

Research Webinar Series
July 16, 2021| 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time



Simone Reinders, PhD



Lora Dimitrova, MSC, AKC



Jennifer M. Gómez, PhD



Lauren Lebois, PhD



Milissa Kaufman, MD, PhD



Martin Dorahy, PhD



Michael Salter, PhD



Mary-Anne Kate, PhD

Presentation Title: Biomarkers of Pathological Dissociation

Time: 10:00 – 11:00 AM ET

Content Level: Beginning/Introductory

Potential to Distress: No

Presenter: Simone Reinders, PhD

Presenter Biography: Dr A.A.T. Simone Reinders is a leading neuroscientist and international expert in the neurobiology of trauma-related dissociation and the brain imaging correlates of dissociative identity disorder (DID). Simone studied Applied Physics and Artificial Intelligence and obtained her doctorate in Medical Sciences with the highest Dutch distinction Cum Laude at the University of Groningen, Netherlands. She received the most prestigious grant for young investigators, only awarded to the top 5% most promising researchers in the Netherlands, which allowed her to successfully lead a multi-centre neuroimaging project. Simone's pioneering research showed identity-state-dependent blood-flow patterns in the brain of individuals with DID. Follow-up research showed that these patterns cannot be simulated and that DID and PTSD share trauma-related neurobiomarkers. This significantly advanced understanding of brain function and structural brain abnormalities in DID. Simone has an H-index of 23 and is currently working as a Senior Research associate at the IoPPN of King's College London, UK. Her most recent work addresses DID-dismissive perspectives using brain imaging[1] and a review of 205 studies identified biomarkers of pathological dissociation in a transdiagnostic manner[2]. Simone is Chair of the ENIGMA-Dissociation Working Group and Lead Trustee for the Clinic of Dissociative Studies' Academic Programme. Her work has been honoured with multiple awards from the ISSTD, including a Morton Prince Award for Scientific Achievement in 2017.

Presenter: Lora Dimitrova, MSC, AKC

Presenter Biography: Lora Dimitrova is a PhD student affiliated with both King's College London (UK) and the VU University Amsterdam (NL). For her thesis she is interested in the aetiology of dissociative identity disorder and in the neurofunctional and neurostructural biomarkers of pathological dissociation and traumatization. Lora completed her bachelor's degree in

Psychology at Kingston University with a distinction. She completed her master's in Mental Health Studies at King's College London under the supervision of Dr A A T S Reinders and received a distinction as well. As part of her PhD Lora has published her first paper "Sleep, trauma, fantasy and cognition in dissociative identity disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder and healthy controls: a replication and extension study" in the European Journal of Psychotraumatology (2020). She is currently also working as a research assistant at Tavistock Relationships.

Abstract: Pathological dissociation is a severe, debilitating and transdiagnostic psychiatric symptom. This presentation aims to inform on biomarkers of pathological dissociation in a transdiagnostic manner in support of the precision medicine framework (part 1) and on the basis of a brain imaging study in individuals with DID (part 2).

In part 1 a systematic review will present a systematic review that includes a total of 205 unique studies. The terms 'biomarker' and 'precision medicine' will be explained. Studies that met inclusion criteria were divided into four biomarker categories, namely neuroimaging, psychobiological, psychophysiological and genetic biomarkers. Two tables per category were created, namely one to list the studies by biomarker measure and first author, and a second one listing the biomarker findings and the directionality of response. For every biomarker finding, e.g. the hippocampus, a counter was created to calculate the frequency of this biomarker finding across studies. Bar graphs were created on the basis of these counters. A biomarker finding that was most frequent was proposed as an important biomarker for pathological dissociation. The dorsomedial and dorsolateral prefrontal cortex, bilateral superior frontal regions, (anterior) cingulate, posterior association areas and basal ganglia are identified as neurofunctional biomarkers of pathological dissociation and decreased hippocampal, basal ganglia and thalamic volumes as neurostructural biomarkers. Increased oxytocin and prolactin and decreased tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF- α) are identified as psychobiological markers. Psychophysiological biomarkers, including blood pressure, heart rate and skin conductance, were inconclusive. For the genetic biomarker category studies related to dissociation were limited and no clear directionality of effect was found to warrant identification of a genetic biomarker. Recommendations for future research pathways and possible clinical applicability are provided.

