

## Information om Transkulturel Psykiatri, december 2009

### NYHEDER

#### **Alle forældre bekymrer sig om deres børn, men når man er flygtet er det noget særligt**

Asylafdelingen i Dansk Røde Kors og SINDs pårørenderådgivning har startet et nyt projekt for børn og unge med flygtningebaggrund. Projektet hedder "frirum".

Ønsker du at tilmelde dit barn til en gruppe?

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læs mere på hjemmesiden: <http://www.frirum.info/>

### **Kobler fluor til psykose**

Dagens medicin 22. december 2009 / Kjell Arne Bakke

Østafrikanske immigranter og andre som kommer fra områder med naturlig høje fluorverdier i vann og planter, kan etter en tid i Norge utvikle hypertyreose. Dette kommer frem i en artikkel som to NTNU-forskere nylig fikk publisert i tidsskriftet Medical Hypotheses. I artikkelen utdypes fysiologiprofessor Karl Erik Zachariassen og førstemanuensis og nestleder Trond Peder Flaten ved henholdsvis NTNU-instituttene for biologi og kjemi i Trondheim dette spørsmålet ved å vise til en rekke vitenskapelige artikler fra flere fagområder.

læs artiklen her: <http://www.dagensmedisin.no/nyheter/2009/12/22/kobler-fluor-til-psykose/index.xml>  
se abstract/referencen til den videnskabelige artikel her: [Medical hypotheses 72\(5\), 501-503, 2009](http://www.medical-hypotheses.com/issue725/501-503-2009)

### **Indvandrerbørn fjernes med tvang**

Politikens netavis 9. december 2009 / Davidsen-Nielsen, Hans

Tunge sociale og sproglige problemer og udsigten til tvangsægteskaber udløser tvangsfjernelser. Op mod 80 procent af alle tvangsfjernelser i København drejer sig om børn med anden etnisk baggrund. Flere medlemmer af kommunens børn og unge-udvalg, der behandler sagerne, er dybt foruroliget over omfanget.

»Vi har nærmest ikke et møde i udvalget uden sager om børn med anden etnisk baggrund. Integrationen halter, og de sociale myndigheder må skride tidligere ind for at vende udviklingen«, siger udvalgets afgående formand, løsgænger Jette Bautrup.

læs artiklen her: <http://politiken.dk/indland/article855241.ece>

## Nå, ja, sådan gør man nok i Somalia

Cekic, Özlem Sara

Før jeg blev medlem af Folketinget, var jeg ansat som sygeplejerske i Distriktpsychiatrien på Nørrebro. Her mødte jeg Ayse, en gravid kvinde med somaliske rødder. Derudover var hun meget forpint og i perioder psykotisk.

En dag talte vi om muligheden for en abort. Hun fortalte mig, at det var en del af hendes kultur, at man skulle føde sit andet barn og give det videre til sin svigermor. I første omgang accepterede jeg, at det selvfølgelig var rigtigt, selvom det lød underligt. Det hang nok sammen med, at man i Somalia opdrager børnene kollektivt, tænkte jeg.

Senere samme aften begyndte jeg at stille spørgsmål: Hvorfor gør man sådan i Somalia? Og havde jeg egentlig gjort et ordentligt stykke arbejde den dag? Jeg måtte erkende, at jeg ikke havde været fagligt kritisk, og at det var, fordi jeg havde fokuseret på hendes somaliske rødder. Jeg havde ikke set bagom hendes baggrund.

### Psykiatriinformation 16(4), bagsiden, 2009

læs klummen her: <http://www.psykiatrifonden.dk/Forside/Forlag/Psykiatri-Information/Nye+numre/2009%2f4+%7c+Kultur+og+psyke/Klumme+%7c+N%c3%a5%2c+ja%2c+s%c3%a5+dan+g%c3%b8r+man+nok+i+Somalia>

## Teenagere på flugt fra krig sat i fængsel

Politikens netavis 10. december 2009 / Halskov, Lars

Røde Kors er bekymret: Unge flygtninge med falske papirer ryger direkte i fængsel.

Unge flygtninge mellem 15 og 18 år bliver fængslet og dømt for dokumentfalsk, så snart de lander i Danmark med falske papirer i lommen.

Dermed får de meget svært ved at få asyl, og opholdet i et dansk fængsel er hårdt for de unge, der ofte er traumatiserede og flygtet fra krigsområder.

læs artiklen her: <http://politiken.dk/indland/article856201.ece>

## Tema : Etniske patienter i klemme

Jensen, Søren Buus

Mange psykisk syge transkulturelle patienter sendes i arbejdsprøvning af kommunen, selv om deres psykiater direkte fraråder det.

I en ny undersøgelse fra psykiatrisk speciallægepraksis sammenlignes 2 grupper af transkulturelle patienter (henholdsvis en gruppe af nyhenviste patienter og en gruppe bestående af patienter, der havde været i behandling i mindst 1 år) med kontrolgrupper af personer af etniske danskere. Formålet var at undersøge forskelle og ligheder i diagnostik, behandling og psykosociale konsekvenser.

