A special issue and editorial in memory of Professor William R Lindsay

Peter E. Langdon1,2,3 | Glynis H. Murphy4 | Richard P. Hastings1

1Centre for Educational Development, Appraisal and Research (CEDAR), University of Warwick, Coventry, UK
2Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Partnership Trust, Coventry, UK
3Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust, Worcester, UK
4Tizard Centre, University of Kent, Canterbury, UK

Correspondence: Peter E. Langdon, Centre for Educational Development, Appraisal and Research (CEDAR), University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, UK. Email: Peter.Langdon@warwick.ac.uk

We were all overwhelmed with great sadness when we learned that Bill Lindsay had unexpectedly passed away on 26 March 2017. Bill was known and loved by so many of us, but especially, he was loved by his family. Bill was the beloved husband of Isobel and father to David, Jennifer and Amy. He was also grandfather to seven grandchildren. He is survived by his mother.

Bill was born in Glasgow in 1952 and had a sister named Ella. The family moved from Glasgow to Kilmarnock, and he attended Kilmarnock Academy. Bill was said to be not markedly fond of school but scraped into Strathclyde University where he began to study architecture. However, in order to fill up his timetable, he decided to take a class in psychology. To the benefit of many, he liked this class so much that he abandoned his plans to study architecture and switched to study psychology. He graduated in 1973, and in 1974, he embarked upon studying a PhD at the University of Aberdeen. He undertook his clinical psychology training concurrently with his PhD and completed both in 1977.

Bill met his wife Isobel at Strathclyde, and the two were married in 1974. Their three children, David, Jennifer and Amy, were born between 1980 and 1983 when Bill and Isobel lived in Uddingston. At this time, Bill worked at Monklands District Hospital, and the family then moved to Dundee in 1984.

Those of us who knew Bill will recognize his love of travelling. When aged 16, he travelled to the Isle of Wight for the summer because it was as far as he could travel without needing a passport. At 17, he took his bike across the channel and cycled around the north of France. When he graduated from Strathclyde, he took the “hippy trail” from Greece through to Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, into India, and then on to Singapore. Bill only returned home to begin his studies towards his PhD. Bill was always excited about holidays, and enjoyed organizing them, even when he was only taking camping trips to France with his young family. Over the last 15 years, Bill and Isobel enjoyed many trips to Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Vietnam, Cambodia, Burma and India. Bill always had somewhere else to see, and something else to do, and he and his wife never stayed more than 4 days in a place before moving on to take in more sights.

One of Bill’s passions was music. He taught himself to play the guitar when he was a teenager, and he loved playing and singing. He formed a duo with Stuart Campbell, called Findask. When at university, he played the Scottish Folk Club scene for many years. Findask recorded three records and one compact disc, and some of their music is available for download on the internet. All the tracks were composed by Bill and Stuart, and all the lyrics were created by Bill. Their ability to create music dwindled because of Stuart’s health and Bill’s family and work commitments made it more difficult for them to travel. Bill had an encyclopaedic knowledge of songs and lyrics and passed his love of music on to his children. We have put some pictures of both Bill and Stuart performing, together with some of the images from their album, “No More Lies” within Figure 1 for you to enjoy.

Another of Bill’s passions was his bike. He always loved cycling, and this became a serious hobby when he was in his 40s. He continued to cycle right up until the day that he died. He organized many trips to France to climb the iconic Alpine rides and to the Pyrenees. His son David, son-in-law Arno and friends from Australia would...
accompany him. He would always cycle 70 miles with his cycling club every Saturday, and every holiday in France had to take in a day at the Tour de France. His passion for cycling has been passed to children and now his grandchildren.

Yet another of Bill’s passions was cooking. He loved it. His speciality was curries, and he made homemade bread every Saturday morning. He loved to have people around for tea and would at least open one or two bottles of red wine.

It goes without saying that Bill loved life, family and cycling and often said so to others. He was also passionate about his work with people with intellectual disabilities. During his career he has published over 200 peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters and abstracts. He was an exceptionally hard-working person who passionately worked to help improve the lives of people with intellectual disabilities, especially those who were remarkably vulnerable through their contact with criminal justice.

On 24 March 2017, 2 days before he died, Bill submitted a manuscript for publication to the Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities (JARID). This was one of many papers that Bill had authored throughout his life (Lindsay et al., 2018) and is in addition to the suite of papers that Bill has published in JARID. These include studies examining stigma and self-esteem (Paterson, McKenzie, & Lindsay, 2012), risk assessment for offending behaviours (Lindsay & Beail, 2004; Lindsay, Elliot, & Astell, 2004), the assessment of distorted cognitions in offenders (Lindsay et al., 2006), the assessment of depression (Lindsay & Skene, 2007), relaxation training for people with moderate to severe intellectual disabilities (Lindsay, Richardson, & Michie, 1989), treatment of dog phobias using exposure therapy (Lindsay, Michie, Baty, & McKenzie, 1988) and interventions to improve communication in people with profound intellectual disabilities (Lindsay, Black, Broxholme, Pitcaithly, & Hornsby, 2001), amongst many others published in this and other journals.

Bill avidly worked for people with intellectual disabilities, having published extensively within this area. In order to help demonstrate the breath and impact of his work, we retrieved citing papers and visualized the citation network using VOSviewer 1.6.10 (Van Eck & Waltman, 2011) to map the topics and themes (Figure 2). The results revealed a wide-ranging set of topics, and unsurprisingly, considering Bill’s work, topics pertaining to forensic mental health and risk

FIGURE 1 Special memories—Bill Lindsay and Stuart Campbell performing together as Findask along with images from their album titled, “No More Lies.”
assessment prevailed. However, his passion for developing psychological interventions for mental health problems was apparent, along with his work on challenging behaviour, autism and sexuality.

