

PROGRAMME

Friday, October 2nd 2009

08.00-09.00 **Registration**

09.00-09.30 **Opening Conference: Prof. Rafael Jimenez** (Chair of Paediatric Barcelona University)
Words of Welcome: Howard & Miriam Steele and Margarita Ibáñez

09.30-10.45 **Panel I: Children Attachment Narratives normal and high risk samples:**
Gloger-Tippelt, Gabriele I, Gregor Kappler² & Lilith Koenig¹ (1 University of Düsseldorf, Germany), 2 University of Wien, (Austria), **In cooperation with Blaise Pierrehumbert,** (University de Lausanne Switzerland) **Margarita Ibáñez** (Hospital San Juan de Dios, Barcelona University Spain)

Narratives of attachment in children from clinical and non-clinical samples - distribution of attachment groups and gender-specific effects.

In attachment research, progress has been made in describing and explaining attachment development in middle childhood, in large part due to the development of an Attachment Story Completion Task (ASCT) by Bretherton and colleagues. The coding and classification system developed in Dusseldorf by Gloger-Tippelt & Koenig provides a valid assessment of attachment quality at a representational level. The ASCT and the classification system has been applied in several samples which now provide a broader data base on attachment quality at the representational level. Results from meta-analyses of 22 samples from Germany, Switzerland, and Spain will be reported including children aged 3 to 10 years (N=752). Cluster analyses were conducted separately on clinical and non-clinical samples leading to characteristic clusters with respect to distribution of the four attachment patterns. In non-clinical samples, the avoidant attachment was almost as frequent as the secure attachment. In samples with risk factors, the disorganized and the avoidant pattern predominated. Moreover, results reveal a significant gender effect, with security and ambivalence being more typical of girls, and avoidance and disorganization typical of boys, in terms of attachment quality for these age groups. Possible reasons for these results will be discussed.

Blaise Pierrehumbert, Carole Muller-Nix, Margarita Forcada-Guex, Ayala Borghini, and François Ansermet

Lausanne University, Dept. of Child and Adolescent psychiatry

Posttraumatic stress of parents of premature infants: Implications on transmission of attachment representations

Parents of extremely premature infants are prone to experience high stress in the neonatal period, with the possibility that such stress may prevent the parents from transmitting security to their vulnerable infants. This phenomenon was studied longitudinally at 6 and 18 months (Working Model of the Child Interview, WMCI), mothers and babies were observed in a mother-child free play episode (maternal sensitivity coded with the Care Index), and mother completed the Perinatal Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Questionnaire (PPQ). At 45 months, children completed the Attachment Story Completion Task (ASCT), coded with the Düsseldorf coding system (DCS), providing an index of attachment security. Results: Preterm children's representations proved to be less secure than those of full terms. A significant association was found between mothers' and children's attachment representations (WMCI x DCS), in the population of full terms only. Maternal stress and maternal sensitivity had a separate association with children's representations at 45 months, in the population of premature only. These results suggest that intergenerational transmission of IWM may be disrupted by the presence of parental stress. Early

intervention with the parents aimed at alleviating stress may be important to reduce long-term risk associated with prematurity.

Discussion:

Antoine Guedeney (Faculté de Médecine Xavier Bichat Paris VII, France)

Nicole Guedeney (Department of child psychiatry, Institut Mutualiste Montsouris de Paris)

10.45-11.30 **Coffee Break**

Session I: Longitudinal studies in low and high risk samples

Session Chairs: Karin & Klaus Grossmann (Institute of Psychology, University of Regensburg, FRG)

Nicole Guedeney (Department of child psychiatry, Institut Mutualiste Montsouris de Paris)

Antoine Guedeney (Faculté de Médecine Xavier Bichat, Paris VII, France),

Isabel Soares (Department of Developmental Psychopathology, University of Minho, Portugal)

11.30-12.20 **Carolyn Pape Cowan and Philip A. Cowan**
University of California, Berkeley, USA

Adult attachment, couple attachment, and children's development: a couple and family relationship risk/protection model

In attempts to explain links between adult attachment and children's adaptation, most attachment researchers have focused on mothers' behaviour as a parent. We will present data from two studies - one of predominantly White, middle-income families, and the other of low-income Mexican American, African American, and White families. In both samples, we find that mothers' and fathers' working models of family of origin and couple relationships, in combination with actual family transactions, can be thought of as risk or protective factors that increase or decrease the probability of negative outcomes for children. We speculate about how both culture and the relationship between the parents play central roles in creating links between parents' working models of attachment and adaptation in the next generation.