### Psykiatriinformation 16(4), 12-13, 2009

læs artiklen her: <http://www.psykiatrifonden.dk/Forside/Forlag/Psykiatri-Information/Nye+numre/2009%2f4+%7c+Kultur+og+psyke/Tema+%7c+Etniske+patienter+i+klemme>

## Tema : Fri af lænkerne

Ejlersen, Marie

Psykiater Fatuma Ali har hele verden som arbejdsplads. Hun er uddannet i Rusland, har arbejdet på Grønland, i Danmark og i Norge. Og de sidste år af sit arbejdsliv vil hun vie til psykisk syge i hjemlandet Somalia.

Fatuma Ali blev dybt rystet, da hun i 2007 læste, at psykisk syge børn i Somaliland bliver lænket. Artiklen i en somalisk webavis beskrev den psykiatriske klinik for børn, som en somalisk læge og en tysk sygeplejerske har etableret i Burao i Somaliland som alternativ til de drastiske metoder i hjemmene. "Unchain the children", hedder det projekt, som førte til oprettelsen af klinikken.

“Jeg kunne ikke sove den nat,” fortæller Fatuma Ali, der har været bosat i Danmark i mange år, men nu arbejder som psykiater i Norge. “Her var tale om børn, der er lænket i årevis i deres hjem. F.eks. en dreng, der var lænket til en stol i fem år uden afbrydelse. Han fik permanente skader på benene, og da han kom ud af lænken, var han krøbling.”

**Psykiatriinformation 16(4), 18-20, 2009**

læs interviewet her: <http://www.psykiatrifonden.dk/Forside/Forlag/Psykiatri-Information/Nye+numre/2009%2f4+%7c+Kultur+og+psyke/Tema+%7c+Fri+af+l%c3%a6nkerne>

## Tema : Kultur i psykiatrien

Kastrup, Marianne

Det er vigtigt at fagfolk i psykiatrien har viden om sammenhængen mellem kultur og psykisk sygdom, når de møder patienter med anden etnisk baggrund end dansk.

Mange af de indvandrere, Danmark har modtaget de senere år, stammer fra kulturer, som adskiller sig markant fra den danske kultur. Det er derfor vigtigt, at det sundhedsfaglige personale har en basal viden om kulturens betydning for sygdomsmønstre og behandlingsbehov.

**Psykiatriinformation 16(4), 8-10, 2009**

læs artiklen her: <http://www.psykiatrifonden.dk/Forside/Forlag/Psykiatri-Information/Nye+numre/2009%2f4+%7c+Kultur+og+psyke/Tema+%7c+Kultur+i+psykiatrien>

## Tema : Pas også på mig

Nielsen, Signe Schmidt; Christiansen, Karen Louise

Asylsøgende børn havner ofte som uskyldige gidsler mellem forældrenes valg – eller mangel på samme – og den førte asylpolitik. Tager vi i Danmark tilstrækkeligt ansvar for børnenes sundhed? Barske livsbetingelser blandt asylbørn er forbundet med høj forekomst af psykisk sygdom og mistro. Det er gang på gang blevet dokumenteret og debatteret – både af medierne, der har sat ansigt på og givet stemme til vores hidtil usynlige medborgere, og videnskabeligt af en række af de relevante fagmiljøer inden for flygtninge- og indvandrersundhed. Den massive dækning har medført politisk bevågenhed og var efter alt at dømme en af årsagerne til, at asylbørns levekår blev et af temaerne ved folketingsvalget i 2007.

Men hvad kom der egentlig ud af den samfundspolitiske debat om asylbørnene? Har debatten betydet bedre forhold for asylbørnene og deres psykiske helbred?

**Psykiatriinformation 16(4), 14-16, 2009**

læs artiklen her: <http://www.psykiatrifonden.dk/Forside/Forlag/Psykiatri-Information/Nye+numre/2009%2f4+%7c+Kultur+og+psyke/Tema+%7c+Pas+ogs%c3%a5+p%c3%a5+mig>

## LITTERATUR

### TIDSSKRIFTER

#### Acculturation and polysubstance abuse in Arab-American treatment clients

Arfken, Cynthia L.; Kubiak, Sheryl P.; Farrag, Mohamed

#### Abstract

Acculturation to U.S. culture by Latinos and Asian Americans has been associated with increased prevalence of substance abuse. However, little is known about the association between acculturation and substance use among Arab Americans, or more specifically, among Arab-American treatment clients. In 156 Arab-American male treatment clients, we found that higher levels of U.S. acculturation were positively associated with increased prevalence of polysubstance abuse. This first report on a large series of Arab-American clients also found considerable within-group variability. These results can be used to develop treatment plans and work-force training on the importance of U.S. acculturation and variability within Arab Americans.

**Key Words:** acculturation - Arab-American - polysubstance abuse - substance abuse treatment

**Transcultural psychiatry 46(4), 608-622, 2009**

## **Ataques de nervios and their psychiatric correlates in Puerto Rican children from 2 different contexts**

López, Irene; Rivera, Fernando; Ramirez, Rafael; Guarnaccia, Peter J.; Canino, Glorisa; Bird, Héctor R.

### **Abstract**

Among Latino adults and children, ataques de nervios has been associated with an array of psychiatric disorders. Using data from a probability sample of Puerto Rican children, aged 5 to 13 years (N = 2491), we assessed the lifetime prevalence and psychiatric correlates of ataques in youth residing in the South Bronx, New York and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Baseline site comparisons indicated that between 4% and 5% of children had a lifetime prevalence of ataques (either by child or parent report) and that ataques were associated with greater global impairment and a host of childhood disorders within the previous twelve months. Ataques were also correlated with greater exposure to violence, as well as more stressful life events for the South Bronx sample. After controlling for several covariates, ataques continued to be significantly associated with psychopathology. Ataques are, therefore, a significant correlate of global impairment and childhood psychopathology among Puerto Rican youth.

