

April 6, 2008

Research Advisory Board of the International Psychoanalytical Association

We are pleased to offer the annual status report on our International Psychoanalytical Association-funded project, "The Development of Curiosity in Adolescence: Its Relation to Acquiring Specific Adaptive Capacities." Our update from 2007 (attached) outlines important theoretical background which may be a useful orientation to the work that has led up to where this project now stands.

We are continuing to apply our broader preliminary findings to a more finely-tuned investigation examining the relations to resilient adolescent outcome of narrative elements of *self-reflection*, a construct closely allied with *curiosity about the self*, a domain of curiosity initially outlined in our preliminary findings. In so doing, we have centered our work on investigating narrative (including linguistic structural and thematic) elements of interview discourse indicating this specific adaptive capacity. We are currently continuing to examine the relations to resilient outcome of self-reflection in adolescent interviews from Dr. Hauser's sample of resilient and average-outcome adolescents (Hauser, 1999; Hauser, Allen & Golden, 2006). In preliminary findings from this new direction of our work, we found, using our coding system for assessing self-reflection in adolescent interviews (Barkai, et al., unpublished manuscript), that self-reflection was positively correlated with positive functioning scores comprising our resilience definition (Barkai, Hauser, Allen, Biswas and Burnstine, 2007). Furthermore, after revising our coding system to account for levels of self-reflection, this finding was more strongly reproduced, and we also found that for the whole sample (resilient and average-outcome adolescents from the formerly hospitalized cohort), self-reflection significantly correlated with a composite score derived from both the positive and problematic functioning measures in our resilience definition (Barkai, Hauser, Allen, Henry, Biswas and Billings, 2008). Furthermore, we have been able to establish preliminary interrater reliability of our refined coding instrument (Barkai, et al., 2008).

Products of this project to date include a published summary of our poster (Barkai, et al., 2007) entitled, "The Creation of a Coding Scheme Assessing Curiosity Expression in Adolescent Interviews: Preliminary Findings" (Barkai & Hauser, 2007). Furthermore, we presented our poster entitled, "Identifying Resilience through Narratives of Self-Reflection," (Barkai, et al., 2007) at the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) biennial meeting here in Boston (findings summarized above). We also presented a poster entitled, "Identifying Resilience through Narratives of Self-Reflection: Improving the Method and Establishing Reliability" at the Winter 2008 meetings of the American Psychoanalytic Association (Barkai, et al., 2008). In addition, a paper we have submitted to the *Annual of Psychoanalysis* entitled, "Psychoanalytic and

Developmental Perspectives On Narratives of Self-Reflection in Resilient Adolescents: Explorations and New Contributions” has been reviewed and accepted, pending requested revisions (Barkai & Hauser, Unpublished manuscript).

Since February of 2007 we have used the remainder of the allotted \$7000 granted as salary support for Dr. Barkai, who, through her use of this funding, has been facilitated in her ability to carve out needed research-dedicated time for this interesting and time-intensive endeavor.

Dr. Barkai has continued, during this granting period, to meet weekly with Dr. Hauser for research mentoring and collaboration, and also continues to attend biweekly Project Meetings in Dr. Hauser’s laboratory. The use of these funds as salary support for this time allotment has facilitated her continued ability to participate in obtaining mentorship from Dr. Hauser in these ongoing meetings.

Thank you for providing these research funds in support of this ongoing project.

Sincerely yours,

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