This special issue is a fitting memory to Professor William R Lindsay and the impact his work has had upon the lives of people with intellectual disabilities internationally. We have brought together Bill’s paper submitted just before his death with other papers focused upon forensic mental health and criminal offending amongst people with intellectual disabilities, including those who also have autism. It is of note that many of the authors of the papers within this special issue have previously published papers with Bill.

Our first paper was written by Bill, and together with colleagues, they examined the usefulness of the Protective Scale of the Assessment of Risk Manageability for Individuals with Development and Intellectual Limitations who Offend Sexually (ARMIDIL-O-S) with four individuals with intellectual disabilities, reporting that protective factors are vital in helping with clinical decision making (Lindsay et al., 2018). Keeping with the risk assessment theme, Delforterie, Hesper, and Didden (2018) reported positive psychometric properties for the Dynamic Risk Outcomes Scales (DROS) when used with people with intellectual disabilities within inpatient settings. Understanding and using risk assessment that focuses upon positive factors and promotes recovery is exceptionally valuable for people with intellectual disabilities who have a history of committing crimes. Aga, Vander Laenen, Vandevelde, and Vanderplasschen (2019) investigated this by completing a series of interviews to investigate recovery, focusing upon strengths, with people with intellectual disabilities who had committed crimes. Several important themes emerged including the value of housing, empowerment, leisure and social networks, amongst other themes which are important for successful recovery. Chiu, Triantafyllopoulou, and Murphy (2019) followed up what life was like for men with intellectual disabilities following their release from prison, and they focused upon what was needed to help this group recover and integrate into our shared society. Their work emphasized the marked challenges faced by this vulnerable group, including the lack of high-quality help and support which paradoxically led them to grow suspicious and rejecting of support.

Bill had completed many studies examining the validity of risk assessment with people with intellectual disabilities who had a history of committing crime, and he remains well known for his work in this area (Lindsay & Beail, 2004; Lindsay et al., 2008; Lofthouse et al., 2013; Lofthouse, Lindsay, Totsika, Hastings, & Roberts, 2014; Steptoe, Lindsay, Murphy, & Young, 2008). Within this special issue, Rachel Lofthouse, who was one of Bill’s PhD students, writes with Bill and others about the Current Risk of Violence and the Short Dynamic Risk Scale, reporting that both predicted verbal and physical aggression (Lofthouse, Golding, Totsika, Hastings, & Lindsay, 2019), continuing the fine contributions that Bill made within this area.

Bill completed many studies focused upon developing effective interventions for sexual offenders with intellectual disabilities and improving our understanding of the issues faced by this population and their victims. Nested within this area, Steans and Duff (2018) examined how ratings of risk were affected by whether offenders were said to have intellectual disabilities, outlining how this and other factors are related to professional and public attitudes. Gray (2019) examined the Questionnaire on Attitudes Consistent with Sexual Offending, developed by Bill and colleagues (Lindsay & Michie, 2004). Bill continues to be well known for having developed this measure, and this paper is a fitting tribute to his legacy, concluding that the questionnaire is a valuable tool for use with sexual offenders with intellectual disabilities. Hollomotz and Greenhalgh (2019) undertook a realist evaluation
of seven treatment programmes for sexual offenders with intellectual disabilities concluding that CBT treatment programmes are aimed at increasing an individual’s risk management ability while working towards developing their valued social role within society. Related, Melvin, Langdon, and Murphy (2019) also undertook a series of interviews with men with both intellectual disabilities and autism who had completed treatment for their sexual offending behaviours. They reported that men perceived treatment as a mechanism towards increasing empowerment, social inclusion and shaping positive identities.

Those who know Bill understood his passion for cycling, which occasionally involved cycling in Australia. He was known to tell a story about an encounter with a kangaroo while on his bike. Keeping with the Australian theme, and the important work towards helping people with intellectual disabilities who find themselves in prison, Coates and Jones (2019) undertook a series of semi-structured interviews with staff working within Victoria about the needs of people with intellectual disabilities outlining the increased complexity and need for greater involvement from external service providers, reporting findings related to that of Chiu et al. (2019).

Within this special issue, there are two systematic reviews, and the first by Williams and Rose (2018) aimed to examine non-pharmacological treatments for personality disorder, concluding that this is a complex population, often with a history of criminal offending, and the evidence base to support treatment is poor. The authors of the second systemic review aimed to investigate the relationship between cognition and offending behaviours in people with intellectual disabilities (Beail & Hammond, 2020), an area that Bill helped us to understand in many of his papers (Lindsay, 2002a, 2002b; Lindsay et al., 2006; Lindsay, Whitefield, & Carson, 2007).

We hope this special issue proves a fitting tribute to the life and work of Bill. He was a much admired and respected man who worked tirelessly and selflessly for people with intellectual disabilities. Bill was someone who passionately created journal special issues himself, rallying us to write, create, work, and most importantly, help. His passion and enthusiasm were infectious. He was the editor of special issues about forensic issues within this journal (Lindsay, Hastings, & Beail, 2013) and the Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disability (Lindsay, Hastings, Griffiths, & Hayes, 2007). Bill was loved by so many and will be missed by so many more. We are sure he would be very pleased to see another special issue of the Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities dedicated to forensic issues. You will always be missed.

ORCID
Peter E. Langdon https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7745-1825
Glynis H. Murphy https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7817-5861
Richard P. Hastings https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0495-8270

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