Part 2 presents a novel study in individuals with DID and reveals a hippocampal subfield as neurostructural biomarker of dissociative amnesia.

Objectives

Upon completion of this webinar participants will be able to:

- Define "Precision Medicine"
- Explain a "Biomarker for pathological dissociation"
- Describe what is proposed as neuroimaging, psychobiological, psychophysiological and genetic biomarkers of pathological dissociation
- Recognize the current research possibilities and challenges
- Discuss what a neurostructural biomarker of dissociative amnesia is for DID

Presentation Title: The Role of Racism in Cultural Betrayal Trauma & Healing

Time: 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM ET

Content Level: Intermediate

Potential to Distress: No

Presenter: Jennifer M. Gómez, PhD

Presenter Biography: Jennifer M. Gómez, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor at Wayne State University (WSU) in the Department of Psychology and Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute for Child & Family Development (MPSI). Dr. Gómez is a member of the External Advisory Committee for the Campus Culture & Climate Initiative (C3I) at Dartmouth College and Board Member and Chair of the Research Advisory Committee at the Center for Institutional Courage. She is the lead co-editor of a special issue of Journal of Trauma & Dissociation, Discrimination, Violence, & Healing in Marginalized Communities. Her research centers around cultural betrayal trauma theory (CBTT), which she created as a framework for empirically examining the mental, behavioral, cultural, and physical health impact of violence on Black and other marginalized youth, young adults, and elders within the context of inequality. In addition to being recognized by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) as an NAS Kavli Fellow (2019), her research has been funded by the Ford Foundation Fellowships Program, administered by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, & Medicine (NASEM) and The Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research (MCUAAAR). Dr. Gómez has published over 60 peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, scholarly writings, and pieces for the general public. She has additionally contributed research perspectives on violence, sexual abuse & harassment, racism, and sexism in national news outlets. Dr. Gómez' ultimate goal for her research is to identify avenues of hope and healing for individuals, families, communities, institutions, and society.

Abstract: Societal inequality, including racism, impacts marginalized youth and young adults, including their experience, meaning-making, and outcomes of interpersonal trauma. Proposed by Gómez in 2012, cultural betrayal trauma theory (CBTT) highlights cultural betrayal in within-group violence in marginalized populations as a dimension of harm that affects mental, physical, behavioral, and cultural health outcomes. In CBTT, within-group violence violates the (intra)cultural trust—solidary, love, loyalty, connection, responsibility—that is developed in-group to buffer against societal inequality (Gómez & Gobin, 2020). This violation, termed a cultural betrayal, can contribute to diverse, costly outcomes (Gómez, 2020a), including dissociation (Gómez, 2019). In this webinar, I will first briefly review the literature on trauma and racism. I then will define CBTT and detail its empirical support, with a focus on Black young adults in the U.S. I will close with micro- and macro-level implications for addressing and ultimately working towards eradicating societal inequality and violence against youth, including the importance of attuning to the context of inequality, discrimination, oppression, and second-class citizenship for marginalized trauma survivors (Comstock et al., 2008; Gómez, 2020b;

Gómez et al., 2016). In doing so, I hope to identify avenues of hope and healing for individuals, families, communities, institutions, and society.

Objectives

Upon completion of this webinar participants will be able to:

- Describe the context of Anti-Black racism in the U.S.
- Define cultural betrayal trauma theory and its tenets, including (intra)cultural trust, cultural betrayal trauma, (intra)cultural pressure, and predicted cultural outcomes
- Discuss the evidence for CBTT in Black and other marginalized youth
- Identify next steps for CBTT research, within and outside of American contexts
- Value the importance of cultural competency in addressing the impact of inequality for Black American young adult survivors of interpersonal trauma

Presentation Title: Trauma-Related Dissociation: Intersection of Clinical Phenomenology and Neuroscience

