

Attachment styles and examination of intrapsychic and interpersonal aspects of leadership

Rivka Davidovits-Epstien, Ph.D, *Department of Psychology, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, Israel*

The present study examines the relations between the individual's attachment patterns and essential dimensions of leadership (motives for leadership, leadership self-efficacy, and leadership style). This study, for the first time in the research of leadership, examines directly the individual's motivation to lead and his leadership self-efficacy in diverse leadership situations. Based on content analysis of interviews, self-report questionnaires were constructed for examination of these two variables. In addition, an extensive questionnaire was constructed to distinguish between personalized and socialized charismatic leadership. The subjects responded to the above mentioned questionnaires and to an attachment dimensions questionnaire. The findings show the relevance of attachment theory for gaining understanding of an individual's development as a leader (motivation and self-efficacy), and to his leadership style.

Key words: attachment patterns, motivation to lead, leadership self-efficacy, leadership situations, leadership style

with avoidant attachment. It included 63 mothers of children with CHD, who participated in three measurement waves: immediately following the diagnosis, a year later and seven years later. In the third wave, 60 out of 63 of the children with CHD participated. The study examined the contribution of mothers' attachment orientation and the severity of the children's CHD to the mothers' mental health, and to their marital satisfaction seven years after their children's diagnosis. The children self image was examined as well by self report tools and a projective test (CAT). The study's results pointed to the vulnerability of the avoidant mothers who reported a decline in their mental health, and in their marital relationship after seven years, especially when the child suffered from severe CHD. In these cases the children's self image in the overt and covert measurements was negative as well. These results showed an interaction between the severity of the children's CHD and the insecure attachment orientation of their mothers. The discussion addressed the theoretical and clinical implications of these findings.

Key words: attachment, coping, chronic diseases in children, mothers

Teamwork performance: The role of adult attachment style

Eldad Rom, Ph.D, *Organizational Psychologist, a consultant in business and public organizations, and a teacher in the College of Management, Israel*

The goal of the current research was to explore the association between adult attachment style and an individual's performance in teams. In study 1 we conducted an explorative test of the association between attachment style and mental representation in teamwork. In study 2 we tested the instrumental and socio-emotional performance of individuals in actual teams. In study 3 we explored the concept of attachment to the team, as well as testing once again the research hypotheses. Taken together, the findings support the notion that the attachment system is indeed relevant in understanding diverse aspects of teamwork. Specifically, we found that the avoidant persons perceive the teamwork situation as threatening and negative, which in turn restricts their ability to properly function. On the other hand, anxious persons also negatively perceive the teamwork situation, however they do find potential benefits, and thus perform more effectively.

Key Words: attachment, teamwork, mental models, avoidance, anxiety

Attachment orientation and maternal representations among women in the transition to motherhood

Anat Agmon-Langbord, *Resident in clinical psychology, Students Counseling Center, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, Israel*

The transition to motherhood is a significant stage in a woman's life. She must cope not only with her new maternal role but also with the attachment history with her own mother, which is manifested in her attachment orientation and her maternal representations.

This research examines the association between the woman's attachment orientation and her maternal representations in the transition to motherhood. It was a horizontal study that examined aspects of maternal representations (representation in the present, the past, the difference between the actual and the ideal maternal representation, and latent representations as detected in the TAT stories) among primiparas (N=48) in comparison with married women who had never been pregnant (N=52). The results indicated that after giving birth to the first child, the maternal representations of women with an anxious or avoidant attachment orientation were different from those of the control group. It seems that after the transition to motherhood the negative maternal representations, which characterize women with insecure attachment styles, become less severe and more moderate. The discussion deals with the clinical implications of these findings.

Key words: attachment, object representation, maternal object representation, mother-infant relationship

The contribution of the attachment system to the well-being of mothers of children with congenital heart disease, to their marital satisfaction and the self image of their children – A longitudinal study

Ety Berant, Ph.D, *Department of Psychology, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, Israel*

Nili Shinar, *Resident in clinical psychology, Department of Psychiatry, Hadassah Hospital, Jerusalem, Israel*

This is a longitudinal study (seven years) that examined the contribution of attachment orientation of mothers to children with Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) to the process of coping with their children's disease, taking into account the severity of the disease. The current study examined mothers with insecure attachment orientation and focused especially on mothers

Special Issue

Attachment Theory

Guest-Editors:

Mario Mikulincer, Ph.D, *Professor of Psychology, Department of Psychology, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, Israel*

Ety Berant, Ph.D, *Department of Psychology, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, Israel*

ABSTRACTS

STUDIES AND RESEARCH

An attachment perspective of the residential treatment for youth at risk

Oren Gur, *Doctoral Student at the Clinical Program, Department of Psychology, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, Israel*

Many of the youth at risk entering residential treatment institutes are not capable of creating and maintaining trustful and intimate relationships. Current knowledge implies that these difficulties are related to many of the problems which led to their placement in residential treatment.

In this paper, I will introduce an attachment perspective of residential treatment for youth at risk. This perspective adopts Bowlby's attachment theory, which targets rehabilitation of the ability to maintain close relationships as the main challenge of residential treatment. The attachment perspective of residential treatment opens new opportunities for a deeper understanding and an effective treatment for youth at risk. The main ideas of attachment theory, with an emphasis on the implications of insecure attachment and possibilities of change in attachment systems, will be introduced in the following pages. I will describe further the attachment perspective of residential treatment for youth at risk, and suggest some practical ideas for implementation of this approach.

Key words: attachment theory, residential treatment, youth at risk

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EFSHAR Association
P.O. Box 53296, Jerusalem 91531, Israel
Tel: +972-2-6728905; Fax: +972-2-6728904
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