Annual Report

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Innehåll

Monographs ................................................................. 3
Edited Books .............................................................. 4
Book Chapters ............................................................ 5
Articles in International Journals ................................. 7
Technical Reports ....................................................... 15
Articles in Swedish Journals ...................................... 19
Conference Presentations ......................................... 20
Dissertations ............................................................. 23
Monographs


Report of a trans-european research project that has taken place over two years (1999 – 2001) involving 15 partners from 10 EU countries, one EFTA and one non-EU country, and a European federation. On the basis of empirical and conceptual work the project proposes a common framework for education and training with a duration of six years. It is intended to be used to: Assess the adequacy of existing curricula, • Guide the development of curricula Promote exchange of students and of professorial psychologists, • Evaluate equivalence of individual qualifications, • Form the basis for a Diploma qualification, • Inform on the development of qualifications in countries where the discipline is emerging.


A summary and evaluation of perceptgenetic research over the last half century.


The German version of a manual that presently exists also in Swedish, English, and Italian.
Edited Books


This volume presents research that relates decision making to creativity with a focus on the social context in which these processes occur. Social and creative aspects have, to some extent, been neglected in previous behavioral decision research. The chapters complement research that have been presented under different headings such as ‘naturalistic decision making’, ‘distributed decision making’, and ‘applied creativity’. Most of the authors are from psychology, others come from management science, health science, education, policy and planning, and informatics. Several of the chapters address basic and general issues with regard to the social and creative dimensions of decision making. Other chapters deal with personal decision making and different aspects of decision making in organizations.


The conference intended to make visible research on groups in social systems carried out in Sweden and neighboring countries. The rapid changes characterizing organizations and societies at the verge of the 21st millennium taking into account the continuous dislocation of the context of groups and group research was emphasized. An important issue was the exploration of whether established theories on groups and group processes are “good enough” for analysis of the phenomena that surface in such a changeable world. The conference gathered 35 contributions and offered two keynote speeches and two workshops. Fifteen papers have been selected and revised for these proceedings.
**Book Chapters**


In this introductory chapter the authors summarize the chapters in the book by identifying and describing a number of dimensions on which the various chapters, and descriptions of decision making processes more generally, can be located. These dimensions include: individual or institutional perspective, theoretical tradition, theoretical or empirical focus and types of creative aspects of the decision making process and the decision product elucidated.


The qualitative approach to research is seen as a socially constructed heterogeneous tradition of ideas. It is difficult to argue for the existence of some set of features which are common to all qualitative methods but not to other types of research methods. Furthermore, it is unfortunate to see the qualitative approach as inherently in contrast to the quantitative approach. In fact, it may be fruitful to combine features from each of the typically formulated clusters ascribed to the two research philosophies in order to construct new promising methods and approaches. Due to their heterogeneity, it seems preferable not to discuss research methods at such abstract levels where they are grouped together as either qualitative or quantitative approaches. Instead, the pros and cons of different modes of research might better be discussed in terms of lower level research methods in the context of specific types of research problems.


In this study we investigated how managers make strategical decisions in complex, dynamic, and real-time environments and in different decision domains. The managers we interviewed were usually ‘in charge’ of the tasks. Our results show that the informants in the decision processes communicated with other persons, within and outside the organization, about the decision alternative/s and that these communications contributed to the construction of the decision alternatives. In addition, more than a quarter of our informants thought that selling-in (our translation of the Swedish word “förankring”) was the most difficult part of the decision process.


Articles in International Journals


This paper aims to provide a basis for renewed talk about “use” in computing. Four current “discourse arenas” are described. Different intentions manifest in each arena are linked to failures in “translation,” different terminologies crossing disciplinary and national boundaries non-reflexively. Analysis of transnational use discourse dynamics shows much miscommunication. Conflicts like that between the “Scandinavian System Development School” and the “usability approach” have less current salience. Renewing our talk about use is essential to a participatory politics of information technology and will lead to clearer perception of the implications of letting new systems becoming primary media of social interaction.


In this study we investigated how mood influences the degree of realism in participants’ confidence judgments (based on an episodic memory task). Using music and film in combination, we successfully induced half of the participants into an elated mood, but failed to induce a sad mood in the other half. Contrary to our prediction, our data indicated that there was no difference in the realism of the confidence between the conditions. When relating this result to previous research our conclusion is that there is no, or very little, influence of mood of moderate intensity on the realism of confidence judgments.


The ongoing development of indigenized psychologies illustrates the conditions for the development and transfer of traditions of understanding between different social and cultural contexts. The indigenized psychologies are distinguished by being reactions to what is seen as modern mainstream Western (US) psychology, by being (more or less) anchored in the identified culture of its countries and by a desire to increase the practical applicability of the discipline in the local cultural context. It is important to recognize the historical and cultural context of the origin of the indigenized psychologies, such as anti-colonial reactions, and to recognize their great diversity. The indigenized psychologies are still at an early stage of their development and their progress is to a large extent affected by limitations in material resources and lack of institutionalisation of academic culture. The relation of the indigenized psychologies to the concept of science is not clear but is not given much attention in the literature produced by, and on, the indigenized psychologies.


The complexities involved in primary Sjögren’s syndrome (primary SS) were examined by designing and testing an instrument for evaluating the occurrence and severity of various biopsychosocial stressors as perceived by primary SS patients (63 women, 6 men) and at examining the situational patterns involved in appraising and coping with stressful episodes. The results indicated symptoms of fatigue, eye discomfort, dryness of the mouth and sleep disturbances to be particularly stressful. Women were found to be more likely than men—and patients with less education more likely than those with higher education—to report a stressor as occurring and experiencing it as stressful.

