

Moreover, despite the recognised value of cultural awareness in our multicultural society, undergraduate psychology education, which leads to a variety of career paths (not only in professional psychology), generally does not promote it as a key competency.

The aim of this professional practice forum is to highlight key steps that need to be taken before the discipline and profession of psychology, and individual psychologists, can take on their role in ways that are accountable to Indigenous people and communities themselves. Principally, respectful relationships must be established to ensure that Indigenous priorities drive the process. The number of Indigenous psychologists must also be increased. Finally, all psychology students need to have access to Indigenous studies within their courses.

The Australian Indigenous Psychology Education Project (AIPEP) addresses these key steps and aims (a) to identify and integrate Indigenous curriculum content into undergraduate and postgraduate curricula that develops core competencies for psychologists, and (b) to identify recruitment and retention strategies for Indigenous psychology students.

The Project involves a multi-pronged approach that will gather information, insights and experiences from a range of key stakeholders and data sources to inform the development of a curriculum framework, best practice examples and professional development. AIPEP is informed by a multi-disciplinary national reference committee and guided by Indigenous governance, values and partnership.

This forum will present preliminary findings and discuss three key aspects:

- decolonising the curriculum
- psychology student perspectives on the curriculum
- workforce and employer perspectives on competencies and cultural safety.

Concurrent Session 1G, Chancellor Room 6, 30 September 2014, 2:45pm – 3:00pm

Individual Research Paper (Paper #136)

Role of social cognition for young adults with recurrent depression

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Aim: To investigate the results of social cognition tests on young adults with either recurrent or non-recurrent depression. This study tested three hypotheses: (1) young adults with recurrent depressive episodes (>2 episodes) would perform significantly poorer on social cognition tasks than non-recurrent depression (1 or 2 episodes only); (2) deficits in negatively balanced prosody would be associated with deficits in other cognitive tasks due to the requirement of extra cognitive resources; and (3) anxiety severity not depression severity would be a predictor of recurrent depression.

Design: Cross-sectional design with purposive sampling. Purposive sampling was used to target young adults who had experienced a depressive episode. Method: Eighty-four young adults (M=21.69 years, SD=4.14; 61 females, 23 males) with recurrent depression (>2 major depressive episodes) and 36 young adults (M=20.03 years, SD=3.23; 29 females, 7 males) with non-recurrent depression (1 or 2 major depressive episodes only) completed a cognitive battery and semi structured interviews including a clinical interview.

Results: The recurrent depression group performed significantly poorer than the non-recurrent group in prosody matching ($p=.015$), but not in facial affect ($p=.365$). By grouping individual prosody-matching items into happy, surprise, afraid, sad, angry, neutral, and sarcasm items it was found that the recurrent group performed significantly poorer than the non-recurrent group in sarcasm items ($p=.004$) only. As prosody matching did not correlate with depression severity ($p=.292$) or anxiety severity ($p=.345$), prosody may be a trait deficit. Using linear regression with bootstrapping negatively balanced prosody (sad, angry, surprised) was significantly predicted by the Nback (1) task ($p=.005$). A logistic regression model with bootstrapping was run to determine if sarcasm items would still be independently associated with recurrent depression when co-varied with age, depression severity, and anxiety severity. Age ($p=.009$) and sarcasm items ($p=.035$) were both independently associated while depression severity ($p=.824$) and anxiety severity ($p=.100$) were not. Therefore both anxiety and depression severity were not predictors of the recurrent depression group. Omitting "Age" from the logistic regression the significance of sarcasm items increased to $p=.004$.

Conclusion: Prosody matching (sarcasm items) a possible trait deficit may play a role in differentiating recurrent and non-recurrent depression.