**Journal of nervous and mental disease 197(12), 923-929, 2009**

## **Australian aboriginal stories and psychopathology**

Pridmore, Saxby

### **Abstract**

#### **Aim**

To examine for evidence of the persistence of psychopathology over millennia. The Australian Aboriginals have the oldest continuous culture on Earth.

#### **Method**

Australian Aboriginal stories were examined for evidence of behavior which could be understood in terms of current psychopathology. Efforts were made to avoid the confounds of culture.

#### **Results**

Parts of stories were located which were consistent with (1) odd thinking and speech, inappropriate affect, eccentric behavior, and lack of close friends, (2) unexpected grandiosity and irritability in one twin, with pathologically low mood and suicide in the other, (3) sick role behavior and (4) malingering.

#### **Conclusion**

Certain aspects of human psychopathology have persisted for millennia.

**Keywords:** Schizotypal personality disorder; Bipolar disorder; Factitious disorder; Malingering; Aboriginal mental health

**Asian journal of psychiatry 2(4), 139-142, 2009**

## **Cognitive-behavioral therapy for pathological gambling : cultural considerations**

Okuda, Mayumi; Balán, Iván; Petry, Nancy M.; Oquendo, Maria; Blanco, Carlos

### **Abstract**

Pathological gambling is a common disorder with severe consequences for patients and their families. This case study describes cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) for pathological gambling and its general principles and provides an example of a modification of CBT techniques in the treatment of a 51-year-old immigrant Afro-Caribbean woman. The case depicts the contribution of beliefs, especially those that are part of a cultural system, to the perpetuation of a patient's disorder; the influence of family members' attitudes, moved by their cultural beliefs and values, in shaping the patient's behavior; and the consideration of these issues in guiding specific interventions, such as challenging irrational thoughts or helping patients devise strategies to change their behavior in a culturally congruent manner.

**American journal of psychiatry 166(12), 1325-1330**

## **Cultural competence : definition, delivery and evaluation**

Cowan, David

### Abstract

It is again suggested that people from black and minority ethnic (BME) communities comprise a disproportionately high percentage of mental health inpatients. Furthermore, the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) concluded the Department of Health (DH) did not have 'due regard' to the Race Equality Duty, retaining major concerns regarding the ability of the DH to ensure future compliance (CRE, 2007). In light of these ongoing problems the DH published a five-year action plan, Delivering Race Equality (DRE) in Mental Health Care to develop race equality and cultural competence training for mental health practitioners (DH, 2005).

A focused review of literature was undertaken, structured around three questions.

1. How is cultural competence in mental health care defined?
2. How is cultural competence in mental health care delivered?
3. How is the delivery of cultural competence in mental health care evaluated?

Consensus is lacking on definition of cultural competence and on the sequence of when the components should be acquired, some terms being used interchangeably. It is unclear how cultural competence in mental health care can be delivered. No attempts have been adequately evaluated, particularly by service users (Bhui et al, 2007). More innovative research is needed to develop a consensual definition of cultural competence and to facilitate the delivery and evaluation of such, in ways acceptable to service users and service providers.

**Ethnicity and inequalities in health and social care 2(4), 27-38, 2009**

### Cultural differences in coping among New Zealand adolescents

Jose, Paul E.; Schurer, Katherine

#### Abstract

The present study was conducted to determine whether idiocentrism and allocentrism would moderate the relationship between coping strategies and psychological maladjustment in 3 cultural groups of New Zealand adolescents. Self-report data assessing idiocentrism, allocentrism, coping strategies, and psychological maladjustment were collected from 566 adolescents. Māori adolescents reported higher levels of allocentrism than did either European New Zealanders (ENZ) or Asian New Zealanders (ANZ). Māori and ANZ teenagers reported higher levels of rumination than did ENZ. Rumination and externalization were found to be positively related, and social support was negatively related to psychological maladjustment. Moderation analysis results showed that in Māori youth idiocentrism was found to exacerbate the association among rumination, externalization, and problem solving with maladjustment. Similar but weaker findings were obtained for ANZ youth. These findings suggest that idiocentrism may have a deleterious association with coping strategies employed by members of collectivist populations. In contrast, for all youth, allocentrism buffered the relationship between rumination and maladjustment.

**Key Words:** coping - adolescents - idiocentrism - allocentrism

**Journal of cross-cultural psychology 41(1), 3-18, 2010**

### Depression and post-traumatic stress disorder among Haitian immigrant students: implications for access to mental health services and educational programming

Fawzi, Mary C. Smith; Betancourt, Theresa S.; Marcelin, Lilly; Klopner, Michelle; Munir, Kerim; Muriel, Anna C.; Oswald, Catherine; Mukherjee, Joia S.

#### Background

Previous studies of Haitian immigrant and refugee youth have emphasized "externalizing" behaviors, such as substance use, high risk sexual behavior, and delinquency, with very little information available on "internalizing" symptoms, such as depression and anxiety, among Haitian youth. Analyzing stressors and "internalizing" symptoms, such as depression and anxiety, offers a more balanced picture of the type of social and mental health services that may be needed. The present study aims to: 1) estimate the prevalence of depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among Haitian immigrant youth; and 2) examine factors associated with depression and PTSD to identify potential areas of intervention that may enhance psychosocial health outcomes among immigrant youth from Haiti in the U.S.