Pictorial visualization is expected to facilitate communication between industrial professionals when planning working environments and production systems. This hypothesis was investigated by studying how 24 participants including managers, supervisors, machine operators, and occupational health and safety officials, judged three types of computer animated visualization varying in dimensional view (scale and scope of a production line): shop floor view/survey of shop floor; production unit view/semi-survey of production unit; and workplace view/close-up of workplace, in relation to a set of planning issues. The participants participated in a controlled 2-day planning workshop, redesigning a fictitious manufacturing process by means of computer graphics, and then responded to a questionnaire. It can be concluded that shop floor view as well as production unit view are significant for survey planning issues, while all 3-dimensional views are significant for close-up planning issues. Analogously, all dimensional views are significant for technocentric planning issues, whereas only the workplace view is valuable for anthropocentric planning issues.


How can we create conditions for higher education which develop a student’s ability to acquire meaningful knowledge and take actions that carry the stamp of reality? How can we create conditions where the students develop the capacity to do their very best, even in a changing, complicated and unforeseen situation? This article emphasises the role of intuition in the learning process where rational knowing alone does not suffice. To my epistemological suppositions of different aspects of intuition I attach some practical, didactic examples applied to a university course in psychology. I deal with knowledge that is complex, problematising, personal, empathetic, strategic, and in a real-life context.


This study reports the Swedish construct validation of two translated attachment style scales. The factor structure of the attachment construct was investigated via exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses of attachment scores from 515 students of a Swedish university. Results supported the expected two-factor solution, but found a three-factor solution to be a viable alternative. In addition, the attachment scales were compared with the Big Five personality inventory (NEO-PI), using a sample of 87 Swedish students, and found to have expected correlation to this scale.


The present study examines the team climate for innovation in work teams within a newly merged organization. Four teams working at a regional head office of a Social Insurance organization answered the Team Climate Inventory. The results were compared to those of a study by Agrell and Gustafson of more stable teams. The comparison showed that participative safety and support for innovation were rated lower and that vision was rated higher in the newly merged teams. The 38-item original inventory was used and based on the results, a 1999 proposed shortened version of 14 items by Kivimaki and Elovaara was compared with the original one. Analysis indicated that the short version can be a valid alternative to the original version but that further testing of the short version is needed.

Evaluated the importance of ultrasound to women’s thoughts about their unborn child. 10 first-time mothers (ages 22 – 33 years) with normal pregnancies were interviewed approximately 1 week before and 1 week after their first ultrasound screening. Analysis of the interviews was conducted using the techniques of grounded theory. The results show that ultrasound was of great importance for increasing the women’s awareness of bearing a child. This realization process was expressed in various categories of thoughts about the unborn child: 1. The existing fetus, 2. The coming child, 3. The woman’s life situation, 4. Parenthood and 5. Delivery. The paper examined the way in which ultrasound influences these categories of thought.


The question of subgroups in eating disorders was addressed in this study. According to the DSM-IV manual, the two subtypes for anorexia nervosa are restricting and binge-eating/purging. For bulimia nervosa, the subtypes are purging and non-purging. An attempt was made here to examine alternative ways to create meaningful subgroups in the eating disordered patient group. A cluster analysis was performed in a group of 52 female patients (AN = 21, BN = 31). Fifty-five undergraduate students served as a control group. Three self report instruments were used: the Eating Disorder Inventory-2, Karolinska Scale of Personality, and Tennessee Self Concept Scale. The results reveal three different groups of patients. Factors like poor interoceptive ability and high degree of somatization differentiate between the groups, and contribute to severity of pathology, as well as to lower levels of self concept.


In this study, we analysed the ease of use of three computer programs for self-registration of job seekers. The programs were developed in somewhat different activity contexts. The differences found between the programs in two experiments appeared to result from a combination of fewer constraints on individual input demanded by Job Seeker Bank and Af Explore and from the programs’ better adaptation to the mental functions of the users. The usability problems of the three analysed programs were explained as an effect of their respective developmental contexts.


A total of 41 top executive managers in large organizations/enterprises were interviewed about factors affecting their demands on, attitudes towards, and use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) when making strategic decisions in their work. Poor knowledge management, i.e. poor possibilities to store, re-use, and share knowledge in an organized and disciplined way due to inefficient ICT, was reported to be an obstacle in supporting the decision-making process effectively. Problems with accessibility, accuracy, and trust of the information in the ICT-systems were prevalent. Furthermore, ICT did not provide much help with respect to the necessary social interactions in the decision-making process. Implications of these findings are discussed for the design of future decision support systems.

Incubator covers are increasingly being used in neonatal care as part of minimal disturbance strategies. The aim of this study was to examine possible effects of incubator covers on sleep patterns in stable premature infants. Quiet sleep (QS) can be investigated by amplitude-integrated electroencephalography (aEEG) at 32–34 weeks gestational age. In nine premature infants (gestational ages 26–32 weeks, median 29) QS periods were measured at a postconceptional age of 32–34 weeks (median 34) during two consecutive 24 h periods, one period with a padded dark cover over the incubator and one period without the cover, in a randomized order. There were no significant differences between the two 24 h periods (with incubator cover and without cover, respectively) regarding the duration of the QS periods, the percentage of QS of the total recording time (% QS) or the duration of QS intervals. However, there was a positive correlation between postnatal age in days and the mean duration of QS periods when incubator covers were used (r = 0.90, p = 0.001). When the covers were used there was a difference between the girls and the boys in the duration of QS intervals (p = 0.032); the QS intervals increased in the five girls from median (range) 63.2 (49.4–94.6) min to 77.2 (59.3–100.9) min (p = 0.043). There was no difference in the duration of QS periods between girls and boys. Conclusion: Incubator covers seem to have some short-term effects on sleep quality in premature infants but the clinical significance and possible long-term effects are not known.


