FACULTY OF SOCIAL STUDIES

Visiting Lecturer at the Department of Psychology
Faculty of Social Studies, MU | May 22 to May 26, 2017

Raffi Elmadjian, psychologist from Lebanese American University in Beirut, Lebanon, will have three lectures and individual consultation at Faculty of Social Studies. His research interests are related to statistics, clinical, and industrial/organizational psychology, including assessment and psychometrics.

- **Lecture 1 : 23 May, 15:15–16:45, room U23**
  Gelotophobia and its Predictors in a Sample of Armenians in Lebanon
- **Lecture 2: 24 May, 15:15–16:45, room U33**
  Socio-demographic predictors of heroin substitute medication (Buprenorphine) treatment outcome: The case of Lebanon
- **Lecture 3: 25 May, 15:15–16:45, room U33**
  Discussion: Industrial/Organizational consulting in the Arab Gulf – Assessment Centers
- **Individual consultation: 26 May, 15:15–16:45, room U23**

Annotations of all the lectures are attached below.

Lecture 1 | 23 May, 15:15–16:45, room U23
Gelotophobia and its Predictors in a Sample of Armenians in Lebanon

Gelotophobia is a new clinical construct, defined as the fear of being laughed at and ridiculed. It is measured by the GELOPH<15> scale. According to the literature, puberty is the most sensitive phase for the development of gelotophobia. Humor research with ethnic Armenians living in Lebanon is scarce, and measuring instruments in the Armenian language are rare.

The present study aimed at investigating gelotophobia, in relation to attachment styles, humor styles, global self-esteem, and collective self-esteem, in a group of ethnic Armenian-Lebanese high school students (adolescents), attending Armenian schools in Lebanon. A total of 652 students were administered the Armenian versions of the gelotophobia scale (GELOPH<15>), the Parental Bonding Instrument – Brief Current form (PBI-BC), the Relationship Questionnaire (RQ), the Humor Styles Questionnaire (HSQ), the Rosenberg self-Esteem Scale (RSES), and the Collective Self-Esteem Scale (CSES). A total of seven hypotheses were tested.

Exploratory factor analyses confirmed the unidimensionality of the Armenian GELOPH<15>. Correlational analyses supported all the hypotheses except one, lending further support to Titze's theory on gelotophobia and attachment, humor, and self-esteem presented in Ruch's (2004) gelotophobia model. Regression analyses showed that self-esteem, humor styles, and parental care contribute to the prediction of gelotophobia. Limitations and directions for future research are discussed.

Lecture 2 | 24 May, 15:15–16:45, room U33

Socio-demographic predictors of heroin substitute medication (Buprenorphine) treatment outcome: The case of Lebanon

Opiate substitute treatment (buprenorphine) was legalized in Lebanon in 2012 making it the first and to date the only country in the Arab Middle East to operate treatment centers dispensing buprenorphine to opiate dependent service users. Therefore, it is no surprise that no study has explored the efficacy of the administration and management of opiate substitute treatment within the Arab Middle Eastern setting.

The current study aimed at assessing the socio-demographic and clinical predictors of outcome and retention to buprenorphine substitution treatment 12 weeks from intake at two outpatient addiction treatment centers in central Beirut and the Beirut suburb. This will contribute to the tailoring of services at each of the two centers to better meet their corresponding patient population needs, in addition to identifying the profile of dropouts and in turn guide future outreach efforts.

Data from 191 participants (aged 17 to 61), the majority of whom were male (Male = 92.6%; Female = 7.4%), placed on Opiate Substitute Treatment (OST) was analyzed for the purposes of the current study.

Findings indicated that service users with a higher rate of early engagement in treatment were more likely to be retained in treatment. This may indicate that treatment services should consider strengthening their early engagement skills, perhaps training staff in Motivational Interviewing (MI) as it has been shown to be effective among service users who are not yet ready for treatment. Contingency management may be another option whereby service user benefit from producing negative urine samples by receiving vouchers or other rewards. This in turn will motivate them to keep producing negative urine screens.

Lecture 3 | 25 May, 15:15–16:45, room U33

Discussion: Industrial/Organizational consulting in the Arab Gulf – Assessment Centers

This will be a discussion about the work of I/O psychologists and consultants generally, and those working in the Middle East and Gulf regions specifically. The topic will include the challenges faced in working in this field in these regions, in addition to the lack of cultural specificity of some of the tools and instruments.