. Further analyses revealed that illiterate women in the youngest age group (60-64) had higher prevalence of both communicable and non-communicable diseases compared to literate male of the same age group.

Conclusions: A main finding of the study is the high prevalence of double burden of disease among elderly in rural Bangladesh. Prevalence of both communicable and non-communicable diseases is consequently high in this group of people. Illiterate women were found to be the most vulnerable group.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings communicable disease, non-communicable disease, old age

**Referens:** Kjelldahl, L., & Schenkman, B.N. (in press). Color interaction on computer displays – adjacency and shape effects. *Behaviour and Information Technology*.

**Abstract:** The perceived interactions between colours presented on a computer screen were determined for seven participants who gave estimates on the perceived colours. A method based on memory estimation was used. In one experiment a red-green scale was used, while in a second experiment a white-green scale was used. The distance between objects, shape of objects and colour of objects were varied. A distance effect of colour interaction was found in both experiments. For objects adjacent to each other the interaction effects were statistically significant. For objects not adjacent to each other some smaller effects occurred. No shape effects were found. Assimilation effects were shown for the red-green colour combinations. A theoretical model for distance effects of colour interaction is also presented.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal colour, induction, perception

**Referens:** Kormi-Nouri, R., Nilsson, L.-G., & Ohta, N. (2005). The novelty effect: Support for the Novelty-Encoding Hypothesis. *Scandinavian Journal of Psychology*, 46, 133-143.

**Abstract:** In two experiments, we examined the "Novelty-Encoding Hypothesis" proposed by Tulving and Kroll (1995), suggesting that the encoding of online information into long-term memory is influenced by its novelty and that novelty increases recognition performance. In Phase 1 (familiarization phase), subjects participated in a standard memory experiment in which different types of materials (verbs and nouns) were studied under different encoding conditions (enactment and non-enactment) and were tested by an expected recognition test. In Phase 2 (critical phase), subjects evaluated the materials (both familiar materials which were encoded

earlier in Phase 1, and novel materials which were not presented earlier in Phase 1) in a frequency judgement task and were given an unexpected recognition test. The results of both experiments showed that novel items were recognized better than familiar items. This result held true for both hit rates- false alarms and hit rates. The novelty effect was observed for different subjects (Swedish and Japanese), different materials (verbs and nouns; high frequency and low frequency), and different types of encoding in Phase 1 (enactment and non-enactment). These findings provide support for the "Novelty-Encoding Hypothesis" stating that the effect is based on the encoding of target items at the time of the critical study (Phase 2). A comparison between the present experiments and the Tulving and Kroll (1995), Dobbins, Kroll, Yonelinas I Liu (1998) and Greene (1999) studies suggests that the novelty effect is more pronounced under incidental encoding than under intentional encoding.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal memory, novelty, incidental encoding

**Referens:** Koupil, I., Mann, V., Lean, D.A., [Lundberg, U.](#), Byberg, L., & Vågerö, D. (2005). Morning cortisol does not mediate the association of size at birth with blood pressure in children born from full-term pregnancies. *Clinical Endocrinology*, 62, 661-666.

**Abstract:** Objective: It has been suggested that programming of the hypothalamo-pituitary-adrenal axis may underlie the associations of reduced size at birth with raised blood pressure in later life. We investigated whether morning salivary cortisol mediates the inverse association of birth weight with systolic blood pressure in children.

Design, subjects and measurements: A historical cohort study involving 1152 Swedish children aged 5-14 years, who took part in a family study comprised of mother, father, and two full-sibs delivered in 1987-1995 after 38-41 weeks gestation within 36 months of each other. Birth weight and gestational age were available from obstetric records. Blood pressure, weight, height and puberty stage were measured at a clinic. Cortisol was measured by radioimmunoassay in morning salivary samples taken at home, within 30 minutes of waking.

Results: Morning cortisol showed a weak negative association with length of gestation in siblings, was not related to birth weight or to systolic or diastolic blood pressure. There was no change in the strength of the negative association between birth weight and systolic blood pressure on adjustment for cortisol (-1.4 mmHg/kg, 95% CI -2.7,-0.2; adjusted for age, sex, puberty stage, weight and height, and cortisol).

Conclusions: Morning cortisol was not associated with size at birth and did not mediate the birth weight – blood pressure association in children born from full-term pregnancies. It is possible that basal cortisol levels are of more importance in explaining associations of size at birth with later blood pressure in older subjects or in populations with more varied length of gestation. Alternatively, our results may be due to misclassification of the hypothalamo-pituitary-adrenal activity.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal cortisol, blood pressure, birth weight

**Referens:** Krantz, G., Berntsson, L., & [Lundberg, U.](#) (2005). Total workload, work stress and perceived symptoms in Swedish male and female white-collar employees. *European Journal of Public Health*, 15, 209-214.

**Abstract:** Background: The aim of this study was to analyse how paid work, unpaid household tasks, child care, work-child care interactions and perceived work stress are associated with reported symptoms in male and female white-collar employees.

Methods: A questionnaire was mailed to 1300 men and 1300 women belonging to the white-collar sector, with at least 35 hours of regular employment a week and a participant age of between 32 and 58 years. It contained items relating to total workload (hours spent on paid work, unpaid household tasks and childcare), subjective indices for work stress and symptoms. The response rate was 65% (743 women; 595 men). Gender difference in symptom prevalence was tested by analyses of variance. Odds ratios were used to estimate the bivariate associations between work-related variables and symptom prevalence. A multivariate analysis estimated the effect of paid and unpaid work interaction, work-childcare interplay and possible synergy.

Results: The frequency and severity of symptoms was higher in women than in men ( $P < 0.0001$ ). Employed women's health was determined by the interaction between conditions at work and household duties (OR 2.09; 1.06-4.14), whereas men responded more selectively to long working hours, i.e. >50 h/week (OR 1.61; 1.02-2.54). However, childcare (<21 h/week) appeared to have a buffer effect on the risk of a high level of symptoms in men working long hours.

Conclusion: Working life and private circumstances and the interplay between them need to be taken into account to curb stress-related ill health in both men and women.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal total workload, paid work, unpaid work, male, female

**Referens:** Krantz, G., & [Lundberg, U.](#) (in press). Workload, work stress, and sickness absence in Swedish male and female white-collar employees. *Scandinavian Journal of Public Health*.

**Abstract:** Background: Most research on the combined exposure to paid and unpaid work and perceptions of work-home conflict focuses only on women. This study aimed to analyse gender differences in self-reported sickness absence as related to paid and unpaid work conditions and combinations of these (double exposure), as well as to perceived work stress and work-home conflict in a homogeneous population of highly-educated men and women.

Methods: 743 women and 596 men, full-time working white-collar employees randomly selected from the general Swedish population aged 32-58, were assessed by a Swedish total work-load instrument. The influence of conditions in paid and unpaid work and combinations of these on self-reported sickness absence was investigated by multivariate regression analyses. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to assess differences between men and women.

Results: Overtime was found to have a protective effect against sickness absence not only for men but also for women and a double-exposure situation did not increase the risk of sick leave in this group of highly-educated employees. Contrary to what is normally seen, the work-home conflict did not emerge as a risk factor for sickness absence for women, but it did for men.

Conclusions: The findings in this study indicate that, when work conditions become more equal for men and women, the differences in sickness absence rates become less prominent.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal total workload, role conflict, gender

**Referens:** Larsson, M., & Bäckman, L. (2005). Odor identification in old age: Demographic, sensory, and cognitive correlates. *Aging, Neuropsychology and Cognition*, 12, 231-244.

**Abstract:** The purpose of this study was to determine correlates of odor identification in old age. One hundred and thirty-two men and women (60-91 years) were assessed in a number of tasks tapping sensory acuity (i.e., odor sensitivity, intensity discrimination, quality discrimination) and different cognitive abilities (i.e., perceptual speed, executive functioning, verbal fluency). Hierarchical regression analyses revealed that age, female sex, olfactory sensitivity, quality discrimination, cognitive speed, and verbal fluency were the most potent correlates of odor identification in general. In addition, the age-related variance in odor identification was eliminated when age-related deficits in odor sensitivity, quality discrimination, and perceptual speed were taken into account. This pattern of outcome suggests that age-related differences in these abilities underlie the well-established age impairment in odor identification.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal olfaction, cognition, aging

**Referens:** Larsson, M., Lundin, A., & Robins Wahlin, T.-B. (in press). "Olfactory functions in asymptomatic carriers of the Huntington disease mutation". *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology*.

**Abstract:** Huntington's disease (HD) is a neurodegenerative disorder initially affecting the basal ganglia and especially the head of the caudate nucleus. Neuropsychological research has indicated that olfactory dysfunction may appear early in HD, prior to the onset of significant motor or cognitive dysfunction. The aim of this study was to examine whether asymptomatic carriers of the Huntington disease mutation also exhibit olfactory dysfunction. To address this issue we presented an extensive olfactory test battery comprising tasks assessing olfactory sensitivity, intensity discrimination, quality discrimination, episodic odor memory, and odor identification, to a group of gene carriers and non-mutation carriers of the disease. The results showed that gene carriers were selectively impaired in discriminating odor quality, although performance did not differ from non-carriers across the other tasks. The role played by striatum and then in particular the caudate nucleus for olfactory processing in general, and for odor quality discrimination in particular, is discussed.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal olfaction, Huntington disease, discrimination

**Referens:** Launer, L.J., Berger, K., Breteler, M.M.B., Dufoir, C., Fuhrer, R., Giampoli, S., Nilsson, L.-G., Pajak, A., de Ridder, M., van Dijk, E.J., Sans, S., Schmidt, R., & Hofman, A. (in press). Regional variability in the prevalence of cerebral white matter lesions: An MRI study in 9 European countries (CASCADE). *Neuroepidemiology*.

**Abstract:** White matter lesions (WML) on MRI of the brain are common in both demented and nondemented older persons. They may be due to ischemic events and are associated with cognitive and physical impairments. It is not known whether the prevalence of these WML in the general population differs across European countries in a pattern similar to that seen for coronary heart disease. Here we report the prevalence of WML in 1,805 men and women drawn from population-based samples of 65- to 75-year-olds in ten European cohorts. Data were collected using standardized methods as a part of the multicenter study CASCADE (Cardiovascular Determinants of Dementia). Centers were grouped by region: south (Italy, Spain, France), north (Netherlands, UK, Sweden), and central (Austria, Germany, Poland). In this 10-year age stratum, 92% of the sample had some lesions, and the prevalence increased with age. The prevalence of WML was highest in the southern region, even after adjusting for differences in demographic and selected cardiovascular risk factors. Brain aging leading to disabilities will increase in the future. As a means of hypothesis generation and for health planning, further research on the geographic distribution of WML may lead to the identification of new risk factors for these lesions.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal white matter lesion, epidemiology, cardiovascular, multicenter study

**Referens:** Laurell, J., & Dåderman, A.M. (2005). Recidivism is related to psychopathy (PCL-R) in a group of men convicted of homicide. *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, 28, 255-268.

**Abstract:** It is well known that psychopaths are a group with high risk for criminality. Despite that, researchers and clinicians have not yet agreed on a general cause of psychopathy. However Raine [Raine, A. (2002). Biosocial studies of antisocial and violent behavior in children and adults: A review. *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, 30, 311-326.] advocated a biosocial model of violent behaviour where the greatest risk for criminal behaviour occurred when both heredity and environmental risk factors (e.g., social class, childhood history) were present. In this follow-up study, 35 men convicted of homicide were assessed retrospectively for psychopathy according to the Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-R). Information on personal history, as well as from legal documents and records of offences committed by the subjects was also obtained. Fourteen of the 35 men were classified as psychopaths. Two men, both rated as psychopaths, had criminal parents. Twenty-seven of the men had a social relationship with their victim, and eleven out of these were rated as psychopaths. There was no difference in PCL-R scores between those who had a social relationship with their victim and those who did not. The psychopaths relapsed more frequently than the nonpsychopaths into criminality after their prison term. This result confirms previous research indicating that psychopathy is a risk factor for recidivism. It is, therefore, very important that psychopaths get the best possible treatment, aftercare, and supervision.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal homicide offenders, psychopathy, PCL-R, risk factors, forensic psychiatry

**Referens:** Leander, L., Granhag, P.A., & Christianson, S.Å. (2005). Children exposed to obscene phone calls: What they remember and tell. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 29, 871-888.

**Abstract:** This case study examined children's reports from an obscene phone call (i.e., a verbal sexual abuse). We investigated which type of information the children reported, the completeness and accuracy of the children's statements, and whether there were systematic patterns in terms of memory distortions and omissions. The completeness and the accuracy of the children's statements were examined by matching 64 children's

statements given during police interviews with a detailed documentation of each phone call, made by the perpetrator during the actual phone calls. All children remembered the phone call per se, but they were found to omit almost all of the sexual and sensitive information (perpetrator's questions and statements) and about 70% of the neutral information given by the perpetrator. However, the children were accurate in the information they did report. The fact that the children did remember more of the neutral information suggests that they actually remembered the sexual information as well, but that they chose not to report it. Results indicate that children who have been sexually abused may remember more than they report in an initial interview. One possible underlying reason is that children experience shame or embarrassment.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal obscene phone call, verbal abuse, children's memory

**Referens:** Lind, J., Larsson, A., Persson, J., Ingvar, M., Nilsson, L.-G., Bäckman, L., Adolfsson, R., Cruts, M., Slegers, K., Van Broeckhoven, C., & Nyberg, L. (in press). Reduced hippocampal volume in non-demented carriers of the Apolipoprotein E  $\epsilon$ 4: Relation to chronological age and recognition memory. *Neuroscience Letters*.

**Abstract:** Apolipoprotein E  $\epsilon$ 4 (APOE  $\epsilon$ 4) is the main known genetic risk factor for Alzheimers' disease (AD). Some previous studies have reported structural brain changes as well as cognitive changes in non-demented APOE  $\epsilon$ 4 carriers, but the pattern of results is inconsistent and studies with larger sample sizes have been called for. Here we compared hippocampal volume and recognition-memory performance between AD-symptom free carriers (N=30) and non-carriers (N=30) of the APOE  $\epsilon$ 4 (age range: 49-79 years). We observed reduced right hippocampal volume in APOE  $\epsilon$ 4 carriers, and found that the difference was most pronounced before the age of 65 years. Further, the results revealed that APOE  $\epsilon$ 4 carriers made significantly more false alarms in the recognition-memory test, and that the number of false alarms correlated significantly with right hippocampus volume. These results indicate that younger individuals at genetic risk for AD have smaller hippocampal volume and lower performance on hippocampal-dependent cognitive tasks. An important question for the future is whether smaller hippocampal volume represents early AD-pathology or a pre-existing trait.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal memory, genetics, brain imaging

**Referens:** Lind, J., Persson, J., Ingvar, M., Larsson, A., Cruts, M., Van Broeckhoven, C., Adolfsson, R., Bäckman, L., Nilsson, L.-G., Petersson, K.M., & Nyberg, L. (in press). Reduced functional brain activity response in cognitively intact Apolipoprotein  $\epsilon$ 4 carriers. *Brain*.

**Abstract:** The Apolipoprotein E  $\epsilon$ 4 (APOE  $\epsilon$ 4) is the main known genetic risk factor for Alzheimer's disease (AD). Genetic assessments in combination with other diagnostic tools, such as neuroimaging, have the potential to facilitate early diagnosis of AD. We have conducted a large-scale fMRI study, where we contrasted 30 APOE  $\epsilon$ 4 carriers and 30 non-carriers with regard to brain activity during a semantic categorization task. Critically, both groups were cognitively intact and AD-symptom free. APOE  $\epsilon$ 4 carriers showed reduced task-related responses in the left inferior parietal cortex, and bilaterally in the anterior cingulate region. A dose-related response was observed in the parietal area such that diminution was most pronounced in homozygous compared to heterozygous carriers. In addition, contrasts of processing novel vs. familiar items revealed an abnormal response in the right hippocampus in the APOE  $\epsilon$ 4 group, mainly expressed as diminished sensitivity to the relative novelty of stimuli. Collectively, these findings indicate that genetic risk translates into reduced functional brain activity, in regions pertinent to AD, well before alterations can be detected at the behavioral level.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal memory, genetics, brain imaging

**Referens:** Lindblom, U. (2005). Sensory quantification and pain. In H. Merskey, J.D. Loeser & R. Dubner (Eds.), *The Paths of Pain 1975-2005* (pp. 253-270). Seattle, WZ: IASP Press.

**Abstract:** A review is given of the development of methods for testing normal and abnormal somatosensory functions in pain patients. In pain research and management it is important to record not only quantitative but also qualitative aberrations of evoked perceptions. In neuropathic pain, such aberrations may constitute a significant part of the patients' symptomatology and can be assessed in statistical terms. In addition to abnormal quality and magnitude of evoked perceptions, neuropathic patients report abnormal spread or dislocation of pain, as well as a temporal distortion with abnormal latency, summation of repeated stimuli, and aftersensation. Various methods for testing mechanoreception (touch, pointed touch, tactile discrimination, vibration and pressure) and thermosensibility (perception thresholds, growth functions supraliminally, quality) are described and their uses in clinical diagnosis are illustrated in neuropathic pain patients. Central to somatosensory testing is that suprathreshold hypo- or hyperfunctions may both exist combined with normal threshold, with increased threshold or with lowered thresholds.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) pain, somatosensory testing

**Referens:** Lindfors, P. (2005). *Stress, health and well-being in midlife. The 2004 stress study on men*. Technical report. Stockholm University, Department of Psychology, Reports from the project Individual Development and Adaptation, No. 87.

**Abstract:** This technical report describes the 2004 stress study on a subsample of men within the longitudinal research program Individual Development and Adaptation (IDA). The purpose of this study was to investigate psychological and physiological stress as related to well-being in middle-aged men. Self-ratings in questionnaires and salivary samples were collected via a mail survey that was sent to a subsample (n=161) of those men who participated in the 2002-2003 follow-up study (n=393). About 35.8% of the eligible men volunteered to participate in the stress study. The report covers details on the data collection procedure, the measures included in the questionnaire, frequency tables for each measure and drop-out. In addition, the report summarizes findings on salivary cortisol, stress and well-being.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Report follow-up, salivary cortisol, well-being

**Referens:** Lindfors, P., Berntsson, L., & Lundberg, U. (in press). Total workload as related to psychological well-being and symptoms in full-time employed women and men. *International Journal of Behavioral Medicine*.

**Abstract:** Most research on the combined effects of paid and unpaid workload has related these factors to stress, depression and physical symptoms. Thus, comparative knowledge concerning positive aspects of human functioning, such as health and well-being and how they relate to total workload of employed women and men, is limited. The aim of the present study was to investigate how total workload including paid and unpaid work is related to psychological well-being and symptoms in full-time employed women and men. Measures of workload, general symptoms and the Ryff scales, covering self-acceptance, environmental mastery, positive relations, personal growth, purpose in life and autonomy, were obtained from questionnaires mailed to a stratified sample of highly educated white-collar workers aged between 32 and 58 years. Data from women (n = 430) and men (n = 400) living in partner relationships with at least one child showed that increasing hours of unpaid work was associated with decreasing levels of self-acceptance and environmental mastery in women, whereas paid work was associated with increasing levels of personal growth and decreasing levels of purpose in life. For men, paid work was associated with increasing levels of personal growth and more symptoms. Factors underlying the gender specific relationships between paid and unpaid work, psychological well-being and symptoms are discussed.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal paid work, unpaid work, positive health, questionnaire

**Referens:** Lindfors, P., Berntsson, L., & Lundberg, U. (in press). Factor structure of Ryff's psychological well-being scales in Swedish female and male white-collar workers. *Personality and Individual Differences*.