The major aim of the study was to investigate whether differences concerning acceptance of dental treatment and amnesia after rectal sedation with midazolam can be explained by temperament traits in the child. Fifty children (1.5 4.0 years), consecutively referred for dental extractions because of dental trauma or caries, were sedated with midazolam 0.3 mg kg (-1) rectally. Level of sedation (state of mind) was assessed according to Wilton before and 10 min after administration of the sedative. The children’s acceptance of procedures during the oral examination, the administration of the sedative, and the dental treatment were assessed according to Holst. Acceptance of an injection of local anesthesia and tooth extraction was dichotomized as satisfactory (n = 26) or unsatisfactory (n = 24). The parent assessed temperament using the Emotionality Activity Sociability (EAS) Scale of Child Temperament. Amnesia was evaluated by the parent on the following day. The relation between temperament and outcome variables was analyzed using a multiple logistic regression analysis. Children regarded as shy by the parent were at significantly greater risk of unsatisfactory acceptance of the dental treatment (P< 0.05). High scores of negative emotionality were significantly related to less amnesia (P < 0.05). We conclude that parental ratings of their child’s temperament are valuable in predicting a child’s acceptance of dental treatment under sedation.


This paper outlines possible strategies for evaluation of group relations conferences. Based on comparison of group relations and sensitivity training, the evaluations made of the latter are critically reviewed. Restriction to outcomes, means, variability measures, experimental paradigms and effect-without-process studies, instrumental views on learning and less developed conceptions of groups hamper research. Recommendations: evaluators should a. Take into account narratives from participants and staffs, b. Respect developments in group research, c. Combine process and effect approaches, d. Start out from non-modern learning views, e. Accept participatory, interactive and action research. Ideological barriers between staffs and researchers have to be overcome.

This paper describes and compares university education and training, the procedures for licensing and the specialist training systems for professional psychologists in the Nordic countries Finland, Norway and Sweden. The interscandinavian and European regulations and agreements affecting mobility are presented. The presented systems are compared to each other and a discussion follows on the topics: What is the relation between generic and specialized training? Will it be possible in the future for the countries to mutually recognize their different specialization educational programs? How specialized should a further education be?


Fifteen anorectic (A) and 13 bulimic (B) patients aged 20 to 49 years, all seriously ill, and 21 controls were studied using a half-structured interview, the Tennessee Self Concept Scale, the tachistoscopic Identity Test (IT), and two other percept-genetic tests. The difference between A and B were not particularly pronounced, As being on the whole more sensitive and self-directed, Bs more depressive and object-directed. The IT differentiated patients and controls very powerfully with respect to alexithymia. A type of respons in that test, emplusizing the eyes, was seen as a search for guidance. Descriptions of mother were generally negative.


Background and Objective: Care based on the Newborn Individualized Developmental Care and Assessment Program (NIDCAP) has been reported to exert a positive impact on the development of prematurely born infants. The aim of the present investigation was to determine the effect of such care on the 1-year development of infants born with a gestational age of less than 32 weeks. Methods: All surviving infants (11 in the NIDCAP group and 9 in the control group) were assessed employing the Bayley Scales of Infant Development at 1 year of corrected age.

Results: The Mental Developmental Index (MDI) of children who had received care according to NIDCAP was higher [88 (72–114)] [median (range)] than the corresponding value for the control children [78 (50–82)] (p=0.01). The odds ratio for being alive with an MDI>80 was 14 (95% CI: 1.4–141.5) in favour of the intervention group. However, the Psychomotor Developmental Indices (PDI) were not significantly different [85 (61–108) and 69 (50–114), respectively] (p=0.23).

Conclusion: Our findings indicate that care based on the NIDCAP might have a positive impact on the cognitive development of infants born very prematurely.


The clinical picture with its pathological correlates was analysed in 16 patients fulfilling consensus criteria for dementia with Lewy bodies (LBD). Six cases exhibited not only Lewy bodies but also other brain pathologies such as Alzheimer changes, multiple infarcts or white matter infarcts. Symptoms such as fluctuations in cognition, falls and episodic confusion appeared in association with arterial hypotension, which developed during the course of dementia in all 16 cases. The results of the study show that multiple and different pathological features may contribute to the symptom constellation of LBD.


A stratified sample of 118 university teachers took part in an investigation in which they assessed their organization on 17 dimensions. Two of the dimensions, creativity and productivity, were regarded as consequences of organizational conditions. Each of two factor analyses carried out, one including gender and the other not, yielded five factors, one of them formed by the dimensions of creativity, productivity, sufficient resources, and organizational climate. Productivity was also found to be related to the variables of human orientation, developmental orientation and academic values.


A study performed in a group of 59 premenopausal women. For the majority it could be shown that creativity, as measured by the Creative Functioning Test, correlated with a favorable prognosis. It was concluded that suppression of aggression could be a negative factor in the development of cancer growth. In a small group with comedo carcinoma these relations were reversed. Test results suggested that these patients could not handle their aggression in a constructive manner.


The hypotheses were based on conceiving of automatic mimicking as involved in emotional empathy. Mimicry reactions (EMG) in high- and low-empathy subjects were studied when subjects were exposed to pictures of angry or happy faces. The degree of correspondence between subjects’ facial EMG reactions and their self-reported feelings was compared. The comparisons were made at different stimulus exposure times in order to elicit reactions at different levels of information processing. The high-empathy subjects were found to have a higher degree of mimicking behavior than the low-empathy subjects at short exposure times (17 – 40 milliseconds) and they showed a higher correspondence between facial expressions and self-reported feelings.


Background: There is an absence of population-based long-term studies on the risk of neurological sequelae in children born after in-vitro fertilisation (IVF). Our aim was to compare the frequency of such problems between IVF-born children and controls.
Methods: We did a population-based retrospective cohort study in which we compared development of neurological problems in 5680 children born after IVF, with 11360 matched controls. For 2060 twins born after IVF, a second set of controls (n = 4120), all twins, were selected. We obtained data on neurological problems from the records of the Swedish habilitation centres.