Time: 12:30 – 1:30 PM ET

Content Level: Beginning/Introductory

Potential to Distress: No

Presenter: Lauren Lebois, PhD

Presenter Biography: Dr. Lauren Lebois is a cognitive psychologist and cognitive neuroscientist who uses neuroimaging, psychophysiological, and behavioral techniques in humans to understand how the mind, brain, and body adapt in the aftermath of trauma. She is the Director of Neuroimaging for the Dissociative Disorders and Trauma Research Program, and an Instructor in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. She also serves as Operations Co-Director of the Initiative for Integrated Trauma Research, Care and Training. Overall, her work aims to scientifically examine the predictors and correlates of posttraumatic neuropsychiatric sequelae, and in doing so reduced stigma and improve psychiatric care. She has a particular interest in self-processing related to PTSD and Dissociative Identity Disorder. Dr. Lebois has a background in human neuroimaging and behavioral research, as well as both undergraduate and graduate level teaching experience. She completed her doctoral training at Emory University with Lawrence Barsalou, PhD, and her postdoctoral training at McLean Hospital/Harvard Medical School with Kerry Ressler, MD, PhD. Her work so far has shed light on: why there is a therapeutic effect of mindfulness-related treatments; the role of learning, experience, and plasticity in emotional experience; and the assessment of brain and behavioral correlates of trauma-related dissociation.

Presenter: Milissa Kaufman, MD, PhD

Presenter Biography: Milissa Kaufman, MD, PhD is an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. At McLean Hospital in Boston, MA, she is the Director of the Initiative for Trauma Research, Training and Care. She also is the Director of the Dissociative Disorders and Trauma Research Program, and the Medical Director for both the Hill Center for Women and the Adult Outpatient Trauma Clinic. Dr. Kaufman has over 20 years of experience in the assessment and treatment of trauma-spectrum and dissociative disorders. She has served as the principal investigator or co-investigator on various studies designed to further our understanding of the neurobiology of PTSD and DID. Her research utilizes a multimodal approach involving sophisticated psychometric assessment paired with neuroimaging, psychophysiology, genetic, and neurocognitive techniques. She and her colleagues at McLean Hospital have received both philanthropic funding and federal funding from the National Institute of Mental Health to study biomarkers of dissociation in traumatized individuals. Dr. Kaufman serves as a member of the Scientific Committee for the International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation and is the Chair of the Education and Research Subcommittee. She has been honored to receive numerous national and local awards for her work as a clinician, researcher and educator. She is the former Associate Training Director for the MGH/McLean Adult Psychiatry Residency Program and currently serves as the Director of the Trauma Psychiatry Didactics curriculum.

Abstract: Posttraumatic stress responses can take many forms. In this webinar, we will use case studies to illustrate the clinical phenomenology associated with three types of responses: 1) classic posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD); 2) the dissociative subtype of PTSD; and, 3) dissociative identity disorder (DID). We also will discuss the underlying neurobiology associated with each type of response including distinctive neural circuitries. We will end this talk by discussing implications for treatment in the clinical setting.

Objectives

Upon completion of this webinar participants will be able to:

- Define the symptoms that differentiate the classic and dissociative subtypes of PTSD
- Identify activation patterns of the prefrontal cortex and amygdala in Classic PTSD, Dissociative Subtype, and DID
- Identify the three stages of treatment for complex posttraumatic presentations.

Presentation Title: Dissociative Identity Disorder: Inter-identity Amnesia and Sense of Self Across Time

Time: 2:30 – 3:30 PM ET

Content Level: Intermediate

Potential to Distress: No

Presenter: Martin Dorahy, PhD

Presenter Biography: Martin Dorahy, PhD, DClinPsych, is a clinical psychologist and professor in the Department of Psychology, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand. He has a clinical, research and theoretical interest in complex trauma, dissociative disorders and self-conscious emotions (e.g., shame). He has published peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters, and co-edited four books in the area of psychotraumatology. He is a member of the the New Zealand College of Clinical Psychologists, New Zealand Psychological Society, and the New Zealand Association of Psychotherapists. He is a Fellow and Past President of the International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation (ISSTD). He maintains a clinical practice, focused primarily on the adult sequelae of childhood relational trauma. He enjoys skiing and downhill mountain biking and would like to be much better at both!

Abstract: Laboratory research continues to explore the complexity of dissociative identity disorder (DID) as fleshed out in the clinical literature. The nature of reported amnesia between dissociative identities has been a central topic of empirical and clinical interest, and laboratory studies have sought to determine the degree to which information is inaccessible to recall by other identities. Another topic of conceptual interest to understanding DID is the nature of self-continuity, or the experience of sense of self over time in dissociative identities. This presentation outlines recent research exploring episodic memory retrieval across identities reporting amnesia for each other. In addition, it also explores diachronicity unity, the sense of self over time in dissociative identities. This work has been conducted using both experimental paradigms and survey designs. Results show evidence of memory accessibility even in cases that reported inter-identity, suggesting that at least in some cases, amnesia may be more related to metacognitive rather than cognitive processes, and that self-continuity may be somewhat tenuous at least in some dissociative identities.