**Abstract:** The present study aimed to investigate the structure of a Swedish translation of Ryff's Psychological Well-Being Scales covering self-acceptance, positive relations, autonomy, environmental mastery, personal growth and purpose in life. Moreover, the consistency of previously reported age and gender profiles of psychological well-being was examined. Analyses were based on data from 1260 white-collar workers aged 32 to 58 years. The internal consistency coefficients of the translated scales were higher than that of the original Ryff scales. Further confirmatory factor analyses replicated previous findings showing that the proposed six-factor model with a single second-order superfactor had better fit than the single factor model. Besides confirming previously reported age and gender profiles, the study showed age differences in self-acceptance and gender differences in environmental mastery and purpose in life but not in personal growth. The present findings clearly demonstrate the adequacy of the Swedish version of the Ryff scales in female and male white-collar workers.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal positive health, age, gender

**Referens:** Lindfors, P., Lundberg, O., & Lundberg, U. (2005). Sense of coherence and biomarkers of health in 43 year-old women. *International Journal of Behavioral Medicine*, 12, 98-102.

**Abstract:** The aim of this cross-sectional study was to investigate how sense of coherence (SOC) relates to biomarkers of health in 43-year-old nonsmoking premenopausal women. Before taking part in a standardized medical health examination including assessment of blood pressure, blood lipids, and physical symptoms, participants completed a three-item measure of SOC. On the basis of their SOC scores, the 244 women with complete datasets were categorized into 1 of 3 groups with a weak, intermediate, or strong SOC. Results showed that women with a strong SOC had significantly lower levels of systolic blood pressure ( $p < .05$ ) and total cholesterol ( $p < .05$ ) than did women with a weak SOC. It is suggested that the lower levels of systolic blood pressure and total cholesterol found in women with a strong SOC may constitute a biological buffer against ill health and disease.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal sense of coherence, medical examination, biomarkers

**Referens:** Lindholm, T. (2005). Group-based biases and validity in eyewitness credibility judgments. In Abstract book from 14th General meeting of the European Association for Experimental Social Psychology, Wurzburg, Juli, 2005.

**Abstract:** Three experiments examined credibility judgments of verbal eyewitness testimony as a function of witness ethnicity and testimony modality. In Experiment 1, Swedish fact-finders assigned more credibility to videotaped testimonies of high- than to low-accurate Swedish witnesses, while actual witness accuracy was unrelated to judgments of immigrant witnesses. Judgments of Swedes, but not of immigrants corresponded to witnesses' self-reported confidence. Experiment 2 revealed valid judgments also of transcribed testimonies of Swedish witnesses. Experiment 3 examined Swedish civilians', judges', and police officers' judgments of Swedes' and immigrants' specific witness statements as a function of testimony modality (videotape/text transcript). Preliminary results indicate that police officers were better than civilians/judges at detecting statement accuracy of Swedish but not of immigrant witnesses. Response bias was strong across groups, in particular in judgments of visually presented immigrant witness statements. Theoretical and legal implications are discussed.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings eyewitness testimony, credibility, ethnicity

**Referens:** Lindholm, T. (2005). Validity in judgments of eyewitness credibility: The role of witness ingroup/outgroup status and testimony presentation mode. In Abstract book from The 15th European conference on Psychology and Law, Vilnius, Juli, 2005

**Abstract:** Three experiments examined fact-finders' ability to judge the accuracy of verbal eyewitness testimony as a function of witness in-group/out-group status (based on ethnicity) and testimony presentation mode. In Experiment 1, Swedish fact-finders were presented with videotaped testimonies from high- and low-accurate in-group (Swedish) and out-group (immigrant) witnesses. Results revealed that fact-finders assigned more credibility to high- as compared to low-accurate in-group witnesses, but that actual witness accuracy was unrelated to credibility judgments of out-group witnesses. Path analyses showed that fact-finders' accuracy judgments of in-group, but not of out-group witnesses were related to witnesses' self-reported confidence. Fact-finders' ability to discriminate between high- and low-accurate in-group witnesses was found to generalize to written presentations of the testimonies in Experiment 2. Experiment 3 examined Swedish civilians', police officers', and judges' ability to discern the accuracy of in-group and out-group witnesses' answers to specific questions about a crime event as a function of testimony presentation mode (videotape or text transcript). Preliminary results indicate that police officers were more proficient than civilians and judges at discriminating between accurate and inaccurate statements from in-group but not of out-group witnesses. All three groups showed a strong response bias, in particular when judging statements of out-group witnesses presented in the

visual modality. Implications for theory and legal practices are discussed.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings credibility, eyewitness, ethnicity

**Referens:** Lindholm, T. (2005). Group-based biases and validity in eyewitness credibility judgments: Examining effects of witness ethnicity and presentation modality. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology, 35*, 1474-1501.

**Abstract:** To study how witness ethnicity and testimony presentation mode affected judgments of eyewitness credibility, testimonies from 6 immigrant and 6 Swedish accuracy-matched witnesses to a crime were presented to Swedish fact finders (N = 120) in videotape or as a transcript. Results showed that witnesses were perceived as more credible in the visual as compared to the written medium. Moreover, witness ethnicity affected judgments differentially depending on presentation mode for fact finders high in prejudice toward immigrants. Results also revealed that fact finders' judgments corresponded with the self-reported confidence of Swedish, but not immigrant witnesses and that in the transcript condition, judgmental validity was lower in estimates of Swedes' as compared to immigrants' accuracy. The findings indicate that presentation mode can function as a moderator of group-based effects in social judgments, and that both psychological theory and judicial systems need to consider thoroughly how different stimulus presentations compare in terms of the impact on perceivers.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal credibility, witnesses, ethnicity

**Referens:** Lindholm, T. (2005). Own-age biases in verbal person memory. *Memory, 13*, 21-30.

**Abstract:** Two experiments examined own-age biases in younger adults', older adults', and children's verbal person memory. In line with findings from face recognition studies, Experiment 1 showed that younger adults had a better recall of own-age than of other-age targets, while older adults were unaffected by target age. Participants' self-reported interest in targets did not predict target memory. Experiment 2, which examined children's and younger adults' memory of own- and other-age targets, showed an own-age advantage in children's but not in younger adults' verbal person memory. Differences in expertise of own-/other-age targets, in combination with a development of expertise throughout the lifespan, may account for the findings, although alternative explanations should be considered. Implications for theory and practice are discussed.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal age differences, verbal memory, own-age bias

**Referens:** Lindqvist, J.K. (2005). *Hot spur or tranquil? The adaptation of psychometric anger assessment instruments and their evaluation and application on violent and nonviolent samples in Sweden*. Stockholm: Stockholm University, Department of Psychology. (Doctoral dissertation).

**Abstract:** Anger is a negatively toned emotion and biopsychosocially functional alarm, which automatically activates a colorful arsenal of affective, cognitive, physiological, and behavioral action impulses in the face of experienced irritations and provocations. Anger, on the other hand, is a mixed blessing and a subject of admiration and condemnation since the days of Plato, Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas. This usual and passionate human emotion has also been closely associated with phenomena of human psychopathology: mental and personality disorders, aggression, interpersonal difficulties, and violence. Until the recent past, conceptual confusion and scientific neglect have complicated the research on anger.

Following a theoretical review of multiple, classical philosophical and contemporary, scientific approaches to anger, this thesis describes the work towards its principal aim: to develop the first Swedish adaptations of the psychometric anger assessment instruments Novaco Anger Scale (NAS, version 1998), Provocation Inventory (PI), and State-Trait Anger Expression Inventory-2 (STAXI-2). These psychometric anger assessment instruments focus on various theoretical dimensions of the anger concept; NAS assesses the cognitive mediation, physiological arousal, and behavioral action impulses and control efforts that compose anger. PI assesses the intensity of anger reaction as a function of various provocations. Finally, STAXI-2 assesses the various state and trait experience, expression, and control of anger.

The adaptations of the instruments were developed through the co-operation of the authors of the three studies included in this thesis, with a native back-translator, and also with the authors of the original instruments. The adaptations, labeled NAS-1998-S, PI-S, and STAXI-2-S, were investigated on the basis of their factor structures, internal reliability, scale correlations, and predictive capacity of group membership of participants, in male samples of violent prisoners (N = 95; Mage = 33.2, SDage = 10.6) and nonviolent university students (N = 100; Mage = 33.2, SDage = 12.5) in Sweden. Furthermore, the level of anger reported by the violent criminal and nonviolent university student samples in Sweden was compared, as were those in turn with published norm values of American standardization samples of the original instruments.

According to the results presented in the thesis, NAS-1998-S, PI-S, and STAXI-2-S have appropriate psychometric qualities. More specifically, NAS-1998-S and PI-S (but not STAXI-2-S) demonstrated factor structures that were interpreted as corresponding to the findings of previous studies on the original instruments. The parts that compose NAS-1998-S, PI-S, STAXI-2-S (i.e., subscales, scales, and total scale scores) were in good correspondence with what could be expected on the basis of previous findings on the original instruments. The scales had an appropriate pattern of correlations with concurrent scales of related and distinct theoretical constructs. The adapted assessment instruments demonstrated good capacities to discriminate the prisoners and university students from each other. The results were interpreted in terms of appropriate construct and cross-cultural validity.

As expected, the violent prisoners scored higher on the various cognitive, physiological, behavioral, trait, and expressed dimensions of anger, and lower on anger control, compared with nonviolent university students and persons in the American standardization samples. An unexpected, but culturally explainable result was the relatively high levels of anger suppression by both Swedish samples. In particular, the scores of violent prisoners on cognitive inclination and general disposition to anger approached clinically high levels. The high levels of anger in the violent prisoners were interpreted as supportive of previous research indicating the high prevalence of psychopathology in the offender population. Anger being an important antecedent of aggressive behavior and a vital correlate of clinical disorders, the systematic assessment of this emotion has not yet earned a high priority in the research and clinical work with offenders in Sweden. The work described in this thesis is an effort to remedy this condition.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Dissertation anger, psychometric assessments of anger, violent prisoners

- Referens:** [Lindqvist, J.K., Dåderman, A.M., & Hellström, Å. \(2005\). Internal reliability and construct validity of the Novaco Anger Scale-1998-S in a sample of violent prison inmates in Sweden. \*Psychology, Crime & Law\*, 11\(2\), 223-237.](#)
- Abstract:** In this study, the internal reliability and construct validity of the recently adapted Swedish version of the Novaco Anger Scale (NAS-1998-S; Lindqvist, Dåderman, & Hellström, *Social Behavior and Personality*, 8, 773-788, 2003), as well as its scale correlations with demographic and criminality variables, were investigated. Construct validity was established by assessing the correlation pattern of the scales of NAS-1998-S with concurrent scales of similar and distinct constructs. Ninety-five male violent prisoners, ranging in age from 18 to 67 years, participated. The results demonstrated good internal reliability, consistent intrascale relationships, and appropriate construct validity of NAS-1998-S. The number of previous convictions had a moderate negative relationship with the capacity control. Age, education correlated negatively with the NAS-1998-S scales, except Regulation. In addition to psychometric issues, the results were discussed from a clinical perspective on the offender population.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal violent prisoners, Novaco Anger Scale-1998-S, Aggression Questionnaire-S
- Referens:** [Lundberg, U. \(2005\). Samspelet individ, samhälle, livsstil och biologi. I R. Ekman & B. Arnetz \(Eds.\), \*Stress. Individ - Samhället - Organisationen - Molekylerna. \[Stress. The Individual - Society - the Organization - the Molecules.\]\* Stockholm: Liber Förlag.](#)
- Abstract:** In modern society, there are a number of factors contributing to stimulation, variation and development, but also to high workload and stress. In view of the high prevalence of stress-related disorders in the industrialized countries, it is important to understand the social, behavioral, psychological and biological mechanisms linking psychosocial stress to physical health problems.
- The aim of this chapter is to review the empirical knowledge and the theoretical models explaining these relationships. This knowledge is important in order to understand why people exposed to psychosocial stress develop physical, and often medically unexplained, health problems. One conclusion is that in the modern society, lack of time for rest and recovery may be a greater health problem than the absolute levels of stress and workload at work.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) stress related disorders, review, lack of recovery, lack of rest
- Referens:** [Lundberg, U. \(in press\). Stress, subjective and objective health. \*International Journal of Social Welfare\*.](#)
- Abstract:** The aim of this article is to describe the main physiological stress responses and to analyze under which conditions these responses are health promoting versus health damaging and how subjective and objective health is related. The brain communicates with the rest of the body through nerves, hormones and the immune system. Thus, perceived stress affects various systems and organs in the body, such as the cardiovascular and the gastrointestinal systems, sleep and breathing patterns, healing processes, the effectiveness of the immune system and by feedback mechanisms the brain itself. These bodily responses to stress have developed during evolution and are necessary for survival and protection of the body. However, activation of the stress systems means energy mobilization and in modern society, where stress is often induced by mental and psychosocial conditions, the mobilization of energy for fight or flight may have harmful consequences on various bodily systems. In order to maintain health, repeated or long-term activation of these systems, i.e., catabolic processes, has to be followed by periods of rest and restitution to allow growth, healing and buildup of new resources, i.e., anabolic processes.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal stress, health, bodily responses
- Referens:** [Lundberg, U. \(in press\). Catecholamines. In G. Fink \(Ed.\), \*Encyclopedia of Stress\*. Academic Press, San Diego.](#)
- Abstract:** The catecholamines have been of central interest and importance in stress research since the first demonstrations of the role of sympathetic arousal in response to stress exposure early in the 20th century. Numerous animal experiments have illustrated the active defence reaction and the "emergency function" of the adrenal medulla, which increases the organism's chances of survival by "fight-or-flight". During the past decades, a considerable number of studies in humans, in laboratory as well as in natural settings, has confirmed and extended the conclusions from the animal studies. The aim of this article is to summarize research and conclusions relevant to the role of catecholamines in stress and health, including their assessment and methodological considerations, as well as gender differences in catecholamine responses to stress.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) catecholamines, stress, health
- Referens:** [Lundberg, U. \(2005\). Psykisk stress leder till fysisk ohälsa. \*Psykologtidningen\*, 6, 9-10.](#)
- Abstract:** This is a review of present knowledge regarding the association between psychological stress and physical health. The physiological responses to stress, involving the pituitary adrenocortical and the sympathetic adrenomedullary systems, can be health promoting as well as health damaging. According to the Allostatic Load Model, a healthy reaction to stress means a rapid activation of the allostatic systems followed by a rapid deactivation when the stress is over, whereas repeated and sustained activation may cause wear and tear of the body. Longterm stress exposure has been linked to cardiovascular disorders, metabolic syndroms, impaired immune function, memory impairment and musculoskeletal disorders. The psychobiological mechanisms linking stress to these disorders are rather wellknown today. It is concluded, that in modern society, sustained activation and lack of rest and recovery is a greater health problem than intense mental and physical stress exposure at work.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal mental stress, psychobiological mechanisms, stress-related disorders, allostasis
- Referens:** [Lundberg, U. \(2005\). Stress hormones in health and disease. The roles of work and gender. \*Psychoneuroendocrinology\*, 30, 1017-1021.](#)

- Abstract:** Two neuroendocrine systems are of specific interest in the study of stress and health; the sympathetic adrenomedullary system with the secretion of epinephrine and norepinephrine, and the hypothalamic pituitary adrenocortical (HPA) system with the secretion of cortisol. These hormones have often been used as objective indicators of stress in the individual. However, through their bodily effects, they are also a link between the psychosocial environment and various health outcomes. From a series of studies of women and men, it was concluded that gender roles and psychological factors are more important than biological factors for the sex differences in stress responses.
- The stress responses have been important for human and animal survival and for protection of the body. However, in modern society, some of these bodily responses may cause harm rather than protection. The catecholamines have been linked to cardiovascular disorders such as hypertension, myocardial infarction and stroke, cortisol to cardiovascular disease, Type 2 diabetes, reduced immune function and cognitive impairment.
- An adequate balance between catabolic (mobilization of energy) and anabolic processes (growth, healing) is considered necessary for long term health and survival. In modern society, which is characterized by a rapid pace of life, high demands, efficiency and competitiveness in a global economy, it is likely that lack of rest, recovery and restitution is a greater health problem than the absolute level of stress.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal stress hormones, work, gender
- Referens:** [Lundberg, U.](#) (in press). Workplace stress. In G. Fink (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Stress*. Academic Press, San Diego.
- Abstract:** Work has a very central role in most people's lives. In industrialized countries, there has been quite dramatic changes in the conditions at work during the last decades, caused by the economic, social and technical development. Today, as a consequence, people at work are exposed to high quantitative as well as high qualitative demands and to hard competition, caused by a global economy, multinational companies, lean production, downsizing and increased demands for efficiency. Fewer employed people are expected to produce more and experiences of stress due to overstimulation have become a serious problem. At the same time, a considerable part of the population is unemployed or only temporarily employed, because no jobs are available or because they have an inadequate or insufficient education. These people experience stress mainly due to lack of economic resources and understimulation. This polarization of the labor market is likely to have contributed to the social gradient in health and wellbeing, which has increased in recent years. This article summarizes present knowledge regarding how the modern work environment may contribute to stress and negative health outcomes.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) workplace stress, work environment, negative health
- Referens:** [Lundberg, U.](#), & [Wentz, G.](#) (2004). *Stressad hjärna, stressad kropp. Om sambanden mellan psykisk stress och kroppslig ohälsa. [Stressed brain, stressed body. About the relation between mental stress and somatic illness.]* Wahlström och Widstrand.
- Abstract:** The book reviews the evidence and psychobiological mechanisms explaining the relationships between psychosocial stress and various bodily symptoms.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) stress, somatic health, mechanisms
- Referens:** [Lundström, J.N.](#), [Frasnelli, J.](#), [Larsson, M.](#), & [Hummel, T.](#) (2005). Sex differentiated responses to intranasal trigeminal stimuli. *International Journal of Psychophysiology*, 57, 181-186.
- Abstract:** The aim of the study was to address sex-related hemispheric differences in trigeminal event-related potentials, while controlling for the subjects' olfactory sensitivity. Event-related potentials to lateralized stimulation with the trigeminal stimulant CO<sub>2</sub> were recorded in 28 healthy young subjects (16 women). There was no sex-related difference in olfactory sensitivity. Results indicated a sex-differentiated response to trigeminally induced pain. Women were found to have generally higher amplitudes and shorter latencies of the late positive component than men. Moreover, men and women exhibited different hemispheric activations in that women expressed shorter latencies over the left hemisphere than men. The pronounced sex-related difference of the late positive component suggests a cognitive / emotional impact on the processing of intranasal pain as indicated by others.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal olfaction, sex, erp
- Referens:** [Lövdén, M.](#), [Bergman, L.R.](#), [Adolfsson, R.](#), [Lindenberger, U.](#), & [Nilsson, L.-G.](#) (2005). Studying individual aging in an interindividual context: Typical paths of age-related, dementia-related, and mortality-related cognitive development in old age. *Psychology and Aging*, 20, 303-316.
- Abstract:** This study has 2 objectives: (a) to explore typical paths of cognitive development associated with aging, terminal decline, and dementia and (b) to promote and illustrate an individual-oriented approach to the study of cognitive aging based on longitudinal panel data from a population-based sample (N=500; age range T1 = 60-80, where T refers to time) tested at 3 occasions 5 years apart. Results document interindividual differences in multivariate patterns of change. Although cognitive changes generally covary, the present study indicates that subgroups of individuals develop along different paths characterized by selective changes in subsets of cognitive functions. Typical progression of dementia followed a developmental cascade from low declarative memory, via low functioning across all observed cognitive measures, to dementia diagnosis, and finally, death.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal episodic memory, semantic memory, aging, dementia, cluster analysis
- Referens:** [Lövdén, M.](#), & [Wahlin, Å.](#) (2005). The sensory-cognition association in adulthood: Different magnitudes for processing speed, episodic memory, and false memory. *Scandinavian Journal of Psychology*, 46, 353-362.
- Abstract:** One hundred and forty-six participants (age range = 20-80) completed a battery of tests designed to measure visual acuity, processing speed, inhibition, episodic memory and false memory. The relations between visual acuity and general cognitive ability, as well as between visual acuity and the indicators of this construct, were

evaluated with structural equation modeling. The measurement model confirmed that the indicators of the individual cognitive abilities could be grouped into a general cognitive functioning factor. However, the relation between episodic and false memory was not completely explained by the shared association with this general factor. Furthermore, visual acuity predicted approximately half of the age-related variance in the general cognition factor. Also, the proportion of age-related variance shared with vision was highest in inhibition and lowest in false memory. The results are discussed in the light of common cause accounts of cognitive aging.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal cognitive aging, common cause, episodic memory

**Referens:** Magnussen, S., Andersson, J., Cornoldi, C., De Beni, R., Endestad, T., Goodman, G.S., Helstrup, T., Koriat, A., Larsson, M., Melinder, A., Nilsson, L.-G., Rönnerberg, J., & Zimmer, H. (in press). What people believe about memory. *Memory*.