Findings: Children born after IVF are more likely to need habilitation services than controls (odds ratio 1.7, 95% CI 1.3–2.2). For singletons, the risk was 1.4 (1.0–2.1). The most common neurological diagnosis was cerebral palsy, for which children born after IVF had an increased risk of 3.7 (2.0–6.6), and IVF singletons of 2.8 (1.3–5.8). Suspected developmental delay was increased four-fold (1.9–8.3) in children born after IVF. Twins born after IVF did not differ from control twins with respect to risk of neurological sequelae. Low-birthweight and premature infants were more likely to need habilitation than fullterm babies. Maternal age did not affect risk. Interpretation: Our study suggests that children born after IVF have an increased risk of developing neurological problems, especially cerebral palsy. These risks are largely due to the high frequency of twin pregnancies, low birthweight, and prematurity among babies born after IVF. To limit these risks, we recommend that only one embryo should be transferred during IVF.


In this longitudinal prospective study, 2 groups of children, 39 preterms and 23 fullterms, were followed up regarding the mother-child relationship at 9 and 19 years of age. Information was obtained from both the children and their mothers. A self-report scale was utilized for the assessment of the conscious attachment model, and percept-genetic tests displaying pictorial mother-child themes were utilized as a method of evaluating the unconscious attachment model. A questionnaire was used to measure the degree of expressed emotion in the mother-child relationship. Percept-genetic tests show that at 9 years of age, the preterm children and their mothers differed significantly from the full-terms in their reports of the mother-child theme, and that at age 19, the preterms differed significantly from the full-terms in their perceptions of the attachment and separation themes. A greater degree of expressed emotion was found among the preterm mother-child dyads. The results indicate that preterm children may harbor emotional vulnerability regarding attachment and separation as young adults.


A group of 33 women with fibromyalgia (FMS-group) was compared on the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) and the Defense Mechanism Technique modified (DMTm) with 31 women (C-group) without this diagnosis who had localized chronic pain in their neck, shoulder, and/or low back areas and were very similar in chronological age, intelligence, and basic personality patterns. As hypothesized the FMS-group scored higher than the C-group on the MMPI-scales of Hypochondriasis, Depression, Hysteria. They also scored higher on Admisssion of symptoms, Psychasthenia, Anxiety, Schizophrenia, Social introversion, and a number of nonclinical subscales. The differences were not found to be due to differences in pain intensity. The only statistically significant difference in DMTm between the groups was that of FMS patients more often reporting the projected self to be positive and/or to be afraid, suggesting them to be more vulnerable than the comparison group to threatening experiences.


Measurements of regional cerebral blood flow were made in 20 healthy young male subjects during sobriety and inebriation (0.06 % blood alcohol) during rest and during performance of a word fluency test. Word production was decreased during inebriation. The activation within the frontotemporal part of the left dorsolateral prefrontal cortex was preserved during intoxication. During inebriation no activation response to the word fluency test was seen in the anterior prefrontal part of the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex. This area showed a marked activation response during sobriety. Hemispheric function and specialization seems thus to be adversely affected by ethanol.


It has been proposed that the developmentally supportive care of very-low-birthweight (VLBW) infants provided by the Newborn Individualized Developmental Care and Assessment Program (NIDCAP) can improve the infants’ opportunities for rest and sleep. The aim of the present study was to determine whether quiet sleep (QS) in VLBW infants is affected by NIDCAP care. Twenty-two infants with a gestational age of <32 weeks at birth randomly received either NIDCAP (n = 11) or conventional care (n = 11). These two groups were comparable (mean (SD)) with respect to birthweight (1021 (240) vs. 913 (362) g, respectively) and gestational age (27.1 (1.7) vs. 26.4 (1.8) weeks). The infants in the NIDCAP group were cared for in a separate room by a group of specially trained nurses and subjected to weekly NIDCAP observations until they reached a postconceptual age (PCA) of 36 weeks. Quiet sleep (QS) was assessed from 24-h amplitude-integrated EEGs recorded at 32 and 36 weeks of PCA. The percentage of time [mean (SD)] spent in QS at 32 weeks of PCA was 33.5 (2.6) % for the NIDCAP group and 33.3 (6.9) % for the control infants (ns). At 36 wk, the corresponding values were 24.5 (3.2) % and 25.7 (4.7) %, respectively (ns). The number of QS periods/24 h decreased equally in both groups in association with maturation: from 24.6 (3.3) to 16.8 (1.8) and from 25.0 (5.8) to 17.5 (3.3), at 32 weeks, and 36 wk of PCA, respectively (NS). Conclusions: There were no indications of increased QS at 32 or 36 weeks of postconceptional age among VLBW infants who received care based on NIDCAP.


A family-centred, developmentally supportive approach to newborn intensive care referred to as NIDCAP (Newborn Individualized Developmental Care and Assessment Programme) has caught considerable interest during recent years. In this paper we review the scientific context behind its conceptual framework and summarize our experience from 10 years of training, implementation and research. We present the short- and long-term medical and developmental outcome of our Swedish NIDCAP studies as well as attitudes of nursing staff and neonatologists. Furthermore, ethical issues and scientific obstacles concerning this concept of care are discussed.
Technical Reports


This text describes the characteristics of a number of different types of metacognitive judgments relevant for schoolchildren’s studies. It is argued that metacognitive judgments play an important role in children’s learning at school. Moreover, it is also argued many of the modern types of educational approaches, such as the so called ”problem based learning” approach do not have a clear strategy when it comes to the role and training of meta-cognition in the school context.


Although serious accidents or near-accidents are relatively rare in airline traffic, when they occur cabin attendants are expected to act effectively and with authority. However, the ability of cabin attendants to intervene professionally is also called for in other critical situations, such as when incidents that are frightening for the passengers occur or when passengers suddenly become ill. The study reported deals with cabin attendants’ work situation and manner of coping with stress described by 101 cabin attendants belonging to three Swedish airlines.


