



connected

March 2024

Network News

General news

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Recent research publications

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New members

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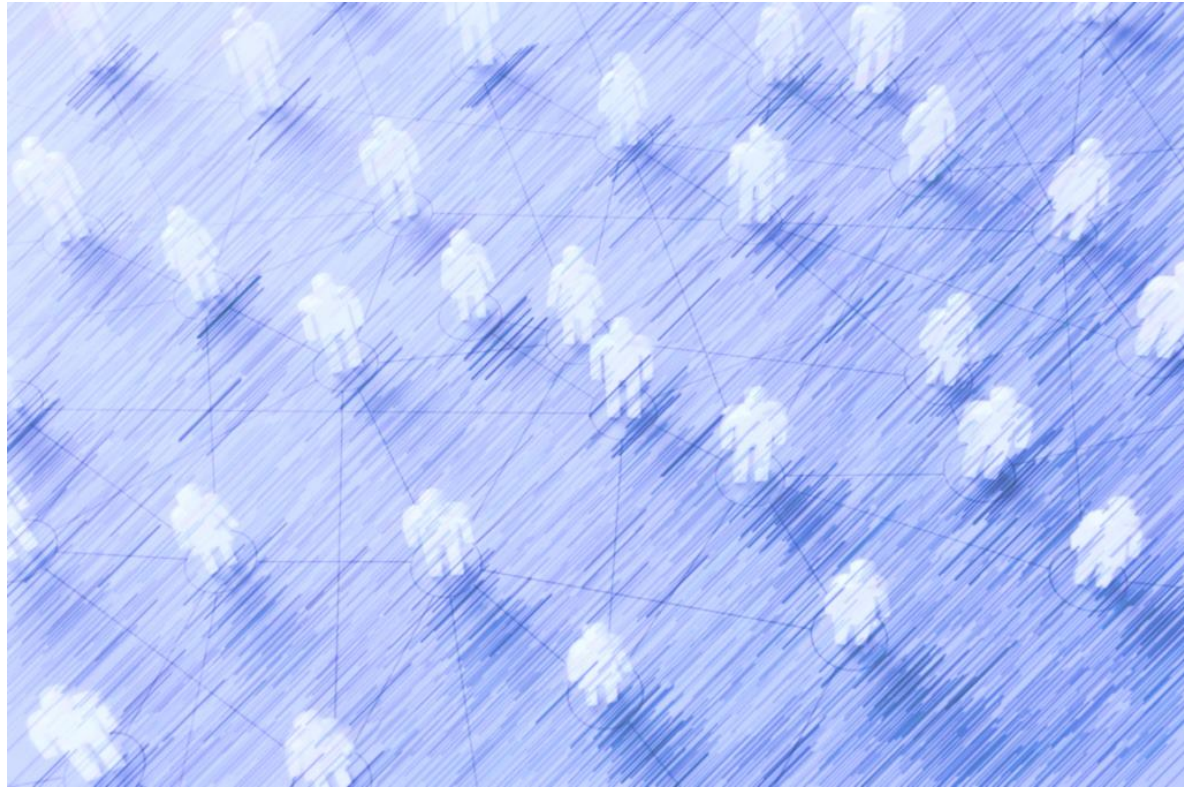
Upcoming events

Next meeting:
29.04/24, 9:00 (CET)

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@DISconnectedECR

<https://disconnected-network.com>



General news

We started the new year with an interesting 'think tank' discussion on philosophical perspective on the correlates between trauma-based dissociation & DPDR, led by Jeremy Cooper. In our March meeting, Max Pensel presented his work on sense of agency in people with Dissociative Seizures, which triggered some equally interesting discussions! Do join the Slack channel to continue the conversations!

In February we held our first DIS.connected general assembly, during which we discussed our plans for the network and opportunities to get involved. Very excitingly, we have submitted an application to host our first network conference! Huge thanks to Emma and Sarah for putting the application together. Fingers crossed!

Our website has officially launched - <https://disconnected-network.com>! Huge thanks to Jamie Moffatt and Irene Xu for building this!



Recent publications

Acute Dissociation as Part of the Defense Cascade: Associations With Behavioral, Autonomic, and Experiential Threat Responses in Posttraumatic Stress Disorder.

Sarah K. Danböck*, Michael Liedlgruber, Laila K. Franke, Stephan F. Miedl, Sabrina E. Hettegger, Rainer-Christian Weber, Frank H. Wilhelm.

Journal of Psychopathology and Clinical Science.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1037/abn0000873>

Many individuals with PTSD suffer from dissociative symptoms, for instance in response to trauma reminders. This study offers unique insights into behavioral, autonomic, and experiential correlates of acute dissociation in 71 individuals with PTSD.

@SarahDanboeck

The Detached Self: Investigating the Effect of Depersonalisation on Self-Bias in the Visual Remapping of Touch.