### Methods

A stratified random sample of Haitian immigrant youth enrolled in Boston public high schools was selected for participation; 84% of youth agreed to be interviewed with a standardized questionnaire. Diagnosis of depression and PTSD was ascertained using the best estimate diagnosis method.

### Results

The prevalence estimates of depression and PTSD were 14.0% and 11.6%; 7.9% suffered from comorbid PTSD and depression. Multivariate logistic regression demonstrated factors most strongly associated with depression (history of father's death, self-report of schoolwork not going well, not spending time with friends) and PTSD (concern for physical safety, having many arguments with parents, history of physical abuse, and lack of safety of neighborhood).

### Conclusions

A significant level of depression and PTSD was observed. Stressors subsequent to immigration, such as living in an unsafe neighborhood and concern for physical safety, were associated with an increased risk of PTSD and should be considered when developing programs to assist this population. Reducing exposure to these stressors and enhancing access to social support and appropriate school-based and mental health services may improve educational attainment and psychosocial health outcomes among Haitian immigrant youth.

**BMC Public Health 9(482), 37 pp., 2009**

læs artiklen her: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/9/482/abstract>

## Emigrasjon som patologi - om Ørnulv Ødegårds studie av psykiske lidelser hos norske utvandrere til USA

Thorvik, Arne

### Abstract

Den norske psykiateren Ørnulv Ødegård utga i 1932 avhandlingen Emigration and insanity, der han tar for seg den epidemiologiske forekomsten av psykiske lidelser hos norskfødte emigranter til delstaten Minnesota i USA. I denne artikkelen presenteres Ødegårds historiske utgangspunkt, hans metode, samt de funn han gjorde og tilhørende forklaringsmodell. Videre inneholder artikkelen en retrospektiv drøfting av Ødegårds studie, og hans konklusjoner diskuteres i et vitenskapsideologisk perspektiv. - Suicidalitet drøftes bare kasuistisk i Ødegårds avhandling, og artikkelen avsluttes derfor med et supplerende avsnitt om emigrasjon og suicidater.

**Suicidologi 14(3), 3-7, 2009**

læs artiklen her: <http://www.med.uio.no/ipsy/ssff/suicidologi/2009-nr3/Thorvik.pdf>

## Ethnic differences in antidepressant response: a prospective multi-site clinical trial

Lesser, Ira M.; Myers, Hector F.; Lin, Keh-Ming; Mira, Consuelo Bingham; Joseph, Nataria T.; Olmos, Natasha T.; Schettino, Jonathan; Poland, Russell E.

### Abstract

#### Background

Although depression is a highly prevalent condition that occurs in all ethnic groups, the influence of ethnicity on treatment response still remains unclear.

#### Methods

A prospective 8-week, open-label clinical trial comparing the efficacy and side effects of citalopram (CIT) with dose escalation (20-60 mg/day) was performed in African-Americans and Caucasians with nonpsychotic major depression. The intent-to-treat sample consisted of 301 participants (169 African-Americans and 132 Caucasians).

#### Results

Although African-Americans were more socially disadvantaged and had a more severe depression, outcomes between the groups were similar. Remission rates were approximately 50% in both groups and about 2/3 of participants met response criteria. Retention was greater than 75% in both groups, with no differences in dropout rate. There were no differences in the number of completers, number of visits made, final dose of CIT, or in side effect profiles.

### Conclusions

These results confirm the growing body of evidence, including recent studies using measurement-based care, that patients from minority groups have outcomes that are similar to those of Caucasians. The provision of measurement-based care and encouragement of patient participation can reduce ethnic differences in response to treatment for depression.

**Keywords** depression - clinical trial - African-Americans - ethnicity - treatment outcomes

**Depression and anxiety 27(1), 56-62, 2010**

### Help-seeking for mental health problems in young refugees : a review of the literature with implications for policy, practice, and research

de Anstiss, Helena; Ziaian, Tahereh; Procter, Nicholas; Warland, Jane; Baghurst, Peter

#### Abstract

The large and diverse bodies of literature on refugee child and adolescent mental health have not been matched by a commensurate interest in help-seeking. Most help-seeking research has centred on Western and, to a lesser extent, non-refugee ethnic minority adult populations. An emerging child and adolescent help-seeking literature consistently reports widespread underutilization of mental health services by children in the general population. Current research and opinion suggest a similar trend for refugee and other ethnic minority children. While service underutilization appears to be an issue for all children, those from refugee backgrounds may be at increased risk of mental health problems and have greater difficulty accessing mental health care. From a policy and practice perspective, the most important explanation for low uptake of services by refugee families concerns an overall failure of Western mental health systems to accommodate the needs of ethnically diverse populations in general and refugees in particular. In order to effectively plan for the mental health needs of refugee children and adolescents, Western host country governments need a clear understanding of help-seeking behaviour.