**Abstract:** Two representative samples of adult Norwegians (n = 2000) were asked a set of general and specific questions regarding their beliefs and opinions about human memory. The results indicate that on many questions, such as time of the earliest memories, inhibiting effects of collaboration, and memory for dramatic versus ordinary events, the views of the general public concurred with current research findings, and people in general had realistic views about their own memory performance. On other questions, such as the reliability of olfactory as compared with visual and auditory memory, the memory of small children in comparison with that of adults, the likelihood of repression of adult traumatic memories, and on more general questions such as the possibility of training memory and the capacity limitations of long-term memory, a large proportion of the participants expressed views that are less supported by scientific evidence. Implications of these findings are briefly discussed.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal memory, belief, survey

**Referens:** Magnusson, C., & Stattin, H. (in press). Late childhood antecedents, mid-adolescent correlates and early adulthood implications of sexuality and normbreaking among adolescent females. In C. Magnusson & A.-K. Andershed (Eds.), *Troubled girls and girls troubles*. Hamburg: Springer Verlag.

**Abstract:** The aim of the present study is to examine selected correlates, precursors and consequences of mid-adolescent sexual activity and normbreaking among females. The specific issues concerned with are if it is possible to say something more specifically (a) in late childhood about later-to-come, mid-adolescent frequent sexual activity and/or high normbreaking, (b) the mid-adolescent factors differentiating among girls with frequent sexual activity and/or high normbreaking, and (c) the adult implications of mid-adolescent frequent sexual activity and/or normbreaking. The participants belong to the Swedish longitudinal research program "Individual Development and Adaptation" (the IDA project) who attended grade 8 (at the age of 15) of the compulsory school system in 1969. A subgroup differentiation was made of females from frequent sexual activity and high normbreaking or not. Generally, prior to mid-adolescence, there was no clear-cut differential antecedents for frequent sexual activity and/or high normbreaking behavior. Three discriminant functions distinguished the four groups of girls in mid-adolescence. The first function was defined by extrinsic and intrinsic maladjustment, the second reflected by mature peer network and the third defined normal peer network. Adolescent sexuality seems to have different developmental meaning depending upon whether it concurs with involvement in normbreaking or not, with more adverse consequences with respect to future social adjustment and academic achievement.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) adolescent females, normbreaking behavior, early onset of sexual intercourse

**Referens:** Magnusson, D., & Stattin, H. (2005). The person in context: A holistic-interactionistic perspective. In R.M. Lerner (Ed.), *Theoretical models of human development. Volume 1 in Handbook of child psychology* (6th ed., pp. 400-464). Editor-in-chief William Damon. New York: Wiley.

**Abstract:** The chapter emphasizes the importance of a general frame of reference for designing, implementing, and interpreting studies on specific issues in individual developmental processes. Theoretical, methodological and research strategy implications are discussed.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) individual development, basic principles, measurement models

**Referens:** Mellner, C., Krantz, G., & Lundberg, U. (2005). *Stress and Health*, 21, 45-52.

**Abstract:** The present, cross-sectional study explored whether self-reported symptoms are related to physiological stress indicators in a group of 43-year-old women representing the general population in Sweden. Analyses were performed both on raw scores of physiological indicators and on a multisystem summary index of allostatic load as a measure of cumulative biological burden. Participants answered a health questionnaire and underwent a medical examination including blood pressure, heart rate measurements, determination of blood lipids and stress hormones. Urinary epinephrine and norepinephrine were measured both on a working day and a work free day at home. In addition, salivary morning cortisol was measured on a non-work day. The physiological profiles based on raw scores from 222 women showed that women with a high symptom load had significantly higher levels of cortisol ( $p < .05$ ), and higher heart rate ( $p < .05$ ) than did those with a low symptom load. In contrast, women with a low symptom load had significantly higher levels of epinephrine on a work free day than did women with a high symptom load ( $p < .05$ ). No significant differences were found in norepinephrine responses. When analysing the summary measure of allostatic load in relation to symptom prevalence no significant difference between the symptom groups emerged. One possible explanation for this result could be that a majority of the study population was healthy, reporting a low level of symptoms in general. However, the results support the notion that common, medically unexplained symptoms among women are associated with certain biological parameters known to play a role in the development of ill health.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal allostatic load, women, common symptoms

**Referens:** Merkelbach, H., & Christianson, S.Å. (in press). Amnesia for homicide as a form of malingering. In S.Å. Christianson (Ed.). *Offenders' memories of violent crimes*. Wiley & Sons.

**Abstract:** Crime-related amnesia refers to a claim raised by defendants or convicted perpetrators that they cannot remember essential details of the crime they have committed or even of their entire life including the crime. Experts who have to evaluate claims of crime-related amnesia can learn the following lessons from two cases

presented in the chapter, the Ferdinand's case and the case of NN: (1) Experts should ensure that they have access to the complete record of the defendant. In particular, third-party eyewitness testimonies about the defendant's behavior before and after the crime might be informative. (2) Experts should have access to collateral sources that might provide them with crucial information about the defendant's background. (3) Experts should not take the defendant's self-report about his memory complaints at face value. That is, psychological testing of memory functioning is essential. (4) Experts should routinely use appropriate tests and tools to evaluate the possibility of malingering. (5) Experts are well advised to consider the medical records of the defendant critically and to ask themselves whether the amnesia claim is consistent with well-established facts about organic amnesia (e.g., time frames, Ribot's law). (6) Experts should not use PET, MRI or EEG data as a starting point for a forensic leap of faith.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) amnesia, homicide, malingering

**Referens:** [Montgomery, H.](#) (2005). The Psychology of economic forecasting: A possibility for cooperation between JDM and NDM theories? In H. [Montgomery](#), R. Lipshitz, & B. Brehmer (Eds.), *How professionals make decisions* (pp. 119-122). Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

**Abstract:** Data on actual and forecasted GNPs made by professional economists for Sweden during the time period 1970-2000 were analyzed with respect accuracy and psychological mechanisms underlying the forecasts. Correlations between actual and forecasted GNPs were relatively high in a short time perspective (one year ahead). However, a number judgmental biases (optimist, anchoring and adjustment, and availability bias) were identified in the forecasts, which suggests a possibility to correct economic forecasts for such biases in order to improve their accuracy.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) naturalistic decision making, forecasting, economics

**Referens:** [Montgomery, H.](#) (2005). How people explain behavior: Beyond attribution theory. In B. Ekehammar & N. Akrami (Eds.). *Proceedings of the Conference on Personality, Group and Social Psychology at Stockholm University 2005*, (pp. 81-93). Uppsala: Uppsala University.

**Abstract:** Recently, Bertram F. Malle introduced his Folk Explanation of Behavior (F.Ex.) theory as an alternative account to attribution theory of how people explain behavior (e. g., Malle, 1999, 2004). In addition to presenting a detailed conceptual apparatus for analyzing behavioral explanations, F.Ex-theory clarifies how causes and reasons are two fundamentally different components in explanations of behavior. In the present paper, F.Ex.-theory is supplemented by suggesting a number of additional components in how people explain behavior: evaluative perspectives and consistency seeking, and, finally, a meta-level where behavioral explanations themselves are seen as actions to be explained. It is concluded that the addition of these components emphasize that behavioral explanations are actions, i. e., intentional behavior involving interaction with the social environment.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings attribution theory, intentional behavior

**Referens:** [Montgomery, H.](#), Lipshitz, R., & Brehmer, B. (2005). From the first to the fifth volume of naturalistic decision making research. In H. [Montgomery](#), R. Lipshitz & B. Brehmer (Eds.), *How professionals make decisions* (pp. 1-13). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.

**Abstract:** In this introductory chapter we discuss the contributions made by the 27 subsequent chapters of the present volume on naturalistic decision making research in the light of the research presented in the first volume of this series. We present some key findings and attempt to address the following three questions. To what extent has progress been made with respect to issues presented in the first volume? Have new issues been raised? What are the challenges for future NDM research?

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) naturalistic decision making

**Referens:** [Nilsson, L.-G.](#) (2005). Aging and brain degeneration. *European Neuropsychopharmacology*, *15*, S101-S101.

**Abstract:** Old persons, even middle-age persons, often complain about difficulties in remembering names, faces, birthdays, meetings and other happenings in daily life. A common worry is whether such events are signs of degenerative process as for example in dementia, or whether this forgetfulness is just an expression of normal aging. I will present an overview of what is known about memory development from middle-age adulthood to old, and to very old age in relation to biological markers. The role of several genes will be discussed, e.g. APOE, COMT, and some genes related to the immune system. Changes in brain activity will be related to some of the genes discussed. The structure of memory is discussed as a basis for why different genes may have various roles for different memory systems. As will be seen, different forms of memory seem to age at different rates. The relative contributions of environmental and genetic factors to the memory deficits that most people seem to experience as they grow older are evaluated.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal memory, aging, APOE, COMT

**Referens:** [Nilsson, L.-G.](#) (2005). Genetic influences on memory function in healthy individuals. *Abstracts of the Psychonomic Society*, *10*, 28-28.

**Abstract:** On the basis of a prospective cohort study on memory, health, and aging, it is proposed that genetic markers affect memory function in a way that is of interest for memory theory. Two markers related to the immune system (Complement C3 and Haptoglobin) affect episodic memory, but not semantic memory. With demented and potentially demented people and people with cardiovascular disease, Apolipoprotein E (APOE) affects episodic memory- in particular, recall- and executive function. There is also a predictable decrease in episodic memory as a function of the dose of the malign  $\epsilon 4$  allele of this gene. The COMT gene, related to the dopamine system, also affects episodic memory and executive function, but not other memory systems. The results obtained are discussed in terms of gene-gene and gene-environment interactions.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal memory, genetics, brain imaging

- Referens:** Nilsson, L.-G. (in press). Kan generna lära oss något om minnet? [Can genes teach us anything about memory?] *Norska Vetenskapsakademins årsbok*.
- Abstract:** This chapter in the yearbook of the Norwegian Academy of Sciences constitutes a summary of a lecture held at the academy in February 2004. The chapter describes how declarative memory can be divided into episodic and semantic memory. Each of these two memory systems can be further subdivided into recall and recognition (episodic memory), knowledge and fluency (semantic memory). On the basis of data from the longitudinal Betula project on memory, aging and health, it is furthermore described how different genes seem to affect episodic memory, and recall in particular, but not semantic memory.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) memory, genetics, health
- Referens:** Nilsson, L.-G., & de Frias, C.M. (in press). The effect of genetics and vascular health on memory functioning: The Betula study. In Q. Jing, G. d'Ydewalle, M.R. Rosenzweig, H. Zhang & K. Zhang (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 28th International Congress of Psychology*. London: Psychology Press.
- Abstract:** This chapter presents a review of the role of different genes and vascular health factors in understanding normal and pathological human memory. Recent results are presented from a large-scale prospective cohort study on memory, health, and aging. The Betula project. Possible mechanisms for the genetic and vascular influences on individual differences and changes in memory in adulthood and old age are discussed. It is proposed that multiple genes, each with specific functions, impact different memory systems and at specific points in the adult lifespan. It is also suggested that a combination of experimental methods in cognitive psychology, genetics, and brain imaging may be the ultimate recipe for the detection of early signs of neurodegenerative diseases.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings memory, genetics, brain imaging, individual differences
- Referens:** Nilsson, L.-G., & Larsson, M. (in press). Self-referent beliefs about memory and actual performance: Relationships with age and sex. In S. Magnussen & T. Helstrup (Eds.), *Everyday memory*. Hove, UK: Psychology Press.
- Abstract:** Previous research has demonstrated a positive, but modest, relationship between knowledge about one's own memory capabilities and objective memory performance as measured by laboratory memory tests in late life. Less is known about the relationship between subjective and objective measures across a wider range of the life span. Little is also known whether men and women differ in their abilities to estimate subjectively the actual memory capacity. We used data from a large prospective study on memory health and aging to shed light on this lack of knowledge. The results obtained show age deficits and female superiority in episodic memory completely in line with previous research. The data obtained for semantic memory are also in line with those obtained in previous research. When relating these objective measures of memory to subjective measures significant correlations were found for old participants in episodic memory, but not for younger subjects and not for semantic memory. An interesting and not previously shown result was obtained when relating the subjective experience of a change in memory function to the actual change demonstrated in objective assessment of memory. It was found that men, not women, as they become older show a growing insight of a declining memory functioning. We discuss this result involving both age and sex variables as reflecting more serious memory conditions in men than in women.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) subjective memory, objective memory, age, sex differences
- Referens:** Nilsson, L.-G., & Ohta, N. (Eds.). (in press). *Memory and Society: Psychological Perspectives*. Hove, UK: Psychology Press.
- Abstract:** This book includes 18 chapters on various topics related to how laboratory research on memory and theories developed on the basis of such research can be implemented in practical, applied situations in society. The chapters are organized around three broad topics. Each topic is introduced by a chapter written by the editors of the book. The first topic is about self, society, and culture with contributions from Qi Wang and Martin A. Conway, Susan Joslyn and Jonathan W. Schooler, D. Stephen Lindsay and J Don Read, and Kathy Pedzek. The second topic is about learning in social settings including four chapters written by Dietrich Albert, Cord Hockemeyer and Toshiaki Mori, Robert A. Bjork and Elizabeth L. Bjork, Elizabeth L. Bjork, Robert A. Bjork and Malcom D. MacLeod, Yukio Itsukushima, Kazunori Hanyu, Yasunari Okabe, Makiko Naka, Yuji Itoh and Satoshi Hara. The third topic is entitled Memory deficits: Social costs and includes six chapters written by Fergus I.M. Craik, Ingvar Lundberg, Robert L. Logie and Sergio Della Sala, Masaru Mimura, Douglas Herrmann, Michael M. Gruneberg, Steve Fiori, Jonathan W. Schooler and Rebecca Torres, and Barbara A. Wilson.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) memory, society, culture
- Referens:** Nilsson, L.-G., & Ohta, N. (in press). Learning in social settings. In L.-G. Nilsson & N. Ohta (Eds.), *Memory and Society: Psychological Perspectives*. Hove, UK: Psychology Press.
- Abstract:** This chapter introduces main concepts, theories and data that are covered in this section of the book. After having discussed the applied ambitions of Hermann Ebbinghaus the chapter reflects on the topic of e-learning, an interesting theory how to optimize treatment and training, intended and unintended forgetting, and eyewitness testimony. The four chapters are written by Dietrich Albert, Cord Hockemeyer and Toshiaki Mori, Robert A. Bjork and Elizabeth L. Bjork, Elizabeth L. Bjork, Robert A. Bjork and Malcom D. MacLeod, Yukio Itsukushima, Kazunori Hanyu, Yasunari Okabe, Makiko Naka, Yuji Itoh and Satoshi Hara.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) e-learning, forgetting, eyewitness testimony
- Referens:** Nilsson, L.-G., & Ohta, N. (in press). Self, society, and culture. In L.-G. Nilsson & N. Ohta (Eds.), *Memory and Society: Psychological Perspectives*. Hove, UK: Psychology Press.
- Abstract:** This chapter introduces the main concepts that are dealt with in this section of the book. One common theme in the four chapters Qi Wang and Martin A. Conway, Susan Joslyn and Jonathan W. Schooler, D. Stephen Lindsay and J Don Read, and Kathy Pedzek is autobiographical memory. The four chapters also converge on the notion that memory of the past is based on how the individual conceives of the present, and that this conceptualization of the present is built up in a narrative way throughout life – in much the same way that a society or a culture is built up by oral or written narrative in that society.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) self, autobiographical memory, society

**Referens:** Nilsson, L.-G., & Ohta, N. (in press). Memory deficits: Social costs. In L.-G. Nilsson & N. Ohta (Eds.), *Memory and Society: Psychological Perspectives*. Hove, UK: Psychology Press.

**Abstract:** This chapter summarizes the section about practical consequences of various forms of memory deficits and the costs involved, both with respect to the individual and his or her family and with respect to the society. Memory deficits occurring in normal aging and pathological changes in old age, memory deficits that are related to dyslexia, working memory problems in everyday cognition, problems in executive functions chronic alcoholics, and Korsakoff amnesics. This chapter also includes a description of memory failures and their causes in everyday life and the rehabilitation of memory in everyday life. The chapter authors in this section of the book are: Fergus I.M. Craik, Ingvar Lundberg, Robert L. Logie and Sergio Della Sala, Masaru Mimura, Douglas Herrmann, Michael M. Gruneberg, Steve Fiori, Jonathan W. Schooler and Rebecca Torres, and Barbara A. Wilson.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) aging, dyslexia, rehabilitation

**Referens:** Nilsson, L.-G., & Rönnerberg, J. (in press). Learning and memory. In K. Pawlik & G. d'Ydewalle (Eds.), *Psychological concepts: An international historical perspective*. Hove, UK: Psychology Press.

**Abstract:** This chapter describes major concepts in the area of learning and memory in a historical perspective. The chapter takes into account the various influences that cultures have had on the concepts used in learning and memory research of today. A large portion of the chapter is devoted to defining and discussing different forms of learning and memory. The issue of behavior vs. cognition is discussed at some length. The concepts of storage of information, the spatial metaphor of memory, and memory trace are central concepts in memory research and are therefore dealt with thoroughly and are evaluated in the light of today's knowledge of human memory. The chapter is ended by a discussion of the requirements for scientific concepts to survive.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) concepts, memory, learning

**Referens:** Nilsson, L.-G., Söderlund, H., Berger, K., Breteler, M., de Ridder, M., Dufail, C., Fuhrer, R., Giampoli, S., Hofman, A., Pajak, A., Sans, S., Schmidt, R., & Launer, L.J. (2005). Cognitive test battery of CASCADE: Tasks and data. *Aging, Neuropsychology and Cognition*, 12, 32-56.

**Abstract:** This paper presents the cognitive test battery used in the CASCADE Study (Cardiovascular Determinants of Dementia) for examining the consequences of cerebral white matter lesions and atrophy. The test battery includes nine different tasks assessing memory, executive function, and global cognitive function. Three episodic memory tasks were used in combinations to assess the role of attention and speed on encoding. Estimates of short- and long-term memory capacity were also derived from these three memory tasks. Semantic memory production / frontal lobe functions were assessed by means of a word fluency test. The Letter Digit Substitution test and the Stroop test were used to assess speed of processing and attention. Motor speed was measured with the Purdue Pegboard test, and global cognitive function was assessed by the Mini Mental State Examination. Overall performance data for the whole CASCADE sample and for each of eight study centers are presented for each test. Possible reasons for performance differences among study centers are discussed.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal memory, executive function, cognition

**Referens:** Nilsson, M.E. (2005). A method for stimulus selection in environmental psychoacoustics. *Archives of Acoustics*, 30(4), 169-172.

**Abstract:** In environmental psychoacoustics, experimental sounds are taken from recordings of real-life situations. This makes stimulus selection an important element of experimental design. For example, the sound level of road-traffic noise close to a major road may vary considerably depending on the number of vehicles that passes by. Thus, a psychoacoustical evaluation of the loudness or annoyance of the road-traffic noise would depend on which samples of the noise were presented in a listening experiment. Therefore, a method was developed for representative selection of experimental sounds from recordings in real-life situations. The method has been applied in research on auditory change caused by noise mitigation and in research on psychophysical relationships for loudness of road-traffic noise. It is argued that for many psychoacoustical problems, the ecological validity gained by representative selection outweighs the loss in internal validity caused by the reduced control of specific acoustical variables of the experimental sounds.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal psychoacoustics, stimulus selection, community noise

**Referens:** Nilsson, M.E., & Berglund, B. (2005). Assessment of outdoor soundscapes in quiet areas. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 117(4), Pt. 2, 2592.