The study considers relations in a group of 95 managers, 41 women and 54 men, between working climate of their units, their leadership styles in terms of their subordinates’ ratings of employee-centeredness, change-centeredness and production-centeredness, and their personality patterns according to the Spiral Aftereffect Technique (SAT). Eight managerial types were distinguished, based on low and high ratings on the three leadership style dimensions. Women were rated as being high on change-centeredness more often than men. The working climate of the unit of a ”vague manager” or of a ”bureaucrat” was rated as being low, that of a ”gardener”, of a ”buddy manager” and to some extent of an ”all-round manager” as being high. Managers classified as M− on the SAT were frequently low or very low on employee-centeredness and change-centeredness, those classified as Mo frequently high or very high on these dimensions. Mo was typical for an ”all-round manager” and for a manager at a unit with high ratings of working climate. Low ratings of working climate were often found for managers classified as LLs or H+. Interpretations of SAT personality patterns were based on the Andersson model of the mind.


This article presents a reanalysis of the caption to the Visual Cliff experiments, which where formulated by Gibson and Walk and presented in Scientific American in 1960. The
present experiment is based on non-linear processing. This has required a phase-dependent processing and an exact reproduction of the identified control parameters, which are the periods and fractions, as well as shear and strain. Further fitness values in the form of radians, have been computed and related to the control parameters. Demonstrated is that this is generating a more elastic and fluid form of adaptation, compared to the caption analysis of 1991.


This article shows that language must be conceived of as a natural system that becomes structured through rhythmic driving forces. This gives weight to the hypothesis that rotational dynamics is basic to the effects that selective textual movement patterns have on the evolution of texture, i.e. a text surface. The experimental procedure has been focused on the manipulation of text translation, asymmetries, and phase transition. The studied text example shows that the dynamics, induced through translations, is producing a deeply ingrained commonality. Since the established symmetries in shape are the consequences of processing, apparent contour similarity has important theoretical implications.


This article is advancing the bio-kinematic and demonstrates that the discovered mechanism can capture emergent [AaO] units and track their growth in complexity. It is demonstrated that the textual morphogenesis is generating corresponding informational invariants. On the basis of the translation function, it is made evident that the sequential textual translation of English to Swedish and Swedish to Italian is producing the condition for an effective control of the AaO’s within a system of language specific coordinates. It is shown that convoluted structures are pointing toward the presence of a biologically determined interplay between a produced perspective and stated objectives.


The article is advancing the bio-kinetic hypothesis of string rotation. Demonstrated is a stepping function. This function shows that the discovered mechanism is working within single [AaO] units. By attaching a dot to the string, states of rotation can be marked and imaged in real time. In keeping track of the orientation of the dot, sliding over the domains (A, O) is demonstrated and the involved state changes have been made manifest. Textually, it is demonstrated that the [AaO] units have the capacity to keep track of the rotations and to assemble elements that are temporarily fitting the developing structures.


This article concerns the rotation-translation hypothesis. Oscillations in pattern dynamics are shown to produce perspective transformations of motifs and themes. At the kinematic level, this condition has made it possible to extract different perspective orientations. As a result, it is shown that motifs carry intentional cues and locate structurally the observer’s thematic orientation. Since the original text and its translation share highly similar informational invariants, their attractor spaces appear as structurally alike. With reference to the general recognition problems, the capacity to induce dynamics in another system and to demonstrate their similitude has meaning and important implications for system synthesis.

This article presents a study of the metaphor as instrument for the direct perception of events. Its major hypothesis refers to the event structure embedded in the ground of a metaphor. Since the ground is implicit in the linguistic manifestation, an invariant representation of textual movement patterns is assumed to capture the event structure. Experimentally, it is demonstrated that an event is perceivable only through structure. To capture the event means to conserve its structure. As a result, it is demonstrated that the functional symmetry of a metaphor can be established in the form of attractors evolving in state spaces.


Studied the relationship between motivation and approaches to moral decision-making, and the emotions experienced in moral dilemmas. 44 students were interviewed about a dilemma they had faced. Intimacy was related to a preference for making decisions after having consulted others and to being open to their values and norms, whereas achievement was related to consequence-oriented reasoning and concrete construal of moral problems. When asked to relive their moral dilemma, participants scored lower than their baseline level on a mood questionnaire, females scoring lower than the males. Possible implications of emotion on cognitive processes involved in solving moral dilemmas are discussed.

Hallborg, A., & Andersson, A.L. (2002). Spiral Aftereffect Technique (SAT) och Defense Mechanism Technique modified (DMTm) efter tillfrisknande från depression i relation till symtomdimensioner och personlighetsrekonstruktion under det akuta skedet (Spiral Aftereffect Technique /SAT/ and Defense Mechanism Technique modified /DMTm/ after recovery from depression as related to symptom dimensions and reconstruction of personality during the acute phase). *Psykologiska rapporter från Lund*, 3, No. 2. Department of Psychology, Lund University.

In a group of 36 patients, 18 women and 18 men, results for the Spiral Aftereffect Technique (SAT) and the Defense Mechanism Technique modified (DMTm) after recovery from depression (at follow-up) were related to results for both techniques during the acute phase of depression, and to seven symptom dimensions (tension, inertia, dissociation, hypochondria, nondivertability, heredity and suicidal thoughts) that applied to that phase. Regarding SAT classifications at follow-up and during the acute phase, agreement was 100 % for the classification H, 71 % for the classification M and 48 % for the classifications LLs, LL and L combined. An increase in the aftereffect duration on SAT at follow-up was found to be related to a high level of inertia, occurrence of the classifications LLs and Mo to a high level of dissociation, and the classifications LL and L− to low levels of both inertia and dissociation. Denial 2-3, inhibition, and inhibition and/or barrier isolation were more frequently found on DMTm at follow up than in the acute phase. The strongest positive correlations between the corresponding DMTm signs on the two occasions were obtained for denial through reversal II 3 (0.80), denial (0.50) and inhibition (0.48). In the group as a whole, affect isolation on DMTm at follow-up was related to the experiencing of suicidal thoughts during the acute phase. For the women, inhibition was linked with hypochondria, and denial 2-3 with dissociation. For the men, denial was linked with inertia and both denial through reversal IV and repression at the location of the peripheral person with tension. The Andersson model of the mind served as a tool for interpreting the results.

