

disregard our medical background or they “do not let themselves be colonised”.

Those who work in the field of psychopathology are confronted to systems of thought different from the system of thought studied by Western psychopathologists. This makes to think that the right way to consider “psychopathology” is as a “cultural psychopathology”.

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## Symposium: Self-injurious behavior and suicidal behavior in adolescents

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### S24.01

The neurobiology and genetics of suicidal behavior in adolescence

G. Zalsman<sup>1,2</sup>. <sup>1</sup> *Child and Adolescent Division, Geha Mental Health Center, Tel-Aviv, Israel* <sup>2</sup> *Neuroscience Division, Columbia University, New York, NY, USA*

Gene-environment interactions (GEI) were recently found to contribute to the etiology of mood disorders and suicidal behavior in children adolescents and young adults. Childhood adversity may produce a biological and clinical diathesis for mood disorder and suicidality that endures into adulthood. Life events predict depression and suicidal ideation or a suicide attempt in children, adolescent and young adult carriers of the S allele of the 5-HTTLPR polymorphism. This finding was replicated in children, adolescents and young adults. We reported on a third functional allele in the serotonin transporter gene (A triallelic polymorphism) that may give a new clue to the GEI in depression and suicide. Some new biological data supporting the validity of this interaction will be presented.

### S24.02

Epidemiology and psychological correlates of deliberate self-harm in adolescents

F. Resch<sup>1</sup>, P. Parzer<sup>1</sup>, J. Haffner<sup>1</sup>, R. Steen<sup>2</sup>, J. Roos<sup>3</sup>, M. Klett<sup>2</sup>, R. Brunner<sup>1</sup>. <sup>1</sup> *Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany* <sup>2</sup> *Public Health Department, Community of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany* <sup>3</sup> *University of Education, Heidelberg, Germany*

**Aims:** The primary aim of our study was to determine the prevalence of deliberate self-harm in adolescents using an exact definition of DSH (intentional self-mutilative acts like cutting, burning and suicidal ideation, plans and attempts). Our second aim was to evaluate a wide range of internalizing (withdrawn, somatic complaints, anxiety/depression) and externalizing behavior problems (delinquency, aggression), as well as possible gender differences which may be associated with DSH.

**Methods:** Self-report cross-sectional survey. A representative sample of school students of the 9th grade (n = 5759, mean age = 14.98 (SD=0.73), 49.8% female adolescents) from the Rhein-Neckar-District in Germany has been investigated.

**Results:** Moderate forms of intentional self-mutilative acts in the previous year was reported by 630 of 5759 (10.9%) school students. Additional 229 (4.0%) students reported repetitive forms of self-mutilation. With regard to suicidal behaviour 14.4% of the adolescents reported suicidal ideas and 7.9% one or more suicidal attempts during their life time. Compared with participants without a history of DSH, adolescents with DSH scored significantly higher on the YSR-

subscales of somatic complaints, anxiety and depressive symptoms and delinquent behaviour.

**Conclusions:** Moderate forms of intentional self-mutilative acts and severe forms as well as suicidal behaviour were found to be associated with pronounced emotional and behavioral problems. In particular female adolescents are at higher risk for DSH in comparison to male adolescents. A better understanding of the associated psychiatric and psychosocial concomitants of deliberate self-harm is an important contribution for the development of prevention and intervention programs.

### S24.03

Emotion regulation; Temperament and self-injurious behaviour in female adolescent with borderline personality disorder

R. Brunner, P. Parzer, I.A. von Ceumern, F. Resch. *Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany*

**Aims:** The primary aim of our study was to investigate the capacity for emotion regulation and personality factors and its relationship with in female adolescents with borderline personality disorder (BPD).

**Methods:** A consecutive sample of adolescent psychiatric patients has been studied in comparison to 29 adolescents patients with other psychiatric diagnoses, and to a control group of 30 healthy subjects. Axis I diagnoses were surveyed with the German version (Delmo et al., 2000) of the semistructured diagnostic interview of the Schedule for Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia for School-Age Children—Present and Lifetime Version (K-SADS-PL; Kaufman et al., 1997). Axis II diagnoses were assessed by using the German version (Fydrich et al., 1997) of the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV Axis II Personality Disorders (SCID-II; First et al., 1996). To measure emotion regulation the emotion control questionnaire (ECQ; Roger & Neshoever, 1987) has been used. To investigate the personality factors the German version (Schmeck et al., 2001) of the Junior Temperament and Character Inventory (JTCI, Cloninger et al., 1994) was used.

**Results:** A lower degree of capacity for emotion regulation, high degree of impulsivity and novelty seeking as well as more character problems were related to the group of patient with a diagnosis of BPD and self-injurious behaviour in comparison to the control groups.

**Conclusions:** The investigation of personality factors and its relation to distinct psychiatric symptoms in BPD may lead to a better understanding to different subtypes of BPD in adolescents.

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## 9 April 2008 Symposium: EPOS - further results of the completed study

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### S55.01

Course of psychopathology in putatively prodromal subjects in the EPOS study

S. Ruhrmann<sup>1</sup>, F. Schultze-Lutter<sup>1</sup>, H. Graf von Reventlow<sup>1</sup>, H. Picker<sup>1</sup>, M. Neumann<sup>1</sup>, R.K.R. Salokangas<sup>3</sup>, M. Heinima<sup>3</sup>, D. Linszen<sup>4</sup>, P. Dingemans<sup>4</sup>, M. Birchwood<sup>5</sup>, P. Patterson<sup>5</sup>, G. Juckel<sup>2</sup>, A. Morrison<sup>6</sup>, J. Klosterkoetter<sup>1</sup>, the EPOS group<sup>7</sup>. <sup>1</sup> *Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, University of*