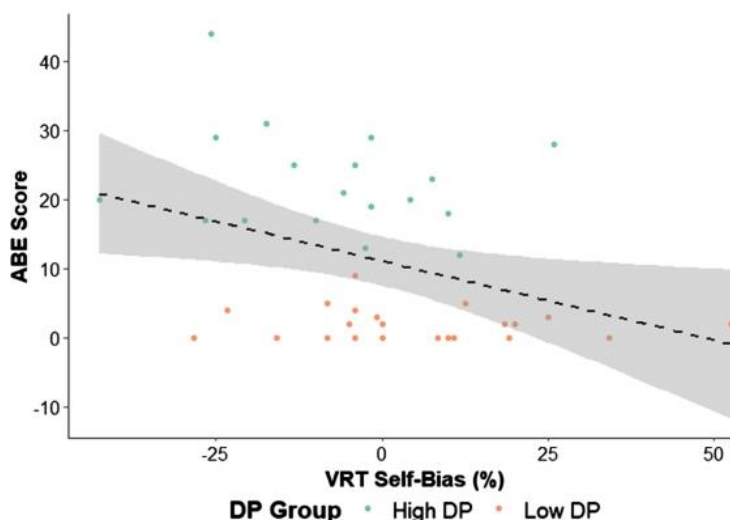
Harry Farmer*, Antonio Cataldo; Nagela Adel; Emma Wignall; Vittorio Gallese; Ophelia Deroy; Antonia Hamilton; Anna Ciaunica.

Multisensory Research

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1163/22134808-bja10038>

This study tested how experiences of depersonalisation (DP) affected tactile mirroring for self and other face. Participants high in DP showed decreased mirroring of touch on self face but increased mirroring of touch on others faces suggesting disrupted self-other boundaries.

@PsychFarmer, @psychfarmer.bsky.social



"Not bad, just hard:" A mixed-methods investigation of reactions to research participation among highly dissociative individuals.

Nester, M. S*, Pierorazio, N. A*, Shandler, G., & Brand, B. L.

Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment, and Trauma.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10926771.2024.2335968>

Highly dissociative individuals reported that participating in trauma-related research was more positive than negative. Dissociation was not related to any negative participation outcomes (e.g., emotional reactions, perceived drawbacks). Participants shared more information about their reactions, such as what it was like to recall trauma memories (e.g., healing to share, changes in PTSD symptoms), gaining insight, ideas and suggestions for improvement (e.g., more trigger warnings, inclusive language), and discussed ways the survey did not match their own experiences (e.g., measures of trauma not matching their lived experience).

@ShaeNester, @TOPDDLlab, @NickAPierorazio

Helpful and meaningful aspects of a psychoeducational programme to treat complex dissociative disorders: A qualitative approach.

Pierorazio, N. A*, Robertson, J. L., Snyder, B. L., Brand, B. L., & Schielke, H. J.

European Journal of Psychotraumatology.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/20008066.2024.2323421>

In this qualitative exploration of client and therapist experiences in the TOP DD Network program, significant aspects of the program included its components, processes, and outcomes. This program can result in improved therapeutic processes and outcomes for people with complex dissociative disorders.

@NickAPierorazio



Association of Childhood Emotional Maltreatment with Adolescents' Psychopathology: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.

Hashim*, M., Alimoradi, Z., Pakpour, A., Pfaltz, M., Ansari, S., Asif, R., & Iqbal, N.

Trauma, Violence, & Abuse.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/15248380241233538>

We investigated the association between childhood emotional maltreatment and psychopathological outcomes in adolescents. We found significant positive association in 72 out of 12,224 studies between childhood emotional maltreatment and depression, anxiety, PTSD, suicide ideation and many more psychopathological outcomes.

@MhkYazdani

Coverage of child maltreatment in undergraduate psychopathology textbooks.

Nester, M. S., Spicher, B., Pierorazio, N. A., Brand, B. L. & McEwen, L. E.

Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1037/tra0001683>

The study found that coverage of trauma-related dissociation is largely inadequate and perpetuated many myths about dissociation across all undergraduate psychopathology textbooks that were reviewed. More balanced coverage of dissociation and other forms of child maltreatment beyond sexual abuse is warranted.

Prevalence of ictal injuries in functional (psychogenic nonepileptic) seizures: A systematic review and meta-analysis.

Moreira, A.B.*, Knochenhauer, A.E., Froehner, G.V., Schwarzbald, M. L., Asadi-Pooya, A. A., Demarchi, I. G., Brigo, F., & Lin, K.

Epilepsia.

DOI: <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1111/epi.17752>

Prevalence of injuries in Functional Seizures (FS): Over a lifetime, 25% of individuals were injured due to an FS. During VEEG, .7% of individuals were injured due to an FS. Only .1% of the functional seizures that occurred during VEEG caused an injury.

@BoschiAdri

Main Findings

Nester, Spicher, Pierorazio, Brand, & McEwen (2024)

Sexual trauma received
more attention than
other forms of trauma

CM was declared to be
associated with a wide-span
of DSM diagnostic categories

Zero out of 10 textbooks had
adequate coverage of
dissociation

Textbook with the best coverage of CM:



**Abnormal
Psychology in a
Changing World**

Nevid et al. (2021)



10 undergraduate psychopathology textbooks were analyzed for:

01

of times CM was
mentioned

of DSM diagnostic
categories CM was
associated with

02

03

of citations used to
support the link between
CM and psychopathology

Coverage of trauma
related dissociation

04



Welcome to our new members!

