Yield Newsletter – September / October 2018

Dear Yield members,

In this Newsletter, we would like to update you on Yield news and activities.

News

New website
Research Priority Area Yield will have its own website embedded in the UvA environment so that the strategy, goals, societal impact and members will be clearer. The website will be launched in the next few weeks. We will also engage in the FMG Science Communication (Wetenschapscommunicatie) committee to present and promote our multidisciplinary research.

Yield Signature Project
The Yield Signature Project (YSP) on self-regulation has employed four PhD students to each conduct one of the subprojects, starting in September and October 2018. The PhD students will be members of the Yield Graduate Programme and will also collaborate with other members of the YSP to integrate the subprojects under the overarching theme of self-regulation. The new PhD students introduce their projects and themselves below.

The PhD Course Scanner
The past year RICDE worked with PhD education director Andries van der Ark -currently Patty Leijten, Frans Oort, and TOP to create the PhD Course Scanner: A webpage that consists of many courses (inside and outside the UvA) that are of interest to you as a PhD candidate in education, pedagogics or psychology. You can access the Course Scanner via https://www.lab.uva.nl/PhdCourseScanner/ (bookmark it in your browser). We would like to ask you to have a look at it, and if you have any suggestions to improve the website or notice any incorrect information, to let know via the feedback button on the top right of the page (or send a direct email to PhDCourseScanner-pow-fmg@UvA.nl ). Our plan is to add a rating / comment section in the future, so that you can see how other PhD candidates experienced the course.

New members
Do not forget to send us names and research topics of new staff (also PhD students and postdocs) so we can add them to the list of members.

YSP PhD Students

Martina Zaharieva
Supervision: Ingmar Visser, Cristina Colonnesi, Roos Rodenburg, Kim Oostrom, and Eline Möller.
Project: Modeling the dynamic emergence of self-regulation from infancy into toddlerhood. Among the central aspects of this project will be the development of novel eye-tracking measures to capture early individual differences in executive attention processing, both as a constituent and a longitudinal predictor of self-regulatory capacities later in life.

Before pursuing my current appointment, I graduated from the Neuropsychology track of the Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience Research Master at Maastricht University, where I became especially interested in applying neurobehavioral methods to answer fundamental questions about cognitive development. For the second year of my Master’s, I joined the BabyBRAIN Group of the Donders Centre for Cognition, Nijmegen, to study how young infants come to understand their own actions’ potential to bring about effects in the world, which is, ultimately, what brought me here.
Maud Hensums
Supervision: Geertjan Overbeek, Eddie Brummelman, and Helle Larsen.
Project: Can self-regulation be improved by addressing something that youth care deeply about: the social norms within their peer group. By conducting a randomized-controlled trial and follow-up experiments we will investigate how changing social norms affects self-regulation and so creates effective behavior change and improved health in youths. Moreover, we will examine how changes in individual youths cascade into healthier peer networks (e.g., more feelings of safety, less conflicts and bullying, and fewer signs of physical ill-health).

I am 25 years old and graduated from the research master Child Development and Education (UvA) last June and I am very excited to start this project and to learn more about peer norms and self-regulation in today’s youth.
You can find me on the 9th floor of the D-building. I am looking forward to meeting and collaboration with you all!

Rutmer Ebbes
Supervision: Jaap Schuitema, Helma Koomen, Maaike Zeguers and Brenda Jansen.
Project: Self-regulated learning in primary education. Among other things, we will investigate how we can validly measure this and what possible factors are related to self-regulation.

After the academic pabo where I learned what it was like to be a primary school teacher I wanted to challenge myself even more, and continued with the research master’s programme Educational Sciences in Utrecht. There I discovered that I wanted to make research into education a bigger part of my future. So I looked for a way and the solution presented itself in a PhD job at the University of Amsterdam. I have already started with much enthusiasm and look forward to getting to know you all. Hope to see you soon!

Christiane Wesarg
Supervision: Reinout Wiers, Machteld Hoeve, Alithe van den Akker, Nicole Oei, Claudia van der Put, and Milica Nikolic.
Project: The effects of adverse family functioning on suboptimal development of self-regulation in toddlers. Among the central aspects of this project will be the examination of how maltreatment alters the functioning of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis and how these alterations in turn may negatively impact early development of self-regulation in toddlers. Additionally, we will examine whether the negative impact of childhood adversity can be prevented by an early intervention aimed to improve parent-child interactions.

I am particularly interested in the consequences of childhood adversity on a biological and behavioral level. Before coming to UvA, I graduated from Technical University Dresden (Germany) with a Master’s degree in Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy. Looking back, I would say that it was the topic of my thesis on epigenetic consequences of child maltreatment which was, luckily, what brought me here.

Kind regards, on behalf of the Yield team
Frans Oort, Mariëlle de Reuver and Helle Larsen
Yield activities

Rita Vuyk Lectures

November 26, 16:00-17:00 in REC JKB.05
Speaker: dr. Celeste Kidd (University of Berkeley)
https://www.kiddlab.com/ (abstract will follow)

November 27, 16:00-17:00 in REC E0.14
Speaker: dr. Willem Frankenhuis (Radboud University Nijmegen)

In this Rita Vuyk lecture, Willem Frankenhuis will present his work on cognitive adaptations to harsh environments and their effects of memory and reasoning.

