

thinking about this important but hidden public health problem, including addressing current concerns about data access for the sake of public benefit. Placing CAPRI at the centre of decision-making is essential if future policy, research and service development is to improve their lives in a sustainable manner.

Kathryn M. Abel, Professor of Psychological Medicine and Reproductive Psychiatry, Centre for Women's Mental Health, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health, University of Manchester, UK; **Holly Hope**, Post-doctoral Researcher, Centre for Women's Mental Health, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health, University of Manchester, UK; **Annie Faulds**, Doctoral Student in Clinical Psychology, University of Sheffield, UK; **Matthias Pierce**, Research Fellow, Centre for Women's Mental Health, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health, University of Manchester, UK

Correspondence: Kathryn M. Abel, Centre for Women's Mental Health, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health, 3.307 Jean McFarlane Building University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL, UK. Email: kathryn.m.abel@manchester.ac.uk

First received 18 Jun 2018, final revision 21 Feb 2019, accepted 23 Apr 2019

Funding

Our work is funded by the European Research Council (ref: GA682741) and the National Institute for Health Research (ref: 111905).

References

- 1 Abel KM, Hope H, Swift E, Parisi R, Ashcroft DM, Kosidou K, et al. Prevalence of maternal mental illness among children and adolescents in the UK between 2005 and 2017: a national retrospective cohort analysis. *Lancet Public Health* 2019; **4**: 291–300.
- 2 Social Care Institute for Excellence. *Think Child, Think Parent, Think Family: A Guide to Parental Mental Health and Child Welfare*. Social Care Institute for Excellence, 2009.
- 3 Abel KM, Morgan VA. Mental illness, women, mothers and their children. In *Textbook in Psychiatric Epidemiology* (3rd edn) (eds MT Tsuang, M Cohen, PB Jones): 483–515. John Wiley & Sons, 2011.
- 4 The Academy of Medical Sciences. *Personal Data for Public Good: Using Health Information in Medical Research*. The Academy of Medical Sciences, 2006.
- 5 Braddick F, Carral V, Jenkins R, Jané-Llopis E. Child and Adolescent Mental Health in Europe: Infrastructures, Policy and Programmes. European Communities, 2009.
- 6 Bee P, Bower P, Byford S, Churchill R, Calam R, Stallard P, et al. The clinical effectiveness, cost-effectiveness and acceptability of community-based interventions aimed at improving or maintaining quality of life in children of parents with serious mental illness: a systematic review. *Health Technol Assess* 2014; **18**: 1–250.

Psychiatry in sacred texts

The Dyuta Sukta (Ode to the Dice): an account of gambling in the Rig Veda (1700–1100 BCE)

Sanju George

The earliest documented account of gambling in the world is in a hymn from the Rig Veda, an ancient Indian Sanskrit text written between 1700 and 1100 BCE. It paints a precise and comprehensive picture of the phenomenology, psychopathology and harms of gambling. Excerpts from this hymn (from the tenth book of the Rig Veda) are given below; here, a gambler addresses the dice that have destroyed his life and begs them to spare him:¹

'The Gambler:

These nuts that once tossed on tall trees in the wind
but now smartly roll over the board, how I love them!
As alluring as a draught of Soma on the mountain,
the lively dice have captured my heart.'

'Chorus:

Dice, believe me, are barbed: they prick and they trip,
they hurt and torment and cause grievous harm.
To the gambler they are like children's gifts, sweet as honey,
but they turn on the winner in rage and destroy him.'

Reference

- 1 Singh NS. *HH Wilson's Translation of the Rig Veda Samhita (Enlarged)* (2nd edn). Nag Publishers, 1990.

© The Royal College of Psychiatrists 2019

The British Journal of Psychiatry (2019)
215, 515. doi: 10.1192/bjp.2019.172