En enkätundersökning med handledare från samhällsvetenskaplig och humanistisk teologisk fakultet.


This paper questions assumptions about the importance of group processes for the learning outcome in PBL groups. It is argued that previous research has downplayed the occurrence and importance of such processes. Through an empirical study with collective Group Diaries in 12 PBL group of approx. 70 students over one term., the occurrence of 67 hindering incidents is demonstrated. The most frequent were: leadership problems, conflict avoidance, task indistinctness and influence of disturbing contextual factors. The implications for future research and praxis are discussed.


A new method for collection of group data is described— Group Diary. Document studies in psychology are a background. Group members collect data as recorders and synthesize their notes. The method is a tool for learning, research and consultation. Methodological issues are elucidated. After presentation of five studies on group formation and development done by the authors, the pros and cons of the method in research, epistemology, ethics, precision and quality of data are critically discussed. The method is a valid alternative to traditional observation, especially for studies that require collection of data over time. Future measures for validation are pointed out.


En enkätundersökning med doktorander i samhällsvetenskaplig och humanistisk teologisk fakultet.


**Articles in Swedish Journals**


This issue includes an article by Johanna Hakala: Internationalisation of research—necessity, duty or on cultures and profiles waste of time? Academic cultures and profiles of internationalisation and an article by Kenneth Husted: Industrial researchers as decision makers: Balancing autonomy and control. In addition the issue contains a debate between Stellan Welin and Madeleine Leijonhufvud on the criteria used by the Swedish Research Council for research on stemcells. Finally, the issue contains three book reviews.


This article is a review of a book by the Swedish ethnologist Billy Ehn. The book gives a description and analysis of the events when four departments were integrated into one. The writing of the book resulted in a conflict that forced Ehn to resign as the dean of the newly created department. One reason for his resignation was that the staff of the department felt that they had not been properly informed in advance about that Ehn was writing the book. These events are discussed in the book and in the review.


The hypotheses were based on conceiving of automatic mimicking as involved in emotional empathy. Mimicry reactions (EMG) in high- and low-empathy subjects were studied when subjects were exposed to pictures of angry or happy faces. The degree of correspondence between subjects’ facial EMG reactions and their self-reported feelings was compared. The comparisons were made at different stimulus exposure times in order to elicit reactions at different levels of information processing. The high-empathy subjects were found to have a higher degree of mimicking behavior than the low-empathy subjects at short exposure times (17 – 40 milliseconds) and they showed a higher correspondence between facial expressions and self-reported feelings.

Conference Presentations


A frame of reference is presented intended to capture conditions that influence the usability of information technologies, primarily computers, in a society. The frame of reference includes four components that influence one another: 1. External physical conditions, 2. Economic resources (including other technological resources), 3. Social actors and their interests, and 4. the Understanding, conceptions etc, held by different actors. The influence of these components on the usability of computers is elaborated in the context of developing countries.


A new system to categorize the content of group diaries is developed and tried out in 12 PBL groups. The theoretically derived and preformed main categories were Boundary.
management, Transformational realms, Awareness of organizational contexts and temporal perspectives. After analysis it is concluded that it may be a more fruitful way to proceed through reading and analyzing the diaries as narratives, evaluating them a holistic perspective.


A comparative case study is performed of three working groups containing pairs and triads. Effects on cohesion and group development are analyzed and a model is constructed. A distinction is made between pairs formed 1. out of earlier relationships, 2. and/or to pursue work and those that form, 3. as a reaction to the former. Pairs can contribute to work and development in constructive ways, but pairs can also destroy work and hinder progress. The outcome depends on how the pair is viewed by the group, what meaning is ascribed to it and on to what degree it is organized and integrated into the group. The outcome partly depends on boundary issues.


This explorative study investigated how the participants experienced a VR-presentation of an office building. Three office types (landscape, mixed and traditional) were presented in a between-subjects experimental design to employees at the Ericsson company in Sweden. The effects on the participants’ experience were measured using the Semantic Environmental Scale (the SMB-scale, Küller 1975; 1991), a standardised instrument consisting of eight meaning dimensions, each measured using four to eight adjectives on seven-step scales. The SMB-results showed that the participants’ experience of the three office types differed with regard to the dimensions, pleasantness, enclosedness and social status. We also found effects of gender on the meaning dimensions affection, potency and unity. Our research, conducted in an ecologically valid context, suggests that the VR-model tested produces realistic effects on the participants’ experience.


Dissertations


This study explores the organising of services for disabled children and their families in Sweden. It is based on 83 interviews with parents and involved staff surrounding four disabled children, with both physical and intellectual disabilities, and between two and nine years old. Further, 15 meetings between parents and staff were observed, primarily serving as background material. The service providing organisations include child habilitation centres, technical aid centres, special schools for intellectually disabled children, regular pre-school, and personal assistance organisations.

In the study, organising is understood as accomplished through sensemaking. Reality is conceived as intrinsically complex and ambiguous, and organised action as formed through establishment of common understandings. Sensemaking was investigated through a discursively oriented analysis, using “discursive packaging” as a concept denoting common resources for making sense of actual service practice and thus stabilising interaction.

The service for the four children and their families emerged through the interviews as projects, within which activities are related and dependent. The service for each child consists of 3–6 loosely connected and relatively independent projects.

Analysis revealed four central aspects of the organising of these projects. Firstly, actors label their activities in specific ways, and secondly, they contextualise these labels in ways that supplies meaning and consequences. Thirdly, discursive constructions of the child are used for describing and explaining the activities. Fourthly, the actors position themselves through labelling, contextualising and using constructions of the child. The four aspects function as mutual and intertwined resources in the ongoing organising of the service.