Cognitive Adaptations to Harsh Environments: Memory and Reasoning about Social Dominance

Although growing up under stressful conditions can undermine mental abilities, recent research suggests that people in harsh environments may develop intact, or even enhanced, social and cognitive abilities for solving problems in high-adversity contexts (i.e., ‘hidden talents’). We examine whether childhood and current exposure to violence predict memory (number of learning rounds needed to memorize relations between items) and reasoning performance (accuracy in deducing a novel relation) on transitive inference tasks involving both violence-relevant and violence-neutral social information (social dominance vs. chronological age). We hypothesized that individuals who had more exposure to violence would perform as well or better than individuals who had less exposure to violence on transitive inference tasks involving dominance. We tested this hypothesis in a well-powered, preregistered study in 100 Dutch college students and 99 Dutch community participants with varying violence exposure. We found that more exposure to violence predicted lower overall memory performance, but did not predict reasoning performance. However, the main effects of current (but not childhood) exposure to violence on memory were qualified by significant interaction effects: More current exposure to neighborhood violence predicted worse memory for age relations, but did not predict memory for dominance relations. By contrast, more current personal involvement in violence predicted better memory for dominance relations, but did not predict memory for age relations. This pattern of results, which provided some support for both deficits and “hidden talents,” is striking in relation to the broader developmental literature, which has nearly exclusively reported deficits in people from harsh conditions.

This lecture is hosted by Annemie Ploeger

Lectures and seminars

Building Effective and Accessible Psychotherapies for Children and Adolescents
Speaker: John R. Weisz, Harvard University, Lab for Youth Mental Health

Nov 1st 10.00-11.00, University of Amsterdam
Location: REC A2.10) Please register here if you plan to attend this lecture.

John Weisz’s research involves development and testing of interventions for youth mental health problems, as well as meta-analyses and systematic reviews characterizing and critiquing the science of youth mental health care. His most recent work involves development and testing of transdiagnostic approaches to youth psychotherapy, including treatment that uses modular design and treatment guided by a small number of broad principles of psychological change. John Weisz is especially interested in integrating evidence-based practices with strategies for personalizing treatment to fit individual youth and family characteristics.
Invitation to Peer Relations Onderzoekers - PRO
Hereby peer relation researchers are invited to the annual Peer Relations Onderzoekers (PRO) meeting on Friday January 25th 2019 in Amsterdam (SPUI25, Spui 25-27, 1012 WX Amsterdam). The organization of the PRO meeting has set the goal to inform each other on one’s work regarding peer relations and to increase collaboration between colleagues of different universities and (areas of) expertise. A preliminary program with keynote speakers will be sent out in the beginning of January 2019.
Both researchers and students are encouraged to submit an abstract for a talk (15 minutes). There is time for a total of twelve talks, which will be divided into four sessions. Depending on the number of applications, there will also be time for researchers to present their work in the form of a poster. Participation is free of charge and lunch will be arranged. After the meeting, there will be drinks in one of the nearby pubs.

Please notify us before Friday 21st December, 2018 whether you will attend, and submit your abstract for a presentation via the following form: https://goo.gl/forms/1pMkG18ZqlbjU8392. If you have any questions regarding the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact the organisers via pro2019amsterdam@gmail.com.

Overview of Yield meetings

AMC Pediatrische Psychologie Kennisoverdracht Bijeenkomst
These are monthly research meetings, often with (external) presentations. The meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month from 12:00-13:00. Contact: Jan Pieter Marchal (j.p.marchal@amc.uva.nl)

Brain & Cognition
Biweekly colloquia are held (see http://www.dutcharc.nl/links/labmeetings/). Contact: Marie Deserno (m.k.deserno@uva.nl)

Developmental Psychology
ADAPT-Lab (Addiction Development and Psychopathology Lab). Weekly meetings are held where topics and ongoing research related to addiction and psychopathology are discussed, often with (external) presentations. Contact: Eva Schmitz (E.A.Schmitz@uva.nl)
Code–P lab meetings are held biweekly. In these meetings, research on cognitive development is presented and discussed. Contact: Daan van Renswoude (D.R.vanRenswoude@uva.nl)

Developmental psychopathology and Developmental and parenting problems
Combined OOP (Susan Bögels’ lab)/ADAPT (Reinout Wiers’ lab) colloquia are held once a month. Here ongoing research is presented and discussed. Contact: Bram van Bockstaele (B.D.vanBockstaele@uva.nl)

Educational Sciences
Educational Sciences organises ‘Educational Sciences Colloquia’ approximately bimonthly. These meetings consist of presentations of research and occasionally external speakers are invited. Contact: Remmert Daas (R.J.M.Daas@uva.nl)
The research group ‘Developmental disorders and Special education’ also has colloquia that are held monthly. In these meetings, ongoing research is presented and research proposals are discussed. Contact: Madelon van den Boer (M.vandenBoer@uva.nl)

Preventive Youth Care
Biweekly colloquia are held. Ongoing research is presented and discussed. Contact: Alithe van den Akker (A.L.vandenAkker@uva.nl)

Psychometrics: Methods & Statistics (POWL) and Psychological Methods (Psychology)
Combined M&S (POWL) and PM (Psychology) monthly meetings on Psychometrics. Fridays 16:00-17:00. Contact: Andries van der Ark (L.A.vanderArk@uva.nl)