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Charlemont grant report

Recipient name:	Dr Clare Bohan
Discipline and subject area:	Humanities and Social Sciences; Behavioural Sciences
Amount and year awarded:	€1,731.74 in 2022
Title of project:	A systematic review of the Good Behaviour Game literature; Investigating the differences between randomised controlled trials and single case research designs

Summary of findings:

The main aim of this project was to initiate a systematic review on the Good Behaviour Game, encompassing all of the available published research on the topic. The RIA Charlemont grant contributed to this through the funding of two research visits to the University of South Wales, the outcomes of which will be outlined here.

Research trip 1:

The first research trip took place in May 2022 and involved an intense planning period in which a systematic review protocol was developed. I had done some preliminary work on this in preparation for the Charlemont grant preparation, however the collaborative approach taken during the research visit allowed for the sharing of ideas and different perspectives on the review. As well as meeting with the main collaborator (Prof Jennifer Austin), I was fortunate to also build a collaborative relationship with Dr Emily Groves, an early career researcher based in the University of South Wales, with specific expertise in Good Behaviour Game research and systematic review methodology. This additional expertise proved invaluable to putting the review protocol together. During this visit, I met with Prof Austin and Dr Groves over a number of days, here we worked to refine the review aims and questions and develop a draft protocol. I returned to DCU with this draft protocol and continued to work on its refinement with a colleague in the School of Psychology. The review protocol was then submitted to PROSPERO, an international database of prospectively registered systematic reviews (details in dissemination section).

Research trip 2:

The second research trip took place in July 2022, at which point the systematic review was well underway. A summer intern in the School of Psychology (Ms Roisin Ward) and I worked through the initial phases of the review from late May-early July 2022, and this second research visit allowed for full review of these phases, and consolidation of decisions around the papers and studies to be included in the review. A series of meetings with Dr Groves and Prof Austin allowed us to narrow the scope of the initially broad range of studies identified for inclusion in the review (>80) to a more focused number (<60). This would in turn allow the following phases of the review (data extraction and quality assessment) to proceed. This visit allowed us to progress to a point with the review where we have decided upon all of the papers for inclusion and we can turn our focus to beginning the data extraction and synthesis.

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Plans for continuing collaboration:

This collaboration will continue until completion of the systematic review and its submission to a journal. The remaining phases include data extraction, quality assessment and manuscript writing, which will proceed as a collaborative effort. As Prof Austin is soon moving to Georgia State University, this provides the team with the unique opportunity to see the project span another university, making what was initially a project spanning two universities, span three universities. This may also provide the opportunity to bring additional expertise on board, such as statistical experts or other behaviour analytic experts who will work closely with Prof Austin. Potential target journals have been identified (see next section) and we will work towards submission of a manuscript by the end of 2022.

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Published work and publication plans:

The protocol for the systematic review has been registered on PROSPERO (see here: https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/display_record.php?RecordID=335843) and this document serves as a guide for completing all steps of the review process.

It is planned that the review will be submitted to an academic journal by the end of 2022. Potential target journals include the Journal of Positive Behaviour Interventions and the Journal of School Psychology, both of which are high impact journals in the field.

Dissemination and plans for future dissemination:

The research has not yet been submitted to or presented at academic conferences, however some targeted conferences for next year (2023) may include the Psychological Society of Ireland's Division of Behaviour Analysis conference and the Association for Applied Behaviour Analysis annual convention.

Collaborations and planned collaborations:

As stated previously, Prof Austin will shortly move to a university in the United States which provides us with a unique opportunity for further collaboration on this project. We may have scope to involve further expertise on the review team, such as experts in statistical analysis pertaining to meta-analyses.

Please tell us about any additional funding that you received as PI or Co-PI from other government sources, trusts, EU funding or any other sources:

I was successful in securing funding, in conjunction with a DCU undergraduate student, to hire a summer intern to work as a research assistant on the current project (funding worth 1260euro). This summer intern (Ms Roisin Ward) worked for 2 days per week, for 8 weeks (Mid May-Mid July 2022) directly on the systematic review, assisting with title and abstract screening and full text screening. This internship contributed significantly to the overall progression of the project and may not have been secured if the project was not already up and running with thanks to the RIA Charlemont grant.

Outreach and engagement activities:

While there has not yet been opportunity to formally present the ongoing work, we have plans to disseminate findings to relevant audiences such as students of behaviour analysis and psychology across our host universities.