Further, the foundations of organising were explored. Six institutionalised elements were identified, functioning as taken-for-granted patterns and values for the service: family centring, child focus, development orientation, expert rationality, use of professional discourses, and standardisation of service forms as “training once a week”. This institutional order also comprises paradoxes and contradictions, as well as discursive devices for de-paradoxification. Four paradoxes are discussed, that influence the way service is shaped: fragmentation through professional discourses, the paradoxical practice of child focusing, the tension between expert rationality and family centring, and the tension between institutional projects and local reality. To describe the service, including the institutional patterning of projects and positions, the concept “project net” was formulated. The results are finally discussed in relation to literature, and implications for development of practice are discussed.


The primary aim of this thesis is to formulate a theoretically and empirically based consultation model for psychologists in school contexts. Ideas and strategies are clarified so that they can be applied, evaluated, and further developed by other professionals. The model has been constructed with an interactional approach, with the stress on patterns of
interaction between grown-ups and children and their consequences for children’s development. Ideas and techniques of family therapy have been integrated and translated to consultation processes in school; mainly short-term strategic therapy, with its focus on resources, goals, and solutions. The model is applicable to different types of problems and combinations of persons – teachers, parents and children—and as a frame of reference for teamwork between psychologists, special teachers, and other specialists. The thesis has three parts. I. The practical and theoretical context: Analysis of official steering documents, results of studies, and family-systems and short-term models of relevance for problem solving for children and youth in difficulties. II. An interactional model for school-based consultation: Presentation of a theory of interaction for school and family, forms of collaboration and teamwork for specialists, teachers and family, and a structured method for developmental and problem-solving talks in the process of consultation, with techniques and interventions for solving the particular problem. III. An empirical study of the usefulness of the model: Examination and illustration of the validity of the model in communication with twelve experienced psychologists and fifty special teachers who have applied it in their professional practice. The subjects answered a questionnaire, or took part in a telephone interview, with focus on eight problem areas: 1. Conditions of service, 2. Specialist organization, 3. Model application, 4. Consequences for affected parties, 5. Differences from previous modes of working, 6. Perceptions of causal connections, 7. Evaluation of different aspects of the model, and 8. Further development. The respondents were highly favourable in their attitude to working according to the intentions of the model, the recurrent theme being the importance of abandoning a search for individual shortcomings in favour of a resource-oriented solution process with multidirected partiality and with the participation of significant others—teachers, parents and children—in goals and plans of action. The consultation model was illustrated through eleven psychologists’ cases, and with in-depth descriptions of four of them from all stages of comprehensive school, showing how the model’s interaction theory and forms of cooperation between school and family can be applied with seemingly good results in a relatively short time. The model, however, should be used flexibly, in a way that suits each professional best, and with active support throughout the system.


The topic dealt with in this thesis is whether, as Wieder and Kaplan (1969) suggest, the personality of drug addicts is related to their particular drug of choice. The subjects were 128 heavy drug addicts, 37 women and 91 men, each of them selected for the fact of there being one basic drug he/she abused. The drug of choice was either heroin (30 women, 52 men), amphetamine (7 women, 32 men) or cannabis (7 men). The personality of the subjects was determined by means of two percept-genetic techniques, the Spiral Aftereffect Technique (SAT) and the Defense Mechanism Technique modified (DMTm). Analysis of the data was performed in several steps. The men and the women were first studied separately. This was followed by comparison of subjects of differing gender who used the same drug, and then by comparison of the subjects differing in both gender and the drug they abused. Since no differences in SAT/DMTm were found between the male amphetamine and the female heroin abusers, the data of these groups were examined further, together with the data of the male heroin abusers, through use of Multidimensional Scaling. The most typical signs of the male heroin abusers were LLs in the SAT and in the DMTm denial 1 and repression 3 without repression 6. Both the female heroin and the male amphetamine abusers were characterized by L– in the SAT and in the DMTm by denial
through reversal III and repression 6. Repression 3 and/or 6 were uncommon among the male cannabis abusers, who more often than the other male abusers were classified as M in the SAT. The women abusing amphetamine were characterized by denial through reversal IV in the DMTm. The Andersson (1991) model of the mind served as a basis for interpreting these results. It is suggested that a pentad, consisting of steps 3–7 of Wurmser’s (1978) “heptad of specificity in compulsive drug use”, and corresponding to the first five positions in the Andersson model, provides a useful description of the vicious circle involved in drug abuse.

Ragneklint, R. (2002). ”Man kan bli bättre om man vet vad bättre är!” En studie kring effektivitetsbegreppet som en samhällelig grundbult. [”You can do better if you know what better is!” A study of the efficacy concept as a basic social axiom.] Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Lund University.

The study takes as its starting point the far-reaching organizational changes that have occurred in the public sector in Sweden, particularly in the health care sector. The aim of achieving efficacy has been a driving force in the processes involved. At the same time, a lot of research shows that a main part of these changes have not led to the results striven for. In this study the problematic nature of the efficacy concept within a modernistic context is highlighted. Models proposed for defining or mathematically pinning down efficacy can be viewed as inadequate, especially when applied to complex medical or social services organizations. One way to elucidate the problematical nature of the efficacy concept is to examine it from a postmodernist perspective, highlighting the contextual and discursive component in the efficacy concept.

The study, mainly using discursive perspectives, is carried out in a large medical care district in Sweden. The results indicate a strong discursive component in the use of the efficacy concept with a high and negative impact on the results of planned organizational changes.