Harry Farmer

Hi, I'm Harry Farmer, I'm currently a Senior Lecturer at the University of Greenwich. My research focuses on the relationship between self and other. I am particularly interested in how experiences of depersonalisation modulate social cognition.



Mohammad Hashim

Hi, I'm Mohammad Hashim, a prospective graduate student at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. My work focuses on adverse childhood experiences and psychopathological outcomes, I'm particularly interested in the mechanism through which emotional maltreatment is linked to borderline personality disorder including dissociation.



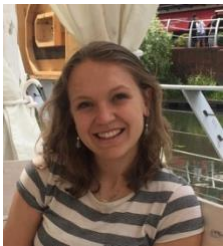
Oliver Singleton

I'm a PhD student at UCL working with Katerina Fotopoulou. My research interest is the sense of reality and sense of presence. Namely, how is the sense of reality and sense of presence created by the mind and how does an aberrant sense of reality contribute to deprealization and depersonalization disorder.



Ellie Baker

Hi, I'm Ellie, a trainee clinical psychologist who recently completed my PhD in developing and evaluating a peer-led parenting intervention for parents with significant emotional and interpersonal difficulties. I'm broadly interested in intergenerational and developmental trauma, and have recently developed a greater interest in dissociation through working with people with experiences of dissociation. I will be working with Dr. Devin Terhune and his brilliant PhD student on a project evaluating a predictive model of Dissociative Identity Disorder.



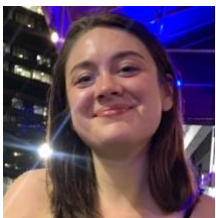
Julia Beker

Hi, I'm Julia! I am a new PhD student at the Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit in Cambridge. I have a broad interest in the effects of psychological trauma on autobiographical memory. My current research will focus on the neuro- and metacognitive mechanisms underlying inter-identity amnesia in dissociative identity disorder.



Emma O'Brien

Hello, my name is Emma and I work as Dr. Katalin Szanto's Clinical Research Coordinator in the Longitudinal Research Program in Late-Life Suicide at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. My research focuses are suicide prevention and intervention.



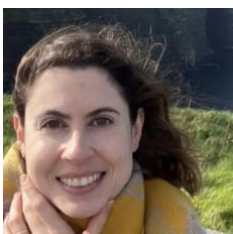
Zach Buck

Hi, I'm Zach. I am an early career researcher in cognitive science. I'm a student at the University of Toronto, where I work in a CBT lab focused on interventions for psychosis and an experimental psychology lab focused on memory and cognition. My initial background is in archaeology, and during my archaeology MA I discovered the field of the cognitive science of religion, a very interesting research field that inspired my transition into cognitive science! My special focus is the cognitive science of religious experiences, with strong overlays in the study of dissociation.



Adriana Moreira

Hi, I'm Adriana Moreira, I am a psychologist, and PhD student at the Federal University of Santa Catarina (Brazil), working with Prof. Katia Lin. My research focuses on functional/ dissociative seizures.





Other news

In his most recent [blog post](#), Jamie Moffatt explored feelings of presence and sense of embodiment in Virtual Reality. Check out the EMBODY blog for more of Jamie's reflections on the psychology and neuroscience of body ownership: <https://embody.blog>



DIS.connected member and PhD student Gwynnevere Suter joined the Grad School Journeys podcast to discuss her research on dissociation, psychosis, and memory, and her route into her PhD. Listen on Spotify here: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/5tOYjnAeBPTN4Bg4haFriy?si=a072206a56ab407a>

Dates for the diary

Upcoming network meetings:

Monday 29th of April, 9:00 (CET)
Wednesday 29th of May 17:00 (CET)
Monday 24th of June, 9:00 (CET)
Wednesday 31st of July, 17:00 (CET)

Would you like to present at one of our upcoming meetings?

Please sign up here - [DIS.connectedMonthly.xlsx](#), or email sarah.danboeck@uni-mannheim.de

Upcoming conferences

Functional Neurological Disorder Society 5th International Conference, 8th-11th June 2024, Verona, Italy.
<https://www.fndsociety.org/biennial-meeting/2024>

Trauma, Dissociation, and Psychosis: International Conference, 12th-14th June 2024, Kristiansand, Norway
<https://traumaconference.no/en/>

SSTD EMDR Virtual Seminar, July 12-13, 2024, Online
More info soon - <https://www.isst-d.org/training-and-conferences/upcoming-conferences/>

European Society for Trauma and Dissociation (ESTD) 9th International Congress, 10th-12th of October 2024, Poland
From diagnosis to treatment: recognizing complex trauma and dissociation.
<https://estd.org/congresses-and-conferences/>

ISSTD Washington D.C. Regional Conference, 25-26th October 2024, Arlington, VA USA
<https://www.isst-d.org/training-and-conferences/upcoming-conferences/>