

Press release

Please fill in this form and return it to graduateschoolhealth@au.dk in Word format no later than three weeks prior to your defence.

Basic information

Name: Trine Wigh Arildskov Email: trine.wigh.arildskov@ps.rm.dk Phone: 2162 2417

Department of: Clinical Medicine

Main supervisor: Per Hove Thomsen

Title of dissertation: An investigation of the factorial structure, the impairment threshold, and potential advantages of ADHD traits in schoolchildren

Date for defence: October 2, 2020 at (time of day): 13.00-15.00 Place: Auditorium J116-113, Entrance J, Aarhus University Hospital, Palle Juul-Jensens Boulevard 175, 8200 Aarhus N

Press release (Danish)

ADHD-træk hos skolebørn: Symptomstruktur, funktionsniveau og mulige fordele

Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) diagnosticeres på baggrund af tilstedeværelsen af et specificeret antal symptomer inden for kernesymptomområderne uopmærksomhed, hyperaktivitet og impulsivitet, som samtidigt skal medføre betydelig funktionsnedsættelse.

Antallet samt vægtningen af kernesymptomområderne har ændret sig med revisionerne af diagnosemanualerne, og der er ikke entydig enighed om den bagvedliggende symptomstruktur i forskningslitteraturen. Samtidigt peger studier på, at ADHD-symptomerne er til stede i forskellige sværhedsgrader i hele populationen – fra fraværet af symptomer til få, lette, moderate over mod meget svære symptomgrader. Det er dog ikke undersøgt, om denne ”flydende overgang” også gælder for sammenhængen mellem symptomsværhedsgraden og funktionsnedsættelse eller om der rent faktisk ses et tydeligt fald i funktionsniveauet, når man har et bestemt højt symptomniveau. Mens symptomerne kan være en kilde til nedsat funktionsniveau i flere situationer, er der også blevet fremsat en naturlig selektionsbaseret hypotese om, at disse symptomer kan være fordelagtige under visse betingelser. Denne hypotese mangler dog at blive belyst i et adfærdsstudie.

Via en stor spørgeskemaundersøgelse, hvor forældre udfyldte en række spørgeskemaer for 2.044 skolebørn i 1. til 3. klasse, og en klinisk og neuropsykologisk undersøgelse af cirka 200 af disse skolebørn blev symptomstrukturen, sammenhængen med funktionsnedsættelse samt mulige fordele under visse betingelser ved ADHD-symptomer belyst i et nyt ph.d.-projekt fra Aarhus Universitet, Health. Projektet er gennemført af Trine Wigh Arildskov, der forsvare sin ph.d.-afhandling den 2. oktober 2020.

Forsvaret af ph.d.-projektet er offentligt og finder sted den 2. oktober 2020 kl. 13.00 i Auditorium J116-113, Indgang J, Aarhus Universitetshospital, Palle Juul-Jensens Boulevard 175, 8200 Aarhus N. Der er begrænset antal siddepladser i auditoriet givet de gældende covid-19-restriktioner, og fysisk deltagelse forudsætter derfor forudgående (samt bekræftet) tilmelding ved henvendelse til sekretær Helle Veller Mortensen (Helle.Veller.Mortensen@ps.rm.dk). Forsvaret kan også tilgås virtuelt ved henvendelse til den ph.d.-studerende. Titlen på projektet er: ”An investigation of the factorial structure, the impairment threshold, and potential advantages of ADHD traits in schoolchildren”. Yderligere oplysninger: Ph.d.-studerende Trine Wigh Arildskov, e-mail: trine.wigh.arildskov@ps.rm.dk, tlf. 2162 2417.

Bedømmelsesudvalg:

Lektor Lisbeth Uhrskov Sørensen (forperson for bedømmelsesudvalget og moderator ved forsvaret)
Aarhus Universitetshospital Psykiatrien, Retspsykiatrien, Aarhus N, Danmark.

Professor Niels Bilenberg
Syddansk Universitet, Odense Universitetshospital, Børne-og Ungdomspsykiatrisk Afdeling, Odense, Danmark.

Professor Michael Huss
Kinder- und Jugendpsychiatrie – psychotherapie und –psychosomatik, Rheinhessen-Fachklinik Mainz, Deutschland; Landeskrankenhaus Anstalt des öffentliche Rechts (AöR), Mainz, Deutschland.

Press release (English)

ADHD traits in schoolchildren: the symptom structure, the impairment threshold, and potential advantages

Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is diagnosed based on a specified number of symptoms within the core symptom dimensions of inattention, hyperactivity, and impulsivity, with the additional requirement that the symptoms must cause functional impairment.

The diagnostic importance attached to and the number of core symptom dimensions have changed and varied with the revisions of the diagnostic manuals. Also, there is no clear-cut agreement in the research literature regarding the underlying symptom structure of ADHD. Furthermore, studies suggest that ADHD symptoms are prevalent in varying severity degrees in the population – from the complete absence of symptoms towards mild, moderate, and severe levels. However, it still remains to be investigated whether this “fluid boundary” also applies to how symptom severity and functional impairment are related or whether there is some kind of qualitative increase in impairment levels when reaching a certain symptom severity level. Finally, while ADHD symptoms may be associated with functional impairment in different situations, it is also possible that they may convey adaptive advantages in other situations under certain conditions – a natural selection-based hypothesis yet to be tested in a behavioral study.

The underlying structure of ADHD symptoms and the relationship with impairment and potential advantages of these symptoms under specific conditions were investigated through a large survey of parents of 2,044 schoolchildren (1st to 3rd grade) and through an assessment of about 200 of these schoolchildren. The project was carried out by Trine Wigh Arildskov, who is defending her dissertation on October 2, 2020.

The defence is public and takes place on October 2, 2020, at Auditorium J116-113, Entrance J, Aarhus University Hospital, Palle Juul-Jensens Boulevard 175, 8200 Aarhus N. Due to the current covid-19 restrictions regarding the maximum number of persons allowed in the auditorium, physical attendance to the PhD defence requires (accepted) registration beforehand. Please contact secretary Helle Veller Mortensen (Helle.Veller.Mortensen@ps.rm.dk) regarding potential physical attendance to the defence. The defence will also take place virtually via Zoom. For this option, please contact the PhD student. The title of the project is “An investigation of the factorial structure, the impairment threshold, and potential advantages of ADHD traits in schoolchildren”. For more information, please contact PhD student Trine Wigh Arildskov, email: trine.wigh.arildskov@ps.rm.dk, Phone +45 2162 2417.

Assessment committee:

Associate professor Lisbeth Uhrskov Sørensen (chairperson and moderator of the defence)
Aarhus University Hospital - Psychiatry, Department of Forensic Psychiatry, Aarhus N, Denmark.

Professor Niels Bilenberg
University of Southern Denmark, Odense University Hospital, Department for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Odense, Denmark.

Professor Michael Huss
Kinder- und Jugendpsychiatrie – psychotherapie und –psychosomatik, Rheinhessen-Fachklinik Mainz, Germany; Landeskrankenhaus Anstalt des öffentliche Rechts (AöR), Mainz, Germany.

Permission

By sending in this form:

- I hereby grant permission to publish the above Danish and English press releases.
- I confirm that I have been informed that any applicable inventions shall be treated confidentially and shall under no circumstances whatsoever be published, presented or mentioned prior to submission of a patent application, and that I have an obligation to inform my head of department and the university's Patents Committee if I believe I have made an invention in connection with my work. I also confirm that I am not aware that publication violates any other possible holders of a copyright.