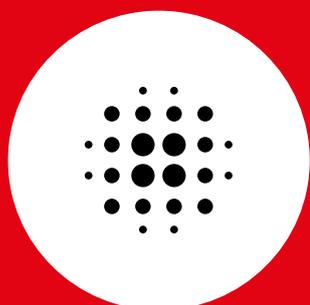


# QUB ANNUAL PHD CONFERENCE 2020



QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST

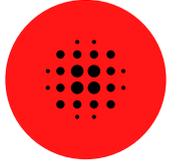


**FRIDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER 2020**

Virtual Conference: Microsoft Teams

**PRESENTED BY CURRENT QUB PSYCHOLOGY PHD CANDIDATES**

# QUB ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020



## INTRODUCTION

10.00-10.40



### PROF FRED TOATES

Frederick Toates has been closely associated with the Open University for 36 years, where he now holds the title of Emeritus Professor of Biological Psychology. Fred's research interests are primarily in the area of motivation.

10.40 - 10.50

### SHORT BREAK

## SESSION ONE

10.50 - 11.45

10.50 - 11.00

### JADE DORRIAN

*PhD sleep disturbances among trauma exposed populations*



The primary aim is to examine the role of somniphobia (fear of sleep) and disruptive sleep behaviours among those who have experienced trauma in Northern Ireland. It will be evaluated by conducting a pilot randomised controlled trial and by the use of subjective and objective measures pre-, during- and post a CBT-I and sleep skills intervention. The effectiveness of the programme, namely the CBT-I will be assessed and hopefully reduce fear of sleep and sleep related disturbances among trauma exposed populations across an 8-week period.

11:00 - 11.10

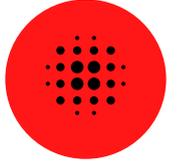
### ANDREW DYER

*The development of a new quality of life assessment measure for young people who drink alcohol at risky and harmful levels.*



The overall project involves the development of a new assessment instrument designed to measure the quality of life of young people experiencing, or at risk of alcohol related problems. No such measure currently exists for this specific population. I will present the findings from the initial study of this project a systematic review of quality of life instruments used in research relating to substance and behavioural addictions. Coupled with input from young people, the findings from the review will help inform the contents of a pilot version of the new measure that will undergo validation testing with samples of young people.

# QUB ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020



## SESSION ONE CONTINUED

11:10 – 11:20

### CATHERINE HITCH

*Latent Class Analysis of NI veterans in respect of mental health and alcohol*



The initial part of my overall research was to determine whether there are any groups of veterans living in Northern Ireland that have common 'comorbid' mental health/alcohol difficulties. Comorbidity refers to difficulties existing together as opposed to a single problem. Latent class analysis was conducted on survey data and grouped survey participants according to their common answers. Four separate classes were found. Just over 50% had no/low mental health difficulties, however, the other three classes indicated different patterns of comorbidity. Complex PTSD seemed to appear in several groups. Also, alcohol appeared in all groups, which indicates that NI veteran may drink at risky levels regardless of mental health difficulty. The implications are that mental health support cannot take a "one size fits all" approach.

11:20 – 11:30

### MEGAN REYNOLDS (POSTER SESSION)

*Unwanted Sexual Experiences (USE's) at Higher Education Institutes (HEI)*



In this paper, recent literature has been systematically reviewed on the prevalence rates of unwanted sexual experiences (USE's) of Higher Education Institutes (HEI) students in the USA, UK and ROI and the impacts of USE's. The poster outlines how research measures USE's among students and argues that research on USE's is not inclusive among men, other gender identities, ethnic minorities, and LGBTQ students at HEI's.

11:30 – 11:40

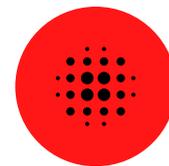
### Q & A SESSION

*Students who have presented their work in session 1 will be available for questions*

11:40 – 11:50

### SHORT BREAK

# QUB ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020



## SESSION 2

11:50 - 12:20

11.50 - 12.00

### BONNIE SMITH

*Sound as Intrinsic feedback for Learning and Playing new Digital Musical Instruments*



This project aims to observe the effects of various types of sonic feedback on the process of learning how to play new Digital Musical Instruments. It will assess the effects of Timbre upon the player's movements and performance, with the aim of contributing to human-computer interaction research and improving player-orientated design.