12.20-12.40 **Discussion**

12.40-14.40 **Lunch time and Poster Session I** (Symposium sessions will be held in parallel for the three days)

Discussion Poster Workshop:

M. Pi (Serveis Salut Mental IAS Girona Spain)

M. Sadurni (Girona University, Spain)

F. Lacasa (Hospital San Juan de Dios, Barcelona University, Spain)

14.40-15.30 **Lynne Murray**,
University of Reading, UK

The role of attachment in the intergenerational transmission of depression

This paper presents data from a longitudinal study of the development of children of post-natally depressed and well mothers, in which child lifetime depression was assessed at 16 years. It presents the roles of infant and maternal attachment (assessed using the SSP and AAI, respectively, at 18 months), and ego-resiliency and interpersonal vulnerability, in childhood (5 and 9 years) and early adolescence (13 years), respectively.

15.30 - 16.00 **Discussion**

16.00-16.40 **Break and Poster Session I concluded**
Discussion Poster Workshop:

S. Yarnoz (Euskal Herriko University, University of Basque Country, Chair of the IAN-IA)
Carne Tello (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Sant Joan de Deu Lleida)
J. Tio (Sant Pere Claver Hospital- Barcelona, Spain)

16.40-17.30 **Miriam & Howard Steele**
New School for Social Research, New York

Attachment representation and emotion regulation: Lessons for clinical work from 20 years of research

This presentation will focus on findings from the London Parent-Child Project, one of the longitudinal studies of intergenerational patterns of attachment that spans nearly 20 years. Video-film illustrations will be used to address the legacy of early attachments upon emotional and social well being across time. This talk will track the long-term influences of mothers and fathers upon their first-born child evident from Adult Attachment Interviews conducted during pregnancy, and later observations of the children at ages 12- and 18-months, 5-, 6-, 11-, and 17-years of age.

17.30-18.00 **Discussion**

18.00-19.00 **Poster Session II**
Discussion Poster Workshop:

V. Fernández (Child Protective Social Services - Mataró, Spain)
J. Sanchez (Early Developmental Care Service - Madrid, Spain)

19.30 **Reception and Welcome**

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Saturday, October 3rd 2009

Session II: Genetic, biological, social and attachment

09.00-09.50 **Marian J. Bakermans-Kranenburg & Marinus H. van IJzendoorn**
Centre for Child and Family Studies, Leiden University, the Netherlands

Genetics and attachment: horses of different colours?

The idea that the environment plays a major part in explaining individual differences attachment is central to attachment theory. However, traditional research designs with one child per family, focusing on between-family comparisons, may confound genetic influences with supposedly shared environmental influences. In our contribution we will review behavioural genetic research of attachment as well as molecular genetic studies. Studies along these lines have shown no or only minimal genetic main effects, but do show intriguing gene-environment interaction effects. We will highlight the role of genetics in the explanation of differential susceptibility to parenting.

09.50-10.00 **Discussion**

10.20-11.00 **Coffee Break**

11.00-11.50 **Gottfried Spangler**
University of Nuremberg-Erlangen, Germany

Attachment from a bio-psycho-social perspective: A multi-level approach

To investigate the inner working model of attachment, a multi-level perspective is needed including biological and behavioural processes in addition to representational and reflective parameters. This may enhance our understanding of the ontogeny of the attachment system and its function for emotional regulation during development. Observations from longitudinal studies and experiments with adults will be presented which indicate psychobiological foundations of attachment throughout development. The findings suggest (1) gene-environment interactions in the development of attachment, (2) associations between attachment strategies and representations and physiological, endocrinological and neurological activation, and (3) influences of early attachment differences on later psychobiological function.

11.50-12.10 **Discussion**

12.10-13.00 **James Coan**
University of Virginia, USA

Why We Hold Hands: Attachment and the Social Baseline Theory

Social proximity and soothing behaviours facilitate non-anxious temperament, attenuate cardiovascular arousal, inhibit stress hormones, reduce threat-related neural activation and even extend the life-span. These observations reveal a robust, socially mediated emotion-regulation strategy adopted long ago by most mammals, including humans. In this talk, I will propose that social proximity and interaction constitutes the baseline human emotion regulation strategy, a proposal I have termed Social Baseline Theory.

13.00-13.30 **Discussion**

13.30-14.30 **Lunch time and Poster Session II** (Symposiums sessions will be held in parallel)
Discussion Poster Workshop:

T. Gomila (Balears Islands University, Spain)
J. Roig (Collblanch Mental Health Unit- ICS, Spain)
B. Torres (Euskal Herriko University - University of the Basque Country)

14.30-17.45 **Panel II: Children Attachment narratives and Clinical work**

F. Zigante 1, A. Borghini 2, B. Golsé 1

1 Service Pedopsychiatrie Hôpital Necker de Paris, France
2 Lausanne University, Dept. of Child and Adolescent psychiatry

A follow-up of children receiving analytic therapy, with a focus on children's attachment narratives

This presentation will follow the evolution of children's narratives during a course of analytic therapy. We have chosen to evaluate narratives as they bridge the gap between attachment theory and psychoanalysis. We use the Attachment Story Completion Task (ASCT) which enables the assessment of attachment representations and characteristics of speech. The early results among a group of twenty children show deconstruction and reconstruction phases of speech throughout the therapeutic process. Videotapes of children during the assessment involving the ASCT will be presented.