**Abstract:** Existing quiet outdoor areas should be preserved. Appropriate indicators and limit values are needed, which are grounded in knowledge on positive aspects of soundscapes, such as perceived pleasantness and psychological restoration. For this reason, a questionnaire study was conducted in four green areas close to a major city and in four city parks. Measured equivalent sound levels (LAeq, 15 min) ranged between 42 and 50 dBA in the green areas, and between 49 and 60 dBA in the city parks. Sounds from nature, such as bird song, completely dominated the soundscape in the green areas. The city-park soundscapes were more complex, containing sounds from nature, as well as technological sounds (e.g., traffic noise), and human sounds (e.g., human voices). In general, sounds from nature were perceived as pleasant, technical sounds as annoying, and human sounds as neutral. Between 84 and 100% of the visitors in the green areas assessed the soundscapes as good or very good. The corresponding percentages for the city parks were distinctly lower, between 52 and 65%. The results indicate that the equivalent sound level should be below 50 dBA in order to secure pleasant and restorative outdoor soundscapes in urban areas.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal green areas, soundscapes, nature

- Referens:** Nilsson, M.E., & Berglund, B. (in press). Noise annoyance and activity disturbance before and after the erection of a roadside noise barrier. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*.
- Abstract:** Questionnaire studies were conducted in a residential area before and after the erection of a 2.25-m high noise barrier of conventional type along a heavily travelled road (19,600 vehicles/24h). The interval between studies was 2 years. Houses closest to the barrier received a sound-level reduction from approx. 70.0 to 62.5 dB Lden at the most exposed facade. The sound level reduction decreased with distance to the road, and was negligible for houses at more than 100 m distance. Up to this distance, the noise barrier reduced residents' noise annoyance outdoors and indoors as well as improved speech communication outdoors. Indoors, speech communication and sleep disturbance were slightly but non-significantly improved. Predictions of number of annoyed persons from published exposure-response curves (in Lden) agreed with the percentage of residents being annoyed when indoors, before and after the barrier. Conversely, the percentage of residents being annoyed when outdoors clearly exceeded the predictions. These results suggest that these exposure-response curves may be used in predicting indoors situations, but they should not be applied in situations where outdoor annoyance is at focus.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal noise barrier ,annoyance, activity disturbance
- Referens:** Nygren, M. (2005). *Rorschach Comprehensive Variables and Assessment for Psychodynamic Psychotherapy*. Stockholm: Stockholm University, Department of Psychology. (Doctoral dissertation).
- Abstract:** Rationally selected Comprehensive System (CS; Exner, 1991, 1993, 2003) Rorschach variables and suitability for psychodynamic psychotherapy were investigated in four studies with different designs. The participants comprised three clinical samples (n = 52, 25, and 69) of patients applying for and/or selected for dynamic psychotherapy. With few exceptions the CS variables were the same in the studies, and in all the studies the Rorschach was independent of clinical ratings/assessments and/or selection of patients for treatment. The first study dealt with the relation between 17 rationally selected CS variables and suitability for psychotherapy as represented by ratings of Dynamic Capacity and Ego Strength and by selection of therapy applicants for psychotherapy. The second and third studies concerned CS score differences between groups of patients differing in suitability for dynamic psychotherapy. In the second study, differences for CS variables were predicted for three groups of dynamic psychotherapy patients with mixed diagnoses. In the third study, CS score differences between two groups, differing in suitability but similar in comprising personality disordered patients, were predicted and tested. In the fourth study, correlations were predicted between 18 pre-therapy CS variables and patient post-therapy satisfaction with therapy and also with therapist post-therapy ratings of their patients' suitability for dynamic therapy.
- For the four studies taken together, positive results were obtained for EA, FC, the D Score, Blends, Zf, F%, MQo, and AG. The results for m, SumT, WSUM6, X-%, S, and FrrF were negative, whereas the results for YFY, FD, COP, and PER were too weak to permit interpretation.
- The main limitation of the research in this thesis is the lack of psychometric data concerning the clinical ratings whereas the strength is the ecological validity. The results are positive for some of the CS variables selected, mainly concerning control and cognition but also touching upon emotional integration and interpersonal forcefulness. The usefulness of the CS in psychotherapy assessment may be enhanced if only those CS variables that are found valid for the purpose are used and general personality descriptions are avoided.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Dissertation Rorschach, Comprehensive System, psychotherapy assessment, psychotherapy suitability
- Referens:** Näswall, K. (2005). Job insecurity and the individual: Consequences and moderators. Keynote presentation at the *Changing World of Work Conference*, Vanderbijlpark, South Africa, 8-9 March, 2005.
- Abstract:** Job insecurity has severe consequences for the individual, such as strain reactions and negative work attitudes, but these consequences are not the same for all individuals who experience job insecurity. There is yet no clear answer to the questions: to what extent do the consequences of job insecurity differ between individuals? Also, what factors lessen the impact of job insecurity? Data from several studies testing moderators of the relation between job insecurity and consequences for the individual are presented to shed light on an issue of increasing importance in modern working life.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings job insecurity, moderators, strain
- Referens:** Näswall, K. (2005). Demanding but supportive? The role of social support in the relationship between work demands and strain among Swedish teachers. Poster presented at the *IXth European Conference on Organizational Psychology and Health Care*, Dresden, 6-8 October, 2005.
- Abstract:** Many human service professions have undergone radical changes, such as decentralization and budget cuts, during the 1990s,. Among human service occupations, teachers have been affected as well, and have had to adjust to new ways of working. For example, decentralization has meant that work descriptions are less explicit, and that teachers increasingly have to shape their work roles locally, and with less guidance from managers. Employees have been given more autonomy and responsibility over how tasks are carried out. The new autonomy has brought about more freedom, but also new types of demands and a larger quantity of tasks to be carried out in the same amount of time. The new conditions have thus increased the demands put on teachers, both in terms of actual workload, and the type of demands, as well as difficulties in determining when a job is completed and whether it is well done.
- Different types of demands have been both theoretically and empirically related to stress and strain. Demands result in stress experiences when the resources to deal with the demands are inadequate. The present study investigates how demands such as role stressors, vague task instructions, and workload relate to employee strain, as well as whether the presence of resources, such as social support, can help individuals deal with the demands they are faced with.
- Data are currently being collected among 619 teachers all employed in a Swedish town. The results will contribute to the knowledge of how employees are affected by the new demands, and whether a coping resource such as social support affects the relation between demands and strain. The results will also have implications for practice, in that social support can be implemented in order to facilitate coping with the demands teachers and other human service employees are faced with.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings job demands, alleviating effect, social support

- Referens:** [Näswall, K. \(2005\)](#). Job insecurity and well-being: Moderating factors of a negative relationship. Paper presented at the *12th European Congress on Work and Organizational Psychology*, Istanbul, 12-15 May 2005.
- Abstract:** The demands of flexibility placed on organizations during the last decades have brought on unpredictable conditions and job insecurity for employees. The stressor job insecurity gives rise to stress experiences and has been linked to several different negative outcomes, such as strain reactions, dissatisfaction, and turnover intention, but not for all individuals who experience it. The variation in the strength of association between job insecurity and its outcomes suggests that there are moderating factors of this association. In three studies utilizing data collected in different Swedish contexts, different moderators of the job insecurity – strain relation were tested. The results from these studies indicate that there are important buffering factors of the negative consequences of job insecurity, such as social support and employability, but also that personality had little influence on reactions to job insecurity.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings job insecurity, strain, moderating effects
- Referens:** [Näswall, K., Sverke, M., & Hellgren, J. \(2005\)](#). Stand by me: The moderating effects of work-based and family-based support on the relation between job insecurity and subsequent strain. *South African Journal of Industrial Relations*, *31*, 57-64.
- Abstract:** Job insecurity is a stressor empirically linked to various negative outcomes, such as impaired work attitudes and adverse health symptoms. Less is known about how these negative consequences can be buffered. The present study investigates whether work-based and non-work based social support moderate the relation between job insecurity and subsequent strain. The results, based on Swedish longitudinal questionnaire data, showed that job insecurity predicted strain, even after controlling for demographic variables and baseline levels. Non-work based support moderated the negative effect of job insecurity on mental health complaints and somatic complaints after controlling for baseline levels. The results suggest that employees can benefit from their support network during times of turbulence.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal job insecurity, social support
- Referens:** [Näswall, K., Sverke, M., & Hellgren, J. \(2005\)](#). The moderating role of personality characteristics on the relation between job insecurity and strain. *Work & Stress*, *19*, 37-49.
- Abstract:** The experience of job insecurity has been linked to several different outcomes, such as negative attitudes toward work and the organization, turnover intention, as well as health complaints. However, since the strength of these effects have been found to vary across studies, it is vital to identify factors that could influence the relations. The present study examines the moderating role of three personality characteristics (negative affectivity, positive affectivity, and external locus of control) on the relation between job insecurity and outcomes (mental health complaints, job dissatisfaction, and job-induced tension). Data from 400 nurses at a Swedish acute care hospital (response rate 71 %; 91 % women, age 20–68) showed a strong impact of both job insecurity and personality. Also, the data indicated some buffering effect of personality. Despite the gender bias of the sample, the study provides additional support for the notion that job insecurity affects strain even after controlling for individual characteristics, and also expands the literature on job insecurity by pointing out the influence of personality characteristics on the relation between stressors and strain.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal job insecurity, strain, personality
- Referens:** [Patching, G.R., & Jordan, T.R. \(2005\)](#). Assessing the role of different bands of spatial frequency information in word perception by good and poor readers. *Memory & Cognition*, *33*, 961-971.
- Abstract:** Numerous studies indicate that dyslexic and nondyslexic individuals exhibit different patterns of sensitivity to spatial frequency. However, the extension of this effect to normal (nondyslexic) adults of good and poor reading abilities and the role played by different spatial frequencies in word perception have yet to be determined. In this study, using normal (nondyslexic) adults, we assessed reading ability, spatial frequency sensitivity, and perception of spatially filtered words and nonwords (using a two-alternative forced choice paradigm to avoid artifactual influences of nonperceptual guesswork). Good and poor readers showed different patterns of spatial frequency sensitivity. However, no differences in accuracy of word and nonword perception were found between good and poor readers, despite their differences in spatial frequency sensitivity. Indeed, both reading abilities showed the same superior perceptibility for spatially filtered words over nonwords across different spatial frequency bands. These findings indicate that spatial frequency sensitivity differences extend to normal (nondyslexic) adult readers and that a range of spatial frequencies can be used for word perception by good and poor readers. However, spatial frequency sensitivity may not accurately reveal an individual's ability to perceive words.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal word perception, spatial frequency, reading ability
- Referens:** [Patching, G.R., & Jordan, T.R. \(2005\)](#). Spatial frequency sensitivity differences between adults of good and poor reading ability. *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science*, *46*, 2219-2224.
- Abstract:** Purpose: To determine whether normal adults of good and poor reading ability exhibit different patterns of sensitivity to spatial frequency, as previously found between dyslexic and nondyslexic control subjects.
- Methods: The visual acuity, spatial frequency sensitivity, and reading ability of 96 normal, nondyslexic adults was assessed. Participants were ranked according to reading ability. The top 50% were classified as good readers and the bottom 50% as poor readers.
- Results: Despite no differences in visual acuity, good and poor readers showed different patterns of spatial frequency sensitivity. In particular, compared with good readers, poor readers showed reduced sensitivity to spatial frequencies between 2 and 6 cyc/deg, and no differences in sensitivity were found at lower or higher spatial frequencies.
- Conclusions: The findings indicate that spatial frequency sensitivity differences found previously between dyslexic and nondyslexic controls can extend to the normal (nondyslexic) adult population.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal spatial frequency sensitivity, reading ability

**Referens:** Persson, J., Bringlöv, E., Nilsson, L.-G., & Nyberg, L. (2005). Herbal extracts and memory enhancement: Response to Scholey et al. *Psychopharmacology*, 179, 708-709.

**Abstract:** We scrutinize the critique from Scholey et al. and conclude that the positive memory effects in normal healthy individuals following herbal treatments remain elusive. The number of experiments is small and many experiments are of uneven quality. Our data and the data of others also suggest that the positive results found in many studies may act on acute cognitive processes and not on chronic problems. None of the possible effects of Ginkgo biloba and ginseng on memory to date is specifically attributable to the direct effects on memory processes.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal memory, herbal extracts, cognition

**Referens:** Persson, J., Lind, J., Larsson, A., Ingvar, M., Crutz, M., Van Broeckhoven, C., Adolfsson, R., Nilsson, L.-G., & Nyberg, L. (in press). Altered brain white-matter integrity in non-demented carriers of the APOE  $\epsilon$ 4 allele: A risk for Alzheimer's disease? *Neurology*.

**Abstract:** Previous research has shown that polymorphisms of the apolipoprotein E (APOE) represent genetic risk factors for dementia and for cognitive impairment in the elderly. The neural mechanisms by which these genetic variations influence behavioral performance or clinical severity are not well understood. We used diffusion tensor imaging to investigate ultrastructural properties in brain white-matter to detect pathological processes that modify tissue integrity. Sixty participants were included in the study of which 30 were homozygous for the APOE  $\epsilon$ 3 allele, 10 were homozygous for the APOE  $\epsilon$ 4 allele, and 20 had the APOE  $\epsilon$ 3 $\epsilon$ 4 allele combination. All individuals were non-demented, and the groups were matched on demographic variables and cognitive performance. The results showed a decline in fractional anisotropy, a marker for white-matter integrity, in the posterior corpus callosum of  $\epsilon$ 4 carriers compared to non-carriers. Additional sites of altered white-matter integrity included the medial temporal lobe. Conclusions: Although the mechanism underlying vulnerability of white matter tracts in APOE  $\epsilon$ 4 carriers is still unknown, our findings suggest that increased genetic risk for developing AD is associated with changes in microscopic white-matter integrity well before the onset of dementia.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal memory, genetics, brain imaging

**Referens:** Persson, J., Nyberg, L., Lind, J., Larsson, A., Nilsson, L.-G., Ingvar, M., & Buckner, R.L. (in press). Structure -Function correlates of cognitive decline in aging. *Cerebral Cortex*.

**Abstract:** To explore neural correlates of cognitive decline in aging, we used longitudinal behavioral data to identify two groups of older adults (n= 40) that differed with regard to whether their performance on tests of episodic memory remained stable or declined over a decade. Analysis of structural and diffusion tensor imaging (DTI) revealed a heterogeneous set of differences associated with cognitive decline. Manual tracing of hippocampal volume showed significant reduction in those older adults with a declining memory performance as did DTI-measured fractional anisotropy in the anterior corpus callosum. Functional magnetic resonance imaging during incidental episodic encoding revealed increased activation in left prefrontal cortex for both groups and additional right prefrontal activation for the elderly subjects with the greatest decline in memory performance. Moreover, mean DTI measures in the anterior corpus callosum correlated negatively with activation in right prefrontal cortex. These results demonstrate that cognitive decline is associated with differences in the structure as well as function of the aging brain, and suggest that increased activation is either caused by structural disruption or is a compensatory response to such disruption.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal aging, hippocampus, memory

**Referens:** Preisler, G. (2005). Development of communication in deafblind children. *Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research*, 7(1), 41-62.

**Abstract:** The aim of the study was to describe the development of communication between deafblind children and their parents in real life settings using video registrations. Longitudinal case studies of six children suffering from severe visual impairment in combination with profound hearing impairment are presented. Four of the six children also have additional functional disabilities affecting their motor and cognitive development. At the time of the first video recording the children were between 6 months and 3;9 years old. They were observed for a period of two years. Detailed analyses of the video recordings showed that all of the children in the study could communicate with their parents and the parents with their child. Even if the expressions varied and sometimes were difficult to interpret, the early development of communication followed the same patterns as that for "normal" children, from interest in social games with the caregiver to interest in the physical environment and thereafter an intent to share their experiences with another person.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal communication, deafblind, children

**Referens:** Preisler, G., & Capirci, O. (2005). A comparison between Italian and Swedish children's early use of gestures and words. *X International Congress for the Study of Child Language*, Berlin, July 25-29, 2005.

**Abstract:** Italians are considered to belong to a gestural culture, which is not the case of the Swedes. This study is a Swedish replication of the Italian study on gestures/words production at two observation points (Iverson, Capirci e Caselli, 1994; Caselli, Iverson, Pizzuto e Volterra, 1996). The data used for these studies were videotaped, 45-minute recordings of 12 Italian and 12 Swedish children observed at home, in different contexts of spontaneous interaction with their mothers (e.g., play with familiar objects, meals or snack time), at two age points: at 16 months, when their vocal utterances consisted for the most of one element, and at 20 months, when two-word utterances appeared in an appreciable number. Sessions, which included the parent, involved free play with well-known toys, play with new objects and a meal or snacktime. All communicative gestures, and words were transcribed from videotape and coded according to whether or not they were produced in combination. Results indicated that for both Italian and Swedish children, the onset of two-word speech was preceded by the emergence of gesture-word combinations and changes in the informational relationship between gesture and speech. Within this overall pattern of similarity, group differences in the

gestural repertoire and gesture use will be highlighted.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings gestures, language, cross-cultural

**Referens:** Preisler, G., Tvingstedt, A.-L., & Ahlström, M. (2005). Interviews with deaf children about their experiences using cochlear implants. *American Annals of the Deaf*, 150(3), 260-267.

**Abstract:** As part of a longitudinal psycho-social follow up study of deaf children with cochlear implants (CI), eleven children with 5-7,5 years of CI-use, were interviewed with the aim of taking part of their experiences. Six children attended special schools for the deaf and five regular classes. All but one used the implant daily. Several of the children in regular classes could take part in one-to-one conversations with the teachers but had difficulties following teaching and discussions. This was in accordance with what the children's parents and teachers had maintained. The children appreciated that the implant enabled them to perceive sounds in the environment and found it useful in family settings. Peer interaction was said to be best when other children commanded at least some signs.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal cochlear implant, children, interview, psychosocial

**Referens:** Rademakers, R., Slegers, K., Theuns, J., Van der Broeck, M., Kacem, S.B., Nilsson, L.-G., Adolfsson, R., van Duin, C.M., Van Broeckhoven, C., & Cruts, M. (2005). Association of cyclin-dependent kinase 5 and neuronal activators p35 and p39 complex in early-onset Alzheimer's disease. *Neurobiology of Aging*, 26, 1145-1151.

**Abstract:** Malfunctioning of cyclin-dependent kinase 5 (CDK5) through aberrant proteolytic cleavage of its neuronal activators p35 and p39 is involved in neurodegeneration in Alzheimer's disease (AD) and other neurodegenerative brain diseases. By extensive genetic analysis of the genes encoding CDK5 (CDK5), p35 (CDK5R1) and p39 (CDK5R2), we excluded causal mutations in 70 familial early-onset AD-patients. We performed an association study with five informative SNPs in CDK5 in two independent samples of early-onset AD patients and matched control individuals from The Netherlands and northern Sweden. Association was observed with g.149800G > C in intron 5 of CDK5, and two times increased risk was observed in both patient samples for carriers of the C-allele. Our data are indicative for a role of the CDK5 molecular complex in the genetic etiology of early-onset AD, and suggest that a yet unknown functional variant in CDK5 or in a nearby gene might lead to increased susceptibility for early-onset AD.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal neurodegeneration, cyclin-dependent kinase, mutation analysis

**Referens:** Ramnerö, J. (2005). *Behavioral Treatments of Panic Disorder with Agoraphobia: Treatment Process and Determinants of Change*. Stockholm: Stockholm University, Department of Psychology. (Doctoral dissertation).

**Abstract:** The present dissertation comprises four empirical studies within the area of behavioral treatment of panic disorder with agoraphobia. The focus is on studying issues pertaining to outcome, treatment process and determinants of change. The first study is a randomized controlled treatment study of 73 patients undergoing 16 sessions of either exposure in vivo (E), or cognitive behavior therapy (CBT). Both treatments showed clear improvements at post-treatment that were well maintained at 1-year follow up, and there were no significant differences between the treatments.