**Key Words:** barriers - help-seeking - mental health - refugee children - service utilization.

**Transcultural psychiatry 46(4), 584-607, 2009**

### Hva kan forklare de høye selvmordsratene blant urfolksguttene?

Silviken, Anne

#### Abstract

Selv mord er et alvorlig samfunnsproblem blant mange urfolksgru pper} og det er spesielt blant de unge guttene at selvmordsratene er alarmerende høye. Denne kjønnsgradienten kan vitne om at urfolksguttene har vært mer sårbare enn jentene under de raske samfunnsmessige forandringene som følge av overgangen fra naturalhushold til pengehushold.

Artikkelen er skrevet med utgangspunkt i forskningsbasert litteratur av epidemiologisk karakter og relevant faglitteratur på området. Det er ikke søkt systematisk på referanser til denne artikkelen spesielt. Referansene har jeg ervervet gjennom mitt doktorgradsarbeid hvor temaet var selvmordsatferd blant samer i Nord-Norge.

Innledningsvis i artikkelen vil jeg gjøre rede for utviklingen av de høye selvmordsratene blant urfolk sett i lys av raske samfunnsmessige endringer. Forskning viser at det primært er de yngre aldersgruppene som har høy dødelighet i selvmord og da spesielt guttene. I diskusjonsdelen vil jeg fokusere på betydningen av endringene i tradisjonelle kjønnsrollemønster og oppdragelsesverdier som mulige forklaringsfaktorer på de høye selvmordsratene blant unge urfolksgutter.

**Suicidologi 14(3), 14-17, 2009**

læs artiklen her: <http://www.med.uio.no/ipsy/ssff/suicidologi/2009-nr3/Silviken.pdf>

### Innvandrere og psykisk helse : psyk av arbeidsledighet?

Jacobsen, Ragnhild Aasen

Den viktigste måten en kan sikre god psykisk helse hos innvandrerbefolkningen på, er gjennom vanlige integreringstiltak med fokus på gode levekår og inkludering, skriver Ragnhild Aasen Jacobsen, rådgiver i Rådet for psykisk helse i en artikkel i Integreringskartet 2009, utgitt av Integrerings- og mangfoldsdirektoratet.

I artikkelen "Psyk av arbeidsledighet" drøftes forholdet mellom psykisk helse og arbeidsledighet i befolkningen generelt, og innvandrerbefolkningen spesielt. Det er også fokus på i hvilken grad psykisk helsetjenester fanger opp personer med innvandrerbakgrunn og deres behov.

I : Integrerings- og mangfoldsdirektoratet/ Integreringskart 2009 : Integrering i økonomiske nedgangstider. - IMDi-rapport 7-2009, pp. 167-173

læs afsnittet her: [http://www.psykiskhelse.no/novus/upload/file/Psyk\\_av\\_arbeidsledighet.pdf](http://www.psykiskhelse.no/novus/upload/file/Psyk_av_arbeidsledighet.pdf)

## Is fluoride-induced hyperthyroidism a cause of psychosis among East African immigrants to Scandinavia?

Zachariassen, Karl Erik; Flaten, Trond Peder

### Abstract

East African immigrants to Scandinavia are admitted to mental hospitals far more frequently than native Scandinavians. Most of these patients are admitted for psychosis, commonly ascribed to problems adapting to the new culture. However, psychosis is also known to be associated with hyperthyroidism, and the high frequency of psychosis among East Africans in Scandinavia may at least in part be due to hyperthyroidism rather than cultural problems. Large areas in East Africa are notorious for high natural concentrations of fluoride in water and plants. Fluoride inhibits the production of thyroid hormones. To maintain normal thyroxin levels the body increases the capacity for thyroxin production. Goitre is caused by such a compensatory mechanism, and endemic goitre is widespread in many high-fluoride areas, even where dietary access to iodine is adequate. When people from such areas arrive in a low-fluoride area, their elevated capacity to produce thyroid hormones may lead to hyperthyroidism and subsequently to psychosis.

**Medical hypotheses 72(5), 501-503, 2009**

## Keeping culture-bound syndromes in cultural context : the case of Koro

Yang, Huaiyu; Tranulis, Constantin; Freudenreich, Oliver

### Abstract

Descriptive psychopathology is the principal method of structuring clinical and research practices in contemporary psychiatry. The recent cultural competency movement and the creolizing effect of globalization make it imperative that clinicians take seriously the role of culture in psychiatry. The culture-bound syndromes, among which Koro is a classic example, are embedded in the DSM-IV and represent a diagnostic tool explicitly designed to account for cultural factors. Through a case report of a North American man with schizophrenia who describes what some would call Koro-like symptoms, we aim to describe and comment on the clinical use of culture-bound syndromes. The subject's complaints, while descriptively similar to Koro, are best accounted for by his main diagnosis of schizophrenia and psychological and cultural dimensions specific to his personal history and his life in North American society. Little is gained clinically by giving his complaint the exotic label 'Koro' or 'Koro-like'; worse, the real cultural basis of his complaint is lost. We argue that meaningful cultural formulations will only be achieved if culture-bound syndromes are kept in their cultural context.

**Keywords:** culture-bound syndromes; Koro; culture; psychiatric diagnoses; schizophrenia

**International journal of culture and mental health 2(2), 86-91, 2009**

## Nutrition knowledge in young women with eating disorders in Australia and Singapore : a pilot study

Soh, Nerissa Li-Wey; Touyz, Stephen W.; Dobbins, Timothy A.; Surgenor, Lois J.; Clarke, Simon; Kohn, Michael R.; Lee, Ee Lian; Leow, Vincent; Rieger, Elizabeth; Ung, Ken Eng Khean; Walter, Garry

### Abstract

#### Objective

The aim of the present study was to compare nutrition knowledge levels in young women with and without an eating disorder (ED) in two countries.