Objectives

Upon completion of this webinar participants will be able to:

- Recognize the nature of inter-identity amnesia in DID
- Explore self-continuity in dissociative identities
- Describe the latest findings on inter-identity amnesia and self-continuity in DID

Presentation Title: The Impact of Covid-19 On Online Child Sexual Exploitation and the Implications for Victims and Survivors

Time: 3:45 – 4:45 PM ET

Content Level: Introductory

Potential to Distress: No

Presenter: Michael Salter, PhD

Presenter Biography: A/Prof Michael Salter is a Scientia Fellow and criminologist at the University of New South Wales. His research is focused on gendered violence and sexual exploitation, including primary prevention, complex trauma and technologically-facilitated abuse. He is the author of two books, including the first study of child sexual exploitation in Australia, Organised Sexual Abuse (Routledge, 2013), and an examination of abuse and harassment on social media, Crime, Justice and Social Media (Routledge, 2017), as well as over forty papers on violence, abuse and trauma. A/Prof Salter sits on the Board of Directors of the International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation, who awarded him the 2018 Morton Prince Award for Scientific Achievement. He is a member of the editorial board of the Child Abuse Review and the Journal of Trauma and Dissociation, an expert advisor to the Office of the eSafety Commissioner and the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, and the patron of the Child Abuse Prevention Service.

Abstract: The lockdowns and school closures associated with the covid-19 pandemic resulted in children and adults spending an unprecedented amount of time online. National and international law enforcement agencies have reported substantial increases in online child sexual exploitation as well as consumption of child sexual abuse material. This presentation presents the findings of an international survey and interview study of specialist law enforcement and tipline workers regarding their views about the impact of covid-19 on child sexual exploitation and responses to victims and survivors during the pandemic. The presentation will also draw on a qualitative analysis of 'dark web' offender discussions about covid-19, including the opportunities and challenges presented by the pandemic to the sexual abuse of children. The presentation draws out the implications of covid-19 for victims and survivors of child sexual exploitation for mental health care, child protection and social work.

Objectives

Upon completion of this webinar participants will be able to:

- Appraise the effects of the pandemic on the risk and impact of online child sexual exploitation
- Identify the role of online offender cultures in the sexual exploitation of children
- Support victims and survivors of online child sexual exploitation

Presentation Title: What Causes Dissociation?

Time: 5:00 – 6:00 PM ET

Content Level: Beginning/Introductory

Potential to Distress: Yes

Presenter: Mary-Anne Kate, PhD

Presenter Biography: Dr Mary-Anne Kate has a professional background in the development of national and EU policies and practices to improve quality of life outcomes for vulnerable client groups. Mary-Anne is a Scientific Committee member of the International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation and has recently been awarded the Chancellor's Doctoral Research Medal and the David Caul Award for her PhD on childhood maltreatment, parent-child dynamics and dissociation. Mary-Anne

teaches therapists internationally and locally about trauma and dissociation. Her previous roles have included a diplomatic posting to Cairo to manage Australia's refugee and migration programmes for North Africa; policy development to improve the regulation, education and training of Allied Health Professionals in Scotland; coordinating Australia's settlement strategy for migrants and refugees; and policy development for Europe's most influential think-tank on immigration and equality issues to improve the socio-economic situation of migrants, ethnic minorities, and refugees in Europe. Mary-Anne is currently teaching on the Mental Health Masters course at Southern Cross University and holds an adjunct research position with the University of New England.