The second study concerned prediction of outcome in the same sample. From a variety of pre-treatment characteristics severity of avoidance was the one most related to outcome. Most predictors were found unrelated. Two approaches of prediction were also compared: treating outcome as a categorical vs. continuous variable. The different approaches yielded a somewhat dissimilar picture of the impact of pre-treatment severity of avoidance. The third study examined different aspects of the therapeutic relationship, and their relation to outcome. Clients' perceptions of therapists and their ratings of the working alliance were generally not related to outcome at any point. On the other hand, therapists' perceptions of patients as showing goal-direction and active participation were related to outcome from early on in therapy. The fourth study examined different aspects of change. It was found that change in indices of the frequency of panic attacks was not closely related to change in agoraphobic avoidance at post-treatment. Change in avoidance was also more related to other aspects of outcome. At one-year follow-up, a more unitary picture, regarding the different aspects of change was observed.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Dissertation panic disorder with agoraphobia, cognitive-behavior therapy, exposure in vivo, therapeutic relationship

**Referens:** Rana, M.A.K.M., Lundborg, C.S., Wahlin, Å., Ahmed, S.M., & Kabir, Z.N. (2005). Effect of health education on prevalence, health seeking behaviour and expenditure on treatment of arthritic related illness among elderly persons in rural Bangladesh. Poster presentation at the *International Conference on Mainstreaming Ageing in Health Systems and Rural Development*, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

**Abstract:** Objectives: The objective of this study is to examine the potential effects of health education on prevalence, health seeking behaviour and expenditure on treatment of arthritic related illness among elderly persons suffering from arthritic related illness in rural Bangladesh.

Methods: Data for this study were derived from the "Primary health Care in Later Life: Improving Services in Bangladesh and Vietnam" (PHILL), an intervention research project that is financially supported by the European Commission. PHILL is carried out in collaboration with BRAC, Bangladesh, Health Strategy and Policy (HSPI), Vietnam, Karolinska institutet (KI), Sweden, and the University of East Anglia, the United Kingdom. The present study concerns both the baseline and post-intervention data collected in 2003 prior to the beginning of intervention and after the end of 18 months of intervention in 2005. The study was done in one purposively selected district out of 64, located 70 kilometers from the capital. From the selected district, two sub-districts were chosen from the 8, where BRAC (a non-governmental organization) and government health centers offer primary health care services. A total of 8 villages within 3 kilometers from both BRAC and government health centers were selected by simple randomization. The surveys were done in 1031 elderly persons in the baseline and 839 elderly persons in the post-intervention with a response rate of 91% in the baseline and 81.4% in the post-intervention respectively. However, the analysis was done based on the participants who attended in both surveys. Furthermore, for the analysis participants from the intervention area were divided into two groups: compliant and non-compliant. The compliant group comprise those who

reported to follow the health education instructions as directed and the non-compliant group those who did not follow the instructions.

Findings: Findings reveal that in the intervention area, at post-intervention period, prevalence of arthritic related illness among the non-compliant group was found to be significantly higher than in the compliant group ( $p < .05$ ). Elderly persons who followed moderate exercise and dietary habits reported significantly lower prevalence of arthritic related illness compared to those who did not ( $p < .001$ ). Another finding was the effect of intervention on expenditure of treatment for arthritic problems, which was significantly reduced among the compliant group compared to the non-compliant and the control groups (OR 0.51; 95% CI: 0.37-0.71). However, health seeking behavior noted marginal changes over time.

Conclusion: The effect of health education intervention is evident from the findings being presented. Hence, scaling up of such health education programmes can be pursued in reducing the burden of chronic illness.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings health intervention, public health, old age

**Referens:** [Risholm Mothander, P.](#) (2005). Förord till svenska upplagan. [Foreword to Swedish edition.] In D.N. Stern *Ögonblickets psykologi. Om tid och förändring i psykoterapi och vardagsliv. [The present moment in psychotherapy and everyday life.]* Natur och Kultur.

**Abstract:** The foreword introduces the author D.N. Stern and discusses his new book in relation to earlier work. It focuses on how theory of intersubjectivity, based on infant research, can be of help in clinical and therapeutic work.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) psykoterapi, intersubjektivitet

**Referens:** [Risholm Mothander, P.](#) (2005). Behövs de barnpsykiatriska diagnoserna? [Are childpsychiatric diagnoses needed?] *Mellanrummet*, 12, 49-61.

**Abstract:** The paper draws a line from the historical use of diagnoses in infant psychiatry to how diagnostic work can be used in an infant mental health setting today. A clinical procedure model and a classification system, Diagnostic Classification, DC:0-3, are introduced and discussed.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal spädbarnspsykologi, DC:0-3

**Referens:** [Risholm Mothander, P.](#), & Grette Moe, R. (in press). *Diagnostic Classification, DC:0-3. Utprövning og implementering i en klinisk setting.* Regionsenter for Barn og Unges Psykiske Helse, Helseregion Öst og Sör, R.BUP

**Abstract:** This report presents the results of an implementation of DC:0-3, a multiaxial infant psychiatry classification system, at Nic Waals Institute, (NWI), in Oslo, Norway. During a two-year period 138 (68%) all children under four who were referred to the parent-infant clinic were assessed and independently classified within both DC:0-3 and ICD-10 frameworks. Of the assessed children 59% were given DC:0-3, Axis I classifications, with regulatory disorders, disorders of affect and traumatic stress disorders as most common diagnoses, 48 % received a DC:0-3 Axis II classification of relationship disorder and 27% were given classifications in both DC:0-3 Axes I and II. The profiles of ICD-10 and DC:0-3 classifications were similar but detailed comparisons were made difficult because of the use of many different ICD-10 categories. A validity test was made by using four different parental questionnaires, CES-D, SPSQ, CBCL and ITSC, in a smaller number of families. The results indicate that mothers had a higher degree of self reported depression than fathers. Mothers' CBCL reports were significantly related to infants' regulatory and affect disorders as classified with DC:0-3. The value of a classification system developed specifically for mental health problems during infancy with both categorical and dimensional descriptions is discussed. Although more emphasis on validity and reliability issues has to be encouraged DC:0-3 is seen as a valuable complement to already existing diagnostic systems like DSM and ICD.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Report infant mental health, spädbarnspsykologi, DC:0-3

**Referens:** Ruchkin, V.V., Kuposov, R.A., [af Klinteberg, B.](#), Orelan, L., & Grigorenko, E.L. (2005). Platelet MAO-B, personality, and psychopathology. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 114(3), 477-482.

**Abstract:** The article investigates the relationships between platelet monoamine oxidase-B (MAO-B) activity, personality, and psychopathology (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders [4th ed.; American Psychiatric Association, 1994] diagnoses). The relationships were assessed in 178 incarcerated male juvenile delinquents. Even after controlling for smoking, the authors found that both Internalizing and Externalizing Psychopathology were negatively related to MAO-B activity. In the final reduced model, novelty seeking fully mediated the relationships between MAO-B and Externalizing Psychopathology but not between MAO-B and Internalizing Psychopathology. It was hypothesized that low platelet MAO-B activity does not directly predispose individuals to psychopathology but is related to specific personality traits, which in turn represent a vulnerability factor for psychopathology. Future studies should help clarify the nature of the relationships between personality, biological markers, and psychopathology.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal juvenile delinquents, Platelet MAO-B, psychopathology, personality, novelty seeking

**Referens:** [Rydén-Lodi, B.](#) (2005). *Inför frigivningen: Livssituationen inför frigivningen och egenbedömning av framtida återfall. [On the eve of release: Life-situation at release and self-reported risk of future recidivism.]* Rapport No 17. Norrköping: Kriminalvårdsstyrelsen.

**Abstract:** The aim of the present study was to enlighten the criminal career, focusing on factors of importance for quitting an ongoing severe criminal career. One hundred male recidivists, aged 30-38 years and incarcerated in prisons in the region of Stockholm, Sweden, were studied. The subjects were interviewed regarding life-situation factors, e.g., criminality and addiction, quality of social networks, lodging situation, economic status, work and leisure-time. Inclusion criteria for participating in the study were that the subject had at least three prior convictions to prison and at least a total of one year of prison served. In a follow-up three years after the release from prison, registered criminal activity was obtained and used in yielding four recidivism groups. These groups were then studied regarding differences in the collected life-situation factors. The results indicated significant differences within certain areas between those who kept out of conviction and those who

showed severe recidivism during the three year period studied. The subjects free of convictions displayed better quality in relationships and lodging, they also differed in their evaluation of addiction and the criminal life-style. The results are discussed with a focus on the necessity to quit drug-related social contacts and the overall complexity of the interactional process of giving up crime.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Report criminality, quality of life, follow-up study

**Referens:** Rydén-Lodi, B., Stattin, H., & af Klinteberg, B. (2005). *Återfallsförbrytare – vilka var de? Några bakgrundsfaktorerers inverkan på återfall i brott. [The influence of background factors on recidivism in crime: Factors differentiating - among serious criminal male subjects - those who relapse into crime from those who quit their criminal career.]* Rapport No 16. Norrköping: Kriminalvårdsstyrelsen.

**Abstract:** The aim of the present study was to enlighten the criminal career, focusing on factors of importance for quitting an ongoing severe criminal career. One hundred male recidivists, aged 30-38 years and incarcerated in prisons in the region of Stockholm, Sweden, were studied. The subjects filled in a questionnaire regarding background factors, e.g., debut in crime and addiction, upbringing, values, and quality of social networks. Inclusion criteria for participating in the study were that the subject had at least three prior convictions to prison and at least a total of one year of prison served. In a follow-up three years after the release from prison, registered criminal activity was obtained and used in yielding four recidivism groups. These groups were then studied regarding differences in the collected background factors. The results indicated significant differences within certain areas between those who kept out of conviction and those who showed severe recidivism during the three year period studied. The subjects free of convictions displayed better quality in upbringing conditions and relationships, they also differed in their evaluation of the criminal life-style. Furthermore, they had a later and less varied debut in addiction, nor did they live with addicted partners. The results are discussed in terms of an interactional model of the crime quitting process.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Report criminal males, recidivism, criminal life-style

**Referens:** Rönnlund, M., & Nilsson, L.-G. (in press). Adult life-span patterns in WAIS block design performance: Cross-sectional versus longitudinal age gradients and relations to demographic predictors. *Intelligence*.

**Abstract:** Aging pattern in WAIS-R Block Design test (BDT) performance were examined cross-sectionally and longitudinally. One sample (35-80 years, n = 1000) was assessed in 1988-1990 and five years later (836 returned). An independent cohort-matched sample (n = 974) was included at Time 2 to estimate the magnitude of practice effects. Relations between BDT performance, gender, and education were also examined. The cross-sectional analyses indicated a gradual age-related deterioration from 35 to 55, even when minor practice effects were adjusted for. Decline was apparent for the older cohorts, regardless of estimation method. Education-adjusted cross-sectional differences showed a similar pattern. A minor age- and time-invariant gender difference favoring males was observed. Education predicted some time-related change, such as higher education was associated with lesser decline. Collectively, the results demonstrate the need to control for cohort and retest effects in cross-sectional and longitudinal studies, and reveal interesting relations between BDT performance and demographic variables.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal block design, aging, cross-sectional, longitudinal

**Referens:** Rönnlund, M., Nyberg, L., Bäckman, L., & Nilsson, L.-G. (2005). Stability, growth, and decline in adult life-span development of declarative memory: Cross-sectional and longitudinal data from a population-based sample. *Psychology and Aging, 20*, 3-18.

**Abstract:** Five-year changes in episodic and semantic memory performance were examined in a sample of 829 participants from 10 age cohorts (35-80 years). A second, cohort-matched, sample (n = 959) was assessed at Time 2 to control for practice effects. Longitudinal changes indicated improved episodic memory performance for the younger cohorts, in contrast with the gradual age-related decrements depicted by cross-sectional data. For groups 60 years or older performance declined substantially. Practice effects were observed for the episodic measure, but even when these were adjusted for results were consistent with a late onset (> 60 years) of decline. Semantic memory showed minor improvements until age 55, with less steep decrements in old age as compared with episodic memory. Cohort differences in educational attainment appear to account for discrepancies between cross-sectional and practice-adjusted longitudinal data, both for episodic and semantic memory. Collectively, the results show that the age-trajectories for episodic and semantic differ, and underscore the need to control for cohort and retest effects in cross-sectional and longitudinal studies, respectively.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal episodic memory, semantic memory, practice effects

**Referens:** Sandgren, M. (2005). *Being and becoming an opera singer: Health, personality and skills*. Stockholm: Stockholm University, Department of Psychology. (Doctoral dissertation).

**Abstract:** The present thesis explores factors and processes associated with the artistic profession and development of opera singers. The profession of opera singers has a long story deriving its origin in early 1600s in Italy. What is performed on opera stages today is written in the musical scores in the 18th and 19th century. The question arises how the modern opera singers live, learn and excel in their contemporary pursuit in order to meet the high demands on performance.

The initial study identified health issues related to the professional activity of opera singers. Qualitative and quantitative measurements indicated that psychological problems were associated with a distinct worry for possible negative evaluation from significant others and a fear of vocal indisposition. A range of health-promoting activities was demonstrated aiming at preventing the occurrence of somatic problems that could cause vocal indisposition. Psychosocial problems concerned difficulties to maintain a family life and relations due to irregular working hours.

In Study II, the psychological and physiological effects of singing lessons were investigated with respect to amateur and professional levels of singing experiences. Amateur singers experienced more well-being measured by self-reports of emotional states and by lower levels of stress hormones than professionals.

In Study III, narrative accounts were collected to identify factors and processes in the artistic

development during higher opera education. A descriptive model was created that embraced the development of various skills such as singing technique, means of expressiveness and interpersonal skills. Outcome variables from the education were artistic autonomy, artistic competence and change in self-concept.

In Study IV, personality characteristics were assessed among elite students in opera and business education representing an artistic versus a traditional educational streaming. Female opera students, female business and male business students shared the personality characteristic of extraversion indicating a disposition towards sensation seeking. Male opera singers exhibited a profile of elevated levels of emotionality. In general, the findings across the studies demonstrate that the individual development of operatic artistry is a complex process where health-related issues, personality characteristics, skills acquisition and sociocultural values are critical constituents. A major result was the marked focus on the instrument per se, the voice. Vocal functioning in singing was described as a means of enabling operatic singing, a mode for artistic expression and indicator of health.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Dissertation artistic development, opera singers, health, personality, skills

**Referens:** Schalin, A., & Schenkman, B.N. (2005). Annoyance of noise from computer systems: Psychoacoustics and models. HCI International 2005: *11th International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction*, Las Vegas, USA, 22-27 July. Mira Digital Publishing, CD-ROM.

**Abstract:** Annoyance and intrusive sounds from computers is a nuisance and stress factor in modern society. It may cause problems such as mental tiredness, reduced performance and reduced working satisfaction. Two experiments were conducted inside an office room with 20 participants, 23 – 58 years. The sound were analysed by a number of psychoacoustical models, namely level of noise, impulsiveness, relative content of high frequencies, modulation, and presence of tones. New algorithms were developed for tone detection, balance point and modulation. One aim of this study was to see which model that best explained annoyance and acceptance for the sounds. In the first experiment the observers were presented with 25 computer noises, while doing a secondary task. Each of the pre-recorded and digitally manipulated computer stimulus lasted for 1 min and 15 s. The results showed that loudness was a good predictor of both annoyance and acceptance. Only a weak correlation was found between the annoyance response and the most widely used parameter for measurement of noise, A-weighted sound pressure level. For both the category scales annoyance and acceptance, loudness Zwicker, fluctuation strength and impulsiveness were significant predictors, while balance point was also included. In the second experiment using magnitude estimations, shorter sound sequences of 5 s were presented. The significant predictors of annoyance were loudness Zwicker, fluctuation strength and tone level indicating the presence of a tone in the sound.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings annoyance, noise, HCI

**Referens:** Selenius, H., Dåderman, A.M., & Hellström, Å. (in press). Memory performance in dyslexic male juvenile delinquents convicted of severe offences does not differ from that in dyslexic male junior college students. *World Journal of Biological Psychiatry*.

**Abstract:** Background: There are different research approaches regarding the causes and possible overrepresentation of dyslexia in criminals. One approach focuses on sociological explanations such as under-stimulation at home, while another focuses on the importance of cognitive neurobiological dysfunctions. In several studies, poor memory for digits and poor verbal learning ability have been found in non-criminal dyslexics.

Aim: To compare memory performance in two groups of dyslexics, namely, juvenile delinquents and junior college students, in order to discuss their dyslexic problems in the light of sociocultural and cognitive neurobiological approaches.

Participants: Two groups of male adolescent dyslexics: 11 juvenile delinquents (mean age 18.55 years, SD = 2.07), all of them convicted for severe offences, and 11 junior college students (mean age 17.09 years, SD = 0.83).

Results: Matched-samples t-tests indicate that there is no difference in memory performance between the two different groups of dyslexics, which supports the accuracy of the diagnoses of dyslexia in the group of juvenile delinquents.

Conclusions: The present results show that the memory performance of dyslexic juvenile delinquents does not differ from that of dyslexic junior college students. A sociocultural approach, therefore, cannot plausibly explain the high prevalence of reading and writing difficulties among juvenile delinquents.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal juvenile delinquents, dyslexia, memory functions, memory performance

**Referens:** Selenius, H., Dåderman, A.M., Wirsén Meurling, A., & Levander, S. (in press). Assessment of Dyslexia in a Group of Male Offenders With Immigrant Backgrounds Undergoing a Forensic Psychiatric Investigation. *Journal of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology*.

**Abstract:** It is known that offenders with immigrant backgrounds are over-represented in criminal as well as forensic psychiatric populations and that the prevalence of dyslexia among prisoners with Swedish as a native language is much higher than in the general population in Sweden. The aim of this study was to diagnose dyslexia in a sample of 23 male offenders with immigrant backgrounds undergoing a forensic psychiatric investigation with the objective to discuss the appropriateness of a commonly used assessment procedure in accordance with DSM-IV. Dyslexia was diagnosed individually; the participants took reading and writing tests, as well as intelligence and neuropsychological tests. Nine out of 23 participants (39%) were diagnosed as having dyslexia. Thus, dyslexia seems to be common among male offenders with immigrant backgrounds undergoing FPI, and for that reason it is important to investigate their reading and writing abilities. Dyslexia is regarded as a functional impairment in Sweden, and therefore all offenders with dyslexia undergoing a forensic psychiatric investigation, irrespective of their background, should receive help with the legal procedure, for example their crime files and police investigation documents should be read to them. We conclude that in addition to the criteria in DSM-IV the assessment procedure should be extended with phonological tests.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal dyslexia, immigrant background, forensic psychiatric investigation

**Referens:** Sigrell, B. (2005). *Narcissism. Ett psykodynamiskt perspektiv*. Natur och kultur. ISBN: 978-91-27-

**Abstract:** [Info på förlagets hemsida.](#)

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) narcissism

**Referens:** Sjöberg, A., Rüdén, S., & Sverke, M. (2005). FFM and a Job Involvement and Organizational Commitment Typology Paper presented at the *Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association*, Washington, DC, 18-21 August, 2005.

**Abstract:** This paper investigates the relationship between personality and attachment to the job and to the organization. The typology (Blau & Boal, 1987) used to assess attachment divides individuals into four categories; high or low job involvement and organizational commitment respectively. Using the Five Factor Model of Personality (NEO-FFI; Costa & McCrae, 1989) the results show that personality has a significant impact on individual classifications according to the typology of attachment. Emotional Stability, Extraversion and Conscientiousness are the personality factors differentiating on the function corresponding well to the Status Striving intention in social cognitive theory (Barrick, Mitchell & Stewart, 2003) and the "getting ahead of others" in the socio analytical theory (Hogan & Shelton, 1998). These findings shows that personality measures is a highly valuable tool in personnel selection procedures and confirms the fact that Openness for Experience is the personality factor with the weakest impact on work related variables. The practical implications of the results are discussed.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings personality, job involvement, organizational commitment

**Referens:** Sjöberg, R.L., & Lindholm, T. (2005). A systematic review of age-related errors in children's memories for voiding cysto-urethrograms (VCUG). *European Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 14, 104-105.