This thesis investigated emotional communication in experimentally created face-to-face interaction situations. The hypotheses were based on the conception of a process which leads to emotional empathy, assuming that automatic mimicking tendencies are involved in an automatic part of the process. Subjects were categorised as high- or low-empathic according to results on the Questionnaire Measure Of Emotional Empathy (QME). The compared parameters were facial mimicry reactions, represented by electromyographic (EMG) activity, when subjects were exposed to pictures of angry or happy faces. Comparisons were made at different stimulus exposure times in order to elicit reactions at different levels of information processing: preattentive (from 17 ms), automatic (17 – 56 ms), and controlled (100 – 2350 ms) levels. High-empathy subjects showed mimicking reactions already at the automatic level. In contrast, the low-empathy group reacted with inverted reactions and showed higher zygomaticus activity (“smiling”) when exposed to angry faces. Thus, the result supported the hypothesis that mimicry is an early, automatic element involved in emotional empathy. Since patterns of attachment have been assumed to be involved in emotion regulation, the Relationship Scales Questionnaire (RSQ) was introduced to measure patterns of attachment and to relate this parameter to mimicry and empathy. Negative model-of-self subjects (corresponding to preoccupied and fearful-avoidant attachment patterns) showed a significantly stronger corrugator response (negative emotions).
and reported more negative feelings than subjects with a positive model-of-self (corresponding to secure and dismissing-avoidant patterns of attachment) at the controlled level, representing emotionally regulated responses. These results supported the hypothesis that subjects with a negative model-of-self would show difficulties in regulation of negative emotions. The dismissing-avoidant subjects displayed “normal” corrugator reactions to angry faces at the automatic level of information processing (56 ms), whereas they showed inverted zygomatic reactions (“smiling”) and decreased their corrugator response, to the angry face, at the controlled level (2350 ms), a reaction that may be interpreted as a repression of their preceding negative emotional reaction. The dismissing-avoidant subjects scored significantly lower on QMEE than non-avoidant subjects, a result that may be explained as a repression of apprehensive reactions to others’ negative emotional expression. Negative model-of-self subjects scored significantly higher on QMEE than positive model-of-self subjects and showed a mimicry reaction at the controlled level, which may be interpreted as a tendency for negative model-of-self subjects to be easily distressed by others showing negative emotions.


The overall aim of the thesis was to investigate the effects of psychodynamically oriented psychotherapy and gain an increased understanding of the curative factors in psychotherapy by thorough examination of the therapeutic alliance and of client change. The core of the thesis is a naturalistic study of 22 short-term dynamic psychotherapies and a follow-up 6 – 12 months later. Individual outcome measures based on the method Malan developed were employed. The thesis consists of five studies. The first study is a review of research on the effects of psychotherapy as seen in relation to various client and therapist variables. The research considered indicated psychotherapy to have a positive effect. Age, education and social group membership appeared to lack relevance for the outcome, and neither the experience nor the training of the therapist seemed to affect the outcome appreciably. The results of the second study, concerning outcome, were largely in line with the findings just cited, a significant positive correlation between the outcome and the therapist’s skill as rated by supervisor also being obtained. In the third study, affective communication between the client and the therapist was studied in relation to client change. Two therapies were compared. The therapist in the one was adjudged to be highly skillful therapeutically and in the other to be much less skillful. The Core Conflictual Relationship Theme method (CCRT) and the Plan Diagnoses Method were employed. A positive change in the client’s relationship pattern and in the therapist’s ability to disconfirm the client’s “pathogenic beliefs” were found to be related, suggesting the therapist’s skill in identifying the client’s affective message and in responding to it with affective resonance to be curative factors in psychotherapy. The fourth study, based on a research review, examined the deeper meaning of the term alliance as seen in terms of an affect-theoretical approach. Alliance was suggested to basically represent an affective exchange between the client and the therapist, a theoretical view that was linked with Silvan Tomkins’ derivation of the human affect system. In the fifth paper, a case-study, hypotheses of how the client should behave at the beginning and the end of therapy and at follow-up in terms of two projective tests, PORT (Percept-genetic Object-Relation Test) and DMT (Defense Mechanism Test), were formulated on the basis of earlier research. The hypotheses that the client should display signs of negative emotions, interpersonal conflicts and primitive defenses at the start of therapy and should show fewer signs of negative emotions and conflicts and display more
thoroughly developed defenses at the close of therapy and at follow-up were supported. The fact that changes in the client were manifested at an unconscious or preconscious level was taken to suggest that such changes can be interpreted in structural terms. The results were seen to provide support for the usefulness of perceptgenetic methods in describing the effects of psychodynamic treatment and the developments that occur in the course of it. In the thesis as a whole it was found that psychodynamic therapy can clearly serve its purpose in an actual clinical context, that structural changes in clients can be achieved in short-term therapy, and that affective communication between the client and the therapist is of extreme importance for the outcome and for positive changes in the client occurring.


The aim of this thesis was to analyze the value of pictures in a number of cognitive tasks that are predominantly verbal in nature. Three studies, with three experiments each, are included in the thesis.

The first study found automatic interference effects from pictures (facial expressions) on the affective evaluation of words. In the Stroop-like presentation of integrated picture-and-word stimuli, faces with incongruent valence slowed responding to the affective words. The results are consistent with models where pictures have privileged access to their meaning, and where affective information is available in this conceptual representation.

The second study showed the effects of pictures (objects) on the later recognition of text-presented object names. The pictures were found to improve recognition, but to the same extent as words enlarged in the margins. Concrete and abstract target words both benefited to the same extent from the enlarged word enhancement. Since concrete words are more likely to evoke imagery, it was concluded that pictures functioned in a way similar to verbal repetition.

The third study examined the usefulness of pictures (illustrations) in the comprehension of scientific materials. Two lengths of study-time were compared, and in the longer study-time illustrations appeared to give an illusion of full understanding. This illusion may have resulted in less improvement in comprehension with added study time for readers of text with pictures than for readers of text alone. Over a total of 280 participants in the third study, none of the experiments revealed any beneficial effects from illustrations on the comprehension of instructional materials.

The results were discussed in terms of encoding activities and tasks.