
The Abstracts of the 34th Annual Conference of the Australian Psychological Society

'The Brain Games'

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Abstracts Editor: Alison Garton

The 34th APS Annual Conference is being held immediately after the Olympic Games; hence the sporting theme reflected in the title of the Conference. The program also reflects the strong contribution that sport psychologists are making to the discipline and profession of psychology. As well as one keynote speaker, Professor Dieter Hackfort from the University of Munich in Germany, there is at least one sport symposium, forum or workshop in every parallel session during the program. In addition, sport research is featured strongly in the posters.

Other keynote speakers are Professor Marcia Johnston from Princeton University, USA, Professor Colin MacLeod from the University of Western Australia, and the winner of the Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award, Professor Graeme Halford from the University of Queensland. Bruce Crowe, as outgoing President, will present his address immediately before the Annual General Meeting of the Society on Friday 6 October.

The Conference Organising Group, and Conference Chair, Professor Marie Carroll, have provided the necessary local support and largely contributed to the anticipated success of the conference.

CONFERENCE ORGANISING GROUP

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outcome measure, the conflict resolution-trained participants performed better than the untrained participants but no other differences were significant. Follow-up questionnaires found no medium-term training effects. However, participants reported more satisfaction with resolutions where problem solving was used rather than contending. Implications for training and use of conflict resolution and mediation skills are discussed. In particular longer term training in conflict resolution with systematic practice is recommended.

Tightening up on the free throw line: A qualitative analysis of choking in sport

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Choking in sport is defined as 'a performance deterioration under pressure compared to previous performances' (Baumeister, 1984). The present study was conducted in parallel with a quantitative study of 'choking' (see Wang et al., 2000). In the Wang et al., study 58 student-athletes participated in a quantitative study involving a series of basketball free throws under conditions of 'low' and 'high' pressure. Purposive sampling was used to recruit 12 participants who had elicited characteristics of choking whilst taking the free throws. In the following week, semi-structured interviews were conducted with each of these participants. The purpose of these interviews was to explore the participants' responses to the competitive pressure induced in the experimental task. The raw interview data were transcribed verbatim and analysed using the open coding technique (Strauss, 1987). The emerging topics, themes, and issues provide a rich source of information on various aspects of 'choking'. Eight general dimensions emerged from the interview transcripts: pre-experimental thoughts, facing pressure, thoughts while performing, somatic responses, knowledge of 'choking', previous 'choking' experiences, manipulation of pressure and 'choking' in the experiment. Using a qualitative methodology was a useful adjunct to the quantitative study and demonstrates the potential of using mixed methodology or triangulation designs.

Recall accuracy for pre and post competition emotional states in athletes

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The current study assessed athletes' recall accuracy for pre and post competition emotions and their ability to differentiate between the two emotional states. Emotional states of 52 athletes were measured either before (condition 1), after (condition 2), or both before and after (condition 3) competition, and then recalled after a 72-hour delay. The Incredibly Short Profile of Mood States (ISP), Positive-Negative Affect Scale (PNA), and an open question about self-thoughts were used as measurement tools. RM MANOVA procedures revealed that athletes accurately differentiate between their pre and post competition emotional experiences. The results also show that pre-competition emotional states are accurately recalled while the intensity of post-competition negative feelings is underestimated. Several explanations for these findings are offered. Correlations between actual and retrospective measures of emotions are somewhat lower, mainly for the

ISP items, than previously reported ones. It seems that scales yield higher correlations than single items. In light of these results, it is recommended to apply recall techniques with caution until the nature and stability of underestimations of negative feelings are better understood. It is further suggested that future research will examine the effects of competition importance and outcome quality on recall accuracy.

Sources of relationship expectations

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Our experience of our intimate relationships and how we feel about them is to some extent determined by our expectations about such relationships. Where do we get our expectations about intimate relationships from? The research being reported here investigates relationship expectations in a sample of 59 couples who were either dating exclusively or were engaged and 42 couples who were married or in a de facto relationship. Participants rated the importance of 16 general and specific sources of expectations. The 16 sources form five factors: within the relationship itself (own thoughts and partner), family (parents and siblings), friends (same sex and opposite sex), identities (e.g., gender, occupation), and societal (media, social class, politics). Within couples the females consistently attributed greater importance to the sources for the derivation of their expectations than the males. There were also differences between couples dependent on whether they were dating or married. Results are discussed in terms of how the sources of expectation can influence the development and maintenance of relationships and how relationships are evaluated.

Factors affecting the adaptation of elderly Chinese migrants in Australia

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The present study aimed to examine the factors related to the life satisfaction of elderly Chinese-Australians. Using the framework of Berry (1997), the study examined how individual variables such as social support, length of time in Australia, English competency, self-efficacy and sense of personal control were related to the life satisfaction of elderly Chinese-Australians. The participants consisted of 200 elderly Chinese male and female migrants (age 65 or above) recruited through various community groups. Participants completed a questionnaire with several scales on the above issues, and a section on demographic information. The questionnaire was available in both English and Chinese.

The effect of performance motivation on schema-relevant attentional biases in Type A individuals

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Cognitive models contend that Type A individuals possess dysfunctional schemata related to competitiveness and achievement concerns. In the present study, a modified dot probe task was employed to assess attentional biases for words related to these dysfunctional schemata. Alternative versions of the modified dot probe task were