**Abstract:** Presents a systematic review of age-related errors in children's memories for voiding cysto-urethrograms (VCUG). Drawing on results from numerous experimental studies, most of which have been performed during the latest two decades, psychological researchers tend to argue that they are, at least when posed with specific or misleading questions. However, since many of these studies have investigated children's memories for emotionally neutral or even pleasant events, such as baking a cake or playing a game, concerns are sometimes raised that these conclusions may not apply to memories for stressful or even potentially traumatic events. In sum, results from investigations of children's memories for voiding cysto-urethrogram are consistent with the scientific rationale on which these recommendations are based.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal age differences, memory, trauma

**Referens:** Sjölander, M., Höök, K., Nilsson, L.-G., & Andersson, G. (2005). Age differences and the acquisition of spatial knowledge in a three-dimensional environment: Evaluating the use of an overview map as a navigation aid. *International Journal of Human-Computer Studies*, 63, 537-564.

**Abstract:** This study examined age differences in the use of an electronic three-dimensional (3D) environment, and how the age differences were affected by the use of an overview map as a navigation aid. Task performance and the subjects' acquisition of configural knowledge of the 3D-environment were assessed. Impact of spatial ability and prior experience on these measurements were also investigated. One group of older subjects (n=24) and one group of younger subjects (n=24) participated. An overall hypothesis for the work presented here was that differences in learning to and performing navigational tasks in the physical world are similar in learning and performing navigational tasks in the virtual world. The results showed that the older participants needed more time to solve the tasks; and similar to navigation in the physical world, the older participants were less likely to create configural knowledge. It could not be established that older participants benefited more from an overview map as cognitive support than younger subjects, except in the subjective sense: the older users felt more secure when the map was there. The map seemed to have supported the older users in creating a feeling of where objects were located within the environment, but it did not make them more efficient. The results have implications for design; in particular, it brings up the difficult issue of balancing design goals such as efficiency in terms of time and functionality, against maintaining a sense of direction and location in navigational situations.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal older users, 3D-environment, navigation aid, spatial knowledge

**Referens:** Skånér, Y., Backlund, L., Montgomery, H., Bring, J., & Strender, L.E. (2005). General practitioners' reasoning when considering the diagnosis heart failure: a think-aloud study. *BMC Family Practice*, 6:4.

**Abstract:** Diagnosing chronic heart failure is difficult, especially in mild cases or early in the course of the disease, and guidelines are not easily implemented in everyday practice. The aim of this study was to investigate general practitioners' diagnostic reasoning about patients with suspected chronic heart failure in comparison with recommendations in European guidelines. The think-aloud technique was used. Fifteen general practitioners reasoned about six case vignettes, representing authentic patients with suspected chronic heart failure. Information about each case was added successively in five steps. The general practitioners said their thoughts aloud while reasoning about the probability of the patient having chronic heart failure, and tried to decide about the diagnosis. Arguments for and against chronic heart failure were analysed and compared to recommendations in guidelines. Information about ejection fraction was the most frequent diagnostic argument, followed by information about cardiac enlargement or pulmonary congestion on chest X-ray. However, in a third of the judgement situations, no information about echocardiography was utilized in the general practitioners' diagnostic reasoning. Only three of the 15 doctors used information about a normal electrocardiography as an argument against chronic heart failure. Information about other cardio-vascular diseases was frequently used as a diagnostic argument. It was concluded that the clinical information was not utilized to the extent recommended in guidelines. Some implications of our study are that 1) general practitioners need more information about how to utilize echocardiography when diagnosing chronic heart failure, 2) guidelines ought to give more importance to information about other cardio-vascular diseases in the diagnostic reasoning, and 3) guidelines ought to treat the topic of diastolic heart failure in a clearer way.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal medical diagnosis, guide-lines, reasoning

- Referens:** Stansfeld, S.A., Berglund, B., Clark, C., Lopez-Barrio, I., Fischer, P., Öhrström, E., Haines, M.M., Head, J., Hygge, S., van Kamp, I., Berry, B.F., on behalf of the RANCH study team (M.E. Nilsson et al.). (2005). Aircraft and road traffic noise and children's cognition and health: a cross-national study. *Lancet*, 365, 1942-1949.
- Abstract:** Exposure to environmental stressors can impair children's health and their cognitive development. The effects of air pollution, lead, and chemicals have been studied, but there has been less emphasis on the effects of noise. Our aim, therefore, was to assess the effect of exposure to aircraft and road traffic noise on cognitive performance and health in children. We did a cross-national, cross-sectional study in which we assessed 2844 of 3207 children aged 9-10 years who were attending 89 schools of 77 approached in the Netherlands, 27 in Spain, and 30 in the UK located in local authority areas around three major airports. We selected children by extent of exposure to external aircraft and road traffic noise at school as predicted from noise contour maps, modelling, and on-site measurements, and matched schools within countries for socioeconomic status. We measured cognitive and health outcomes with standardised tests and questionnaires administered in the classroom. We also used a questionnaire to obtain information from parents about socioeconomic status, their education, and ethnic origin. We identified linear exposure-effect associations between exposure to chronic aircraft noise and impairment of reading comprehension ( $p=0.0097$ ) and recognition memory ( $p=0.0141$ ), and a non-linear association with annoyance ( $p<0.0001$ ) maintained after adjustment for mother's education, socioeconomic status, longstanding illness, and extent of classroom insulation against noise. Exposure to road traffic noise was linearly associated with increases in episodic memory (conceptual recall:  $p=0.0066$ ; information recall:  $p=0.0489$ ), but also with annoyance ( $p=0.0047$ ). Neither aircraft noise nor traffic noise affected sustained attention, self-reported health, or overall mental health. Our findings indicate that a chronic environmental stressor-aircraft noise-could impair cognitive development in children, specifically reading comprehension. Schools exposed to high levels of aircraft noise are not healthy educational environments.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal noise, children, cognition
- Referens:** Stansfeld, S.A., Clark, C., and on behalf of the RANCH Study team (B. Berglund, M.E. Nilsson, et al.). (2005). Implications of road traffic and aircraft noise exposure and children's cognition and health (RANCH) study results for classroom acoustics. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 117(4), 2363.
- Abstract:** Studies in West London have found associations between aircraft noise exposure and children's cognitive performance. This has culminated in the RANCH Study examining exposure-effect associations between aircraft and road traffic noise exposure and cognitive performance and health. The RANCH project, the largest cross-sectional study of noise and children's health, examined 2844 children, 9-10 years old from 89 schools around three major airports: in the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom. Children were selected by external aircraft and road traffic noise exposure at school predicted from noise contour maps, modeling and on-site measurements. A substudy indicated high internal levels of noise within classrooms. Schools were matched for socioeconomic position within countries. Cognitive and health outcomes were measured by standardized tests and questionnaires administered in the classroom. A parental questionnaire collected information on socioeconomic position, parental education and ethnicity. Linear exposure-effect associations were found between chronic aircraft noise exposure and impairment of reading comprehension and recognition memory, maintained after adjustment for mothers education, socioeconomic factors, longstanding illness and classroom insulation. Road traffic noise exposure was linearly associated with episodic memory. The implications of these results for children's learning environments will be discussed.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal children, community noise, school performance
- Referens:** Stillström, H. (2005). Stereotype description and evaluation - comparing male and female managers. *14th General Meeting of the European Association of Experimental Social Psychology*, Würzburg, Germany, 19-23 July, 2005.
- Abstract:** The present study sought to understand the lack of corporate female managers by investigating management stereotypes. In a first step, participants from different settings answered open-ended questions on good, bad, female and male management. A qualitative categorisation process resulted in a coding scheme and examples of items used in the second phase. Student participants indicated degree of agreement on items reflecting the categories extracted previously. Half the participants answered a particular item concerning male managers, and the other half the same item concerning female managers. As there were several items in each category, each participant responded to items in every category, concerning both female and male managers, without responding to the same item in its male and female version. In addition, there were items that focused exclusively on male or female managers, and those were given in the same form to all participants. The qualitatively formed categories were tested, and items extracted, using principal components analyses and Cronbach's alpha. Ideas of good management entailed many stereotypically feminine aspects. However, participants' open-ended responses often entailed comparisons between women and men, implying a norm of men as managers. Participants in the quantitative study had a more positive view of female than male managers. They strongly opposed the idea that female managers would be less competent, but believed that women meet with more difficulties as managers than men. There was also a tendency for women to adhere more strongly to these views, which is interpreted as social identity concerns relating to gender.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings management stereotypes, gender
- Referens:** Svenson, O. (in press). Pre- and post-decision construction of preferences: differentiation and consolidation. In S. Lichtenstein & S. Slovic (Eds.), *The Construction of Preference*. New York: Cambridge.
- Abstract:** The present chapter includes the first part, with more recent research added, of Svenson (1996) "Decision making and the search for fundamental psychological regularities: What can be learned from a process perspective?" *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*, 65, 252 - 267. This chapter was supported by a grant from the Swedish Council for Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences, the Swedish Work Environment Fund and the Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate. The author thanks Anders Biel, Anne Edland, Joke Harte, Baruch Fischhoff, Gideon Keren, Sarah Lichtenstein, John W. Payne, and Paul Slovic for valuable comments and discussions relating to the issues covered in the present study.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) decision, differentiation, consolidation

**Referens:** [Svenson, O., & Patten, C.J.D. \(2005\). Mobile phones and driving: a review of contemporary research. \*Cognition, Technology and Work\*, 7, 182-197.](#)

**Abstract:** This study reviews research on the effects of using a mobile phone when driving. First, it should be pointed out that the availability of a mobile phone in a car is of great value, for example, in emergencies and accidents. However, the results from the research covered in this review show that using a mobile phone in a car while driving impairs driving performance significantly. To exemplify, a driver's attention to traffic and traffic information is impaired and the control of the car becomes less precise and smooth when talking over a phone. The conversation in itself impairs attention and manoeuvring performance as well as the motor activities needed for phoning. Based on the research available, the present review gives numerical estimates of the disturbing effects of different aspects of mobile phoning on driving performance. Contrary to what people assume hand-held phones have not been shown to impair driving quality more than hands free phones. Instead, in contrast to public opinion, the content of a conversation is most important in determining the degree of distraction; complex conversations disturb driving much more than simple conversations. Analyses of accidents have shown that the impairment of driving while phoning leads to an increased risk of having an accident for both hand-held and hands free mobile telephones.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal mobile phone, driving, attention

**Referens:** [Svenson, O., & Salo, I. \(2005\). Mental representations of important real-life decisions. \*European Journal of Operational Research\*, digital publication, paper version in press.](#)

**Abstract:** Two studies investigated how decision makers characterize alternatives in important real-life decisions, which they themselves had made (to leave a partner, to choose an education and to choose a home). First, the participants indicated a very high degree of involvement in the decisions studied and about half of the participants gave maximum involvement ratings for the partner decision. Second, the results showed that concepts that are essential in most decision theories, such as, consequence, probability and value were important characteristics of the decisions. Third, emotion, positive and negative affect were also important characteristics. Fourth, value and emotion were uncorrelated. Fifth, the patterns of characteristics of decisions made in the past did not differ markedly from the characteristics given to future decisions. Principal component analyses were performed on the ratings of applicability of the different characteristics across participants for each decision situation. Three factors were extracted. There was one factor for positive affect/emotions and another factor for negative affect/emotions verified in oblique solutions. Thus, different scales are needed to represent emotion/affect components (and not bipolar scales) in real-life important decisions. The third factor represented the way in which a decision was represented (moving pictures, dialogue etc.). An analysis restricted to the participants who rated 100% involvement showed an additional fourth factor with "what others would think", "similar situations", "values" and "money" as the most prominent characteristics. This points to the importance of controlling for participant involvement in studies of human decision making to enable generalizations to real-life decisions.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal behavioral decision making, mental representations, real-life decisions

**Referens:** [Svenson, O., Salo, I., Oedewald, P., Reiman, T., & Skjerve, A.B. \(Eds.\). \(in press\). \*Nordic perspectives on safety management in high reliability organizations: theory and applications\*. Stockholm: Stockholm University, Department of Psychology.](#)

**Abstract:** The chapters in this volume are written on a stand-alone basis meaning that the chapters can be read in any order. The first 4 chapters focus on theory and method in general with some applied examples illustrating the methods and theories. Chapters 5 and 6 are about safety management in the aviation industry with some additional information about incident reporting in the aviation industry and the health care sector. Chapters 7 through 9 cover safety management with applied examples from the nuclear power industry and with considerable validity for safety management in any industry. Chapters 10 through 13 cover generic safety issues with examples from the oil industry.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) safety management, high reliability organizations

**Referens:** [Sverke, M. \(2005\). Job insecurity from an industrial relations perspective: How are unions affected and how can they help? Keynote presentation at the \*Changing World of Work Conference\*, Vanderbijlpark, South Africa, 8-9 March, 2005.](#)

**Abstract:** A growing body of research suggests that job insecurity may have detrimental consequences not only for employee attitudes and well-being but also, to the extent the union is held responsible for declining job security, for workers' attitudes to labor unions. This keynote presentation provides a review of research on job insecurity. Particular emphasis is placed on consequences of insecurity for labor organizations, an issue that hitherto has received only minor research attention. Surprisingly little research attention has gone into understanding if the collective support provided through union membership may reduce the negative consequences of employment uncertainty. Therefore, the presentation also addresses the role of union membership and union support as potential moderators of the effects of job insecurity on employee work attitudes, behavior and well-being.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings job insecurity, union membership, union support

**Referens:** [Sverke, M. \(2005\). The new private management in action: Effects of hospital privatization on job and organizational characteristics. Paper presented at the \*IXth European Conference on Organizational Psychology and Health Care\*, Dresden, Germany, 5-8 October, 2005.](#)

**Abstract:** As markets and market mechanisms are growing more widespread there is also a gradual restructuring of health care. The creation of quasi markets in order to achieve competition, increased cost consciousness, new managerial strategies (e.g., New Public Management), a focus on core processes rather than peripheral functions, and an intense work with the issue of service quality represent some of the characteristics of this trend. In Sweden, like in most European countries, the changes in the health care sector have also concerned the owner structure, and several health care organizations have been privatized. However, despite a widespread optimism concerning such ownership reforms, there is a lack of research addressing the potential consequences. The objective of this study was to investigate if and how privatization affects the work climate. Questionnaire data were collected among the total nursing staff of a hospital that was privatized in 1999, and

supplemented with data from a comparison hospital that remained a public administration unit. Baseline measures were obtained one year prior to privatization, and the Time 2 data collection wave was conducted some two years after privatization. Although certain job and organizational characteristics appear unaffected by privatization, multivariate analysis of variance procedures identified a number of interesting differences between the two hospitals. In comparison with the public hospital, nurses at the privatized hospital reported, for instance, improved leadership and enhanced opportunities for participation in decision-making over time. However, the privatization also appears to have had negative consequences, as manifested in factors such as impaired job autonomy, increased workload and intensified role conflict. The differences between hospitals shed light on how ownership changes may affect health care workers, and provide insights to policy makers concerning the advantages and disadvantages of transforming public organizations into for-profit companies.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings health-care, privatization, work climate

**Referens:** [Sverke, M. \(2005\). Job insecurity and union membership: Can collective support help? Paper presented at the XIIth European Congress of Work and Organizational Psychology, Istanbul, 12-15 May, 2005.](#)

**Abstract:** In the industrialized economies all over the world, employment relations have undergone profound transformation over the past decades. Innumerable organizations have involved in ownership reforms, restructuring, layoffs, and "right sizing" in order to reduce their production costs and remain competitive on an increasingly flexible labor market. As a result, the nature of work has changed dramatically for the individual, and many employees express a concern about the future of their jobs. A growing body of research suggests that job insecurity may have detrimental consequences not only for employee attitudes and well-being but also, to the extent the union is held responsible for declining job security, for workers' attitudes to labor unions. However, surprisingly little research attention has gone into understanding if the collective support provided through union membership may reduce the negative consequences of employment uncertainty. This study summarizes the major findings of a recently completed international project on job insecurity and union membership. Using data from four European countries, the study investigates consequences of job insecurity and tests for a potential buffering effect of union membership and union support. The results replicate previous findings of adverse effects on employee well-being and work attitudes, and also indicate that job insecurity may have detrimental consequences for unions. Although the findings are less consistent across countries with respect to the role of collective support, a supportive union may reduce the effects of insecurity.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings job insecurity, union membership, work attitudes

**Referens:** [Sverke, M., Hellgren, J., & Näswall, K. \(2005\). We get by with a little help from our unions: Psychological contract violations and downsizing. In H. De Witte \(Ed.\), \*Job insecurity, union involvement and union activism\* \(pp. 135-154\). Aldershot: Ashgate.](#)

**Abstract:** Many research studies have brought up job insecurity as an increasingly serious problem in organizations. Research on job insecurity and psychological contract violations attributes impaired well-being and negative attitudes toward the organization to the fear of job loss. Research efforts have also been directed at identifying how negative consequences of downsizing and job insecurity can be mitigated. Very little is known, however, about how attempts to deal with job insecurity may differ between unionized and non-unionized employees. The present paper, therefore, focuses on the type of social support that is provided by the union, and asks to what extent unionized and non-unionized employees differ with respect to how they deal with experiences of job insecurity. We begin our investigation with a theoretical discussion of job insecurity and how it can be considered a breach of the psychological contract. The exit, voice, and loyalty framework is used in order to understand how union members and non-members may cope with job insecurity. Our empirical investigations are based on data from a sample of nurses in a Swedish health care organization going through downsizing. We relate our results both to the exit, voice, loyalty framework, as well as to theories regarding the psychological contract.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) job insecurity, psychological contract, downsizing

**Referens:** [Sverke, M., Hellgren, J., & Näswall, K. \(2005\). Arbeitsplatzunsicherheit: Überblick über den Forschungsstand. \[Job insecurity: A literature review.\] In B. Badura, H. Schellschmidt & C. Vetter et al. \(Eds.\), \*Fehlzeiten-Report 2005: Arbeitsplatzunsicherheit und Gesundheit \[Absenteeism report 2005: Job insecurity and well-being\]\* \(pp. 59-92\). Berlin: Springer-Verlag.](#)

**Abstract:** This chapter provides a review of the literature on job insecurity, with the ambition to also point out urgent areas for future research. The focus is on the nature of job insecurity, factors that may lead to such perceive employment uncertainty, its potential consequences, and factors that may moderate the effects of job insecurity on its consequences. Conceptual as well as methodological issues affecting the understanding of job insecurity are addressed. First, job insecurity is defined as a subjectively experienced stressor, which may be divided into different dimensions. Second, predictors of job insecurity may include societal characteristics, work and organizational factors as well as individual characteristics. Third, the multiple aspects of job insecurity may have divergent consequences or at least be differentially related to potential outcomes such as work-related attitudes, job performance, physical health, mental well-being, and job-induced stress symptoms. Fourth, given that most studies on job insecurity have been cross-sectional, a lot of work remains before we know how, or if, insecurity contributes to changes in such outcomes. Fifth, there are a number of plausible factors that may moderate the relationships between job insecurity and its potential outcomes.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) job insecurity, work attitudes, stress

**Referens:** [Sverke, M., Lindroth, S., & Johansson, G. \(2005\). Can life-span exposure to psycho-social work conditions predict subsequent well-being among middle-aged women? Paper presented at the XIIth European Congress of Work and Organizational Psychology, Istanbul, 12-15 May, 2005.](#)

**Abstract:** Research has consistently linked unfavorable work conditions to impaired well-being, but little is known about the combined effects of exposure to psycho-social factors in a life-span perspective. Using a sample of Swedish women, occupational codes from each six-month period from the entry of working life until age 43 were matched with average levels (derived from a national survey) of demands, control, and support for each occupation held by the women. The results generally provide support for main effects of life-span exposure levels of demands, control, and social support on subsequent well-being. However, in concordance with previous research on the demands-control-support model, interaction effects were not typically found. Relating

the pooled effects of psycho-social exposure over the course of the career to various indicators of well-being contribute to the understanding of the factors involved in women's well-being at work.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings longitudinal, psycho-social factors, health

**Referens:** Söderfjell, S., Molander, B., Johansson, H., Barnekow-Bergkvist, M., & Nilsson, L.-G. (in press). Musculoskeletal pain and performance on cognitive tasks over the adult life span. *Scandinavian Journal of Psychology*.