12:00 - 12:10

### RÓISÍN DEVLIN (POSTER PRESENTATION)

*Workspace-dependent reaching and grasping performance for manufacturing*



The aim of this project is to determine optimal workspace configurations (in terms of object location and orientation) during reaching and grasping movements relevant to the manufacturing industry. The results would be applied to future projects on improving Human-Robot collaboration.

12:10 - 12:20

### Q & A SESSION

*Students who have presented their work in session 2 will be available for questions*

## GUEST SPEAKER

12.20 - 12.50

### DR GILLIAN SHORTER

*Lecturer, School of Psychology, QUB*

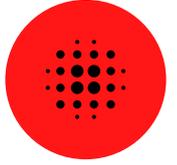


Gillian Shorter has been working on addiction research since 2002. She is interested in change in addictive behaviours- how it's measured, how it's conceptualised, and how this affects outcomes or influences decision making (especially for policy makers or those with lived experience). She is a proud harm reductionist, and is keen to involve patients, service users, or other experts by experience meaningfully in her work.

## LUNCH

12.50 - 13.30

# QUB ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020



## SESSION 3

13:30 – 14:35

13.30 – 13.40

### **TERRI DOWNEY (POSTER SESSION)**

*Fathers, ACEs and the Intergenerational Transmission of Parenting*



Over the past four decades the nature of fathering has changed. Fathers have become more involved in child rearing, hence prompting scholars across multiple disciplines to increase their focus on fathering research. This PhD project aims to investigate fathers' experiences of parenting – both how they were parented and how they parent their own children. It also aims to investigate the impacts of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) on parenting, which could help explain possible intergenerational effects.

13.40 – 13.50

### **EVA KOCICOVA**

*Peer Victimization, Teacher Support, School Engagement and University Aspirations: Longitudinal Effect of Peer Victimization on School Outcomes*



My study explored the mechanisms through which peer-victimization and teacher-support affect school engagement, university aspirations and enrolment at university over time. The sample was drawn from Next Steps (formerly LSYPE), a nationally representative study of young people in England. Those who experienced peer-victimization as 13-14 years old reported lower university aspirations two years later and were less likely to attend university at 18-19 years of age. The role of ethnic minority background was also explored.

13.50 – 14.00

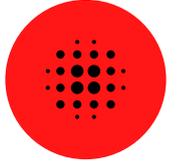
### **CARA GHIGLIERI**

*Improving Psychosocial Outcomes for Individuals with Advanced Oesophago-Gastric Cancer and their Carers*



Oesophago-gastric cancer is a unique and aggressive disease. The majority of patients are diagnosed at an advanced stage however there is limited literature specific to those with advanced disease. The overall aim of my thesis is therefore to develop an evidence-based understanding of the psychosocial impact of advanced oesophago-gastric cancer for both patients and their carers. As a mixed-methods project, I will be exploring lived experiences using longitudinal qualitative interviews and then using quantitative measures to assess coping strategies and psychosocial functioning.

# QUB ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020



## SESSION 3 CONTINUED

14.00-14.10



### CLARA WILSON

*Can Dogs Discriminate Between Baseline and Stress Condition Human Odours?*

Anecdotal and media reports suggest that dogs can detect when humans are stressed. However, empirical research into the mechanisms by which dogs may be able to detect human stress is currently lacking. We ask if dogs can discriminate between an unknown individual's breath and sweat samples taken whilst experiencing stress as compared to when that individual was relaxed. This is the first stress detection study to utilise an entirely laboratory-based design and remove all potential human visual cues. The results of this study may add to our understanding of the scope of dogs' ability to perceive the world around them and further elucidates methods of interspecies communication.

14.10 - 14.20



### SAM WRIGHT

*Developing a psychological intervention for caregivers of children with diabetes.*

This PhD aims to produce a psychological intervention to improve the health and wellbeing of parents of children with diabetes. The project therefore started with a mixed methods systematic review exploring the effectiveness, acceptability, and feasibility of ACT for caregivers of children with chronic conditions. This was achieved through identifying relevant publications in the existing research, critically appraising the quality of each study included, and summarising the findings of each publication to answer the research question.

14.20 - 14.35

### Q & A SESSION

*All students who have presented their work will be available for questions*

14.35 - 14.45

### SHORT BREAK

## GUEST SPEAKER

14:45 - 15:30



### DR KAREN KELSKY

Karen Kelsky is the Founder and President of The Professor Is In, which provides advice and consulting services on the academic job search and all elements of the academic and post-academic career. She speaks nationally and internationally on topics related to Ph.D. professionalization, and is a weekly columnist at Chronicle Vitae.

*Conference will end at 15.30 PM*