Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Master of Science
of
KARLEY-DALE TALBOT

BSc (University of Victoria, 2011)

“Investigating General Time-Based Prospective Memory in School-Aged Children using a Novel Naturalistic Paradigm”

Department of Psychology

Thursday, August 20, 2015
1:00PM
Cornet Building
Room B032

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Ulrich Mueller, Department of Psychology, University of Victoria (Co-Supervisor)
Dr. Kimberly Kerns, Department of Psychology, UVic (Co-Supervisor)
Dr. Michael Masson, Department of Psychology, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Gina Harrison, Department of Education Psychology & Leadership Studies, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Karen Courtney, School of Health Information Science, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Abstract

Prospective memory (PM) refers to a person’s ability to remember to do something in the future. It is a complex behaviour that is essential for the daily functioning of young and old alike. Despite its importance in everyday life, few studies have sought to examine PM in a naturalistic way and even fewer have done so using school-aged children. The current study proposed a new subtype of time-based PM (TBPM), *general* TBPM, and aimed to investigate it in children through the use of a novel naturalistic paradigm. In addition, the study aimed to add to the current PM literature by including an analysis of the circumstances surrounding a child’s prospective remembering. Results demonstrated that *general* TBPM was not significantly related to the parent-report Prospective Retrospective Memory Questionnaire for Children (PRMQC) or to the Memory for Intentions Screening Test for Youth (MISTY). Interestingly, *general* TBPM was not found to significantly relate to WM either. Descriptive analyses of the qualitative data demonstrated that no trigger rehearsals were most often responsible for children’s successful PM remembering. In contrast, when children forgot to complete their PM tasks, they most often reported being too busy with other things as the reason. The current findings provide preliminary support for the existence of a new sub-type of TBPM. They also call into question the utility of using measures like the MISTY and PRMQC to evaluate the ecological validity of new PM task paradigms. Consequently, future research should focus on validating current PM measures before using them to evaluate the ecological validity of new ones. Finally, it is also believed that the inclusion of qualitative measures assessing the contexts of PM retrieval have important implications for the effective development of future interventions for children who experience PM difficulties.