M. Ibáñez 1, B. Pierrehumbert 2

1 Child psychiatric Service Hospital San Juan de Dios University of Barcelona, Spain
2 Lausanne University, Dept. of Child and Adolescent psychiatry

Children's resolution of attachment narratives in clinical samples

Conflict-resolution is a vital aspect of coherence in children's attachment narratives produced in response to story stems, and is low in disorganized narratives. Developmentally this competence can arise from early interactions with the caregivers (after Stern's 'pre-narrative envelope') and is also associated with language development. Our previous research used the Attachment Story Completion Task, with in two high risk groups of children, a) born prematurely and b) children in families where there was an allegation of child abuse and corresponding high levels of marital conflict and showed very low levels of resolution. In a new study with these populations we explore the associations between children's story-stem completions and a range of parental risk factors (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Maternal Anxiety and Depression, Divorce and Legal Fights). We will discuss the valuable role attachment story stem narratives can make as part of clinical risk-assessments.

Discussion: Isabel Soares

(Department of Developmental Psychopathology University of Minho, Portugal)

16.00-16.45 **Coffee Break**

Session III Attachment and treatment in clinical work

16.45-17.35 **Karl Heinz Brisch,**
Munich, Germany)

The ability of empathy: The common aim of the attachment-based interventions

“SAFE®-Safe A Two attachment-based intervention programs SAFE® and B.A.S.E. ® were developed in Germany. Their major aims are to promote the infants' development of secure attachment and to enhance parental sensitivity for infants' needs, and to reduce aggression and anxiety, especially the transgenerational re-enactment of violence. SAFE® starts early in pregnancy and guides parents in group meetings and individual trauma-oriented psychotherapy till the end of the first year of their infant. The program and preliminary results will be presented.

B.A.S.E.® is training for children in kindergarten and school that uses mother-infant observation to promote sensitivity and empathy for the infant's signals and to reduce aggression and anxiety. The evaluation shows that children are less aggressive, less anxious, but more attentive and prosocial after one year of B.A.S.E.® training, attachment Formation for Educators” and “B.A.S.E.® - Babywatching”

17.35-18.15 **Discussion and conclusion of Saturday**

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Sunday, October 4th 2009

Session II: Genetic, biological, social and attachment

09.00-09.50 **George Downing**
Paris, France The Density of Interaction

Clinical Treatment Using Video

This lecture will discuss some aspects of Video Intervention Therapy (VIT), a method now used in a number of psychiatric hospitals and other treatment institutions in Europe. VIT facilitates rapid change in parent-infant and parent-child relationships, the child being of any age. Work with parents who are highly traumatized and/or psychiatrically disturbed will be emphasized. The role of attachment theory in case conceptualization will be shown. Special forms of attention to the body, i.e., to how it is used and organized in interaction, will also be discussed.

09.50-10.10 **Discussion**

10.10-11.0 **Marinus H. van IJzendoorn & Marian J. Bakermans-Kranenburg**
(Centre for Child and Family Studies, Leiden University, the Netherlands)

Video-feedback Intervention to promote Positive Parenting (VIPP): Attachment-based intervention modules

Attachment theory has become a strong research program in developmental psychopathology. As a corollary its popularity in clinical practice has also been growing exponentially during the last decade. On the World Wide Web numerous so-called "attachment therapies" are advertised, including some approaches based on assumptions that are orthogonal to attachment theory (e.g., holding therapy). Evidence-based applications of attachment theory in preventive interventions and therapy are still rather scarce. In this presentation we will discuss attachment-based interventions that have been tested in randomized control trials, with special emphasis on a program developed at Leiden University, namely Video-feedback Intervention to promote Positive Parenting (VIPP) and its various modalities.

11.00-11.20 **Discussion**

11.20-12.0 **Coffee Break**

Miriam & Howard Steele and Anne Murphy
(New School for Social Research & Einstein Medical Center, New York)

Identifying therapeutic action in an attachment-based treatment model for traumatized parents and their toddlers

This presentation will illustrate an innovative attachment based intervention with high risk families. Using attachment theory and research this manualized approach has demonstrated improvements in attachment security how video-based interventions are being used,

alongside an attachment-based treatment model, in a clinical service in the Bronx, New York. The parents receiving the help live with ongoing high-levels of stress and adversity in their lives, yet their wish to be good enough parents are tangible and strong. This talk will show how video can help them see and believe they have the potential to be sensitive and effective parents.

12.50-13.10 **Discussion**

13.10-13.30 **Final Discussion and Conclusion of the conference**
