

**Noémie Bigras**      ***Who Am I And What Do I Need? Identity Impairment Following Childhood Neglect as a Mechanism Explaining Adult Sexual Disturbances***

Noémie Bigras - Université du Québec à Montréal, Myriam Bosisio - Université de Montréal, Marie-Ève Daspe - Université de Montréal, Natacha Godbout - Université du Québec à Montréal

Childhood neglect (CN) is overlooked in child maltreatment studies, yet, it is linked to a wide range of psychological and interpersonal difficulties in adulthood (Leeb et al., 2011). CN impairs the development of identity and self-knowledge (Kapeleris & Paivio, 2011). Indeed, neglectful parents often fail to be attuned and responsive to their child's internal world, which impairs the development of a coherent sense of self (Fonagy & Luyten, 2009). While identity impairment has been found to relate to sexual disturbances in previous studies (Briere & Runtz, 2002), it has never been examined as a potential mediator of the relationship between CN and sexuality in adulthood. A community sample of 374 adults completed online questionnaires assessing CN, identity impairment and sexual disturbances (i.e., sexual concerns and dysfunctional sexual behaviors). A total of 66 % of the sample endorsed having experienced at least one act of CN. Path analyses showed that identity impairment acted as a mediator of the association between more CN and increased sexual disturbances in adulthood, explaining 16% of the variance in sexual concerns and 13% in dysfunctional sexual behaviors. Further analyses showed that CN affected sexuality through identity impairment above and beyond the effect of child sexual abuse. Building a stable and coherent sense of self might be a particularly relevant therapeutic intervention for therapists working with CN survivors.

**Jacinthe Dion**      ***Child Maltreatment Leads to Poorer Adaptation through Adult Attachment Anxiety: Results of a 10-Year Longitudinal Study***

Jacinthe Dion - Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, Jennifer Gervais - Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, Noémie Bigras - Université du Québec à Montréal, Natacha Godbout - Université du Québec à Montréal

This talk shares the results of a study examining the role of adult romantic attachment as a mechanism explaining the association between child maltreatment before age 14 years and psychological adaptation at age 24 years. A total of 604 participants from the general population took part of a 10 year longitudinal study. Child maltreatment (sexual, physical or emotional abuse) was retrospectively assessed at 14 and 24 years. Adult romantic attachment, self-esteem and psychological distress were evaluated at age 24. Path analyses revealed that insecure attachment partially mediated the relationship between the co-occurrence of child maltreatment (i.e., cumulative trauma) and later psychological adaptation outcomes. Overall, these results indicate that child maltreatment increases psychological distress and decreases self-esteem directly, but also indirectly through their link with attachment anxiety. Emerging adults with a history of child maltreatment represent a vulnerable population for psychological adaptation. Interventions targeting romantic attachment security may increase well-being among child maltreatment survivors.

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**Session A6      Monday 7/16/2018      8:30am-9:45am      Warner**

**Temporal and Spatial Risk Factors for Child Abuse**

**Melissa A. Bright**      ***Timing Is Everything: Temporal Association between School Report Card Release and Peaks in Incidence of Child Physical Abuse***

Melissa A. Bright - University of Florida, Sarah Lynne - University of Florida, Marcus Waldman - Harvard University, Julia Graber - University of Florida, Randell Alexander - University of Florida

Strong anecdotal evidence from child protection teams and educators suggests that the prevalence of punishment-oriented physical abuse for school-aged children increases shortly after release of school report cards. There has not been, however, an empirical examination of the nature or strength of this association. **METHOD:** To address this gap, daily data were collected from the Florida Department of Children and Families child abuse hotline for children between the ages of 5- and 11-years (inclusive) for the 2015-16 academic year. Data were linked to school district-specific dates for report cards release. Analyses using multilevel logistic regressions were used to evaluate temporal links between report card release and cases of physical abuse. **RESULTS:** During the year, approximately 245,000 calls came in to the child abuse hotline for children aged 5-11 years; 17% of calls were suspected incidences of physical abuse. When comparing dates of call and of report card release, we found that the release of report cards was statistically associated with a short-term increase in reports of verified child physical abuse. Interestingly, this association was only present when report cards were released on a Friday. **CONCLUSION:** This study is the result of a practitioner-researcher partnership and has implications for both clinical practice and education policy.