

CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE BETWEEN THE KNOWLEDGE
SOCIETY AND THE RISK SOCIETY

María Jesús Buxó i Rey *

This paper focuses on the connection between the risk society and the redefinition of mental health in terms of the implications of New Technologies on identity, technocultural landscapes and virtual sensoriality. Risk repertoires and the assumption of artificiality are discussed as key ingredients and strategies in the elaboration of youth culture. KEY WORDS: Knowledge and risk society, mental health, virtual sensoriality, youth culture.

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PSYCHOLOGICAL TREATMENT OF PHOBIA OF DARKNESS IN CHILDREN
AGED 5 TO 8 YEARS WITH PLAY THERAPY: EFFICACY OF ITS
COMPONENTS.

**Mireia Orgilés Amorós *, Xavier Méndez Carrillo **, José Pedro Espada
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The efficacy of four treatment conditions is examined in this article. The interventions try to reduce the phobia of darkness during bedtime in a sample of children between 5 and 8 years of age. The results show that the phobia was reduced in all the treated children and children were able to stay for longer periods of time in situations of darkness after the treatment finished. The authors defend the need of applying an early treatment for the phobia of darkness in order to reduce suffering and the interference of the problem at a personal and social level. The importance of including in the interventions the reinforcement of nearing behaviours and play is underlined. KEY WORDS: Phobia of darkness, treatment, childhood

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ANALYSIS OF COMMUNICATION IN A THERAPEUTIC GROUP OF
ADOLESCENTS: A DIACHRONIC STUDY

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This paper studies the conversation in a psychotherapeutic group. The participants were adolescents who presented relational problems and learning difficulties. Spontaneous and natural conversation between them was stimulated along the sessions and different forms of communicating appeared. Observational methodology was used and a category system, which later followed a recategorisation process, was elaborated as an observation instrument. Intersession sequential analysis was used in order to analyse the data. The effectiveness of the treatment was observed through the changes in the patterns of behaviour. KEY WORDS: Adolescence, therapeutic group, conversation analysis, sequential analysis, lag.

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FAMILY STYLES REGARDING SUBJECTIVE SUFFERING AND PSYCHOPATHOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES IN THE CHILD WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS

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This paper claims that the anguish and suffering of parents when their child is diagnosed with a chronic illness is more closely related to their impossibility of contacting the feelings of sadness and grief, necessarily derived from the diagnosis, than to the degree of severity of the illness. The study presented here, based on our clinical experience and elaborated from specific applied programs, is a portrait of different family realities, or styles, of handling anguish and suffering, and of the repercussions these ways of organising have on the mental health of the affected children. KEY WORDS: chronic illness, contact with subjective suffering, psychical defence mechanisms

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VUNERABILITY TO MENTAL DISORDER IN CHILDREN OF PARENTS WHO SUFFER A SEVERE MENTAL DISORDER

Andrés García Siso* and Cristina Albadalejo Ribera **

This paper examines the mental health in children of psychiatric patients with a severe mental disorder (SMD), in a defined territory. We study 32 children of parents with SMD and 32 children of a control population. The prevalence of psychiatric disorders in children of parents with SMD is 37% and in children from the control group the prevalence is 22%. A program to detect psychiatric disorders in children of parents with SMD is designed and quantified, and articulated with the adult SMD program for detection and treatment. A positive correlation between the number of risk factors at ages 6 through 11 and the number of alarm signals in adolescence is distinguished among various other results. KEY WORDS: Parents with severe mental disorder, mental health in children, prevention program.

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GENDER DIFFERENCES IN ATTITUDES TOWARDS LIFE AND DEATH AND STRESSFUL LIFE EVENTS IN ADOLESCENTS ACCORDING TO SUICIDE RISK

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Objective: To research if there are gender differences in attitudes toward life and death, and to determine the importance of stressful events in adolescents screened in three suicide risk categories: high, moderate and low. *Method:* Transversal study by questionnaires to an intentional sample of 636 adolescents (46% males and 54% females) aged 15 to 18 years. Subjects were assessed using the Inventory of Suicide Orientation (ISO-30) (King, Kowalchuk, 1994), Self-Analysis Stressful Life Events (ASV) (Casullo, 1994) and the Multi-Attitude Suicide Tendency Scale for Adolescents (MAST) (Orbach et al., 1991). *Results:* Significant differences in attitudes toward life and death according to gender and suicide risk were observed. KEY WORDS: suicide attitudes, stressful life events, gender, adolescents.

DIAGNOSTIC CONTINUITY IN THE FOLLOW-UP OF 22 PRE-SCHOOLERS AFTER 5 YEARS

María Teresa Pi Ordóñez *

During 1998, 40 children aged 2 to 5 years were evaluated and treated. Five years later, at the end of 2003, 22 of them underwent a psychopathological reevaluation. The author explores if there is a continuity of the psychopathology and if the diagnosis corresponds to the one which motivated consultation, and relates this to other variables such as having finished treatment and family dynamics. The results indicate that continuity exists in the type of symptoms when a determined disorder persists, and that continuity correlates with family dynamics and educational style. KEY WORDS: Continuity in diagnosis, internalizing symptoms, externalizing symptoms, pre-schoolers, family dynamics, family treatment.

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