News from IAAP Division 8 – Health Psychology

The Executive Board would very much like to involve the members in Division 8 activities and support networking and collaboration.

Please contact the Division 8 Secretary, John de Wit (j.dewit@uu.nl) if you any have ideas for Division 8 activities. The board will gladly assist with organizing activities for our division. Also contact John de Wit if you have news you want to share via this newsletter.

COVID-19 research webinar

On 7 October (12-13h CEST) Division 8 will host an IAAP webinar, devoted to COVID-19-related health psychology research. Many health psychologists, including all Division 8 executive Board members, are undertaking COVID-19 related research, and/or contributing to policy and practice to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

This short webinar will include brief presentations on COVID-19 related research by executive board members, and offer health psychologists a platform for knowledge exchange around COVID-19. An overview of recent COVID-related grants and other activities of Division 8 Executive Board members is included below, to give an idea of the breadth of issues being addressed.

Please contact John de Wit should you want to receive more information on any of the projects or activities, to share information on your own COVID-19 related research and other activities, and to explore opportunities for networking or collaboration.

Networking and collaboration

The Division 8 webinars provide a new platform, not only for knowledge exchange, but also for networking and collaboration. To facilitate broader networking and collaboration, an overview of recent publications of by executive board members and their groups is included below. Please contact John de Wit for further information or to explore collaboration.

Recent COVID-19 related grants

Paradigm Change in Clinical and Health Psychology Triggered By COVID-19: Development and Promotion of Online Digital Intervention. Funded by Social Science Department and Sunshine Corporation; PIs Yiqun Gan.

Past, Present and Future in Chinese and German Individuals: Focus on Time Perspective, Digitalization and Self-Construal (Binational Research Cooperation with Conference and Workshop – BICC) Funded by the Konfuzius Institute Bremen; PIs Sonia Lippke & Steffen Eickemeyer.

Predicting the endorsement of preventive behaviors in the context of the Corona virus pandemic: Examining temporal dynamics and the role of risk communication. Funded by Swiss National Science Foundation; PIs Urte Scholz & Alexandra M. Freund.

COVID-19, intimacy and sexuality among men who have sex with men. Funded by STI AIDS Netherlands; PIs John de Wit & Philippe Adam.

Other COVID-19 Related Activities

Yiqun Gan is a member of the APA Interdivisional Task Force on Covid-19; see https://www.apatraumadivision.org/913/covid-19-resources.html

Sonia Lippke co-authored a web resource on how to adopt and maintain a healthy lifestyle in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic; see https://psychologische-coronahilfe.de/beitrag/gesunder-lebenstil/ (in German)

Urte Scholz’s project’s descriptions and preregistration of hypotheses can be found at osf.io/qbkcp

John de Wit is, amongst others, a member of the scientific advisory board of the COVID-19 behavior unit of the Dutch national Institute for Public Health and the Environment; see https://www.rivm.nl/gedragsonderzoek/wetenschappelijke-adviesraad-corona-gedragsunit (in Dutch)

Recent publications


Brener, L., Broady, T., Cama, E., Hopwood, M., de Wit, J.B.F., & Treloar, C. (2020). The role of social support in moderating the relationship between HIV centrality, internalised stigma and psychological distress for people living with HIV. *AIDS Care, 32*, 850-857. DOI: 0.1080/09540121.2019.1659914