### **Method**

Women with a clinical ED ( $n = 55$ ) and healthy control women ( $n = 99$ ) in Australia and Singapore completed a Nutritional Knowledge Questionnaire, acculturation questionnaire and demographics survey. Nutrition knowledge was analysed in terms of clinical status, cultural group, acculturation, socioeconomic status and education level.

### **Results**

Women with EDs had greater knowledge than controls, but the magnitude of the difference was small. Greater acculturation to Western culture was associated with greater knowledge.

### **Conclusions**

The difference in nutrition knowledge between women with and without EDs is unlikely to be of clinical importance. The findings may reflect today's ubiquitous availability of nutrition information.

**Keywords:** Australia; cross-cultural study; eating disorders; nutrition knowledge; Singapore

**Australian and New Zealand journal of psychiatry 43(12), 1178-1184, 2009**

## **Patterns of psychiatric hospitalization among Ethiopian and former Soviet Union immigrants and persons born in Israel**

Youngmann, Rafael; Pugachova, Inna; Nelly Zilber, D.

### **Abstract**

#### **Objective**

This study compared the prevalence and patterns of psychiatric hospitalization for persons who immigrated to Israel from Ethiopia and the Former Soviet Union (FSU) and the Israel-born population.

#### **Methods**

Data were extracted from the Israel Psychiatric Case Register for six population groups: Operation Moses 1980s immigrants, who emigrated from Ethiopia, January 1, 1980–August 31, 1985 (178 had at least one psychiatric hospitalization within five years of immigration); Operation Moses immigrants in the 1990s, the same group ten years later (194 were hospitalized ten to 14 years after immigration); Operation Solomon 1990s immigrants, who emigrated from Ethiopia in 1990–1991 (184 had at least one hospitalization within five years of immigration); FSU 1990s immigrants, who emigrated from the FSU in 1990–1991 (2,082 had at least one hospitalization within five years of immigration); Israel born 1980s (10,120 had at least one psychiatric hospitalization between January 1, 1980, and August 31, 1985); and Israel born 1990s (11,241 had at least one psychiatric hospitalization in 1990–1994).

#### **Results**

Operation Moses 1980s immigrants differed from the other groups; they had higher rates of hospitalization, less severe diagnoses, and shorter lengths of stay, compared with Israel born 1980s. Ten years later, this group's rates of hospitalization were lower and similar to those of non-Ethiopian populations, and the individuals in this group were more likely to have a diagnosis of schizophrenia or other psychosis, compared with the other groups. The hospitalization pattern for Operation Solomon 1990s immigrants fell between that of Operation Moses 1980s immigrants and Operation Moses immigrants in the 1990s. For immigrants from the FSU, the hospitalization rate was similar to that of Israel born 1990s and Operation Moses immigrants in the 1990s and much lower than that of Operation Solomon 1990s immigrants.

#### **Conclusions**

Marked sociocultural differences between immigrants and the host society and the understanding of these differences by mental health professionals may influence rates and patterns of psychiatric hospitalization more than the immigration experience itself.

**Psychiatric services 60(12), 1656-1663, 2009**

## **Perceptions of psychological adjustment, achievement outcomes, and self-esteem in Japan and America**

Brown, R. A.

### **Abstract**

Evidence reported in the present article suggests that the widely used Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (RSES) does not as unequivocally assess positive self-regard in Japan as it does in America. American ( $n = 98$ ) and Japanese ( $n = 120$ ) participants assessed high self-esteem (HSE) and low self-esteem (LSE) targets who were depicted endorsing or rejecting RSES items. Results indicate that although both groups of participants

had more positive impressions of the HSE relative to the LSE target, the difference was greater for the Japanese. In addition, although the Americans had more positive impressions of the HSE target than the Japanese did, the Japanese had more positive impressions of the LSE target.

**Key Words:** self-esteem - psychological adjustment - Japan - America

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## **The personalisation of dementia services and existential realities: understanding Sikh carers caring for an older person with dementia in Wolverhampton**

Jutlla, Karan; Moreland, Neil

### **Abstract**

While personalisation and service choice remains a central plank of the Labour Government's policies in health and social care, there is a growing evidence base confirming that ethnic minority groups, are disadvantaged as service users in the UK. Building on some baseline data collected in 2000 and 2003/04, our recent research (Jutlla & Moreland, 2007) has reaffirmed the difficulties that Asian carers have in accessing services when caring for a relative with dementia.

While such access data is important, we wish to move beyond the demographic aspects to consider the existential realities (the ontology) of the lives and cultures of those in minority ethnic groups. This paper consequently discusses the diversity and complexity of migration patterns among the Sikh community living in Wolverhampton. The paper conceptualises some of the ways in which different migration experiences and the realities of daily life influence the perceptions, experiences and patterns of care among migrant Sikh carers in Wolverhampton caring for an older person with dementia. The paper thus explores the thesis that the Sikh community is not a homogeneous group; and that the diversity and differences within the Sikh community can have important implications for care. Taking a biographical narrative approach to fieldwork, the relevant factors to be considered include: the carer's country of origin; their migration route and reasons for migration; their age at migration and the cultural experiences of the carers and their communities both in the UK and India.