Abstract: Mary-Anne discusses the findings from her meta-analysis of over thirty thousand college students, in-depth interviews with 13 in-patients with a severe Dissociative Disorder (DD), and questionnaires completed by 313 participants from an Australian university and 30 individuals in treatment for a DD that explored dissociation (a 60 question version of Dell's Multidimensional Inventory of Dissociation), adult attachment style (Holmes & Lyons-Ruth's Relationship Questionnaire), experiences of childhood maltreatment (a revised version of Freyd, Deprince, & Zurbriggen's Betrayal Trauma Index), and the dynamics between themselves and their parents during their childhood (Kate's Parent-Child Dynamics Questionnaire). The meta-analysis found that the prevalence of clinical levels of dissociation was consistent with the prevalence of experiencing multiple traumas during childhood, and that scores on the Dissociative Scale varied significantly across the 16 countries and were highest in countries that were comparatively unsafe (not in North America or "Western countries"). In her own primary research, she was able to predict half of a person's dissociative symptomology based on specific childhood experiences of abuse, negative parent-child dynamics, and the parents' role in, or reaction to, any abuse experienced, and their adult attachment style. Mary-Anne quantified DD odds ratios, e.g. in females an insecure attachment style was 20 : 1, and if the mother's role in, or response to, maltreatment was negative it was 45 : 1. In light of her statistical analysis, Mary-Anne uses vignettes from in-patients to describe the pathogenic family environment in which dissociation occurs.

Objectives

Upon completion of this webinar participants will be able to:

- Appraise the validity of the Trauma Model and Fantasy Model in light of the findings of the metaanalysis on the prevalence of DDs and dissociation in college populations
- Recognize the specific types of childhood maltreatment that are predictive of dissociation
- Identity the types of parent-child dynamics, attachment style and parents' role and/or response in relation to the maltreatment experienced, that are predictive of dissociation
- Assess the validity of the Trauma Model and Fantasy Model in light of the findings from questionnaires and interviews with in-patients
- Recognize the risk factors for dissociation and a DD, which may assist participants in identifying children at risk of developing a DD, and children and adults with a DD

Can't Make it?

If your schedule won't allow for you to attend, the webinar will be recorded and made available for purchase approximately two weeks after the live event. The recordings cost is \$25 for ISSTD members and \$45 for non-members. The webinar recording can be accessed on the CE-Credit.com website or in ISSTDWorld for ISSTD members. Exam fees for Continuing Education credits start at an additional \$10.46.

References

Biomarkers of Pathological Dissociation

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The Role of Racism in Cultural Betrayal Trauma & Healing

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Trauma-Related Dissociation: Intersection of Clinical Phenomenology and Neuroscience

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Dissociative Identity Disorder: Inter-identity Amnesia and Sense of Self Across Time

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The Impact of Covid-19 On Online Child Sexual Exploitation and the Implications for Victims and Survivors

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What Causes Dissociation?

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Continuing Education

Below is information about continuing education approvals for each session of this program.

Biomarkers of Pathological Dissociation

ASWB

The International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation (ISSTD), #1744, is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved as ACE providers. State and provincial regulatory boards have the final authority to determine whether an individual course may be accepted for continuing education credit. ISSTD maintains responsibility for this course. ACE provider approval period: 08/20/2020 – 08/20/2021. Social workers completing this course receive 1 continuing education credits.

CE Learning Systems is a co-sponsor of this event for the following approvals for 1.5 continuing education credits pending approval:

APA

CE Learning Systems, is approved by American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. CE Learning Systems maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

NYSW

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Texas Board of Social Work Examiners

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The Role of Racism in Cultural Betrayal Trauma & Healing

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Trauma-Related Dissociation: Intersection of Clinical Phenomenology and Neuroscience

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Dissociative Identity Disorder: Inter-identity Amnesia and Sense of Self Across Time

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CE Learning Systems, LLC is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Mental Health Practitioners as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed mental health counselors. #MHC-0072.

NYLCAT

CE Learning Systems (d/b/a CE-credit.com), is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Mental Health Practitioners as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed creative arts therapists. #CAT-0008.

Texas Board of Social Work Examiners

CE-Go, a service of CE Learning Systems, is approved to offer continuing education courses by the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners (#6460). CE Learning Systems maintains responsibility for the courses.

The Impact of Covid-19 On Online Child Sexual Exploitation and the Implications for Victims and Survivors

ASWB

The International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation (ISSTD), #1744, is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved as ACE providers. State and provincial regulatory boards have the final authority to determine whether an individual course may be accepted for continuing education credit. ISSTD maintains responsibility for this course. ACE provider approval period: 08/20/2020 – 08/20/2021. Social workers completing this course receive 1 continuing education credits.

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What Causes Dissociation?

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