**Abstract:** The present study aimed at comparing participants with and without self reported musculoskeletal pain in a normal population with regard to performance on a range of tests for episodic memory, semantic memory, and other cognitive functions and to see if expected differences interacted with age. The results showed that participants with pain performed worse on a range of tasks as compared to participants without pain, and that these differences occurred regardless of age. The most robust effects of pain were displayed on tests for vocabulary and construction ability as these were the only effects that remained significant after controlling for years of education and reported depression in separate analyses. When depression and education were controlled for in the same analysis, even these effects were eliminated suggesting interplay between pain, depressive status, and educational level in the negative effects on cognitive functioning.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal musculoskeletal pain, age, memory

**Referens:** Söderlund, H., Nilsson, L.-G., Berger, K., Breteler, M.M., de Ridder, M., Dufoil, C., Fuhrer, R., Giampaoli, S., Hofman, A., Pajak, A., Sans, S., Schmidt, R., & Launer, L. (in press). Cerebral changes on MRI and cognitive function: the CASCADE study. *Neurobiology of Aging*.

**Abstract:** The aging, non-demented brain undergoes several physiological changes, some of which may and some of which may not affect cognitive function. The goal of the present study was to examine the effects of subcortical and periventricular white matter hyperintensities (WMHs), and cortical and subcortical atrophy on cognitive function (episodic and semantic memory, attention, and perceptual, cognitive, and motor speed). This was done within a European collaborative study, CASCADE (Cardiovascular Determinants of Dementia), in which Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) was performed on community-dwelling individuals. The study includes 1,254 persons from eight European study centers, ranging between 64 and 76 years of age (M 69.4 + 3.3; 55% men). When demographics (age, education, and sex), study center, and concurrent brain changes had been adjusted for, periventricular WHMS predicted lower performance in motor speed and Stroop (errors). The findings are consistent with findings from lesion and functional neuroimaging studies.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal white matter hyperintensities, MRI, cognition

**Referens:** Torbiörn, I. (in press). Elements of uncertainty and risk in intercultural contact. In O. Svensson, I. Salo, P.Oedewald, T. Reiman & A. Skjerve (Eds.), *Nordic Perspectives on Safety Management in High Reliability Organizations: Theory and Applications*. Stockholm: Stockholm University, Department of Psychology.

**Abstract:** Intercultural exchange is discussed from a perspective of risk in terms of generally unwanted outcomes of contact. Elements of risk are identified at individual and organizational levels and it is held that risk emanates from basically the same psychological or human factors. At organizational levels risk is taken to manifest as frictions or costs of transaction. At the individual level the commonplace phenomenon of substitution is proposed to mediate risk. The occurrence of substitution, i.e. acceptance without understanding or acceptance of what would normally not be accepted, may increase as well as reduce risk. The same holds for the non-occurrence or lack of substitution. The phenomenon is discussed regarding its relation to trust as well as to qualities of intercultural situations. It is argued that insofar as situations may be influenced or set, substitution may be favored or disfavored in order to reduce risks in intercultural contacts.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) intercultural contact, international management, cultural risk

**Referens:** Torbiörn, I. (2005). Staffing policies and practices in European MNC's: strategic sophistication, culture-bound policies or ad-hoc reactivity. In H.Scullion & M. Linehan (Eds.), *International Human Resource Management: A critical text*. Chippenham, UK, Palgrave.

**Abstract:** The chapter deals with one of four traditional parameters of International Human Resource Management (IHRM), namely the staffing of international operations. Here IHRM is not taken to mean staffing, but staffing is used, and discussed, as a criterion indicative of IHRM strategies, as well as of company concern about cultural contexts, organisational needs or situational options. Thus the object of the chapter is not staff as such but what company use of staff may tell, in particular about what may hold for European MNC's. Assuming a particular relevance of staffing for international firm performance, and based on a model explaining staffing patterns at firm levels, MNC's practices are discussed as indicative of, first IHRM-strategies, then of factors commonly held, to be determinants of staffing. Staffing patterns of European MNC's are concluded to mainly reflect configurative strategies as well as ad-hoc reactivity, both approaches reflecting a culturally and structurally varied context of MNC's domiciles and host markets. Here, further, the validity and relevance of a dichotomous staffing criterion of IHRM is questioned. This may hold for European MNC's in particular.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) European MNC's, staffing, IHRM

**Referens:** Trost, K. (in press). Adolescents in Sweden. In J. Arnett (Ed.), *International encyclopedia of adolescence*. New York: Routledge.

**Abstract:** This book chapter is in the Routledge international encyclopedia of adolescence. The encyclopedia is a comprehensive socio-cultural survey of the lives of adolescents around the world. In four volumes, the work will explore all aspects of the lives of young people between childhood and adulthood, i.e., between (roughly) age 10 and 25. Coverage will not only stress psycho-pathological issues, but instead will cover a wide range of topics concerning the lives of young people in countries as varied as Iran, India, Sweden, the USA, or Japan. In the present chapter, the following issues are presented about youth in Sweden: period of adolescence, beliefs, gender, the self, family relationships, friends and peer/youth culture, love and sexuality, health risk behaviors, education, work, media, politics and military, as well as issues that may be particularly unique to Sweden.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) adolescence, adolescents, youth culture

**Referens:** Tvingstedt, A.-L., & Preisler, G. (in press). A psycho-social follow up study of children with cochlear implants in different school settings. *EDUCARE*.

**Abstract:** In order to explore the parents' motives and considerations when choosing school placement for their deaf children using cochlea implants (CI), as well as the parents' and the teachers' experiences of the adequacy of the school placement; to describe the language environment of children and patterns of communication in the classroom, parents, teachers and personal assistants to eighteen children were interviewed and the children video-observed in everyday interaction at school. The children in mainstream classes managed quite well in the school situation during their first years in school, but as more demands were put on vocal skills many of them had difficulties to follow the curriculum. The necessity of sign language was expressed in most interviews. However, the sign language proficiency of teachers and assistants as well of children was limited.

The children in the schools for the deaf managed well academically but more exposure to speech was asked for by the parents. Opportunities for the children to be exposed to, and also choose different modes of communication in different educational and communicative situations as well as increased contacts with hearing, hard-of-hearing and deaf, peers was asked for.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal cochlear implant, school, psychosocial

**Referens:** Törngren, G., & Montgomery, H. (2005). Past, present and future. Time horizons in GDP forecasting. *20th International Conference on Subjective Probability, Utility, and Decision Making*, Stockholm, Aug. 22-24, 2005.

**Abstract:** The aim of the present study is to see if well known biases judgmental biases such as availability and anchoring effects can be traced in forecasts of GPD growth. OECD forecasts for 18 countries between the years 1981 and 2004 were analyzed. Every year was forecasted on four occasions. Correlation analysis was used to test the hypotheses of the occurrence of anchoring, availability, and other biases. Root Mean Square Errors (RMSE) were calculated for the differences between the outcomes of the year preceding the forecasts, serving as an "anchor" and the outcome of the forecasted year and for the differences between the forecasts and the outcomes. Longtime forecasts (1.5 - 2 years ahead) were more closely related to the GPD growth computed for the preceding year than with the actual GPD of the forecasted year. As the forecasts move closer to the target year, they get more contact with the actual GPD growth for that year and lose contact with GPD growth of the year preceding the first forecast. Within country correlations indicated zero predictability of long time forecasts but a clear dependency of the preceding GPD growth. Thus, these correlations reveal more about the situation when the forecast is made than of the future targeted in the forecasts.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings forecasts, cognitive biases, time perspective

**Referens:** Uvnäs-Moberg, K., Arn, I., & Magnusson, D. (2005). The psychology of emotion: The role of the oxytocinergic system. *International Journal of Behavioral Medicine*, 12, 59-65.

**Abstract:** The aim of this article is to draw attention to a component of the psychophysiological system, the calm and connection system underlying well-being and socialization. By including this new system, the model of the integrated individual becomes more complete and it enriches the understanding of emotional aspects of brain functioning.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal oxytocin, emotions, positive development

**Referens:** Wahlin, Å. (2005). The cognitive battery of PHA (Poverty and Health in Ageing) in Matlab. *ICDDR,B, Public Health Sciences Division*, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

**Abstract:** A cognitive battery was constructed and used in the epidemiological study "Poverty and Health in Aging". This is a study of approximately 500 elderly (age range 60-102 years) persons living in a rural district South-East of Dhaka in Bangladesh. The battery comprises two tests of each of the following cognitive domains: processing speed (Complete boxes; Cross symbols), episodic memory (Free recall and Recognition of random words; Free recall and recognition of objects), verbal fluency (Animals; Exemplars of food), semantic knowledge (Meaning of words; Knowledge questions), and visuospatial ability (Hands; Rotate figures). All tasks were adapted to the Bangladesh culture and constructed such that illiterate persons could be assessed. This included extensive pilot testing before the project started. The battery covers core abilities that are profound to daily functioning. It also includes tests of abilities spanning from those that are known to be influenced by markers of ill health (e.g., episodic memory), to abilities that are known to be little influenced by such factors (e.g., semantic knowledge). In addition, the battery was varied within and across tasks such that it will be possible to estimate, for example, brain reserve capacity, primary and secondary layers of memory, or distribution of knowledge type (concrete, abstract). The design of the battery will be demonstrated and preliminary data discussed.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings cognitive testing, illiterate, old age

**Referens:** Wahlin, Å. (2005). Why assessment of cognitive functioning is an important aspect of public health. Invited symposium (Double burden of disease in old age in low-income countries: Communicable and non-communicable diseases. Convener: Bengt Winblad) at the *International Conference on Mainstreaming Ageing in Health Systems and Rural Development*, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

**Abstract:** Objective: This presentation will provide an overview of the main reasons for why cognitive abilities should be assessed in the context of aging research, health care or planning thereof. Common disorders with an impact on cognitive functioning are presented. It is argued that cognitive functioning is not just a necessary diagnostic indicator in the context of dementia diagnosis, but has implications also for proper treatment and identification of other common non-communicable disorders. The risk of confusing normative aging with unnecessary cognitive deficits will also be discussed.

Materials and Methods: Examples are drawn from research on elderly in western populations. Particular focus is put on the effects of comorbidity, and the implications for cognition of identification of persons with particularly serious combinations of disorders.

Conclusion: Cognitive problems may be used as diagnostic indicators, but it is important to realise that they also may constitute a social and functional handicap for the older individual. Depending on the cause, much of these problems are potentially unnecessary and may be taken care of by early diagnosis and proper medical treatment.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings old age, cognition, health

**Referens:** Wahlin, Å. (2005). Challenges in performing research among illiterate persons in Bangladesh: A cognitive battery for epidemiological research. Invited symposium (Challenges of aging research in low-income countries. Conveners: Zarina Nahar Kabir and Merrill Silverstein) at the *Twelfth Congress of the International Psychogeriatric Association*, Stockholm, Sweden.

**Abstract:** Research on cognitive aging is scarce in low-income regions of the world. The absence of relevant research, when faced with the increase in number of elderly people in these regions, warrants a detailed examination. A cognitive battery was constructed and used in the epidemiological study "Poverty and Health in Aging". This is a study of approximately 500 elderly (age range 60-102 years) persons living in a rural district South-East of Dhaka in Bangladesh. The battery comprises two tests of each of the following cognitive domains: processing speed (Complete boxes; Cross symbols), episodic memory (Free recall and Recognition of random words; Free recall and recognition of objects), verbal fluency (Animals; Exemplars of food), semantic knowledge (Meaning of words; Knowledge questions), and visuospatial ability (Hands; Rotate figures). All tasks were adapted to the Bangladesh culture and constructed such that illiterate persons could be assessed. This included extensive pilot testing before the project started. The battery covers core abilities that are profound to daily functioning. It also includes tests of abilities spanning from those that are known to be influenced by markers of ill health (e.g., episodic memory), to abilities that are known to be little influenced by such factors (e.g., semantic knowledge). In addition, the battery was varied within and across tasks such that it will be possible to estimate, for example, brain reserve capacity, primary and secondary layers of memory, or distribution of knowledge type (concrete, abstract). The design of the battery will be demonstrated and preliminary data discussed.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings cognitive testing, illiterate, old age

**Referens:** Wahlin, Å., Bunce, D., & Robins Wahlin, T.-B. (2005). Longitudinal evidence of the impact of normal thyroid stimulating hormone variations on cognitive functioning in very old age. *Psychoneuroendocrinology*, 30, 625-637.

**Abstract:** The purpose of this study was to examine longitudinal associations among thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) levels and cognitive performance. Data collected at the first three assessment times, approximately 3 years apart, are reported for the survivors (n=245) from a previously published cross-sectional study. Participants were aged 75-93 years at baseline, and data reported were collected in the Kungsholmen Project, a longitudinal project investigating aging and dementia. Analyses revealed that although declining verbal fluency and visuospatial abilities were accompanied by simultaneously declining TSH levels, the pattern of cross-sectional and longitudinal results are interpreted such that declining TSH levels may have caused episodic memory deficits later on. These results were obtained in the examination of 6-year but not 3-year change, and after removal of the cognitive variation associated with depressive mood symptoms.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal thyroid function, cognitive function, longitudinal

**Referens:** Wahlin, Å., Kabir, Z., & Conveners, N. (2005). Health-related challenges associated with ageing populations. Invited co-speakers: Tommy Cederholm, Miia Kivipelto, Christel Cornelius, and Jan Nilsson (all Karolinska institutet). Structures of Vulnerability: Mobilisation and Resistance. *Research conference organized by Stockholm university and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)*, Stockholm, Sweden.

**Abstract:** This workshop covers a wide range of concerns associated with old age. Multi-dimensionality of health in old age, particularly in the context of Millennium Development Goals will be outlined. Some specific aspects will be focused on, such as nutrition, quality of life, and consequences of health for cognitive behavior. Comparisons, between different ageing populations, of methodological issues will be discussed and illustrated. Presentations cover research from Asia and Europe. The workshop aims at producing a concrete output e.g. in the form of an agenda that would have public health implications for population ageing. Such an output will be based not only on the presentations, but on a consensus among the speakers, beyond their specific talks, and the audience.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings ageing populations, public health, cross-cultural comparisons

**Referens:** Wahlin, Å., & Kabir, Z.N. (2005). International Network on Public health and Ageing: INOPA. Invited symposium (Methodological challenges of aging research in low-income countries. Convener: Dam Viet Cuong) at the *International Conference on Mainstreaming Ageing in Health Systems and Rural Development*, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

**Abstract:** We will present a recently established network (INOPA: International Network on Public health and Aging) that represents eleven research projects across eight countries. The network aims at the coordination of aging research in high- and low-income regions of the world. It purposively adapts a cross-disciplinary approach as it is a necessary perspective in any aging-oriented research. The integration of multiple disciplines is essential as aging is not a unitary process, but rather the complex unfolding of numerous interactions among biological, psychological and social influences. This provides the possibility to identify factors that are to be taken under consideration in any clinical and intervention research. The network represents large scale population- and clinically based projects in Sweden, Finland, Canada, Vietnam, Holland, Australia, India, and Bangladesh. Four main objectives guide the work. First, established scientific methods will be implemented and tested in the context of information gathered in low-income regions. Second, direct and closely coordinated comparisons of data in high- and low-income regions will be performed. This may be done either by merging of data or by coordinated hypothesis testing. The key is that such comparisons will be informative due to the dramatic contextual differences. Sharing of knowledge constitutes the third main task to be accomplished. The fourth main objective is to bridge the gap between basic and applied research.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Proceedings network, aging, cross-disciplinary

- Referens:** [Wahlin, Å., MacDonald, S.W.S., de Frias, C.M., Nilsson, L.-G., & Dixon, R.A. \(in press\). How health and biological age influence chronological age and sex differences in cognitive aging: Moderating, mediating, or both? \*Psychology and Aging\*.](#)
- Abstract:** Much research on cognitive competence in normal older adults has documented age and sex differences. We used new cross-sectional data from the Victoria Longitudinal Study (n = 386; age 61-95 years) to examine how health and biological age influence age and sex differences in cognitive aging. We found evidence for both moderating and mediating influences. Age differences were moderated by health status, such that the negative effects of age were most pronounced among participants of relatively better health. Sex differences were moderated by health and were more pronounced among participants reporting comparatively poorer health. Although health mediated a notable amount of age-related cognitive variation, BioAge mediated considerably more variance, even after statistical control for differences in health. A complex pattern emerged for the mediation of sex differences: whereas BioAge accounted for sex-related variation in cognitive performance, health operated to suppress these differences. Overall, both health and BioAge predicted cognitive variation independently of chronological age.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal health, bioage, cognitive aging
- Referens:** [Wahlund, L.O., Almkvist, O., Blennow, K., Engedahl, K., Johansson, A., Waldemar, G., & Wolf, H. \(2005\). Evidence-based evaluation of magnetic resonance imaging as a diagnostic tool in dementia workup. \*Topics in Magnetic Resonance Imaging, 16\*, 427-437.](#)
- Abstract:** Background: The diagnostic utility of magnetic resonance imaging in dementia workups has increased recently. The basic use is to exclude space-occupying processes in the brain. However, magnetic resonance imaging offers major opportunities for studying atrophy of specific brain areas. A great interest has been put in whether atrophy in the medial temporal lobe can serve as an early diagnostic marker for Alzheimer disease.
- Methods and Results: In this evaluation, we used evidence-based techniques and reviewed more than 400 articles that address this issue. Our main finding is that a variety of methods in studying brain areas were used, and this made it difficult to extract conclusive information in a systematic way.
- Conclusion: However, we were able to conclude that atrophy of the hippocampus can distinguish patients with Alzheimer disease from healthy subjects, but there was a lack of evidence because of insufficient studies concerning the usefulness of medial temporal lobe atrophy as a diagnostic marker in a more general setting.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal MRI, dementia, Alzheimer, diagnostic tool
- Referens:** [Wiens, S. \(2005\). Interoception in emotional experience. \*Current Opinion in Neurology, 18\*\(4\), 442-447.](#)
- Abstract:** Many theories of emotion have postulated a close relationship of the feedback of physiological changes and their perception with emotional experience. This paper reviews recent advances in theory and brain-imaging research on this topic of interoception and describes a hypothetical model of the potential mechanisms. Research from patients with spinal-cord injuries and pure autonomic failure suggests that emotion-related peripheral autonomic changes are not necessary for emotional experience. However, in support of a role for centrally integrated feedback from the whole body, imaging studies found that activations in areas commonly associated with interoception and emotion (anterior insula and anterior cingulate) were correlated with individual differences in interoception (heartbeat detection) and trait measures of emotion. Because recent theory distinguishes between two levels of emotional experience (phenomenology and awareness), this paper proposes a hypothetical model of the effects of interoception on phenomenology and awareness. This model classifies interoception into the central representation of feedback from the whole body, the perception of actual physiological changes as well as the perception of illusory changes. Consistent with recent theories of emotion, evidence from brain imaging supports the notion that centrally integrated feedback from the whole body plays a role in emotional experience. Because research on neural correlates of emotional experience is at an early stage, the hypothesized model of potential causal links between interoception and emotional experience might serve as a helpful guide to future research.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal emotion, interoception, consciousness
- Referens:** [Wiens, S., & Öhman, A. \(2005\). Visual masking in magnetic resonance imaging. \*NeuroImage, 27\*\(2\), 465-467.](#)
- Abstract:** When a brief target picture is followed by another picture (mask), people often report that they are not consciously aware of the target. Thus, visual masking can be used to manipulate perceptual awareness of target pictures. To avoid interference with magnetic resonance imaging, pictures have been presented on liquid crystal device (LCD) and thin film transistor (TFT) projectors that were placed outside of the scanner room. However, we found that display devices with LCD/TFT technology exhibit poor accuracy in presenting pictures at brief durations (Wiens et al., 2004, *Psychological Science*). In this paper, we present a reliable and valid masking procedure involving two LCD/TFT projectors in combination with mechanical shutters. Because LCD/TFT projectors present pictures in steady state at longer durations (e.g., after 70 ms), picture presentation is more ecologically valid than for common cathode ray tube (CRT) monitors that present pictures in multiples of refresh cycles. Also, because picture presentation with mechanical shutters is instantaneous and reliable in terms of onset, rise time, and duration, shutters can be used to control picture durations precisely in steps of milliseconds. In this paper, we also discuss risks for confounding effects from unreliable picture presentations in masking. Our findings and arguments recommend the use of mechanical shutters in front of LCD/TFT projectors in imaging studies of visual masking.
- Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal brain imaging, visual masking, consciousness
- Referens:** [Willander, J., & Larsson, M. \(in press\). Smell your way back to childhood: Autobiographical odor memory. \*Psychonomic Bulletin and Review\*.](#)
- Abstract:** This study addressed age distributions and experiential qualities of autobiographical memories evoked by different sensory cues. Ninety-three older adults were presented with one of three cue types (i.e., word,

picture, or odor) and asked to relate any autobiographical event for the given cue. The main aims were to explore whether: (a) the age distribution of olfactory evoked memories differs from memories cued by words and pictures, and whether (b) the experiential qualities of the evoked memories vary over the different cues. Results showed that autobiographical memories triggered by olfactory information were older than memories associated with verbal and visual information. Specifically, most odor-cued memories were located to the first decade of life (< 10 years), whereas memories associated with verbal and visual cues peaked in early adulthood (11-20 years). Also, odor-evoked memories were associated with stronger feelings of being brought back in time and had been thought of less often as compared with memories evoked by verbal and visual information. This pattern of findings suggests that odor-evoked memories may be different from other memory experiences.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal memory, odor, autobiographical

**Referens:** von Essen, J. (2005). *Helping Hands: Motion and integration in action memory*. Stockholm: Stockholm University, Department of Psychology. (Doctoral dissertation).

