

In the patient's shoes : effect of immersion on psychologist students' communication

Manon GOOSSE¹, Sylvie WILLEMS¹

¹Psychology and Neuroscience of Cognition Research Unit (PsyNCog), University of Liege, Liege, Belgium



State of the art

In clinical psychology **empathy** is an important **predictor of efficacy**^{1,2}



Immersive videos give the user the opportunity to **be immersed in patient's shoes**³. This immersion allow **perceptive taking**, which in an important component of **cognitive empathy**⁴.



In other area, this immersion **enhance cognitive empathy** and **impact attitudes** toward outgroup members^{5,6,7}



What about **immersion** in the area of **empathic communication training** among psychology students?
This **pilot study** explore the impact of immersion into patient shoes on empathetic communication with an actual patient

Methodology

N= 44 psychology students



Randomization



Immersion in an old patient shoes during a **bad** and then **a good** clinical interview



Instructions to improve communication skills

Blind evaluation



Before and after the experience, a **communication grid** was used to **assess** participants' **communication skills** during roleplays with an old standardized patient.

Results

Immersion could **enhance empathetic communication** trough the increase of :



Open-ended questions (p=0.02; $\eta^2 = 0,024$)



Concretizations about patient's perspective (p=0.05; $\eta^2 = 0,019$)

Conclusion

Immersion in patient shoes could **enhance communication skills** !

Perspectives

- Replication of the study with a **larger sample**
- Assessment of the the **sustainability** over the **long term**.
- Assessment of the impact of immersion on **cognitive process** and **attitudes**