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**The State of Mind with Respect to Attachment in a Sample of Transgender People**

**POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

**Thursday, June 18, 2009 @ 7:30 pm**

#### Objective

Analyzing the State of Mind with respect to attachment in a population of transgender people.

#### Methods

14 people (10 male-to-female, 4 female-to-male, Mean age= 30.8) were recruited. The objective of the research was pursued by administering the Adult Attachment Interview. The AAI is a semi-structured clinical interview examining adults' first attachment experiences and the effects these experiences had on their later development. The AAI reveals an adult's state of mind regarding his or her own childhood attachment experiences, by classifying these mental states into four main categories: 1) *Secure/Free-Autonomous* (F), Interviewees maintain coherent and collaborative discourse while describing and evaluating their attachment experiences. 2) *Dismissing* (Ds), Interviewees neither support nor contradict a normalizing and positive description of their parents with memories of specific events. 3) *Entangled-Preoccupied* (E), Interviewees seem worried, but can also be angry or confused concerning the experiences they report. 4) *Unresolved-Disorganized* (U/d), Interviewee discourse presents monitoring errors, e.g., speaking of dead people as if they were still alive or speaking highly of a person who committed sexual abuse against the interviewee.

Transcripts were rated by a coder (R.B.A.) trained by Mary Main and Erik Hesse.

#### Results

Of the 14 participants who took part in this research, one participant (7%) was found to belong to the F category; eight participants (57%) were assigned to the Ds category; another participant (7%) belonged to the E category; four participants (28%) showed an U/d mental state.

#### Discussion

In our sample the percentage of people with a state of mind F was significantly below the percentage of the normative population (about 56%) found by Van IJzendoorn and Bakermans-Kranenburg (1996). Implications of these results will be discussed during the Conference.