**Abstract:** Verbal information has predominantly been the to-be-remembered materials in human memory research for more than a century. In recent years some interesting deviations from the established rules of verbal memory have been observed in subjects who have been asked to motorically self-perform (enact) action sentences at the encoding phase of the memory task, instead of only hearing or reading them as in a traditional verbal task (VT). Marked enhancements in recall were also consistently demonstrated in such studies and the effect was named the subject-performed task (SPT) effect. Presently, the body of SPT research is large but little agreement has been reached regarding the mechanism at work in producing the SPT phenomenon. The present thesis addresses two major issues in SPT research. The enhancement of associative information and the significance of the motor component are evaluated.

In Study A, the SPT effect was studied in two cued-recall tasks that relied on item-specific association and relational association, respectively. The results showed that SPT encoding interacts with item-specific associative cues at recall to produce a larger SPT effect as compared to free recall. This supports the notion that part of the SPT effect is due to enhanced item-specific association.

In Study B, the associative effect in SPT was studied amongst age cohorts comprised of subjects between 40 and 85 years old. Normal age-related decline in episodic memory has elsewhere been suggested to be caused mainly by associative deficits connected with ageing. The results of Study B indicate that the item-specific associative effect in SPT was more age sensitive than recall of VT and the relational associative effect in SPT.

In Study C, the question over whether the SPT effect is dependent on motor modality or not was addressed. Self-produced sign language encoding was argued to be qualitatively the same as self-produced oral/verbal encoding, with the motor modality component being the only exception. It was also argued that the motor modality component was the main similarity to performing SPT. Since the signing subjects performed at the same level as the SPT condition at recall, and better than the control conditions (e.g., VT), the conclusion was made that motor activation per se can contribute to memory enhancement in SPT. Whether SPT encoding results in qualitatively different memory traces is discussed as well as the effect of SPT on other types of associative information. The results are also briefly related to other controversies in SPT research. It is concluded, finally, that enactment produces differential effects on different types of associations. The association between verb and noun is clearly enhanced by SPT encoding. Moreover, it is concluded that overt motor activation is necessary for obtaining a full SPT effect. To explore these interactions further and to build upon these conclusions, an increased focus on motor processes and their relation to verbal processes is called for in future cognitive research.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Dissertation episodic memory, action memory, cued recall, motor activation, association

**Referens:** von Essen, J.D. (2005). Enactment enhances integration between verb and noun, but not relational processing, in episodic memory. *Scandinavian Journal of Psychology*, 46, 315–321.

**Abstract:** Improved recall has consistently been demonstrated following motor activation at encoding (SPT), compared to traditional verbal learning (VT). Enhancements of item-specific processing and relational processing have been proposed as possible mechanisms to account for this SPT effect. There is ample evidence supporting the notion of enhanced item-specific processing, however it is still unclear whether enhancement of relational processing contributes to improved recall. In the present study, 2 experiments were designed to address this issue. In Experiment 1, memory under 2 encoding conditions (VT vs. SPT) and 3 recall conditions (free recall vs. category-cued recall vs. verb-cued recall) were studied in 3 large samples (N = 500–600). Experiment 2 replicated the findings of Experiment 1, and controlled for the use of actual objects, short-term memory effects, and carryover effects, in Experiment 1. The results in both experiments showed an interaction between type of encoding and type of recall. Verb-cued recall was affected differently by SPT encoding, as compared to category-cued recall and free recall. The results indicate that enhanced integration between verb and noun is an effect of SPT encoding, whereas enhanced relational processing is not.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal episodic memory, relational processing, subject-performed tasks, item-specific processing, integration

**Referens:** von Thiele, U., Lindfors, P., & Lundberg, U. (in press). Evaluating different measures of sickness absence with respect to work characteristics. *Scandinavian Journal of Public Health*.

**Abstract:** Aims: Four different measures of sickness absence were related to psychosocial and physical work characteristics in workplaces with high, intermediate, and low sickness absence. The relationships between work characteristics and sickness absence were hypothesized to differ depending the sickness absence measure used.

Methods: Questionnaire data on physical work environment, physical load, support, influence at work, and worry were collected from 1,726 employees at 48 dental clinics in Stockholm, Sweden and were related to registry-based sickness absence obtained at the workplace level. The sickness absence measures included: (1) frequency, (2) one-day absence, (3) overall duration, and (4) duration between 2 and 21 days.

Results: For frequency, significant differences were found for all work characteristics, with poor work characteristics being associated with a high frequency of sickness absence. Considering duration between 2 and 21 days, there were significant differences in support, influence at work and physical work environment; for one-day absence, support, influence at work and physical load differed significantly. Conversely, there were no significant differences for the overall duration measure.

Conclusions: The results show that frequency of sickness absence is most consistently related to work characteristics, that short-time sickness absences have more inconsistent relationships and that relationship with overall duration is lacking. This highlights the need for further differentiation between different sickness absence measures, the behavioral patterns associated with different types of absences and the implication of such processes for prevention and intervention.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal duration, frequency, sick-leave

**Referens:** Wångby, M., Magnusson, D., & Stattin, H. (2005). Time trends in the adjustment of Swedish teenage girls: A 26-year comparison of 15-year-olds. *Scandinavian Journal of Psychology, 46*, 145-156.

**Abstract:** The aim of this study was to investigate stability and change over 26 years in self-reported adjustment of Swedish teenage girls. Data were collected with the same questionnaire from two school-cohorts in a middle-sized Swedish community: 522 girls attending Grade 8 (approximately at age 15) in 1970, and 529 girls attending Grade 8 in 1996. The first cohort was part of the longitudinal research programme Individual Development and Adaptation (IDA). In most domains, adjustment problems were approximately as common in 1996 as in 1970, with two exceptions: more girls reported problems with self-esteem and antisocial problems in 1996. In the antisocial domain, a polarization process was indicated, with an increase also in the number of girls without adjustment problems. In the relational domains, especially peer relations, there was an increase in positive adjustment. The results are discussed in relation to earlier findings and to social changes during the period.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal adjustment problems, teenage girls, secular change

**Referens:** Yonker, J.E., Adolffson, R., Eriksson, E., Hellstrand, M., Nilsson, L.-G., & Herlitz, A. (in press). Verified hormone therapy improves episodic memory performance in healthy postmenopausal women. *Aging, Neuropsychology and Cognition*.

**Abstract:** Studies of hormone therapy (HT) and cognition have yielded conflicting results. The aim of this observational study was to examine the effect of estradiol, via serum verified HT (estradiol, estriol, progesterone9 and endogenous estradiol, on 108 healthy postmenopausal women's cognitive performance. The results demonstrated that the 43 HT- users performed at a significantly higher level than non- users on episodic memory tasks and on a verbal fluency task, whereas HT- users and non- users did not differ on tasks assessing semantic memory and spatial visualization. In addition, there was a positive relationship between serum estradiol level and episodic memory performance, indicating that postmenopausal HT is associated with enhanced episodic memory and verbal fluency, independent of age and education. These observational results suggest that HT use may be sufficient to exert small, yet positive effects on female sensitive cognitive tasks. HT compliance and formulation is discussed as confounding factors in previous research.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal estrogen, memory, menopause

**Referens:** Yonker, J.E., Eriksson, E., Nilsson, L.-G., & Herlitz, A. (in press). Negative effects of testosterone on visuospatial ability in 35 to 80 year old men. *Cortex*.

**Abstract:** Androgens have been linked to visuospatial ability. We examined the relationship between serum free testosterone (T) levels and spatial visualization ability in a population-based sample of 450 healthy men between the ages of 35 and 80 years. They were tested on block design and Mini Mental State of Examination (MMSE) draw-a-figure, as well as tasks assessing episodic memory, semantic memory, procedural memory, and verbal fluency. Blood was analyzed for free T and estradiol. Participants were grouped into high or low free T based on age-specific median values. Participants with low free T performed at a superior level on both the block design task and draw-a-figure task as compared to participants with high free T. The results are discussed within the scant body of research on androgens and cognition in men.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal memory, testosterone, block design

**Referens:** Yonker, J.E., Nilsson, L.-G., Herlitz, A., & Anthenelli, R. (2005). Sex differences in episodic memory as a function of alcohol consumption. *Alcohol and Alcoholism, 40*, 201-207.

**Abstract:** Sex differences in visuospatial ability as well as episodic memory have been reliably demonstrated, irrespective of alcoholism. Studies in alcoholics have consistently documented cognitive deficits in visuospatial ability, problem solving and memory function. This cross-sectional, population-based study examined if sex differences in cognitive performance could be impacted by alcohol consumption. Drinking data were collected from 2224 randomly sampled adults, aged between 35 and 85 years, who participated in the Betula study on memory, health and aging. Participants were classified into non-, light, moderate and heavy drinking subgroups based on sex-adjusted normative values. Cognitive tasks demonstrating clear sex differences, such as episodic memory tasks (favouring women) and spatial visualization tasks (favouring men), were conducted and performance was assessed by sex and the drinking group. After controlling for age and education, overall analyses found expected sex differences in episodic memory and spatial visualization that were apparent across the entire population. When these sex differences were examined by drinking group, visuospatial performance favouring men disappeared for the moderate to heavy drinking groups, but higher performance by women on episodic memory tasks was consistent across all levels of alcohol consumption. Traditional biomarkers of increased alcohol consumption (GGT and MCV) correlated with the reported drinks/day. These results lend support to the theory that moderate alcohol intake may be beneficial to cognitive function in women, but not necessarily in men.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal cognitive performance, age, drinking

**Referens:** Zettergren, P. (in press). Cluster analysis in sociometric research: A pattern-oriented approach to identifying temporally stable peer status groups of girls. *Journal of Early Adolescence*.

**Abstract:** A modern clustering technique was applied to age 10 and age 13 sociometric data with the purpose of identifying longitudinally stable peer status clusters. The study included 445 girls from a Swedish longitudinal study. The identified temporally stable clusters of rejected, popular, and average girls were essentially larger than corresponding groups identified according to the frequently used Coie, Dodge, and Coppotelli (CDC; 1982) classification method. It was further shown that all stably rejected and all (but one) stably popular CDC girls

were members in corresponding clusters. While no stable clusters of neglected or controversial girls were identified, some temporally volatile clusters were found, which were interpreted as largely accidental groupings. Rejected and popular clusters showed similar associations to some childhood adjustment correlates as the CDC groups and as have also been documented by earlier sociometric research. The conclusion was that the clustering technique seems to be a promising classification method in longitudinal sociometric research.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal cluster analysis, peer status, stability

**Referens:** Zettergren, P. (2005). Childhood peer status as predictor of midadolescence peer situation and social adjustment. *Psychology in the Schools, 42*, 745-757.

**Abstract:** This longitudinal study examined the relation between stable sociometric status among same-gender classmates at age 10-11 and peer situation and social adjustment at age 15. Rejected, popular, and average groups of both genders (N=90) were selected from a representative school sample. Rejected boys and girls preserved their low position among same-gender class peers at age 15. They also had low status among cross-gender class peers. Furthermore, rejected children perceived their peer situation as worse compared to other children. As expected, adolescents had most of their peers in ordinary or conventional peer categories, that is, same-age peers, class peers, and other school peers. Rejected participants had a smaller number of conventional peers than other children in some categories (same-age and school peers). There were, however, no peer-status differences in nonconventional peer categories, like different-age and antisocial peers; neither were there differences in own antisocial tendencies. Antisocial deviancy seems to be more common among boys and their peers than among girls.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal peer status, adjustment, adolescence

**Referens:** Zettergren, P., Bergman, L.R., & Wångby, M. (in press). Girls' stable peer status and their adulthood adjustment: A longitudinal study from age 10 to age 43. *International Journal of Behavioral Development*.

**Abstract:** Stable peer status clusters of rejected, popular, and average girls over ages 10 to 13 were identified and associated to young and middle adulthood adjustment. The study included a representative sample of 445 females from the longitudinal research program Individual Development and Adaptation. Results showed that, by young adulthood, rejected girls were at increased risks for criminal offending and especially alcohol abuse (2 and 8 times increased risk, respectively). In midlife, popular girls had achieved a more successful vocational career than average girls. However, for most midlife adjustment areas, like social relations and subjective well-being, there were no significant differences between the stable childhood clusters. To test an incidental explanatory model, childhood confounding variables (aggression, withdrawal, academic achievement, and SES) were introduced and explained some of the significant relations.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal cluster, peer status, adulthood adjustment

**Referens:** Zimmer, H.D., Helstrup, T., & Nilsson, L.-G. (in press). Action-events in everyday life and their remembering. In S. Magnussen & T. Helstrup (Eds.), *Everyday memory*. Hove, UK: Psychology Press.

**Abstract:** On the basis of a large body of research on action memory, this chapter discusses how this area has developed and how the basic principles established can be implemented in many situations of memory in everyday life. It is discussed at some length how action skills are acquired and how actions are executed. It is also discussed how actions can be visually encoded and how visually encoded action events are remembered. Accuracy of memory for perceived and imagined is another topic that is considered at some length in the chapter. Still another topic is actions are intended in the context of prospective memory.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Book (chapter) actions, action memory, subject-performed tasks

**Referens:** Ögren, M.-L., Boalt Boëthius, S., & Sundin, E. (2005). Grupphandledning i psykoterapi inom ramen för utbildningar. [Group supervision in psychotherapy within the framework of training.] *Matrix, 22(4)*, 389-403.

**Abstract:** The focus of this paper is group supervision in psychotherapy training. Results emanating from studies performed in collaboration between a number of Swedish universities and university affiliated training units are summarized. The findings are drawn from studies where data is collected from supervisors and supervisees at several different measurement points, levels of training, and psychotherapeutic orientations.

The studies presented here examine and highlight different aspects of group supervision, e.g., the experience of supervision on various training levels and psychotherapeutic orientations with regard to the impact of the group format. Moreover, experiences of supervisor style and group climate are examined. A major finding is that both supervisors and supervisees emphasize the need of giving more attention to group processes and phenomena in group supervision.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal group, supervision, psychotherapy orientation

**Referens:** Ögren, M.-L., Jonsson, C.-O., & Sundin, E. (2005). Group supervision in psychotherapy. The relationship between focus, group climate and perceived attained skill. *Journal of Clinical Psychology, 61(4)*, 373-389.

**Abstract:** This study examined supervisees' and supervisors' view on focus and group climate in group supervision, and their relationship with supervisees' attained skill. After supervision, supervisees completed a revised version of Buckley's measure of psychotherapeutic skill. Supervisees' and supervisors' experience of focus and climate in the supervision was measured with a questionnaire, Topics and Climate (TAC). The results showed that supervisors' ratings of the extent to which different foci were used in the supervision were significantly higher compared to supervisees' ratings. Hierarchical regression analysis showed that differences in supervisor style were related to supervisees' experience of attained skill. Supervisees' experience of the degree to which focus in supervision was on Psychodynamic processes was positively related to perceived attained skill while focus on Theoretical aspects was negatively related. These findings underline the importance of research work with topics and group processes in group supervision.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal psychotherapy supervision, topics, group climate

**Referens:** Ögren, M.-L., & Sundin, E. (in press). Experiences of the group format in psychotherapy supervision. *The Clinical Supervisor*.

**Abstract:** The major purpose of this study was to examine differences between supervisors' and novice supervisees' experience of actual and desired usage of the group format in psychotherapy supervision. Second, differences between supervisors and supervisees who worked with cognitive behavioral and psychodynamic group supervision were examined. The results showed significant differences between the actual and desired usage of the group format. Psychodynamic supervisors and supervisees, to some extent, presented higher wish ratings compared to cognitive behavioral supervisors and supervisees. In conclusion, from a supervisor and supervisee perspective, a more frequent usage of group processes as a teaching tool in group supervision of psychotherapy is desired.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal supervision, group processes, psychotherapy orientation

**Referens:** Ögren, M.-L., & Sundin, E. (2005). Intervjuer som prognosinstrument för studieframgång. [Implications of Interviews for Professional Programmes in Psychology.] *Nordisk Psykologi*, 57, 271-287.

**Abstract:** Two different admission procedures (high school grades/scholastic tests and high school grades/scholastic tests /interview) to the five-year Master's Program in Professional Psychology at Stockholm University were examined.

The analyses were based on data from students who were admitted on a combination of high school grades/scholastic test and interview, and students who were admitted based only on high school grades/scholastic test. In the final semester of the five-year Psychologist Program, the students and their supervisors rated the student's development of psychotherapeutic knowledge and skills, and their relation to the supervisor and the supervision group.

A self rating scale was used. The results showed that students who were admitted upon interview and their supervisors, rated significantly higher on all factors. Moreover, students admitted upon interview rated their development of psychotherapeutic skill significantly higher than students admitted traditionally. The corresponding difference between supervisor ratings was not significant. Both student and supervisor ratings indicated that the students admitted by an interview had a better relation to their supervisor and to their supervision group.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal admission interview, psychotherapeutic skill, group interaction

**Referens:** Östberg, P., Fernaeus, S.-E., Hellström, Å., Bogdanovic, N., & Wahlund, L.-O. (2005). Impaired verb fluency: A sign of mild cognitive impairment. *Brain and Language*, 95, 273-279.

**Abstract:** We assessed verb fluency vs. noun and letter-based fluency in 199 subjects referred for cognitive complaints including Subjective Cognitive Impairment, Mild Cognitive Impairment, and Alzheimer's disease. ANCOVAs and factor analyses identified verb, noun, and letter-based fluency as distinct tasks. Verb fluency performance in Mild Cognitive Impairment differed significantly from Subjective Cognitive Impairment and Alzheimer's disease. Reduced verb fluency thus appears to be a linguistic marker for incipient dementia. One possibility is that the verb fluency deficit in Mild Cognitive Impairment results from degenerative processes known to occur in the parahippocampal region.

**Typ och Nyckelord:** Journal word fluency, dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, mild cognitive impairment, factor analysis, verbs, parahippocampal region