### **Keywords**

Personalisation, dementia, West Midlands, Sikh, Wolverhampton

**Ethnicity and inequalities in health and social care 2(4), 10-21, 2009**

## **Post-traumatic stress disorder : evolutionary perspectives**

Cantor, Chris

### **Abstract**

Fear is the key emotion of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Fear's evolved function is motivating survival via defensive behaviours. Defensive behaviours have been highly conserved throughout mammalian species; hence much may be learned from ethology. Predation pressure drove the early evolution of defences, laying foundations in the more ancient brain structures. Conspecific (same species) pressure has been a more recent evolutionary influence, but along with environmental threats it has dominated PTSD research. Anti-predator responses involve both avoiding a predator's sensory field and avoiding detection if within it, as well as escape behaviours. More effective avoidance results in less need for escape behaviours, suggesting that avoidance is biologically distinct from flight. Recognizing the predation, environmental and conspecific origins of defence may result in clearer definition of PTSD phenomena. Defence can also be viewed in the stages of no threat, potential threat, encounter and circa strike. Specific defences are used sequentially and according to contexts, loosely in the order: avoidance, attentive immobility, withdrawal, aggressive defence, appeasement and tonic immobility. The DSM-IV criteria and PTSD research show substantial congruence with the model proposed: that PTSD is a disorder of heightened defence involving six key defences used in conjunction with vigilance and risk assessment according to contexts. Human research is reviewed in this respect with reference to laboratory and wild animal observations providing new insights. Understanding individual perceptual issues (e.g. predictability and controllability) relevant to these phenomena, combined with defence strategy recalibration and neuronal plasticity research goes some way to explaining why some traumatized individuals develop PTSD when others do not.

Australian and New Zealand journal of psychiatry 43(11), 1038-1048, 2009

### **Psychometric properties of the Marlowe-Crowne Social Desirability Scale in 8 African countries and Switzerland**

Verardi, Sabrina; Dahourou, Donatien; Ah-Kion, Jennifer; Bhowon, Uma; Tseung, Caroline Ng; Amoussou-Yeye, Denis; Adjahouisso, Marcel; Bouatta, Cherifa; Cissé, Daouda Dougoumalé; Mbodji, Mamadou; Barry, Oumar; Minga, David Minga; Ondongo, François; Tsokini, Dieudonné; Rigozzi, Christine; de Stadelhofen, Franz Meyer; Rossier, Jérôme

#### **Abstract**

The purpose of this study was to assess the cross-cultural validity of the Marlowe-Crowne Social Desirability scale short form C, in a large sample of French-speaking participants from eight African countries and Switzerland. Exploratory and confirmatory analyses suggested retaining a two-factor structure. Item bias detection according to country was conducted for all 13 items and effect was calculated with  $R^2$ . For the two-factor solution, 9 items were associated with a negligible effect size, 3 items with a moderate one, and 1 item with a large one. A series of analyses of covariance considering the acquiescence variable as a covariate showed that the acquiescence tendency does not contribute to the bias at item level. This research indicates that the psychometric properties of this instrument do not reach a scalar equivalence but that a culturally reliable measurement of social desirability could be developed.

**Key Words:** social desirability - cross-cultural psychology - Marlowe-Crowne Social Desirability scale - acquiescence bias - item bias analysis

**Journal of cross-cultural psychology, Vol. 41, No. 1, 19-34 (2010)**

### **Resettling refugees and safeguarding their mental health : Lessons Learned from the Canadian Refugee Resettlement Project**

Beiser, Morton

#### **Abstract**

The Ryerson University Refugee Resettlement Project (RRP), a decade-long study of 1348 Southeast Asian refugees who came to Canada between 1979 and 1981, is one of the largest, most comprehensive and longest-lived investigations of refugee resettlement ever carried out. Knowledge gleaned from the RRP about research methodology, about the resettlement experience, about the social costs of resettling refugees, about factors that promote or hinder integration, about risk and protective factors for refugee mental health, and about the refugees' consumption of mental health and social services is summarized in the form of 18 "Lessons." The lessons are offered in order to encourage and stimulate further research, as well to suggest policy and practice innovations that could help make resettlement easier, less costly, more effective, and more humane.

**Key Words:** integration - mental health - refugee - resettlement - Southeast Asian

**Transcultural psychiatry 46(4), 539-583, 2009**

### **Selvmordsadferd og selvmordsforebygging i arktiske strøk: inntrykk fra konferansen «Hope and Resilience» i Nuuk på Grønland**

Herrestad, Henning

#### **Fra starten af artiklen**

I en ring rundt Nordpolen ligger det en kjede av ulike urbefolkninger i Sibir, Alaska, Canada, Grønland, og Skandinavia. De fleste bor i små bygder på noen hundre mennesker, eller i mindre byer med no en få tusen mennesker, og i alt utgjør de ca. 150 000 mennesker (ifølge Inuit Circumpolar Council). I en levekårsundersøkelse gjort i Alaska, Canada, Grønland og helt øst i Sibir svarte folk at det er familiebånd og sterke sosiale nettverk, samt muligheten til å fortsette et tradisjonelt levesett, som gjør at de blir boende til tross for at mange av disse samfunnene opplever store sosiale problemer. Et stort flertall i alle disse samfunnene rangerer hva som er deres største problemer slik: arbeidsledighet, alkoholmisbruk, narkotikamisbruk, selvmord, familievold og seksuelt misbruk (SLICA, 2007). Dette er noe av bakteppet for at det ble avholdt en konferanse i Nuuk på Grønland 7.-8. november 2009 med ønske om å samle forskere og

praktikere med kjennskap til disse problemene. Hensikten var å gi innspill til politikere om hva man nå bør gjøre.

**Suicidologi 14(3), 18-19, 2009**

læs artiklen her: <http://www.med.uio.no/ipsy/ssff/suicidologi/2009-nr3/Herrestad.pdf>

### **The 'Twice a Child' projects : Learning about dementia and related disorders within the black and minority ethnic population of an English city and improving relevant services**

Jolley, David; Moreland, Neil; Read, Kate; Kaur, Harjinder; Jutlla, Karan; Clark, Michael

#### **Abstract**

Dementia is found in all races. Within the UK, elders in black and minority ethnic (BME) communities are often unable or unwilling to access services that might help them when they develop dementia. A series of research-based studies in Wolverhampton have demonstrated that working with community leaders and family carers can identify strengths as well as areas for development in service arrangements. Some areas for development are those shared by all individuals and families with dementia, while others are specific to the cultural group. Areas for action include: the lack of understanding of the normal and pathological features of ageing; fear and stigma associated with mental disorders within BME communities; lack of knowledge of dementia; and insensitivity and inflexibility within some components of services. Knowledge gained from a collaborative review of the situation can be used to plan and deliver iterative improvements. The most effective single initiative is the appointment of a link nurse competent in language, culture and clinical skills. Despite progress over a 10 year period, difficulties remain and there is more to be learned. The research reported here has been conducted over a period of nine years within the city of Wolverhampton. The research has been co-ordinated from *for dementia plus* (previously Dementia Plus), which has functioned as the Dementia Development Centre for the West Midlands since 2000.

#### **Keywords**

Ethnicity, Africa-Caribbean, South Asian, Sikh, dementia, health services, social services

**Ethnicity and inequalities in health and social care 2(4), 4-9, 2009**

### **Veiled communication: Is uncovering necessary for psychiatric assessment?**

Mistry, Himanshu; Bhugra, Dinesh; Chaleby, Kutaiba; Khan, Farooq; Sauer, Justin

#### **Abstract**

Facial expressions are significant to decipher information during a dialogue and more so in a clinical consultation. Veils (Niqab) worn by Muslim women may pose a clinical dilemma for the psychiatric assessment especially if clinicians are not aware of their religious significance. To investigate whether clinical judgment is affected if full facial expressions are not accessible, we conducted an email survey of psychiatrists and psychologists across the world who frequently work in these situations. Of 25 colleagues contacted 16 responded and 11 of them agreed for their comments to be included in the study. Nine out of 11 believed clinical assessment may be compromised, although respondents were aware of cultural sensitivity around the issue. Two out of 11 however, felt fully able to assess the mental state of a veiled woman. Some professionals reported that they feel unable to assess or treat if the request to take the veil off is declined. This small survey demonstrates the diverse opinions on whether unveiling is necessary for psychiatric assessment. Further qualitative examination of this area is needed to develop wider consensus and guidance to mental health care professionals who may be dealing with these groups.

**Key Words:** email survey - Muslim - nonverbal communication - psychiatric assessment - veil

**Transcultural psychiatry 46(4), 642-650, 2009**

### **Why do Chinese Canadians not consult mental health services : health status, language or culture?**

Chen, Alice W.; Kazanjian, Arminée; Wong, Hubert

### **Abstract**

Data from the Canadian Community Health Survey Cycle 1.1 showed that Chinese immigrants to Canada and Chinese individuals born in Canada were less likely than other Canadians to have contacted a health professional for mental health reasons in the previous year in the province of British Columbia. The difference persisted among individuals at moderate to high risk for depressive episode. Both immigrant and Canadian-born Chinese showed similar characteristics of mental health service use. The demographic and health factors that significantly affected their likelihood to consult mental health services included Chinese language ability, restriction in daily activities, frequency of medical consultations, and depression score. Notwithstanding lower levels of mental illness in ethnic Chinese communities, culture emerged as a major factor explaining differences in mental health consultation between Chinese and non-Chinese Canadians.

**Key Words:** Chinese culture - depression - immigrants - mental health

**Transcultural psychiatry 46(4), 623-641, 2009**

### **Working with interpreters in mental health**

Tribe, Rachel

### **Abstract**

To ensure equality of access to health and social care services for all communities resident in Britain, services need to be appropriate and accessible. This requires ensuring that a range of policies is adhered to and that services are designed to make this possible. In a culturally diverse society, there will be people who are not fluent in the language of their country of residence, but who may require access to health and social care services, necessitating the services of a language interpreter. This means that clinicians need to be trained both to work with interpreters and to feel confident in so doing. This paper explores issues relating to working in partnership with an interpreter and offers guidance about good practice. The complex relationship between language, culture and worldview is discussed and suggestions are made about how these might be considered within clinical services. Finally, four diverse modes of interpretation are reviewed and illustrated.

**Keywords:** interpreter; mental health; accessibility; good practice

**International journal of culture and mental health 2(2), 92-101, 2009**

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